

Janet Dobry

H

is for

HENDERSON

by Janet S. Bremer

Illustrated by Kasey Campbell, Myron Caracut, David Lamb, Lindsay Lamb, Justin Lompfrey & Adam Nailen

**My husband bought the house because everything fit except the dining room table. As an Air Force wife, returning from an overseas assignment in Germany, I was happy to call Henderson home in 1978. I'm accidentally still here. Nothing about the desert appealed to this Iowa farmgirl that first year. Now, however, I'm quick to show off the treasures of our interesting city.**

**I'm pleased to showcase these talented student artists, all of whom are former McCaw Elementary students:**

**Kasey Campbell, age 14**

**Myron Caracut, age 12**

**David Lamb, age 14**

**Lindsay Lamb, age 11**

**Justin Lomprey, age 18**

**Adam Nailen, age 15**

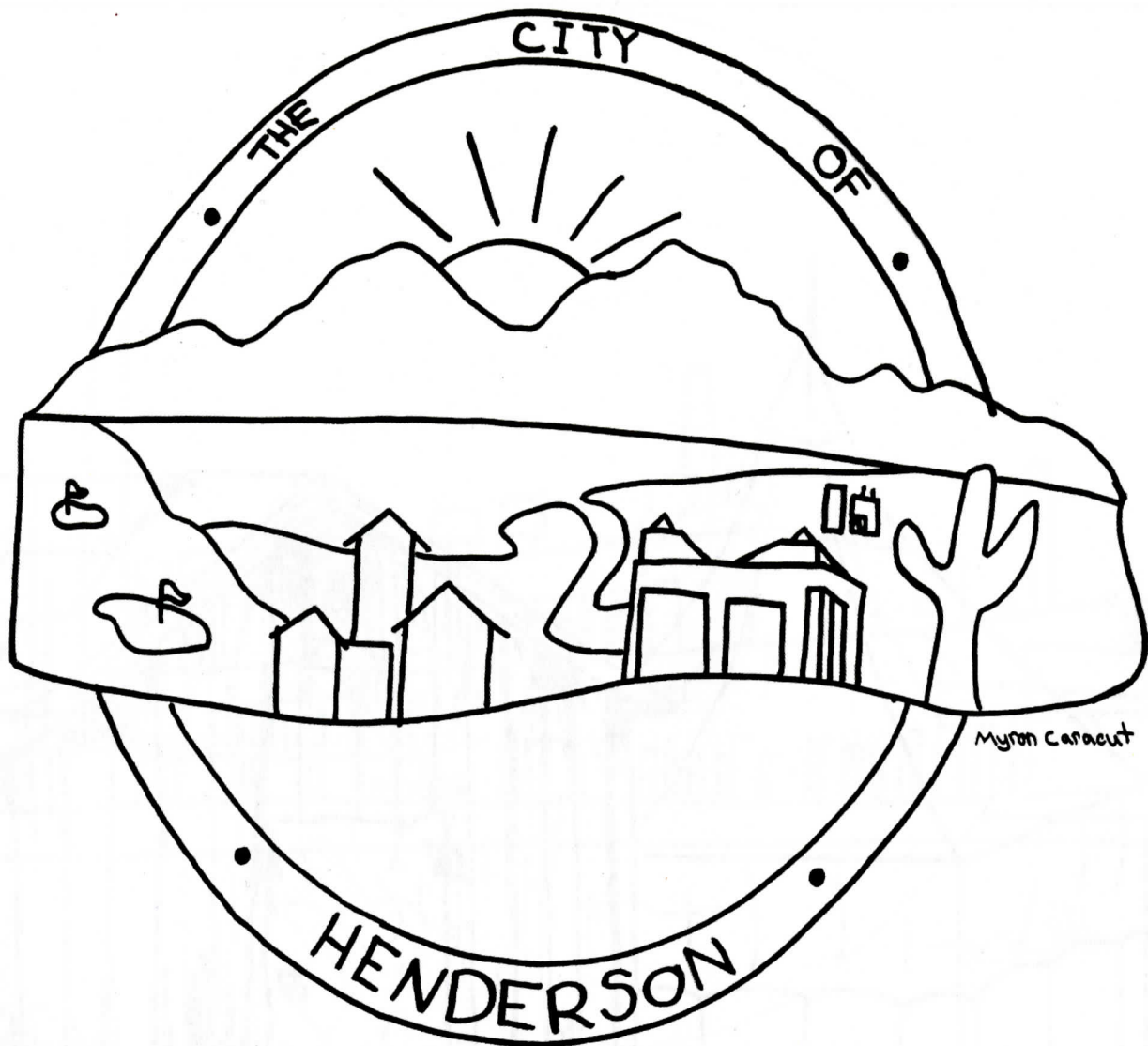
**Thanks to Joyce, for the inspiration for this book.**

**Thanks to my family for their tolerance.**

**Thanks to Dr. Dobry for the editing.**

**~J.B.**





The city that is now called **Henderson**  
began as a place for factory workers to live.

There was no town . . .

There were no people . . .

The city wasn't really supposed to be a city.

It was supposed to be a **temporary** town.

It had **temporary** buildings.

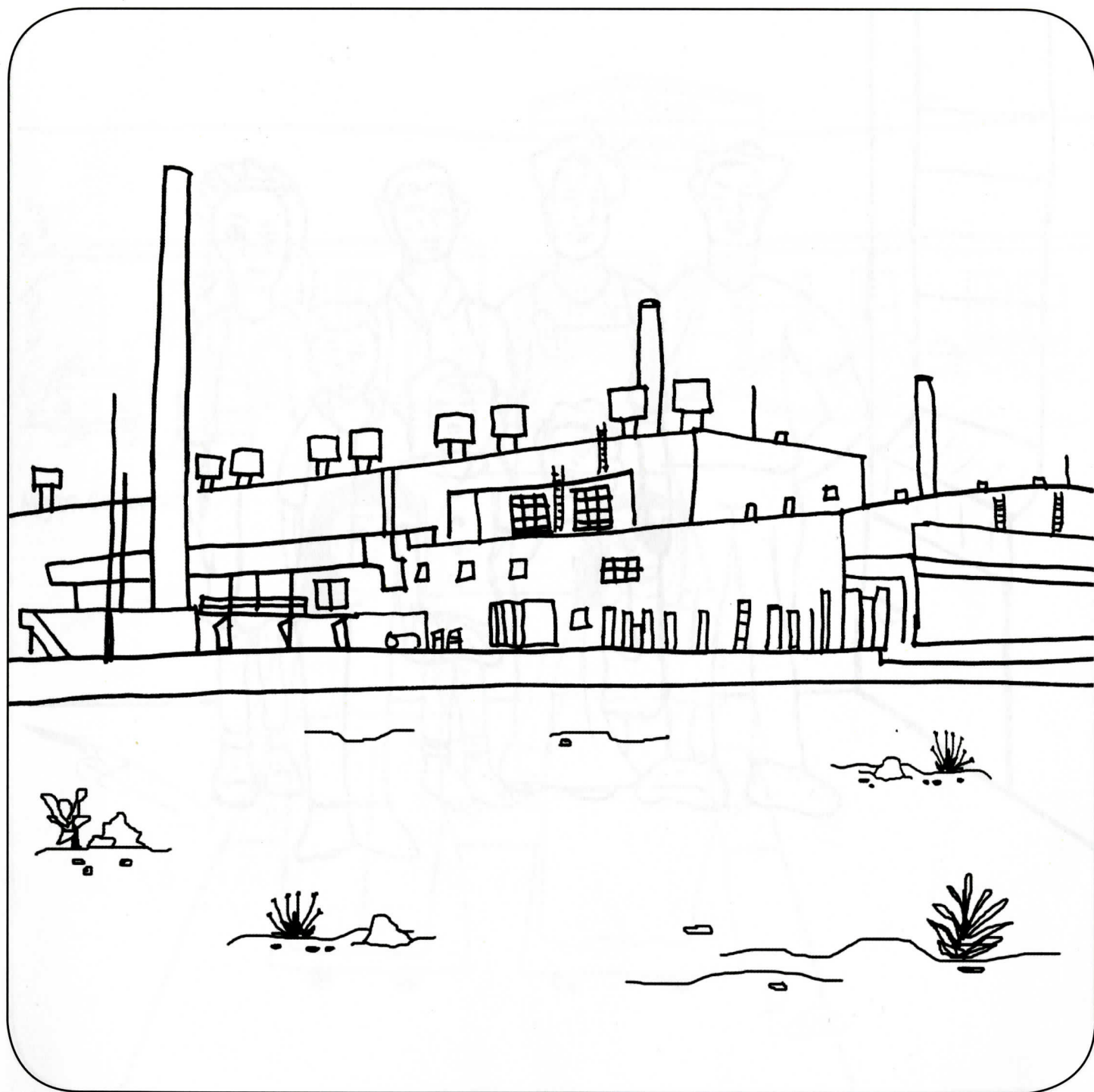
Today, **Henderson** is the second largest city in Nevada!



