

J U N K

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I I

S H A M R O C K

JULIA'S UNEQUIVICAL NEVADA KLAMPOUTS

NO	YEAR	LEADER	LOCATION
1	1980	Geno Oliver (Charter)	Star City-Unionville
2	1981	Skip Pennington	Manhattan
3	1982	Bill Kennedy	Kennedy
4	1983	Jim Cronn	Pinegrove
5	1984	George Courson	Leadville
6	1985	Doug Walling	Berlin
7	1986	David Wood	Rochester
8	1987	Joe Lepori	Aurora
9	1988	Bill Sawyer	Sulphur
10	1989	Mike Miller	Miller's Station
11	1990	Red Beach	Shamrock

Bibliography

A Guide to the Ghost Towns and Mining Camps of Nye County, Nevada	Shawn Hall
Nevada's Turbulent Yesterday	Don Ashbaugh
Some Remembered...Some Forgot	Firmin Bruner
E Clampus Vitus Plaques	Kenneth Castro
Ghosts of the Glory Trail	Nell Murbarger
Dr. Charles L. Camp	Pony Express, May 1946
Nevada Magazine	#2, 1958/ Jan-Apr, 1955
Photographs of Ione and Grantsville	Courtesy: Nevada Historical Society
Photograph of Charles Camp & Bill Huff	Courtesy: George Courson
Photograph of Berlin	Courtesy: Geno Oliver
The Clamper	February, 1958
Special Collections	Marshall Fey

Compiled

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Chairman of the Most Important Committee and Noble Leader  
 Red (I don't like to be called Delbert) Beach, NGH-JCB 1864, HMFIC  
 Special Thanks to: Marsh Fey, George Courson, Geno Oliver  
 This trip is dedicated to Dr. Charles L. Camp, may he be remembered  
 by all.....E CLAMPUS VITUS.....AND SO RECORDED

## Shamrock

In 1863 P.A. Havens made discoveries of gold, silver, copper and lead in Shamrock Canyon. It was not until 1867 that any mines were started. The two largest mines for the area were the Indianapolis Mine and the North Star Mine sometimes called the Phillips Mine. The Indianapolis had a 200 foot shaft and the North Star had a shaft of 300 feet. Production from these mines was small which lead to their closers by the turn of the century.

In the early days of mining activity there was a rail tramway from Shamrock Canyon to the Knickerbocker Mill. Either horses or mules pulled the loaded cars between the two points so ore could be milled.

In 1932 an earthquake collapsed the shafts of the Indianapolis and the North Star mines. These mines were never reopened.

In 1907, J.L. Workman made discoveries of Mercury in Shamrock Canyon. These new finds help revitalize nearby Ione which had a sagging econmy.

In 1923 the Shamrock Mines Company bought twenty-one claims in the canyon. A mill was built by them in the same year. Deposits of silver and gold were also found. By 1926 their tunnel was over a thousand feet in length. The mill built in 1923 was upgraded to 75-ton capabilities.

By 1928 the tunnel had reached a length of 1,700 feet. Another low-grade Cinnabar discovery was made in 1929, but the ore was not rich enough for prolonged production. Because of low grade deposits, activity in the area died out in the later part of 1929.

Mercury mining continued into the 1930's.

The only recent mining for mercury lately in this area had been done by the Iron Mercury Mining Company.

## Ione

Ione was founded in November 1863 after silver discoveries were made in the Union district by P.A. Havens. In February 1864 the state legislature designated Ione as the seat of newly created Nye County. On April 26, 1864 an official government was organized. The town was also allotted \$800 to build a county courthouse. By the spring of 1864, the town had a post office, more than 100 buildings and a population of 600.

Most of the mining in the district was done miles from Ione. But a five stamp mill (the Pioneer) was constructed at Ione. The mill did not turn a profit and was closed in 1866. In the summer of 1865 eastern capitalists erected the Knickerbocker mill (20 stamp) three miles south of town for \$130,000. The Knickerbocker processed ore from nearby district's for about 10 years.

New strikes at Belmont in 1867 lured away many of Ione's residents. In February 1867 the county seat was moved from Ione to Belmont.

During the 1870's Ione had a few good years of production, but Belmont remained the focus of attention and Ione's population continued to shrink.

