



STAFF REPORT

HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION MEETING DATE: 12/12/12

DEPARTMENT: PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

ITEM DESCRIPTION: ABEYANCE ITEM - For possible action regarding revisions to the city of Las Vegas History Timeline, All Wards.

BACKGROUND

- 04/25/12 Historic Preservation Commissioner Vice-Chair Stoldal requested that an item regarding the accuracy of the Las Vegas History timeline as posted on the city of Las Vegas website be placed on the May 23, 2012 HPC agenda.

- 05/23/12 Historic Preservation Commission Chair Dorothy Wright requested an item regarding suggested revisions to the Las Vegas History timeline as posted on the city of Las Vegas website be placed on the June 27, 2012 meeting agenda.

- 05/23/12 Historic Preservation Commission Chair Dorothy Wright requested an item regarding the creation of a committee to address the accuracy of the Las Vegas History timeline as posted on the city of Las Vegas website be placed on the June 27, 2012 meeting agenda.

- 06/27/12 Historic Preservation Commission approved the creation of the Special Purpose Las Vegas History Timeline Committee (HPC-45738) to conduct research and present findings to the Historic Preservation Commission regarding revisions to the city of Las Vegas History timeline as posted on the city of Las Vegas official website, All Wards.

- 07/16/12 Historic Preservation Commission voted to table HPC-45970 revisions to the city of Las Vegas History timeline posted on the city of Las Vegas official website, All Wards.

- 07/25/12 The Historic Preservation Commission voted to hold item in abeyance (HPC-45937) until the August 22, 2012 meeting.

- 07/29/12 The Special Purpose Las Vegas History Timeline Committee voted to table item HPC-45970.

- 08/22/12 The Historic Preservation Commission took no action on item (HPC-45937).

- 08/29/12 Historic Preservation Commission took no action on HPC-45970 revisions to the city of Las Vegas History timeline posted on the city of Las Vegas official website, All Wards.

- 10/18/12 The Special Purpose Las Vegas History Timeline Committee voted to approve item HPC-45970.

- 10/24/12 Historic Preservation Commission took no action on HPC-45937 revisions to the city of Las Vegas History timeline posted on the city of Las Vegas official website, All Wards.

ANALYSIS

Per chapter 19.10.150 HD-O HISTORIC DESIGNATION OVERLAY DISTRICT of the city of Las Vegas Unified Development Code, Section G.7.:

G. Historic Preservation Commission - Powers, Etc.

The powers, duties and activities of the HPC include the following:

7. Developing and participating in public information activities in order to increase public awareness of the value of historic preservation.

Per the Historic Properties & neighborhoods Preservation Plan Element (as revised August 4, 2010), Objective 2 and Policy 2.2:

OBJECTIVE 2: Encourage community participation in the preservation planning process to achieve public understanding and support of preservation concepts and the value of cultural resources to the community.

POLICY 2.2: That the city promotes public education of historic preservation by distribution of information through media releases, publications, and events.

Findings

Meetings of the Special Purpose Las Vegas History Timeline Committee were held on July 16, 2012, August 29, 2012 and October 18, 2012 to discuss revisions to the city of Las Vegas History timeline as posted on the city of Las Vegas official website. The committee reviewed the timeline for accuracy of content and established content criteria.

Staff is requesting approval of the revised language for the timeline.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

APPROVAL.

BACKUP DOCUMENTS

- Las Vegas History Timeline, revised per commissioner comments as of 11/27/12
- Commissioner Millman comments, submitted 5-23-12
- Commissioner White comments, submitted 5-29-12
- Commissioner Beck comments, submitted 6-15-12
- Vice Chair Stoldal comments, submitted 6-25-12
- Letter from Thomas Rodriguez, Latin Chamber of Commerce, dated 7/20/12
- Letter from Claytee White, Chair, Special Purpose Las Vegas History Timeline Committee, dated July 26, 2012
- Letter from Ward 3 Councilman Bob Coffin, August 21, 2012
- Commissioner White comments, submitted 9-06-12
- Commissioner Millman comments, submitted 9-25-12
- Commissioner Millman comments, submitted 10-05-12
- "Mexican Traders Miss the Springs," *Nevada Yesterdays*, Frank Wright 2010
- Diary of Antonio Armijo, 1830

>10,000 Years Ago

Paleo-Indians first [arrived in](#) the Las Vegas valley [more than 10,000 years ago](#). [Some groups left behind petroglyphs, which have not all been interpreted yet.](#)

Formatted: Left

Deleted: visited

Deleted: hundreds of

Deleted: They lived as nomads, traveling and camping in different locations. These people left behind petroglyphs that help us tell our early history. ¶

2,000 Years Ago

Anasazi Indians move into southern Nevada and live along the Muddy and Virgin rivers. The “Lost City” are ruins of the Anasazi community that can be found in Overton, Nevada, northwest of Las Vegas. The Paiute people also explored the Las Vegas area.

1829

(Entry per special purpose committee recommendation at August 29 and October 18, 2012 meetings)

[In 1829-30, Antonio Armijo led a trading party and team of scouts from New Mexico to California, entering the Valley through the Las Vegas Wash. Two of the five scouts were Rafael Rivera and Salvadore Maes.](#)

Deleted: A young scout named Rafael Rivera is the first person of European ancestry to look upon the valley. His discovery of a valley with abundant wild grasses growing and a plentiful water supply reduces the journey by several days. The valley is named Las Vegas, Spanish for “The Meadows.”

Formatted: Font: Not Bold

Formatted: Font: Font color: Black

Formatted: Space After: 10 pt, Line spacing: Multiple 1.15 li

Formatted: Font: +Body, 11 pt, Not Bold

Formatted: Font: (Default) Arial Narrow, 13.5 pt, Bold, Font color: Auto

Deleted: many individuals to the area

1844

John C. Fremont arrived in Las Vegas and kept a journal describing two springs he found. These writings were very popular and lured [pioneers to the west](#). [The writings were used as a guide by Mormon Pioneers in 1855.](#)

1855

[The Old Las Vegas Fort \(Las Vegas Mormon Fort\) was constructed along Las Vegas Creek by Mormon Missionaries, the first permanent non-native settlers in the Las Vegas Valley. The Mormon Fort is the oldest inhabited building in Nevada. The fort was abandoned in 1857 and eventually purchased by Octavius Decatur Gass who developed it as a large ranch. Ownership passed on to the Stewart family who sold the ranch to the San Pedro, Los Angeles and Salt Lake Railroad in 1902. Today, the fort and dwelling has undergone major reconstruction and serves as a museum and visitor’s center.](#)

Formatted: Font: +Body, 11 pt, Not Bold

Formatted: Space After: Auto

Formatted: Font: +Body, Not Bold

Formatted: Font: +Body, Not Bold

Formatted: Font: +Body, Not Bold

Formatted: Font: +Body

[\(link to Mormon Fort here\).](#)

Formatted: Font: +Body, Not Bold

1864

Nevada is admitted into the union as the 36th state [on October 31, 1864 without the area known today as Clark County](#). This [occasion is celebrated](#) annually as a state holiday.

Deleted: day is recognized

1865

[Octavius Decatur Gass, Nat Lewis and Louis Cole relocate from El Dorado Canyon to the abandoned Las Vegas Ranch. Gass buys out his partners in 1868.](#)

Formatted: Font: Bold

Formatted: Space After: 0 pt, Don't adjust space between Latin and Asian text, Don't adjust space between Asian text and numbers

[\(from CC timeline\)](#)

Formatted: Space After: 0 pt

1866

U.S. Congress passes a bill allowing Nevada to extend its southern border into the Arizona Territory, covering the territory to the point where the Colorado River meets the California Border.
(from CC timeline)

Formatted: Space After: 0 pt, Don't adjust space between Latin and Asian text, Don't adjust space between Asian text and numbers

Formatted: Font: +Body, 11 pt, Not Bold

1872

Formatted: Font: Bold

John Powell and James B. Wilson, African-American ranchers, founded the Spring Ranch near the Las Vegas Springs.

1882

Archibald Stewart acquires the Las Vegas ranch in payment for a loan from O. D. Gass. He dies the next year in a shooting at the Kjel Ranch. His widow Helen stays on and raises her children.

Formatted: Font: +Body, 11 pt, Not Bold

Formatted: Don't adjust space between Latin and Asian text, Don't adjust space between Asian text and numbers

Formatted: Font: +Body, 11 pt, Not Bold

Formatted: Font: +Body, 11 pt, Not Bold

Formatted: Font: +Body, 11 pt, Not Bold

Formatted: Font: +Body, 11 pt, Not Bold

Formatted: Space After: 12 pt

(From CC history timeline)

1885

The State Land Act of 1885 offers sections of land at \$1.25 per acre, encouraging the development of farms and ranches in the area. These were the predominant land uses until 1905.

Deleted: . Farmers move in and agriculture becomes the dominant industry for the next 20 years.