## **A** is for Anderson Camp.

The camp was a tent city built so workers at Basic Magnesium Incorporated would have a place to live. It was across Boulder Highway from the hospital. The dining room was big enough for 2200 men to sit down and eat at the same time. The chow hall was open 24 hours and served 20,000 meals every day.





## **B** is for Basic Magnesium, Inc.

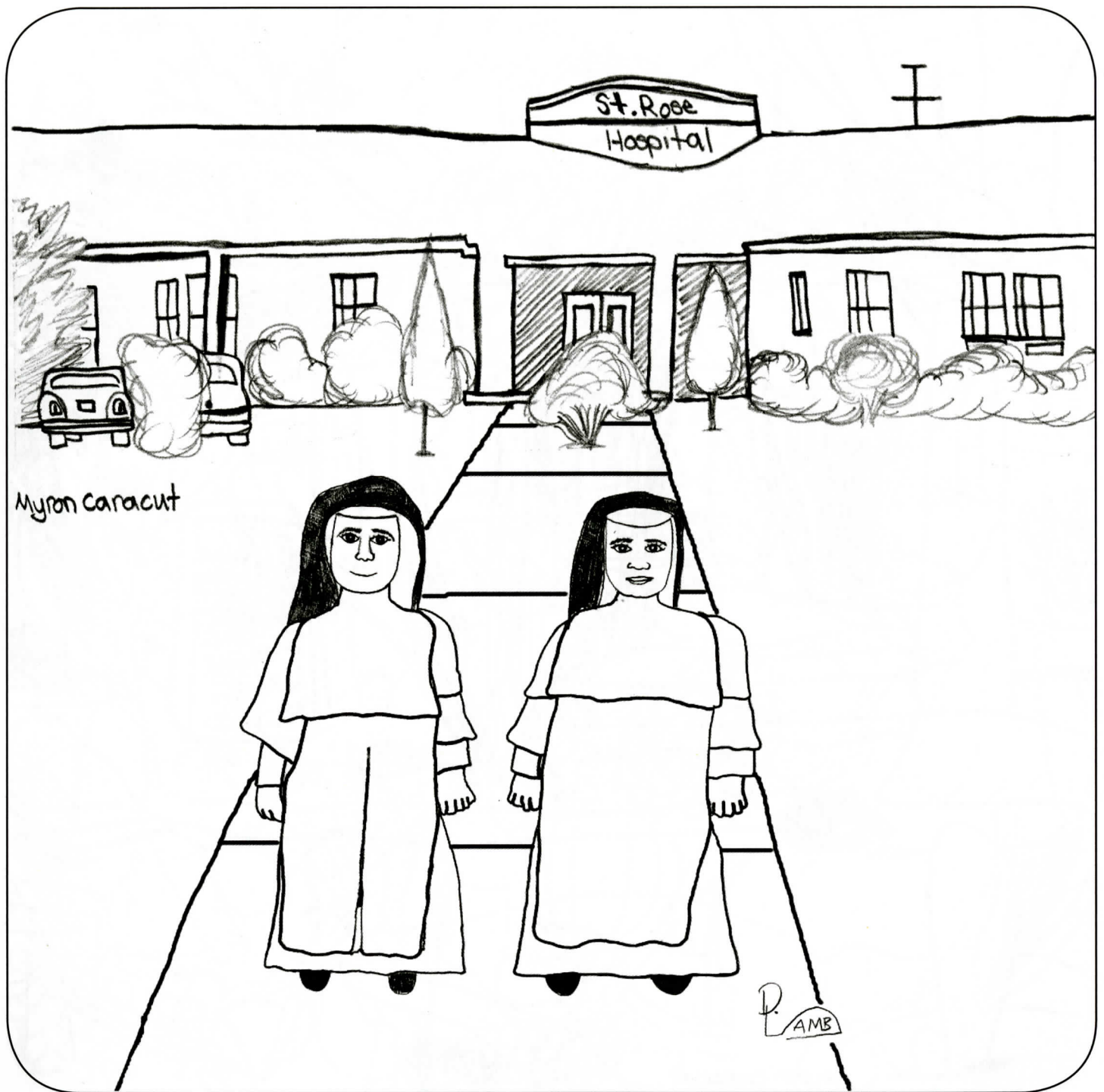
Basic Magnesium was started in 1941 to make a metal called magnesium. They chose this spot in the desert because the land was cheap, it was close to a railroad line, and electric power was available. This new company built a very big plant. At one point, there were more than 10,000 workers building the plant.



## **C** is for Carver Park.

Carver Park was a housing area for workers at the plant. It was opened in 1943 as the only place for non-whites to live. These long and skinny, one-story buildings each had four apartments in a row. Each room had one electric outlet and a single light bulb hanging from the ceiling.





## **D** is for Dominican Sisters.

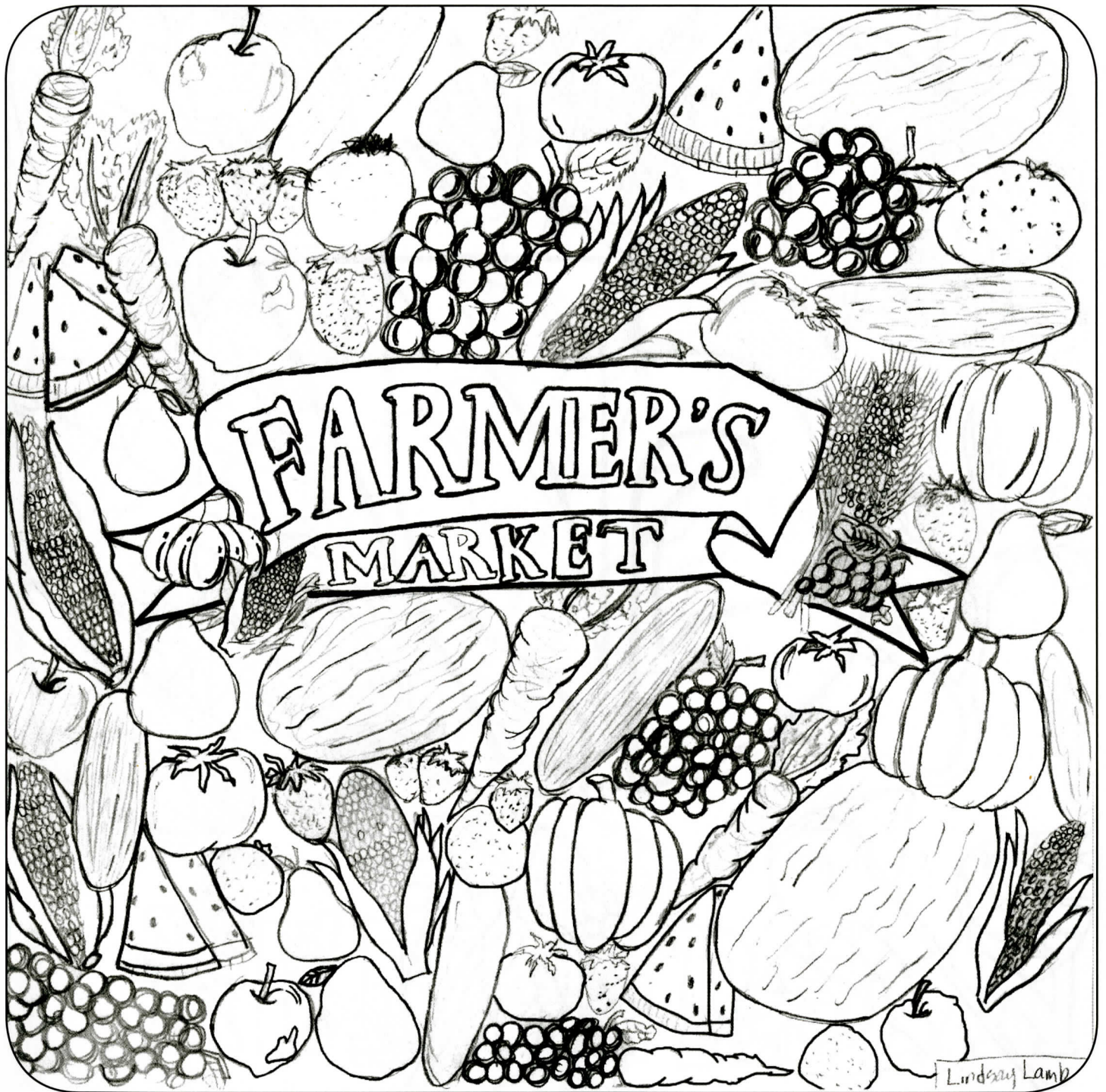
Henderson's original hospital was opened as Basic Magnesium Hospital. The government sold it for \$1 to the Adrian Dominican Sisters in 1947, and it was renamed Rose de Lima Hospital. A 3-story patient wing was added in 1960. The name was changed in 1989 to St. Rose Dominican Hospital.



