

I *Studies*
~~INFORMATION~~ - Nevada
 Historical Information

Ely, Nevada
 March 19, 1941.



HISTORY OF WHITE PINE DIVISION:

In writing a history of the White Pine Division of the Nevada National Forest, it is realized that but very little information concerning the settlement of the valleys surrounding the district is available. Historians of the past have paid but little or no attention to the agricultural possibilities or activities of this area. Historical publications deal primarily with mining activities of the boom days.

The state of Nevada started as a mining center with a vast production of precious metals. Agriculture followed in ^{the} most favorable locations to supply the demands of the miners.

1. Names and Locations of First Outstanding Settlers:

One of the first places on Ellison Creek was a Toll House constructed in 1872 by Captain A. D. Rock, grandfather of C. R. Moorman, and a Civil Engineer. This toll house was located on the mail route between Pioche and Hamilton. Remnants of the old rock buildings still stand to mark its location. The station was abandoned when the main route of travel changed, Ely to Hamilton through Illipah Creek.

The old Ellison Ranch was located near the present site of the Ellison Ranger Station. The original owners were Dock, John and Tom Ellison. They run cattle and had a few races horses as a hobby. These men stayed here the year round. C. R. Moorman

tells the following story about the Ellison brothers: The Meadow on Ellison Creek was fenced with juniper and pinion logs, during the winter months they would tear down the fence and use it for fuel. No wood was ever cut that could be taken through the door, one end of the log was put in the fireplace and shoved in as needed. During the long winter months they sat with their heels upon the mantle and traded horses. The following spring the fence was replaced and made ready for the following winter after having served its purpose during the summer.

The old Willow Grave ranch at the mouth of Ellison Canyon was originally owned by George Washburn who operated a stage station. He depended on the traveling public for a living as there was no farming or stock raising connected with the ranch at that time.

The Moorman Ranch was homesteaded in 1876 by Jake Harris. He also had a stage station there after the route was changed from Ellison Creek. In 1896 Clarence R. Moormans father purchased the ranch, at that time the ranch was small because of lack of water.

Illipah Creek was taken up soon after the big mining boom started in Hamilton and vicinity. There was a truck garden on the old Italian Ranch. A dairy herd was operated by a man named Boyle and hay was produced on the John Anderson Ranch. All the ranches were later acquired by C. R. Moorman and the water was transferred to his lower ranch. The old ranches are now used only for grazing.

Part of the water that normally flowed down Illipah Creek was pumped from its source at water works spring onto Treasure Hill. This water was forced over the top of the mountain through a 10 inch steel pipe with steam boilers. Wood was used to fire

the boilers. This was started in 1869.

Green Springs was owned by a man named Freeland. His business was raising horses.

The Bordoli Ranch on the west side of the Quinn Canyon Division was originally used as a stopping place for oxen freight outfits. The oxen were shod in a special frame designed to hold them while shoeing. Hence the name Ox Spring. This ranch was purchased by Bordoli from Robert McDonald who was the original owner in 1890. The place is still owned by Bordoli's, who have improved it and run both sheep & cattle on the forest.

Nyala was taken up by Herman Risky in 1913. He operated a gas station and lunch counter. Gasoline sold for 90¢ a gallon. Emery Garrett later purchased the place, piped and flumed the water from Willow Creek and put the place under cultivation.

Forest Home Ranch, near the north end of the Quinn Canyon Division was settled about 1880 by a man by the name of Lamb. Prior to that time it was used as a stopping place by the Shosbone Indians. Lamb was later killed by Indian Charley in a dispute over the ownership of some horses. A. B. Gardner came and took the ranch over in 1901. The small spring that furnished water for only a few acres was developed into a good irrigation stream that waters the present ranch. Approximately 350 head of cattle were run on the area between Big Springs and Rimrock Canyon, and it is estimated that twice as many wild horses used the same range.

