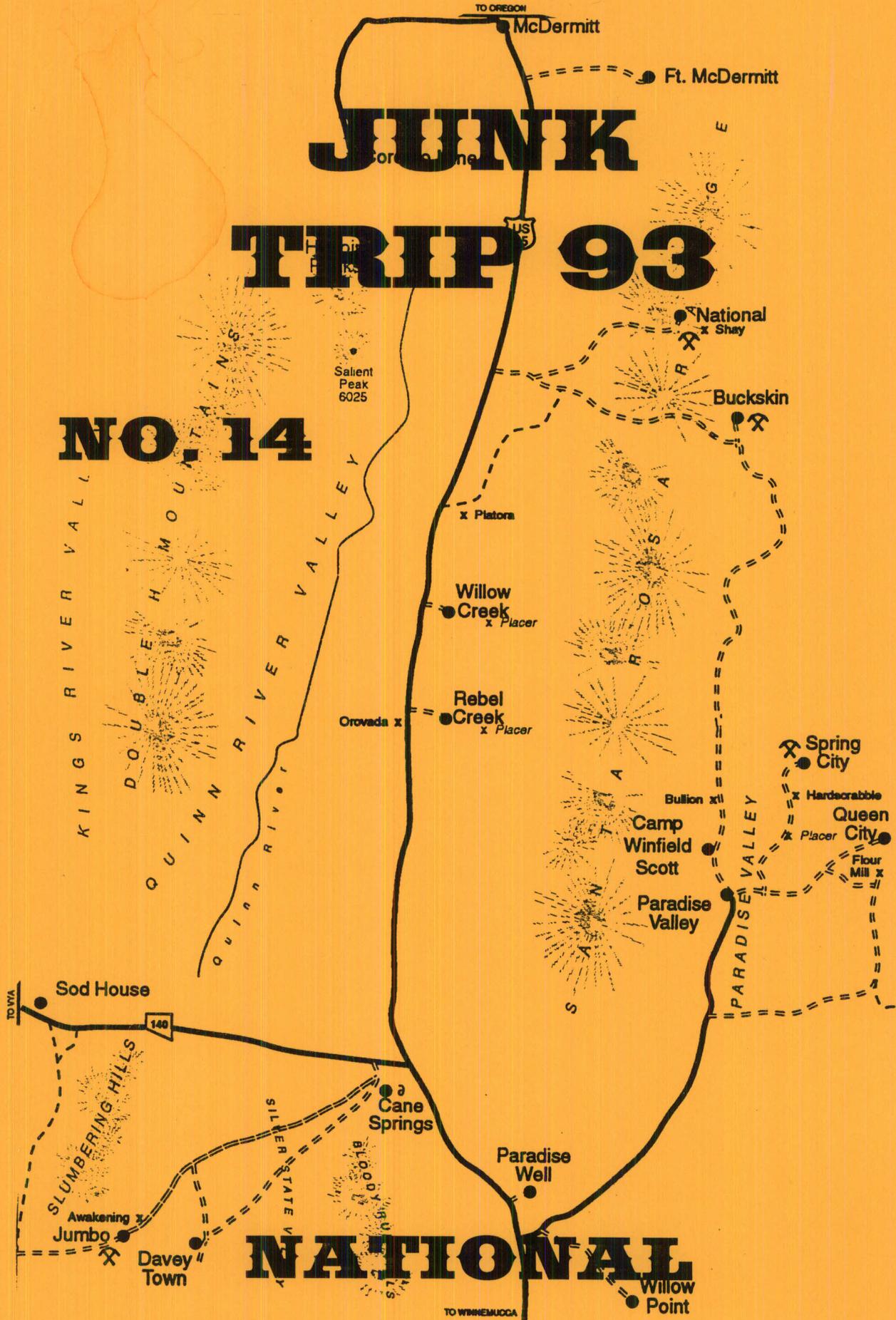


JUNK

TRIP 93

NO. 14



JULIA'S UNEQUIVICAL NEVADA KLAMPOUTS

NO	YEAR	LEADER	LOCATION
1	1980	GENO OLIVER (CHARTER)	STAR CITY-UNIONVILLE
2	1981	SKIP PENNINGTON	MANHATTEN
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
12	1991	BOB RODGERS	COMO
13	1992	RON WALSH	SEVEN TROUGHS
14	1993	DANNY COSTELLA	NATIONAL