## **E** is for Ethel M's Chocolate.

Ethel M's Cactus Garden & Chocolate Factory has large windows that allow visitors to take a tour to watch chocolate candy being made. Each visitor gets to choose one free sample. Yum! Visitors can wander through the cactus garden, which has more than 300 different kinds of plants.

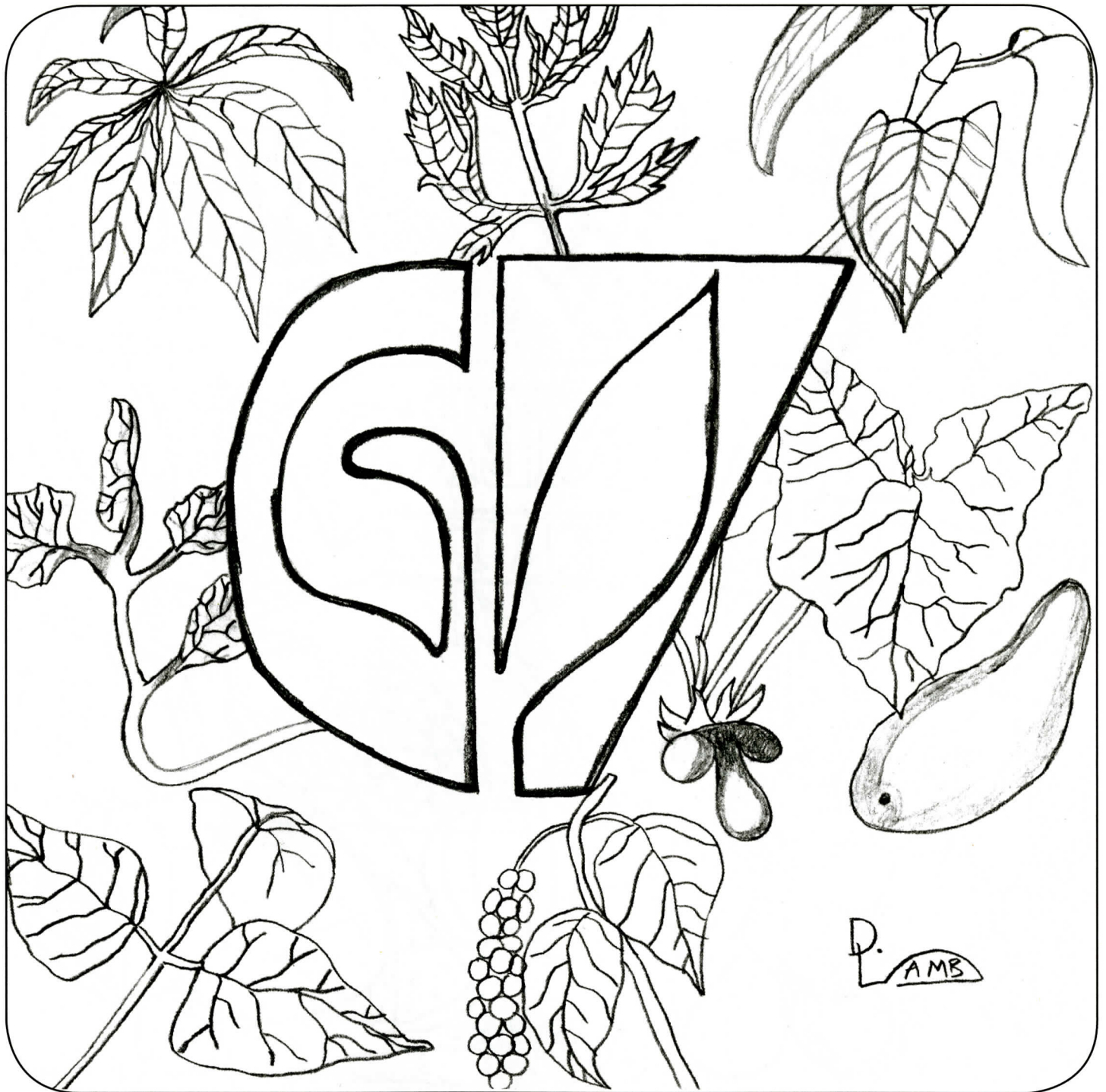




# **F** is for Farmers' Market.

Where should you go to find a juicy red tomato in the middle of the desert? You should go to the Farmers' Market in downtown Henderson. It started in April of 1999. The produce is fresh and comes direct from the farm. The market is a place where people can listen to music and visit with their friends and neighbors.





## **G** is for Green Valley.

**Green Valley was Henderson's first master-planned community. It sits on 8,400 acres of land that was owned by the Greenspun family. Green Valley was developed by American Nevada Corporation in the late 1970's. Now it has many different neighborhoods, parks, schools and shopping areas.**



By: Adam  
Railer



Mr.

HENDERSON

**H** is for Mr. Henderson.

Charles B. Henderson was the grandson of Nevada's second Governor. Charles was elected as a U.S. Senator from Nevada. He served on the national Recovery Finance Corporation, which funded the construction of BMI. Mr. Henderson never visited the town that was named for him.