In the later teen's production resumed again. During the early



excitement about gold and silver, the rust colored Cinnabar ore had been overlooked. The Mercury Mining Company began processing Mercury from its properties in nearby Shamrock Canyon. The company produced over 11,000 flasks of Mercury, each weighing 75 lbs. A large mill was built on the edge of Ione but was never used consistently. Mercury mining continued into the 1930's.

Total production for Ione and the surrounding area ranged from \$500,000 to 1 million dollars.

In the early 1980's Marshall Earth Resources began to mine the area once again for gold and silver. Mr. Hugh Roy Marshall bought the entire town of Ione and has owned and operated it ever since. When the J.U.N.K. trip was last here in 1985 the town at that time was in full operation. Presently the town is not operating but is waiting for a court battle to end so it may resume full operations as before.

### Berlin

State Senator Bell originally located the Berlin mine, which was first worked for silver in 1895. In that same year he sold out the mine property to John Stokes of New York. The town of Berlin was founded in 1897. The Nevada Company bought the properties in 1898, and also acquired the Pioneer and Knickerbocker mills near Ione. The machinery was then moved to Berlin to help build a thirty-stamp mill.

By 1905 Berlin had a population of almost 300 people which supported a store, post office, auto shop, and a stage line to nearby camps.

In 1907 the mine and mill closed down. In late 1909 the mine and mill were reopened by leasers Parman and Feenamens. This small revival only lasted a year. Soon after the Parman and Feenamens operation shut down, Alfred Smith took a lease and constructed a 50-ton Cyanide plant below the mill. The operation (3-men) continued on a small scale from 1910 until 1914. The recovery rate for the cyanide processing was only \$2.50 a ton.

In the 1920's the Goldfield Blue Bell Mining Company purchased the claims in the Berlin area. The company reequipped the Berlin mine with a steam hoist and an air compressor. This operation was mostly exploratory, and this continued until 1947. In that year the company dismantled the mill.

Total production for the district was recorded at \$850,000.

## Union

Union was a minor camp that started up in Union Canyon in 1863. The camp had a short life and was virtually nonexistent during the 1870's and 1880's. Union was revived when rich gold deposits were discovered in the hills around Berlin. When the Berlin opened, some of the workers lived in Union Canyon. They lived there because it was far enough from the mine and mill to be quiet, but close enough to walk to work.

The small settlement reached its peak during 1904 and 1905. During this period there were over twenty buildings, including a town hall, schoolhouse, mercantile store, and a small mill.

The mill, was the Cirac Mill which was owned by the Cirac family, all of whom resided in the canyon. Louie Cirac and three of his brothers later became the first to patent the stop-and-hold lock for the automobiles, making them the most notable people to have lived in Union.

Next to the Cirac Mill was a small saloon owned by a chinese man named Sam "China" Wing. At the mouth of Union Canyon was the Mayette Mill. The ruins still maybe seen.

In 1910 the minors went on strike at the Berlin mine. The company refused to give any pay raises and closed the mine down. With the mine closing down the workers soon left Union. The area never rebounded and is in a state of decay.

