

**NEVADA
Historical
Society
Quarterly**



Winter • 1973

DIRECTOR
JOHN M. TOWNLEY



BOARD OF TRUSTEES

RUSSELL ELLIOTT
Chairman
ELBERT EDWARDS
Vice Chairman
THELMA IRELAND
RUSSELL McDONALD
ROY E. PURCELL
WILBUR SHEPPERSON
JOHN WRIGHT

The Nevada Historical Society was founded in 1904 for the purpose of investigating topics pertaining to the early history of Nevada and of collecting relics for a museum. The Society maintains a library and museum at its Reno facility where historical materials of many kinds are on display to the public and are available to students and scholars.

Membership dues are: annual, \$5; student, \$3; sustaining, \$25; life, \$100; and patron, \$250. Membership applications and dues should be sent to the director.

Correspondence concerning articles in the *Quarterly* and manuscripts to be considered for publication should be addressed to the editor. The Society assumes no responsibility for statements made by contributors.

**VOLUME XVI
NUMBER 4**

WINTER • 1973

EDITOR

JOHN M. TOWNLEY

EDITORIAL BOARD

LYNN E. WILLIAMSON
Assistant Editor

ROBERT DAVENPORT
LAS VEGAS

HOWARD HICKSON
ELKO

JAMES HULSE
RENO

WILBUR S. SHEPPERSON
RENO

HARRY WILDER
PIOCHE

The Nevada Historical Society Quarterly is published by the Nevada Historical Society, 1650 N. Virginia St., Reno, Nevada 89503. It is distributed without charge to members of the Society; single issues, when available, may be purchased for \$1.50. Orders for changes of address should be addressed to the Society.

Second class postage paid at Reno, Nevada.

Contents

Helen J. Stewart:
First Lady of Las Vegas
Part 1 215
by Carrie Miller Townley

Notes and Documents 245

What's Being Written 249

What's Going On 261

New Resource Materials 265

THE COVER

Helen J. Stewart



Helen J. Stewart.

Helen J. Stewart: First Lady of Las Vegas

by Carrie Miller Townley

Part 1

SELDOM IN THE NINETEENTH CENTURY did a woman cross the well-defined boundaries between the roles of the sexes. The few who did were often considered to have lost their femininity. Such was not the case with Helen J. Stewart of Las Vegas, Nevada. Although shouldering a man's burden in addition to her responsibilities as a woman, Helen Stewart remained a lady. Her close friend, Delphine Squires, described her as "a tiny Dresden China piece of femininity with a kindly and gentle disposition; a truly gracious lady with a deep religious nature, seemingly poorly suited for the role she was destined to play."¹ This description is hardly the picture of a woman who owned and operated a two thousand acre cattle ranch and farm. Nor does it fit a woman who, as a widow with five children, became the largest landowner in Lincoln County, Nevada.²

She was born Helen Jane Wiser on April 16, 1854, in Springfield, Illinois. Her parents, Hiram and Delia Gray Wiser, were born in Pennsylvania.³ Helen had three younger sisters—Rachel, Asenath, and Flora—and a brother who died before reaching adulthood.⁴ When Helen was nine

Carrie Miller Townley received her M.A. in history/archaeology from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. She taught Nevada history at Robert O. Gibson Junior High School in Las Vegas for several years, and while there organized the Trailblazers, the first Junior History Club in the state. At present she is employed by the Washoe County School District, presents an adult lecture series in Nevada history, and contributes Nevada history articles to the Las Vegas newspapers. She is also currently engaged in the preparation of a book length biography of Helen J. Stewart.

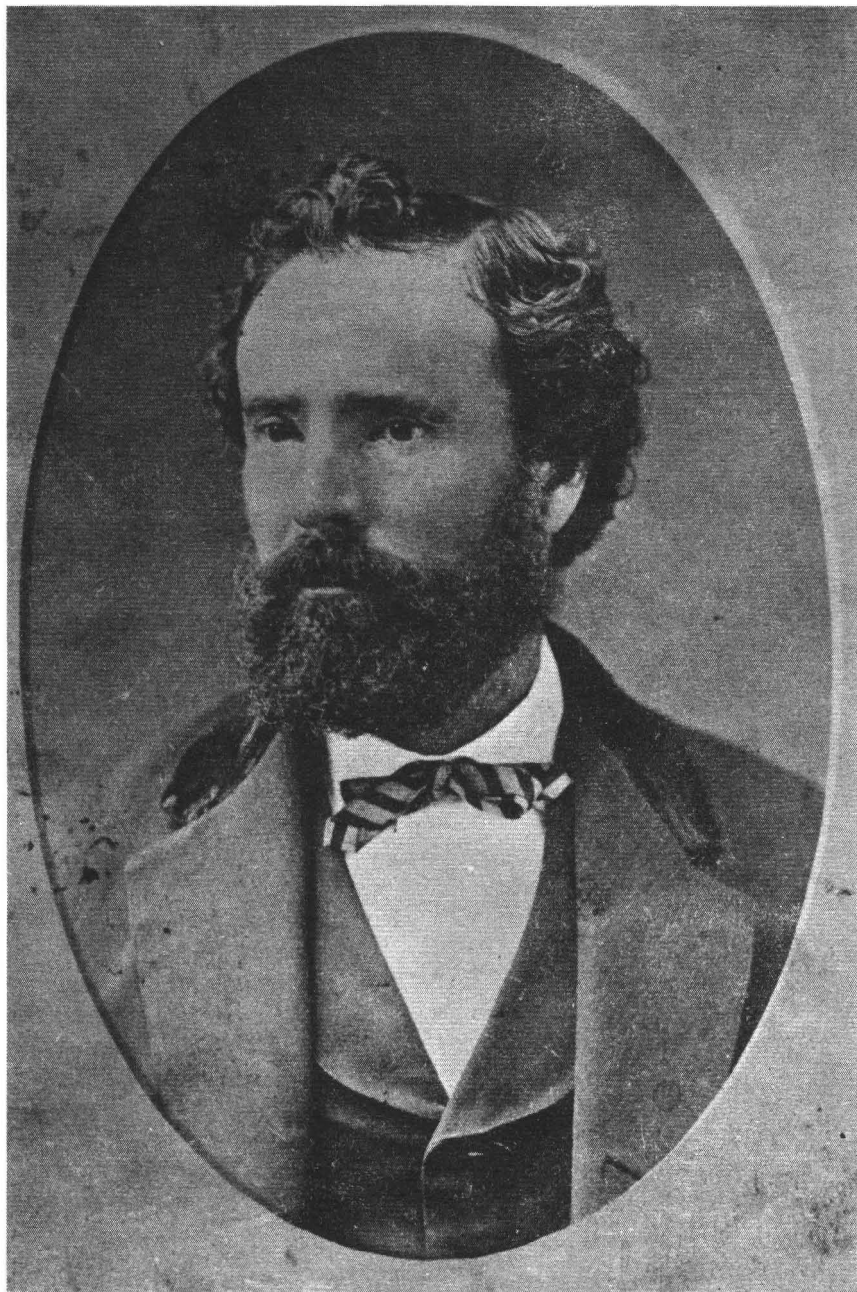
years old, Wiser moved his family from Illinois to Nevada. Arriving in Carson Valley in September, 1863, the family stayed but a short time before crossing the Sierra Nevada to Sacramento, California.⁵

Helen Wiser attended the Sacramento County public schools and Woodland College in Yolo County, California.⁶ On April 6, 1873, shortly before her nineteenth birthday, she married Archibald Stewart, twenty years her senior, in Stockton, California.⁷ Although born in Dublin, Ireland, he was of Scottish descent.⁸ To the young girl, this tall (5'10" to 5'11"), handsome, older man must have been awesome.⁹

As early as June, 1868, Stewart was operating a freighting business near Pioche, Lincoln County, Nevada. In addition to hauling ore from the Pioche mines to mills in Hamilton, the firm operated a wood ranch, contracting for the cutting of wood and selling it in the area. In the spring of 1869, Stewart began dealing in cattle.¹⁰ According to Stewart family tradition, Hiram and Delia Wiser hoped to find successful, older men as husbands for their four daughters.¹¹ Stewart satisfied these requirements.


After the wedding, Stewart moved his young bride to Lincoln County, where he continued to deal in cattle. The first group of prospectors had come to the area in March, 1864. It was not until 1870, when news of the success of the Raymond and Ely operation reached the other mining areas in Nevada, that the real rush to Pioche and the resultant boom began. Although the boom was short-lived, during those years Pioche was the most exciting mining town in the state. James W. Hulse suggests that Pioche may have had as many as 5,000 or 6,000 people in 1872 and 1873, although this was far less than the 10,000 usually attributed to it.¹² When the couple settled in the area, the economy was not as favorable as it had appeared the previous year. There was still, however, a ready market for beef and fresh produce. Even though the decline had begun in 1873, the residents of Pioche had not yet become aware of any permanent change. The census taken in 1875 in Lincoln County showed 2,753 population in the entire county, including Negroes and Chinese.¹³ Thus, the population of Pioche had dropped considerably from 1872.

Franklin Buck, in 1877, wrote that the market for cattle in Pioche was very limited and cattle were cheap. His superior stock brought no more than common stock due to lack of money in the area. The problems encountered in the mines that year were believed to be only temporary, and Buck joined other Piochers in expecting the economy to return to the peak level of 1872 to 1874. He assumed that those who held on to their real estate through the difficult times would realize great monetary benefits when the anticipated bonanza was struck. By July, 1878, Piochers finally accepted the fact that the mines were in trouble. Buck explains how the town had completely "gone in." Everyone who could was leaving. Because he was engaged in raising cattle and horses, Buck noted it did not make so much difference to him.¹⁴ It was possible to raise cattle



Archibald Stewart.

successfully by selling to out-of-state markets, so Archibald Stewart prospered in his ranching endeavor.

The years the Stewarts spent in the Pioche area remain obscure. Delphine Squires, writing many years later from personal knowledge of her friend, stated that Stewart took his wife to a ranch at Pony Springs, north of Pioche, immediately upon their arrival in Lincoln County.¹⁵ No entry appears in the Lincoln County records to indicate that Archibald Stewart bought land in this vicinity until September 22, 1879. On that date, he purchased the Tom Knapper Ranch, also called the Foss Ranch, from A. D. Manown. For this he paid \$1,200 in gold. Along with the land, Stewart assumed all the cattle branded with a diamond-shaped brand on the left thigh, or hip, and two under half-crops on the ears. This brand, which he took for himself at this time, remained the Stewart brand for cattle. The brand associated with the Stewarts for horses was  on the right thigh.¹⁶ Situated six miles north of Bristol on the stage road leading from Pioche to Eureka and Hamilton, the ranch was near Fairview Peak. Here, Stewart raised cattle for market and grew vegetables, hauling them to Bristol on the stage line. Stewart may have rented a ranch earlier, or, if he purchased one before the Knapper Ranch, the title transfer is missing.

It was in the Pioche area that the Stewarts' first three children were born. William James was born on the ranch at Pony Springs on March 9, 1874. Less than two years later, the second child, Hiram Richard, was born.¹⁷ This son was named for his grandfathers, Hiram Wiser and Richard Stewart. By this time, the Stewarts had abandoned the isolation of the ranch at Pony Springs and were living in Pioche. Mrs. Squires describes the loneliness Helen Stewart experienced while living on the ranch and her joy at moving into town where she was among friends. The two boys were christened in Christ Church, Episcopal, in Pioche on May 7, 1876, by the Reverend R. H. Kline, with the parents as sponsors.¹⁸

On January 18, 1879, Helen Stewart gave birth to her first daughter, Flora Eliza Jane.¹⁹ Although the child was named Flora for the mother's younger sister, she was known all her life as Tiza, a derivation of Eliza. Tiza was christened in Christ Church on June 29, 1879. Sponsoring the infant were Sylvester and Mary Carmen, and Helen Stewart. During the same ceremony, a son of the Carmens, Earl Edgar, was also christened. This child, a day older than Tiza, was sponsored by Helen Stewart.²⁰ The friendship which developed between the Stewarts and the Carmens remained strong in the coming years.

Shortly before Stewart purchased the Knapper Ranch, he made another transaction which radically changed the future course of the family. On August 8, 1879, Stewart loaned O. D. Gass \$5,000 in gold at 2.5 percent per month. The loan was to be repaid within twelve months. Gass offered as collateral the Las Vegas Ranch, some 640 acres where he and his family resided.²¹

The Las Vegas Ranch was situated in an oasis area in the middle of a desert valley twenty-two miles from the Colorado River and fifty-five miles from the Mormon settlements on the Muddy River. El Dorado Canyon was fifty-five miles to the south. The springs providing irrigation water were used extensively by travelers on the Old Spanish Trail as well as the Mormons traveling from Utah to their missions in San Bernardino. The first settlers at this site were Mormons. A group of twenty-nine men, sent by Brigham Young, established a mission there in 1855. One of them, George W. Bean, described the area:

We found Las Vegas to be a nice patch of grass about half a mile wide and two or three miles long, situated at the foot of a bench 40 or 50 feet high. The valley faces east, and a pretty clear stream of water, about the size of a common millrace, comes from two springs about four miles west of our location. The water of the springs is very clear; they are from 20 to 30 feet in diameter, and at the depth of two feet the white sand bubbles all over as tho' it was the bottom, but upon wading in, there is no foundation there, and it has been sounded to the depth of 60 feet, without finding bottom; and a person cannot sink to the armpits, on account of the strong upward rush of the water.²²

In the two years the Mormons spent at this mission, they built several buildings of adobe brick which became the foundation of the Las Vegas Ranch buildings.

In 1865, Octavius Decatur Gass, a miner, located on the site of the abandoned Mormon mission and began the development of the Las Vegas Ranch. In the first years he had two partners, Nat Lewis and Louis Cole. The three men rebuilt the dilapidated adobe buildings left by the Mormons. By the 1870s Gass was the sole owner of the Las Vegas Ranch.²³ The property was situated in Arizona Territory until 1867 when Congress transferred the area to Nevada.

As early as 1868, Gass attempted to sell the ranch, advertising it in a St. George, Utah newspaper.²⁴ H. R. Whitehill, the state mineralogist, described the ranch thusly:

It had about one hundred and fifty tilled acres. Growing on the ranch were orange, lemon, peach, apple, pear, apricot, and fig trees. Pomegranates and grapes were plentiful. Two crops were raised yearly on the same land. The first crop consisted of small grains, such as wheat, barley, and oats. These were harvested about the first of June, and then the second crop was planted. This was corn, beans, beets, cabbage, onions, squash, and melons.