(Replace photo with contemporary image)

Late 1800's

Mineral finds near Goodspings and Eldorado Canyon began a modestly successful mining industry in southern Nevada.

Deleted: The discovery of minerals, including precious metals, leads to the beginning of the mining industry.¶

Las Vegas is founded as a city on May 15, 1905, when 110 acres of land situated between Stewart Avenue on the north, Garces Avenue to the south, Main Street to the west, and 5th Street (Las Vegas Boulevard) to the east, are auctioned off by the railroad company.

1902

Helen Stewart sells her Las Vegas Ranch property to Montana Senator William Andrews Clark for the San Pedro, Los Angeles and Salt Lake Railroad.

Formatted: Font: +Body, 11 pt, Not Bold

Formatted: Space Before: 0 pt, After: 0 pt, Don't adjust space between Latin and Asian text, Don't adjust space between Asian text and numbers

Formatted: Font: +Body, 11 pt, Not Bold, Italic

Formatted: Font: Italic

Formatted: Font: +Body, 11 pt, Not Bold

Formatted: Font: +Body, 11 pt, Not Bold

Formatted: Font: +Body, 11 pt, Not Bold

Deleted: ¶

Formatted: Font: Font color: Auto, Check spelling and grammar

Formatted: Font: +Body, 11 pt, Not Bold

Deleted: main railway

(from CC history timeline)

1905

Las Vegas is founded as a city on May 15, 1905, when 110 acres of land situated between Stewart Avenue on the north, Garces Avenue to the south, Main Street to the west, and 5th Street (Las Vegas Boulevard) to the east, are auctioned off by the railroad company.

J. T. McWilliams lays out his Original Las Vegas Townsite (now the Historic Westside) on the West side of the tracks. The completion of the San Pedro, Los Angeles & Salt Lake Railroad, linking Southern California

with Salt Lake City, establishes Las Vegas as a railroad town. The availability of water makes Las Vegas an ideal refueling point and rest stop.

(Photo to be replaced with auction photo)

1906

The Overland Hotel (later the Las Vegas Club) and Hotel Nevada (later the Golden Gate) were constructed at Fremont and Main Streets.

1909

State law prohibits gambling.

The Nevada Legislature creates Clark County on July 1, 1909. The new county was named after William Clark, who brought the railroad to southern Nevada. Las Vegas became the county seat. Prior to the formation of Clark County, southern Nevada was part of Lincoln County.

1910

The "old adobe", the first permanent structure at what was to become Floyd Lamb Park at Tule Springs, was constructed c. 1910.

1911

Las Vegas is incorporated on June 1, 1911. On that day, voters in the unincorporated township of Las Vegas went to the polls and voted on the issue of incorporation. The results? 168 in favor of incorporation and 57 opposed. The population stands at 800. Clark County has a population of 3,321.

Las Vegas Age front page - June 3, 1911 📰

(Links to Floyd Lamb and Lorenzi parks).

On December 30, 1911, ranch owner Helen J. Stewart sold 10 acres in downtown Las Vegas to the Bureau of Indian Affairs, establishing the Las Vegas Paiute Colony.

1912

The Airdome, the first outdoor theater in Las Vegas, opened on Fremont Street.

1914

The Woodlawn Cemetery was constructed in 1914 when several prominent local women persuaded the Union Pacific Railroad to donate ten acres for a city cemetery. 1914

(link to WC here).

1920

First airplane flight to Clark County. Randall Henderson, with Jake Beckley as passenger, lands south of Las Vegas on a level strip just off the Los Angeles highway.

Formatted: Font: Not Bold, Italic

Formatted: Font: Italic

Formatted: Space Before: 0 pt, After: 12 pt

Field Code Changed

Moved down [1]: Divorce laws are liberalized in the State of Nevada, making residency easier to attain. A "quickie" divorce can be attained after six weeks of residency. These short-term residents stay at "dude ranches" which are the forerunners of the sprawling Strip hotels.

Formatted: Font: Not Bold

Formatted: Font: Not Bold, Italic

Formatted: Font: Not Bold, Italic

Formatted: Font: Italic

Formatted: Font: Not Bold

Formatted: Font: +Body, Not Bold

Formatted: Font: Not Bold, Italic

Formatted: Font: Italic

Formatted: Font: Bold

Formatted: Font: +Body, 11 pt, Not Bold

Formatted: Don't adjust space between Latin and Asian text, Don't adjust space between Asian text and numbers

Formatted: Font: +Body, 11 pt, Not Bold

Formatted: Font: +Body, 11 pt, Not Bold

(from CC history timeline)

1922

Seven states sign the Colorado River Compact, setting the amount of water from the Colorado each state could use. Nevada is the first state to ratify the compact on 1/27/1923.

(from CC history timeline)

1923

The Westside School was built in the "Old Westside" on W. Washington Avenue and D Street. The building was the first grammar school in West Las Vegas and is the oldest remaining schoolhouse in Las Vegas.

(link to HWS here).

1928

The first building in the Las Vegas High School Neighborhood Historic District was constructed, coinciding with the announcement of the signing of the Boulder Dam Act providing for the construction of the Hoover Dam.

(link to LVHSNHD here).

1929

The El Portal Theater was constructed on Fremont Street. The former theater is now the El Portal Southwest Souvenir shop.

The Boulder Club opens.

1930s

Las Vegas grows to a population of 5,165 in 1930.

Development began in Boulder City to house workers on the Boulder Dam (now Hoover Dam).

▼

The Apache Hotel (now Binion's) (1932) and Frontier Club (1935) open on Fremont Street, and the Las Vegas Club (1930), Meadows Club (1930) and Boulder Club (1929) open for legalized gambling, also on Fremont Street, in 1931.

1931

Formatted: Font: Not Bold, Italic

Formatted: Font: Not Bold, Italic

Formatted: Font: Bold

Formatted: Font: +Body, 11 pt, Not Bold

Formatted: Font: +Body, 11 pt, Not Bold

Formatted: Font: +Body, 11 pt, Not Bold

Formatted: Font: +Body, 11 pt, Not Bold

Formatted: Font: Not Bold, Italic

Formatted: Font: +Body, Not Bold

Formatted: Font: +Body, Not Bold

Formatted: Font: +Body, Not Bold

Formatted: Font: Italic

Formatted: Font: Not Bold

Formatted: Font: Not Bold, Not Highlight

Formatted: Font: Not Bold

Deleted: 1930s

Formatted: List Paragraph, Indent: Left: 0.03"

Deleted: I

Formatted: Font: Not Bold

Formatted: Font: Not Bold

Deleted: s

Deleted: .

Deleted: the Apache Hotel (now Binion's) (1932) and Frontier Club (1935) open on Fremont Street

Formatted: Font: Not Bold, Underline, Font color: Red

Formatted: Font: Not Bold, Underline, Font color: Red

Formatted: Font: Not Bold, Underline, Font color: Red

Formatted: Font: Underline, Font color: Red

Formatted: Font: Bold

Divorce laws are liberalized in the State of Nevada, making residency easier to attain. A "quickie" divorce can be attained after six weeks of residency. These short-term residents stay at "dude ranches" which are the forerunners of the sprawling Strip hotels. Surviving examples are located at Floyd Lamb park at Tule Springs and at Lorenzi Park.

Moved (insertion) [1]

(Links to FLP and LP here)First gaming license in Nevada issued to Mayme Stocker at the Northern Hotel.

Deleted: ¶

Formatted: Font: Not Bold, Italic

Beginning in 1931, the construction of Hoover Dam brings an influx of construction workers which starts a population boom and gives the Valley's economy, a needed boost.

Deleted: which was in the grips of the Great Depression

Formatted: Font: Not Bold

While many forms of gambling took place illegally for many years, it was officially re-legalized in March 1931 by the state legislature.

(Include contemporary photo here).

Jay Dayton Smith House was constructed on S. Sixth Street near Garces Avenue. The house is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

(Link to Jay Dayton Smith House here)

The first home was constructed on Fifth Place in what is now known as the John S. Park Neighborhood Historic District. The district is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

(link to JSP here).

The Las Vegas High School (now the Las Vegas Academy) was built at S. Seventh Street and Bridger Avenue. Constructed in 1931, the opulent art deco style building represents the growth and development of Las Vegas during the Hoover Dam construction. The high school is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

(link to LVHS here).

(link to post office here).

Deleted: The U.S. Post Office and Courthouse (now the National Museum of Organized Crime and Law Enforcement), was built in 1931 as part of a massive Depression-era government building project. ¶

Clark County Indigent Hospital is founded, the predecessor of today's University Medical Center.

(from CC history timeline)

The Pair-O-Dice Club opens in 1931 three miles south of Las Vegas on the Los Angeles Highway, today's Strip. It was later bought by Guy McAfee who changed the name to the 91 Club in 1939. In 1941 it is incorporated into the Last Frontier.

Formatted: Font: Not Bold

Deleted: Guy McAfee buys it and calls it The 91 Club.