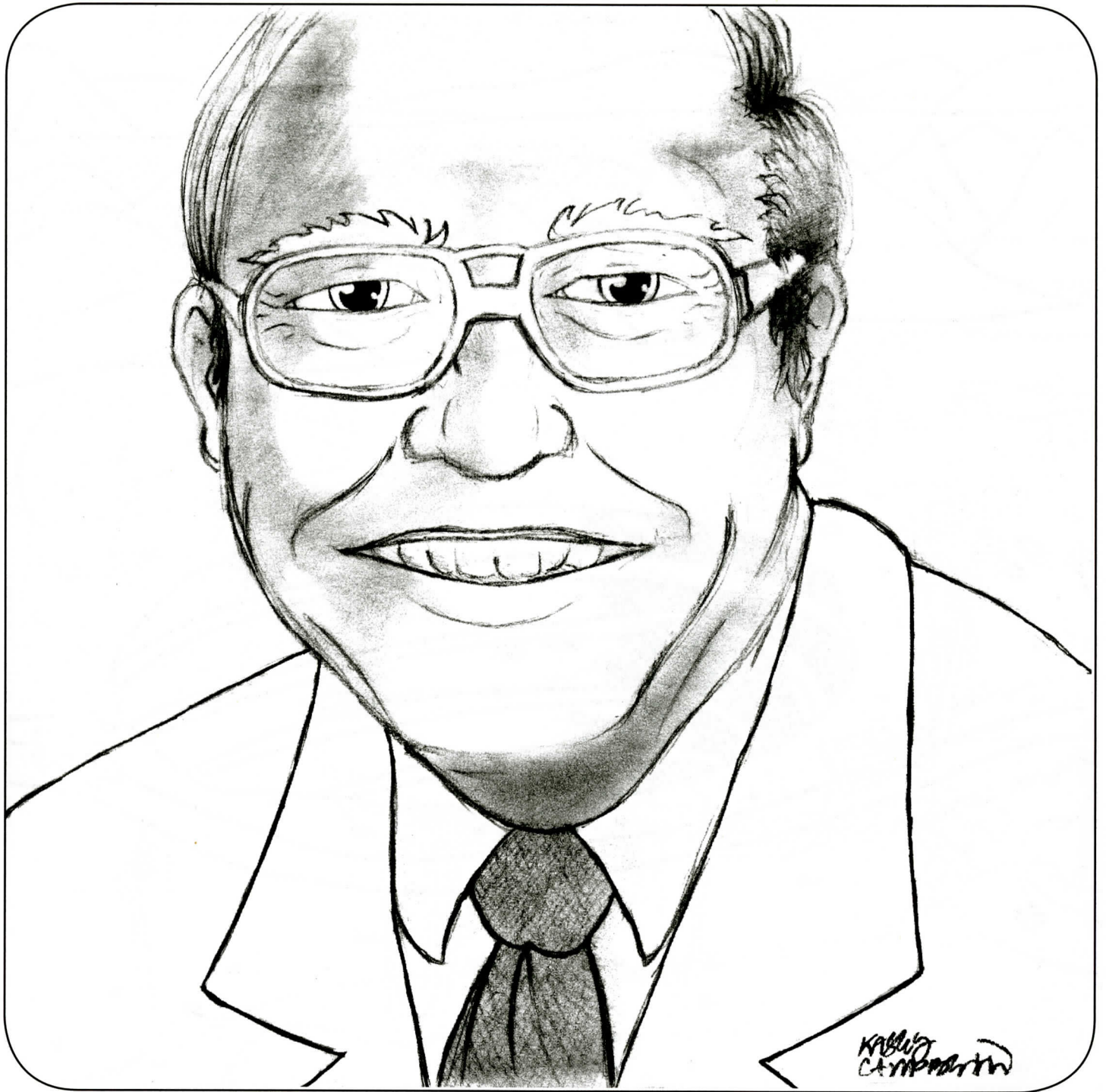
## History of Henderson 1942-1960



## ■ is for Industrial Days.

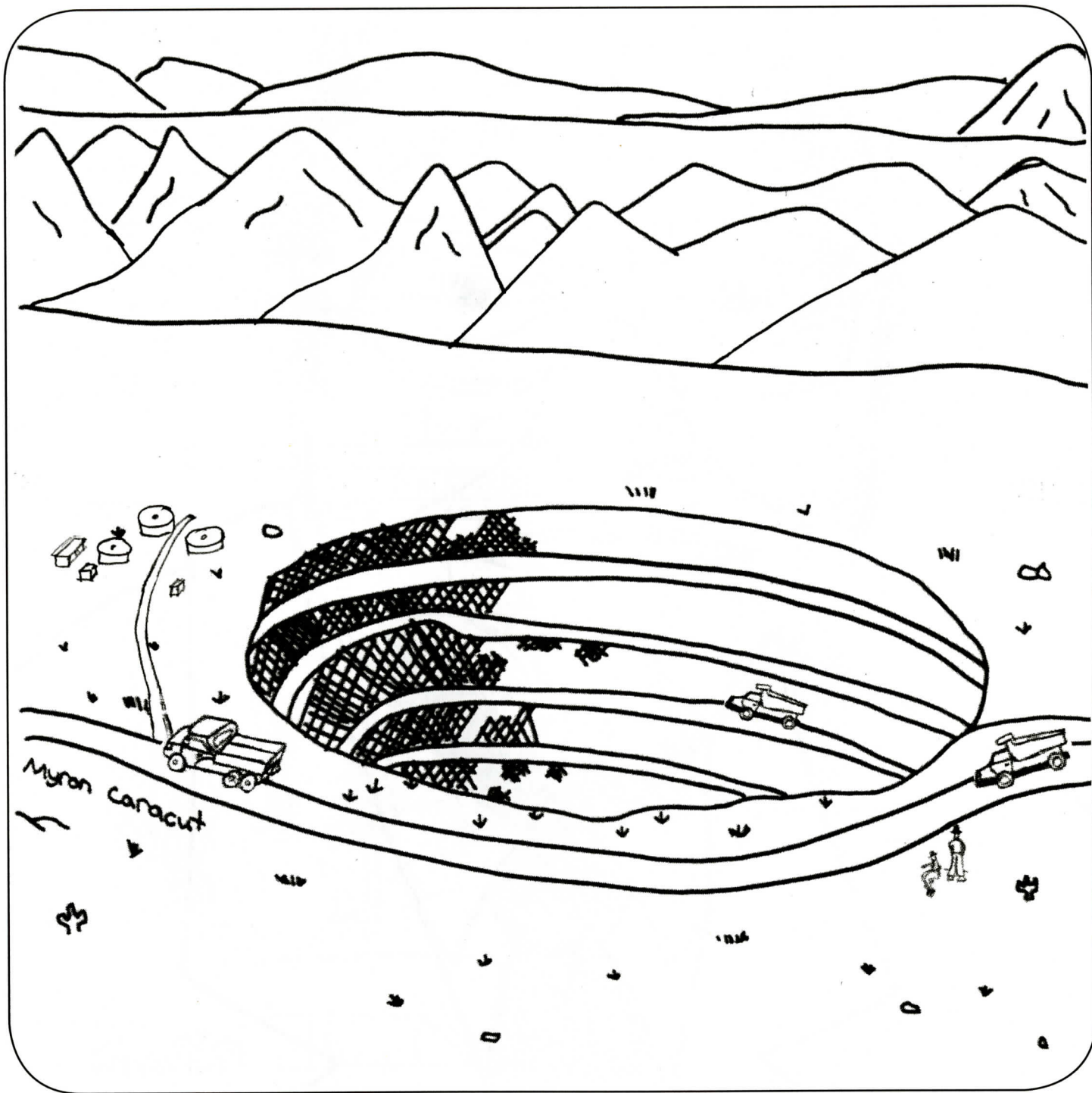
The first Industrial Days was held in 1951. It was a celebration to showcase the factories and manufacturing plant workers of Henderson. The festival included a parade with floats and marching bands. The name was changed to Heritage Days in 1996.