He also described the many mesquite bushes which furnished a very nutritious bean upon which the animals fed as soon as the grasses died in the fall. The stock kept fat on this feed during the winter, "as if they

had been fed on the best of hay and grain."²⁵ In September of that year, the Lincoln County Commissioners raised the tax assessment on Gass's ranch from \$2,810 to \$3,810.²⁶ Gass appeared on the county's delinquent tax list of December, 1873, indicating he was experiencing financial problems.²⁷ The crops, however, were promising abundant harvest. A Mr. Dayton of Pioche described the ranch as having fine crops of barley, alfalfa, fruit, and plenty of stock.²⁸ In spite of the glowing reports made by observers, on March 25, 1876, Gass borrowed \$3,000 from William Knapp, putting up the ranch as collateral. The interest charged was 1 percent per month if the entire amount was not repaid by December 25, 1876.²⁹ The Lincoln County Commissioners at their meeting on March 4, 1878, granted a request from Gass for an extension of time to pay his taxes on the ranch.³⁰

Gass's financial problems did not improve, so on August 8, 1879, he and his wife signed an agreement with Archibald Stewart. Stewart loaned Gass \$5,000 in gold, a great deal of ready cash for the time in Lincoln County.³¹ Again, the ranch served as collateral. When Gass failed to make the payment date on the mortgage, another agreement was drawn up between Gass and Stewart on August 2, 1880. At this time Gass actually deeded all of his rights to the Las Vegas Ranch to Stewart, adding to the original mortgaged ranch his rights to the Spring Ranch, some three miles southwest of the Las Vegas Ranch.³² Gass was allowed nine months to repay \$6,478, the amount of the original loan plus the accrued 2.5 percent monthly interest. If Gass repaid this amount within the allotted time, Stewart agreed to reconvey the titles back to him. If the debt was not repaid in full by May 2, 1881, Stewart became the owner of the two ranches with no further process of law.³³ This agreement is typical of Stewart's cold and calculating methods which earned for him the animosity and dislike of men with whom he did business.³⁴

On August 2, 1880, the deed was recorded, giving Stewart title to the Las Vegas and Spring ranches.³⁵ Gass, however, continued to reside on the land and operate the ranch. On February 12, 1881, Gass petitioned the county commission for a new roadway to run past the Vegas Ranch. The request was denied and tabled for later action.³⁶

During this time, Stewart had been living in Pioche and working the ranch north of Bristol. In addition to these two residences, he listed "Stewart's Ranch" at Las Vegas in the 1880 census.³⁷ In October, 1880, Stewart registered to vote in the Bristol precinct instead of the Pioche precinct.³⁸ As an alien, Archibald Stewart was not allowed voting privileges. On September 11, 1878, he became a United States citizen, and voted that same fall in the Pioche precinct.

Gass failed to repay the loan to Stewart; on May 2, 1881, Stewart assumed control of the land on which the Stewart family was to remain. Why wasn't the loan repaid, and why was it originally made? Stanley W. Paher speculates that the cause of Gass's financial problem was the high

rate of interest on the Stewart note, 2.5 percent, added to the recent destruction of crops due to bad weather.³⁹ Yet, this was by no means the first time Gass had experienced monetary problems. Stewart was not the first person to whom Gass had mortgaged the ranch. The "failure of crops" theory is contradicted by Gass's statement on July 31, 1880, to the *Pioche Weekly Record* that the crops at his ranch that season were never before in better condition and everything was growing rapidly with the exception only of the peaches.⁴⁰ The following month crops throughout the county were reported first class, nor had they been poor in the south the year before.⁴¹ In 1879, reports of good harvests in the southern part of the county were in contrast to the loss of almost all the crops in the northern portion.⁴²

Gass had tried, unsuccessfully, for several years to sell his ranch. It is, therefore, conceivable that in Stewart he found a way to relieve an unwelcome burden. By this time, two of the Gass children were of school age, but there was no school near enough for them to attend.⁴³ The desire to educate his children may have been an added factor in Gass's allowing the loan to default. By losing the ranch to Stewart, Gass realized \$5,000 in gold. In spite of the glowing accounts of the ranch by all who visited it, Gass had never made it pay, otherwise, there would have been no need for his frequent loans and delinquency in paying his bills. It seems obvious that Gass lacked the ability that the Stewarts later showed in connection with the ranch.

Although Archibald Stewart now owned the Las Vegas Ranch, he had no thought of using it for anything except a speculative venture. Within a month of acquisition, he entered into partnership with two Pioche merchants, George Barton and George Hagerty. On June 1, 1881, the three set up a company called Hagerty, Barton, and Stewart. The firm intended to run a general store, selling provisions and liquor, in addition to operating a teaming and freighting enterprise in and around Pioche.⁴⁴ The Las Vegas Ranch was to be used to raise horses, cattle, and other stock, as well as crops. Stewart conveyed by deed to Hagerty and Barton two-thirds interest in the ranch. The Las Vegas Ranch now included the original ranch, 640 acres obtained by Gass from the United States under the Desert Land Act, and the Spring Ranch, some 320 acres. The Spring Ranch had been deeded to Gass by T. B. Beard on January 22, 1878. Thus, the Las Vegas Ranch now totaled approximately 960 acres.⁴⁵ Under the financial agreement, Hagerty and Barton each contributed \$5,761, while Stewart contributed \$9,635. All but \$4,000 of this amount was represented by the Las Vegas Ranch.⁴⁶

Hagerty quickly moved south to manage the ranch. In October, he complained to the *Pioche Weekly Record* that only two copies of the paper had reached him since his arrival. The editor of the *Record* reprimanded the postmaster at St. Thomas for taking the newspaper from the mail, reading it, and passing it around among the neighbors there instead

of sending it on to the Vegas.⁴⁷ Hagerty reported in November that he had made great improvements on the property. From the season's grape harvest, he had made 600 gallons of wine and cured one ton of raisins.⁴⁸ Stewart and Barton, although continuing to reside in Pioche, occasionally traveled to the Vegas Ranch.⁴⁹

The enterprise lasted less than a year. On March 1, 1882, the partnership was legally dissolved. In the settlement, Stewart received the Las Vegas Ranch with all livestock and other personal property on the ranch, as well as title to all additional land around the ranch which the firm had contracted to purchase from the state of Nevada.⁵⁰ Hagerty and Barton each signed quitclaim deeds to release their share of the ranch.⁵¹ They retained all property belonging to the partnership situated in Bristol and Pioche, immediately organizing a new firm.⁵² The new company, called Barton, Torre, and Company, merged the firms of Hagerty & Barton, Jacobs & Sultan, and Torre & Barbieri.⁵³

Stewart was faced with deciding how to manage the Las Vegas Ranch. Reports from the ranch continued to be glowing. An informant to the *Pioche Weekly Record* noted that "indications are good on that ranch for a large crop this year. Everything is in full bloom there at present, and to the weary traveler it is a veritable Oasis in the desert."⁵⁴ With every expectation of a productive year at the ranch, Stewart decided to move his family there to reside as an interim measure. This seemed the best way to insure a profit on the expected harvest.

Helen Stewart's response to this decision was one of great anxiety. The idea of living again in an isolated area disturbed her. Remembering her first lonely days in Lincoln County, she tried to dissuade her husband.⁵⁵ Certainly uppermost in her thoughts was her recent discovery that she was pregnant. The move would completely separate her from the help of any other woman at the time of delivery. The prospect of bearing her child alone must have been terrifying. Another negative consideration was the lack of educational opportunities for her older children. Will had begun school in the fall of 1881, followed by Hiram in December. They continued their studies in the Pioche Primary School until the move in April. Although on the surface the boys' records were excellent, the Pioche schools produced nothing except excellent students if the reports in the *Pioche Weekly Record* are to be believed. Seldom did a grade below 90 appear in either studies or deportment. However, both Will and Hiram made the roll of honor.⁵⁶ When Archibald insisted it was for a short time only, Helen Stewart suppressed her feelings and agreed to the move.

With much trepidation, Helen Stewart packed the family's belongings and began the long trip from Pioche to Las Vegas in April, 1882. The journey, never easy at best, took longer than usual for the Stewarts, at least four or five days.⁵⁷ Travel across the desert was slow and tedious

when undertaken in a wagon with a pregnant woman and three small children.

There can be little doubt that the economic situation of Lincoln County contributed greatly to Archibald's decision to move his family to the ranch. The depression which occupied the final twenty years of the nineteenth century had begun. The citizens of Pioche had finally faced the fact that their town was rapidly going down hill. The boom was over. By the fall of 1880, large numbers of men from Bristol and Pioche had begun to search elsewhere for their fortunes. Many of them drifted south to El Dorado Canyon.⁵⁸ By January, 1881, trade in the Pioche area had declined drastically. Many of the remaining citizens considered moving to Arizona. The *Pioche Weekly Record* of January 29, 1881, described the situation:

There is very little show here for any class at present. Very little chance for anyone in Pioche or hardly Lincoln County to look forward to paydays, for very few men are working in the county who are under a regular salary outside of the county officials. Some few watchmen and some few men are employed in mines and mills at El Dorado Canyon but with these exceptions, the balance are living on hope.⁵⁹

One of the few exceptions was Archibald Stewart. Although solvent enough to invest \$4,000 cash plus a ranch in the partnership with Hagerty and Barton, he realized that the prosperous days for Pioche were over. New markets must be found.

The logical successor to Pioche was El Dorado Canyon. Mining had been carried on there since the early 1860s and continued, spasmodically, for over thirty years.⁶⁰ The canyon continued to support mining during the depression. A common saying was, "If you need a stake, go to El Dorado Canyon. Nobody leaves broke."⁶¹ So the cry of the times was, "Ho! for El Dorado Canyon." The Las Vegas Ranch provided a strategic location for Stewart to supply the miners at the canyon.

The first months on the ranch were busy ones for Helen Stewart. On September 22, 1882, Evaline La Vega, her second daughter, was born. The name "Evaline" was chosen to honor a daughter of the Sylvester Carmens who had recently died and was buried in Pioche.⁶² The middle name was an adaption of Las Vegas, the child's birthplace.⁶³ Now, in addition to the chores usually assigned to the woman of the ranch, she had the demanding care of an infant and three young children, ages eight, six, and three.

In the first year at the ranch, Stewart marketed his produce all over Lincoln County. Not only was he hauling produce and beef to the miners at the canyon, but as far north as Pioche. In December, 1882, a ton of raisins and peaches was delivered to the firms of D. C. Clark and J. Poujade, general stores in Pioche. Stewart, delivering the load himself, reported to the Piochers that all the teams at the Vegas were actively

employed in plowing. His wife and family were well, happy, and contented with their new home.⁶⁴ A letter written from the canyon on December 17, 1882, noted:

The Vegas ranch is one of the livliest places in the country at this time every year. Mr. Stewart is jest pushing things rite along, preparing to put in a big crop uv grain, and iz also hav-ing his ranch fenced with a good picket fence.⁶⁵

Already, in June, 1882, Archibald had refused an offer of \$11,000 for the ranch from California buyers.⁶⁶

Although the ranch was isolated, visitors appeared frequently. In June, 1882, Andy Fife from El Dorado Canyon delivered his wife and children to the Vegas Ranch from the canyon to remove them from the extreme heat of the area. Mrs. Fife was not well, and it was decided she would fare better at the ranch where she would be more comfortable.⁶⁷ Not all the visitors to the ranch hoping to escape the heat of the canyon were women. In September, 1883, the chloriders of El Dorado Canyon were reported to have "all quit work for some time and are rustivating up at the Vegas Ranch, having a jolly time drinking wine. Whenever any of them get drunk they are placed in the works of the roots of a tree and made to sit there until sobered."⁶⁸

The guests and travelers who stopped at the ranch paid for food and shelter for themselves and their animals, but the burden of caring for them fell on Helen Stewart. Her journals indicate it was she, not her Indian women, who did the cooking, although they did perform such heavy chores as laundry. There was never advance notice of the number of diners she would be required to feed at any meal. Almost every day brought from one to five, and sometimes more.⁶⁹ To Delphine Squires, Helen Stewart explained that when travelers came from the south, she could not see them until they were at the dooryard. When they arrived from other directions, she could see them while they were several miles away and hurriedly prepared for their arrival. She quickly fired up the stove, started potatoes and vegetables to cook, and prepared a pan of biscuits ready for the oven. The coffee was set perking so the tired travelers would be welcomed with the pleasant aroma of fresh coffee.⁷⁰ Not the least pleasing to the travelers was the cordial welcome of the woman herself. When the arriving group contained women, Helen Stewart was especially happy as she hungered for feminine companionship.

The extreme cold of 1883 severely damaged fruit crops in the northern areas of the county, but the Vegas Ranch turned out an immense peach crop. Enormous amounts of fruit lay on the ground because the crops were too abundant for the hands to harvest. By September the ground was covered with tons and tons of rotting peaches.⁷¹ By February, 1884, complaints were being made that the market at El Dorado Canyon was being usurped by the shipping of produce from California, and cattle

from Kansas. This was the result of the completion of the Atlantic and Pacific Railroad. Produce was brought to Needles, California, by the railroad, then barged to the El Dorado Canyon on the Colorado River. Goods and produce for Mineral Park, Arizona, were unloaded at a station called Kingman, fifteen miles below, and hauled the rest of the way by teams. The Lincoln County ranchers hoped the branch railroad which had been surveyed from Crystal Springs down the Pahranaagat Valley into Arizona would be built quickly to enable them to compete with the out-of-state produce.⁷² Whether or not the ranchers were actually suffering from this competition is questionable. It was more likely a propaganda device to encourage the railroads to build more rapidly in Lincoln County. Certainly, Stewart did not appear to be hindered by the competition.

As the ranch prospered under the capable supervision of Archibald Stewart, money began to accumulate. Helen Stewart became concerned about the danger of keeping large sums of money on the ranch. She devised various ways to hide it. Washing the windows one day, she discovered that the board in the top of the window was loose. Removing it, she placed a sack of money on the board, and replaced it in position. The space inside the wall was large enough to hold the sack. No sign of the money showed when the board was replaced; she had found a perfect cache.⁷³ She served as banker for the prospectors coming to the ranch and kept their money in baking soda cans.⁷⁴

Since the move to the ranch, life had been running smoothly for the Stewarts. This tranquility was shattered by Archibald's sudden demise, at a time when his wife was three months pregnant. The story of Archibald Stewart's death is one of the most often-told murder stories of Las Vegas Valley. A letter to the *Pioche Weekly Record* printed July 26, 1884, provides the customary resource material for the story of the shooting. The letter was written by J. T. Moore, who for several years had served as a teacher in Pioche, St. Thomas, and St. Joseph schools, hence was considered a credible source. Preceding the arrival of Moore's letter, the first news of the shooting had reached Pioche by the mailrider from the Muddy. This report noted that Archie Stewart had been killed by Hank Parish. This was followed the next day by a brief note from Mrs. Stewart to D. C. Clark stating that her husband had been murdered about a mile and one half above their ranch. With the arrival of Moore's letter, the newspaper noted that Hank Parish had nothing to do with the killing as previously reported. Moore's letter, written from the Moapa Indian Reservation on July 17, 1884, described his departure from the reservation on the evening of July 11, and his arrival at the Kiel Ranch on the twelfth.⁷⁵ On July 11, Helen Stewart entered in her day journal that Moore arrived at her ranch denoting a discrepancy in Moore's letter.⁷⁶ Upon arriving at the Kiel Ranch, Moore found Conrad Kiel and a blacksmith named Hamlin.⁷⁷ Kiel's son, Ed, was at El Dorado Canyon during the time Moore was at the Kiel Ranch.