* GONE TO THE SILVER HILLS

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Nevada Ghost Towns & Mining Camps	Stanley Paher
Map (Cover)	Trails West Inc.
Photo (Page 10)	Courtesy, Nevada Historical Society
Photo (General Winfield)	Courtesy, Geno Oliver
U.S. Geological Survey Report	U.S. Government
Carson Morning News	July 1, 1914
Westways	Harold O. Wright, February, 1965, page 12
Nevada Ghost Town Atlas	Stanley Paher
Julia C. Bulette, Historian	Peter J. Van Alstyne
Articles on pages: 8,9,10,11	General Geno (Veno) Oliver
Chairman of the most important committee and HUMBUG 1993	H.M.F.I.C. Danny (The Jew) Costella

E CLAMPUS VITUS AND SO RECORDED

This trip is dedicated to two of our fellow brothers who have gone to the Silver Hills. Jim Cronn, X-Noble Grand Humbug 1983 and leader of J.U.N.K. trip #4 and Mike Stringer. Both will be missed by us all.....

NATIONAL

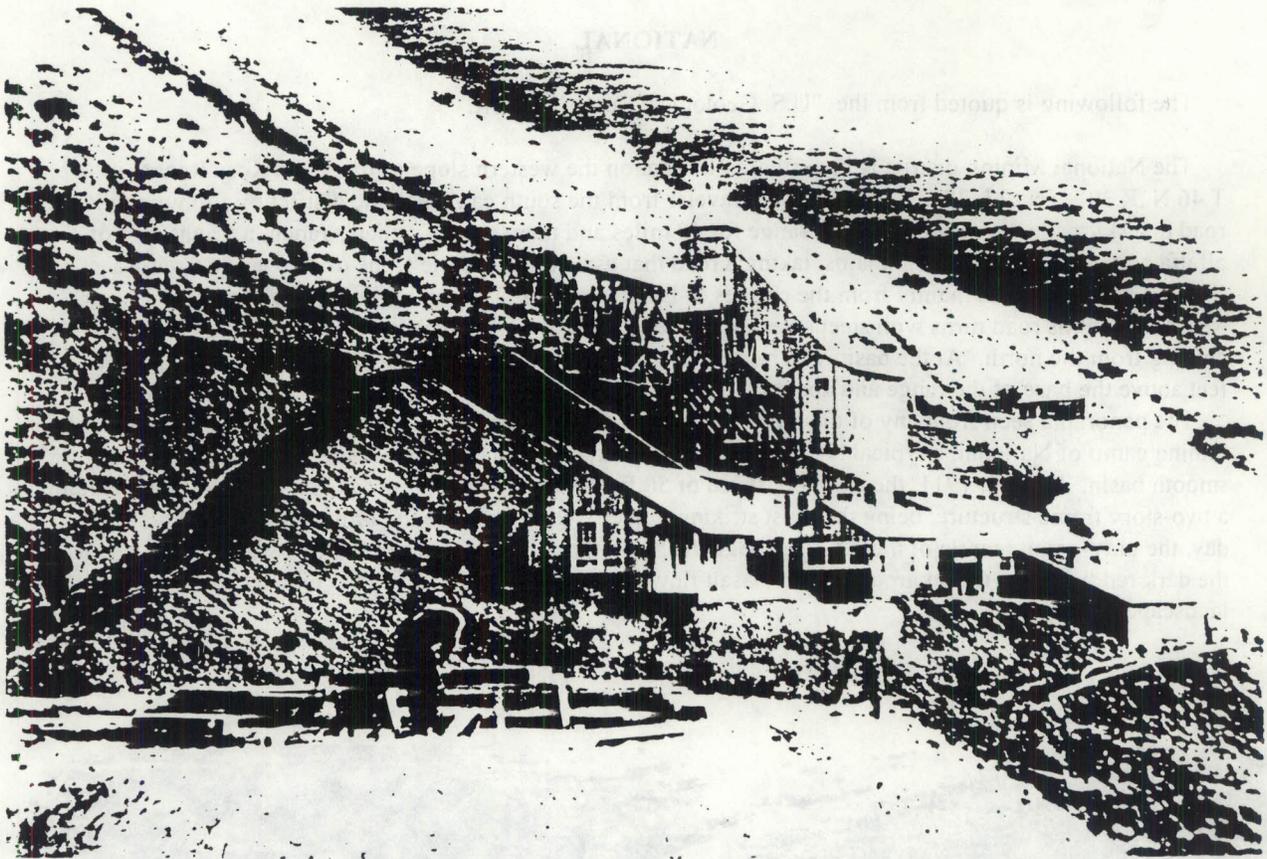
The following is quoted from the "U.S. Geological Survey" report.

