

**J.U.N.K.**

*Aug - 22-23-24*

**TRIP 2003**



**NO.**

**24**

FOUNDED 4005 B.C.

**IONE**

## 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 LEOPRI *	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	THE REAL NATIONAL
15	1994	JIM GROWS	DESERT WELLS
16	1995	DANIEL BOWERS	HIGH ROCK CANYON
17	1996	PETER J. VAN ALSTYNE	FAIRVIEW
18	1997	EDDY GONZALES	GRANTSVILLE
19	1998	JOHN DORNSTAUDER	HUMBOLDT CITY
20	1999	KEN MOSER	BELMONT
21	2000	VAL COLLIER	PEPPER SPRINGS
22	2001	CHUCK MURRAY	NIGHTENGALE
23	2002	MARC BEBOUT	NEW PASS MINE
24	2003	AL NICHOLSON	IONE

\* GONE TO THE SILVER HILLS

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 The History of Nevada  
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 The Clamper  
 A Guide to the Ghost Towns & Mining Camps of Nye County  
 Photo of Dr. Camp and Bill Huff

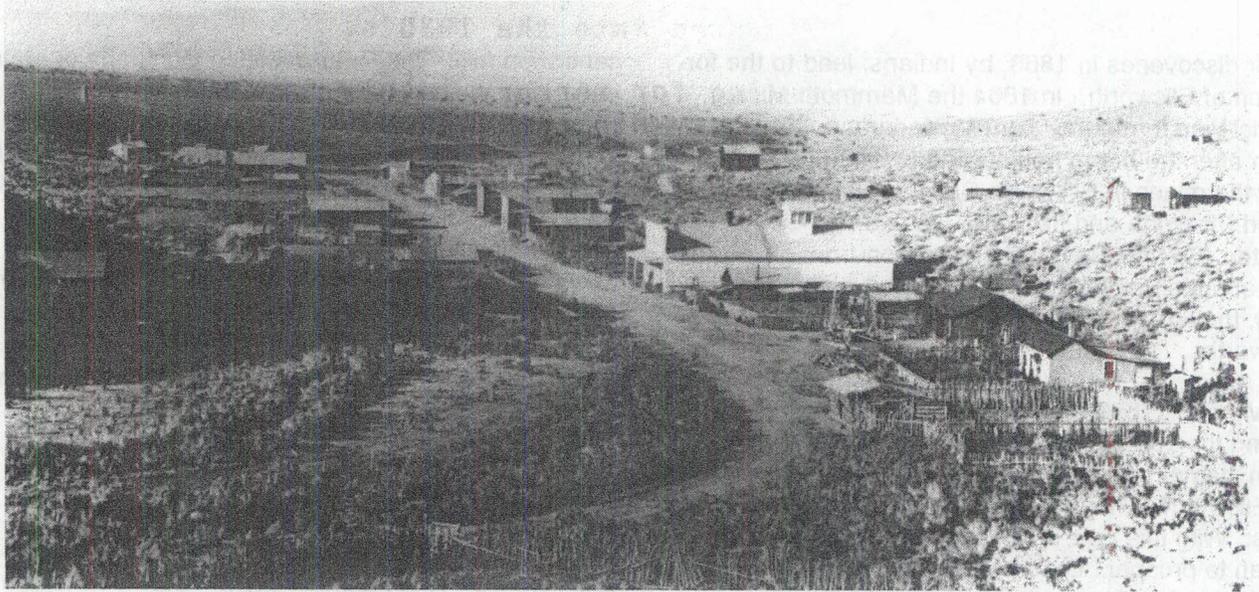
Stanley Paher  
 Donald C. Miller  
 H. S. Carlson  
 F. C. Lincoln  
 Thompson and West  
 Pony Express, May 1946  
 February, 1958  
 Shawn Hall  
 George Courson

### COMPILED

Julia C. Bulette, Historian  
 X T.R.A.S.H. Leader  
 Julia C. Bulette, Noble Grand Humbug

XNGH-P Peter J. Van Alstyne  
 Geno Venio Oliver  
 Al Nicholson

## E CLAMPUS VITUS AND SO RECORDED



*Lone, Nevada*

*Photo courtesy Nevada Historical Society*

**Lone, Nevada  
by**

**Al "Nick" Nicholson**

Silver and other rich minerals were discovered in the lone known as The Union District in late 1863. Lone grew to about 4 dozen buildings in a beautiful canyon above the present townsite. The town at that time was found to be too far from the principal belt containing the mines.