(from CC history timeline)

1933

[The U.S. Post Office and Courthouse \(now the National Museum of Organized Crime and Law Enforcement\), was built as part of a massive Depression-era government building project.](#)

1935

[The first Helldorado celebration, parade, and rodeo begins in 1935.](#) Hoover Dam  is complete. At 726 feet high and more than 1,200 feet long when built, it was the tallest dam in the world. President Franklin D. Roosevelt spoke at the dam's dedication.

Deleted: First Helldorado Parade sponsored by the City of Las Vegas 1935(?)¶

1936

[The Bonanza Railroad Underpass was constructed on what was then Clark Avenue near Main Street. The underpass was the symbolic gateway between the "Old Westside" and what is now downtown Las Vegas.](#)

(include link to Bonanza Underpass)

[The Fifth Street School was constructed in 1936 using federal funds as part of a building program to alleviate a population boom in Las Vegas. The former school is now owned by the city of Las Vegas and serves as a cultural center.](#)

Formatted: Font: +Body, 11 pt, Not Bold

[\(link to FSS here\).](#)

Formatted: Font: Not Bold, Italic

1940s

[By 1940, Las Vegas' population has grown to 8,422. The outbreak of World War II on December 7, 1941 brings the defense industry to the valley. The isolated location, along with plentiful water and inexpensive energy, makes Las Vegas an ideal site for military and defense related industries. Special status was granted to the city, allowing for relaxed FHA home financing to meet the housing needs of an influx of military and civilian personnel. The Huntridge, Mayfair and Biltmore homes were all built under this program. In 1941, the Las Vegas Army Air Field \(now Nellis Air Force Base\) is built in the northeast, and in 1942, construction began on the Basic Management Complex which produced magnesium for war efforts.](#)

Deleted: Las Vegas' population has grown to 8,422. The outbreak of World War II brings the defense industry to the valley. The isolated location, along with plentiful water and inexpensive energy, makes Las Vegas an ideal site for military and defense related industries. The site for Nellis Air Force Base is located in the northeast, and the Basic Management Complex, providers of raw materials, is located in the southeastern suburb of Henderson. The defense industry continues to employ a significant number of valley residents. Following World War II, lavishly decorated resort hotels and gambling casinos offering top-name entertainment come into existence. Tourism and entertainment took over as the largest employer in the valley. ¶

[The western-style El Rancho Vegas Hotel and Casino, the first themed resort on the Strip, opens in 1941. This is followed by the Last Frontier \(1942\), Flamingo \(1946\) and Thunderbird \(1948\) Hotels.](#)

Formatted: Font: Not Bold

Formatted: Font: 11 pt, Not Bold, Highlight

Formatted: Font: 11 pt, Not Bold, Highlight

Formatted: Font: 11 pt, Not Bold, Highlight

Formatted: Font: 11 pt

[On Fremont Street the El Cortez \(1941\), Golden Nugget \(1946\), Pioneer Club, Eldorado Club, Westerner Club, Bingo Club and Monte Carlo open.](#)

Formatted: Font: Not Bold

Formatted: Font: Not Bold, Highlight

[Frank Wait House was completed in 1941 at N. Ninth Street and Ogden Avenues. Wait, a one-time prospector, city marshal, undersheriff, security guard and police chief constructed the house himself using colorful stones, semiprecious gems, petroglyphs, and petrified wood as decorations. The house is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.](#)

[\(link to Frank Wait house here\)](#)

1941

[The Las Vegas Army Air Force forces forces the city to end prostitution on Block 16, the former red light district located on north 1st Street between Stewart and Ogden Avenues in downtown Las Vegas.](#)

1942

[The Biltmore Hotel and Casino opens at N. Main Street and Bonanza Road.](#)

1944

[The Huntridge Theatre, designed by renowned theater architect S. Charles Lee, opened in 1944 as part of the Huntridge Neighborhood housing development, built in 1942. The theater is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.](#)

[\(link to Huntridge Theatre here\).](#)

1946

[Fremont Street from Main to Third Streets is named Glitter Gulch by the Las Vegas Chamber of Commerce.](#)

1948

[The new McCarran Airport opens off of Las Vegas Boulevard. An earlier named commercial McCarran Field shared space with the Army Air Field \(now Nellis Air Force Base\) in the early 1940s.](#)

1950s

[Population of the city of Las Vegas is 24,624](#) in 1950.

[The Desert Inn \(1950\), Sahara and Sands \(1952\), Royal Nevada, Riviera and Dunes \(1955\), Hacienda \(1956\), Tropicana \(1957\) and Stardust \(1958\) Hotel and Casinos open on the Strip.](#)

[The Westerner Club \(1950\), Horseshoe Club \(1951\), Lucky Strike Club \(1954\), Birdcage Casino \(1956\) and Silver Palace \(1957\) and the Fremont \(1956\) Hotel and Casinos open on Fremont Street.](#)

1950

[The Kefauver hearings took place at the U.S. Post Office and Courthouse in downtown Las Vegas \(now the National Museum of Organized Crime and Law Enforcement\), looking into organized crime in Las Vegas.](#)

Formatted: Highlight

Deleted: .

Formatted: Font: +Body, 11 pt, Not Bold

Formatted: Font: +Body, 11 pt, Not Bold

Formatted: Font: +Body, 11 pt, Not Bold

Formatted: Font: +Body, 11 pt

Deleted: In 1944, the city of Las Vegas begins to operate council / manager form of government. Previous to this date, the city was operated as a "commission" form of government.

Formatted: Font: Not Bold, Strikethrough

Formatted: Strikethrough

Formatted: Font: Not Bold

Formatted: Font: Not Bold

Formatted: Font: Not Bold

Formatted: Space After: 10 pt, Line spacing: Multiple 1.15 li

Formatted: Font: Bold

Formatted: Don't adjust space between Latin and Asian text, Don't adjust space between Asian text and numbers

Deleted: ¶
¶

Formatted: Font: Font color: Auto

The first atomic bomb is detonated at the [Nevada Test Site](#)  north of Las Vegas. People flocked to watch the tests until the limited Test Ban Treaty of 1963 required that nuclear tests be moved underground.

Deleted: The first atomic bomb is detonated

[Paradise Township is created, which prevents the City of Las Vegas from annexing the Strip.](#)
[\(from CC history timeline\)](#)

Formatted: Font: +Body, 11 pt, Not Bold

Formatted: Don't adjust space between Latin and Asian text, Don't adjust space between Asian text and numbers

1953

Formatted: Font: Not Bold, Italic

[KLAS, first television station in Nevada, begins operation.](#)

Formatted: Font: Bold

[\(from CC history timeline\)](#)

Formatted: Font: +Body, 11 pt, Not Bold

Formatted: Font: +Body, 11 pt, Not Bold

Formatted: Font: Not Bold, Italic

Formatted: Font: Not Bold, Italic

Formatted: Font: Italic

1955

Moulin Rouge, Las Vegas' first racially integrated hotel, opens its doors [in May 1955 and closes in October of the same year.](#)

[\(link to MR here\).](#)

Formatted: Font: Not Bold, Italic

1956

The city of Las Vegas annexes one square mile of land, its first such addition since incorporation 45 years earlier.

1957

Topless Showgirls debut on the Strip with "Minsky's Follies."

1959

"Welcome to Fabulous Las Vegas" sign is created by Betty Willis.

The Nevada State Legislature creates the Nevada Gaming Commission.

[The Morelli House was built by the Sand's orchestra conductor and music director Antonio Morelli. It is currently the headquarters of the Junior League of Las Vegas.](#)

Formatted: Font: +Body, 11 pt, Not Bold

Formatted: Font: +Body, 11 pt, Not Bold

[\(link to MH here\)](#)

1960

Las Vegas encompasses 25 square miles and has a population of 64,405. Las Vegas has more than 22 percent of Nevada's total population on less than .02 percent of the State's land. At the same time, Clark County has a population of 127,016.

The meeting to end racial discrimination in Las Vegas casinos was held on March 26 at the closed Moulin Rouge Hotel Casino.

Formatted: Font: Not Bold, Underline, Font color: Red

The population of the city of Las Vegas was 64,405.

Formatted: Font: +Body, 11 pt, Not Bold

Formatted: Font: +Body, 11 pt, Not Bold

Deleted:

1960's

Formatted: Font: Not Bold

~~In 1966 the Summa Corporation (now Howard Hughes Corporation) purchases the Desert Inn, Sands and Frontier Hotel and Casinos, kicking off an era of corporate ownership that will become the norm on the Strip.~~

Formatted: Font: Not Bold, Font color: Red, Strikethrough

Deleted: During the 1960s, a phenomenon led by Howard Hughes, occurs in Las Vegas. Corporations are building and/or buying hotel/casino properties. They

In 1966 Howard Hughes began a buying spree of Las Vegas hotels and other businesses. His presence helped pave the way for the corporate ownership of hotel-casinos that followed.

Deleted: have the capital necessary and the profitability makes entrance into the casino industry extremely attractive. Gambling becomes "gaming" and starts the transition into legitimate business.