While at the Kiels, Moore learned of an argument between Stewart and Schyler Henry, a hired hand on the Stewart Ranch. According to Moore, Henry arrived at the Kiel Ranch on the twelfth, announcing he had just quit working for Stewart. Moore was not present at the ranch when the trouble erupted. He had left on the morning of the thirteenth, and did not return until the fifteenth, two days after the murder. Moore's version of the incident occurring that Sunday afternoon at the Kiel Ranch was based solely on what he was told by Conrad Kiel and Schyler Henry. Moore relates that Stewart returned from the El Dorado Canyon on Sunday, July 13. Upon finding that Henry had quit, Stewart armed himself, and taking a circuitous route, approached the Kiel Ranch from the north. Stewart hitched his horse to a tree behind a cluster of grape vines and proceeded on foot. When Stewart was within thirty feet of the house, Henry spotted him running in the direction of the door of the house, holding his gun in a position to fire. All the windows and doors of the house were open. Henry, seated by a south window, saw Stewart and reached for a shotgun standing against the window. As it was unloaded, he sprang across the room and grabbed from its scabbard a Spencer rifle leaning against the north window. Stewart fired, missing Henry. Henry then raised his gun and aimed at Stewart, but his gun misfired. Realizing that Stewart was preparing to fire again, Henry stepped behind the door. Stewart put his gun to the door and fired. The ball passed through the door and grazed Henry on the arm. Henry, recharging his gun, came from behind the door. Both men fired. Henry received a flesh wound in the hip, and Stewart a shot through the chest. Both men fired again. Stewart, taking a shot in the head, was instantly killed. No words, allegedly, were spoken during the affray.⁷⁸ Although the shooting occurred at the Kiel Ranch, Moore absolved Conrad and Ed Kiel from any part in the affair.

A short article appeared in the *Pioche Weekly Record* on August 2, 1884, telling of a letter from Helen Stewart to George Sawyer in Pioche. It mentioned the short note she received from Conrad Kiel informing her that her husband was dead and to come remove his body. Only a small segment was quoted. The contents of the letter, it was reported, suggested that more than one individual had a hand in the killing of Stewart. She expressed fear because she was alone among a gang of cutthroats and murderers.⁷⁹

The papers of Helen Stewart include new data relative to the killing of her husband. A duplicate of her letter to George Sawyer, dated July 16, 1884, has been uncovered in an old ledger, or day journal, belonging to Archibald and Helen Stewart. This is a copy of the letter which was partially quoted in the *Pioche Weekly Record* of August 2, 1884. The letter presents Helen Stewart's version of her husband's death. She contended he was murdered while defending his family's honor which had been maligned by a "black hearted slanderer's tongue." The man to whom

she refers is Schyler Henry. While Archibald was at El Dorado Canyon, Henry had tried to frighten Mrs. Stewart into paying him off and letting him go. She, however, had no knowledge of the amount owed to Henry, nor was she accustomed to handling such matters; she refused his demands. On July 11, Henry left the Stewart Ranch for the Kiels.⁸⁰ This was a day earlier than Moore's date.

While at the Kiels, Henry continued to spread lies to everyone who stopped by. He had begun spreading rumors during his employment on the Stewart Ranch. An entry in Helen Stewart's day journal notes that she first became aware of Henry's lies on July 5.⁸¹ Henry, at the Kiels, was kept informed of every move made on the Stewart Ranch. Men on the Kiel Ranch and in the vicinity supplied him with arms and a horse.⁸²

On the morning of his death, July 13, 1884, Stewart arrived home from El Dorado Canyon about ten o'clock. After he had eaten and rested awhile, Helen Stewart confided to him the problem with Henry. About two o'clock, Will Stewart watched his father saddle his horse and ride toward the cattle range, taking his Henry rifle. This was nothing unusual, so the boy gave it no thought, nor did his mother. Because Stewart headed in the direction opposite the Kiels, his wife assumed he had gone to George Allen's coal camp some ten miles south of the ranch house. Allen had left the Stewart Ranch that morning after spending several days there.⁸³

The next news Mrs. Stewart had of her husband was the terse note from Conrad Kiel, reading, "Mrs. Sturd Send a Team and take Mr. Sturd away he is dead. C. Kiel." She described her reaction:

I left my little children with Mr. Frazier and went as fast as a horse could carry me. The man that killed my husband ran as I approached as I got to the corner of the house I said O where is he O where is he and the Old Man Kiel and *Hank Parish* said here he is and lifting a blanket showed me the lifeless form of my husband. I knelt down beside him took his hand placed my hand upon his heart and looked upon his face.⁸⁴

She recounted the wounds sustained by Stewart. A bullet hole was visible about two inches above the temple and one inch into the hair. A rifle had been placed directly under the right ear and fired, burning most of the whiskers on the side of his face. She concluded from viewing the wound that this particular injury had been inflicted after he fell. There was a wound across the cheekbone and forehead in a direction opposite that followed by the bullet which entered the head. Kiel and Parish told her Stewart was shot in the shoulder as well. Just at that moment her hired hands arrived with the spring wagon, and she turned her attention to loading the body into the wagon and delivering it home, one and one half miles.⁸⁵

Back at the Stewart Ranch, further examination of the wounds revealed that Stewart had been shot just above the left breast, the bullet exiting

under the right arm. The men who saw the body before it was buried, Allen and Frazier, told Mrs. Stewart this wound appeared to have been made by a pistol rather than a rifle. She concluded that he was killed in the house with no one to witness it except Kiel and Henry. She realized the evidence was circumstantial, but left no doubt she believed the three men, Henry, Kiel, and Parish, were all involved in the killing. Both Henry and Kiel were Stewart's enemies, and she felt, could not be counted on to tell the true story.⁸⁶ George Allen was sent for and arrived that evening. Mrs. Stewart also sent for James Wilson to come to her aid. Wilson arrived two days after the murder and was present when she wrote to Sawyer.⁸⁷ Frazier could offer little assistance as he was ill and could hardly care for himself. Both Allen and Wilson did what they could to help and promised to give her any possible aid in the future, but she realized she could not ask them to neglect their own affairs for long.⁸⁸

The letter concludes with a section marked private, not for publication in the newspaper. Helen Stewart expressed a fear that if Archibald had made no will, she, being a woman, would be vulnerable. If there were a will, Sawyer, as legal counsel for Archibald Stewart, was expected to have it in his possession. She instructed Sawyer to take any legal action necessary to insure her retention of the property and to insure her appointment to administer the estate. She also expressed her distress and fear for the safety of herself and her children. The man who murdered her husband was, after three days, still at the Kiels with a slight flesh wound in his hip. She felt it was dangerous to "say or do anything as we are overpowered by numbers and still threatened." Allen, Wilson, and Frazier added their signatures to the letter to corroborate her statements. They shared her fear of more trouble with the Kiel group.⁸⁹

The ledger in which the duplicate of the letter to Sawyer was recorded was originally used by Stewart in his early freighting business at Pioche. It was later used to record the Stewart grocery accounts at the store of D. C. Clark. In addition, it served as a day journal for the ranch in the late 1880s. The letter is in proper chronological order; there is no reason to suspect it was added at a later time. Mrs. Stewart habitually copied in this book and other ranch journals any important letters she wrote, therefore, the entry of this duplicate followed her customary procedure.

The Sawyer letter contradicts Moore's account of the murder. It must be remembered that Moore was not a witness, nor was he present at the Kiel Ranch until several days after the affray was ended. If, as Helen Stewart contended, the Kiel group were enemies of Archie's, and would not tell the truth, then their story could be discounted. There are discrepancies which should be considered more closely.

Kiel, et al., contended that Henry had quit work at Stewart's ranch, angering Archibald, and without further provocation, Stewart went gunning for him. Helen Stewart maintained that Henry badgered her, spread rumors about the family, or more likely, about her own conduct during

her husband's absences to El Dorado Canyon. The discovery of Henry's behavior would have sufficiently disturbed Stewart to send him after Henry to settle the matter. It seems illogical that Stewart could be so strongly provoked by the simple resignation of an employee. As Mrs. Stewart's ledgers show, the ranch hands stayed for awhile and then moved on. The discovery of Henry's rumors and harassment of his wife seems a more realistic reason for Stewart's sudden decision to confront the man.

It is agreed that Stewart did not choose a straightforward route to Kiel's ranch. He may have wished to spare his wife the anguish of realizing his intentions, or he may have felt she would try to stop his action, fearing he would be placing himself in danger, considering the reputation of the men frequenting the Kiel Ranch. He may have decided to head for Allen's camp, but remembered that Allen was to leave for El Dorado Canyon.

No one will ever be able to prove what happened that hot July afternoon at the Kiel Ranch. Kiel was by no means a reliable witness because of the hostility between him and Stewart preceding the incident. It is possible that Stewart, angered at what his wife told him, did sneak up on Henry and open fire as Kiel contended, or he could merely have wished to confront Henry and put a stop to the slander. Certainly, Henry was expecting trouble, as the weapons standing against each window indicate. Preparations had been made for Stewart's arrival.

According to the Kiel version, only Henry and Stewart were involved, yet the wounds described by Helen Stewart, Allen, and Frazier, indicate otherwise. The shot in the chest was attributed to a pistol shot, although Henry admitted to using only rifles. If the gunplay was as Moore's letter described it, Stewart's injuries could not have been as his wife described them. The wounds suggest violence after Stewart was downed. Did Parish contribute to the demise of Stewart? Certainly the body bore more wounds than could have been administered in the gunplay between Stewart and Henry as described by Moore. How did Stewart receive the other wounds? Mrs. Stewart concluded that Parish, Kiel, and Henry, all had a hand in the murder. Her interpretation was they had lured him to the Kiel Ranch where they waylaid him. Her later writings state that he was killed by a group of desperados.⁹⁰ Surely, this could not have been her conclusion had he been killed in a simple argument with an employee over wages. Too many facts point to a more complex situation.

A year and one half before Archibald was killed an incident occurred which Helen Stewart connected with the murder. At that time two horses were stolen from the Stewart Ranch. Stewart, overtaking the thief, recovered the horses, but the thief escaped. Upon discovering additional cattle stolen, Archibald, with the aid of a neighbor, located what he thought were his stolen cattle, only to discover they belonged to H. Geer of Pahrangat Valley. Stewart sent word to Geer of the recovery of the

cattle, and in doing so, Mrs. Stewart believed, placed his life in danger. The thief sent word to Stewart that he would kill him the first chance he got.⁹¹ Although Stewart notified the authorities, they failed to take action.

Helen Stewart contended that Parish was the thief. Certainly, Parish continued to bear her hatred the rest of his life. In the chapter she wrote for Davis' *History of Nevada*, she connected the theft of the cattle with the murder of her husband. She explained the situation as a plan devised by the gang of desperados who chose their time to waylay Stewart.⁹² She told a similar story to Delphine Squires, who wrote that Stewart had been inveigled to the Kiel Ranch where he was murdered and robbed by Hank Parish.⁹³ Mrs. Stewart never waived in her belief that Parish was the instigator of the whole affair.

An entry in her journal of January 2, 1891, reads, "First news of *Hank Parish's Hanging*." The last three words are heavily underlined twice. On January 4, she noted the name and address of F. X. Murphy of Ely, Nevada, along with the names of Sheriff Bassett and Doctor Campbell. She wrote, "These gentlemen spent the night with him. Has a written account of his life."⁹⁴ The three men were involved in the trial and hanging of Parish in Ely in December, 1890.⁹⁵ Although Moore made no mention of Parish's presence at the Kiel Ranch during the shooting, Helen Stewart's entry in her journal for July 6, 1884, shows Parish made a trip to the El Dorado Canyon, returning to the Vegas on Wednesday, July 9, just four days before Stewart was killed.⁹⁶

The incident of Stewart's death involving Parish would have been well within his behavioral pattern. When Parish was working in the mines of El Dorado Canyon in 1879, he shot a man named Taylor.⁹⁷ In 1881, Parish shot James B. Greenwood and N. Clark after losing to Greenwood in a card game. Parish left the scene, but returned as Greenwood was lying wounded and waiting for a boat to take him to Ft. Mohave for medical treatment. At gunpoint, Parish demanded \$100 from Greenwood, threatening that unless he got it, Greenwood would never live to be taken on the boat. Andy Fife gave Parish the money to prevent the murder.⁹⁸ Greenwood was first reported dead, but was later reported recovered from the near fatal wound.⁹⁹ In neither case was Parish tried for the crime. At the time the latter incident occurred Lincoln County coffers were badly depleted and county officials procrastinated sending anyone after Parish, hesitating to further burden the almost bankrupt county. Much complaint was heard around the county at this lack of performance of duties.¹⁰⁰

If Parish enjoyed the reputation of a gunslinger, the reputation of the Kiel Ranch was not much better. It was not uncommon for a rough crowd to congregate there. On December 1, 1894, a man named Gibbons was maimed when the side of his face was shot off during a quarrel over a card game by two men with a price on their heads, Gay and Butcher.¹⁰¹

Henry Hudson Lee, long time resident of Lincoln County and one-time county recorder, remembered that Jack Longstreet, another gunslinger residing in Lincoln County, was known to hang out frequently at the Kiels. According to Lee, the Kiel family did not enjoy a good reputation; people did not speak well of them.¹⁰² Thus, Stewart must have known when he rode to the Kiels that hot afternoon that he was putting himself in jeopardy. It seems unlikely that he would have risked it over an argument with an employee. The reputation of the Kiel Ranch as a hangout for desperados would have been ignored in the desire to settle with a man who was slandering his wife's good name.

Another account of the shooting appeared in the *Mohave County Miner*. The story reiterated parts of Moore's account, implying that Stewart was shot by a former employee after a quarrel over wages. This account can be disregarded, as little in it stands up under investigation. The men in El Dorado Canyon were ready to believe that Stewart was at fault in the shooting, as his exacting business methods had made him many enemies. The article commented that there was no sympathy for Stewart in the canyon, and the general feeling was that Stewart got what he had coming.¹⁰³

In the midst of the traumatic experience of finding herself a widow, Helen Stewart had the responsibility of burying her husband. After she had done all she could in the preparation of the body, she realized she had nothing with which to construct a coffin. There was no planed wood available at the ranch, and no hopes of getting any. Yet, this did not deter Helen Stewart. The outside doors of the house were removed to serve as lumber for the coffin. Legend has it that she, herself, constructed the coffin, while some accounts credit Ike Alcock, a miner supposedly staying at the ranch at the time.¹⁰⁴ It seems unlikely that Alcock did it, as no mention is made of his being at the ranch during this time period in Helen Stewart's day journals. The person who built the coffin was proficient in carpentry, as the coffin gave indication of having been built by an experienced workman. It was not a simple wood box of rectangular shape, but more elaborately designed, wider at the shoulder area and narrowing to the feet.¹⁰⁵ Chances are slim that the Indian hired hands did the work, having been reared in an area and culture which had little wood, especially planed lumber. The only white men reported in the journal as being on the ranch during the time in which the coffin had to be made were Frazier and George Allen.¹⁰⁶ Since Frazier was hardly able to get around, he probably did not make the coffin.¹⁰⁷ Wilson did not arrive at the ranch until the day after Stewart was buried.¹⁰⁸ Thus, all indications point to George Allen as the builder of the coffin.