The ranches located on Little Cherry Creek have been the center of the farming and livestock industry since settlement on the Quinn Canyon Division. While the available farm lands in the

bottom of the canyon is limited, the climate is conducive to the production of hay, grain, vegetables and fruits such as peaches, apples, cherries, pears and grapes. Some of the finest fruits produced in the state are raised within the forest boundary.

Joe Jones was the first settler on Little Cherry Creek (date of settlement is not known to me). He run a large herd of cattle. After several transfers Louis Sharp acquired the ranch and it has since been known as Sharp until 1938 when the post office changed its name to Adaven. The name Adaven was derived from Nevada, spelled backwards.

Little Cherry Creek was headquarters for the Shoshone Indians. Until about 1900, 250 indians made it their home. Since that time they have all left except one family, Tom Adams. Tom owns a ranch just outside the forest boundary and runs cattle on the forest. He will long be remembered by the residents as a peaceable, industrious neighbor.

Greenberry Welch settled Pine Creek in the Spring of 1902. He was the first settler south of Sharp.

Albert Welch, Son of Greenberry Welch homesteaded his present ranch on Cottonwood Creek in 1910.

2. Origin of Important Names:

White Pine Mountain supposedly got its name from the type of timber that grows on it. If so, the name is a misnomer, because the timber is not white pine, but Alpine fir and limber pine.

Quinn Canyon gets its name from the Piute Indian. Quinn meaning green. A small meadow being located just outside the forest boundary in Quinn Canyon.

Troy Peak was named in honor of the miners who came to Troy Canyon from Troy, England.

Illipah is an indian name meaning Oily Water.

3. Early Range Conditions:

Statements made by early residents:

Tom Adams, "Range much better in early days than present time. Lots of grass and lots of cattle. Never fed cattle and could get beef off the range at any time".

Victor B. Gardner, "Ranges were in good condition. No feeding done in winter." Mrs. Santina R. Bordoli, "Lots of grass, better than now. Ranges well stocked by 1890." Clarence R. Moorman, "Indians used to cut bunch grass with butcher knives and sell to teamsters. Range much better before sheep came into area in large bands."

4. Important Trails and Routes:

While there are no trails or routes on this district that were of national importance, there were some routes that were of local importance. Most of these were stage and freight roads between mining towns that were established after the area was settled. One main road came from Pioche through White River, ^{Sinks,} Lund, Preston and up Ellison Creek to Hamilton. The other route went west from White River Sinks through Sand Spring Valley and followed along the east side of Railroad Valley to Hamilton.

Mining

White Pine Mining district was formed in 1865 with the town of Hamilton as its center. This included Hamilton, Eberhardt, Shermantown and Treasure Hill.

Hamilton, County seat of White Pine County, 1870 - 1887 when it was moved to Ely. The town got its name from W. H. Hamilton, a mining promoter.

Slow growth of Hamilton until 1868 - Just a few prospectors who took ore to Monte Cristo to a small mill. In 1867 a discovery was made on Treasure Hill which started the boom in that district. An Indian by the name of Napiai Jim showed Al J. Leathers the location of the mine on Treasure Hill. In the spring of 1868 the big rush started. History of White Pine County, Nevada 1865 - 1887, R. R. Elliot, "The rush was probably the shortest, most intense one in the history of the west. It lasted hardly more than a year and a half, brought in possibly thirty thousand people". In this district 13,000 claims were recorded in two years. By 1873 eight million dollars worth of silver was taken out, but from that time on production was very slow and the rush completely subsided within a few years.

A fire swept through Hamilton in 1873 and burned most of the town, it never fully recovered from this catastrophe. From that time on this famous mining town gradually lost its popularity and today there is but little activity there. A few old timers are still trying to uncover some of the hidden treasure they believe is still encased in these mountains.

The White Pine mining district was destined to be short lived due to the nature of the ore deposits which were found in rich pockets embedded between limestone and shale. The high grade ore from the Eberhardt mine was so pure it brought over four thousand dollars a ton.

