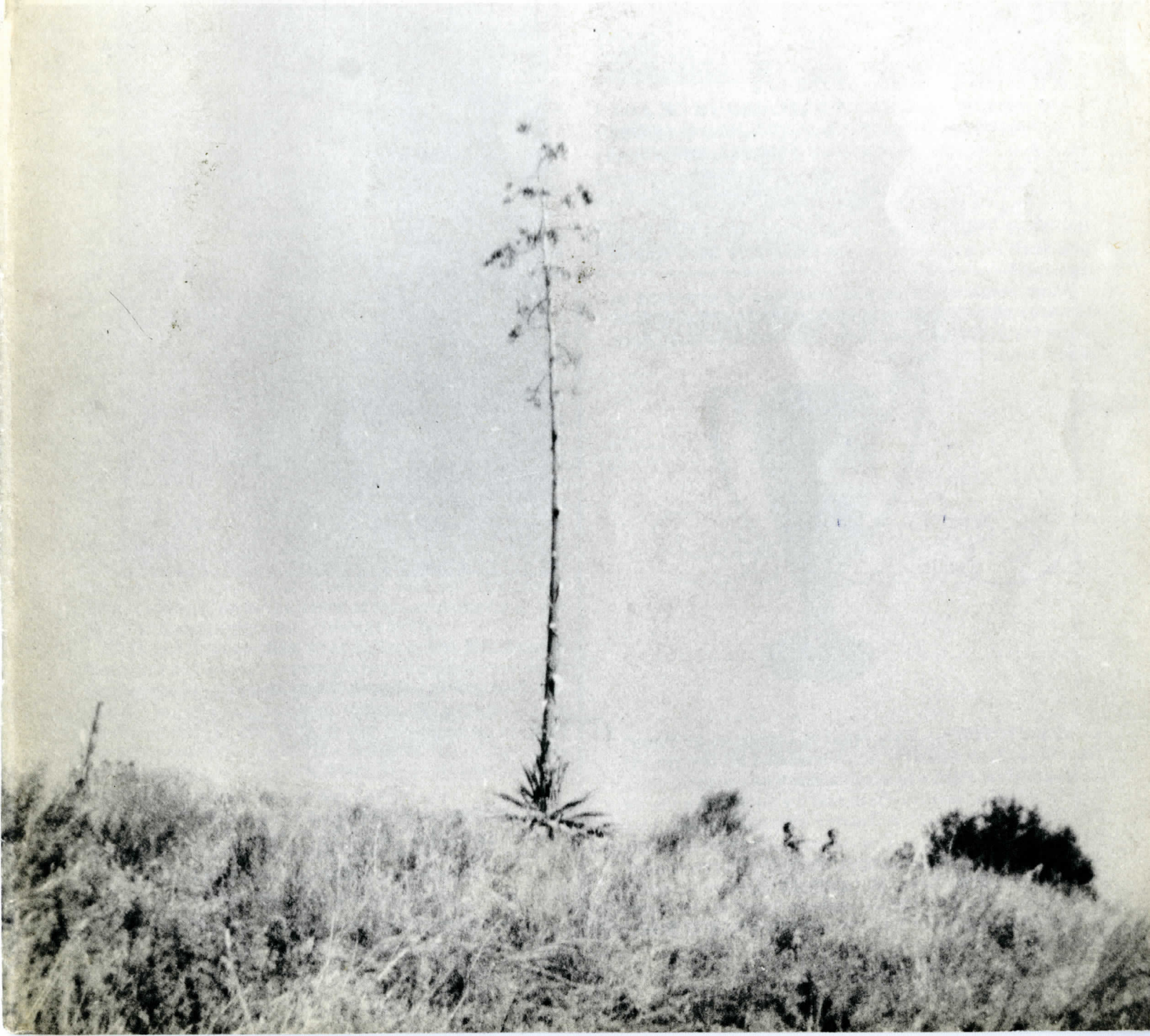


Gordon M. McCaw Library - 914
Henderson, Nevada

HISTORY OF HENDERSON



THE EXPLOSION AT FRENCHMAN'S FLAT

Just before dawn on Saturday morning, January 27, of the year 1951 in the Atomic Age, Truck Driver Jack Palsgrove of Henderson, Nev., was approaching Las Vegas from the south. Suddenly the desert to the north was lighted dramatically by the most tremendous "flash" he had ever seen. "First there was a brilliant white flash", the truck driver was quoted in the Deseret News of that date. "Then at the top a little later there was a red cluster above the white flash. It was so brilliant that I seemed to go blind for a time."

Palsgrove guessed rightly that he had been a long-range witness of the first of the second series of atomic bomb explosions in the United States, conducted in great secrecy by the Atomic Energy Commission at a desert wasteland known as Frenchman's Flat, 45 miles northwest of Las Vegas.

