



Purple Pisolite

Julia's Unequivocal Nevada Klampout

#40

Hibijibi

clamper year 6024

Brought to you by
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E Clampus Vitus

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Dedicated to
trilobites, purple pisolites and archaeocyathids

2019 c.e.

Why

Good Question. Why Indeed? Why not go someplace different than last year? Imagine the opportunity. Nevada is a big place. This issue is an addendum to last year's. All complaints on the subject are referred to the Clampatriarch.

Esmeralda County From Last year

Esmeralda County is an original county from Nevada's Territorial Days, established in 1861. The Esmeralda Mining District was named for Esmeralda, the gypsy girl from the Hunchback of Notre Dame. When Esmeralda County was organized no one knew what was there. Jedidiah Smith in 1827 and John C. Fremont in 1845 had traversed Big Smoky Valley. Aurora was the county seat at the end of the Esmeralda Trail in the North. Nye County was gouged out of Esmeralda in February of 1864. Aurora was the county seat till 1883 when Hawthorne took over. In 1907 Goldfield wrested the seat from Hawthorne. By 1911 Hawthorne received the Northern half to start their own county, Mineral. 783 souls live in Esmeralda County, one of the most sparsely inhabited counties in America

Atlantic and Pacific Railroad Survey From Last year

California commercial interests financed a surveying expedition in 1853, the same year Congress passed The Military Appropriations Act of 1853 that appropriated the funds for topographical surveys to ascertain the most practicable and economical route for a railroad from the Mississippi River to the Pacific Ocean. John Ebbets, Lt Treadwell Moore, discoverer of the Mono Basin and George Goddard, cartographer, were the leaders of the survey. Ebbets had discovered his pass, now Hwy 4, in 1851. The survey was to begin in Stockton and traverse between the 39th and 37th parallels past the eastern border of California and through the Utah counties of Millard, Iron and Washington to a junction point in Utah named Las Vegas de Santa Clara. They surveyed over Sonora Pass on the old reviled emigrant trail and when they got to Mason Valley they headed right up and over the Wassuck Ranges to the shores of Walker Lake. The Lake teamed with monster Cutthroats but they had no means to catch them. From Walker Lake they headed out into the desert through Luning, Mina and Sodaville. Beyond Sodaville they ran out of water and feed. Ebbet's diary states,

Friday, October 28; We are obliged to camp at dusk without water and but little grass. We cook no supper. Men as well as mules suffer for water. Issue some Whiskey,....We Intend to make an early start.'

At Columbus the expedition chose not to head East into the sterile lands as planned but Southwest to Boundary Peak and the "Snowy" Mountains. They'd discovered Fish Lake Valley and its healthy ecosystem; Game birds, antelope and deer abounded. After a week they headed south again into the North end of Death Valley and Sarcobatus Flat, then raced back to California before they starved and froze to death.

Petroglyphs From last year

Since ancient times the local hunter gatherers have built blinds, walls and tagged the basalts and tufas with Curvilinear scribblings. Many petroglyph sites mark the entrances to canyons and routes between forage and water. Some petroglyphs record plasma discharges that were once seen over the earth's atmosphere long ago. Some mark celestial events and some are said to have been made by early explorers from before the time of Columbus. Most have some connection to the migratory routes of game species.

Montezuma

The Patterson district was organized in February 1869. 400 souls called Montezuma home. Property was going for \$100 to \$300 a lot. It did have a post office, in 1872 and 1873.

Lida

Lida had potential but no access to transportation till the Bullfrog and Goldfield Railroad arrived at Cuprite in September 1906. Prospected by Mexican and Indian workers the district was organized by Americans in 1867 as an outgrowth of the Aurora boom. Lida township, named for the original prospector's wife, Alida Buell, was laid out in 1872. A Post Office was authorized in 1873 but at first was erroneously referred to as Lida California due to the confusion over the state boundary. All freight and commerce was done through Silver Peak which eventually was connected to the Railroad at Wadsworth by the freight road. The area became depopulated by the 1880s.