The Mint (1962), Lucky Casino (1963) and the Lady Luck (1964) and Four Queens (1966) Hotel and Casinos open on Fremont Street.

Deleted: Elvis Presley opens at the International Hotel, now known as the Las Vegas Hilton.

Formatted: Font: Not Bold

Caesars Palace and Alladin Hotel and Casinos open on the Strip in 1966.

The International and Landmark Hotel and Casinos open on Paradise Road in 1969.

On both Fremont Street and the Strip, hotels and casinos are engaging in face lifts, remodels and multi-story additions.

1970s

Population of the city of Las Vegas in 1970 is 125,787.

The Plaza (1971) and the California (1975) Hotel and Casinos open on Fremont Street.

The Circus Circus (1971), MGM Grand (Ballys) (1973), Harrahs (1974), Imperial Palace, Barbary Coast and Vegas World (1979) Hotel and Casinos open on the Strip.

Corporations continue to invest in the hotel/casino industry. Gaming becomes a legitimate business opportunity in the eyes of the larger nation and some properties are listed in the stock markets.

Deleted: Gaming becomes a legitimate business and some properties have stock traded on the market. ¶

1980s

Las Vegas economy remains strong and the population increases to 164,674. Clark County, meanwhile, grows to a population of 463,087.

The Fitzgerald's Hotel and Casino, the only African-American-owned hotel/casino in Las Vegas, was

[established on Fremont Street in 1980.](#)

[The Mirage \(1980\) and Bally's Hotel and Casinos open on the Strip.](#)

Starting in the mid 1980s, a period of unprecedented growth begins. Annual population increases averaging nearly [seven](#) percent causes the city's population to almost double between 1985 and 1995, increasing from 186,380 to 368,360, a 97.6 percent increase. At the same time, Clark County's population increases from 562,280 to 1,036,180, an increase of 84.3 percent.

Deleted: 7

Deleted: That is equivalent to building a city larger than Reno in 10 years!

Deleted: 1993

1990s

Contributing to the population growth is a [four](#) percent annual increase in hotel rooms and a 9.18 percent annual increase in jobs.

Deleted: The Dunes Hotel is imploded.

Deleted: 4

[The Excalibur \(1990\), Luxor and Treasure Island \(1993\), Monte Carlo \(1996\), New York-New York \(1997\), Bellagio \(1998\), Mandalay Bay, Paris and Venetian \(1999\) Hotels and Casinos open on the Strip.](#)

1995

The [Fremont Street Experience](#)  opens. The \$70-million canopy above Fremont Street provides visitors with spectacular light and sound show. [This creation also ended auto traffic on the street where teenagers cruised in the 1940s and 1950s.](#)

The population of [the city of](#) Las Vegas is 478,434 over a land area of 113 square miles. There are over 500 churches and synagogues, 799 acres of parks, 7 television stations, and 12 radio stations (4 AM and 8FM). Las Vegas is the largest metropolitan city in the U.S. that was founded in 20th century.

Deleted: US Census reports the

The Las Vegas City Council grows from four wards to six. A vote of the people in 1999 approved an advisory ballot question allowing this change.

2000s

[The New Aladdin \(2000\), Wynn \(2005\), Planet Hollywood \(2007\) Hotel and Casinos and The M Resort \(2009\) all opened on the Strip.](#)

The [Las Vegas Springs Preserve](#) , a cultural and historical experience just miles from downtown Las Vegas opens to the public.

2007

Deleted: The 180-acre national historic site is commonly referred to as the "birthplace of Las Vegas." ¶

The three-block area known as the [Fremont East Entertainment District](#) opens. As part of its downtown revitalization efforts, the city's Redevelopment Agency contributed funds to this renovation in an effort to attract additional non-gaming nightclubs, cocktail lounges and entertainment hotspots to the area.

2009

The Smith Center for the Performing Arts, located on the 61-acre mixed-use urban community Symphony Park, celebrated its groundbreaking with a bell ringing.

Deleted: which is

November 2009

The city celebrates the designation of Las Vegas Boulevard, from Washington Avenue to Sahara Avenue, as a National Scenic Byway with a neon sign lighting ceremony.

2010

Demolition begins to make way for a new [City Hall](#) and mixed-use office project in downtown Las Vegas, creating more than 13,000 jobs and providing more than \$4 billion in investment.

2010s

[The Cosmopolitan Hotel and Casino and City Center open on the Strip.](#)

2012

The [National Museum of Organized Crime and Law Enforcement](#) 🏛️ opens inside in a former federal courthouse turned post office located at 300 Stewart Ave.

The new City Hall, located at 495 S. Main Street, opens for business in downtown Las Vegas, leaving the previous City Hall available for development by Zappos.com

Sources:

City of Las Vegas

Clark County

Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority

State of Nevada

U.S. Census Bureau

Las Vegas Age - June 3, 1911

Ainley, Thomas "Taj" Jr. and Gabaldon, Judy Dixon. *Las Vegas: The Fabulous First Century*. Arcadia Publishing, 2003.

Moehring, Eugene P. and Green, Michael S. *Las Vegas: A Centennial History*. University of Nevada Press, 2005.

Land, Barbara and Land, Myrick. *A Short History of Las Vegas*. University of Nevada Press, 2004.

Peters, Jonathan Ph.D. *Springs In The Desert: A Kid's History Of Las Vegas*. Stephens Press, 2007.

Comments regarding city of Las Vegas history timeline webpage, submitted by Commissioner Millman, 5/23/12:

1. 10,000 years ago: evidence of man in southern Nevada 12,000 years ago, better to say 10-13 K ago. It's confusing as text talks of LV Valley and first visits hundreds of years ago. I'd leave that out.
2. 1829: No evidence that Rivera is first and most evidence suggests he was not and traveled through Jean-Goodsprings. He shouldn't be credited with discovery; it is possible but not proven. Better to substitute Armijo and commercial trail of 1829-1831 finding variant of OSP through LV Valley.
3. 1844: Fremont's report didn't lure many people to the area; to the west, yes, but to the LV Valley, no. It was a guide for LDS to follow.
4. 1855: Fort not abandoned several years later but mostly by 1857, 2 years after founding.
5. 1885: Ranchers rather than farmers and "dominant industry" is strong for the few scattered ranches. The photo by the 1885 line is 20th century; it should be replaced with something from Stewart of Kiel Ranch.
6. 1905: might add "by railroad company" after "are auctioned off." Photo for 1905 is labeled Fremont St; it is actually 1st St.
7. 1911: I wouldn't call dude ranches "forerunners of the sprawling Strip hotels."
8. 1931: LV not entirely in "grips of Great depression." Gambling was re-legalized in 1931 not legalized. The photo between 1931 and the 1940s is from the 1950s and should be replaced.
9. 1940s: Henderson didn't exist when BMI located. It was named in 1943.
10. 1955: There should be a space between text for atomic and for Moulin Rouge, more directly connecting it to the date 1955.
11. 1945: Odd date to pick. El Ranch Vegas in 1941 and Last Frontier in 1942 predate. Flamingo finished in 1946.
12. 1960s: Difficult to explain in a sentence but Hughes led the way for corporation which don't really build and buy legally until the early 1970s.

Courtney Mooney

From: claytee.white@unlv.edu
Sent: Tuesday, May 29, 2012 9:35 AM
To: Courtney Mooney
Subject: LV History Timeline

Good morning Courtney,

I think 4 of the pivotal events that were not included on the timeline are:

1955 - Moulin Rouge opening - photographs and newspaper articles

March 1960 - Integration of the Strip - headline of the RJ newspaper on March 26, 1960.

1971 - Consent Decree that mandated 12% of Strip positions to blacks (I have a copy of the decree)

1972 - Welfare Rights march on the Strip - newspaper and a book on the subject - *Storming Caesars Palace: How Black Mothers Fought Their Own War on Poverty* by Annelise Orleck

There are many more events that I would like to discuss and corrections so I vote for a committee.

Have a fantastic week,
Claytee

Claytee D. White, Director
Oral History Research Center at UNLV
University Libraries
4505 Maryland Parkway
Las Vegas, NV 89154-7010
TEL (702) 895-2222
FAX (702) 895-2253

Comments from Commissioner Beck, June 15, 2012

Commissioner Millman's comments of 5/23/12 –

#1 – I agree with him that this needs to be revised, I would suggest:

Paleo-Indians were the first inhabitants of Southern Nevada >10,000 years ago
(and leave the rest of the text out)

Other Item:

I would add something related to the following –

Taken directly from the Las Vegas Paiute Tribe's website

On December 30, 1911, ranch owner Helen J. Stewart deeded 10 acres in downtown Las Vegas to the Paiutes, establishing the Las Vegas Paiute Colony.

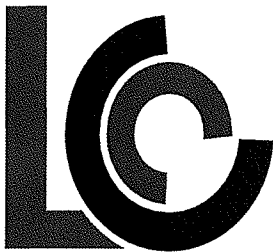
On July 22, 1970, the Las Vegas Paiute Tribe was recognized by the federal government and became a sovereign nation.