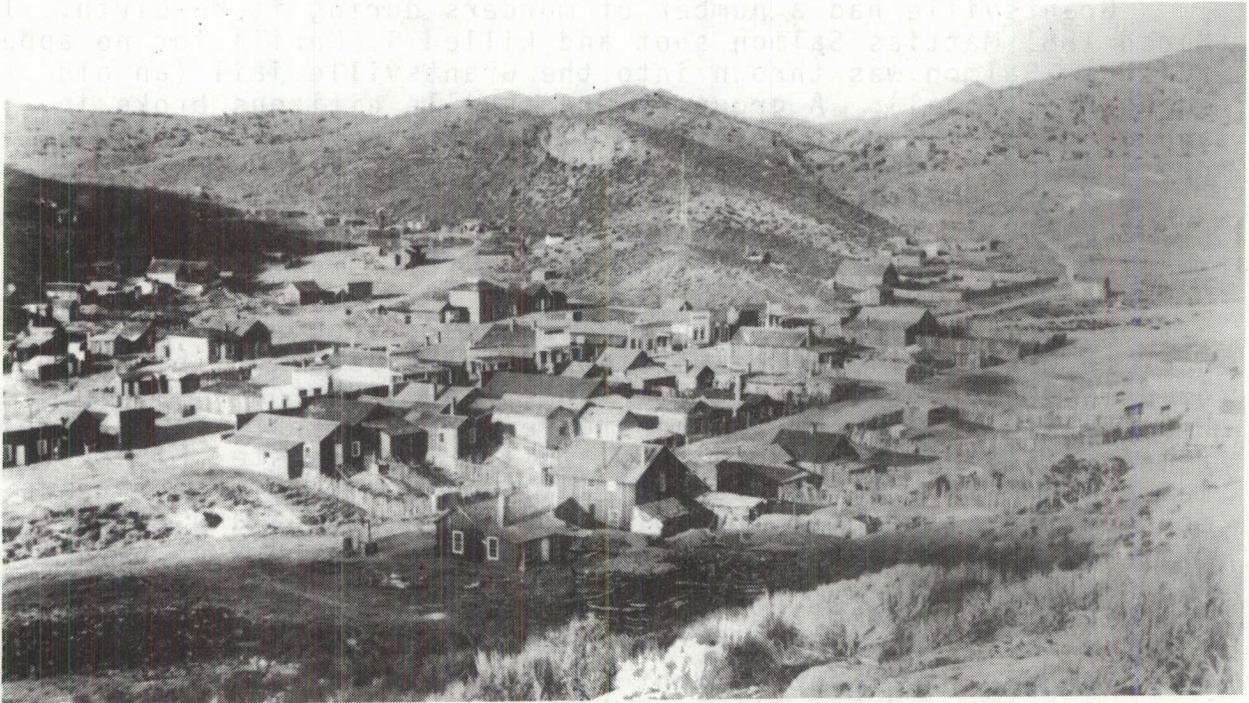
Some of the ruins marking the site are an adobe wall (part of the Kennedy house), the cement foundations of the Cirac Mill, broken glass and rusted tin cans mark the site of the mercantile store, broken beer bottles and a dugout shelter are all that remains of Sam Wings saloon, and one adobe house (possible still standing) that belonged to their schoolteacher.

Union is now part of the Berlin-Ichthyosaur State Park.



Berlin, circa 1910, photo courtesy Geno Oliver

## Grantsville



Grantsville about 1880. Photo courtesy Nevada Historical Society.

Gold was discovered in Grantsville Canyon in 1863 by P.A. Havens, who also made discoveries around the Ione area. Havens named the town after Ulysses S. Grant, and laid out the groundwork for the town. Havens sold lots in the town for between \$50 and \$500: soon about fifty people were residing in the area. Havens rich claim was quickly worked out and the growing camp faded, becoming a ghost town for the next ten years.

The camp had a comeback in September 1877 when the Alexander Company began to work the area. The company purchased several claims in the canyon and built a twenty-stamp mill, which was enlarged three years later to forty stamps. The company made some very good discoveries and the population grew to almost 1,000 people.

Grantsville had two newspapers. The first was the Grantsville Sun which began on October 19, 1878 and only lasted until June 1879. The second was the Grantsville Bonanza which started publication on December 11, 1880 and lasted until 1884 when it folded due to lack of public interest.

By 1881 the town had over forty business which included ten merchandise stores, five saloons, two assay offices, and express office and a bank.

There were fourteen major silver mines in Grantsville Canyon. The Alexander Mine which was the best producer had a 1,200-foot incline shaft. The Brooklyn Mine was another steady producer for the Alexander Company. The canyon mines produced over 1 million in

gold and silver before 1885 when the district was temporarily abandoned.

Grantsville had a number of murders during its re-birth. In March 1881 Mattias Salmon shot and killed S. Merrill for no apparent reason. Salmon was thrown into the Grantsville jail (an old abandoned tunnel). A group of Grantsville citizens broke in, and dragged Salmon to the stamp mill and lynched him from the cross beams. The death was later ruled justifiable homicide.

By 1884 the population had shrunk to 400. In 1901 only a small amount of people remained.