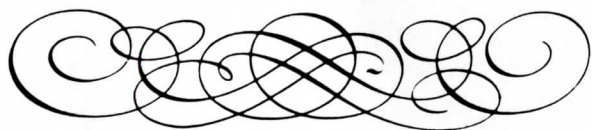
This photograph was the first released by the AEC. It shows the blast at close range.

So far as is known, Palsgrove, who resides at 249 Major Ave. was the only person outside the AEC to witness that first shot at the Nevada Test Site.

Now an employee of Post Transportation Co., Jack well remembers that morning in 1951. He was coming up the south side of Mountain Pass and was almost at the top when he saw the flash of the bomb.

"I thought the Basic Magnesium Plant had blown up," he recalls. "I was sick with fear as my family lived in the Basic Townsite only a short way from the plant and such an explosion would leave very wide spread damage."

Atom bomb watching was practiced by everyone in the area after that first shot. Nobody knew that it could harm the eyes and hadn't the remotest idea that there was danger from fallout.



COVER PICTURE— This plant is known as a "Tuna" for which Tuna Street which connected all the streets in Magnesium Park was named. The Tuna plant is commonly called a Century Plant and we once had a bloom in Henderson on Atlantic Street near the Neighborhood Church. The flower stem grew as much as 18 inches in a single night and the stem grew higher than the rooftop. Tuna or American Aloe is actually a member of the Lily family, and are found in the lower end of Pahrump Valley just on the other side of Mountain Pass.

ATOMIC STREET--The Atomic Energy Commission maintained strict secrecy about the explosion of atomic bombs at the Nevada Test Site; but the well-known radio news commentator Walter Winchell never failed to tell "Mr. and Mrs. America and all the ships at sea", exactly when each explosion was going to occur.

Hundreds of people from California and other parts of the nation were always on hand to watch the fireworks.

Las Vegas gambling halls advertised these spectacular air shows on postal cards and dubbed the town, "the up and atom city", and Henderson named one of her streets for them.



Industrial Days Program Committee
Chairman: Roy Campbell
Pictures: Basic Photo
Executive Director: Gary Johnson
Layouts: Gary Johnson
Staff: Patty Stratton & Ruth Thompson
History of Henderson Author:
Rachel M. (Rae) Von Dornum
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Henderson Chamber of Commerce
Henderson, Nevada

1974 HENDERSON INDUSTRIAL DAYS DEDICATION

TO AMERICA-THE BEAUTIFUL

by **LYAL W. BURKHOLDER**

America is a Great Nation. A nation becomes Great and holds Greatness not only because of rich natural resources; strong economic productivity; or dominance in military strength; but most of all from the national pride, sincere love and devotion to country that its people hold for it. Measured in this concept of love and devotion to country by its people, The United States Of America Stands Tall among the nations of the World.

From the rugged coast of Maine to the Golden Gate of California, almost every hamlet, village and city, once each year, stage a public, community exhibition designed to proclaim, to itself and to the nation, its national pride and sincere love of country.

These annual community celebrations take many forms and portray a multitude of themes but all have in common a basic feature designed to highlight a distinct local product, manufactured or agricultural, or to perpetuate an item of local historic lore, that has, over the years, contributed not only to the development of that particular community, but to the overall Greatness of The United States Of America.

Many of these community celebrations have grown into national spectacles that stir the patriotism of the entire nation. Who has not thrilled to the extravaganza of the Pasadena Tournament of Roses; the many football bowl game parades of Oranges, Sugar, Pineapple, Cotton and many more? The Tulip Festival of Holland Michigan, the Cheyenne, Wyoming Round-Up, the Las Vegas Helldorado, the North Las Vegas Progress Days, the Boulder City Rodeo, and most meaningful to us, the annual Henderson Industrial Days Celebration. Our celebration like all others, is designed for expression of community pride, respect for State and love of Country. Yes, we are proud to be a part of this Great America, and our Industrial Days Celebration is the voice of this community in the Song of Community and National Pride.

This year, more than ever before, the Henderson Chamber of Commerce extends to you a warm, personal invitation to visit and enjoy a series of art, cultural, sports, parade and carnival events, all designed as a re-dedication to our faith in our government, respect for our laws, concern for the preservation of our environment and to a more efficient use of our natural resources.

To this festive spirit, a somber note of dedication is extended to the memory of Robert Olsen who worked faithfully for many years as a member of the production Committee for Henderson Industrial Days.

Visit our celebration; we will be glad you came and you will have fun.



