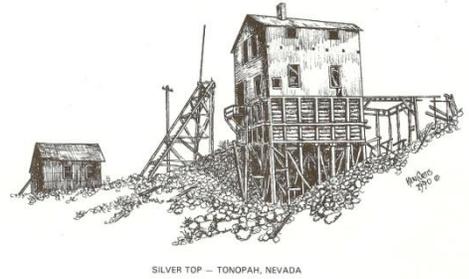


Tailings



Blacksmithing at the Mining Park The Seven-Year Itch

When Mike and Marti Barth heard about Conrad Baker's Eagle Scout Project of setting up a Blacksmith Exhibit at the Park they were excited. Being members of the Tonopah Historic Mining Park (THMP) and the California Blacksmith Association (CBA), the couple asked the Foundation if they could have blacksmithing classes at the Park. With the approval of the Foundation, and after securing a Humanities Grant, CBA Instructors, Josh Buhlert, Anne Compton and the late Eden Sanders hauled CBA's blacksmith equipment to the Park and our first blacksmithing classes were held in August 2010 in the outside area behind the Mizpah building and Conrad's exhibit. This area was secluded and out of the wind.

As the program grew, the original location became too small and our classes were re-located outside the Framing Building.

Former Town Manager, James Eason recognized the significance of this program to the Mining Park and the Town of Tonopah. With the assistance of Town employees, he created a specific blacksmithing area at the Park by moving tons of rocks to our new, much larger site. THMP Foundation member, "Stretch" Baker assisted by moving two small historic wood buildings (one with an older non-working generator) donated by Dr. Dees which allows us to store our coal, coke and equipment. Our students and the general public can purchase fifty-pound bags of coal or coke from the Park.

Designed for those with an interest in learning the fundamentals of blacksmithing, and/or continuing their education, students learn to light and work with a coal forge to heat metal to more than red-hot and then to use hammers and other tools to forge, bend and twist the hot metal to desired shapes. Students work hands-on with a coal-burning forge and learn to forge iron into useful and decorative items. Completing three to five projects in a weekend, students are pleased with how much they have created and learned. Classes are

designed to meet our students' skill level. Our classes are intended for adults; however, well-behaved young people are invited to participate when accompanied by an adult. Class size is limited to ten students in order to provide one-on-one instruction. Our 2017 summer blacksmithing classes will be held on June 24 and 25 (sold out), July 29 and 30 and August 26 and 27. Registration forms are on the Mining Park's website: www.TonopahHistoricMiningPark.com under Events. Certified Blacksmith Instructor, Michael Barth has been teaching our classes for the last six years. We have been fortunate to have guest instructors (and CBA members) CBA President John McLellan, Brett Moten, Mike Mumford and the late Mike Stanton. For more information on our blacksmithing classes check out the mining park's Facebook page and our "Blacksmithing at the Tonopah Historic Mining Park" Facebook page. We encourage those interested in the art of blacksmithing to join us. Visitors are always welcome to come, observe and take photos.

Thank you to the late John Livermore of Public Resources Foundation for donating the seed money to begin the Tonopah Historic Mining Park (THMP). Thanks also to the THMP Foundation, Nevada Humanities and the California Blacksmith Association for helping us start our program. Our dream would have never come to fruition had it not been for Conrad Baker's "Blacksmith Shop" Eagle Scout project, with the assistance of his dad, "Stretch" Baker. Former Town Manager James Eason, Former THMP Foundation Chairman, Mimi Rodden, with Tonopah Town Manager Joe Westerlund, Town employees, Chris Mulkern, Becky Braska, Jeff Martin, Shari Bombard, Manny Linares and Dallas Boyer, our anonymous "blacksmithing angel", donors: locals Chris Bramwell, John Campbell, "Stretch" Baker and Bob Wickenden, Frank Beers, Dan Brown, Dann DeBoer, Dan Jorvig, Rick Kilgore, Eric Kuhlmann, Bill Larson, Patty Manhire, Linda Murphy, the McCaw School of Mines, Ken Roberts, Dave Sanders and THMP Foundation member Bill Wahl. Arts4Nevada.org, Nevada Humanities, NV150.org and the Tonopah Times Bonanza Newspaper advertised our events. Our certified instructor, Mike Barth and his wife, Marti Barth, our Volunteer Blacksmith Facilitator, have dedicated countless hours and their own funds to further the development of our blacksmithing program. We are grateful to the Best Western Hi-Desert Inn, Jim Butler Inn and Suites and the Tonopah Station who have graciously accommodated our blacksmith instructors and their assistants.