## **J** is for James I. Gibson.

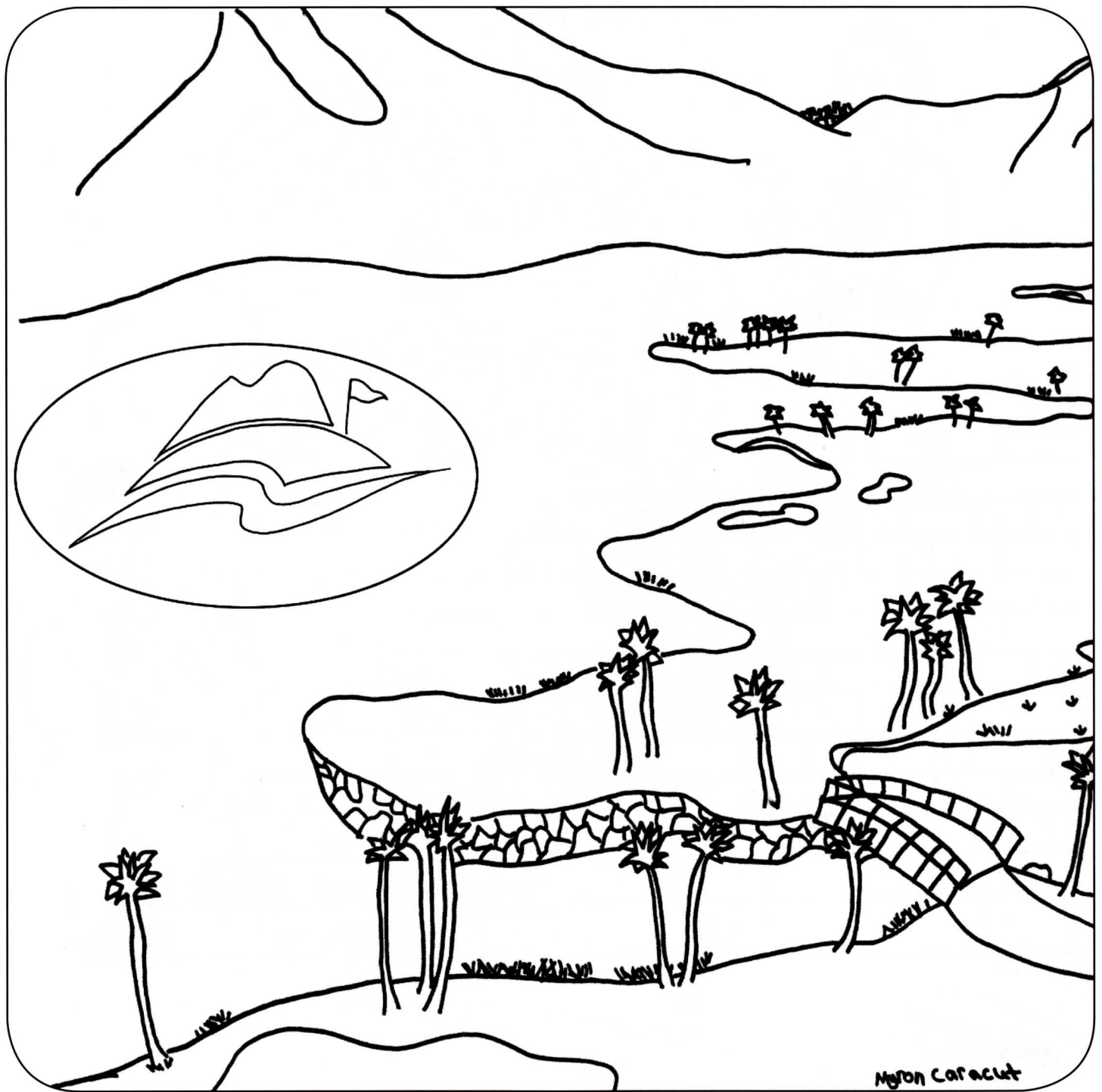
**James I. Gibson was influential in the politics of Nevada. He was elected to the Nevada State Assembly in 1958, and later served as the Majority Leader in the State Senate. The public library in downtown Henderson is named in honor of Mr. Gibson. His son, Jim is the current Mayor of Henderson.**



## **K** is for Three Kids Mine.

The metal ore mined here was manganese. It is a hard gray ore with some red in it. It is added to make iron and copper strong. At one time, many men worked at this open pit mine. The mine opened in 1918 and closed in July of 1961. The mine is inside the Henderson city limits, located south of Lake Mead Blvd.





## **L** is for Lake Las Vegas.

In the early 1960's, Carlton Adair had the idea to build a man-made-lake but not enough money to make the project happen. Finally, in 1987 the Bass Brothers began building on these 2,200 acres. Now Lake Las Vegas is a beautiful showcase of homes, golf courses, and hotels built around a man-made lake.



# M is for Mayors.

Henderson has a Council/Manager form of government. The mayor is a member of the City Council and is elected by the voters, as is the City Council. The City Manager is appointed by the Council.





## **N** is for Newspaper.

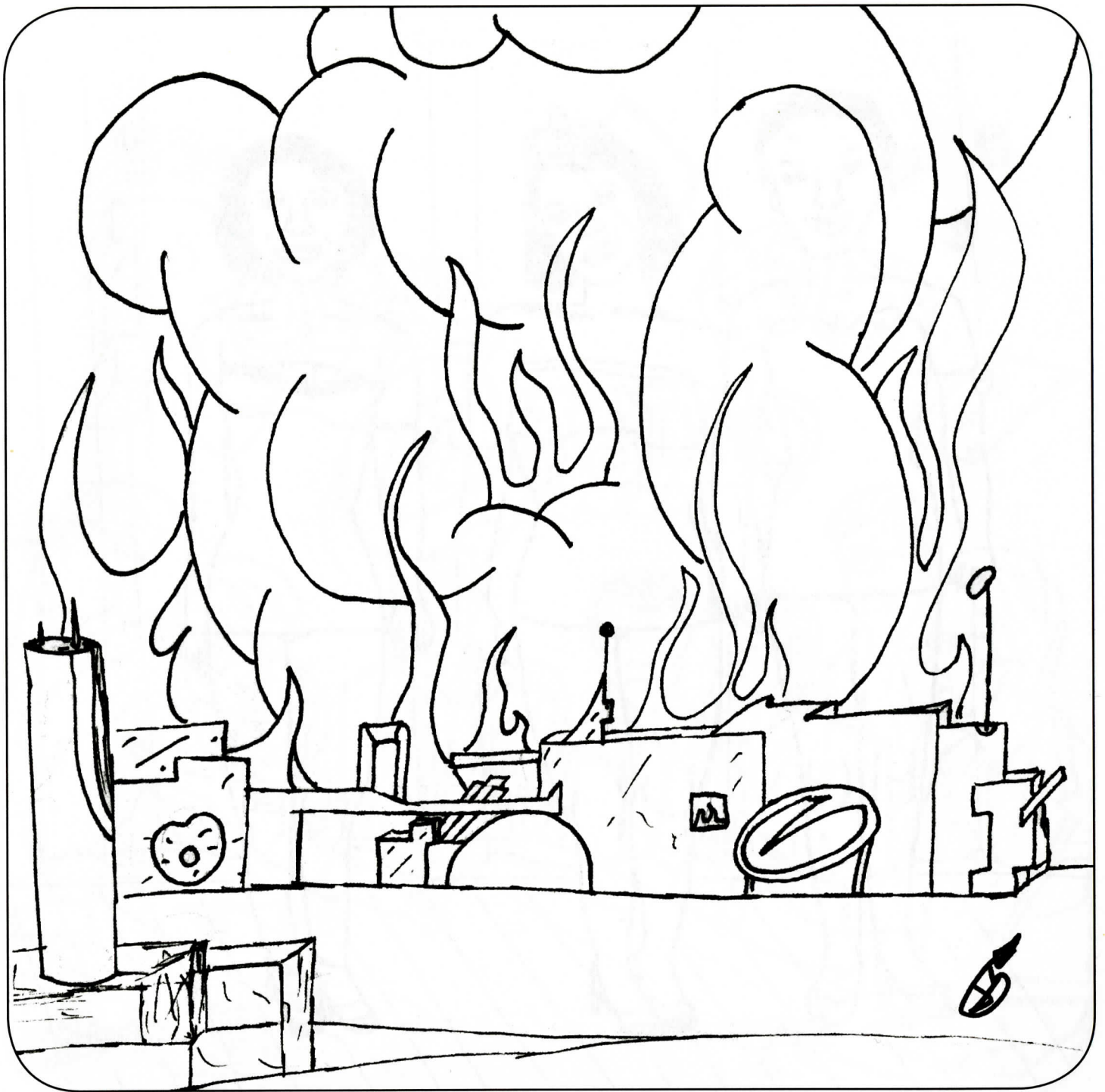
The Henderson Home News was first published as a weekly "hometown" newspaper in 1951. Mike O'Callaghan became a sportswriter for the paper in the late 50's. In 1981 the O'Callaghan family purchased the paper. Today it has a circulation of 15,000.