LYAL W. BURKHOLDER—came here when the Henderson school opened in 1942 as the first Principal of Basic High School and later became Superintendent of the Henderson School District. Now retired, Mr. Burkholder has been one of the most active workers of the Industrial Days Celebration since its inception.

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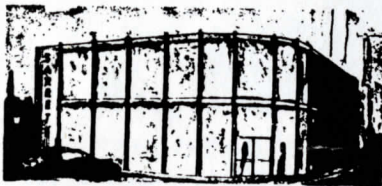
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HISTORY OF HENDERSON

How Our City Streets Were Named

How Our City Streets Were Named Volume 2

By Rachel M. "Rae" Von Dornum

Henderson's first subdivision was built by Federal Homes Development Company, through the interest of local business men and U. S. Senator Pat McCarran, D. Nev.

The Henderson Home News office on Water and Atlantic streets served as an office for Federal Homes when the first 150 houses were sold, the week of October 20, 1951. The homes, to be built along Basic Road, were called "Freedom House."

By July, 1952 there were 45 families living in their new homes on Victory Road and it was reported that 125 homes would be completed by July 10.

On July 3, a model home was opened, to start the sale of homes in the second section of Freedom Houses to be built in the triangle behind the hospital. Mr. and Mrs. Morry Zenoff, owners and publishers of the Henderson Home News and Boulder City News, occupied the model home.

Section Three of the Freedom Houses was constructed in the area bordering Atlantic Street. Streets in this area were named by the subdividers.

Streets along Basic Road, in addition to Victory Road were named for metals used in the manufacture of titanium metal. These include Zirconium Way, Rutile Way, Ilmenite Way and Perlite Street.

Streets in "The Triangle", as section two is now known, were named by Don Ashbaugh, a well-known newspaper editor and reporter, who at that time was serving as Secretary of the Colorado River Commission.

Ashbaugh later worked as editor of Zenoff Publications and other area newspapers and is the author of a book on Nevada Ghost Towns.

Ashbaugh decided it would be fitting to name the streets as a tribute to local people who had lost their lives during the early days of the town.



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Continue on Page 4

CHURCH STREET--was named for Ben Church, the second superintendent of the Henderson School District.

Church served as superintendent from the fall of 1948 until his death during the summer of 1950.

With his wife and daughter, Mr. Church was enroute to his family home when he suffered a fatal heart attack. They had encountered very heavy rains and flooding along the road almost at the end of their journey.

It was reported that his daughter administered the last rights of the church to him beside the road.

In addition to Church Street; the former School Superintendent was honored by having the football field on the Townsite School Campus named the Ben Church Memorial Stadium.

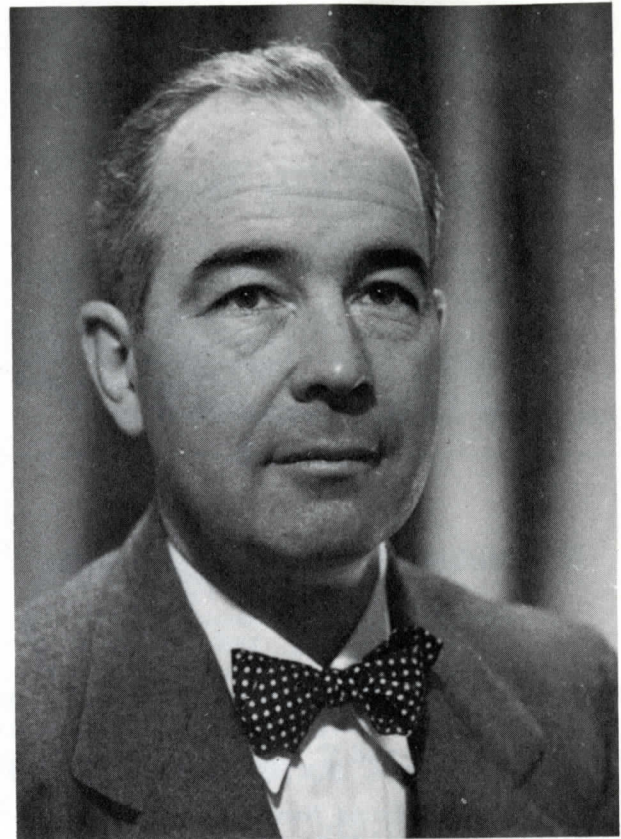
MALLORY STREET--was named in honor of John Mallory, son of Jack and Doris Mallory, original owners and operators of the Swanky Club.

The Mallory family came here in 1946 and opened the Swanky Club, which brought the first smorgasbord to this area. Prior to their marriage, Jack and Doris had each been married and each had a son named John. Jack adopted Doris' son, which gave them one Jack Mallory, Sr. and two juniors.