After attending three of our classes, Joe Sisson created these fine works of art. He is looking forward to our 2017 classes.



Classes are filling up quickly with new and returning students. We are at a point in our program where we have more students than we can accommodate. In order to continue growing our program, the Park needs more equipment and the funds to hire an additional blacksmith instructor to teach our returning students. Donations of blacksmithing tools and equipment are always needed and tax deductible.

Our blacksmithing classes started with Conrad Baker's Eagle Scout project. With a lot of hard work, networking and support, what once was a dream of having blacksmithing classes at the Park has become a reality. We need a sizeable secure building with barn doors or a pole barn, which would allow the Park to have classes in inclement weather. We are hoping to find another Eagle Scout or organization in need of a local project. Help us expand the "Blacksmithing as an Art" program.

**Join us for Jim Butler Days
May 26th through 28th in Tonopah, Nevada**



The Nevada State Mining Championships will be held at the Mining Park on Saturday, May 28, after the parade. For more information check out: www.TonopahHistoricMiningPark.com

Membership Benefits

Park members receive a ten percent discount on all store purchases, blacksmithing classes and coal.

The Mining Park is open seven days a week excluding Federal holidays. Our summer hours are 9 am – 5 pm.

Editor: Mimi Rodden

Production Coordinator: Marti Barth

Photo Credit: Marti Barth, Shari Bombard, John Cardoza, Paul Pace, Stanley Paher, Christy Perry and Joe Sisson

Find us on  and  Youtube

"Tonopah Historic Mining Park"

"Blacksmithing at the Tonopah Historic Mining Park"

Mining Park Membership

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Sustaining Copper Member:

\$250 - \$499

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Sustaining Gold Member:

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Hydro-Electricity to Tonopah

The Mining & Scientific Press on December 31, 1904 had two articles regarding infrastructure for a bustling Tonopah. Water supply was now assured with the completion of the eight-inch water pipeline from fifty water wells at Rye Patch. Denver industrialists were planning hydro generated electricity from streams on the eastern slope of the Sierra near Bishop, California, despite the distance of more than one hundred miles.