A small revival between 1921 and 1923 brought some activity back to Grantsville. The Webster Mines Corporation, based out of Delaware, bought the old Alexander Mine and renamed it the Webster Mine. The company soon gave up its efforts, and the district remained silent for four years. In 1928 the Webster Mines Corporation leased the mine to the Stabler family of Los Angeles. They re-modeled the stamp mill, changing it to ten stamps and added a rod mill and two flotation cells of 50-ton capacity driven by a distillate engine. The company produced over 200 ounces of silver which contained almost 30 percent lead.

The district went dormant again until 1939, when a man named Barrows purchased the Silver Palace Mines. During the fall of 1939 a 50-ton flotation mill was built near the mines. The mines produced over \$100,000 for Barrows before he closed down in 1940.

There was some activity in the Grantsville District in 1945-1947. The Alexander and Brooklyn Company reworked some mines and obtained \$50,000 in lead concentrates.

Since we were last here in 1985 there has been some mining that has taken place. As of this writing there is no further mining being done.

Dr. Charles Camp

The following is an article from the Pony Express magazine written about Charles Camp. The article was written in May of 1946 long before he was to find the Ichthyosaur in West Union Canyon.

"When ancient bones are found, or a sensational discovery of prehistoric animals is made, usually an "SOS" is broadcast for Dr. Charles L. Camp, noted Paleontologist of the University of California. It seems that he is one who can settle all arguments as to whether it was flesh or fowl, lived a million years ago, or an hundred million. From the bleaching Gobi Desert to the blazing Sahara; from the upland moors of Scotland to the rolling tundras of the Arctic; from the Russian Steppes to the wolds and veldts of the wild Kaffir lands, he has tramped endlessly in search of bones, always classifying them and linking together the far distant past with present creatures that roam the world or swim the seas. His marvelous exhibition at the Treasure Island Worlds Fair is one that will live in the memory of countless thousands who were fortunate enough to see it.

Three times in one year he made trips to the bottom of the Grand Canyon gathering pertinent data in geology that dates back to the ancient Archean days, estimated to be two billion years ago. From the Cretaceous, and Upper Cretaceous strata he has found bones and skeletons of animals so huge and odd, that it will take a large museum to hold them all. He has unearthed the complete history of life from beginning to end. If P.T. Barnum were alive he could build a new Madison Square Garden and reap another fortune exhibiting them."

The following is a quote from the Pony Express dated October 1949.

"His job as head of the Museum of Paleontology has led him far afield in pursuits of specimens, and won for him world renown. About a year ago he returned from Africa after 18 months in research work with leading scientists of different countries, running down and finding a species of prehistoric man that lived many million years ago. Several years ago he served time in the far reaches of China, and the Gobi Desert unearthing unknown knowledge for the benefit of science. The Rocky Mountains from Canada to Mexico have been his main stamping grounds, searching for fossils and bones in sedimentary rocks that might contribute further to the matrix of general knowledge. There are times when he gets far off from the beaten trails, enraptured so much in his work that he forgets to watch the food supply. Once in the PaloVerde country of NW New Mexico and SW Colorado, he ran out of food, and had to kill a mule on the pack train in order for the Camp family to come out alive."

Dr. Camp began unearthing the Ichthyosaur in 1954. He along with his family and volunteers devoted their summers to this momentous task. In September of 1957 the park was dedicated. Bill Huff longtime friend of Dr. Camps built the life size model of the Ichthyosaur.

In addition to the sciences, Dr. Camp had involved himself with the study of early western history-the first trails built and the first emigrant parties that came over them; the lives of the early trappers; and their travels over the vast empire breaking new trails. He had published books on them which were used by scholars in their research.

For a while he was director of the California Historical Society; he helped promote the revival of E Clampus Vitus during the thirties; served as Noble Grand Humbug of Yerba Buena in the late thirties; later he served as Sublime Noble Grand Humbug from 1967-69 and was active until his death in 1975.

How slowly man has learned to look into the distant past. Only within the last hundred and fifty years has it been realized that fossil record contains countless extinct forms of life. And only in the last ninety years has it been shown that some of these extinct forms are the ancestors and builders of our present living world....from Earth Song by Charles Camp

Paleontology is such a broad subject matter that one had to be schooled in geology, mineralogy, zoology, anthropology and archaeology in order to be an expert.