In 1983, an additional 3,800 acres of land was returned to Paiute possession at the Snow Mountain Reservation northwest of Las Vegas.

I need to review my comments, the Anasazi description, and the timeline with a Southern Paiute in order to get their perspective. I can do this in mid-July.
Colleen

Vice-Chair Stoldal comments regarding city of Las Vegas History Timeline, submitted 6-25-12:

1. The city time line should include the decade census reports for both the state and Las Vegas as far back as 1900.
2. The goal for each element in the time line should include a link to the source of the data and a site for more information.
3. Would recommend that the early days...1900 to 1950...should focus on growth of Las Vegas Valley, after 1950 focus, while not exclusive should be on the city of Las Vegas.
4. The time line should be date and event driven.
5. Should include information on municipal elections. Earliest terms were two years, now four years.



LATIN CHAMBER
OF COMMERCE, NEVADA, INC.
300 North 13th Street
Las Vegas, NV 89101
T (702) 385-7367
F (702) 385-2614
info@lvccc.com
www.lvccc.com

BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2012

Chairperson

Javier Trujillo

City of Henderson

Vice Chairperson

Joe Hernandez

Branch-Hernandez & Associates

Secretary-Treasurer

Maggie Arias Petrel

Global Professional Consulting

Assistant Secretary-Treasurer

Daniel J. Tafoya

Clark County School District

Immediate Past Chairperson

Luis F. Valera

University of Nevada, Las Vegas

Directors - Two Years

Arthur Cambeiro, M.D.

SurgiSpa Cosmetic and Plastic Surgery

Brian D. Ayala

Ayala's Inc.

Daniel Johnson

Caesars Entertainment

Gaby Jurica

Las Vegas Review Journal/El Tiempo

Jose Luis Melendrez

University of Nevada, Las Vegas

Judge Valorie J. Vega

Eighth Judicial District Court

Ramón Alvarez

Walmart

Tony Timmons

Wells Fargo Bank

Directors - One Year

Alan Aleman

Latino Youth Leadership Alumni

Aldo Aguirre, Ph.D.

Alianza Consulting Group, LLC

Andres Estrada

Outdoor Promotions

Eddie Galaz

Individual

Edgar Patino

NV Energy

Elizabeth Gallagher

Gallagher International Group

Isauro Gonzalez

U.S. Bank

Juergen Barbusca

Cox Communications

Lizzette Villanueva

American Family Insurance

Luis Ayon

Maier Gutierrez Ayon

Maximiliano Couvillier

Lionel, Sawyer & Collins

Norberto Madrigal

Lumas Construction Clean-Up

Ramón Torres

Epicure Group International

ADVISORY BOARD

Domingo Cambeiro

Domingo Cambeiro Corp. - Architects

Eloiza B. Martinez

Individual

Tony F. Sanchez, III

NV Energy

EXECUTIVE STAFF

Otto Mérida

President & CEO

Victoria Napoles-Laza

Senior Executive Vice President

July 20, 2012

Ms. Claytee White

Chairwoman

City of Las Vegas

Historical Preservation Committee

ATTN: City Clerk's Office, 2nd Floor

495 South Main Street

Las Vegas, Nevada 89101

Dear Claytee:

I am sending you this letter as follow up to my testimony at the meeting of the City of Las Vegas Historical Preservation Committee on July 16, 2012. At that meeting it was evident to me that Mr. David Millman, the former Director of the Nevada State Museum, and Mr. Bob Stodal, both wanted to revise the history of Las Vegas to give Antonio Armijo sole or dual credit for being the first non-Indian to set foot in Las Vegas. Personally, I am opposed to doing that. My logic in not revising the existing history is as follows:

First, the following respected historians have already credited Rafael Rivera with the discovery of Las Vegas. They are: LeRoy Hafen in his book, *Old Spanish Trail: Santa Fe to Los Angeles* (1954); Elbert Edwards in his book, *200 Years in Nevada: A Story of People Who Opened, Explored and Developed the Land* (1978); and Melvin L. Miranda in his book, *A History of Hispanics in Southern Nevada* (1997). In addition, local historian Frank Maggio, in his book, *Las Vegas Calling*; and M. L. Miranda and Thomas Rodriguez in their book, *Hispanic Profiles in Nevada History: 1829-1991* (1991) also credited Rafael Rivera with being the first non-Indian person to set foot in what is now Las Vegas, Nevada.

Second, in spite of the above documents, Mr. Millman insists that there is no proof that Rafael Rivera was the first to set foot in Las Vegas,

Ms. Claytee White
Page 2
July 20, 2012

and Mr. Stodal appears to support that position. At the hearing, I pointed out that in 1829 there were no photographers or newspapers to document that Rivera was the first non-Indian person to set in Las Vegas. Therefore, they are correct that there is no proof positive that Rafael Rivera was the first set foot in Las Vegas. By that same logic, however, there is no proof positive that he wasn't the first to set foot in Las Vegas.

Third, what is widely acknowledged by all historians and interested parties, including Mr. Millman and Mr. Stodal, is that the Armijo Trading Caravan did stop in what is now the Las Vegas Wash and traversed the area of southern Nevada on their way to Los Angeles, California. Their route is what became the "Old Spanish Trail" that was used from 1829 to about 1848.

What is also widely acknowledged by all historians and interested parties, including Mr. Millman and Mr. Stodal, is that Rafael Rivera was the scout for the Armijo Trading Caravan and that on December 29, 1829, Armijo noted in his diary that "Citizen Rivera is missing from the reconnaissance party of the day before." On January 4, Armijo sent out a search party and the men returned on January 5 without finding Citizen Rivera. On January 7, the caravan was camped at the *Yerba de Manso* (Las Vegas Wash) when Rafael Rivera returned to the caravan. He had been gone for 13 days and had explored the area all the way to what is now Barstow, California.

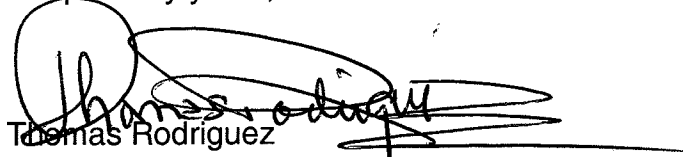
Given this non-contested history, it would seem extremely logical that the Armijo Caravan's chief scout, Rafael Rivera, would also have traversed the same area well ahead of the Armijo Caravan. That is what a scout does - to scout ahead and find the best routes, drinking water, camping grounds, etc. And that is obviously what Rafael Rivera did! Using that sound logic, Rivera should continue to be credited with being the first non-Indian person to set foot in what is now Las Vegas.

Claytee, from my perspective, to attempt at this late date to revise the history that has been written by several highly respected Nevada historians does not make any sense. If the existing history is revised, what are we going to do, confiscate and burn all of the existing books that credit Rafael Rivera? Are we also going to change the name of the I-215 Rafael Rivera Way, and the name of the Rafael Rivera Community Center? I sure hope not! My last word on this subject is

Ms. Claytee White
Page 3
July 20, 2012

that the wishes of the Hispanic community should be the deciding factor in this issue since it can't be proven one way or the other. Therefore, Rafael Rivera should continue to be credited with being the first non-Indian person to set foot in what is now Las Vegas, Nevada.

Respectfully yours,


Thomas Rodriguez
Latin Chamber of Commerce

P.S.

Please distribute copies of this letter to all of the members of the Las Vegas Historical Preservation Committee.

Cc: Members, Las Vegas Historical Preservation Committee
Javier Trujillo, Chairman, Latin Chamber Board of Directors
Otto Merida, President, Latin Chamber of Commerce
Members, Board of Directors of the Latin Chamber of Commerce



27 July 2012

Mr. Thomas Rodriguez
Latin Chamber of Commerce, Nevada, Inc,
300 North 13th Street
Las Vegas, NV 89101

Dear Mr. Rodriguez,

I received your letter of July 20, 2012 and copies are being distributed to all those requested by you. Thank you for your heartfelt, genuine interest in the history of our great city.

We live in an exciting time. I never expected to be at a place in history when we finally begin to realize the real value of our stories and the great impact of 'getting it right.' The passion as we discuss these matters is refreshing and Mr. Rodriguez, we will get it right.

I see these passionate discussions as the beginning of a new era; an epoch where history, class, race, ethnicity, gender, immigration, politics, and all economic and social issues can be intellectually discussed. This is an amazing new day and we can use it wisely to take advantage of a unique opportunity that we may never encounter again.

The City Clerk's office and the Historic Preservation Commission staff are in the process of scheduling another meeting when hopefully, Elizabeth Warren, PhD, will be available to testify. According to all the sources you listed in your letter, she appears to be the trusted authority in the matter of Rafael Rivera.