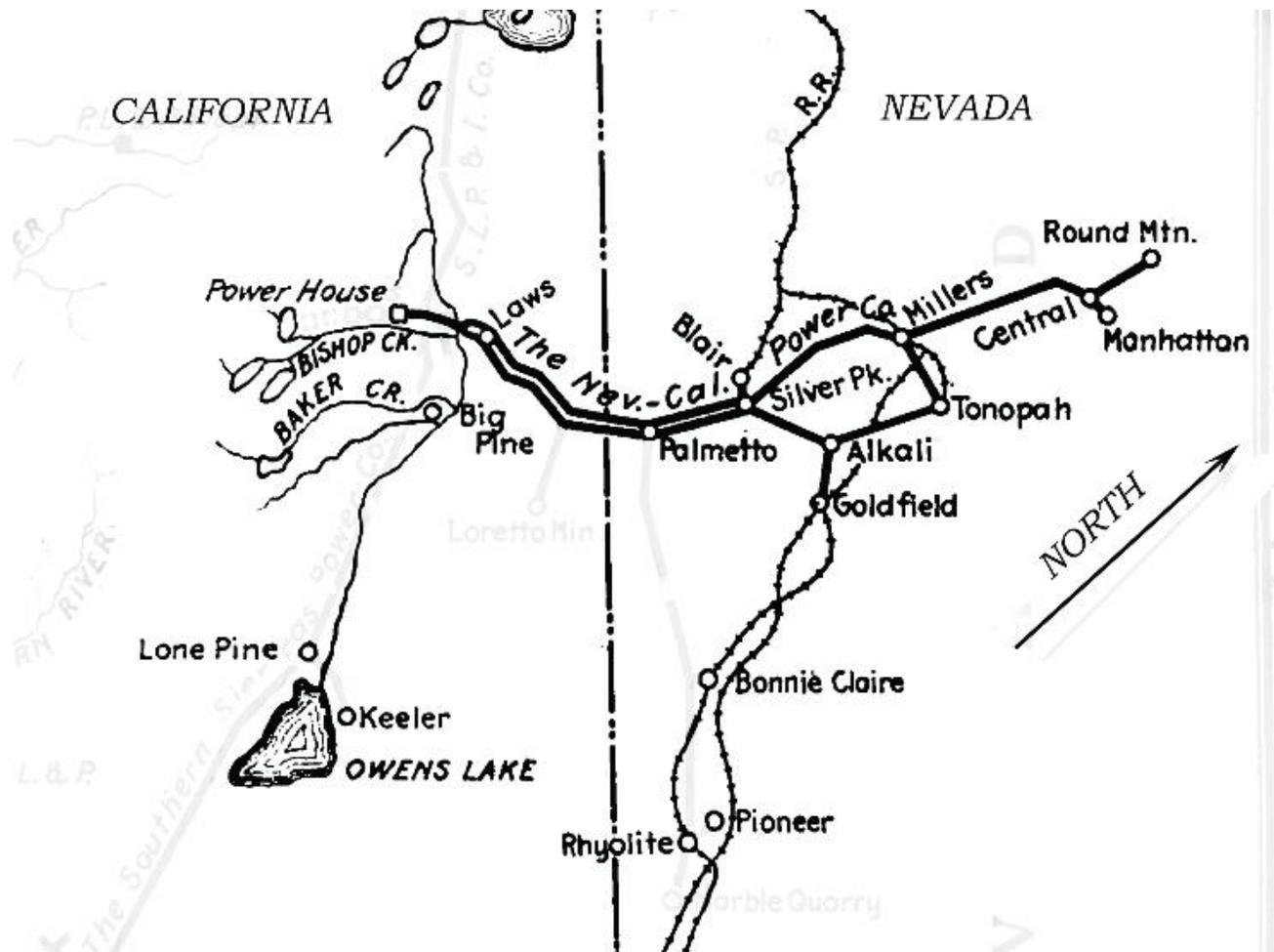


Electric lighting and power for industry had come a long way in a short time. In the 1870's, arc lighting with the smoking carbon electrodes and hissing arcs restricted the use to outdoor areas or spacious interiors.

In 1882, Thomas A. Edison's incandescent light bulbs, with Direct Current (DC) electricity, solved some of the problems. Edison's power plants needed to be close to the demand for lighting and power. Extending DC power over long distances remained a problem.

Tesla's 1891 success in transmitting high voltage Alternating Current (AC) the three miles into Telluride, Colorado ushered in the age of transmission of electrical power for long distances across the United States.

Standard Company, a mining company in Bodie, California built its thirteen-mile long AC electric transmission line in 1892-93. Their Dynamo Pond plant transmitted electricity at 3,530 AC volts of 130 Horsepower for their 20-stamp mill. Westinghouse Electric & Manufacturing Co. built the plant and was Edison's nemesis and competitor as Westinghouse touted the benefits of AC power over Edison's belief in DC power. Wags had said the electric line 'had to be absolutely straight, with no curves, no angles which might cause the power to jump off into space.'



After the electrification of Goldfield and Tonopah, the Nevada-California Power Company brought a new line from Bishop Creek and extended service to Millers, Round Mountain and Manhattan, Nevada. The map reflects the company's transmission system around 1910.

In Denver, a group of industrialists initially expected to develop mining properties in Nevada. Their experts returned and suggested that the investment be made in generating electricity from the hydro power in the canyons west of Bishop, California and transmitted to Tonopah and Goldfield. An initial

investment of \$250,000 went to \$300,000 and then \$470,708 by the end of 1905. This project would replace the small steam-powered generation plants built in Tonopah in 1902 and Goldfield in 1904.

The first transmission line to Tonopah from the new hydro plant on Bishop Creek above Bishop, California was begun in 1904. It crossed the rugged White Mountains and descended into the little Nevada mining camp of Palmetto. From there the line ran to Alkali, then south to Goldfield and northeast to Tonopah. The line was one hundred and eighteen miles in length.