Because of the extreme heat and the vast distance from a coroner, it was not practical to retain the body for examination; therefore, Archibald Stewart was buried the day after he died. Due to the isolation of her ranch, Helen Stewart found herself reading the words of the burial service

from the *Episcopal Book of Common Prayer* over the grave of her husband.¹⁰⁹ Archibald Stewart was the first of seven to be buried in the hard *caliche* earth which was later to become known by Las Vegas as the "Four Acres"—it was that amount of land Helen Stewart retained around her family burials when she sold the ranch.

By July 26, when Deputy Sheriff Sam Smith arrived at the Vegas from Pioche to bring in Henry and some witnesses, Parish had left the valley, leaving only Conrad Kiel and Schyler Henry to be taken to Pioche. In addition to Kiel and Henry, Helen Stewart was subpoenaed by Smith. The subpoena concerned the case of the *State of Nevada v. S. Henry, H. Parish, and C. Kiel*.¹¹⁰ Although the newspaper accounts of the hearing indicate that Parish was a defendant, the actual grand jury transcript in the Lincoln County records lists only Henry and Kiel as defendants.¹¹¹ This indicates Smith did not find Parish at the Kiel Ranch. As before, no search was made for him. The court heard testimony regarding the two men they had in custody. Parish, again, had been ignored, and no effort was made to apprehend him. It was not until 1890, when he murdered P. G. Thompson, that he was finally tried, convicted, and graced the gallows.¹¹²

Deputy Smith arrived back in Pioche with Henry and Kiel on Friday, August 8; Helen Stewart arrived the following day.¹¹³ Henry and Kiel went before a grand jury which had been chosen and sworn in on August 6, 1884. Most of the men were well known to the Stewarts. Such men as George Barton, Joseph Eisenmann, J. Poujade, L. Werthermer, D. C. Clark, and John Roeder had all done business with Stewart, and were to continue to do so with his widow. The trial began at ten o'clock on August 11, 1884, and continued into the evening before a verdict was reached. Helen Stewart, Conrad Kiel, and Schyler Henry were the only witnesses called.¹¹⁴ The case became the word of Helen Stewart against Henry and Kiel, who were the only witnesses present at the shooting. As there were no impartial witnesses, it is doubtful that the whole truth became known at the hearing. At the time in Lincoln County it was customary not to convict a man for murder without impartial, eyewitness testimony.¹¹⁵ There was no such eyewitness to accuse Henry and Kiel, so they were not indicted by the jury.¹¹⁶ Even though the newspaper reported that all the evidence supported justifiable homicide, the record merely indicates that sixteen of the jurors voted to dismiss the charge, while one voted for conviction.¹¹⁷ It seems more reasonable to suspect the two were acquitted because no eyewitness could be found to accuse them, rather than that the evidence pointed to their innocence. Although Parish was included in the subpoenas, he could not be located, so was never brought to trial for the killing of Archibald Stewart. Helen Stewart remained firm in her belief that it was Parish who instigated the whole affair.

As soon as Helen Stewart buried her husband, she was faced with the

continuation of ranch activities, leaving her no time for grief. Her day journal mentions nothing the week after the funeral except James Wilson's arrival. On the Saturday after the funeral, George Allen made a trip for Helen Stewart to El Dorado Canyon, taking with him fifty-five pounds of beef jerky to be sold at seventy cents a pound, as well as fruit, corn, and wine. The next week another trip was made for her by Allen.¹¹⁸ With the large amount of fruit ripening at the ranch, there was no time to rest. Helen Stewart was suddenly thrust into directing the operation of the ranch, a burden she carried for the next twenty years.

In addition to the ranch problems, Helen Stewart had to deal with the legal problems caused by her husband's death. The court appointed her administratrix of the estate and guardian of her four minor children. As guardian, she could handle her children's interest in the estate with permission from the court. Because Stewart died intestate, the property was divided among his wife and children. George Allen, James Wilson, and O. P. Bailey, chosen by Helen Stewart as competent and disinterested persons, were appointed by the court as appraisers. The proximity of Allen and Wilson made it more convenient than dealing with someone living in Pioche. Letters of administration were issued to them by the court. Simultaneously, Helen Stewart applied for her letter of administration of the estate. Notices of the handling of the estate were posted in three places as required by law. The personal property of the estate was estimated at \$5,000; the estate was not expected to exceed \$20,000. No one contested the application, so the motion took effect as soon as Helen Stewart took the oath and filed a bond in the sum of \$10,000.¹¹⁹

The bond was executed the same day. Signing the bond with Mrs. Stewart were Joseph Eisenmann and D. C. Clark. These two men had both done business with Archibald Stewart and had been jurors in the hearing of Kiel and Henry. The trio put up as sureties \$5,000 in gold as a portion of the \$10,000 bond. The bond stated that if Helen Stewart "well and faithfully executes the duties of her trust as such administratrix according to law, then this obligation is to be void, otherwise to be and remain in full force and effect." The next day, Helen Stewart, in executing the oath required of her, swore to support the constitutions of the United States and Nevada and to faithfully perform the duties of the administration of the estate of Archibald Stewart, according to the law.¹²⁰ Creditors were given ten months in which to make claims on the estate before it could be settled.¹²¹

The Lincoln County Commissioners were unsympathetic with the young widow. Widows were allowed \$1,000 tax exemptions. On October 6, 1884, Helen Stewart applied to the Board of Equalization for her exemption. The commissioners, obviously feeling the exemption should not apply in Mrs. Stewart's case, at the same meeting raised the assessment of the estate \$1,000, thereby negating the widow's exemption to which she was entitled.¹²²

In December, 1884, Helen Stewart took her family to her parents' home in Galt, California, while her father traveled to the Vegas Ranch to look after it in her absence.¹²³ There, on January 25, 1885, Helen Stewart gave birth to her fifth and last child. She named this son Archibald for his father. The *Pioche Weekly Record* first announced the baby was a girl, but the following week corrected the error.¹²⁴ This child was to become the favorite child of his mother. When the baby was old enough to travel easily, she returned to her duties on the ranch.

On August 4, 1885, Helen Stewart finalized the probate of the estate and was given, on August 14, the right to distribute it.¹²⁵ Involved were the Las Vegas Ranch, 960 acres with the surrounding range land, appraised at \$8,000, and the personal property, consisting of horses, cattle, various farming utensils, hay, and grain, appraised at about \$2,000. One half of the estate went to Helen Stewart. The other half was divided equally among the five children: Will, Hiram, Eliza, Evaline, and Archibald.¹²⁶ The mother was appointed guardian of the children the same day. The Bond of Guardianship was co-signed by D. C. Clark and O. P. Bailey. Each of the three put up \$1,000 bond money to be paid to the minors in case of default. Again, an oath was required. After completing these legal steps, Helen Stewart was left with complete control over only one half of the ranch. Before she could sell it, she had to get permission on behalf of her children from the court.¹²⁷

Although it is commonly assumed that Helen Stewart made no effort to sell the ranch until her sale to the railroad in the early 1900s, such was not the case. Never wanting to move to the isolation of the ranch, she had done so with the understanding that it was only temporary. It is logical that as soon as she settled the estate, she would attempt to sell the property. In October, 1885, the Wisers visited their daughter at her ranch.¹²⁸ Soon after their arrival, Helen Stewart wrote to Judge Rives requesting permission to sell. The ranch's isolated position, she reasoned, made it most impossible for her family to stay there. The children could not have proper educational advantages. This letter, sworn to by Helen Stewart before O. P. Bailey, was witnessed by her parents.¹²⁹ On October 29, 1885, she filed a formal petition to the court as guardian of her children to sell the ranch. She listed as reasons that she had no other place available for a home, and there were no facilities for education of the minors, nor could any be had without "undue and unusual expense." She was granted permission to sell the ranch, as well as an undivided half interest in one gang plow, one reaper and mower, two old wagons, ten saddle horses, ten unbroken horses, one hundred cows, twenty-eight two-year-olds, forty yearlings, thirty tons of hay, four tons of barley, and fifteen hogs. The bond she posted this time was for \$2,500.¹³⁰ The first prospective buyer was A. G. Campbell, a Pioche businessman. In May, 1887, Campbell considered purchasing the ranch. He had been in the area



The Stewart Ranch, Las Vegas.

examining some mining property and took the opportunity to look over the Stewart Ranch.¹³¹

Talk of selling the ranch appears again in March, 1889, when two men from Haywood, California, came to inspect the ranch and discuss a sale. After four days of viewing, they moved on to Jim Wilson's Sandstone Ranch, southwest of the Stewart Ranch.¹³² The asking price at this time was \$55,000 and included all stock and equipment and about seventy-six hundred acres of land. The two men were unable to handle the sale, so nothing came of it.¹³³

By 1889, rumors had spread throughout Lincoln County that shortly a railroad would be built through the Las Vegas Valley, the Muddy Valley, and other parts of the southern area of the county. This brought on a surge of land acquisition. Out-of-state interest was attracted to the area as promoters recognized a chance to make a profit. Among them was Helen Stewart's father, Hiram Wiser, who entered 1,000 acres on the Muddy. During an eight month period ending in May, over 25,000 acres were claimed in the southern portion of the county, mostly by outside interests. One San Franciscan entered 13,000 acres under the Desert Land Act.¹³⁴ It was not unusual after a person had applied for his maximum acreage under a particular land act, that he would get someone else to apply, then transfer the claim to him. In 1897, Helen Stewart did this. Her sister, Asenath Roach, filed two applications for land, then sold them to Helen Stewart, who had given her the money with which to purchase the land originally.¹³⁵

Beginning in 1888, and continuing through the 1890s, Helen Stewart and her father bought large tracts of land. The land which Wiser acquired in the Muddy Valley continued to be known as the Wiser Ranch long after Wiser ceased to own it. Part of the ranch, 239.81 acres, was purchased from Jack Longstreet.¹³⁶ To acquire the land he needed, Wiser bought land in the name of various members of his family. This area in Muddy Valley was much publicized at the time as being an up and coming part of Lincoln County. The *Pioche Weekly Record* described Wiser's tract as "of the finest and so situated that comparative immunity from malaria which is sometimes prevalent in the Valley proper can be expected."¹³⁷

Although talk of a railroad through the area had been in evidence for several years, the developments in 1889 gave more credence to the rumors. In September, a team of surveyors worked through Muddy Valley and the area of the Las Vegas Ranch before heading west, surveying to the California-Nevada border.¹³⁸ That same month, Helen Stewart set up an arrangement with her father and brother-in-law, Ed Meyer. She agreed to a two year lease on a herd of cattle, renewable at the end of that time if all parties agreed. Wiser and Meyer were to transfer from the Vegas to the Muddy 100 head of female cattle of different ages, from two year olds to the oldest cows. They were to receive half of the increase in

the herd over the two years. Helen Stewart was to provide them with three horses, to be returned or replaced at the end of the two years. Wiser and Meyer were to pay all taxes on the cattle.¹³⁹ Wiser, thus, began his herd of cattle at very little expense.

The arrangement was renewed several times. On March 9, 1894, Wiser signed a statement that he had received payment in full for four years of grazing Vegas cattle at his ranch on the Muddy and full payment as well for work he had done on the Las Vegas Ranch.¹⁴⁰ At the same time, Helen Stewart executed a new lease with her father and another brother-in-law, Andrew Shellard. Wiser and Shellard were to take 166 head of cattle of all ages with 80 head of cows expected to calve that year. After two years, Wiser and Shellard got one-third of the increase. Mrs. Stewart agreed to pay the taxes on the cattle and to provide hands to help with the branding twice a year. She retained the right to take at her choosing any of the cattle which would make beef, excepting those with calves. She assumed the responsibility for all that were lost by natural death or disease. Wiser and Shellard were responsible for all cattle lost, strayed, or stolen. Added to this herd were to be 2 steers over eighteen months and 23 head of yearling steers for which Wiser and Shellard would not be responsible, but were to give the same care as their own.¹⁴¹ The arrangement benefited both parties—Wiser started his herd in this manner, and Helen Stewart no longer had to hire as many hands to care for the cattle. This relieved her of some of the burden of the animals, while still allowing her the right to sell her beef at market any time she chose. A herd of 275 head of the Stewart-Wiser cattle was driven to Utah in the spring of 1897. By the time the herd had reached the area between Panaca and Desert Springs, it had been on the trail a month or more. Cattle from the south were generally thought to be small and undersized because of the hot climate in which they were raised. This herd was not undersized, but was as large as those raised in the Pioche area.¹⁴²

The Stewart Ranch sent wagons to El Dorado Canyon bi-monthly. The beef was killed, dressed into quarters, and quickly delivered. It sometimes took two of the beeves, usually weighing from 500–600 pounds each, to make up the required load. In the 1890s the meat was sold for approximately eight cents a pound. Hay as well as other grains, vegetables, and fruit were sent during the proper season. In January, 1891, upon returning from the canyon, Hiram Stewart reported that Mr. Mills, the buyer, had complained of the manner in which the beef had been cut. He requested that in the future it be cut down the middle of the backbone.¹⁴³ Seldom was a complaint made, as the miners were hardly in a position to make demands on their suppliers.

Although the ranch was operating successfully, Helen Stewart continued to worry over her children's lack of education. No formal school seemed evident in the near future for the area, so she persuaded James

Ross Megarrigle to come to the ranch to tutor her children.¹⁴⁴ Megarrigle, a twenty-year resident of Lincoln County, was a teacher by occupation. Although his main reason for living at the ranch was to provide schooling for the children, there were many other contributions he made to the lonely life of Helen Stewart. Megarrigle was a man of many talents and interests; he had a good singing voice, played the fiddle reasonably well, wrote poetry, had been active in county politics, and could converse on a myriad of subjects. It was Megarrigle who usually provided the speech for special occasions wherever he was residing. Educated at Oxford, Megarrigle's great knowledge and background, coupled with Helen Stewart's avid interest in many cultural topics, provided an intellectual bond between the old man and the lonely woman. Here was an individual with whom she could share her love of poetry which she collected in a scrapbook, as well as composed herself. Megarrigle filled a gap the other men of the ranch could not.

