

Scenic residents hash over bridge and road pros & cons

Desert Echo

About 20 Scenic, AZ, residents attended a town hall meeting in the Bunkerville Community Center Saturday night and hashed out the pros and cons of a proposed Scenic Improvement District.

Probably as most left with the same opinions as when they went, but, according to one observer, they also said they had learned a lot about the process that goes into forming an Improvement District.

The group indicated that the 13-member SID Board used selective mailing practices when property owners were notified of an impending SID. But it was explained that all 565 property owners were notified, with only a handful of notices coming back as address unknown. The postage came to more than \$500.

"We're continually getting the return envelopes back, with

District created

signatures, and with a question or two," according to board chairman Verl Frehner.

The district was created in the summer of 1995 with a 55 percent return of "yeah" votes for its formation.

The procedure from here on is to delineate the scope of the project. To that end petitions have been circulated and residents are deciding if they want to include both the paving of Elbow Canyon Road and building a bridge over the Virgin River that would connect the Strip to the west side of the river in the SID. To make that connection would save approximately 15 miles of travel, making it easier and quicker to get to the Interchange and to Beaver Dam, the Littlefield School and Mesquite.

Initially the board was considering paving only Old 91

Right-of-ways needed

Road and west to Old 91 without leaving room for right-of-ways. There wasn't enough interest at first among the residents to relinquish land for that purpose, and the idea of paving Elbow Canyon was abandoned.

So the west spur was designed to get around that lack of cooperation

Open the area

and the board decided to open up the area that had not seemed very accessible to a paved road. The east spur was designed for the same reason. The board designed all the spurs so that all property would be located within one mile of the main paved road.

"The advisory committee wanted to make certain that we were being fair to everyone. That's why we insisted that no property owner have to travel more than a mile to reach pavement," said Frehner.

But times change, and so do people.

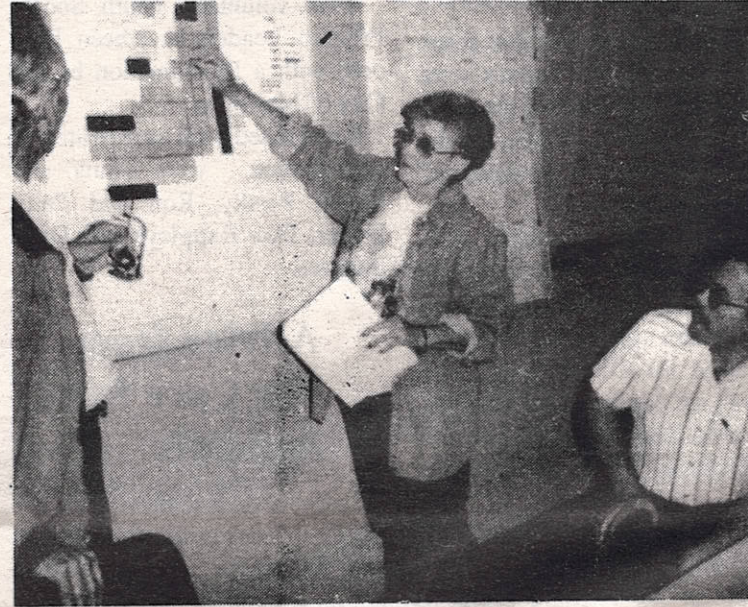
The board decided to make one last attempt to include Elbow Canyon in the SID. Some property had changed hands, and residents seemed more willing to consider paving Elbow Canyon.

The board found that by making a few changes in the direction of the original SID layout, that residents could have three miles of

Three miles

paved road instead of the original one mile as well as the spurs.

Residents discussed the wording on the petition, and were told by Marc Brown, an engineer from Bulloch Brothers that the wording was mandated by the county. He said he would rather have express-



phrases "that he knew would cause a lack of understanding."

Brown indicated that perhaps as much as \$58,000 could be cut off the cost of the bridge, as well as some off the cost of the road.

Residents who attended the meeting indicated their largest concern centered around the additional tax

Financing methods

burden. "We're not out here pioneering a new area because we have lots of money. We don't."

Methods for financing the building of the bridge and road were discussed. The county can obtain interesting bearing bonds at one percent under prime. Residents have the option of paying their share up front, or a sizable portion, or annually when their property taxes are paid, over a 10 year period.

Melvin Hughes, a realtor, said the residents should be eager to give the right-of-ways that would make it possible to pave Elbow Canyon or even the spurs because their property values would immediately go up.

Three or four people echoed that

be done. Hughes said he would save on auto expenses once paving was in place. "When you count the cost of flat tires, block engines and so forth from driving Elbow Canyon, you'll find you be doing nothing but saving, well as being more comfortable."

Overrides on the construction were discussed, and residents were told by Brown that both projects could be completed in the time allowance. He said that the company bears the burden of overrides. Bulloch Brothers

BLM parcel

engineering was one of five companies submitting bids for the projects.

Proximity to parcels owned by the Bureau of Land Management was discussed and Frehner indicated that only one-half mile of projects crossed any BLM land. "We fortunate in that," he said.

Brown, Frehner and Hughes minded the residents that while Elbow Canyon is paved, it only raises the value of adjacent property, but it also creates a tax, thereby giving them more

Virgin Valley Edition

THE SPECTRUM

Wednesday, March 6, 1996



Spectrum photos / Lovina K. Young

Above, this home started out as a garage and ended up as a home for Rick and Yvonne Rawson. Left, Yvonne enjoys the home; they have lived in it since August.

Scenic couple turns garage into a home built out of straw

By **LOVINA K. YOUNG**

Spectrum Correspondent

Putting a modern look to a story-book idea, Rick and Yvonne Rawson built their home out of straw.

The home, located five miles from Mesquite in Scenic, Ariz., started out as a two-car garage. During the construction, Rawson asked her husband, "Couldn't we live in it?" After some thought and adjustments, the answer came back a definite yes. The Rawsons moved into their new home in August of 1995.

"This is an idea for the working man who wants to own something," Rawson said.

The house cost \$20 per square foot to build. As an example of the expenditures involved, it cost \$200 to build two outside walls, Rawson said.

Rawson got the idea to build with straw from mother earth. He then sent away for a video about straw bale construction. Even though Rawson has worked extensively in construction, the building didn't always go as planned.



With their retirement to think of, Rawson is pleased that they have no payment on their cozy, new home.

rebar and cables running through it to hold the bales together.

A cement slab formed the foundation for the

so plumbing for the bathroom could be installed.

After the straw was stacked properly, it had to sit and settle for two weeks. The 18-inch-thick straw walls were covered with black paper and chicken wire. Stucco was sprayed on to form the finishing layer.

The Rawsons, with the help of their son, made their own trusses. The slanted metal roof catches rainwater which the Rawsons use. The kitchen sink also drains out to water the trees.