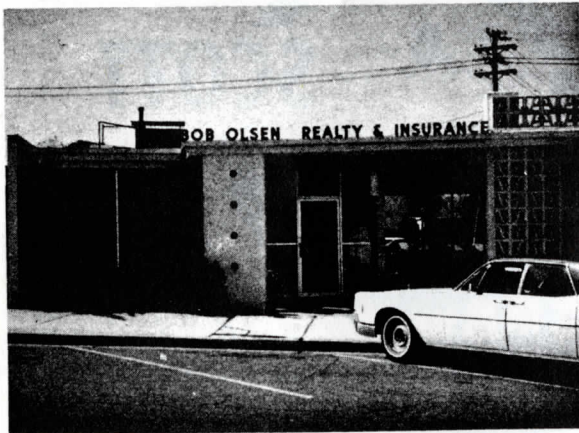
John William Mallory, for whom the street is named, graduated from Basic High School prior to entering the U. S. Army. He was Jack Senior's adopted son. He lost his life during the Korean conflict.

After selling the Swanky Club Jack and Doris decided to retire, but they found they were much happier work-

Continue on Page 5



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ing and are presently operating a place called "Mal-lory's on Nellis Blvd., ably assisted by Jack's sister, Pearl Phluger.

Doris said that she and Jack felt greatly honored to have one of Henderson's streets named for their son.

LASWELL STREET--was named in honor of Luther Laswell, who also lost his life during the Korean conflict.

Luther was the son of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas D. Laswell of Pittman and attended Las Vegas High School, prior to his enlistment in the U.S. Army.

Mr. Laswell was a carpenter and there were a number of children in the family, most of whom still reside in this area.

At the time of his death, Luther was married and the father of one child.

BROWN STREET--was named for Don Brown, a young Henderson man who was killed by a hold-up man, and his mother whose death is believed to have been caused by the shock of her son's death.

Brown was employed in a service station in Boulder City when he was robbed, kidnapped and killed. The murderer hid Brown's body a short distance off Boulder Highway, between Railroad Pass and Henderson.

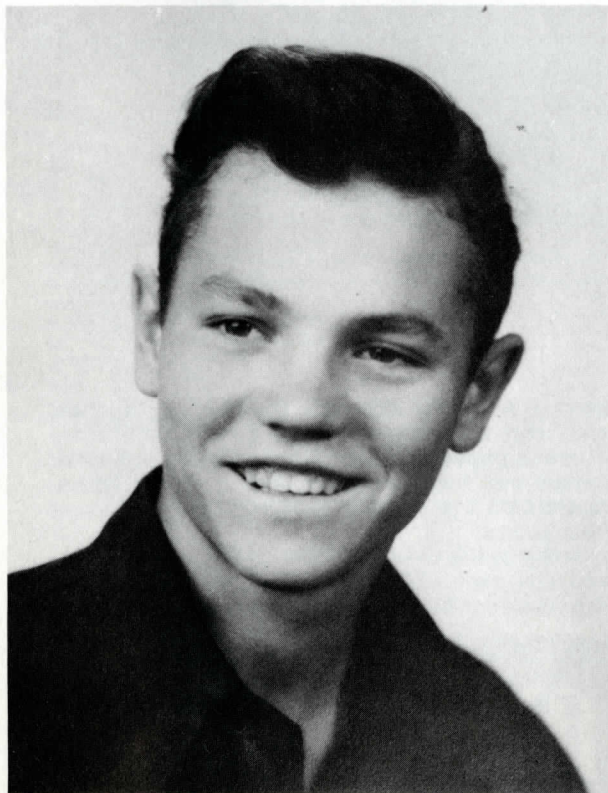
The search for Brown, or his body, went on for many days before he was discovered in a shallow depression in the ground.

The oil company which owned the station offered \$1,000 for evidence leading to the murderer's arrest

Continue on Page 8



LUTHER LASWELL
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Many of the over 200 folks at Stauffer-Henderson have been with us since 1945; men and women like George Black, Arlene Carter, Paul "P.D." Harris, Elmer Hilsinger, Rae Martinez, Sam Schiers, Chuck Trueworthy and Frank Bleak.

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WINNIE A. (POP) HANSEN

and conviction and this was collected by a maid who discovered Don's wallet in a motel room she was cleaning in Las Vegas.

Mrs. Brown was a teacher in the Henderson school. The shock of her son's death and the long search for his body so upset her that she was unable to return to school after vacation until the end of September.

When she did go back to school, she had a heart attack and fell dead on the campus before reaching the door of the school house.

HANSEN STREET--was named in honor of Winnie A. "Pop" Hansen, a former guard at the BMI Plant, who was killed while on duty as a deputy for Sheriff Glen Jones.