Megarrigle performed various other services for Helen Stewart, such as witnessing the legal documents which she frequently executed. His knowledge of law was utilized by others in the area who also called upon him for help. When Conrad Kiel, shortly before he died, wished to make a will, Megarrigle was sent for and wrote the will for Kiel, also signing it as one of the witnesses.¹⁴⁵ The elderly tutor made the Stewart Ranch his last home. He had meandered over the country for twenty years, teaching school in one place or another, but desirous of a place to settle. At the Stewart Ranch he found a haven.

Megarrigle began his instruction of the children on February 13, 1889.¹⁴⁶ There was no problem in instructing the girls, but the two older boys resisted. They had been doing men's work around the ranch for several years, and found it difficult to return to the roles of schoolboys. The two had received less than a year of formal education before the move to the ranch; it had fallen to their mother to provide what education they obtained. They much preferred working around the ranch to being tutored. At one time their mother persuaded them to try the classroom. When they agreed, she viewed the occasion so special that she recorded the event in her day journal. Their academic pursuits lasted only a few days, then they were back at their normal routine.¹⁴⁷

While tutoring the Stewart children, Megarrigle was appointed teacher in the newly organized Las Vegas School District for Lincoln County. He is the first teacher listed on state records for Las Vegas.¹⁴⁸ The first report shows no salary for him, but for the 1893-94 report of Orvis Ring, he is listed as receiving a salary of \$60.¹⁴⁹ The address of the district was the closest post office, El Dorado Canyon, and Hiram Wiser served as clerk of the district.¹⁵⁰ Teaching did not prevent Megarrigle from performing his customary services for the county. In 1890, he enumerated the census made of war veterans in Lincoln County, the only extant census taken in Nevada in 1890.¹⁵¹

In the spring of 1894, Megarrigle became ill with "la grippe," complicated by inflammatory rheumatism. Mrs. Stewart carefully nursed him during the illness, but nearing seventy years of age and in poor health, he died on the morning of March 16, 1894.¹⁵² To Megarrigle's one-time fiancé and oldest friend, a Mrs. Ford, Helen Stewart wrote:

His goodness of heart and high intellectual qualities were held in great esteem by us his friends . . . He was very kind and good and from the stores of knowledge held by a high order of intellect he was able to help his fellow beings and he never refused. And I do believe that his spirit relieved of the incumbrances [sic] of earthly life will shine in the bright constellation of spiritual life above.¹⁵³

Mrs. Stewart explained that there was nothing of value among the effects of Megarrigle except a fine gold watch and two pair of glasses. One pair of the glasses had a nickel case and the other pair had gold rims, but both lenses were broken. Megarrigle had often told her he was saving his watch to pay for his burial. Helen Stewart described his grave as having no headstone or railing around it as the ranch was far away from the railroad and any supply of that kind. Mrs. Stewart asked Mrs. Ford if she should sell the watch and fix up the grave, or if Mrs. Ford preferred the watch sent to her, arranging for the preparation of the grave herself.¹⁵⁴ Thus, Helen Stewart laid to rest the second person in her "Four Acres."

Megarrigle's was not the only death in the valley in 1894. Conrad Kiel died on January 3, at the age of eighty-five. He developed a cold, and because of his advanced age death resulted.¹⁵⁵ He left his son, Ed, to operate the Kiel Ranch. Bitter feeling had continued between the Kiels and Stewarts after the murder of Archibald Stewart. When Helen Stewart made any notes of the activities of the Kiels in her day journal, she usually underlined the name heavily. The animosity she felt for Kiel was, however, less than that felt by her two older sons, especially Hiram.¹⁵⁶

Even though the relationship between the Kiels and Stewarts was strained, contact was still maintained between Helen Stewart and Ed Kiel. Business dealings were kept to a minimum, and only the necessary communications were exchanged. On October 1, 1886, Helen Stewart wrote a terse letter to Ed Kiel to come and get his stock which were grazing on Stewart land, as she intended to gather and brand her cattle.¹⁵⁷ The following May she wrote to him, "I send your mare home by Indian. Please keep her there. You will find it best to do what is right."¹⁵⁸ All communications were to Ed, not the father.

Notes

1. C. P. Squires and Delphine Squires, "Las Vegas, Nevada—Its Romance and History" (Photocopied MS, Special Collections, James Dickenson Library, University of Nevada, Las Vegas, 1955), p. 173.
2. *Pioche Weekly Record*, September 20, 1890.
3. Death Certificate of Helen J. Stewart, Nevada State Board of Health, Bureau of Vital Statistics, State Index No. 240, Local Registered No. 19, Carson City, Nevada.
4. Petition to Decree Grantee in Patent, Hiram Wiser Probate File, Lincoln County courthouse, Pioche, Nevada; Interview, Evelyn Moden, granddaughter of Helen J. Stewart, February 2, 1973, Las Vegas, Nevada.
5. *Nevada State Journal*, November 2, 1915; *Register of Society of Nevada Pioneers*, Nevada State Historical Society, Reno, Nevada, p. 11.
6. *Las Vegas Review*, March 12, 1926.
7. *Sacramento Daily Union*, April 11 1873; Marriage Certificate of Archibald Stewart and Helen J. Wiser, Helen J. Stewart Papers, Nevada State Historical Society, Reno, Nevada. (Hereafter cited as Stewart Papers.)
8. U.S., Bureau of the Census, *Tenth Census of the United States: 1880, Population*, Nev., vol. 1, p. 333.
9. Dr. Richard Brooks and Dr. Sheilagh Brooks to Les Stewart, great-grandson of Helen J. Stewart, April 4, 1972, copy to author.
10. Day Journal of Archibald and Helen J. Stewart, January, 1869 to August, 1895, March 15, 1869, Stewart Papers. (Hereafter cited as Journal, 1869–1895.) This journal is not a continuous record of these years, but is spasmodic.
11. Interview, Evelyn Moden, February 2, 1973.
12. James W. Hulse, *Lincoln County, Nevada: 1864–1909 History of a Mining Region*, "Nevada Studies in History and Political Science," No. 10 (Reno: University of Nevada Press, 1971), pp. 6, 19–22.
13. Nevada, *Appendix to Journals of the Senate and Assembly* (1877), "1875 Census of Nevada," p. 637.
14. Franklin A. Buck, *A Yankee Trader in the Gold Rush: The Letters of Franklin A. Buck*, compiled by Katherine A. White, with illustrations (New York: Houghton Mifflin, 1930), pp. 265–267.
15. Squires, p. 173.
16. *Miscellaneous Records*, Lincoln County, Book C–2, September 22, 1879, pp. 92–93; Book F, May 29, 1901, pp. 10–13, Lincoln County courthouse, Pioche, Nevada. (Unless otherwise stated, all Lincoln County records are located in the Lincoln County courthouse, Pioche, Nevada.)
17. Death Certificate of William James Stewart, Nevada State Board of Health, Bureau of Vital Statistics, State Index No. 110, Local Registered No. 13, Carson City, Nevada; Squires, pp. 173–174.
18. Baptismal Records of William James Stewart and Hiram Richard Stewart, May 7, 1876, Christ Church, Episcopal, (Pioche) Parish Record Book; Bishop's Files, Trinity Episcopal church, Reno, Nevada, p. 11.
19. *Pioche Weekly Record*, January 18, 1879.
20. Baptismal Records of Flora Eliza Jane Stewart and Earl Edgar Carmen, June 29, 1879, Christ Church, Episcopal, (Pioche) Parish Record Book; Bishop's Files, Trinity Episcopal church, Reno, Nevada, pp. 19–20.
21. *Deed Records*, Lincoln County, Book D, August 8, 1879, p. 191.

22. Andrew Jensen, compiler, "History of Las Vegas Mission," *Nevada State Historical Society Papers 1925-26* (Reno: Reno Printing Co., 1926) pp. 137-138.
23. Stanley W. Paher, *Las Vegas, As it began—as it grew* (Las Vegas: Nevada Publications, 1971), p. 37.
24. Jensen, p. 284.
25. Nevada, *Appendix to Journals of the Senate and Assembly* (1873), "Report of the State Mineralogist," p. 8.
26. *Commissioners' Records*, Lincoln County, September 29, 1871, vol. 1, p. 171.
27. *Ibid.*, December 8, 1873, vol. 1, p. 339.
28. *Pioche Weekly Record*, June 5, 1875.
29. *Deed Records*, Lincoln County, Book D, March 25, 1876, pp. 44-45.
30. *Commissioners' Records*, Lincoln County, March 4, 1878, vol. 2, p. 46.
31. *Deed Records*, Lincoln County, Book D, August 8, 1879, p. 191.
32. *Ibid.*, Book P, August 2, 1880, p. 131.
33. *Miscellaneous Records*, Lincoln County, Book C-2, August 2, 1880, pp. 169-171.
34. At the news of Stewart's death, the *Mohave County Miner* reported that no sympathy was found for him in El Dorado Canyon. The general feeling was that he got his "just desserts". *Mohave County Miner* (Arizona), July 20, 1884.
35. *Deed Records*, Lincoln County, Book P, August 2, 1880, p. 131.
36. *Pioche Weekly Record*, February 12, 1881.
37. U.S., Bureau of the Census, *Tenth Census of the United States: 1880, Population*, Nev., vol. 1, p. 333.
38. *Pioche Weekly Record*, October 25, 1880.
39. Paher, p. 55.
40. *Pioche Weekly Record*, July 31, 1880.
41. *Ibid.*, August 21, 1880.
42. *Ibid.*, August 9, 1879.
43. Paher, p. 55.
44. *Miscellaneous Records*, Lincoln County, Book C-2, June 1, 1881, pp. 201-204.
45. *Ibid.*; *Deed Records*, Lincoln County, Book P, June 1, 1881, pp. 163, 165.
46. *Miscellaneous Records*, Lincoln County, Book C-2, June 1, 1881, pp. 201-204.
47. *Pioche Weekly Record*, October 1, 1881.
48. *Ibid.*, November 19, 1881.
49. *Ibid.*, December 3, 1881.
50. *Miscellaneous Records*, Lincoln County, Book C-2, March 1, 1882, pp. 229-232.
51. *Deed Records*, Lincoln County, Book P, March 1, 1882, pp. 243-245.
52. *Miscellaneous Records*, Lincoln County, Book C-2, March 1, 1882, pp. 229-232.
53. *Pioche Weekly Record*, April 1, 1882.
54. *Ibid.*, March 25, 1882.
55. Squires, p. 174.
56. *Pioche Weekly Record*, November 5, 1881; December 12, 1881; January 7, 1882; February 11, 1882; April 8, 1882.
57. Mary Carmen to Helen J. Stewart, May 6, 1882, Stewart Papers; Interview,

Florence Squires Boyer, November 14, 1971, Las Vegas, Nevada; *Pioche Weekly Record*, April 15, 1882.

58. *Pioche Weekly Record*, October 16, 1880.

59. *Ibid.*, January 29, 1881.

60. John M. Townley, "Early Development of El Dorado Canyon and Searchlight Mining Districts," *Nevada Historical Society Quarterly*, (Spring, 1968) 11:18.

61. *Searchlight Bulletin*, June 26, 1908.

62. Mary Carmen to Helen J. Stewart, May 6, 1882, Stewart Papers.

63. Interview, Robert Stewart, great-grandson of Helen J. Stewart, March 9, 1972, Las Vegas, Nevada.

64. *Pioche Weekly Record*, December 2, 1882.

65. *Ibid.*, January 6, 1883.

66. *Ibid.*, June 17, 1882.

67. *Ibid.*

68. *Ibid.*, September 8, 1883.

69. Day Journal of Helen J. Stewart, June, 1884 to September, 1887, Stewart Papers. (Hereafter cited as Journal, 1884-1887); Day Journal of Helen J. Stewart, December, 1890 to January, 1892, Stewart Papers. (Hereafter cited as Journal, 1890-1892.)

70. Squires, p. 175.

71. *Pioche Weekly Record*, April 28, 1883; August 18, 1883; September 8, 1883.

72. *Ibid.*, February 2, 1884.

73. Squires, p. 176.

74. *The Searchlight*, August 23, 1907.

75. *Pioche Weekly Record*, July 26, 1884.

76. Journal, 1884-1887, July 11, 1884.

77. *Pioche Weekly Record*, July 26, 1884; Hamlin seems to have left as he is not mentioned further.

78. *Pioche Weekly Record*, July 26, 1884.

79. *Ibid.*, August 2, 1884.

80. Helen J. Stewart to George Sawyer, July 16, 1884, copy in Journal, 1869-1895.

81. Journal, 1884-1887, July 5, 1884.

82. Stewart to Sawyer, July 16, 1884.

83. *Ibid.*

84. *Ibid.*; Frazier was a man staying at the ranch. His given name is obscure.

85. *Ibid.*

86. *Ibid.*

87. Journal, 1884-1887, July 15, 1884.

88. Stewart to Sawyer, July 16, 1884.

89. *Ibid.*

90. Helen J. Stewart, "Early Knowledge of Nevada," in *History of Nevada*, ed., Sam P. Davis (Reno: The Elms Publishing Company, 1913) 1:221-222.

91. Notes entitled, "An Adversity of Justice," by Helen J. Stewart, n.d. (1884?), Stewart Papers.

92. Helen J. Stewart, "Early Knowledge . . ." pp. 221-222.

93. Squires, p. 176.

94. Journal, 1890-1892, January, 1891.

95. *Pioche Weekly Record*, December 20, 1890.
96. Journal, 1884–1887, July 6, 1884; July 9, 1884.
97. *Pioche Weekly Record*, September 6, 1879.
98. *Ibid.*, March 12, 1881.
99. *Ibid.*, March 19, 1881.
100. *Ibid.*
101. *Ibid.*, December 20, 1894.
102. Interview, Henry Hudson Lee, August 31, 1971, Las Vegas, Nevada.
103. *Mohave County Miner*, July 20, 1884.
104. Squires, p. 177.
105. The author assisted in March, 1972, at the archaeological excavation of the burials in the Stewart burial ground. The "Four Acres" was sold for commercial purposes, and the graves had to be relocated.
106. Journal, 1884–1887, July 13–15, 1884.
107. Stewart to Sawyer, July 16, 1884.
108. Journal, 1884–1887, July 16, 1884.
109. Interview, Evelyn Moden, February 2, 1973; Interview, Florence Boyer, November 14, 1971.
110. Subpoena of justice court of Pioche Township, Lincoln County, state of Nevada of Mrs. Archie Stewart, July 26, 1884, Stewart Papers.
111. *Pioche Weekly Record*, September 6, 1884; *Minutes Book of Grand Juries*, Lincoln County, Nevada, Lincoln County courthouse, Pioche, Nevada, August 11, 1884, pp. 11–12.
112. *Pioche Weekly Record*, December 20, 1890.
113. *Ibid.*, August 9, 1884.
114. *Minutes Book of Grand Juries*, Lincoln County, August 6, 1884, p. 6; August 11, 1884, p. 11.
115. In May, 1884, Jack Longstreet was tried for the murder of Alexander Dry by J. Ross Megarrigle, then justice of the peace of St. Thomas. Longstreet was acquitted because of the absence of eye witnesses. Dry had been tried for murder four years earlier and acquitted for the same reason. *Pioche Weekly Record*, May 17, 1884.
116. *Minutes Book of Grand Juries*, Lincoln County, August 11, 1884, pp. 11–12.
117. *Pioche Weekly Record*, September 6, 1884.
118. Journal, 1884–1887, July 19, 1884; July 29, 1884.
119. *Probate Records*, Lincoln County, 1884–1909, August 21, 1884, pp. 2, 3, 6.
120. *Ibid.*, pp. 3–5.
121. *Pioche Weekly Record*, August 23, 1884.
122. *Commissioners' Records*, Lincoln County, October 6, 1884, vol. 2, p. 300.
123. Journal, 1884–1887, December, 1884.
124. *Pioche Weekly Record*, February 14, 1885; February 21, 1885.
125. *Probate Records*, Lincoln County, 1884–1909, August 14, 1885, pp. 6–7.
126. *Miscellaneous Records*, Lincoln County, Book C–2, August 14, 1885, pp. 416–418.
127. *Probate Records*, Lincoln County, 1884–1909, August 14, 1885, pp. 13–17.
128. *Pioche Weekly Record*, October 21, 1885.