In 1905 300 people called Lida home and water from the springs was piped to Goldfield. Lida prospered till 1907 when litigation put the richest mines out of business.

Dyer

A fun little Nevada town in Fish Lake Valley. Hot springs and beautiful creeks drain the East slope of the White Mts, to 14,000 feet. Inquiries to the BLM specialists have failed to attain a straight answer on what endemic fish the Valley is named for. Perhaps a Tui Chub. NDOW stocks all the many streams these days. Every drop is used for Agriculture and little makes it to the lake bed.

Magruder Mt.

The oldest rock in the northern Magruder Mt area are Precambrian, Cambrian and Ordovician sedimentary strata intruded by Middle Jurassic granite and unconformably overlain by late Tertiary and Quaternary sedimentary and volcanic rock. It contains olenellid zones that represent the oldest Cambrian Rock in North America. These Wyman formations crop out along the northeast side of the Sylvania Range. Many worm, trilobite, purple pisolite and archaeocyathid fossils. A linear topographical depression, (Lida Pass) between Magruder and Palmetto Mts suggests a fault zone but has no conclusive evidence.

There is evidence of right lateral displacement from the Death Valley Furnace Creek fault zone. This zone extends from the southern Amargosa fault zone 120 miles to Fish Lake Valley.

Pinus Monophylla and *Juniperus Osteosperma* are the dominant Conifers when present.

Palmetto

The Palmetto formation is made up of thin bedded black chert, blue limestone, gray to purple shale and brown quartzite.

The first recorded activity in the Palmetto District was in 1866; a stamp mill was constructed that year to work prospects in the vicinity of what later was known as the Palmetto mine. The Palmetto and adjacent mines were very large, with extensive dumps, and obviously were major operations in their day. Deposits in the Palmetto district are largely of silver, gold, and lead.

-PALMETTO DISTRICT (NBMG OPEN FILE REPORT 83-11) TINGLEY 1983

Thinking that local Joshua trees were related to palm trees, the 1866 prospectors named the mining camp Palmetto. Although a local 12-stamp mill worked the silver ore, the town died for lack of profitable material. New discoveries in the late 1860s

brought Palmetto back to life, but once again meager deposits caused its demise. New prospecting in 1903 caused Palmetto to grow to a town of 200 tents on a platted town site. At its peak in 1906, the commercial street contained all the necessary mining camp businesses. Local miners drifted away in Autumn, 1906. Mining, on a lease basis, has been minimal since that time. An important talc deposit lies nearby.

-Nevada State Historical Marker #145

PERISHED ON THE DESERT

A Candelaria dispatch of the 10th inst. says: Harry O'Hale left Silver Peak last Thursday morning for Palmetto. Not arriving there, a searching party went out and found him dead on the desert, his water canteen empty.

-Reno Evening Gazette, August 12, 1886

RICH LEDGES AT PALMETTO

Ore Bears 30 Per Cent Copper and Carries Values in Gold.

To a Gazette reporter this afternoon, H. W. Knickerbocker said that the recent strike in the Palmetto district is one of the richest that has been made in the State of Nevada.

-Reno Evening Gazette, September 7, 1904

MINERS RUSH TO PALMETTO WHERE BIG STRIKES HAVE BEEN MADE
Hills Dotted With Tents of Prospectors
Two weeks ago there were half a dozen tents on the mountainside. Today there are between three hundred and five hundred miners at the place, the hills being dotted with huts and the entire country thereabouts is being staked.

-Reno Evening Gazette, February 11, 1906

The whistle now blows daily at the Palmetto mill, is the word just received by E. R. Rodgers of the Palmetto and Death Valley Company. In a letter received from Engineer Chas. Kaeding, who has been superintending operations at that end, he says the whole district is now a daily scene of greater activity than at any time during his stay in that section. Burros, mules, and teams are now employed in hauling ores from different properties to the mill and the company is now shipping in reality from two of the several leases on the property. -- Goldfield Review

-Reno Evening Gazette, June 25, 1906

Palmetto, which looked so promising a few short months ago, is almost a thing of the past. There are very few people remaining in the place and many of those are only waiting a chance to leave. There are a few brave souls remaining, and these are doing

their utmost to recover some of the money put into the district, and with a fair show of success.