Courtney Mooney will be in touch with you soon so that all of us, including David Millman and Bob Stoldal, can meet face to face as we bring to the table the knowledge we have acquired in our years of researching Las Vegas history. My vision is for each of us to bring a fair, well-documented approach to our compelling, positively-charged meeting.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Claytee D. White". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

Claytee D. White, Chair
Special Purpose Las Vegas History Timeline Committee

Cc: Javier Trujillo, Chairman, Latin Chamber of Commerce
Otto Merida, President, Latin Chamber of Commerce
Jose Melendrez, Assistant VP, UNLV-Office of Diversity Initiatives
David Millman, Commissioner, Las Vegas Preservation Commission
Robert Stoldal, Vice President, Las Vegas Preservation Commission
Las Vegas Historic Preservation Commission Members



City of Las Vegas

Bob Coffin
Councilman, Ward 3

August 21, 2012

Ms. Dorothy Wright
Chairwoman
City of Las Vegas
Historical Preservation Commission
ATTN: City Clerk's Office, 2nd Floor
495 South Main Street
Las Vegas, Nevada 89101

Re: Meeting Agenda item #5 HPC-45937 Timeline Revision

Dear Chairwoman Wright:

Please be advised I have read the letter written and provided by Thomas Rodriguez of the Latin Chamber of Commerce, with respect to removing Rafael Riviera as the first person to set foot in Las Vegas.

I fully support the position of the Latin Chamber of Commerce with respect to Rafael Rivera remaining in the City of Las Vegas Historical timeline. Further, I have received numerous calls supporting this same history, and the fact that there is no proof contrary to this.

I respect the skills, reputations, and passion of those who wish to change the timeline and I believe that there is no harm in challenging long-held beliefs of any kind IF they can be disproved. However, evidence offered to remove Rafael Rivera is no less inferential than that on record to support his retention.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bob Coffin". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending from the end.

Councilman Bob Coffin, Ward 3

Cc: Las Vegas Historical Preservation Commission members,
Javier Trujillo, Chairman Latin Board of Directors, Otto Merida,
President, Latin chamber of Commerce Members, Board of
Directors of the Latin Chamber of Commerce.

Submitted by Special Purpose Las Vegas History Timeline Committee Chair White 9/6/12

Page 2 – How do we get John Powell's names included? A black rancher who moved into the Las Vegas Valley in 1872, partnered with James b. Wilson and founded the Spring Ranch near the Las Vegas Springs.

Page 3 - J. T. McWilliams lays out his Original Las Vegas Townsite (now the Historic Westside) on the ~~other side~~ of the tracks. I suggest the 'west side' of the tracks

Page 4 - The Westside School was built in the "Old Westside" on W. Washington Avenue and D Street. The... Can we continue to use "Historic Westside?"

Page 5 - The El Portal Theater (first indoor theater?) was constructed on Fremont Street – There was a theater where people actually sat outside – Explanation only.

Beginning in 1931, the construction of Hoover Dam brings an influx of construction workers which starts a population boom and gives the Valley's economy, ~~which was in the grips of the Great Depression~~, a needed boost. I'd like to delete this

~~While many forms of gambling took place illegally for many years,~~ Gambling was officially re-legalized in March 1931 by the state legislature.

Page 6 - ~~Surviving examples~~ of which ~~is~~ are located at Floyd Lamb Park at Tule Springs, and Lorenzi Park.

Jay Dayton Smith House was constructed on S. Sixth Street near Garces Avenue. 1931 Delete unless we explain who he is.

Clark County Indigent Hospital is founded, the predecessor of today's University Medical Center. Location?

Page 7 - The Bonanza Railroad Underpass was constructed on what was then Clark Avenue near Main Street. The underpass was the symbolic gateway between the "Old Westside" and what is now downtown Las Vegas. At some point should this be defined as the black community? Should we use Historic Westside or just Westside? I am not familiar with Old Westside.

Page 8 - Frank Wait House was completed at N. Ninth Street and Ogden Avenues. ~~after ten years by Frank Wait~~, Wait, a one-time prospector, city marshal, undersheriff, security guard and police chief constructed the house himself using colorful stones, semiprecious gems, petroglyphs, and petrified wood as decorations.

Page 12 – I don't understand the population numbers; I see 164,674 and 125,787 the city of Las Vegas for 1980.

Page 13 - The Fitzgerald's Hotel and Casino, the only African-American-owned major property in Las Vegas, was built on Fremont Street. It was black owned quite a bit later in history. How should we state this?

Page 14 – The [Fremont Street Experience](#) 🎨 opens. The \$70-million canopy above Fremont Street provides visitors with spectacular light and sound show. This may not be important but the closing of the street to auto traffic is what brings most old timers to tears. I know that we want to keep this short but can we add a sentence with: This creation also ended auto traffic on the street where teenagers cruised in the 1940s and 1950s.

Page 15 - The Smith Center for the Performing Arts, ~~which is~~ located on the 61-acre mixed-use urban community Symphony Park, celebrated its groundbreaking with a bell ringing.

Courtney Mooney

From: David Millman [dmillman701@gmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, September 25, 2012 11:36 AM
To: Courtney Mooney
Subject: follow ups

Hi Courtney,

Here are the things I checked on that I said needed to be checked on in the last email I sent.

1930s casino list: Meadows 1931; Boulder Club opened in 1929 but got a gaming license in 1931 so it can be included; the Northern was a Club, not a hotel; Pair-O-Dice 1931 and the name was changed to the 91 Club in 1939.

1940s casino list: Golden Nugget (1946) did not have hotel in its name.

1940s: Henderson was named in 1943.

Block 16 prostitution was ended by the Feds late in 1941 and early 1942.

1980s: Fitzgerald's took over the building from the Sundance so it wasn't "built." And it should be made clear it was the only major African-American owned hotel-casino property, not property in general.

David

Submitted by Commissioner Millman October 5, 2012

1872: Looking to confirm the entry on the Spring Ranch. It doesn't sound right but it might be fine.

1929: Why not eliminate "first indoor theater" until we find out. I don't think it was and am looking into it but I may not have an answer by Monday.

1. I don't have anything to add to Bob's comments about the mob and the 1940s dates.

2. Section 8, page 12: The Range was begun in 1941, not completed, and Basic was begun in 1942 so it would be difficult to have it completed by 1941.

1941: Block 16 was north First, not north Second.

1967: (1966, not 1967?) It wasn't the HH Corp at the time and corporate ownership didn't start then. How about: Howard Hughes began a buying spree of Las Vegas hotels and other businesses. His presence paved the way for the corporate ownership of hotel-casinos that followed.

3. Mexican Traders Miss the Springs

One of the chief delights of the study of history is that there are few immutable truths. Many historical “facts” turn out on closer examination to be misunderstandings. For example, it’s more or less common knowledge that Las Vegas sat astride the Old Spanish Trail which, in the 19th century, carried commerce between New Mexico and southern California. Most historical maps attest to this. It *is* clear that Las Vegas was a watering stop on a trail, portions of which can still be discerned. But was it the Old Spanish Trail?

The first commercial caravan known to have passed through Las Vegas Valley was led by New Mexican merchant Antonio Armijo in early 1830. Armijo carried woven goods to exchange for California livestock. Careful research by Elizabeth Warren* demonstrates that Armijo’s route barely skirted the southern edge of the valley. While trading caravans moved more or less regularly across the Mojave Desert for the next eighteen years, no other party is known to have used Armijo’s route. Most bypassed Las Vegas altogether and instead traveled south following the Colorado River to the Needles in present day California. From that point they followed a trail west first marked by Spanish explorer Francisco Garcés in 1776. That, properly speaking, should be called the Old Spanish Trail.

How then did it come to be understood that the Old Spanish Trail came through Las Vegas?

American explorer John C. Fremont confidently but mistakenly assumed he was on the Old Spanish Trail in 1844 when he followed a rugged trail eastward over Mountain Springs Pass between Pahrump and Las Vegas Valleys. He so recorded it in his report which received wide

* Elizabeth von Till Warren, *Armijo’s Trace...*”

distribution. When Americans carried Fremont's report and maps through the area in greater numbers over the next few years, they followed his route and his nomenclature. In fact, Fremont's trail through Las Vegas was neither old nor Spanish.

In many accounts of the first people of European heritage to pass through Las Vegas Valley, the name Rafael Rivera looms very large. Maybe too large. According to legend, Rivera was the first non-native to view the valley. In truth, very little is actually known about him. In late 1829 and early 1830, Rivera served as a scout for the Armijo pack train. On Christmas Day 1829, according to Armijo's journal, the party camped on the Virgin River about a hundred miles northeast of Las Vegas. Rivera and several others departed on a reconnaissance mission. The scouting party returned a week later without Rivera. During that time, the main group had reached the Colorado River and was following it southward. On January 7th, thirteen days after his departure, Rivera rejoined the others at the mouth of Las Vegas Wash. Where had Rivera been? He reported that he had recognized Mohave Indian villages and a crossing of the Colorado he had seen the year before. The villages and crossing were about ninety miles downriver from Las Vegas.