The Troy Mining District is located in Troy Canyon on the Quinn Canyon Division. In October 1873 the Blue Eagle Lode and Millsite was patented by Wm. V. Roberts. Roberts came from Troy, England with English capital and developed a mine and put up a mill. It is reported that some silver and copper ore was shipped from the mine. The mill which was constructed of brick made in the canyon, except for the fire brick that came from Paisley, Scotland, was a failure.

The town of Troy once had a population of 300 persons, There was a school and a news paper.

At the present writing the Old English Gold Corporation is operating a mine and mill and is producing some gold.

Willow Creek experienced a boom in the early days but soon was abandoned after scattered pockets of rich ore was exploited.

During the spring of 1939 a gold strike was made near the highway on Current Creek by Steve Pappus. The Currant Creek Mining Co. bought the original claims for \$500,000. During the winter of 1940-41 a mill was constructed. The general run of the ore is low grade with small pockets of rather high grade ore occurring in isolated spots. Just what the final out come of this mine will be remains to be seen.

Considerable prospecting is done over the entire district each year. It is highly mineralized and offers the possibility that some day another strike of major importance will be made.

5. Events Leading Up to Establishment of Forest:

C. R. Moorman stated that the reaction of the cattlemen was against the establishment of the forest. They couldn't see why it

should be included when it was used only for grazing. The demand for range at that time was not pressing. Sheepmen were given credit for putting it over. Other comments are lacking.

6. Miscellaneous Historical Events:

1. Forest Fires: About 1904 a fire was started by a prospector near the mouth of Troy Canyon in the spring of the year while clearing a place for a garden. This fire burned out the north and main fork of Troy, south fork of Erwin Canyon and over the top of the mountain into Sherwood Wash and Pole Canyon. Snow put it out in the fall.

The character of the district as a whole and the type of vegetation it supports is not conducive to large fires.

2. Timber Sales: Timber sales as a rule have been sales at cost. The majority being for juniper fence posts. One small mill on the Quinn Canyon has been operated at intervals since 1920 in Scofield and Rimrock Canyons. The species of timber that has been cut was primarily Western Yellow Pine (*Pinus ponderosa*) with some Alpine Fir. Yellow Pine logs range in size up to 36 inches D.B.H. with 5-16 foot logs.

Prior to the time the forest was established, the majority of the original stands of timber was taken out. Sawmill, Troy and Little Meadows Canyons were logged during the boom days of Hamilton. Most of the logging was done with ox teams.

3. Game: There were but very few deer until about 1908-10 when they became noticeable. Prior to that time it was a rare occasion to see them. Law enforcement to prevent poaching, the buck law, establishment of Game Reserves and control of predatory

animals have had their effect on the increasing deer population. The deer herd now is greater than the hunter demand.

The herd of Mountain Sheep on the Quinn Canyon Division are about holding their own in numbers. In 1923 the Grant State Recreation Ground and Game Refuge was created by proclamation from the Governor of Nevada. This area includes all forest lands north of the road leading from Railroad Valley to Garden Valley through Little Cherry Creek.

The home of the Mountain Sheep is in the vicinity of Troy Peak, where they spend the entire year on the forest.

Information received from early residents reveal the fact that during the early days of settlement the stately mountain sheep were quite numerous. The present number is estimated at about 80 head.

Sage Hens by the thousands once inhabited the White Pine Division. These birds became quite scarce, but are again increasing under protection. There never was any on the Quinn Canyon Division.

In 1939 the County Commissioners of Nye County planted Chuckar Partridges on several ranches adjacent to and within the forest. The Chuckar is an upland bird and were introduced with the hope that they would migrate into the mountains.

4. Range: The area now enclosed within the exterior boundary of the district was fully stocked with sheep and cattle and over run with wild horses at the time the forest was created in 1909. The reduction in numbers of stock, as brought about through cuts, transfer reductions and partial elimination of wild horses, together with the increased carrying capacity of the range through our range improvement program has resulted in a more stabalized livestock

industry.