The National Mining district is in northern Nevada, on the western slope of the Santa Rosa Range, in T.46 N..R.39E..secs27, 28, 33, and 34. The traveler from the south can reach the district by following the road that skirts the western base of the range for 40 miles and then, at McConnell's ranch, a bright spot of alfalfa on the dreary sagebrush plains, taking a road that ascends the gentle slope of Threemile Creek, a little stream that comes mainly from the cirques of Buckskin Peak. About 2 miles up the creek from McConnell's this road turns with steeper grade up the canyon of a small tributary of Threemile Creek coming from the north. At the basin-like head of this canyon is the town of National, which stands 1,300 feet above the base of the range and about 6,100 feet above sea level.

The panorama seen from any of the hills or ridges around this basin is interesting and striking. The mining camp of National, a typical Nevada boom town, straggles for half a mile along the bottom of the smooth basin. In June, 1911, the town consisted of 50 frame houses and about 100 tents, the National Hotel, a two-story frame structure, being the most striking object. No trees shade the hills, but, as seen on a June day, the gray-green mantle of the luxuriant sagebrush and the broad splashes of yellow wild flowers, against the dark reddish-brown background of the basalt flows of the high ridges, give the color scheme of the landscape.



The town of National circa 1911
Courtesy Nevada Historical Society



National Mine circa 1910
Courtesy Nevada Historical Society

To the south, behind the hills that overlook the town, a deep gash indicates the upper canyon of Threemile Creek. At its headwaters rises Buckskin Peak, reaching an elevation of 8,800 feet—a huge yellowish-gray pile of rhyolite resting on basalt flows and harboring under its craggy cliffs glistening fields of snow. To the north Eightmile Creek trenches the dark volcanic rock, a bright green ribbon of small cottonwood trees marking the course of the stream. The slopes on the north side of this canyon would hardly delight a forester, but can not fail to interest the geologist, with their wonderfully marked lava flows, dull brown and somber, inclining evenly toward the east.

Charleston Gulch, also heading near Buckskin Peak, is a deep gash cut in the lavas a mile east of the little town, and the National mine, easily preeminent among the attractions of the camp, lies on one of its smooth slopes, with a background of rough basalt. The mine separated from the town by a low divide and is not directly visible from points near the settlement.

The whole landscape is a wonderful exhibition of the effect of erosion on a region of volcanic flows. Not always, however, is it as pleasing as described above, for the winters begin early and last long, and fierce blizzards cover the bare slopes with a mantle of snow.

HISTORY

PROSPECTING AND MINING

During the prospecting in Nevada that followed the discovery of the Comstock mines the Santa Rosa Range was not overlooked. Prospecting began here about 1868, or even earlier. A number of deposits were found along the range from Winnemucca Mountain to Buckskin Peak. The prospecting was confined almost entirely to the pre-Tertiary deposits; the bonanza of National camp was not uncovered until 1908, although the veins on the summit line just north of Buckskin Peak have been known for many years.

About 1884 the Spring Mountain district was worked with considerable success, and prospecting was carried on at many places in the southern part of the range, but interest waned with the drop in the value of silver, and from 1891 to the present time no mining has been done on the old properties.