In early 1864 the present townsite was formed in the lower and longer part of the canyon wide enough to have a commercial street. In February 1864, the state legislature designated lone the seat of the newly-created Nye County, believing that lone was the center of another rich mineral region. Before long the camp grew to about 100 houses and 500 inhabitants.

Milling began in the spring of 1865 when Pioneer Mill opened, but the miners were unprepared and unable to supply enough ore and the plant was closed after litigation. Soon after the closure of the plant, eastern capitalists erected the twenty-stamp Knickebrocker Mill, 3 miles south of town, at a cost of \$130,000. This facility treated ore from nearby districts for about a

decade, beginning in 1866. Later that year the mining slowed down and the county seat was moved to Belmont in early 1867. A budding revival in 1868 was shortlived do the White Pine boom. After 1870 The mines near lone registered several respectable annual productions, especially in 1872-73, and by 1880 the lone Camp had weathered many, changes, at times prosperous and then all but deserted.

No big revivals have taken place at the mines since 1880, the camp has never been totally deserted. In the 1920's and 1930's quicksilver operations produced over \$500,000.

Many builings are still standing, including a wooden structure that may have been the courthouse.

## Ellsworth

Silver discoveries in 1863, by Indians, lead to the formation of Ellsworth. In 1864 the Mammoth Mining District was formed by Sam McKeon and A.T. Hatch. Soon after the boom had started two camps formed near the mines in Ellsworth Canyon. One camp was called Ellsworth and the other was named Upper Weston (Summit City). Their location from each other was about an eighth of a mile. When both camps grew, they merged into one settlement which became Ellsworth.

On March 7, 1866 a post office officially opened. During the 1860's the town grew quite slowly. In 1870 a ten stamp mill was built. This was a shot in the arm for Ellsworth. The town population grew to 200 inhabitants. With this new influx of population the town began to prosper. During this peak period a stage and freight line to Wadsworth was established.

This growth was to be short lived. By 1874 the mill was only operated on a part time basis. The population shrank down to twenty people, including six miners. When the mill was in operation, local Indians were hired to work the pans, settlers, concentrators and furnaces. To run the boilers at the mill, wood was hauled in at a cost of \$3.25 a cord.

The top producing mines were the Peoria, Morning Call, General Lee, Silver Wave, Mount Vernon and the Lisbon. The ores from the mines averaged out about \$100 a ton. A new mine, the Esta Buena owned by Don Manuel San Pedro of Grantsville was started in the early 1880's was to mine some ore that assayed as much as \$1,600 a ton.

Typical with mining district's Ellsworth ore started playing out. On December 29, 1884 the post office closed. The town was to wither away.

In 1923 new life came to the district when the Tonopah-Brohilco Mines Corporation started working twenty claims in the Mammoth District. Out of the twenty claims only two the Silver Leaf and the Black Reef Group produced ore that paid \$25 a ton. They were not able to continue and ceased operation in 1925.

Another company, the Return Mining Company worked a 240-foot shaft that gave yields of ore assaying at \$35 a ton. The ore consisted of both gold and silver. To lower their costs for milling they brought in a used twelve-stamp mill and also built a cyanide con-

centration mill. The Return Mining Company operated in the district from 1924 until 1926.

In 1928, Donald Benton of Salt Lake City acquired the Flagstaff Mine and surrounding claims and formed the Eary Group. Benton worked the group until 1933, where he was to sell out to J.L. Corlett, who had worked a small mill in Lower Ellsworth. Corlett did not realize the profits that Benton did, but was still able to make a living. Corlett worked the claims until 1944. Since then only sporadic interest has been in the area.