## **O** is for Old-timer.

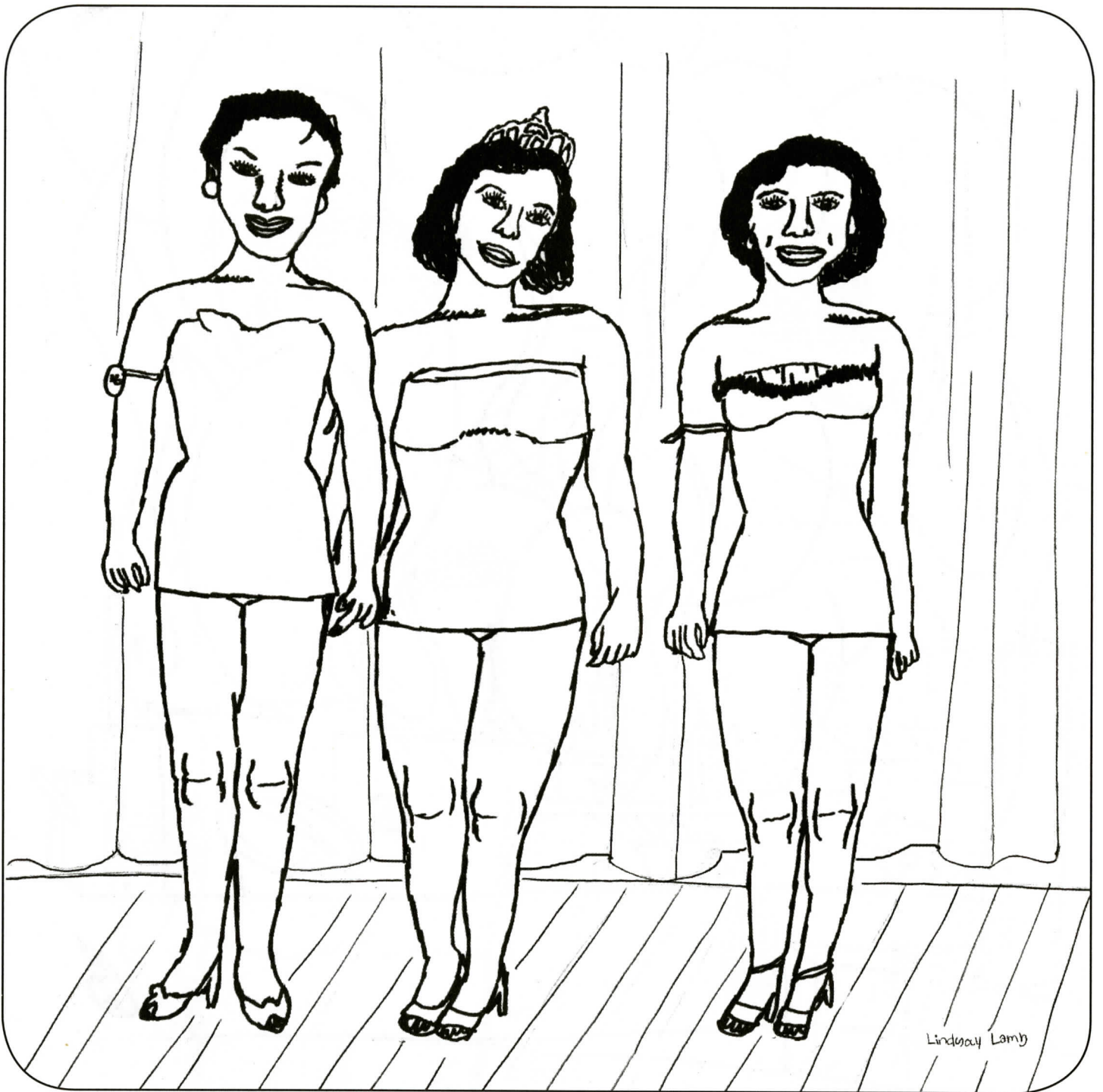
**Old-timer Hal Smith was on the committee to incorporate Henderson as a city. He retired from the U.S. Navy and was a businessman in the early years of this town. He represented Henderson in the State Assembly and Senate. He has seen the population grow from 7,410 in 1953 to nearly 220,000 today.**





## **P** is for PEPCON.

May 4, 1988 was a frightening day in this town. There was an explosion at the Pacific Engineering & Production Co. of Nevada, a company making rocket fuel. Two people were killed. Hundreds of windows were blown out in the downtown area. Schools were closed for two days.



**Q** is for the Queens of Industrial Days.

A beauty pageant has been part of the celebration in Henderson, since the first Industrial Days in 1951. The first pageant had 41 contestants. This picture shows the winners in 1955.





## **R** is for Royal Casino.

The first casino in downtown Henderson was the Royal. It was on Water Street. The Royal Casino later became known as the Eldorado Casino. Sam Boyd's sister Charlotte managed the Royal Casino.



## **S** is for Schools.

Townsite School, the first school in the area, opened in October of 1942 with 1,002 students and only 13 teachers! The name of the high school was changed from Railroad Pass High to Basic High in 1946. Basic was the only high school in the city until Green Valley High opened in 1991.





## **T** is for Townsite.

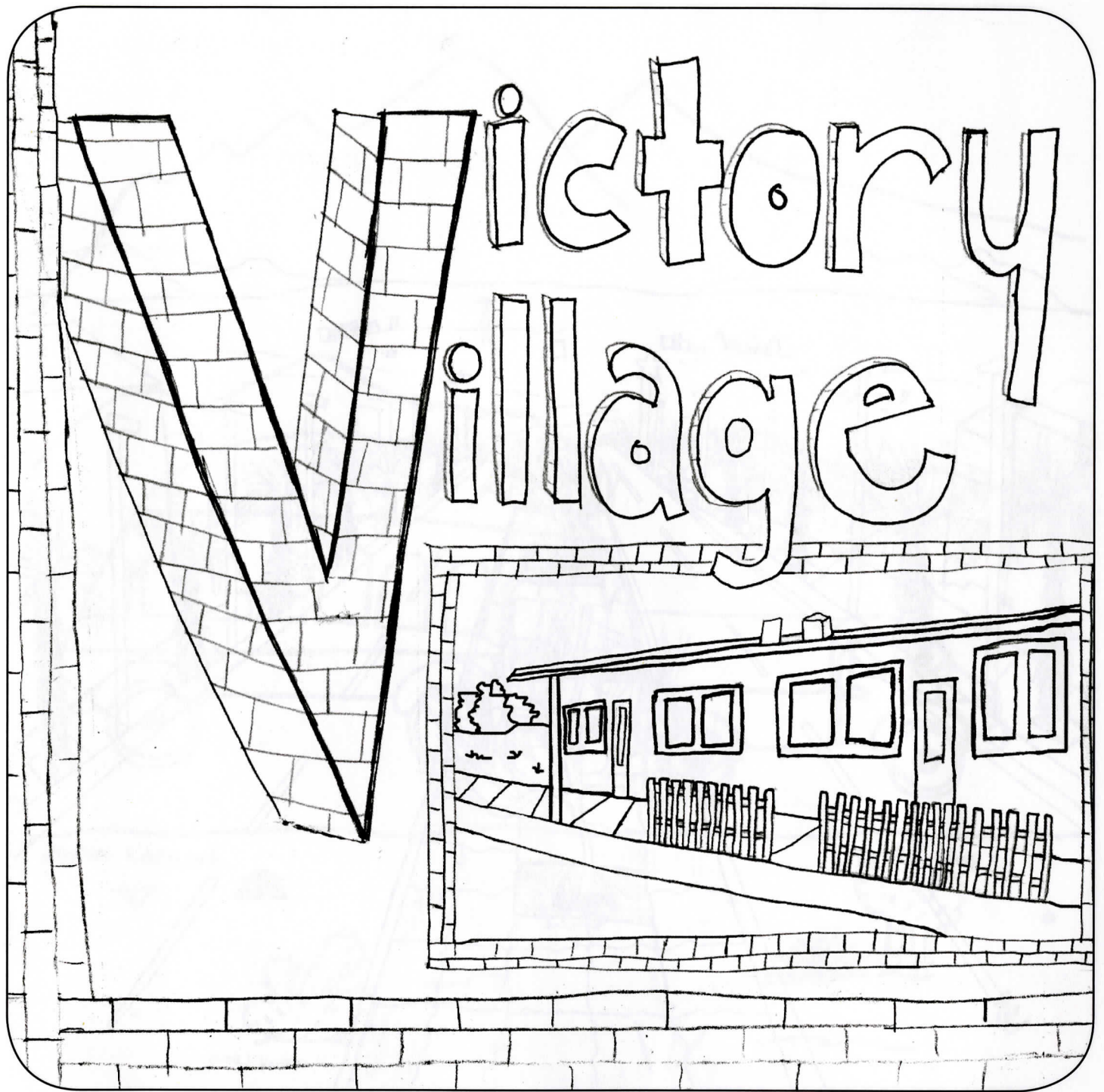
One thousand townsite houses were built for BMI workers and their families in the early 1940's. These redwood houses were pre-cut and were assembled when they arrived. The homes were meant to be temporary, to be taken down when the factory was no longer needed. Many are still in use today.