Buying the straw was the biggest problem the Rawsons encountered. They contacted farmers in Utah to get the straw building material.

Stacking the bales was the next challenge, Rawson said.

The ceiling has R-35 insulation added, but the thick straw walls provided instant insulation. Inside, the house is always warmer than outside temperatures. It stays between 65 and 68 degrees. The only heat is supplied by a potbelly stove.

The swamp cooler usually keeps the house comfortable during the summer. The humidity gets high in August, so the Rawsons installed a window air conditioner in the bedroom.

• Please see HOME on 3

THE SPECTRUM - Page 3

HOME

Continued from 1

The 900-square-foot home is as big as a small condo in a suite, Rawson said. It sports all the modern conveniences and appliances. The doors throughout the spacious one bedroom, one bath

home are Spanish tile.

"It's about a five year project," Rawson said of their plans to build a garage, then to expand the house in a C-shape with a courtyard in the center.

The Rawson's also plan to build a stucco wall with iron gates around the house and landscaped yard.

Desert Echo
2/2/96

New Road, Bridge on Agenda

A letter of incumference to to property owners on the Arizona Strip should be received within two weeks according to Verl Frehner, director of RIPPLE.

The letters are requesting that property owners sign for their portion of the badly needed two lane asphalt road leading from Old Hiway 91 to Scenic at Elbow Canyon and leading south near the Arizona/Nevada line.

Frehner reported on the progress towards improving the road as well as construction of a two lane bridge across the Virgin River connecting the Strip to the main body of the local population.

David J. Grisez, public engineer and county manager for Mohave County, addressed the issue of the current jail population.

The jail facility was originally built to house a population of 210 and later expanded to house 238 inmates. During 1995 the average inmate population was 296. This overcrowding situation has lead to security and health problems not only for the inmates but also for the correcitonal officers, he said.

Scenic residents find common voice

■ Group focuses on improvements in their local area

By HANS K. MEYER

The Spectrum

Sep 1997

Faced with recent problems and development in their isolated community, some Scenic residents have formed a group to foster area improvement.

Twenty residents created the

Scenic Betterment Committee Aug. 20 to "achieve a stronger voice in Kingman," said Karla Dimick, public relations officer. Members will meet monthly to discuss how they can improve the community and track the progress of proposals.

The committee was created because Scenic residents weren't attending RIPPLE meetings, even though the organization serves all Arizona Strip communities, said Pat Sevy, SBC president. Sevy is

on the RIPPLE advisory board.

She said she also noticed residents didn't have enough information about community issues including exotic dancers at The Outpost in Scenic and a controversial bridge proposed to cross the Virgin River and add another access point into town.

"We've had a good turnout at our first two meetings of SBC," she said. "I think people just wanted something a little closer to home."

One of SBC's first projects will

be to petition Mohave County to better maintain Elbow Canyon Road, the only street into the town of about 350 people, Sevy said.

SBC also will offer progress reports on road paving and bridge construction projects under way. Members also want a post office, community building and fire station in Scenic as well, Dimick said.

The SBC meets at 5 p.m. Sept. 20 in The Outpost in Scenic. A potluck dinner will follow. For information, call Dimick at 346-6535.

1999

Scenic Betterment Committee to discuss Master Plan Virgin River Communities

L. Dimick,
Betterment Committee

Residents of Scenic, and Beaver Dam have a unique opportunity. We are in the stages of becoming a community. At this point we have a chance to affect our future in a democratic

way that works well at the community level. It is only a democracy when people are involved. So few people have stepped forward to be a part of this process. We have allowed a small number of people to set the course for our future. There is a change that course. There will be a meeting at the Littlefield Fire Station on November 23 at 7 p.m. Give Carol Anderson

will be on hand to address the current petition to create a five-member County Board of Supervisors, as well as other issues in a public comment period. Do you know how many Supervisors there are currently?

On October 29 a Scenic Betterment meeting will be held at Randy Hintz's house at 6 p.m. We will be discussing the Virgin River Communities Master Plan. This is an informational meeting to be followed by a meeting to be held in Mesquite. The time and date has not yet been set however, the Planning and Zoning Department and the Mohave County Economic Director will be there to explain the changes in the map.

Note: this will be the last time we the people will have a chance to make a change.

If you don't like your tax bill, then you should be at the November 20 meeting at the Littlefield Fire Station. Beverly Payne, County Tax Assessor will be there to address the public regarding our tax base and taxes. Again, there will be a public comment period.

Voter Registration forms will be available at all of the aforementioned meetings. As voters, we the people have power to affect our government.

Mohave County Talent Blank Applications are also available. By filling one of these out, you could be considered to serve in several categories such as

Board of Health, Planning and Zoning, the Industrial Development Authority, just to name a few. For everyone of you who has complained about our recent loss of an inspector, here's your chance to make a difference.

If you choose to ignore the current efforts of a few to

make you aware of the issues facing these communities, then don't be upset at the outcome.

Now is the time for residents to join together and have a positive voice in our local and county government before our neighborhoods are beyond repair.

9/13/97
Outpost bar *Virgin Valley*
**managers end
exotic dancing**

By HANS K. MEYER

The Spectrum

Where proposals by the Mesquite City Council failed, new management succeeded.

When K.T. and Phil Baumkratz took over management of the Outpost bar in Scenic, Ariz., Aug. 1, they ended exotic dancing at the club seven months after it began.

"For the money it was making, it wasn't worth the trouble," said K.T. Baumkratz, previously a bartender at the Outpost. "It's not really a big enough market for it out here, and we really want to do what people want."

The bar first began inviting exotic dancers from Las Vegas in January. But controversy around the bar didn't erupt until June 11 when Mesquite City Councilman Jim Owens proposed ending a mutual aid agreement with Scenic until the dancing stopped. His proposal was withdrawn June 25 when Owens said he learned Help Our Moral Environment (HOME) had joined the fight.

However, Dena Hoff, HOME president, said her group couldn't take credit for ending the dancing in Scenic.

"Maybe the new managers watched what happened and decided that dancing wasn't what the community wanted," she said. "It says a lot about the owners that they would be concerned enough about the community to take more of a family approach to the business."

"For the money it was making, it wasn't worth the trouble. It's not really a big enough market for it out here, and we really want to do what people want."

— K.T. Baumkratz
Outpost management

"We decided we really wanted to target our market out here," he said. "We'll do whatever works to stay in business."

Part of that new approach means making the Outpost more accessible to families, Phil and K.T. Baumkratz said. They plan to expand what the convenience store portion of the bar offers while adding family activities such as free pool and foosball during the day.

Evans said he also plans to renovate the building to make it more interesting. The building's front facade soon will resemble the entrance of a turn-of-the-century mine, he said.