The deposits at National were discovered in 1907 by J.L. Workman, who entered the district by automobile and named the striking points in the vicinity after parts of his machine. He found encouraging indications and made many locations, some of which covered the ground of the present National mine. In August, 1908, ore containing both silver and gold was found on Charleston Hill, and 5 tons were shipped to the Selby smelter, near San Francisco. The smelter returns were only \$40 a ton. The property held by Workman was divided into many small lease blocks, which were taken by Stall Bros., Kendall, Gayer, Donalson, and others. Stall Bros. bought out some of their neighbors, and in 1909 rich ore was discovered at the Stall shaft about 40 feet below the surface. Much rich ore, averaging \$30 a pound, was shipped. Meanwhile other parts of the district had been prospected, but generally with indifferent success.

In July, 1910, the two Stall brothers were seriously injured by the caving of the hanging wall. The mining of the incredibly rich ore continued without their personal supervision, but, as may well be imagined, the results were not satisfactory, and in 1910 the Stall Bros. sold out to the National Mines Co. of Chicago, of which J.G. Snyder is president and L.G. Campbell, of Winnemucca, vice president.

Up to November, 1910, the production is believed to have been approximately \$1,700,000. In 1911 the exploitation of the narrow rich shoot was in progress, and the total production was said to have reached \$4,000,000.

During the same year adjacent ground was prospected by the National Mines Syndicate, controlled by J.L. Workman, and by the Mammoth National Mining Co., Gordon Campbell in charge, which owned adjacent to the National Mines Co. In 1911 a law suit was begun by the National Mines Co. against the Charleston Hill National Mining Syndicate and the Mammoth Mines Co., alleging trespass. This suit culminated in a notable trial at Carson, Nev., in which mining experts and geologists such H.V. Winchell, A.N. Winchell, and A.C. Lawson, figured prominently.

The camp has had a checkered history. When the rich ore shoot was discovered adventurers and gamblers of all kinds flocked to National, with the usual consequences. The high-grade ore invited pilfering as well as stealing on a large scale. On two occasions armed men broke into the mine and stole a number of sacks of rich ore. A searchlight was then erected, whose rays played during the night on the entrance to the mine. In 1912 another bold attempt was made to steal some rich ore belonging to the Mammoth National Co. In short, the brief but exciting history of the camp—largely a history of the National mine—illustrates well the annoyances connected with the mining of exceptionally rich ore, not only from robbers, but also from processes of law, the apex law of the United States being a constant and irresistible temptation to clever interpreters of the statutes.

HIGH GRADERS

As mentioned in the above article, National had its problems with the lawless elements. The following article appeared in the "Carson Morning News" on July 1, 1914. The article appeared earlier in the "Humboldt Star".

STALL BROTHERS ROBBED OF THOUSANDS BY HIGH GRADERS

A sensational report is in circulation here that a big high-grade cache has just been unearthed on the property of the National Mines company at National. The story goes that in one of the old abandoned drifts, while miners were pulling out old lagging, they ran onto twenty-two sacks of high-grade ore which had evidently been hidden there for years. The sacks will weigh, it is said, about 135 pounds each and the ore is estimated to be worth in the neighborhood of \$50 per pound, making the find worth approximately \$148,000.

It is thought that the ore was hidden during the time the Stall brothers were operating their lease on the property of the National Mines company and was stolen from their workings by high-graders.

Though the story cannot be verified and is probably greatly exaggerated as to the amount of the ore and its value, the discovery of a cache of high-grade ore in the National Mines company's workings is well within the bounds of probability. It is generally believed that high-graders were in clover during the productive period of the company's operations and estimates of the value of the ore stolen from the property run into the millions.

It has been a matter of common belief here and in National for several years that caches of stolen high-grade ore would be found in the old workings.



Old main National Mines Co.
Mill and shop area below
Courtesy Nevada Historical Society

Other articles have been written about the high-grading that took place at National. Below is Harold Weight's article on National.

This was the golden rock Cornish miners in the region called "family ore" (meaning their family) as opposed to "company ore," which reached shipping bins and company mills unmolested. It was "shirttail ore," it was "glommitite." And it soon made National as famous for high-grading (i.e. stealing of ore by the miners) as for the high-grade ore itself. So much so, that it is declared that the mine owners never even saw National's richest ore.