Hansen worked at the Basic Plant from 1942 until it closed in 1945., then spent a year as a guard at Manganese Inc. before going to work for Glen Jones as a deputy sheriff.

He worked out of the Henderson sub-station, a little shack which was located on what is now Atomic Street at Market. In those days, his wife Edrie says, most of the police work was helping people, finding lost youngsters, etc.

Hansen was killed by a hit-run driver while writing a ticket for a traffic violation on Boulder Highway near the corner of 25th Street, on Christmas night 1950.

Continue on Page 9

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FRANK E. STURM

STURM STREET--was named for Frank E. Sturm who was killed in a tragic boating accident on the Colorado River. He and his wife, Thelma, had gone out fishing from Willow Beach and their boat capsized. Friends in another boat rescued Thelma but were unable to save him.

Sturm was serving with the Sea Bees when Mrs. Sturm came here in 1943 and went to work in the out-patient clinic at the hospital. He was a 32nd degree Mason and in addition to being honored by having a street named for him; the Frank E. Sturm Chapter of DeMolay was also named as a living tribute to his memory.

Mrs. Thelma Sturm was a school nurse here for over 24 years.

HAYNES DRIVE--the access road between the Townsite area and Boulder Highway, was so named in honor of W. O. "Hook" Haynes who was killed in an automobile accident between Henderson and Vegas Wash in April of 1954..

Mr. Haynes was a partner in the architectural firm of Miller, Haynes and Smith during the early days of the city. Later he went into the heavy construction business with his own firm, W. O. Haynes, Inc.

He also became a partner in the architectural firm of Haynes and Welbourne and it was this firm which did the architectural work on Basic Elementary School, "now Gordon McCaw School", and the Valley View School.