129. Helen J. Stewart to Judge Rives, October 24, 1885, Archibald Stewart Probate File, Lincoln County courthouse, Pioche, Nevada.
130. *Miscellaneous Records*, Lincoln County, Book C-2, October 29, 1885, pp. 419-422.
131. *Pioche Weekly Record*, May 5, 1887.
132. Journal, 1869-1895, February 28, 1889; March 3, 1889.
133. *Pioche Weekly Record*, March 3, 1889.
134. *Ibid.*, March 18, 1889; March 23, 1889.
135. *Miscellaneous Records*, Clark County, Book 5, April 30, 1928, p. 452, Clark County courthouse, Las Vegas, Nevada. (Unless otherwise stated, all Clark County records are located in the Clark County courthouse, Las Vegas, Nevada.)
136. *Deed Records*, Lincoln County, Book Q, September 28, 1888, p. 198.
137. *Pioche Weekly Record*, April 21, 1889.
138. *Ibid.*, September 21, 1889.
139. Helen J. Stewart to Delia M. Wiser, September 14, 1889, copy in Journal, 1869-1895.
140. Statement of H. Wiser, March 9, 1894, Stewart Papers.
141. Record of Agreement made by Helen J. Stewart with Hiram Wiser and Andrew Shellard, March 9, 1894, copy in Journal, 1869-1895.
142. *Pioche Weekly Record*, March 24, 1897.
143. Journal, 1890-1892, January 29, 1891.
144. The name, Megarrigle, is frequently misspelled. On legal documents requiring actual signatures, he spelled it Megarrigle.
145. Petition for Probate of Will, Conrad Kiel Probate File, Lincoln County courthouse, Pioche, Nevada.
146. Journal, 1869-1895, February 13, 1889.
147. Journal, 1890-1892, March, 1891.
148. Nevada, *Appendix to Journals of the Senate and Assembly* (1893), "Report of State Superintendent of Public Instruction," p. 37.
149. Nevada, *Appendix to Journals of the Senate and Assembly* (1895), "Report of State Superintendent of Public Instruction," p. 38.
150. "Report of State Superintendent of Public Instruction" (1893), p. 37.
151. U.S., Bureau of the Census, *Eleventh Census of the United States: 1890, Schedules Enumerating Union Veterans & Widows of Union Veterans of the Civil War*, St. Joseph, Lincoln County, M.S., n.p.
152. *Pioche Weekly Record*, March 29, 1894; *The Lode* (Pioche), March 24, 1894.
153. Mrs. Ford to Helen J. Stewart, n.d. (1894?), copy in Journal, 1869-1895.
154. *Ibid.*
155. *Pioche Weekly Record*, January 18, 1894.
156. Interview, Evelyn Moden, February 2, 1973.
157. Helen J. Stewart to Ed Kiel, October 1, 1886, copy in Journal, 1884-1887.
158. Helen J. Stewart to Ed Kiel, May 9, 1887, copy in Journal, 1884-1887.

Notes and Documents

Report of County Assessor of Lincoln County, Nevada for the year 1869

The survey of conditions in Lincoln County described in this report was sent to Carson City at the time when the Pioche silver deposits were beginning to attract attention. In the State Surveyor-General's Report for 1869-70, a few facts were extracted, but the bulk of the data never reached the printed page. Assessor Carlow's letter was located recently in the Society files and is printed here to add to the materials available on the southern part of the state.

Lincoln County Nevada
Nov 22nd . 1869.

Hon. John Day; Surveyor General of Nevada

Sir:

In compliance with the duty of Assessor and your circular I respectfully submit to you the following report:

Owing to the eastern boundary line of the State not having yet been run, and that portion of the Territory of Arizona lying between the Colorado river and the thirty-sixth degree of North Latitude ceded to the State of Nevada by Congress, but being yet claimed by Arizona; I found it very difficult to make an assessment at all, and utterly out of my power to collect, yet, with constant protests and many threats I managed to make an assessment, One man only, Mr Hubbard of St. Thomas, giving a list of his property and since paying his taxes.

The taxable property in that portion of the State, which was under those difficult circumstances assessed, amounts to 61700,\$. I am satisfied that could the question of jurisdiction be finally settled and a correct assessment be made it would greatly exceed that amount. The commissioners

of Lincoln County have seen proper to not allow your humble servant any pay for assessing that portion of the County unless the taxes can be collected.

I was in that country in July and found the distances between waters great, grass very scarce and the weather intolerably hot.

Eldorado Cañon is I think a prosperous mining camp. The Los Vegas is a handsome little valley 25 miles from the Colorado river. St. Thomas and St. Joseph are handsome and thriving settlements on the Muddy, and a Settlement is being formed at the junction of the Virgin with the Colorado rivers.

That portion of the County and State lying North of thirty-seven degrees North latitude and comprising Clover, Meadow, Dry, Long, Eagle and Spring valleys, are teeming with an industrious and thriving population and contain a large amount of taxable property, but persistantly protest against paying taxes to the State of Nevada until the eastern line of the State is run. Nevertheless, your humble servant made an assessment in those settlements, and under very difficult and trying circumstances found taxable property amounting to 48499,\$. If a favorable assessment could have been made no doubt the amount could be greatly increased.

It is to be hoped the State will settle the question of jurisdiction on the east and South east boundary.

The assessment roll of Lincoln County including the belligerent settlements, amounts to 263474,\$. The growing prosperity of the county will no doubt double that amount for 1870.

MILLS.—Messrs. Sproul and Buck have purchased the ten stamp mill at Crescent City on the western slope of Mt. Irish they put it in running order and crushed fifty tons from the List lode which is situated about 2 miles North of the mill, but it proved to be low grade ore, they have now opened a road to Timpiute [sic] District which is distant west about 15 miles, and they will for the future operate on Timpiute ore which is said to be very rich, for a more full discription of Timpiute Dist. I refer you to the County Surveyor's report. The Hiko Silver Mining Company have a first class ten stamp mill at Hiko which has been running for some time and has crushed 385 tons of rock taken from the Illinoise lode a lead belonging to the company and situated on the South side of Silver Cañon and eastern slope of Mt. Irish the rock proved to be low grade ore. They also crushed some rock from Timpiute district which paid well, also some rock from Ely district, near Meadow valley and distant from Hiko 60 miles North easterly—the ore paying very good returns.

MINES.—The Ely district situated about 10 miles North Westerly from Panaca city in Meadow valley is said to be very rich and is attracting the attention of miners largely. The meadow Valley mining Company are erecting smelting works which by this time are no doubt in operation, the Superintendent Mr. Hoffman is very sanguine of success. Messrs. Ely and Raymond are erecting a five-stamp mill at Meadow Valley to work

rock from the Ely district. They will have it running by the first January next. This was the first discovered mining district in this part of the State. The Paharangat Lake mining district was the next discovered and bids fair to be a permanent and prosperous mining camp. The Timpiute district is now attracting the attention of miners and the ore very rich, yet but little work has been done towards developing the mines.

During the past summer there has been four farms in operation in Pahrangat valley. They produce remarkably well. The following estimate on two farms embracing about 60 acres was given me by the proprietors. Oats 1500 Lbs. squash 3 tons. Potatoes 12 tons. Hay 100 tons. Melons 625.

STOCK.—There are in the county as nearly as I could ascertain 190 mules 441 Horses, 541 Cows, 570 head Neat cattle and oxen 1189 Sheep 3 Jacks 106 hogs 25 goats 1536 chickens.

Animals Slaughtered—cattle killed 102. Sheep killed 35. Hogs 21. Hogs and chickens raised here stock and sheep mostly from Utah. Mules and Horses from all parts. Fruit and Shade Trees, On the Muddy the inhabitants are engaging largely in fruit growing, and have very prosperous young vineyards and orchards, they have also about 3000 shade trees in a prosperous and growing condition. In the settlements in Meadow, Eagle and Spring valleys the people are taking pains in the cultivation of fruit and shade trees and thus far are quite successful.

I was unable to obtain statistics of grain etc. raised in those settlements as there seemed to be a settled determination to pay no taxes to Nevada until the eastern line is run. hence every hindrance that could be was thrown in the way to prevent my obtaining the information desired. For a general description, area, etc. I refer you to the County Surveyor's report.

Remarks.—I think it would be much better if the revenue law was so amended as to bring the assessment of each year to some set day.

Last spring when I commenced my official duties, things looked very blue, and it was thought doubtful whether the county could continue its organization; but this fall every thing is bright and looks prosperous, so that now with present prospects, if we had the east line established and the question of jurisdiction settled in relation to that portion taken from Arizona and ceded to Nevada by the Congress of the United States, this county would then bid fair to be one of the first in the State.

The laws should be so amended as to allow free trade from Utah as well as from California.

I know of nothing more that would be of interest or valuable to you.

Respectfully Submitted.

N H. Carlow.

Assessor for Lincoln County Nevada.

What's Being Written

Anza Conquers the Desert: The Anza Expeditions from Mexico to California and the Founding of San Francisco, 1774 to 1776, by Richard F. Pourade (San Diego, California: The Copley Press, 1971; 211 pages; 47 illustrations, index; \$12.50).

FOR TWO HUNDRED YEARS the northern advance of the Spanish Empire had been stalled by a great desert barrier. Then in the 1770s a capable and courageous Spanish officer, Juan Bautista de Anza, found a land route through northern Mexico, Arizona, and on to coastal California. This route, although it was not long open, still greatly stimulated the successful colonization of Alta, California. *Anza Conquers the Desert* is the story of that success and its consequence—the founding of the presidio of San Francisco.

In reality this work is three themes in one. The first part, "The Road of the Devil," traces the desolate desert routes of northern Sonora and the Anza journey across the Arizona, Baja California, and southern California wastelands. Here the reader learns how Anza, utilizing old Indian trails and the paths of earlier Spanish explorers, founded a route that connected the missions and presidios of the northern Mexican frontier with the new California settlements. The next part, "The Promise of the Land" concerns the second Anza expedition. In this enterprise Anza successfully led 240 people, including complete families, along much of the same trail he had previously blazed to coastal California. The last and most brief of the three parts, "The City in the Hills" tells of the founding of the San Francisco presidio. Then Anza's career is quickly traced to his death in 1788. The virtual closing of Anza's route occurred as a result of the Yumas' massacre of Spanish settlements on the Colorado River in 1781. Pourade closes the book by briefly mentioning the American period when the Yankees came to dominate the eastern land routes to California.

This work is what Richard F. Pourade likes to call "illustrated history." It includes not only some contemporary sketches, but modern paintings drawn, and photographs taken especially for this work. Pourade skillfully stitches together quotations from Anza and other members of the expedition, so that the full flavor of the difficulties encountered is told from different points of view. By quotations from George Washington and the use of other references, the rebelling of the British colonies along the Atlantic seaboard is woven into the narrative. These features lift it out of the category of just another recital of the Anza expedition.

The Copley books, of which this is one of a series, have been successful in bringing colorful, but accurate information to the general reader. Pourade succeeded in making *Anza Conquers the Desert* an excellent volume, worthy of the Copley series.

RALPH J. ROSKE
University of Nevada,
Las Vegas

A Sagebrush Heritage, by Lorena Edwards Meadows (San Jose, Calif.: Harlan-Young Press, 1972; 283 pages; 78 illustrations; \$7.50).

ANYONE INTERESTED IN FRONTIER LIVING in Nevada in such places as Empire, Candelaria, and Aurora, or nearby Benton in California would be deeply interested in *A Sagebrush Heritage*. The author's main objective was to write a biography of her father, Ben Edwards, in conjunction with a somewhat less detailed family history. In doing so Lorena Meadows was able to weave into the story a great deal of the history of some of Nevada's early mining camps. In many cases the people with whom Ben Edwards associated were those who played important roles in Nevada history.

The story starts near Swansea, Wales, where Ben's father, Thomas, and mother, Catherine Jenkins, were married in 1858. Shortly afterwards they moved to the United States, arriving in Pennsylvania in 1859. From Pennsylvania they traveled by boat to California and by 1865 were living in a small mining camp called Cold Canyon in Sierra County, California. It was here that Ben Edwards was born in 1865. After a short stay in Cold Canyon, Ben's parents moved to Empire, Nevada where his father engaged in hauling freight to Virginia City. The final move was to Benton, California about 1870 and it was here that young Ben, along with his brothers and sisters, spent their childhood.

Ben, as a youth, often worked on nearby ranches and helped in the support of his family. At the age of fifteen, he accompanied his father to Bodie for a summer's work and later that year worked with the surveyors on the alignment for the Carson and Colorado Railroad.

In about 1884 Ben went to Candelaria where he obtained a job as a mucker at the Holmes Mine. During the ensuing years his career advanced

rapidly. From the back-breaking job as a mucker he became a telegraph operator on the Carson and Colorado Railroad, and in 1890 became the telegrapher for the Zabriskie and Shorkley bank in Candelaria. His duties increased and soon he was in charge of the bank as well as being postmaster, notary public, storekeeper, Wells Fargo agent, and a school trustee.

Ben married Lorena Barlow in 1893. Lorena Barlow's grandparents on her mother's side, the Thomas Holmans, immigrated from Wales in about 1841 and settled at Hawthorne. Their daughter, Emma, married Richard Barlow in 1865. Another daughter, Martha, married Michael Stewart. When Lorena was thirteen years old she went to live with her aunt and uncle, the Stewarts, in Oakland, California. When Lorena went to Candelaria to visit her mother, she met Ben Edwards whom she later married.