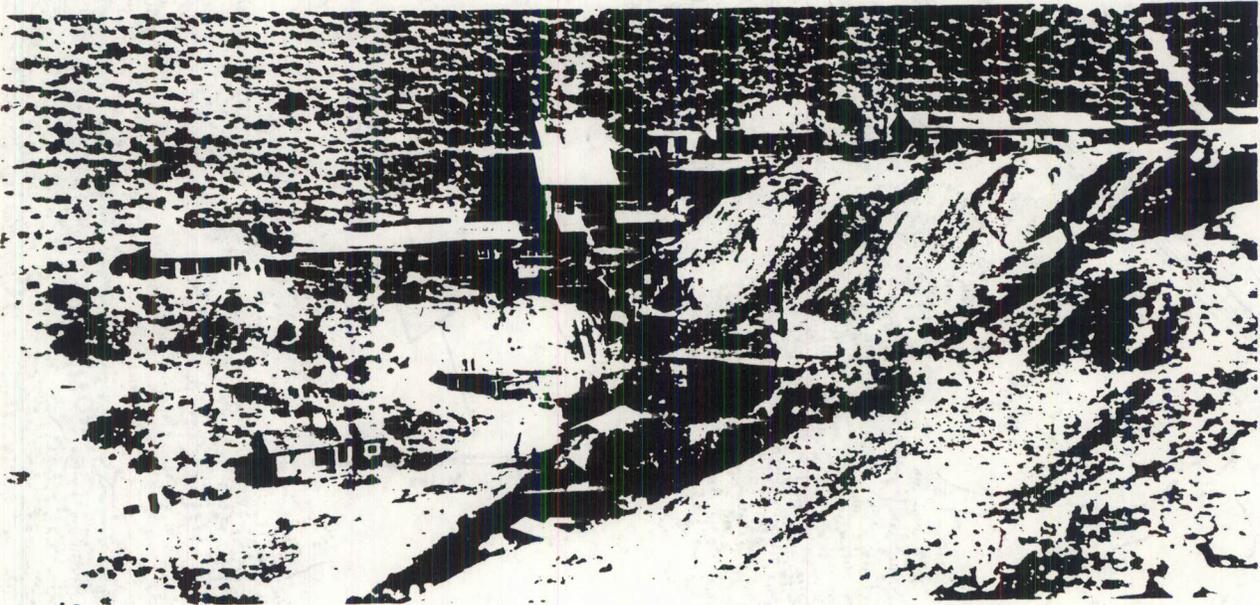
The Gumshoe Kid saw a lot of that highest-grade high grade. The Kid had come to National from the busted boom at Jarbridge early in 1910, and had come to prospect. He somehow ended up operating, with an old Cripple Creek assayer, the largest of the ten assay offices that thrived in National during the high-grade years.

The presence of so many assay offices in what virtually was a one-mine camp-and that mine with its own assayers-was more than suspicious. Especially when the town assayers, bearing such names as the Gumshoe Kid, Icicle Jack, Rosy O'Grady, King of the Cacti and the Katzenjammer Kids, had engaged in a similar line of work during Goldfield's notorious high-grading days when miners, officially paid \$4 a day, were walking out of the mines with fifty times that amount. The *Chieftain*, one of the two camp papers, sarcastically labeled them "the Ore Merchants of National."

The Gumshoe Kid had his office at the south end of town, just off the main street. But business proved so good-it seemed almost everyone working at the National had some ore to sell-that he had to establish three additional "receiving stations." Some transactions, with careful individuals, were conducted with hand scales in a prospect hole after dark.

"After you assayed National ore, you could tell pretty close how all of it would run," said the Kid. "And most of those who brought it in wanted cash fast. We paid about half the value of the ore. So I'd weigh the sack. Three or four pounds. I'd look at the rock with a glass. I'd say: "Well-\$60. Make it \$70.' Sold!"

But high-grading, the major problem, was not so easy to halt. During a period while National officially produced \$4,000,000, estimates of the additional ore high-graded by the miners run upward from \$1,000,000. The trouble was, almost no one in Nevada seemed to consider high-grading a crime. The golden stream of stolen ore spent in a boom town meant good times. Many business men, some public officials, openly approved the practice. For years a jury would not convict a high-grader. And no law required assayers to record or determine the source of the ore they bought. If assayers were caught with ore a mine owner could identify as being stolen, the penalty was only loss of the ore.