## **U** is for Undertaker.

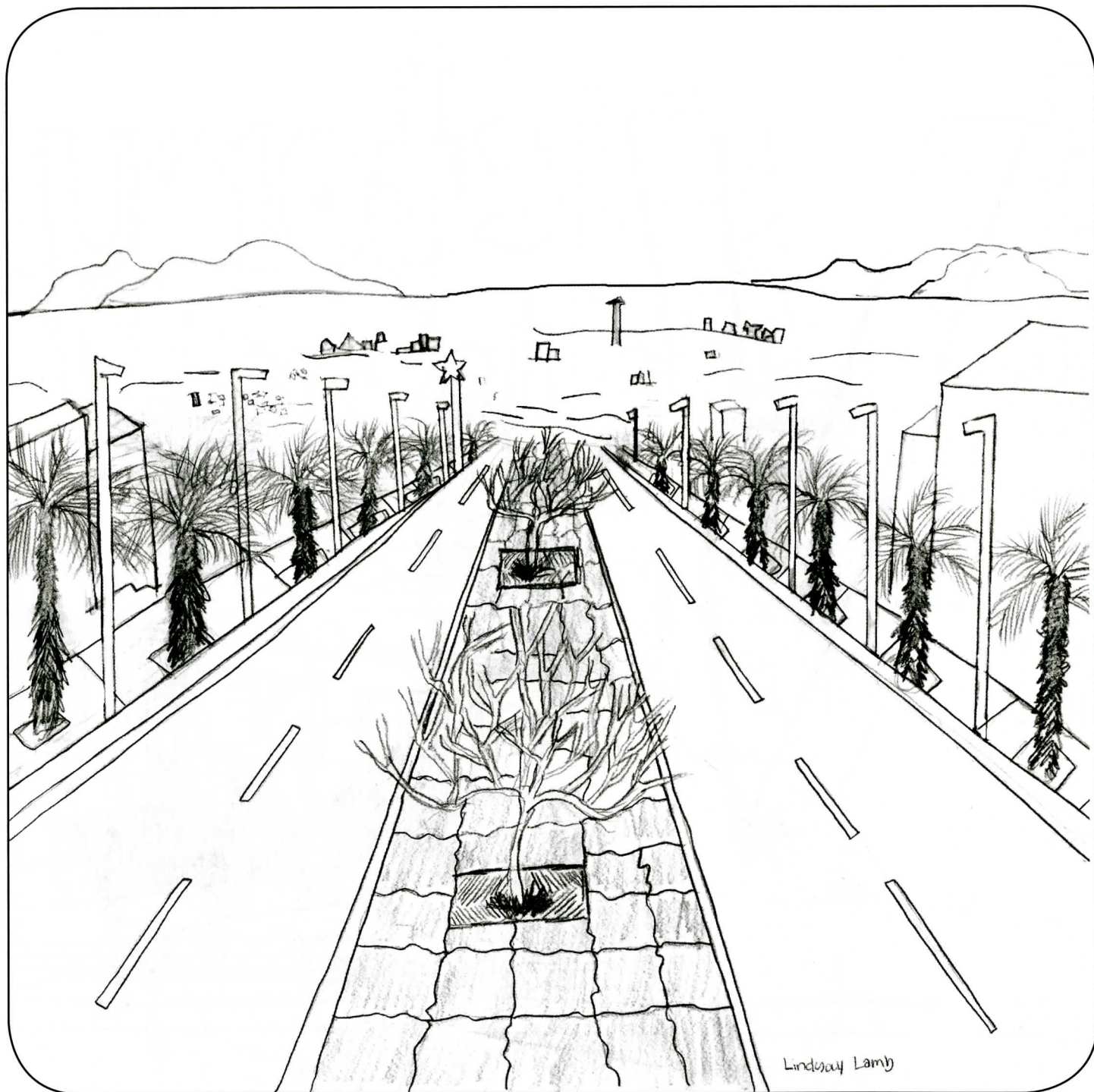
This community has used the services of Palm Mortuary since it opened in May of 1964. There were 39 burials that first year. Now it is the resting place for almost 5,000 people.





## **V** is for Victory Village.

**Victory Village was a 500 unit apartment complex, with several 1-story dormitories for 320 single men. Streets in this housing area were named for BMI plant bosses. By the early 50's, Victory Village was owned by the Clark County Housing Authority and was an inexpensive place to live. It was torn down in the 1970's.**



## **W** is for Water Street.

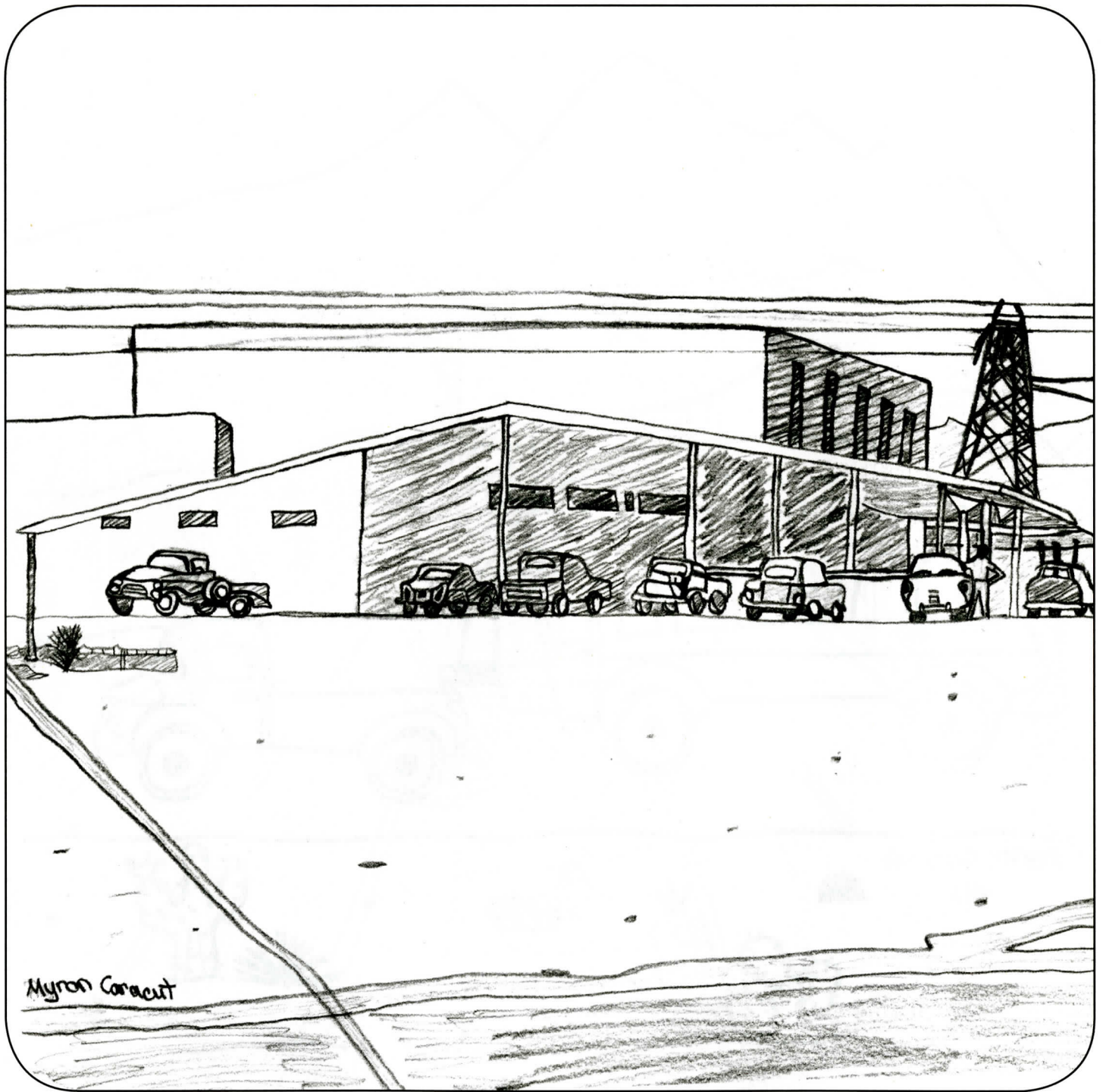
**Water Street is the main street of downtown Henderson. It got its' name because a very large pipe, carrying water to the BMI plants, runs down the middle of the street. Water Street is home of the Henderson City Hall, justice facility, Henderson Convention Center, and many businesses.**