-Reno Evening Gazette, July 30, 1906

NEW POWER LINE FOR CAP OF GOLDFIELD WILL INSURE CAMP PLENTY OF ELECTRICITY

Expected That The Line Will Be Completed Within Sixty Days-- Will Also Supply Tonopah. Goldfield, Jan. 18-- Within sixty days the Nevada California Power company will have completed its parallel power line from Bishop to Goldfield, thus insuring to this city and Tonopah a continuity of light and power. The electric current will be cut off only through an accident affecting both lines which is very remote. Forty men are at work on the line continuously, and work is being pushed to speedy completion. The company expects to tie up the line from Bishop to the switchhouse at Palmetto in Sunday, thus completing fifty-one miles of the parallel system.

-Reno Evening Gazette, January 18, 1908

NUGGETS COMING FROM PALMETTO

Coarse Gold Produced From Southern Property
Tonopah Bonanza: The Palmetto property, which has been attracting attention of mining men for the past 60 days, lies half a mile north of the Palmetto power station, on the road from Silver Peak to Oasis, and is owned by R. W. Grigsby and Harry Grigsby, his son.

-Reno Evening Gazette, July 22, 1914

Pigeon Spring and points south of Palmetto

A 1905 USGS map already shows a stamp mill located here. This area once had a saloon, store and roadhouse. A post office was applied for in 1899, but did not open.

PLACER WORKERS IN TULE CANYON GREAT PRODUCERS

Nuggets and Coarse Gold Being Washed Out and Nice Saving of Yellow Metal Made Charles Benton, formerly a deputy sheriff under Shariff Bradley, is in from Tule Canyon, where he has been doing some work on his placers near Log Springs. He says that quite a number of people are doing assessment and development work in the district, and some are making very favorable showings. One party below Log Springs is washing out nuggets and coarse gold, and making a nice saving of the yellow metal. This district is one of the historic old placer diggings of the state, having been worked

by Chinamen, Mexicans, and white men in the early days and the output is estimated at several million dollars. During the most active period of the camp the Wells Fargo Express company maintained an office in the canyon for transporting the gold out to the mints.

-Nevada State Journal August 11, 1911

ORDER BIG PLANT AT LOG SPRINGS

A contract for placer machinery capable of handling 100 cubic yards a day with a drag line and a three-quarter yard Northwest Shovel, trommels, classifier, and jigs, is held by Carpenter and Lewis, mining engineers of Los Angeles. The machinery is being installed at the Log Springs property, 45 miles southwest of Goldfield. Carpenter and Lewis are under contract to manage and control the property, as well as design and install all necessary machinery. Camp has been established and water brought in.

-Nevada State Journal, December 17, 1934

Sylvania

It is but natural to ask why the mines which are now considered as good as the have been worked in the past in so desultory a manner, and have been allowed to remain entirely idle for the last fifteen years? Answering the last part of this query first, I would say that the bankrupt and disorganized condition of the Company owning the Sylvania Group after the violent death of the man Turner, made it impossible to operate the mines.

Report, E.T. Clymer July 16, 1910

The company [Sylvania Silver-Lead Mining Company] has its own road from the camp via Lida to Cuprite, the shipping point where shipment can be made over the Tonopah and Tide Water Railroad, a branch of the Southern Pacific, and also over the Goldfield and Las Vegas Railroad to Salt Lake. The Company has on this property a spacious superintendent's dwelling, as well as office buildings, bunk houses, large kitchen and dining room, blacksmith shop, garage, and other necessary buildings found in a camp; and at least \$50,000 worth of ore already mined and on the dumps ready to be concentrated. Access to the various surrounding towns can be easily and quickly had by automobile, as the road from the camp to Goldfield is an excellent one with easy travel.