Continue on Page 18

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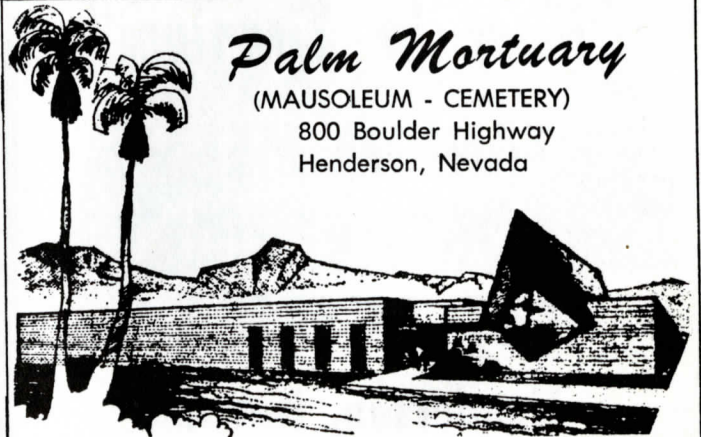
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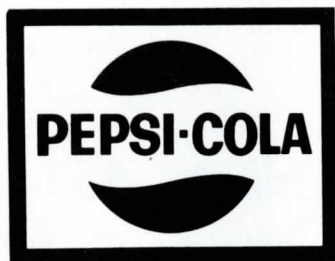
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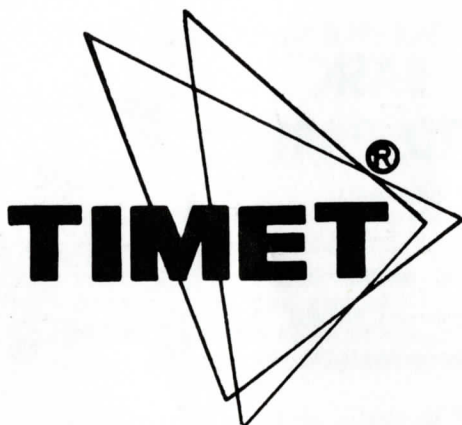
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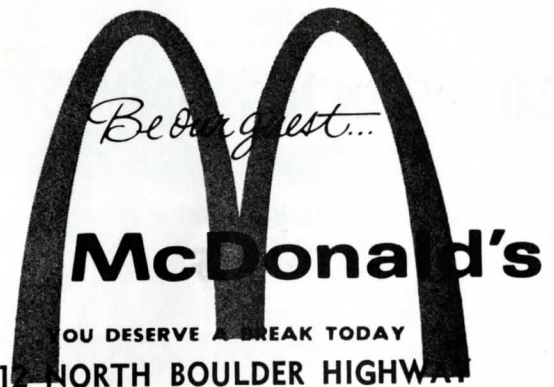
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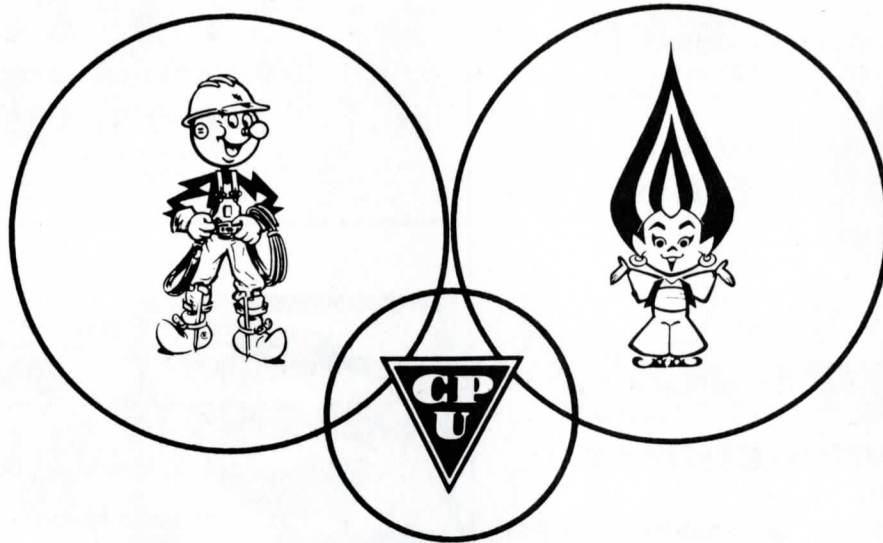
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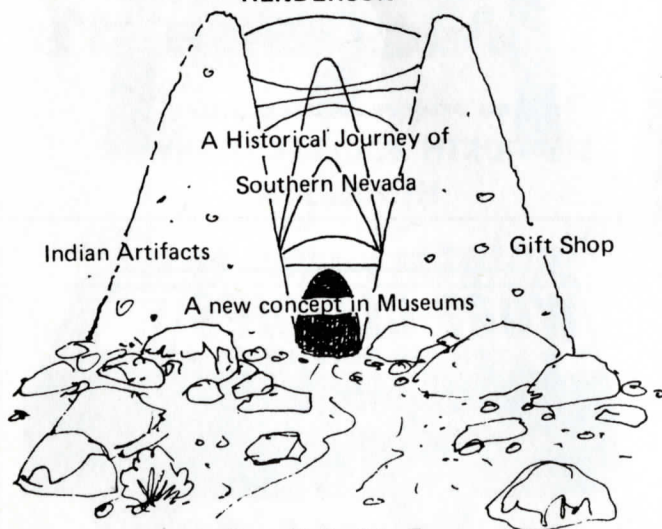
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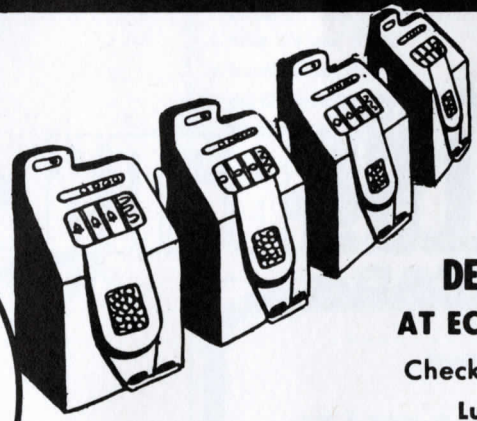
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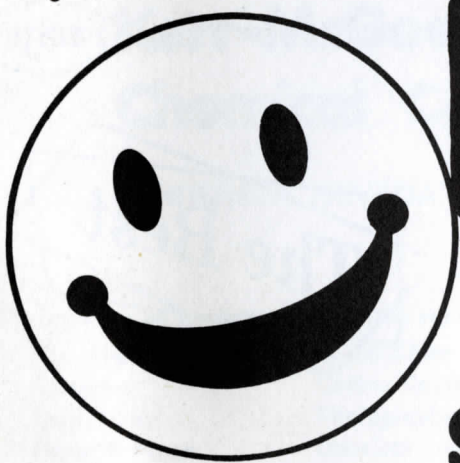
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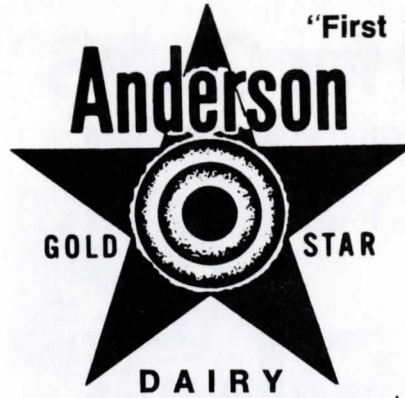
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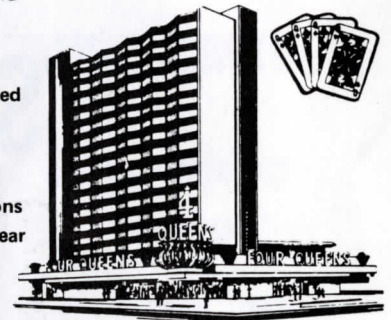
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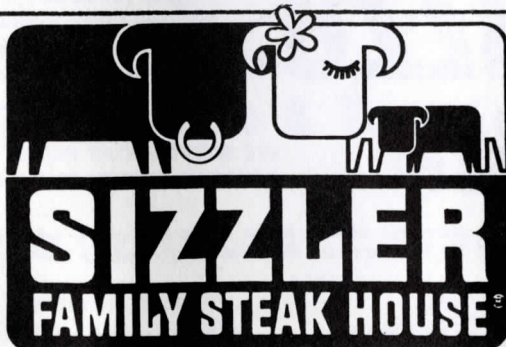
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In addition to being honored by a street name, Mr. Haynes was also memorialized by the Community Church with the naming of their chapel, Haynes Chapel. Mrs. Haynes has continued to reside here and is a member of the Community Church.