## Downieville

In May 1877, discoveries of rich silver and lead deposits at Downieville lured many people away from Ellsworth. By 1878, a small city had formed make up of tents. Soon they were to have a population of over 200. Later buildings were constructed to include stores, a Wells Fargo office and stage line offices and several saloons.

On March 31, 1879 a post office opened with P. Downey as the postmaster. The town was officially named after Downey, thus making it Downieville.

In the mid-1880's a lead smelter was built to process ore from the local mines. This lead smelter had the distinction of being one of the first to be built in the state.

The main producing mine in the area was the Downieville Mine. The mine had a depth of over 500 feet. From 1878 until 1901, it was to produce between \$7 million to \$12 million in silver and lead.

The town grew until the mid-1890's, until the ore quality began to drop off. With the town loosing its population the post office closed on October 15, 1901.

Downieville had a short revival from 1923-1924. The Downieville Mine was purchased by the Downieville Nevada Mines Inc., and was worked for a short time. The new company could not turn a profit and by 1927 they abandoned the area.

## Lodi, Lodi Tanks

Ore discoveries in 1874 by Henry Welch and J. Kirkpatrick lead to the formation of the Lodi District on May 14, 1875. By 1878 the area contained a popula-

tion of 100 to include a store, blacksmith shop, boarding-house, saloon, a ten-ton smelting furnace and various other businesses.

The principal mine was the Illinois. The mine's shaft was about 1,000 feet in depth with other shafts tunneling off from the main shaft to follow veins. One vein was from two to eight feet in width, and contained carbonate of lead, which carried a large percent of silver. Some of the ore assayed as much as \$500 per ton.

The Illinois Mine continued operation until 1880 producing an estimated \$400,000. By 1881 there were around twenty-five claims in the area with only six people to work them.

In 1905 there was a small revival in the Lodi District. New discoveries led to the formation of two separate settlements. The first one was at the old Illinois Mine and the new name was Bob, the second was a new town site called Lodi Tanks. On March 2, 1906 a post office was established and called Marble.

The Illinois Mine was purchased by the Lodi Mines Co. The company also owned twenty-one other claims in the district. With the new influx of people in the area, the town site of Lodi Tanks grew rapidly supporting several saloons and a few mercantile companies.

In June 1908 a 100-ton smelter was constructed to handle the ore from the Illinois Mine. All went fairly well until 1914 when water began seeping into the mine. With this the mine closed. Struggling to stay alive the town site dwindled. The post office ceased operations on December 15, 1917. In 1919 an experimental concentrator was built, but soon abandoned.

Further operations were done in 1921 when the Illinois Nevada Mines Corporation purchased the Illinois Mine. Two men, Hughes and Hatterly were to make a rich gold discovery near the Illinois Mine. Fortunately for the company working the mine, the discoveries were on the higher levels of the mine around the 200-300 foot levels.

With mining operations the need for water is great. A 6 mile pipeline from Marble Canyon to Lodi Tanks provided a constant water supply. This gravity fed pipeline may still be seen today across the valley.

Operations by the Illinois Nevada Mines Corporation ceased in 1928. Since then only sporadic work has been done in the area.



Grantsville, circa 1880

Photo courtesy Nevada Historical Society.

## Grantsville

Gold was discovered in Grantsville Canyon in 1863 by P.A. Havens, who also made discoveries around the lone 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.

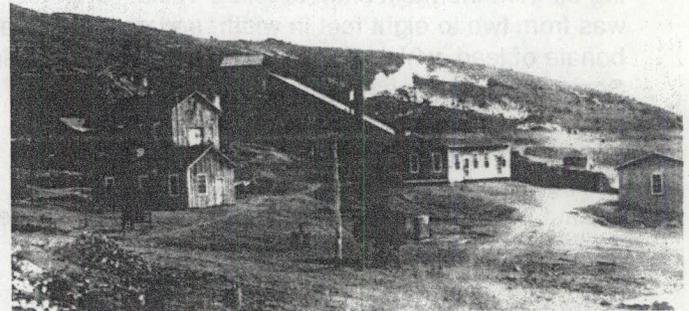
By 1884 the population had shrunk to 400. In 1901 only a small amount of people remained.