Electric service from Bishop Creek commenced at Tonopah and Goldfield in September of 1905. The lines were extended to Millers in 1907. The Initial power from Bishop Creek hydro was 1,500 Kilowatts, (Kw) about 1,100 mechanical horsepower. Growing demand for power in Nevada's other mining camps soon raised the power plant output to 4,500 Kw. By 1913, power generated at Bishop Creek was 24,350 Kw and service extended to San Bernardino, California in the south, and to Hawthorne, Fairview and Wonder, Nevada in the north.

Crescent Dunes Power plant outside of Tonopah generates 110,000 Kw of power. Supplies for construction came in from all over on major paved highways. In contrast, contractors in 1905 faced a bleak route going east from Bishop. Water was sometimes 30 miles between camps. Two isolated ranches and an almost abandoned mining camp at Silver Peak was their only company. Mules hauled the supplies for the power line. Mules too hauled construction material for the dams including aggregate, cement, and the thirty-six inch diameter penstocks to the Pelton Water Wheels on Bishop Creek.

After the electrification of Goldfield and Tonopah, the Nevada-California Power Company brought a new line from Bishop Creek and extended service to Millers, Round Mountain and Manhattan, Nevada. The map reflects the company's transmission system around 1910.

Further Reading:

"Hydroelectric Development on Bishop Creek, California, Part I", Electrical World, Volume 64, Number 16, July 4 to December 26, 1914, Pages 757-761, Google Books

"Some Important Hydroelectric Developments on the Pacific Coast", Electrical Engineering Magazine, Volume 46, Number 1, January 1914, pages 17-21, Google Books

The Mining World, Volume XXX, June 12, 1909, pages 1140-1141, Google Books

Mission Statement

"The Tonopah Historic Mining Park preserves the mining heritage of Nevada and related regions through acquisitions and preservation of collections and presentation of quality exhibits and educational activities."

"As an IRS-approved 501(c)3 tax-exempt charity, your donation to the Tonopah Historic Mining Park of Tonopah, Nevada may be tax-deductible."

Headframe Restoration Project

The Tonopah Historic Mining Park Foundation continues to raise funds for the much needed restoration/stabilization of the Desert Queen and Silver Top Head Frames. Previous donations received from our generous donors have enabled the Park, with the help of the Guy F. Atkinson Construction Team and locals, "Stretch" Baker, Ed Tomany and Tonopah Historic Mining Park Foundation members to complete the head frame restoration and stabilization of the Mizpah Headframe. With the successful stabilization of the Mizpah Head Frame behind them, our Foundation members plan to commence the next phase of restoration and stabilization when funds become available.

Foundation member, Don Southwick has been managing the "Buy a Brick" Fund Raising Program. Mining Park friends may purchase a small 4" x 8" engraved brick with up to 3 lines of 200 characters for \$100.00 per brick or a large 8" x 8" engraved brick with up to 6 lines with 20 characters for \$500.00 per brick. Engraved bricks will be placed around the periphery of the Mizpah Head Frame.

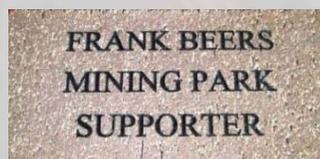
A special thank you to our friends and those businesses who have previously donated to this worthy project or purchased bricks in honor of, or in memory of your loved ones or businesses. You have played a major role in the Mining Park's Head Frame Restoration/Stabilization Project. Head Frame Restoration/Stabilization donations and "Buy a Brick" order forms are available on the Tonopah Historic Mining Park website noted below. Engraved bricks may be purchased using Paypal with a credit or debit card.