Besides the renovations, the new managers also plan to open the bar to swap meets each Saturday. Beginning 6 a.m. Saturday, residents can exhibit for free anything they would like to sell. The only rules are don't bring firearms

BAR

• Continued from A1

K.T. Baumkratz said.

Phil and K.T. Baumkratz have been Scenic residents for almost four years. Phil Baumkratz said he helped his wife take over the bar because he was getting tired of show business. Phil helped build the theater in CasaBlanca Resort and Casino and pyrotechnic effects for Las Vegas shows such as EFX at the MGM Grand.

"Twenty years of show business drives you crazy," he said. "I mean we did two shows a day, six days a week. That's nearly 600 shows a year."



Spectrum photo / Hans K. Meyer

Elbow Canyon Road winds toward Mesquite. The dirt road is the only way to access or leave Scenic. A pro-

posal passed by the Mohave County Board of Supervisors will create a new access in about one year.

Bridge could provide new road

By HANS K. MEYER

The Spectrum

Residents may have an alternate route to Scenic than battered Elbow Canyon Road after next year.

The Mohave County Board of Supervisors approved a resolution June 11 authorizing construction of a bridge across the Virgin River, giving Scenic residents another route home and access to the rest of the Arizona Strip.

But some residents said they'd rather have Elbow Canyon Road, the only access to Scenic from Mesquite, paved instead.

"They come and grade this road every two weeks, but it's destroyed again the next day," said John Gray, a two-year Scenic resident.

Elbow Canyon Road is a dirt path that begins in Bunkerville and dead ends 10 miles later.

The resolution calls for extending Elbow Canyon Road to U.S. Highway 91 near Western Rock, which requires paving the road up to the Nevada Border.

The board considered the proposal because of a petition turned

tion must represent a majority of the residents. "We're going to add an assessment on the property of all Scenic residents, so we have to make sure the petition has the qualified number of signers," she said. "The report from the engineering firm says there's more than enough, but we have to make sure."

Anderson couldn't say how many signatures are on the petition before it's verified.

Resolution proponent Verl Frehner said he knew the project would be expensive, but it was the only way he could get it cleared by the board of supervisors.

"A lot of people say it would be easier to pave the road to Mesquite, but they need to understand we can't do anything in Nevada," he said.

"Travelers are in Nevada for about five miles before reaching Mesquite from Scenic. The road isn't inside Mesquite's boundaries and would have to be paved by Clark County," said Bill DaVee, Mesquite city manager.

Not only would the bridge and road extension provide access to

and it's going to be a large community," he said. "Have you ever seen a city develop without access to a major interchange?"

While many residents favor paving the road, several are worried about the cost. Preliminary engineering reports indicate residents would pay less than \$1,000 per acre, Frehner said. Payment could be made over 10 years if necessary, he said.

But some residents say they hesitate to pay that much money when they don't need access to the rest of the Arizona Strip.

Stephen Clark said he's one of few area residents who live in Beaver Dam but work in Scenic. Most Scenic residents work in Mesquite, he said.

Dale Nash, who has lived in Scenic eight years, said he has mixed emotions over the announcement.

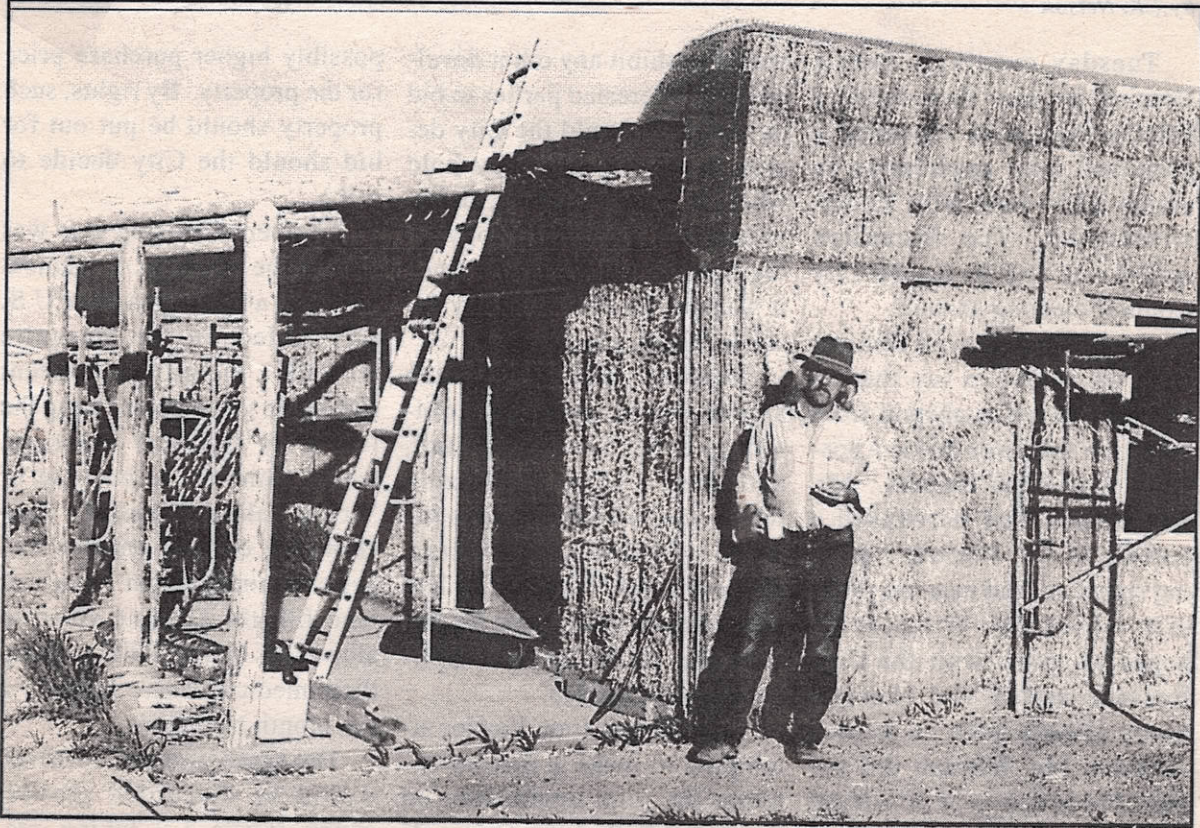
"In one way, we already have a decent road with very little expense to anyone," he said. "On the other hand, we could have a nice road at a large expense to everyone."

The verification process, engi-

DESERT SPRINGS

March 13, 1997

The Saga Of The Straw House



By Helen Gardner

First there was the story of the three little pigs. The pig who built his house of straw watched the wolf blow it down and then he was dinner for the wolf.