The life of Ben and Lou Edwards during their twenty years in Nevada was spent mostly in Candelaria, and the history of this great mining camp is described in some detail. The story tells about the piping of water from White Mountain to Candelaria, the coming of the branch line of the Carson and Colorado Railroad from Belleville, and many other interesting events.

The turning point in the life of Ben Edwards occurred following the discovery of rich ore at Tonopah. As the Tonopah boom developed, Ben Edwards's store at Candelaria was one of two supply centers, the other one being Sodaville. His business increased rapidly and he employed all the teamsters he could find to haul supplies to Tonopah. He soon leased a mining property from Jim Butler, the discoverer of Tonopah, which afterwards became known as the West End Mine.

When the Tonopah Railroad was completed from Sodaville to Tonopah in mid-1904, it spelled the doom of the transportation of mercantile from the railhead at Candelaria to Tonopah and Ben Edwards was forced to sell his remaining stock of goods.

In 1905 he moved to Berkeley and went into the banking business. By 1910 he was vice-president of the Berkeley National Bank and also vice-president of the West End Mining Company. By 1917 he was president of the Broadway Bank in Oakland which was sold to the Bank of Italy in 1922, with Ben as its vice-president and manager.

Up to the date of his retirement in 1942, Ben kept up his banking and mining interests. He had reached the age of 94 when he passed away in 1959.

As a prologue, Mrs. Meadows was able to quote from a short sketch written in 1950, by her father Ben Edwards, of his early life in Benton, California. In other places she is able to quote directly from her father's records concerning interesting events. The book is written in such a manner that the reader should never tire in following the movements of young Ben as he progressed through life.

The book is well illustrated with some seventy pictures and contains a well prepared index and bibliography. Throughout the book there are a number of interesting pen and ink sketches by the author's daughter, Patricia Meadows Robertson.

HUGH A. SHAMBERGER
Washoe Valley, Nevada

Burnt-Out Fires: California's Modoc Indian War, by Richard Dillon (Englewood Cliffs, N. J.: Prentice-Hall, Inc., 1973; 371 pages; illustrations, maps, bibliography, index; \$8.95).

Burnt-Out Fires is another chapter in the tragic and sordid history of the conquest of the American Indians. In his study of the Modoc War, Richard Dillon has put together a highly detailed picture of a war that should not have taken place. He has unearthed all the facts, exposed the myths, and tried to present a balanced account that would not picture the whites as the bad guys and the Modocs as the good guys. Unfortunately, this latter aspect of his history is not convincing in that the Modocs were not responsible for the events which caused this war.

Suffering from betrayal by the United States government, which refused to live up to its earlier treaty with them, the Modocs under the leadership of Captain Jack and Scarface Charley refused to be relocated. The result of their decision was one of the most incredible battles between whites and Indians in our history. For the force sent against Captain Jack and his band of fifty-three warriors and their families consisted of between five hundred and a thousand men. Included in this army were regular troopers, volunteers, and Indian scouts. They had plenty of food, plenty of firearms, and even howitzers. Yet, for six months in 1872-73, the Modocs more than held their own against this large force.

The only stain on the Modocs in this war is that they murdered General Canby and Reverend Thomas who had arranged a meeting with them to see if bloodshed could be avoided. But this betrayal of innocent and well-intentioned peacemakers was not Captain Jack's fault. It was one of those tragic blunders carried out by hot-headed warriors who had reached the end of their ability to talk to the whites. But the murders at the peace tent sealed the fate of the Modocs.

Fighting like soldiers in the trenches of World War I, the Modocs used their knowledge of the lava beds to a great advantage; and in the end, they made the army pay a heavy price for victory. For while the Modocs lost only six men in direct combat, the army lost at least sixty-four dead and had sixty-eight wounded. And this, according to Dillon, was a low body count.

The heroes and even the villains who stand out in this history are the Modocs, and not the sensible whites that the author tries to make a case

for. But this passing glory was all that the Modocs achieved. When the battle ended, Captain Jack and three other warriors were hanged. Then their heads were cut off, pickled, and sent to the Army Medical Museum. The Modoc warriors who had betrayed them to the whites were spared. Yet, even these traitors were removed from their homeland and transplanted to an eastern reservation that the government had rented from the Shawnees.

Burnt-Out Fires is a solid and comprehensive study of what took place in the name of Manifest Destiny. But the one missing touch is a final summary of outrage at what happened in the name of racial bigotry. Beyond that one item, Dillon's book belongs on any first-rate shelf of books giving new light to the history of Indian-white relations in the winning of the West.

FEROL EGAN
Berkeley, California

The Nicaragua Route, by David I. Folkman, Jr. (Salt Lake City: University of Utah Press, 1972; 173 pages; illustrations, index).

REFLECTING a continuing interest in the early routes to California, this is an account of the isthmian crossing at Nicaragua. David I. Folkman, Jr.'s story runs from 1849 to 1868 when squabbles between Nicaraguan authorities and officials of the American-run transit company closed the route. Though there had been previous interruptions in the crossing, the golden spike that completed the transcontinental railroad in the United States also sealed the fate of the Nicaraguan route.

Compared with a trip across the western United States or the arid lands of northern Mexico, a journey over the Nicaraguan isthmus was a lark. Connected by steamers with New York and San Francisco, the transit was only 189 miles. Except for twelve miles at the western end of the crossing, the entire journey was by boat on Lake Nicaragua and the Rio San Juan where the lush tropical jungle crowded the banks. Travelers covered the overland twelve miles at first by mule, but after 1853 by luxurious carriage over a macadamized road. "This made the trip through the forest a rather delightful experience, as numerous rest stops could be made at stands where native women, boys, and girls sold brandy, lemonade, and various kinds of tropical fruits" (p. 52). As might be expected, travelers complained about inadequate facilities, but unlike the overland trails to the north, it appears that passengers on the Nicaraguan route were forced to endure inconvenience rather than hardship. Even the annoyance of a brisk walk around a rapids on the river was eliminated by construction of a small railway.

The trip via Nicaragua was short and, if one kept informed on the intermittent price wars between the transit companies in Panama and

Nicaragua, the cost reasonable. In 1853, for example, the first class fare from New York to San Francisco was down to \$100 while steerage was \$50. By 1855, the isthmian crossing required but twenty-one and a half hours and the entire journey from the East Coast to California by way of Nicaragua less than twenty-one days. The crossing also appears to have been healthier than that at Panama.

Politics rather than the environment proved the greatest obstacle to travel over the Nicaraguan route. The author describes in considerable detail the complex negotiations and financial arrangements between Nicaraguan authorities and American transit company officials and other applicants for transportation contracts. He discusses the wars between Nicaragua and Costa Rica, the internal struggle for control of the transit company and the filibustering of William Walker. (Will there EVER be a story written about Walker that does not mention his "steel grey eyes?") This part of the narrative, though vital, is perhaps overdone, the tangled details often obscuring the human side of the story, that is, the story of the travelers.

There are flaws in the book. The writing is often labored and sometimes confusing. A passage on the first page is repeated almost verbatim three pages later (ix, xii). A map of Central America and southern Mexico and a better one of Nicaragua would have been useful. There are few references to personal experiences of travelers, a deficiency which will leave the reader without a "feeling" for the route. Essentially a narrative, the book lacks sufficient interpretation. The author's last chapter, a summary, is well done but does not adequately draw conclusions on the significance of the story. The absence of a bibliography will prove annoying to the researcher.

Some of the author's judgments are questionable. Surely, the foremost significance of Walker's filibustering was his attempt to carve a personal empire from the territory of a sovereign state, rather than the interruption of travel across the Nicaraguan isthmus, as the author suggests. Discussing alternative routes to those in Nicaragua and Panama, Folkman has the steamer *Alabama* sailing from Vera Cruz "up the river 144 miles to Minatitlán" (p. 11) on the Tehuantepec isthmus. No such river exists. The author seems to suggest that the Tehuantepec crossing was the only path across Mexico that became heavily traveled during the gold rush era. Ferol Egan has shown that there were many regularly traveled routes across Mexico.* Egan neglects even to mention the Tehuantepec crossing.

In spite of the book's shortcomings, it does add a chapter to the story of the gold rush routes. The student of that era will find David I. Folkman, Jr.'s book a useful source.

HARLAN H. HAGUE
Stockton, California

*Ferol Egan, *The El Dorado Trail: The Story of the Gold Rush Routes Across Mexico* (New York: McGraw-Hill Book Company, 1970).

Lonesome Walls: An Odyssey Through Ghost Towns of the Old West, by Tom Barkdull (New York: Exposition Press, 1971; 133 pages; \$7.50).

THE MAZE OF WHEEL TRACKS and jeep trails covering the Western deserts are a good indication of the tremendous interest in ghost towns, historic sites, mining camps, and lost mines. The more accessible places, such as Rhyolite, have counted hundreds of visitors in a single day, but fresh dune-buggy tracks may be seen in every canyon and on every mountain-side. Likewise, there is a superabundance of written material on the subject, much of it repetitious.

Most of the author-explorers find something the others have overlooked, however. In Tom Barkdull's case, he had the thrill of locating an old mining camp in Arizona that even the guidebooks listed as "location unknown."

Many people might have been to the sites before him, but it was all new and exciting to Mr. Barkdull, who came west many years ago to work as a registered land surveyor in California, Arizona, and Nevada. He worked his way through the gold rush towns of the Mother Lode country, the Nevada mining areas, and on into Arizona. He interviewed old-timers and researched past history, taking photographs and making careful notes which eventually resulted in a series of magazine articles. *Lonesome Walls* is a reprinting of seventeen of these stories which originally appeared in various Western magazines.

The volume would probably have benefited from a rewriting of the stories to give some continuity to the narrative. An excellent example of this kind of approach to an overdone subject is Wallace Stegner's *Sound of Mountain Water*. As Stegner rambled about the Southwest he recorded what he saw in a literary interpretation of the history and scenery. Stegner is an ardent conservationist and his writing is tinged with his ideas on that subject, thus giving the reader a fourth-dimensional view.

Even so, Tom Barkdull does present some interesting information in *Lonesome Walls*, and has an entertaining, humorous style of writing. Lack of an index or maps make it rather difficult for researchers or historians to use, but it should appeal to casual history buffs, or those with a mild interest in Western Americana.

CELESTA LOWE
University of Nevada,
Las Vegas

Yugoslavs in Nevada 1859-1900, by Adam S. Eterovich (San Francisco: R and E Research Associates, 1973; 263 pages; illustrations, photographs).

WOULD YOU BELIEVE—a Yugoslav gunfighter in old Nevada? According to Adam S. Eterovich there were several, along with a host of South Slavic pioneers who participated in the early development of the Silver

State. Mr. Eterovich, a Californian of Yugoslav descent, has devoted his efforts in recent years to the establishment of a place in Western history for the Yugoslav American. His *Yugoslav-American Immigrant Series, 1492-1900*, includes monographs on Yugoslavs in San Francisco, Yugoslavs in Los Angeles, Yugoslavs in the Wild West, and census interpretations of the South Slavs in the western United States. He feels that the Yugoslavs have been "short changed" in the chronicles of U.S. Western history and he has undertaken the task of proving that South Slavs did, indeed, take part in the saga of the Wild West. "We, of Yugoslav descent," he writes, "can certainly take pride in the fact that our Slavonian pioneers helped build the western tradition and are indeed a part of the American Scene."

Yugoslavs in Nevada 1859-1900, Eterovich's latest work, is only partially successful. It is not a smooth narrative but a series of short articles, census tables, business directories, and excerpts from other sources. A few of the chapters are old material from the author's previous works and one or two chapters are entire quotations from other writers, often incorrectly footnoted.

A large portion of the 263 pages is devoted to lists of Slavic names in various categories. "The Pioneer Directory," which is the lengthiest, includes "those who were physically in Nevada at one time or another," prior to 1900. It totals about 375 names. These individuals are listed several times to indicate their travels throughout the West, and also changes in occupation. Some of them were merely short-term visitors to Nevada, so the number of South Slavs in the state before 1900 was comparatively small.

Mr. Eterovich is obviously fascinated by the romance and excitement of the Old West and has tried to place the South Slav in that milieu. He describes the wild and lawless early Nevada mining towns, he quotes Fred Hart's description and tales of the Sazerac Lying Club, and he details the Indian massacre at Pyramid Lake, then he adds a few Slavic names to show that they, too, were there.

The most valuable and also the most interesting portion of the Eterovich book deals with the Yugoslav merchants who came from California to Nevada during the boom years. According to the author, almost all of the Nevada Yugoslavs came directly from California and many returned in the 1880s when Nevada's mining prosperity was on the wane. These Slavic businessmen, originally from the Dalmatian coast and Hercegovina, were established citizens in the Slavic communities of California which were some of the oldest in the United States. A few of them ventured into Nevada and operated successful businesses in the early mining towns. Here, too, they became respected members of their communities. Along with the inevitable lists and business directories, Eterovich includes some biographical sketches of some of the most outstanding Nevada Yugoslavs: John Chiatovich, owner of the Silver Peak

Mine and a storekeeper; Sam Armanko, Reno businessman; Nikola Gugnina, saloonkeeper of Virginia City; and probably the most fascinating of all, Marco Medin, who dabbled in everything from mining, to fruit stores, to billiard halls, and who was listed in the U.S. Census as a "Capitalist."

The author lists a number of "Slavonian" business establishments on C Street in Virginia City between 1860 and 1885. He was surprised there were so many and comments, "Very few, if any, historians noted this fact and simply credited this era of the wild west to the Irish and Anglo-Saxon. Another myth."

It cannot be denied that there were South Slavs in early Nevada who participated in its history and who contributed to its growth. Mr. Eterovich has done some valuable research in gathering the names and recording the occupations of most of them. He has provided some valuable information about a few of them, but his overzealous portrayal of the Yugoslav as a Wild West folk hero is not convincing. More important, this kind of treatment of an ethnic group detracts from their real contributions in American history.

LENORE M. KOSSO
*University of Nevada,
Reno*

Nevada Postal History, 1861 to 1972, by Robert P. Harris (Reno: Bonanza Press, 1973; 64 pages; map, illustrations, bibliography).

This work constitutes, according to the author, "a complete listing of the officially recognized post offices, branches and stations, within what is now the State of Nevada." In many instances the listed names were not those accepted by the people living in the area, but those recognized by the U.S. Postal Department. Included is a map of Nevada indicating the location of all discontinued, as well as current, post offices.

The Story of Rochester, Pershing County, Nevada, by Hugh A. Shamberger in cooperation with the U.S. Geological Survey and the Nevada Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (Carson City: Nevada Historical Press, 1973; 65 pages; map, illustrations, photographs, index; \$3.50).

The Story of Rochester is Mr. Shamberger's fourth book in a series devoted to the documentation of events in Nevada's historic mining camps. The Rochester Mining District, the site of one of Nevada's last great mining booms, experienced its most productive years between 1913 and 1924 when some \$8,198,000 worth of ore was taken from the mines. Through on-the-site inspection of the district, interviews with old-timers like Glenn Emminger and Clarence Basso, and extensive research in the

old newspapers, Mr. Shamberger has compiled a critical account of Rochester's boom, decline, and demise.