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 remodeled 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 1997 there has been some mining that has taken place. As of this writing there is no further mining being done.



Berlin, Circa 1910, photo courtesy Geno Oliver

## 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 Lone. 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.



*Dr. Charles L. Camp, Clampatriarch Pro Term  
Photo from Peter Van Alstyne Collection*

### **Dr. Charles L. 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 a 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 13 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 „light 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'.

## Bill Huff



The following is an article from the San Francisco Chronicle October 5, 1957.

### Ichthyosaur Monument is Unveiled

Gabbs, Nev., Oct 5 A monument to a monster has been unveiled and dedicated at Ichthyosaur State Park near here.

Fashioned by William Huff of Alamo, Calif., the monument depicts one of the longtailed fish lizards that swam in the Nevada Bay of the Pacific about 180 million years ago.

Gabbs is on highway 23, about 90 miles southeast of Fallon.

Ichthyosaur bones were discovered at the mouth of West Union Canyon near here in 1928 by Professor S. W. Muller of Stanford University's geology department.

Fossils of the ancient dinosaur of the sea have been uncovered since 1953 at the site of Ichthyosaur State Park by Dr. Charles L. Camp, dean of the paleontology department of the University of California at Berkeley.

Huff worked closely with Camp to assure that the monument design would accurately depict the giant ichthyosaur.



## 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

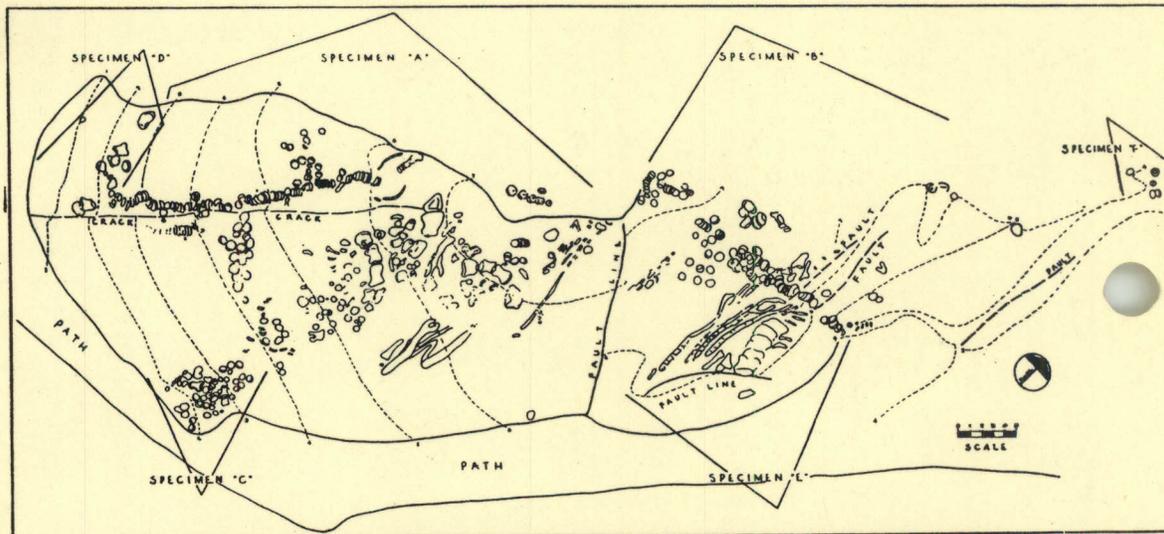
NEVADA

Nye  
County

BERLIN

UNION CANYON  
ICHTHYOSAUR  
STATE  
MONUMENT

TO FALLON



Fossil ichthyosaur bones, embedded in hard limy 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.