But this is not the case with Steven Williams in Desert Springs, Arizona. This long time contractor, who has built more than 1,000 conventional homes, became interested in houses built of straw through a friend in Salt Lake City.

"My friend gave me this book, 'The Straw Bale House' written by S.O. MacDonald and Matts Myhrman, which can be found at Dalton Books in St. George. I began to study about straw houses and became so fascinated that I decided to build one of my own."

Steven says his house can be seen from the freeway. "Since I began building, I've spent half of

everywhere who want to know what I'm doing and then in turn they become interested in this "new age" way to build."

He estimated his house is in the final stage of completion.

"All the wiring, plumbing, etc., is done. All I need is to stucco the inside and outside." To date, he estimates he has spent about \$7,000 on this three bedroom, two bathroom house of 1,700 square feet. He started last fall, building it himself, and it will take him another month to complete.

"Counting everything, I calculate this house will cost me between \$21 and \$22,000, which is only one third the cost of a conventional house, and, it is environmentally sound.

"In the U.S. last year, 5.2 million conventional homes were built."

Estimates from government studies say that farmers burn or

"Burning straw pollutes the atmosphere and if plowed-under, it molds the soil or causes fungus," Steven said.

The savings reach further than just the pocketbook, by building with straw.

"I am fascinated with straw," he said. My house will have an R-70 insulation value. The same value of a conventional house is R-13." Steven said.

"Though the timber industry opposes building with straw," Steven said, "they should be happy that an alternative way to build has been found. Our timber will not last forever."

Steven Williams was a successful and prominent builder in St. George, who is so passionate about straw houses, that if he ever begins building again, chances are he will build houses of straw. "And believe me, they would never fall down," he said. "This is

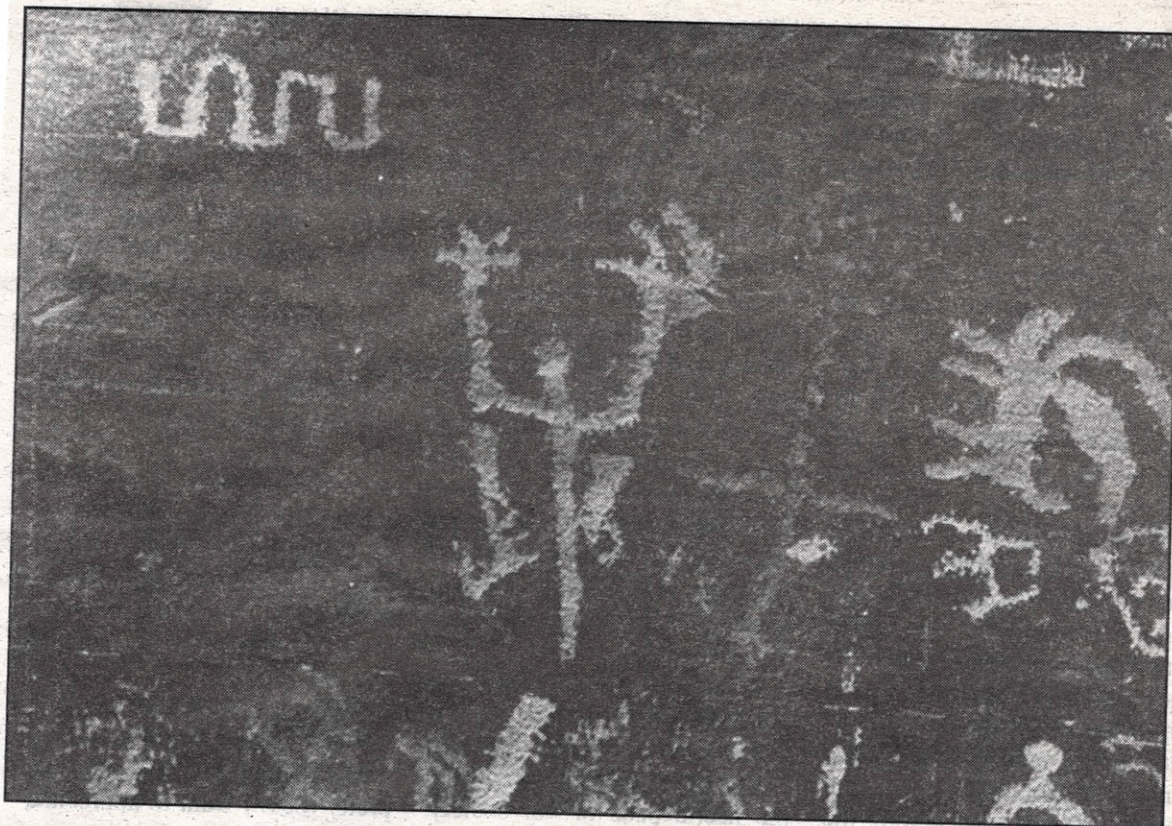
Fundraiser for the Outpost in Scenic

A fundraiser to rebuild the Out Post Store in Scenic will be held Saturday, May 9 from 12 noon to 5 p.m. at the site on Elbow Canyon Rd.

According to Jesse Alger, spearheader of the event, the afternoon will feature karaoke starring Eddy Smiley music, and dancing.

Thanks to the generosity of the VFW Post 7385, their chuckwagon will be used to handle all the hamburgers,

hot dogs and chili that can be purchased, with proceeds to go into the building fund.



submitted

It's all about Scenic!

By: Verl Frehner

For Desert Valley Times

"HOLDING SOMETHING UP" - "GREAT" *. The hand-drawing of the symbol depicted on the card next to the petroglyph above, has basic meaning(s) as described in its sub-heading. Because of this symbol's ability to have these basic meanings, and many additional meanings when other petroglyphs are added to it through Symbol Extension, that symbol becomes quite a valuable tool in petroglyph communications.

THE BASIC MEANING, with some of its many interpretations! Look first at some of the possible meanings of "Great." The story recorded on the rocks might be centered around a particular person who has obtained some kind of earned greatness among his people, and the story may have been written in an effort recognize him for his accomplishments. Perhaps he may be great in their eyes because of his pursuit of peace. Maybe he managed to have his people avoid starvation because his ability to obtain food during times of famine. Maybe his bravery was such that during an armed conflict lives were saved. Or, his greatness might have come about because of his small daily acts of kindness done to others

Then again maybe he was, in a different sense, "great" because of the fear he installed in others. It could have been that

he had a bad temperament, along with a strong body which allowed him to enforce his will and be "great" in a "bullying" sort-of-way, and because of that no one dared challenge him. In that case he would have placed himself in the position of a "great bully," or a "feared," leader.