During the period of 1928 to 1933 a concerted effort was made by permittees, trappers and forest officers to eliminate the wild horses on the White Pine Division & Quinn Canyon Division. Approximately 700 head of horses were killed on and adjacent to the forest, after this drive only a few Mustangs remained, from these and a few that have come in from outside areas, they are again increasing quite rapidly. Control measures will have to be taken to keep them from over-running the range again as they did in former days.

For the original numbers of stock grazing on the district refer to the Grazing Report - Nevada National Forest, 1909.

Starting in 1938 a land acquisition program was initiated to acquire the Adams- McGill Company lands on the White Pine Division. These lands covered a total acreage of 5,680 acres and were so located that they largely controlled the water on a large portion of the district. The strategic location of these lands surrounded by Government lands, made it evident that they should be purchased and controlled by the Forest Service for protection and management.

Adams-McGill originally grazed sheep on this range and there was considerable conflict and competition with the cattle men. In 1930 the permittees banded together and purchased the lands and range rights in order that they might protect themselves and increase their holdings. Unfortunately they were unable to pay for their obligation and they were turned back to the original owner.

The range improvement program moved along slowly until 1933. Up ~~to~~ to that time only 10 water developments had been installed

by the government. In the fiscal years of 1934-35 an intensive range improvement program was initiated. During that time 27 water developments were installed to relieve the conditions brought about by the drought. In addition to the water developments a number of short drift fences were constructed to control the drift of stock on the forest.

The White Pine Drift Fence was constructed in 1936-37 through the cooperation of the Forest Service, Works Progress Administration and Division of Grazing. The fence is located along the east boundary of the White Pine Division and is 30 miles in length.

6. Recreation: There has been a heavy increase in the number of recreational users during the past few years. The construction of the Carrant Creek and White River Camp grounds in 1936 attracts many visitors. Better fishing, more game and the desire of the public to get away from cities and towns into the mountains has all been a contributing factor in the popularity of the recreational possibilities of the district.

There is no recreational use during the winter.

7. List of Persons Contributing Information For This Write-up:

Albert Welch, Adaven, Nevada
Tom Adams, Adaven, Nevada
Victor B. Gardner, Preston, Nevada
Clarence R. Moorman, Ely, Nevada
Mrs. Santina R. Bordoli, Carrant, Nevada
Joseph Hafen, Carrant, Nevada
R. A. Dean, Hamilton, Nevada
Ed Halstead, Duckwater, Nevada.

Foyes Olsen
Forest Ranger

by the Government. In the fiscal years of 1954-55 an intensive range improvement program was initiated. During that time 27 water developments were installed to relieve the conditions brought about by the drought. In addition to the water developments a number of alert drift fences were constructed to control the drift of stock on the range.

The White Pine Drift Fence was completed in 1955-56 through the cooperation of the Forest Service, Works Progress Administration and Division of Grazing. The fence is located along the east boundary of the White Pine Division and is 80 miles in length.

6. Recreation: There has been a heavy increase in the number of recreational users during the past few years. The construction of the Grand Creek and White River Camp grounds in 1955 attracts many visitors. Better fishing, more game and the desire of the public to get away from cities and towns into the mountains has all been a contributing factor in the popularity of the recreational possibilities of the district.

There is no recreational use during the winter.

7. List of Persons Contributing Information for this Report:

- Robert Welch, Adavon, Nevada
- Tom Adams, Adavon, Nevada
- Victor B. Warner, Preston, Nevada
- Clarence H. Moorhead, Ely, Nevada
- Mrs. Beatrice H. Bordele, Currie, Nevada
- Joseph Hagan, Currie, Nevada
- W. A. Dean, Hamilton, Nevada
- Ed Hildner, Buckhorn, Nevada

John C. ...
 Forest Ranger