## **X** is for Pony Express Stages.

The Pony Express Stages was the company that had a bus service for people who worked at the plant. There was only one bus. It went to all of the housing areas. To ride the bus, you had to buy a ticket for \$1. It was good for 20 rides! The bus driver didn't collect money. He just punched the ticket.



## **Y** is for Youth Center.

Many organizations held fund-raisers to make enough money to build the Youth Center. For the biggest event, a stage was put on the football field. Performers from Las Vegas came to help raise money. Frank Sinatra, Sophie Tucker, and Dennis Day donated their talent that night.





## **Z** is for Morry Zenoff.

**Morry Zenoff bought the Boulder City News in 1948. Three years later, he started the Henderson Home News. His editorials were called “Morry’s Story”. He owned and operated Henderson’s first radio station, KBMI. It broadcast from a converted bomb shelter on the BMI grounds.**

# Credits & Special Thanks

This coloring book was the brain-child of Janet Bremer, who has been a fourth grade teacher in Henderson since 1985. She has been the State of Nevada Social Studies Teacher of the Year and the Nevada Mining Association Teacher of the Year. She received two Clark County School District Excellence In Education Awards—one for developing an exemplary Christmas card economics unit for fourth grade students and another for creating a high interest unit in which students use research skills, writing and art to create puppet plays featuring historical characters. Janet and a colleague, Rick Rogers, had the idea for a mining experience for students, which became the McCaw School of Mines.

Thank you to the former McCaw Elementary students who helped make this coloring book possible by drawing all the images you see on the pages. Also, special thanks to Production Art for the graphic design and printing coordination of this project.

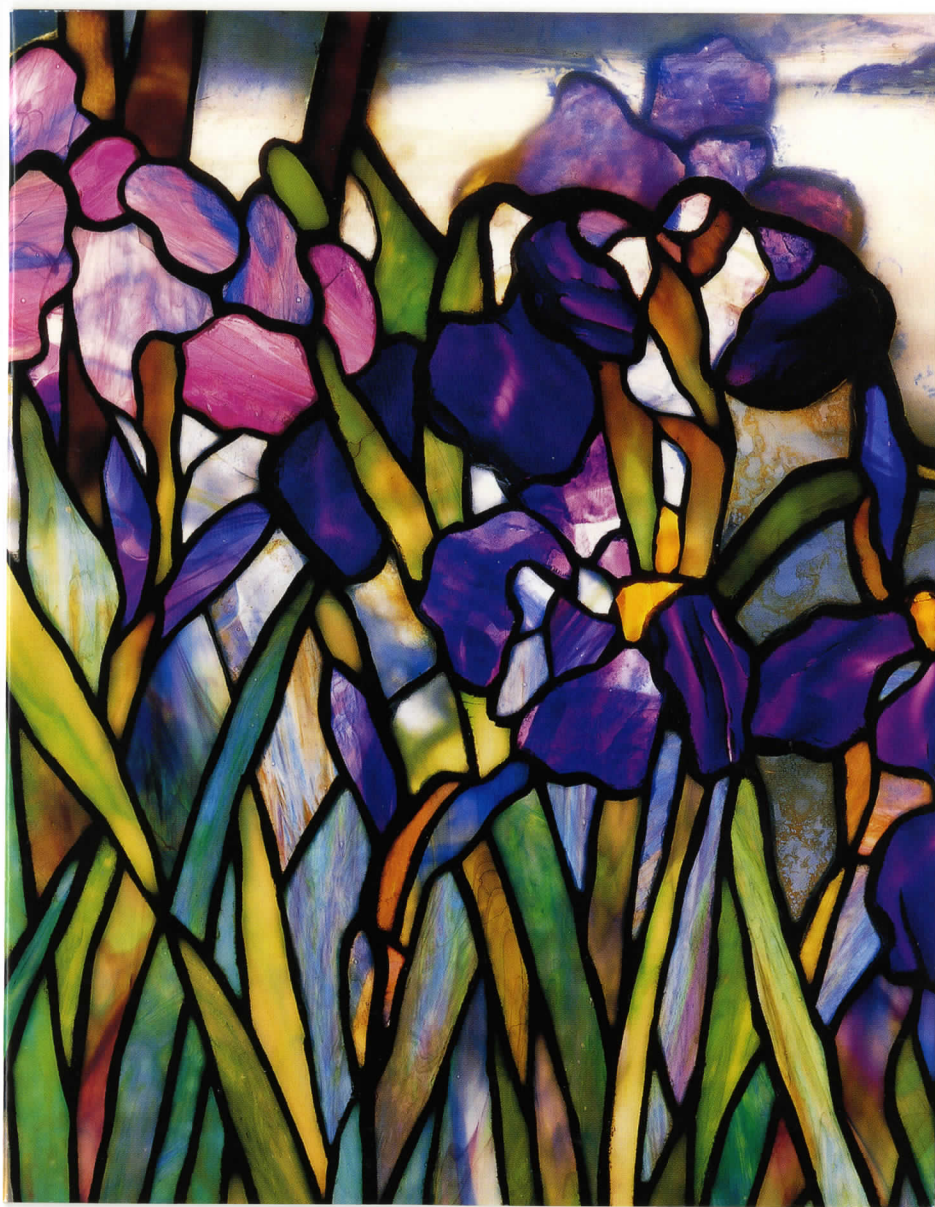
The profit from sales of “H is for Henderson” will go to the McCaw School of Mines Foundation, which provides for the operation and maintenance of the McCaw School of Mines in downtown Henderson. The Foundation also provides free bus transportation for student field trips to the McCaw School of Mines, where students “experience” Nevada history as it relates to Nevada’s second largest industry—mining.

The McCaw School of Mines Foundation has 501c(3) charitable status and is identified by EIN #88-0366126.



The McCaw School of Mines Foundation  
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Boss —

You KNOW that book  
wouldn't be sitting here today  
without you. We ALL know  
that.

Thanks for the push —  
the calls — the research — the  
writing — the contacts — and,  
of course, the editing.

Janet (the author!)



*City of  
Henderson*



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