Arizona Gathering II, 1950-1969: An Annotated Bibliography, by Donald M. Powell (Tucson: University of Arizona Press, 1973; 207 pages; index).

The author has compiled some 2,060 entries of published nonfiction items in the two decade period covered by the work. The entries are arranged alphabetically by author, or in the case when no author is given, by title. Descriptive annotation serves to amplify the titles. Such items as statistical series, annual reports of governmental departments, etc. relating to Arizona have been, for the most part, omitted.

Documents of Southwestern History: A Guide to the Manuscript Collections of the Arizona Historical Society, by Charles C. Colley (Tucson: Arizona Historical Society, 1972; 233 pages; illustrations, index).

This guide is restricted to manuscript and other original historical documents held by the Arizona Historical Society Library; it does not include thousands of supplementary materials. Entries are numerically and alphabetically arranged according to surname or subject. Included is an extensive index listing cross references to materials mentioned in the guide.

Western American Literature: A Bibliography of Interpretive Books and Articles, by Richard W. Etulain (Vermillion, S. D.: University of South Dakota Press, 1972; 137 pages).

This comprehensive volume brings together the most significant research on American West literature. "The book is divided into five major sections: (1) bibliographies listing research on western American literature; (2) anthologies of western literature; (3) general works, which are divided into two categories: (a) books, theses, and dissertations and (b) articles; (4) listings of research dealing with three important topics of western American literature: (a) the Beats, (b) local color and regionalism, and (c) the Western, which contains items on the formula Western and western movies; and (5) works on individual authors."

Adventures in the Apache Country: A Tour Through Arizona and Sonora, with Notes on the Silver Regions of Nevada, by J. Ross Browne (1871; reprint ed., New York: Arno Press, 1973; 535 pages; illustrations; \$26.00).

In his own colorful narrative style, Browne describes a journey through

Arizona and New Mexico in 1863 and 1864, a trip by stagecoach from Placerville to Virginia City, the Comstock Lode boom, and the gold mines in northern Nevada and California.

William Clayton's Journal: A Daily Record of the Journey of the Original Company of "Mormon" Pioneers from Nauvoo, Illinois, to the Valley of the Great Salt Lake, published by the Clayton Family Association (1921; reprint ed., New York: Arno Press, 1973; 376 pages; \$18.00).

William Clayton was clerk at the Camp of Israel; he was the official historian of the Mormon's westward migration. Clayton recorded the journey from Nauvoo to Winter Quarters, Iowa after the persecution and death of the Mormon leader, Joseph Smith, and the trek to the Great Salt Lake in 1847.

Westward by Rail: The New Route to the East, by William Fraser Rae (1871; reprint ed., New York: Arno Press, 1973; 391 pages; \$19.00).

This work is based on a series of letters written to the *Daily News* by the author, at the time a correspondent for the London paper, while traveling westward to San Francisco in 1869 on the newly constructed Union Pacific-Central Pacific railroads. His accounts give a vivid picture of travel by rail and the communities through which the author traveled.

From the Atlantic to the Pacific, Overland: A Series of Letters, by Demas Barnes (1866; reprint ed., New York: Arno Press, 1973; 136 pages; \$8.00).

In 1865, Demas Barnes journeyed from New York westward through Denver, Central City, Salt Lake City, Virginia City and on to San Francisco on an inspection tour of mining property investments. This book is a series of letters vividly describing the long journey via stagecoach.

Our New West: Records of Travel Between the Mississippi River and the Pacific Ocean, by Samuel Bowles (1869; reprint ed., New York: Arno Press, 1973; 524 pages; illustrations; \$24.00).

This book is a compilation of records kept by the author on two trips that he made across the continent. Bowles first crossed the continent by stagecoach in 1865. His return trip, partly by coach and partly via the newly constructed railroad, took place in 1868. The author vividly contrasts conditions found in the trans-Mississippi region before and after the coming of the railroad. An excellent commentary on the developing West.

Echoes of the Past, by General John Bidwell (1914; reprint ed., New York: Arno Press, 1973; 91 pages; \$7.00).

In a series of articles published in the *Century Magazine*, John Bidwell described the hardships and dangers encountered as leader of the first overland migration to California in 1841. This book brings these articles together forming a rare document.

What's Going On

A Gift From the Norman H. Biltz Estate

MR. EDMUND W. NASH, trustee of the Biltz estate, has donated a collection of early state documents, books, and mining prospectuses to the Society. Included were two charcoal drawings by Robert Caples, an oil painting of Humboldt Lake in 1867 done by Edwin Deakin, and a copy of the McClellan painting of the Lake House in Reno. In the collection of mining literature, previously unrecorded districts are described. Information on financing selected Comstock, White Pine, and Reese River mines occurs in the various prospectuses.

The Velma Stevens Truett Collection

NOTES, DOCUMENTS, AND BOUND MATERIALS collected by Miss Truett in her research for a volume on the Nevada range cattle industry have been donated to the Society by Mr. Clel Georgetta. The materials have been partially organized in typescript and represent voluminous study of the cattle industry from the pioneer period to the 1960s.

The Walter C. Wilson Collection

MATERIALS DEALING with recent state government activities have been donated to the Society by Mr. Wilson. Included are documents from the

Nevada Gaming Commission, the Nevada State Departments of Commerce, Banking, Insurance, Real Estate, and Education. Mr. Wilson is continuing to add to the collection, so its ultimate extent is unknown at present.

Our Manuscript Collection

RESEARCHERS WILL BE PLEASED to learn that the manuscript materials of the Society have been organized by collection, and separate entry cards for each unit placed in the card catalog. Mr. Eric Moody has thoroughly examined the Society's holdings, and all manuscripts located during the search have been consolidated, placed in protective folders, and cataloged.

The next step is to index the more important collections. The William M. Stewart, Tasker L. Oddie, and various early political collections will receive priority. Indexing is extremely time-consuming, but the results are quite valuable for all students of Nevada's past.

New Museum Exhibits

CONTINUAL QUESTIONS from museum visitors concerning Reno's development have prompted the Society to initiate preparation of a new exhibit on the Truckee Meadows and the local area. Another exhibit recently completed contains samples of political buttons, banners, and posters. The WCTU, anti-cigarette league, and other social movements are represented, as well as various political parties.

New Board Chairman Elected

DR. WILBUR S. SHEPPERSON was elected Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Nevada State Historical Society at the board's October, 1973, meeting held on the campus of the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Dr. Shepperson replaces Dr. Russell Elliott who has served as chairman for several years. Dr. Elliott will continue to serve as a member of the board.

Junior History News

IN A WHIRLWIND OF ACTIVITY, Nevada history students at Dilworth Junior High School in Sparks, under the guiding hand of Mrs. JoAnne O'Brien, have organized a new chapter of the Junior History Society of Nevada. Officers elected by the membership were: Lonnie Zamboni, president; Susan McNally, vice-president; Albert Karsok, secretary-treasurer. Members of the club have chosen to call themselves the Silver Stopes. Mrs. JoAnne O'Brien and Mrs. Muriel Alexander are sponsors of the group.

THE CONESTOGA JUNIOR HISTORY CLUB, always one of the more active groups under the expert leadership of Mrs. Mary Holliday, is busy laying plans for their first field trip of the year. Members have chosen to repeat their Mt. Rose trip of last February which included several pleasant hours hiking and sledding in the Donner Lake area. Another exciting outing still fresh in the minds of Conestogans is their Mt. Lassen climb of last fall in which Mrs. Holliday led some twenty-five sturdy hikers to the 10,453 foot summit.

Conestogans can also be proud of the turn-out, seventy-five members and parents, at their annual banquet. Attendees at the banquet were treated to the reading of winning essays written by members of the club. Some of the essays were: "Mustangs" by Danny Pratt; "Sarah Winne-mucca" by Edith Swenson; "Numaga" by Janet Reasey; "1776 Patriot" by Theresa Langhans which was the DAR Sagebrush Chapter winner.

THE SAGEBRUSH JUNIOR HISTORY CLUB at J. D. Smith Junior High School in Las Vegas has also been busy. Members sponsored a "Pitch-In" film on September 21, 1973, the theme of which was how good citizens can keep Nevada and the nation beautiful.

Sagebrushers have also just recently purchased \$75 worth of Nevada history books which they have presented to the Nevada Collection in their school library.

Sagebrusher Debra Moyer has distinguished herself by being named Clark County winner of the Nevada Admission Day Essay contest; she received a \$25 bond for her essay entitled, "Creation of Clark County."

THE WASHOE CANARIES of Archie Clayton Junior High School were anxious to resume meetings in the new school year; they have already held several meetings and have chosen new officers. The new president

of the club is Michelle Stevenson; the new vice-president is Jenny Kramer, and Mitch Robison fills the secretary-treasurer position. At present the officers are busy working on by-laws which will be presented to the membership for approval.

The Washoe Canaries are planning several field trips in the near future. Everyone hopes this year's trips will be as enjoyable as their spring outing to the Winters Ranch.

New Resource Materials

Nevada State Museum, Carson City



Photo courtesy of Nevada State Museum

Mr. Wallace I. "Bob" Robertson wearing typical Buckaroo clothing including "shotgun chaps" and Laloo Stetson hat. The horse is outfitted with a typical turn of the century Buckaroo rig. ca 1960.

IN ANTICIPATION of a Nevada ranching exhibit, the Nevada State Museum recently was gifted with a collection of riding gear which includes a complete Buckaroo rig. The generous donation was made by Mr. Wallace I. "Bob" Robertson of Carson City.

The prime article is an 1895 type Visalia Buckaroo saddle with $\frac{3}{4}$ loop seat. Rigged with a "diamond center" hair cinch, the saddle, made in 1910, was for many years used by Mr. Robertson in both Nevada and California. A sixty foot, four-strand, rawhide reata, or lasso rope, braided by Luis Ortega accompanies the saddle.

Another piece, made especially for Mr. Robertson, is a braided rawhide bridle with a silver-mounted bit. Additional lead articles include a hackamore of horsehair and braided rawhide and a "bosal" also of braided rawhide. All of the lead pieces are exceptional for the intricacy of braiding and knotting employed with both the rawhide and the horsehair.

Completing the horse rig are two braided rawhide articles—a quirt made by the Garcia Saddlery, Salinas, California, and hobbles. As with the lead rigging, these articles are beautifully braided and finished with complicated knotting.

Articles of typical Buckaroo apparel include leather "shotgun chaps" made for Mr. Robertson from a G. S. Garcia pattern; spurs with engraved silver conchas and flower-stamped leathers; style number 17 Heyer boots; and a "Laloo" Stetson hat.

Nevada State Archives, Carson City

THE MOST RECENT acquisition of the archives is the complete congressional inventory of Walter S. Baring, along with correspondence, literature, etc., concerning bills, petitions and proposed legislation with which the ex-Congressman was involved.

University of Nevada Library, Las Vegas

Powell, Stephen A. *A Gambling Bibliography, Based on the Collection, University of Nevada, Las Vegas*. Las Vegas: University of Nevada Library, 1972.

The Bibliography contains 1,754 numbered entries, with an author index keyed to the numbered entries. The material is arranged according to

subject into thirteen chapters as follows: "Bibliographies," "Personalities," "Games," "The Story of Playing Cards," "Chevaliers d'industrie," "The Animal World," "Lotteries," "Gambling Around the World," "For the Lawyer," "Erudition," "The Moral and Religious Literature," "The Fictional Gambler," and "General Works on Gambling."

Nevada Historical Society, Reno

Reid, John T. (54 boxes, approx. 702 cu. ft.). Students of anthropology now have an opportunity to research the John T. Reid papers. Rich in accounts of historic Indian relationships with the Bureau of Indian Affairs, the Lovelock area, and archaeological excavations of Lovelock Cave, the collection has been uncataloged since its donation to the Society many years ago.

In the summer of 1972, Mrs. Dorothy Dansie undertook to arrange and catalog the materials, spending much of her time during the summer and following winter months at the job. After a year of work that resembled cleaning the Augean stables, in scope as well as unpleasantness, Mrs. Dansie has completed the long-needed project.

Contained are Reid's records of the Nevada United Mining Company, in which Reid family members continue to serve as officers, and the multitudinous correspondence between Reid and leading figures in American archaeology for a period of forty years. Much of this is devoted to Reid's thesis that the Indian cultures of Central America occupied Nevada in the belief that it was the center of the known universe; a theory based on the discovery of uniquely carved stones from the Humboldt Sink, three of which are in the Society library. Many of the fifty-four containers are devoted to Reid's research in "Mayan" math, a refined system of numerology.

Whitney, George A. (1 folder, 42 pieces). Historians interested in Aurora will find a rich legacy in the small collection of letters written by George A. Whitney, one of the earliest locators on the Comstock Lode and a leader in forming Esmeralda County government. Whitney's correspondence while engaged in operating a stable in Aurora, and ranching, mining, and lumbering nearby, reveal a great deal concerning that community during the years 1862-1866. Among the topics he discusses in writing to a brother are elections, his discovery that Aurora lay within the Territory of Nevada, vigilantes, mining and business speculation, social and moral conditions of the time, and Indian troubles. The factor which makes this file a significant one is that, according to Aurora history authority Robert

Stewart, nearly all other information about Aurora known to Nevada historians was generated by Colonel Samuel Youngs, one of Aurora's founders and most prominent leaders.

Allen, Robert A. (approx. 10.4 cu. ft.). The extensive collection of Robert A. Allen came to the NHS in the form of newspapers, books, pamphlets, maps, photographs, and manuscripts. The bulk of his MSS collection, which seems to have been gathered, largely, by Mary L. Ream from private and public libraries on the West Coast, consists of detailed maps, research notes, and discussions of emigrant trails across Nevada. These include typescript and photostatic copies of emigrant diaries, journals, and reminiscences. Additionally, Mr. Allen came into possession of many valuable early Nevada manuscript materials pertaining to a large variety of Nevada history topics. Regrettably, the Allen Collection contains none of his personal papers which might reflect his colorful and lengthy political career in the state.

Cole, Gordon. (approx. 600 pieces). Recently donated to the NHS by Mr. Gordon Cole of California is a substantial collection of manuscripts from the earliest days of the Comstock Lode. Perhaps representing the introduction of outside speculation, the collection includes such specimens as deeds from V. A. Houseworth to James Walsh, L. C. Savage and Charles Chase to A. E. Head & Co., Peter O'Reilly to John O. Earl, Peter O'Reilly to J. Downes Wilson, and numerous other deeds of the Savage Mining Company from later years as well as a handsome group of checks and receipts characterizing the financial activities of several major banking and milling companies on the Comstock. This collection also contains a number of letters written to Isaac L. Requa, Superintendent of the Savage Mining Company, by his father, Jacob Requa, and various friends.