Next, let us look at it in relation to the concept found in the meaning, "Holding Something Up." The modern-day meaning of "being the greatest," by showing off your muscles, is exemplified in that petroglyph configuration. You can also visualize a person holding aloft something meant for all to see. In your mind, maybe it's a Moses with stone tablets containing commandments? Or, if you relate it to its original (Native American) setting, maybe it's a warring chieftain with his enemy's scalp and weapons held high. It could be a newborn infant held heavenward in a gesture of Thanks-giving. Or, it could be a warring chieftain holding weapons that will be thrown to the ground as a sign for the battle to begin. Maybe a "peace pipe" is held up and stretched between the two hands as a sign for a "peace powwow" to start.

ADDING A "DETERMINATIVE."* It appears that there are anywhere from three-to-five, very closely placed additional petroglyph symbols, added to

the basic meaning of the basic petroglyph. It's difficult to determine from them what each of these additional petroglyphs represents, except that they have been placed very close to the basic petroglyph, just below both of the elbows, for elaboration purposes. Whatever they are, they are part of the story, just as the ominous outstretched fingers, added to the basic petroglyph where the hands would be, are.

These additional symbols are intended to "clarify or classify" the basic meanings, and extended them so that they communicate the message intended by its ancient author. As you can see by the various possibilities touched upon in the "Basic Meaning" portions of this article, each of the many different meanings can take the story in a different direction. Likewise, each additional symbol added to the group "clarifies or classifies" them, and results in the creation of a much longer and detailed story. So with the skill of a well-versed story teller, and the patience and persistence of a stone artisan committed to the pitting in stone of the various petroglyphs, the story becomes intensely more interesting.

*[Ref: THE ROCKS BEGIN TO SPEAK. By: LaVan Martineau]

*An additional symbol or symbols used to clarify or classi-

Virgin River bridge now ends Scenic's isolation

By ^{B. H.} KALLEE NIELSEN

knielsen@thespectrum.com

11/3/02 The Spectrum

SCENIC, Ariz. — A new bridge across the Virgin River now links Scenic, Ariz., an unincorporated town near the Arizona border, to the rest of the Arizona Strip.

The dedication and ribbon-cutting ceremony Thursday for the Scenic Road and Bridge Project marked the official opening of the bridge, the only paved road to connect Scenic directly with outside communities.

Under way since January and completed this month, the 500-foot-long, two-lane bridge links Arizona with Highway 91.

It will do away with the idea of Scenic as a "dead-end community," said Verl Frehner, who was awarded for his initiation and organization of the bridge project at the ceremony.

It puts the community in a position to take care of future development needs, such as police ambulance and fire protection, Frehner said.

Before the bridge was built, a gravel, rough road was the only connection between Scenic and

neighboring communities, Frehner said.

There was no in-and-out roadway.

The bridge gives residents easier access to the school in Beaver Dam, said Gene Maughan, president of Rural Improvement Positive Programs through Local Efforts.

The school bus previously took a 25-mile trip had to drive along a dirt road from Beaver Dam, across the Nevada border to Mesquite and back each day, he said.

Mohave County Supervisor Pete Byres dedicated the site during Thursday's ceremony.

Joe Bowler presented Frehner with a recognition award for his dedication to the project.

Cheryl Ruffing Credentialed

June 5-2003
Desert Valley Times

Cheryl L. Ruffing of Scenic, Ariz. has been awarded a Child Development Associate (CDA) credential in recognition of outstanding work with young children.

The council awarded the credential for Professional Recognition in Washington, D.C., which represents the early childhood profession.

CDA is the only major national effort to improve childcare by evaluation and recognizing the skills of individuals providing care.

The first credential was awarded 25 years ago, and now 46 states plus the District of Columbia include CDA in their childcare licensing regulations.

Parents who use childcare are especially concerned today about their children's welfare.

With this in mind, as part of the CDA assessment

B-1-4
process, every candidate for the CDA credential is observed working with young children or families by an early childhood professional.

In addition, the candidate must demonstrate the ability to work with families to develop children's physical and intellectual capabilities in a safe and healthy learning environment.

The CDA credential is having a positive effect on the quality of childcare.

Its impact is evident in center-based and home visitor programs as well as family childcare, the most common form of care for children under five years old.

Child care staff and parents wanting information on CDA should write to the Council for Professional Recognition at 2460 16th Street, N.W., Washington, D.C., 20009-3575.

General Store Opens In Scenic

By Samantha McBride
sami@mesquitelocalnews.com

Thursday June 5 2008

See a need.

Fill that need.

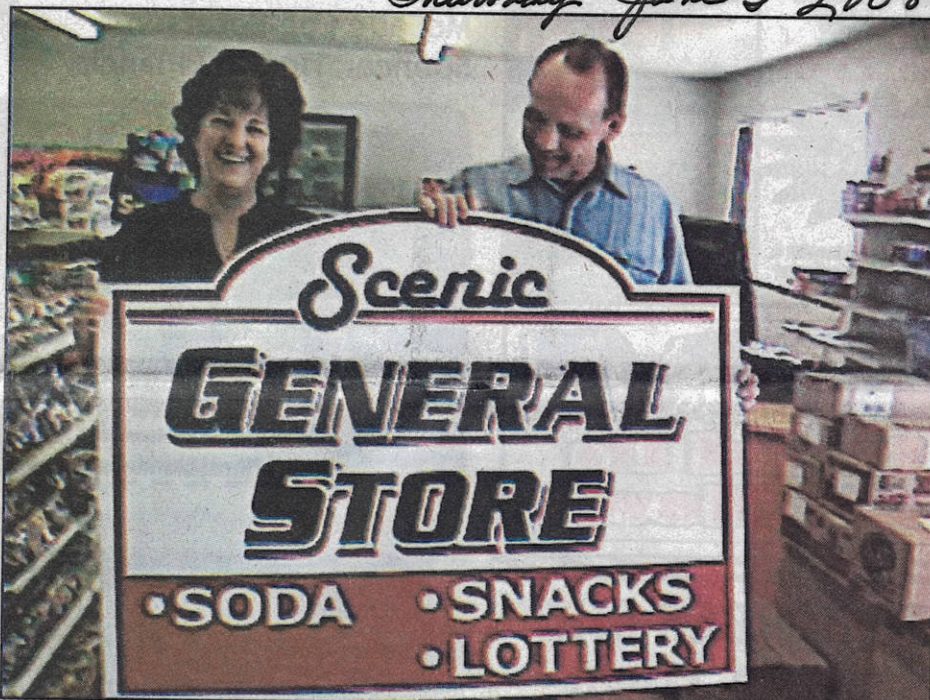
That's the recipe for creating a successful business, and Jim and Debbie Rea have done just that with the opening of their old style general store in Scenic, called the Scenic General Store, located at 3767 S. Scenic Blvd.

Originally Jim and Debbie are from Boulder City, where they raised a family, and moved here to get away from the hustle and bustle of Las Vegas.