TITANIUM STREET--the access road between the Triangle and Boulder Highway, was so named as a second choice. Originally this street was called **MUEHLEISEN STREET** in honor of Herman Muehleisen who died while serving as Director of Public Works for the City.

The people in that area protested that the name was too difficult to pronounce and spell and at the insistence of the residents of the Triangle, the name was changed to Titanium.

TUNA STREET--in Manganese Park, which connects all the streets, which are named for cactus, is not named for a fish. The fish canned under the trade name Tuna are albacore, tunny and bonito.

Mr. Ed Hesna, who came here from Yucatan, phoned to tell us that tuna was not a fish but sisal. Being completely ignorant of what sisal is he advised us to look it up in the dictionary.

Noah Webster says: sisal is the same as sisal hemp, which in turn is listed as the fibre of the agave of Mexico and Yucatan. There is also a port in Yucatan named Sisal.

The finest of all hemp rope, according to Mr. Hesna, is made from the flower stems of sisal, which are sometimes forty feet high. These stems are soaked in water and the fibres are separated and made into rope; one of the major products of Yucatan.

Sisal is native to Mexico where the stems are used for making razor strops and the fibre of the leaves is used to make thread, rope and paper.

The agave, or sisal is also native to this area, although it does not grow in such size or profusion as it does in Yucatan, Mexico or Arizona.

We once had an Agave bloom in Henderson, on Atlantic Street near the Neighborhood Church. The flower stem grew as much as 18 inches in a single night and the flower stem grew higher than the rooftop.

The agave or American aloe is actually a member of the lily family. It has often been seen blooming in the lower end of Pahrump Valley just on the other side of Mountain Pass. It is more commonly known to us as the Century Plant. It was once thought that these blooms appeared only once each century; however this is untrue although each plant blooms only once and then dies.

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Gordon M. McCaw Library - 911974 HENDERSON INDUSTRIAL DAYS
 Henderson, Nevada SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 17

Beauty Pageant Burkholder Junior High 7:30 pm

FRIDAY, APRIL 19

Talent Show Basic High School 7:30 pm
 Plant Bowling Henderson Bowl 10:00 am

SATURDAY, APRIL 20

Rodeo Pittman Arena, Burns Rd. 10:00 am
 Plant Bowling Henderson Bowl 12:30 pm

SUNDAY, APRIL 21

Plant Bowling Henderson Bowl 10:00 am
 Rodeo Pittman Arena, Burns Rd. 11:00 am

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 24

Carnival Community Center 3:00 pm

THURSDAY, APRIL 25

Carnival Community Center 3:00 pm

FRIDAY, APRIL 26

Art Show Community Center 10:00--7:00
 Hobby/Craft Show Youth Center 10:00--7:00
 Carnival Community Center 3:00 pm