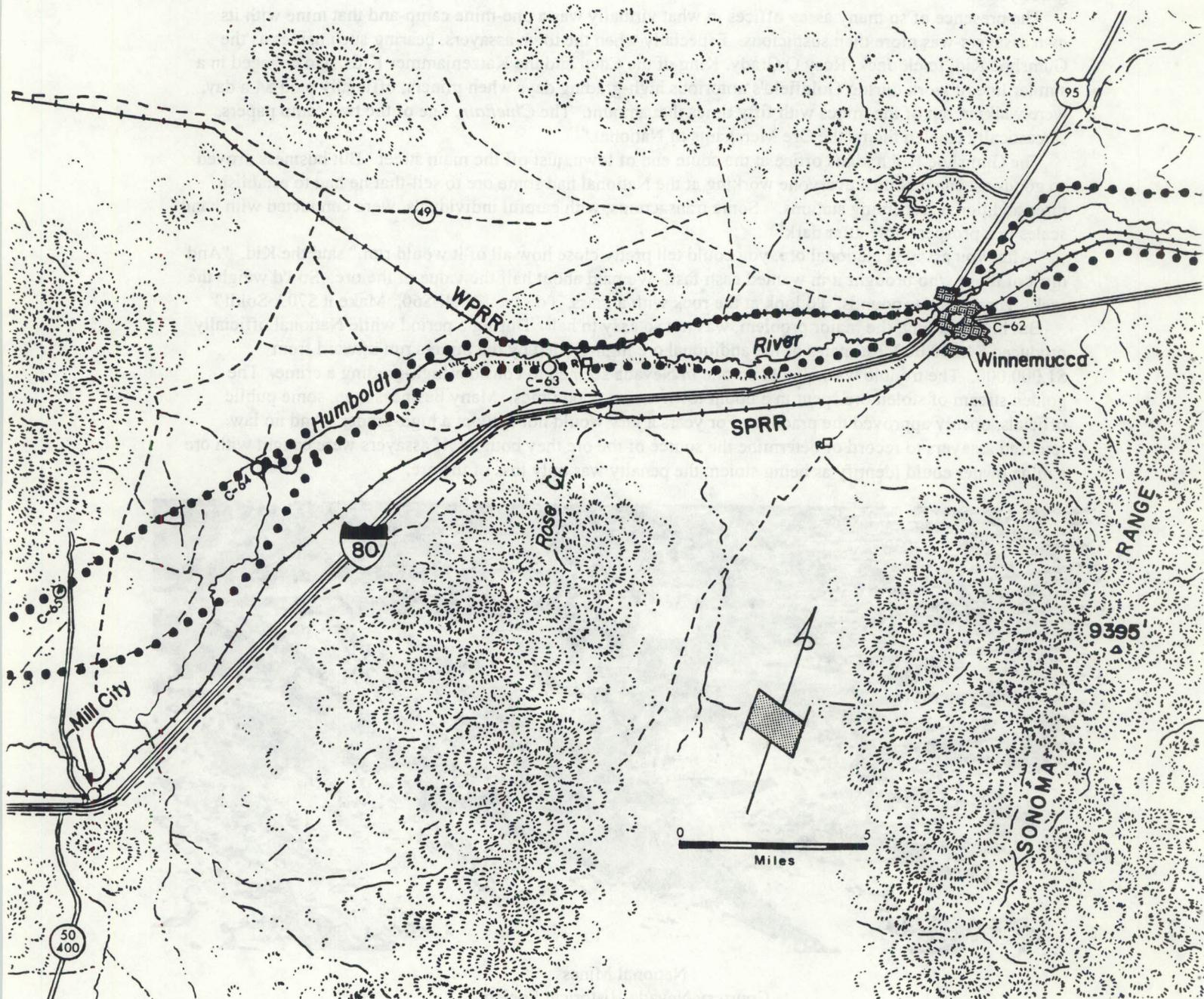
National Mines
Courtesy Nevada Historical Society

THE CALIFORNIA TRAIL 1846

From Winnemucca to Reno, in the most part, I80 parallels the California Emigrant trail and old highway 40 in places is right on top of it. The trail is marked approximately every twenty miles of line of sight by "T" markers, assembled and placed by Trails West Inc.