Once here, they realized that there was no business that catered to the everyday needs of the community.

So they came up with the idea to open a general store and try to fill the needs of everyone by providing everything from milk to beef jerky to feed and grain to UPS shipping.

"We saw that there was nothing out here, if you wanted anything you had to drive to Mesquite to get it. We want to change that. We want to give



S. MCBRIDE/MLN

OPEN FOR BUSINESS

Jim and Debbie Rea proudly hold up the sign to the Scenic General Store.

the community something that caters to their individual needs. We are open to suggestions from customers if they want us to start carrying certain items we don't currently have," said Debbie.

Arizona lottery tickets are also be available in

See STORE page 8-A

Store

Continued from page 1-A

the Scenic General store, and they have quickly become of the stores most popular items.

"It surprised me how many people have asked for lottery tickets already," said Debbie.

Jim just laughed, "It didn't surprise me at all. Beaver Dam is the closest place to buy tickets around here.

Now it's closer. It's all about bringing the merchandise to the customer."

Debbie and Jim say they also have big plans for future expansion of the store, from a hardware store in back, a gas station, and a possible beauty salon.

It took 6 months to get the store to the point it's at now, where they are ready for their soft opening, which is going on all this week, so it may be several years before the hardware

store or beauty salon are a reality.

Their official grand opening is scheduled for the 4th of July, but until then, during their soft opening, they will be open their regular hours, from 7 am to 10 pm.

"It's been a lot of work to get the store to this point, but we have high hopes for this place. It's been quiet an adventure and we're excited it's all finally happening," said Jim.

Desert Valley Times

Free

he Virgin Valley's No. 1 Source for News

Friday, July 16, 2010

www.dvtonline.com

Scenic man killed at power plant

Desert Valley Times

A Scenic, Ariz., man was killed Tuesday evening in an industrial accident at Nevada Power's Reid Gardner generating plant near Moapa.

William Paul Hammond, 50, was employed by a sub-contractor working at the plant.

Metro police were called to the plant when the accident was reported, but had no details about the nature of the accident. The Clark county coroner's office declined to comment on the cause of the death.

Hammond was born in Santa Fe, N.M., and grew up in Las Vegas. He moved to the Arizona Strip with his family 16 years ago. He and wife, Jennifer, have three children: Aloreë of Mesquite, and Brianna and Cameron at home, as well as one grandchild, Aloreë's daughter, Ciry.

The day before the accident, Jennifer and Aloreë learned they will be without jobs for the summer. They both work at Lee's Tavern, where Jennifer is the manager.

"We found out the day before they are closing down until October," said Aloreë. "The timing is not great."

Aloreë said her mother is coping.

"She's working so much on arrangements so she hasn't had much time to think," she said. "But she's torn up — my dad was her soul-mate."

The Reid Gardner Generating Station has been in operation since the 1960s and employs about 150 people. The Occupational Health and Safety Administration is investigating the accident.

An account has been set up at the Bank of Nevada for those wishing to assist the family. Make donations to the Bill Hammond Family Fund.

MESQUITE LOCAL NEWS

THURSDAY, JUNE 14, 2012

Blaze razes home

Scenic fire started
by burning trash

By Kent Harper
MLN Editor

A Scenic, Ariz., mobile home in the 3500 block of Arvada Street was destroyed by fire late in the morning June 7.

An unidentified woman living alone in the home suffered minor injuries, according to the Mohave County Sheriff Department. The woman suffered minor burns to her hands and legs. She also was able to rescue her dog from the burning structure.

Beaver Dam-Littlefield Fire Department Chief Jeff Hunt said the fire call came into his office at 10:33 a.m. His units were first on the scene. He requested backup from Mesquite Fire and Rescue and the Bunkerville Fire Department. A Bureau of Land Management wildfire crew also responded to the scene, a one-block long dirt road off Desert



KENT HARPER/MLN

This home in the 3500 block of Arvada Street near Desert Fox and Las Vegas ways in Scenic, Ariz., burned June 7 when embers from a refuse fire ignited the top of a nearby palm tree.

Fox Avenue.

An adjacent neighbor said the home is owned by the family of Larry Blaire Austin. According to a Mohave County Sheriff Department report, the 68-year-old Scenic man died Nov. 16 after falling off a cliff within a mile of his home while walking

his dog.

According to the Mohave County Sheriff Department the fire started when the woman was behind her home burning paper in a fire pit. She told investigators she had her garden hose nearby in case of an emergency. When flying embers from the fire

ignited the top of a nearby palm tree, she grabbed the hose and turned the nozzle on. But no water came out. She immediately called 911.

There are only two fire hydrants serving the Scenic area, Hunt said. But the two RDLFD tanker trucks and those

from the assisting agencies were able to provide enough water.

A large propane tank in the rear of the property caused some concern for firefighters, but Hunt said the valve on it did its job and the expanded gas from the heat of the fire was properly vented.

Scenic, Ariz., teenager drowns in Virgin River

Mike Donahue

Desert Valley Times

June 5 2012 DVT

A 14-year-old Scenic, Ariz., girl drowned Thursday after she became trapped in an undertow near a Virgin River dam, the second drowning incident involving a local child in less than a month.

Fourteen-year-old Alma Rosa Lujan of Scenic, Ariz., was swimming with friends near the bridge where Scenic Boulevard crosses the river between Mesquite and Scenic and became wedged under water in a small channel that led to the other side of the dam, said Sandy Edwards, a public information officer for the Mohave County Sheriff's office.

"Beaver Dam Fire Department personnel responded and attempted to rescue Lujan," Edwards said. "Attempts to rescue Lujan were unsuccessful, however, due to the strong undertow."

Trish Carter, a sheriff's office spokesperson, said the current and undertow is so strong in the area it was impossible to rescue the girl or even immediately retrieve her body.

"We received the call at about 5 p.m. and immediately dispatched officers," she said. "We also called out a (Mohave County) search and rescue rope team from Kingman to assist."

The sheriff's office later contacted ACE Hardware in Mesquite for assistance. The store sent an equipment operator, Todd Leavitt, with a large road grader.

"The grader was used to create a dam which facilitated recovering the girl's body," Edwards said. "ACE really came through for us and we really appreciate the store's help."

See DROWNING, Page A3

Drowning

Continued from A1

June 5 2012

She said the girl's family members had been called after the sheriff's office was notified and they were on the scene throughout the unsuccessful rescue effort.

Lujan's death is the second drowning since mid-May on the Virgin River.

Three-year-old Sherlyn Kateline Martinez-Alvarez died May 15 after she fell off a diversion dam near Mesquite and was swept through a headgate into the Bunkerville Ditch.

Protecting Scenic's Neighboring Tortoise Population

by Verl Frehner

A tortoise fence is being built on the west end of Scenic's Elbow Canyon Nevada/Arizona State Line, Road.