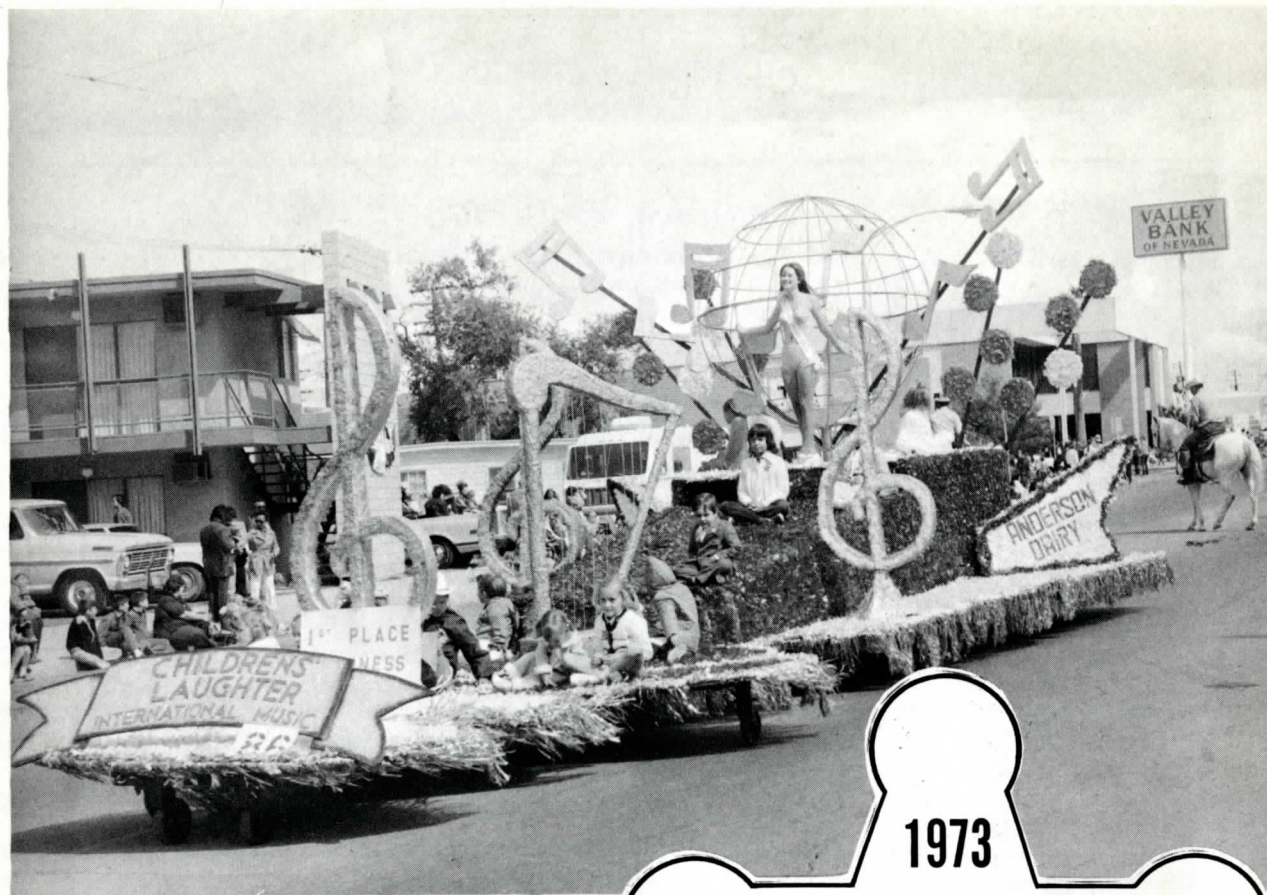
SATURDAY, APRIL 27

Golf Tournament Black Mountain Golf Course 7:30 am
 Art Show Community Center 10:00--7:00
 Hobby/Craft Show Youth Center 10:00--7:00
 Carnival Community Center 10:00--7:00
 Pony Express Relay Swanky Club to Chamber Office 10:00 am
 Parade Water Street 2:00 pm
 Governor's Dance Time & location to be announced later
 Trophy Presentation Community Center - outdoors 6:00 pm

SUNDAY, APRIL 28

Golf Tournament Black Mountain Golf Course 7:30 am
 Carnival Community Center 1:00 pm

Grand Marshalls will be March of Dimes Poster Children, David Lawrence & Scott Hafen.



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- 1957 -- BASIC HIGH SCHOOL (Desertaires)
- 1958 -- BASIC HIGH SCHOOL (Desertaires)
- 1959 -- HENDERSON PHONE COMPANY
- 1960 -- HENDERSON PHONE COMPANY
- 1961 -- BASIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
- 1962 -- BASIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
- 1963 -- BASIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
- 1964 -- HENDERSON JAYCEES
- 1965 -- HENDERSON JAYCEES
- 1966 -- BASIC MANAGEMENT, INC.
- 1967 -- ANDERSON DAIRY
- 1968 -- ANDERSON DAIRY
- 1969 -- ANDERSON DAIRY
- 1970 -- ANDERSON DAIRY
- 1971 -- BASIC MANAGEMENT
- 1972 -- ANDERSON DAIRY
- 1973 -- ANDERSON DAIRY

1973

Sweepstakes Trophy Winner

Henderson Industrial Days

Plan Now... to Have Your Organization Enter A Float in the Parade Next Year