The California trail enters Nevada in the northeast corner of the state, passes Thousand Springs Creek and in a southwesterly direction to the east fork of the Humboldt River, near Wells, Nevada. Then to the west along the Humboldt River through Elko, Battle Mountain and Winnemucca.

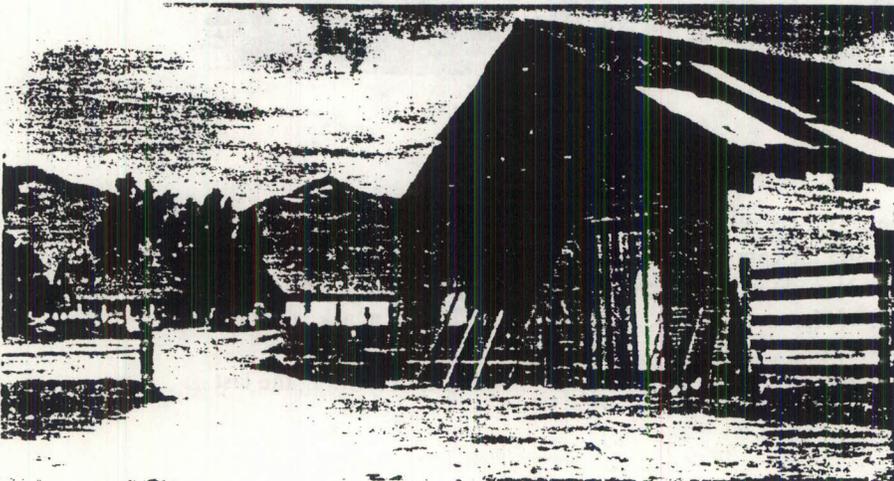
The rest of the story you know.



CAMP WINFIELD SCOTT

On December 12, 1866 Captain Murray Davis of A Company, eighth U.S. cavalry established this camp named for the distinguished General Winfield Scott, who fought in the war of 1812, he was chief of the U.S. Army in 1841 and in 1846 given the task of capturing Mexico City in the Mexican war, he ran for president in 1852 and was active in the first part of the Civil War.

The purpose of the out post was protection for the prospectors, settlers and travelers in Paradise Valley. Hostile indians since 1864 had been harassing, stealing stock, murdering, and other depredations.



On this ranch property in Paradise Valley barracks still stand.