Donations may be mailed to:

**Tonopah Historic Mining Park
Head Frame Restoration Project
PO Box 965
Tonopah, NV 89049**

www.TonopahHistoricMiningPark.com

***"As an IRS-approved 501(c)3 tax-exempt charity, your donation to the
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Early 1900's Mining Homes

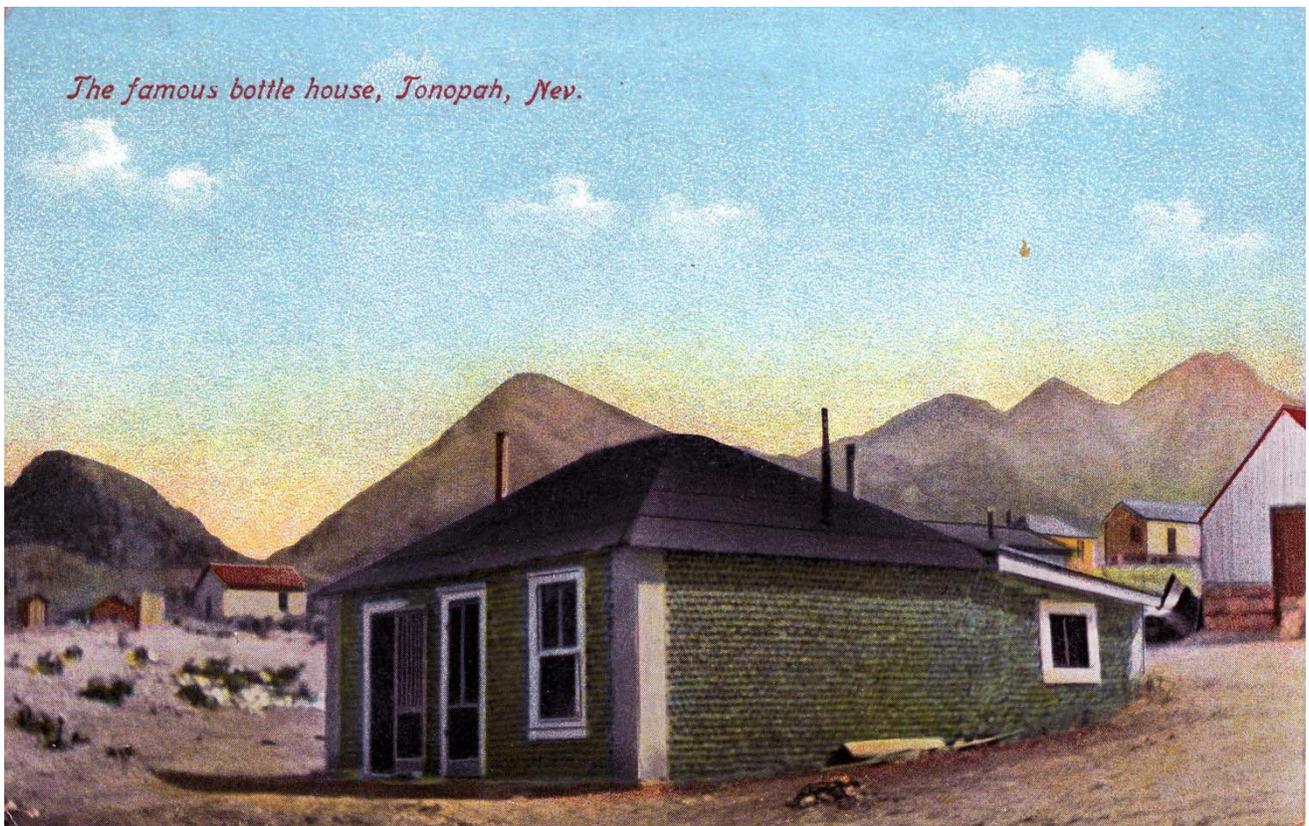


Typical housing for the early mining camp





This miner's early house was dug in so that the insulation of the earth would help keep it warm. Today we would think of this as a root cellar, but to him it was home!



Rhyolite and Goldfield

Here is a story about Rhyolite and Goldfield by Gus Wurdinger, who was on the scene in 1906 when central Nevada was the nation's focal point of mining and speculating. Gus was of an adventurous spirit. He was only 15 when the Spanish-American War broke out. Too young to enlist, he stowed himself in the hold of the transport ship Scandia which was headed for the Philippines with New York National Guard volunteers on board. Eight years later Gus came to Rhyolite when the boom was just starting. This story, which has been edited to fit Tailings, originally appeared in the Nevadan magazine in 1968. —Stanley Paher, author

Back in the fall of 1906, the search for gold was taking place all over the southern deserts of Nevada. Mining at Tonopah had leveled off, but Goldfield was still going strong. Other camps had started up, notably Manhattan and Rawhide, but it appeared that Rhyolite was the “big one,” attracting a few thousand people. The town site was laid out about a mile east and up the hill from the Original Bullfrog, a claim which had been located by Shorty Harris and Eddie Cross.