It is approximately two miles long, starting at the Nevada/Arizona State Line,

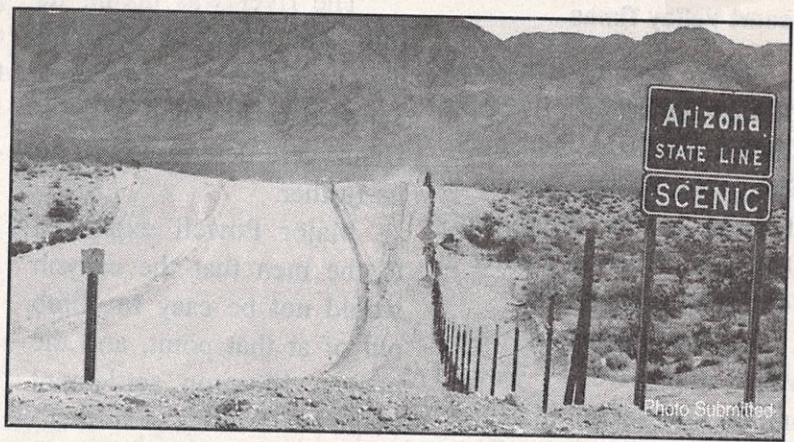
running west to east and will extend about 3/4 of a mile along the road.

The rest of this "tortoise-fence" then continues south between BLM land and private property.

This fence is part of the Road and Bridge contract financed by the property owners in Scenic.

This two-mile long length of tortoise fencing reflects the distance of the Scenic Roadways, which is being built boarding BLM land, found on four or more locations throughout the project.

The decision made was rather than place the fence piecemeal around the community at these four loca-



Tortoise Fence

This two-mile long length of tortoise fencing runs along the south, east, and northeast side of Scenic in efforts to preserve and protect tortoise's in their natural habitat.

tions, to place all of the accumulated fencing in one location.

Then, as the BLM was financially able to add to it, they would do so.

The intent is to eventually provide a protective tortoise

fence halfway around Scenic.

The fenced area would be 13 miles long, along the south, east, and northeast side of Scenic.

This is an effort to protect and preserve the tortoises in their natural habitat.

Desert Echo
5/4/96

Scenic, AZ about to bulge with 500 units new housing: road will be surfaced

The Shadow Ridge Water Company has been approved as service provider for the Scenic, Arizona, area of the Virgin Valley.

Mohave County Board of Supervisors granted a Water and Waste Water Treatment franchise to Shadow Ridge at the April board meeting.

According to Darryl Schuttloffel, CEO, Shadow Ridge has more than 200 acres scheduled for development into a Sun City type of residential living.

Sun City type of residential living

Plans call for approximately 520 single family residential homes, eight four-plex units and an upscale apartment complex of 650 units. The apartment complex will also feature four tennis courts, three adult pools as well as a children's pool along with an entertainment area, and ample parking.

Stakes are already laid out for phase one of the development near the first developed well, and will immediately expand to service developers in three different sections. Residents and prospective residents outside of the initial acreage will also be serviced

Entry-level housing in demand for area

as fast as Shadow Ridge can expand to meet their needs.

"At this time, all of the planned development is for

entry level housing and housing designed for families on fixed incomes," said Schuttloffel. "When completed, Shadow Ridge, Arizona will set the standard for other residential developments in

Other developers have plans

the area. With the approval of the franchise, two other developers have already indicated they are going to develop in the area as well," said Schuttloffel.

Phase one will consist of patio homes of approximately 1120 square feet. Each will have its own private patio and lawn, and with a two-car garage. Prices are expected to start at about \$75,500.

Phase Two single family homes

Phase two, immediately adjacent to phase one, will consist of single family homes, "definitely not manufactured homes," said Schuttloffel. "Our stick-built homes fit into the master plan for the area."

He also told the Board of Supervisors that he "was aware of the Special Improvement District planned for the area," and that he and the Corporation would work with the organizers of the SID."

The availability of water and waste water treatment was a primary reason for choosing the Scenic area for development not only for Shadow

Ridge, but for other developers as well.

"Once we are successful in securing the infrastructure for the area, specifically, the water and the waste water which will allow us the zoning we need, the transportation corridors will evolve."

Shadow Ridge Water

Company and the other developers are talking with Clark County, Nevada, concerning surfacing the road from the area from Riverside Road (Bunkerville, NV) to the Shadow Ridge development Scenic.

Cont. On Pg.

Scenic about to grow

Surfacing of Elbow Canyon Rd. from the Bunkerville side (Nevada) to the Shadow Ridge development (Arizona) is planned to take place as soon as possible "now that we are allowed to proceed with the water and waste," says Schuttloffel. "Since the road is actually owned by BLM, and Clark County has been gracious enough to upkeep the portion that originates within its borders, we will be working with those two entities to get it surfaced as soon as possible."

Schuttloffel told the Board of Supervisors that they had not been alerted earlier to the planned development because

Acquiring property tough job

of the considerable time required to acquire sufficient property for a development.

~~"We have been trying to~~ acquire property in the Scenic area for over two years without any publicity or commitments to a project for which it appeared there may never be sufficient land available. Indeed, there were times when we were not sure we could acquire enough land."

Because of the high price of housing in Mesquite, many

retirees are not able to avail themselves of homes in that area, he said, and besides, most retiring couples express a preference for living in a small town or a rural area that is reminiscent of their recollections of their younger years.

Shadow Ridge development will offer a type of lifestyle and quality of life that will complement that of Mesquite. The shopping and service facilities will be available in Mesquite as well as the recreational opportunities. "We will attract a retired population from all parts of the country."

Cont. From Pg. 1

"The numbers of retired people are so large that successful small developments will thrive just as well being located close to Mesquite as there is that percentage which are retired on fixed incomes and who don't want to live in the \$180,000 neighborhood. Shadow Ridge and other developers are pledged to designing complementary, well laid-out, planned residences for this segment of the population," said Schuttloffel.

It's All About Scenic

By Verl Frehner

Princess Neawana! It's been so long ago since I wrote that name that I'm not certain that it is spelled correctly. She was an Indian princess that apparently lived after this country was discovered. Being teenagers, (my cousin and I) and in the middle of a canoe building project, we searched for a name that we could use to attach to the side of our finished product. This valley provided little in the way of bodies of water on which to float such a craft, however that didn't stop us. The materials needed for its construction were not available within 300 miles so we made plans based on things that we could obtain locally. We made the three canoe partitions from plywood, the

dozen ribs from strips of lumber, the mold around this skeleton was made of strips of sheet metal that allowed for the curvature of the canoe, and this was sealed with water-resistant canvas, applied with additional water-resistant sealer. All of this made the canoe weigh much more than expected. Despite our lack of experience of boat making it turned out well, and we felt somehow that Princess Neawana would also have been pleased.