After his death documents were discovered showing Camp was a decorated war hero from World War I. The following is a quote from the February 1978 issue of the Clamper.

"Camp was a captain of field artillery in the American Expeditionary Force during World War I. He served with great distinction on the German front both as a U.S. artillery spotter and a commander of troops.

His unit, 7th Field Artillery, U.S. 1st Division, received a French Croix de Guerre with palm from France's Minister of War for "stopping a violent enemy attack at Menil-la-Tour" and for counterattacking at Cantigny on May 28-29-30, 1918, "where its judicious intervention powerfully favored the 2nd Infantry Brigade in its progression toward the assigned objective."

The unit received a second Croix de Guerre with palm for action "to the south of Soissons, and in the operations between the Argonne and the Meuse" in 1918, winning "the admiration of all by the timeliness...and boldness of its maneuvers for the efficacious support of its infantry"

Camp received an individual Croix de Guerre with gilt star for "rendering conspicuous service"

And from his own division commander, Camp received under general orders a citation for being an "Officer of most splendid courage and ability. Throughout the operations, he repeatedly volunteered for the most dangerous missions. He established his observation posts even in front of the infantry and was constantly under severe shell fire"

PROF. CHARLES L. CAMP, PALEONTOLOGIST AND HISTORIAN



PROF. CHARLES L. CAMP  
PALEONTOLOGIST AND HISTORIAN

HIS DEATHS MADE THE BIRMINGHAM POSTER  
MAGAZINE SIMPLY AS A FRIEND OF OUR PEOPLE  
IN THE NATIONAL AND CALIFORNIA CHAPTERS OF THE  
AVIATION AND HONORABLE SOCIETY OF CLAUDIUS VITUS  
AUGUST 6, 1961

Preceding page:

L Dr. Charles L. Camp, R William (Bill) Huff

Plaque Text

PROF. CHARLES L. CAMP  
Paleontologist ..... Historian

His efforts made this park possible  
Presented jointly as a token of our esteem  
By the Nevada and California Chapters of the  
ancient and honorable order of E Clampus Vitus  
August 5, 1961

The following is from Earth Song by Charles Camp

The play is not finished; the suspense is supreme,  
for we cannot look behind the dark curtain to see  
what new actors may be waiting to take the stage.

Each act of the life story with its inventions and  
achievements prepares the way for the next. New  
forms find new ways to live, adding their structures  
to the inventions of the past and using the old in  
new combinations to perform new functions. New forms  
of life expand over what has gone before, and build  
upon the past. The long history of early life merges  
into ours and helps us to comprehend our own.



**DR. CHARLES L. CAMP, CLAMPATRIARCH PRO TEM**

## ICHTHYOSAUR

Ichthyosaurs ("fish-lizards") swam in warm oceans. They ranged in length from two to about sixty feet and were similar in body form and habits to some of the whales and porpoises of today. They probably fed on floating shell-fish (ammonites) and fishes.

They are first known in the early Age of Reptiles (Middle Triassic) 180 million years ago and they became extinct at the close of that age (Upper Cretaceous) about 70 million years back.

The front and hind legs of ordinary land reptiles, ancestors of the ichthyosaurs, became converted into fin-shaped paddles when the early ichthyosaurs entered the water. And all the ichthyosaurs swam like fishes. The tail was long in early ichthyosaurs such as these at the Monument, and probably had a small fin above its tip. In later ones the tail became short and the shape of the great crescent-shaped tail fin is often accurately preserved in the fine specimens from southern Germany. In these the tail vertebrae (backbone) bends sharply down into the lower tail lobe. This enabled the creature to rise rapidly to the surface to take air into its lungs. Like the whales, the ichthyosaur had no gills and came to the surface to blow and breathe. The great size of the body, eight feet in diameter, and the long thin ribs (nine feet long) would have prevented the ichthyosaur from hauling out on land. The weight of the chest would have hindered breathing as in stranded whales today.

These big ichthyosaurs were the largest animals of their day, exceeded only by the modern whales and some of the dinosaurs of a later period. They cruised about in the waters of a sea that extended over Western Nevada and are not found elsewhere.