Rhyolite is a greenish colored ore, hence the name for the new town. But the story goes that Shorty remarked, “This ore is as green as a bullfrog,” and so they named the new discovery after it. However, others say it was because a frog is indeed a rarity on the dry desert and so is striking a good claim.

I was in Los Angeles about that time. A couple of letters from a newspaper friend of mine, who was working at Rhyolite, got me all excited and soon, with a few bucks to jingle, I bought a ticket and boarded the Salt Lake, Los Angeles and San Pedro Railroad for Las Vegas, 115 miles south of Rhyolite. As I was only able to buy a ticket to Las Vegas, I thereafter had to travel “side-door Pullman” the rest of the way north on the Las Vegas & Tonopah Railroad, in the company of a car load of “way” freight, which I helped the “Breakie” [the brakeman] unload at various tops enroute in payment for my transportation. Finally we arrived at Beatty, then traveled four miles “over the hill” to Rhyolite.

I found the camp all hustle and bustle. By noon I had a part-time job, four hours daily, at 50 cents an hour in a gambling house as a shill or booster at the various games. This was my first job and it was at the 66 Club. In a week or so I got a steady job next door at Jack Sheney’s Turf Club as a porter or general factotum [workhand]. My first chore was to learn about the lighting system. Most establishments used generator with copper tubing leading to the lamps. Either system had to be heated with a blowtorch, kerosene or gasoline for illumination. The gas lamps were either standalones or were operated by a wall before they could be lit.

After a few weeks, Cheney sold his Turf Club to a couple of swell fellows, Snavely and Arnold. By now, I was a floor man, like the girls in Las Vegas in mid-20th century who go around to the different games and take the players' drink orders.

In Rhyolite, if the dealer ordered, the drinks were on the house, but if the payer having a streak of luck ordered, we always took his money. When a half-cocked guy would lay a \$20 gold piece on the bar with a "drinks for everybody on the house," we would lay his correct change out near him. If he did not pick it up right away, we would start wiping the bar. It is strange how often some of the change would stick to the bar towel and be wiped into the sink and later recovered! In this, we had lots of competition from the barflies in front too.

By the spring of 1907, things were changing rapidly in Nevada's mining camps. The Western Federation of Mines had a strike going on in Goldfield. Rhyolite was starting to decline, for few of the claims had been producing any substantial amounts of rich ore. It seems like it got to be mostly "pocket" mining, with the ore veins getting narrower or pinching out entirely.



Beatty - 1906

Stock selling became tougher, so the wise guys turned to selling lots in new town sites which were located in different mining areas in the deserts east and west of Goldfield and Rhyolite.

South of Daylight Pass, which is the eastern entrance to Death Valley, a town site was platted out, at least on paper, and it was called Lee. It seemed like it had some good talking

points, for the town was laid out right on the California-Nevada state line. The line ran right up the middle of Lee's wide main street, leaving half the town in each state but having only one post office, that being in California, along with businesses, hotels and the most desirable dwellings. On the Nevada side the saloons, gambling houses, brothels and dance halls would be established, since those vices were licensed in that state. Nothing came of the promotion. It died aborning. In all, only about thirty buildings were ever erected at Lee.

But what I think was the grand-daddy of all promotions reached a climax late that spring. The town site of Gold Center was to be located just south of and just outside of Beatty, then the terminus of the Las Vegas & Tonopah Railroad, in an area where there was plenty of flat land and an abundance of water accessible just below the surface of the underground Amargosa River.

To be continued in the Fall 2017 issue of Tailings



TONOPAH HISTORIC MINING PARK

110 Burro St, Tonopah, NV 89049

PO Box 965, Tonopah, NV 89049

775-482-9274

www.TonopahHistoricMiningPark.com

A blustery day overlooking the Silver Top Head Frame at the Tonopah Historic Mining Park