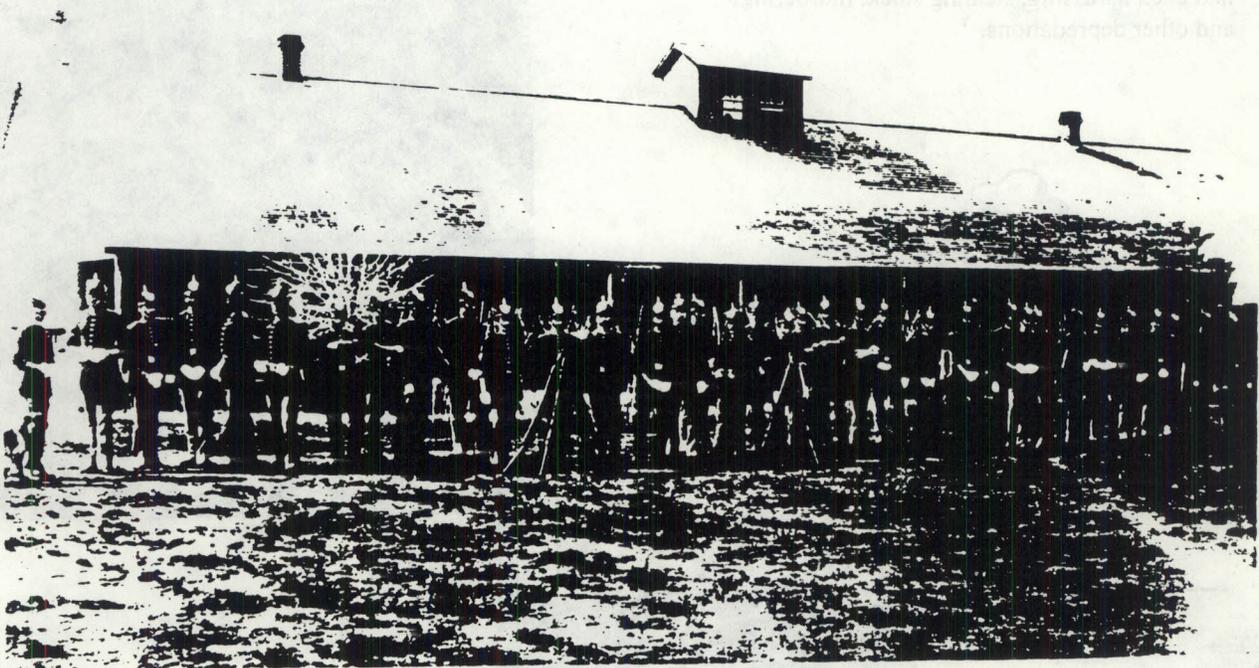
FORT McDERMITT

69 miles north of Winnemucca and 5 miles east of U.S. 95 is the location of Fort McDermitt.

In the summer of 1865 Quinn River Camp no. 33 was established, this was the first military camp in the vicinity, in compliance of orders from Lieutenant colonel Charles McDermitt of the second cavalry, California volunteers, commander of Fort Churchill and the military district of Nevada, Captain J.C. Doughty was ordered to construct the camp and command a troop there.

In the northern part of the state the Quinn River area, Humboldt, Churchill and Elko counties were experiencing a very serious hostile Indian uprising, (a Indian war), a five month chase with skirmish's and battles spread over the three counties, back and forth, up and down, the campaign against Zelauwick the hostile Indian leader with combined Piutes, Shoshones, and Bannocks was terrifying and causing havoc among the prospectors, settlers and travelers in this area was a very difficult one.

Colonel McDermitt requested and received additional troops from several forts and the Persidio in San Francisco to control the depredations of the renegade band of eight hundred to one thousand Indians.



On August 7th, 1865, returning to Camp 33, Lt. Col. McDermitt and his patrol was ambushed, fighting the Indians off he was killed. August 19, 1865 the camp was re-named Camp McDermitt.

On July 31, 1865, Lieutenant Seamands, Nevada infantry on patrol luckily stumbled on to the camp of the hostiles in Cotton Wood Canyon, north of Humboldt Wells. Seamands and his men attacked at dawn, killing chief Zelauwick and eleven of his warriors.

On September 13, 1865, Company E, Nevada cavalry had the dubious distinction of fighting the last skirmish by Nevada Volunteers in the state.

A interesting note about the post office at Camp McDermitt is the amount of times it was open and closed, indicating the different times troops occupied and maintained the camp. The post office was established four times, October 24, 1866 to December 28, 1869. May 25, 1870 to October 12, 1870. June 20, 1871 to September 13, 1872. And November 13, 1872 to May 7, 1879, when the post office changed to Fort McDermitt with a "T" added, and existed until March 14, 1891, when it was moved to the town of McDermitt on the Nevada Oregon border.

The fort is now part of the Fort McDermitt Indian Reservation.

Long after the last bugle toot at Fort McDermitt, the buildings remained in use by local Indian reservation of the same name. (*Ida Le Nord Collection*)



A interesting note is that the post office at Camp McDermitt is the oldest of any in the area and about 1870. It is a building of a different type from those described and remained the same. The post office was established four times: October 24, 1860 to December 28, 1860; May 25, 1870 to October 12, 1870; June 10, 1871 to December 13, 1872; and November 13, 1875 to May 7, 1879 when the post office changed to Fort McDermitt with a "T" added, and existed until March 14, 1891, when it was moved to the town of McDermitt on the Nevada Oregon border.

The fort is now part of the Fort McDermitt Indian Reservation.

Along with the last building at Fort McDermitt, the buildings remained in the local Indian reservation of the same name (now Fort Collins).