-Report, 1910

SYLVANIA COMPANY TO ERECT BIG MILL

Litigation which has for the past two years or more tied up the Sylvania Mining company, which has a gold-silver-lead property from fourteen miles west of Lida, has been ended by the company and conflicting titles claimed by John Buser and J.L. Bray, and the company will proceed at once to construct the 100-ton reduction plants that was planned and financed some time ago. Extensive work on the property will at once be commenced. The Sylvania property is now owned by easterners. It was first located and some work done on it in 1872, and several sets of owners have done some work on it. Along in the '80's a small open hearth smelter was erected on the property, but proved a failure in handling the ores, and several attempts to handle the property without adequate milling facilities have been made. The present company, however, has the milling process fully figured out and a mill designed by Walter Trent has been contracted for, part of the machinery being en route at the present time.

-Reno Evening Gazette, February 17, 1911

The mine was discovered in the [eighteen] sixties or seventies, and passed through various hands until it was acquired by the present company in 1904. Several attempts have been made to smelt the richer ore in crude furnaces erected on the ground, but apparently without success. In 1907 or 1908 a leasing company hauled ore for a short time to the 10-stamp concentrating mill at Pigeon Springs, and shipped concentrate to a smelter. This was the last attempt to work the property.

-F. Bradshaw, October 1913.

Zabriskie Will Restore Noted Sylvania Mine

The Perseverance lead silver mine, formerly known as the Bullion in its early history, was sold this month to C.M. Zabriskie of Salt Lake City, the Beatty Bulletin reports. The Perseverance and the Sylvania mining district were discovered in 1870 by Kincaid and was organized in 1872 under the name Green Mountain district, and in 1873 changed to Sylvania. The Perseverance was worked as early as 1860 by Spaniards, old rock cabins being still on the property and piles of charcoal and chunks of pure lead and silver being found in places where smelting was conducted. In 1904 W.D. Clair bought the Perseverance, known then as the Bullion, and built a large camp and a 30-ton mill.

-Reno Evening Gazette, November 29, 1947

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Blasts in the Past

1980 GENO OLIVER, STAR CITY-UNIONVILLE
1981 SKIP PENNINGTON+, MANHATTEN
1982 BILL KENNEDY, KENNEDY
1983 JIM CRONN+, PINEGROVE
1984 GEORGE COURSON,+ LEADVILLE
1985 DOUG WALLING, BERLIN
1986 DAVID WOOD, ROCHESTER
1987 JOE LEPORI, AURORA
1988 BILL SAWYER+, SULPHUR
1989 MIKE MILLER, MILLER'S STATION
1990 RED BEACH+, SHAMROCK
1991 BOB RODGERS, COMO
1992 RON WALSH, SEVEN TROUGHS
1993 DANNY COSTELLO, THE REAL NATIONAL
1994 JIM GROWS+, DESERT WELLS
1995 DANIEL BOWERS, HIGH ROCK CANYON
1996 PETER VAN ALSTYNE+, FAIRVIEW
1997 EDDY GONZALES, GRANTSVILLE
1998 JOHN DORNSTAUDER, HUMBOLDT CITY
1999 KEN MOSER, BELMONT
2000 VAL COLLIER+, PEPPER SPRINGS
2001 CHUCK MURRAY, NIGHTENGALE
2002 MARC BEBOUT, NEW PASS MINE
2003 AL NICHOLSON, IONE
2004 RON THORNTON, FLETCHER STATION
2005 J D PATERSON, APPLGATE-LASSEN TRAIL
2006 WALT SIMMEROOTH, NEVADA CENTRAL R. W.
2007 JEFF JOHNSON, ADELAIDE
2008 OWEN RICHIE+, TYBO
2009 KARL SMALL,+ DUN
2010 DAN WESTON, KINGSTON
2011 RUSS BREAM, SMOKE CREEK
2012 JESS DAVIS, + FREMONT'S CASTLE
2013 CLIFF McCAIN, KNOTT CREEK
2014 BOB STRANSKY, JARBIDGE
2015 TIM PIERCE, WHISKEY FLAT
2016 KEVIN BRECKINRIDGE, COMSTOCK
2017 REID SLAYDEN, WONDER
2018 DOC ASHER, SILVER PEAK

+“Gone to Silver Hills”