Armijo chose not to follow Rivera's path. Instead, he led the party westward, passing through what is now Green Valley. Their only two overnight stops in or near Las Vegas Valley were dry camps. The record clearly indicates that Rivera had not seen, let alone named, Las Vegas Springs, as many history books incorrectly claim. It was some later and as yet unidentified party that would happen upon the springs and record the place as "the meadows" on Mexican maps.

Why go to into such detail to revise a historical interpretation? Because without constant rethinking, bad information can become the basis of popular legend.

útil á ambos territorios
que el supremo gobierno
protegiere el comercio
por esta parte con cuyo
objeto lo digo á V.E.--
Dios y libertad. Santa Fe
14 de mayo de 1830.--José
Antonio Chavez.--Esco. Sr.
ministro de relaciones in-
teriores y exteriores.

Diario que formo yo el
ciudadano Antonio Armijo
como comandante, para el
descubrimiento del camino
para el punto de las Cali-
fornias, nombrado por el
Sr. gefe político de este
territorio del N. México,
ciudadano José Antonio
Chavez, y es en la forma
que sigue.

El 7 de noviembre de
1829, salí de la jurisdic-
cion de Abiquiá, avancé ha-

Your Excellency.--God and
liberty. Santa Fe, May 14,
1830.--Jose Antonio Chavez.--
Honorable Minister of Internal
and External Affairs.

Diary that I, citizen Anton-
io Armijo, keep as commander
for the discovery of the route
to California, appointed by
the honorable chief of govern-
ment of this territory of New
Mexico, Jose Antonio Chavez,
and which is as follows.

On the 7th of November,
1829, I left the jurisdiction
of Abiquiá.²⁴ I advanced to

²⁴Abiquiu. This is probably a local form of the word.
Consult the Hefens' translation and notes for identification
of localities between Abiquiu and southern Nevada.

sta el rio Puerco haciendo
demora en dicho punto el
dia 8.

the Rio Puerco staying there
the 8th.

9. Al Arroyo de agua.
10. Al Capulin.
11. A la Agua de la
Cañada larga.

9. To the stream of water.
10. To the Capulin.
Cont. Divide
11. To the water of the
long ravine.

12. A la boca del
Cañon largo.

12. To the mouth of the
long ravine.

13. Al Cañon largo.

13. At Long Canyon.

14. A la laguna del

1 1/2 mi. of canon
14. To the lake of Long

Cañon largo, en dicho punto
hallamos una rancheria de
navajoes.

Canyon where we found a settle-
ment of Navajos. *Capt. Canyon*
Cattail marsh

15. Al rio de S. Juan.

15. To the San Juan River.

16. Demora en dicho rio.

16. A day's rest there.

17. Al rio de las Animas.

17. To the River of Souls.

18. Al Ojito de la ceja
del rio de la Plata.

18. To the little spring of
of the bluff²⁵ of the La Plata
River.

²⁵"Ceja" is another word which has not been translated previously. Both ceja and bufa (see above, pp. 13-14, note 14) mean cliff. The difference between the two apparently is a qualitative one; ceja is the more precise term. A ceja describes a cliff "at the edge of a mesa; an escarpment." It is formed by differential erosion of inclined sedimentary rocks. Cf. Paul W. Thrush and the Staff of the Bureau of Mines, comps. and eds., A Dictionary of Mining, Mineral and Related Terms (Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1965), p. 185.

Manuel R.

- | | |
|------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 19. Al rio de S. Lázaro. | 19. To San Lazarus River. |
| 20. Demora en S. Lázaro. | 20. A day's rest there. |
| 21. Al rio de S. Juan, | 21. To the San Juan River |
| otra vez en este punto en- | and again we met six Navajos |
| contramos seis navajoes y | and there was no incident. |
| no tuvimos novedad alguna. | |
| 22. Al Ojito de la sier- | 22. To the little spring |
| ra de Navajó. | of Navajo Mountain. |
| 23. Al rio que baja á | 23. To the river that flows |
| la vuelta de la dicha sierra | down around Navajo Mountain |
| en cuyo punto encontramos | where we encountered a settle- |
| una rancheria de navajoes | ment of Navajos and parleyed |
| y tratamos con ellos, y | with them. We hired an Indian, |
| sacamos un indio pagado | paid for by several members of |
| por varios individuos de | our party with eleven mares |
| la partida con el núm. de | for his journey, so that he |
| 11 yeguas por su viage, | could show us the trail as far |
| para que diera camino bas- | as he knew it. We had the |
| ta donde conociera y con | double intent of his protecting |
| el doble objeto de que no | us from the pilfering by those |
| favoreciera de los robos | of his nation. |
| que hacen los de su nacion. | |
| 24. Al Ojito escondido. | 24. To the little hidden |
| | spring. |
| 25. Al cañoncito del | 25. To the little canyon |
| arroyo de Chelli. | of the arroyo of Chelli. |

- | | |
|---|--|
| 26. Demora en dicho punto. | 26. A day's rest there. |
| 27. A los artenesales de piedra. | 27. To the rimrock. ²⁶ |
| 28. A la laguna del puerto de las Lemitas. | 28. To the lake of the pass of the mottoes. |
| 29. Al aguage del Cuervo. | 29. To the water hole of the crow. |
| 30. Al aguage de los Payuches: se encontraron tres indios y no hubo novedad y fué necesario calzar un cañon para subirlo y levantar las cargas en brazos. | 30. To the water hole of the Paiutes. We met three Indians without incident. It was necessary to scale a canyon to ascend it and to carry our cargo in our arms. |
| Diciembre 1. ^o A la laguna de las Milpitas: en dicho día hubimos que calzar una bajada del cañon. | December 1. To the lake of the little cornfields. We had to scale down into the canyon. |

²⁶"Artenesales" is the only term still not translatable. A Chicano informant from northern New Mexico believes the term artenesales (variant artonejal, cf. diary entry for December 10) describes a trimming of a roof, an architectural feature. Used in geographical description, this might be a rimrock, a characteristic of western topography. In this case, the rimrock would very likely be at the top of the climb out of the Canyon de Chelly in Arizona, where the caravan had spent the previous day (Letter in possession of Loretta Fitzgerald, Ethnic Studies Department, University of Nevada, Las Vegas; copy in possession of author, dated January 27, 1975).

2. Al ojivo del Picacho: 2. To Picacho spring.
 en dicho día salí con la I went out on patrol with
 contada con Salvador Maes. Salvador Maes.
3. Al cañon fragoso de 3. To the rugged canyon
 la bajada y subida de los pa- of the descent and ascent of
 dres, y fué preciso calzar the Fathers. It was necessary
 una y otra y subir y bajar to scale both ways and carry
 las campas en los brazos. the goods by hand.²⁷
4. Demora: en dicho 4. A day's rest. I re-
 día volví de la contada sin turned from the patrol with-
 novedad. out incident.
5. A la punta de la 5. To the beginning of
 mesa de río Grande conocido the mesa of the Grand River,
 en las Californias por el called the Colorado in Cali-
 Colorado: jornada sin agua. fornia: a day's journey without
 water.
6. Al río Grande vado 6. To the Crossing of the
 de los padres: en dicho día Fathers, We recognized the
 se reconoció el vado y se ford and found it in good con-
 encontró bueno, y tres in- dition. Three people who were
 dividuos que pasaron crossing the river saw fresh

²⁷Crampton, Op. cit., p. 17, notes that these steps were rediscovered between 1937 and 1939, in what is today called Navaho Canyon. The steps are listed as historical site no. 127 (p. 24) and photographs of these and other hand-hewn foot and hand holds up the steep rock face are included in the article.

vadeando observaron que habia huella de tres individuos muy fresca y la siguieron hasta que les oscureció sin darles alcance.

7. Demora: se reunieron dichos individuos dando el parte que queda espresado.

8. Cruzamos el tren y compusimos la subida del cañon, la misma que trabajaron los padres.

9. Al cañon Blanco: agua permanente.

10. Al artenejal de la ceja Colorada: en dicho dia se encontró una rancheria de Payuches y no tuvimos novedad, es nacion mansa y cobarde.

11. Al rito del cañon de la Ceja.

12. Arriba de la ceja montuosa: sin agua.

tracks of three people and they followed them until dark without catching up to anyone.

7. A day's rest. The three above mentioned individuals returned.

8. We crossed the train [of animals] and began to take the same ascent as the missionary fathers.

9. To White Canyon: permanent water supply.

10. To the rimrock of the red bluff: on this day we encountered a settlement of Paiutes and there was no incident: they are a docile and timid nation.