## GEOLOGY

It seems that a selective kind of tide trapping process was involved here. The evidence indicates that individual ichthyosaurs became trapped along a muddy shore by rapidly receding tides over long periods of time. The creatures died in the same fashion that modern whales do when beached. The gentle lapping of the waves pushed the carcasses up on the beach, oriented along the beach line, much as logs always lie parallel to the water's edge. The bodies decayed and the bones were deposited in the soft ooze and covered with deposits of fine alluvial material.

Geologists estimated that some 3,000 feet of mud and slime piled on top of the deposited bone. The shale material constituting the bed of the display quarry is part of the Upper Triassic marine sediments (some 200 million years old). Above that are carbonates and shales of the Gabbs and Dunlap formations of Jurassic Age, and capping the area are thick beds of Tertiary volcanic rock.

The whole mass fluctuated up and down in the sea, was hardened, and was part of a block uplift. The volcanic cap was laid down some 60 million years ago after which the whole Great Basin region was subject to severe faulting which produced the characteristic north-south Great Basin ranges of which the Shoshone Range is a part. Water erosion, particularly during the Pleistocene, carved the canyons and exposed the lower layers of the uplift.

# ICHTHYOSAUR

NEVADA  
STATE PARK  
SYSTEM

PALEONTOLOGIC STATE MONUMENT

## LOCATION

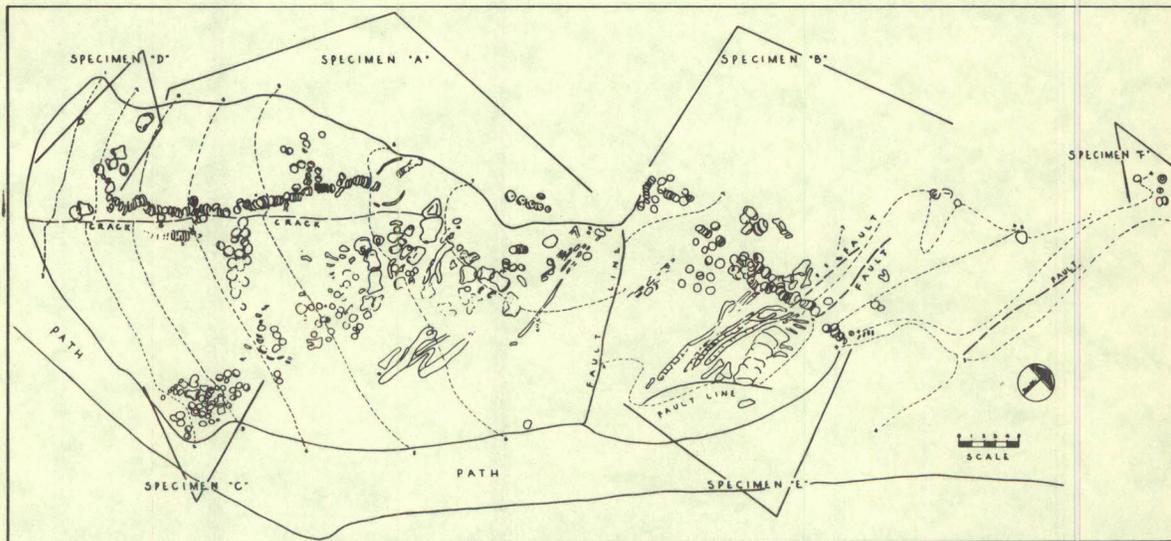
NEVADA

Nye  
County

BERLIN

UNION CANYON  
ICHTHYOSAUR  
STATE  
MONUMENT

GABBS



Fossil ichthyosaur bones, embedded in hard limey shale, are readily seen and photographed. In plain view are the remains of six huge ichthyosaurs that were apparently stranded, washed about and dismembered and finally covered with mud and petrified. Parts of some thirteen other large ichthyosaurs have been excavated in the vicinity.

Tables and charcoal grills are provided, but rock fireplaces and open fires are permitted. Standpipes provide culinary water piped in from springs. Visitors are invited to explore the surrounding National Forest, drive to the base of the bas-relief wall and enjoy great panoramas of Basin-Range scenery. Camping is permitted.