11. To the creek of the canyon of the cliff.

12. On top of the forested cliff: no water.

- | | |
|--|--|
| 13. Al pueblo Colorado:
sin agua, con nieve sur-
timos la necesidad de ella. | 13. To the red village:
no water, so we melted snow. |
| 14. Al rito de Carnero. | 14. To the creek of the
Ram. |
| 15. Al Agua de la Vieja. | 15. To the watering place
of the Old Woman. |
| 16. Al llano del Coyote
sin agua. | 16. To the Coyote plain,
without water. |
| 17. Al canon Caloso:
agua de aguajes. | 17. To the Limestone Can-
yon. Water from water holes. |
| 18. Demora, y salió la
contada y volvió sin nove-
dad. | 18. Day's rest. The de-
tachment left and returned
without incident. |
| 19. Al cañon del Agua
hedionda, permanente. | 19. To the stinking water
canyon, permanent [water]. |
| 20. Al rio Severo. | 20. To Severe river. ²⁸ |

²⁸Even though Armijo identified this river wrongly as the Sevier (it was actually the Virgin), his use of the name indicates that he expected to find the Sevier River in this vicinity. He was familiar with the geographic landmarks described by previous explorers and traders. Cf. Hill, *Op. cit.*, for a discussion of previous explorers and their contributions toward understanding the geography of this part of Utah. Hafen, in all three of his publica- tions dealing with the Spanish Trail, discusses the inac- curate identification of this river by Armijo and correctly interprets the river to be the Virgin. The "river of the cornfields" is most likely the Santa Clara River, tribu- tary of the Virgin. Jedediah Smith noted similar corn- fields along this stream on his 1826 trip down the river (see L. Morgan, Jedediah Smith and the Opening of the West. Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1965, p. 197).

- | | |
|---|--|
| 21. Demora; y salió la contada. | 21. Rest. Detachment left. |
| 22. Al río de las Milpas: en dicho punto se reunió la contada sin novedad. | 22. To the river of the cornfields. The detachment returned without incident. |
| 23. Al arroyo de las Calabacillas. | 23. To the arroyo of the little gourds. |
| 24. Abajo del mismo río de las Milpas. | 24. Lower down on the same Milpas river. |
| 25. Volvimos á caer al río Severo de cuyo punto salió la contada. | 25. We reached the Severe River again. The detachment left. |
| 26. En el mismo río abajo. | 26. Downriver. |
| 27. En id. se encontró una ranchería de indios con zarcillos en las narices y no tuvimos novedad por ser mansos y cobardes. | 27. Down river we found a settlement of Indians with rings in their noses. ²⁹ There was no incident because they were timid and docile. |
| 28. En el mismo río abajo. | 28. Downriver. |

²⁹These are apparently Paiutes although Armijo did not name them. The geographic location is right for a Paiute village along the Virgin near Mesquite, Nevada, a favorite camping spot of the Huddy River or Moapa band of Paiutes. Cf. Isabel T. Kelly, *Op. cit.*, pp. 548-61. For information on nose bones, see above, p. 10, note 9.

29. A la ciénega del mismo río.

30. En el dicho río.

31. En id. se juntó la la contada.

Enero 1.^o Al río Grande otra vez: de la contada que se reunió el día anterior faltó el ciudadano Rafael Rivera.

2. Río Grande abajo: camino fragoso.

3. Id. id.

4. Demora: en dicho día se fue la contada en busca de Rivera.

5. Demora: vino la contada y no halló á Rivera.

6. Al arroyo de la yerba del manso en dicho punto salió contada en busca de Rivera.

29. To the swamp of the same river.³⁰

30. On the same river.

31. Ditto. The detachment returned.

January 1. To the *Grand* [Colorado] River again. One man was missing from yesterday's detachment--citizen Rafael Rivera.

2. Down the Colorado: rugged trail.

3. Ditto.

4. Rest. A detachment left in search of Rivera.

5. Rest. The detachment returned without Rivera.

6. To the arroyo of the herb of the tamed Indian. A detachment left in search of Rivers.

³⁰This is probably the junction of the Muddy River and the Virgin, which occurred some fifteen miles above the confluence of the Virgin and Colorado rivers, and about two days' journey (December 28 and 29, above) from the Indian settlement on the Virgin near present-day Mesquite, Nevada.

7. Demora: esperando
la contada, llegó el ciuda-
dano Rivera y dió noticia
que habia encontrado los
pueblos de los Cucha
Payuches y do los Hayatas;
y reconocido el vado donde
cruzó el rio Grande el año
pasado que salió por Sonora.

8. Demora: y llegó la
contada que andaba en busca
de Rivera sin novedad, de
cuyo punto volvió á salir
la contada.

9. Al arroyo Salado sin
novedad.

10. A una laguna sin
agua.

11. Al ojito de la
Tortuga.

12. Al Puerto sin agua.

13. A los ojitos
Salados.

14. Al rio de los Pa-
yuches, donde se encontro
una rancheria y no hubo

7. Rest. Awaiting the
detachment. Citizen Rivera
arrived and reported that he
had located the villages of
the Cucha Payuches and the
Hayatas. He had recognized
the ford where he had crossed
the Colorado last year when
he left for Sonora.

8. Rest. The detachment
that had searched for Rivera
returned without incident. It
left again from this point.

9. To the Salty arroyo
without incident.

10. To a dry lake.

11. To the little spring
of the tortoise.

12. To the pass without
water.

13. To the little salty
springs.

14. To the river of the
Payuches where we found a
settlement and there was no

novedad por ser mansa.

incident because they were
docile.

15. En el mismo rio
abajo.

15. Downriver.

16. Al rio Salitroso,
en donde se juntó la con-
tada sin novedad.

16. To the Saltpeter River.
The detachment returned with-
out incident.

17. Jornada sin agua.

17. Day's journey without
water.

18. A la laguna del
Milagro.

18. To the lake of the
miracle.

19. Al ojito del Mal-
pais.

19. To the little spring
of the badlands.

20. Jornada sin agua.

20. Day's journey without
water.

21. Al arroyo de los
Hayatas á cuya punta llega
el camino que sale de Mo-
qui transitado por los Mo-
quines con el objeto de

21. To the arroyo of the
Hayatas at whose head the
trail from Moqui joins--³¹
the one travelled by the Mo-
quines when they trade shells

³¹The Hopi trail. Moqui or Moki is the Paiute designa-
tion for the western Pueblo villages and their inhabitants.
The term was in general use until the late nineteenth cen-
tury, when the pueblos were recognized as distinct from one
another and separate names were applied to each. Paul Day-
ton Bailey, Jacob Hamblin, Buckskin Apostle (Los Angeles:
Westernlore Press, 1946), p. 107; Camp, Op. cit., p. 55;
Dozier, Op. cit., p. 61, 87; Fowler and Fowler, Op. cit.,
p. 281.

tratar conchas con dichos
Hayatas.

22. Por el mismo arroyo
para arriba.

23. Por id. nos comi-
mos un caballo.

24. Id. id.

25. Id. id.

26. Id. id. nos comi-
mos un macho de D. Miguel
Valdés.

27. Por dicho arroyo
topamos en dicho día á los
de la contada con socorro
de bastimento y gente del
rancho de San Bernardino.

28. Al cañon de San
Bernardino.

29. Al parage de San
José.

30. A la Fuente.

31. A la mision de San
Gabriel.

Regresé el día 1 de
marzo por el mismo camino
sin mas novedad que pérdida

with the Hayatas.

22. Up the same arroyo.

23. Ditto: we ate a horse.

24. The same.

25. The same.

26. The same. We ate a
mule belonging to Miguel
Valdes.

27. Along the same arroyo
we met the detachment with
supplies and people from the
San Bernardino rancho.

28. To the San Bernardino
Canyon;

29. To the stopping place
of San Jose.

30. To the fountain.

31. To San Gabriel Mission.

I returned on March 1 by
the same route with no more
incident than the loss of some

Ft. Valley?

béstias cansadas, hasta
e interné á Navajó, por
ya nacion fué perjudi-
do en béstias que me ro-
aron y arribé á esta juris-
dicion de Xemey hoy 25 de
Abril de 1830.--Antonio
Armijo.

Es cópia. Santa Fé 14
de mayo de 1830.--Chavez.

Nota. En el número que
corresponde al 5 del cor-
riente dimos la comunica-
cion particular del camino
descubierto entre el N.
México y la Alta Cali-
fornia, ahora insertamos la
oficial que se ha dirigido
al supremo gobierno.

exhausted animals until ar-
riving in Navajo territory
where I lost some animals to
their thieving. I arrived
at this jurisdiction of Xemey³²
this day. April 25, 1830.--
Antonio Armijo.

This is a copy. Santa Fe,
May 14, 1830.--Chavez.

Note. In issue number 5
of this month we gave the
personal story³³ of the route
discovered between New Mexico
and California. Now we insert
the official communication
directed to the supreme govern-
ment. . . .

³²Jemez pueblo on the Jemez River, tributary of the Rio Grande in New Mexico, about two days' journey from Abiquiu. This pueblo was the locale of a trade fair for Navahos, providing a market place for Mexican-Navaho trade (Simmons, Op. cit., p. 186). Jemez-Navaho ties date from the 1694 Jemez revolt against Spanish rule (Edward H. Spicer, Cycles of Conquest (Tucson: University of Arizona Press, 1962), p. 164).

³³See above, pp. 7-16. [account of first party to return to N. M., by a "shorter and more familiar route, acc. to Armijo."