The First Three Attempts! By loading this full-size canoe into the back of the family pickup, we would make the trip to a small manmade lake located beneath two cottonwood trees near the Beaver Dam, Ari-

zona Motel. This was done after work, and usually after dark, which allowed the distant lights to make the experience that much more intriguing as it moved silently across the water of the pond.

The second attempt at "floating" the canoe was in the Mesquite irrigation canal that started in Scenic. About 10 minutes of that effort was enough to convince us that there had to be something better.

The third attempt was to try floating down the river, starting at the Mesquite Bridge and ending at the Riverside Bridge. But the river at that time of the summer was too low and slow. We couldn't ride in the canoe because our weight sent the canoe into the sandy

river-bottom. And, when we tried to walk beside the canoe, we had to constantly lift it just to get it to float! Because of its weight we eventually had to attach one end of the canoe to a borrowed John Deere tractor, and carry the other end of the canoe by hand through the river underbrush in order to remove it from the river, near Bunkerville.

At Lake Mead! Thereafter, using some teenage ingenuity, we built a small detachable platform for the back of the canoe, upon which we placed a small (5 HP) motorboat motor. We then made a trip to Lake Mead, and Overton Beach. It was mid summer, yet the water felt good as it slipped between our fingers of our

hands hanging over the side of the canoe, on our trip across the lake.

Our attention soon centered on a rapidly forming thunderhead, preceding a very dark and intense thunderstorm, which was "bearing down" on us on the lake. Calculating its oncoming speed, the distance across the lake, and the speed of our small canoe, we erroneously decided we could make it back to the opposite shore before the brunt of the storm would arrive. We made it almost half way! We were traveling sideways to the storm when the large waves began battering the canoe in rapid succession. Once the first waves hit the canoe, it tipped it and leaned it on its side, and water began spilling inside. One of us started bailing the water out with an empty tin can, while the other kept his hand on the guidance arm of the motor, which kept running despite the fact that the waves covered the total engine more than 50% of the time. The casing covering the motor apparently served an unexpected purpose. It must have trapped enough air to keep the motor running despite being submerged. It would disappear beneath the waves for what seemed "way-too-long" before emerging still whirring away, and keeping the canoe moving with its side, still dipped in the lake. It was the continuous running of the motor that finally pulled us through.

As we pulled into the boat dock, the resident park ranger approached us with his field glasses hanging around his neck, and asked us if we were the ones that were on the lake, in a canoe, during this storm. His final comment was to the effect that we were extremely lucky, especially since he didn't have a park ranger's boat that he would have used to try to save us.



David Bly / Desert Valley Times

Members of Verl Frehner's family pose at the bridge dedicated in his memory. Granddaughter Kaleiah Hartley stands at back. Others are, from left, daughter Shannon Hartley, daughter Stacie Frehner, his wife Toni and his sister, Dorothy Frehner Thurston.

Bridge named to honor Frehner for efforts on behalf of Scenic

David Bly

Desert Valley Times

The bridge that takes Scenic Road across the Virgin River was dedicated to the memory of the man who was the main push behind establishing the Scenic improvement district in the Arizona Strip.

The efforts of Verl Frehner resulted in not only the formation of the improvement district, but the building of roads and the bridge that tie the community to the rest of the Virgin Valley.

Frehner died last October at the age of 75. Members of his family were on hand Thursday for the midday dedication of the Frehner Memorial Bridge.

Mike Waite, one of the original property owners involved in the development of the region, conducted the ceremony, and said Frehner, the descendant of a pioneer family, was a pioneer in his own right in his efforts on behalf of Scenic.

It was Frehner who persuaded Mohave County to establish the improvement district, to

lay roads, and to construct the bridge. Before the bridge was built, access to the area was by way of the rough road connecting to the Mesquite-Bunkerville bridge.

Andre Ojeda initiated the effort to have the bridge named in Verl's honor, and was supported by Verl's daughter, Stacie.

"This bridge and this road are the fruits of his labors," Stacie said.

Ojeda said he was president of the Scenic Betterment Committee when Verl Frehner was vice president, and said without Frehner, little progress would have been made.

Frosty Rall, another landowner involved in the development, said Frehner was the glue that kept the effort together.

"I'd like to pay tribute to Verl for all the hard work he put into getting roads," Rall said. "People

worked hard, and but it was his energy and drive that kept us going."

Dorothy Frehner Thurston, Verl's sister, said she was gratified that the bridge has been dedicated in her brother's honor.

"I knew from a long time ago how stubborn he is," Thurston said. "I think he's as good a man as you'll ever find. I'm excited to know this sign will remind us of his goodness and his generosity."

Verl Frehner was born in St. George and raised in Mesquite. His education, including obtaining a PhD in education from Utah State University, and he worked as an educator in the Clark County School District for 30 years. He retired to Scenic and was principal of the Littlefield Elementary School for a short time/

He had a keen interest in history, and published a book on Howard Hughes. He spent years studying petroglyphs in the region, and published his interpretation of their meanings in three books.



Verl Frehner

HOME & REAL ESTATE

Page 1

Friday, September 11, 2009



Breaking ground for the first Shadow Ridge model home are, from left, Brain Lewis, realtor; Burt Womack, B & L Family Investments; Bob Frisby, Beaver Dam Water Company; Dan Jones, Millennium Investments; Rick Richardson and Riley Richardson. Richardson Homes.

Photos by David Bly / Desert Valley Times

Timed for affordable

David Bly

Desert Valley Times

The time is right to be building affordable homes, said Rick Richardson of Richardson Homes as he helped break ground for the first model home in the Shadow Ridge subdivision at Scenic on Wednesday.

Richardson Homes is the St. George-based builder that will be putting up the homes in the 540-lot subdivision. Sixty-seven homes are planned for the first phase, with prices starting just above \$130,000.

Richardson said it was "a critical moment and a great time" to be moving ahead on Shadow Ridge.

Work on the subdivision began several years ago, but was stalled by the recession and the woes of the finance and real estate industries.

"It's been a long time coming,"



The Scenic fire station was built to be donated to the community as part of the Shadow Ridge development. The developers will soon hand the occupancy permit over to the Beaver Dam and Littlefield Fire Department.

the project.

and other infrastructure.

tion for Scenic as a contribution to the community, Jones said. The fire station is completed, and plans are under way to turn the occupancy permit over to the Beaver Dam-Littlefield Fire Department.

Richardson said entry-level and affordable homes are needed in the current economy.

"That's what this subdivision is about," he said. "It's a great location, close to Mesquite, with good access, and we're able to offer homes for \$20,000 less than comparable homes in Mesquite."

He said that while price will be a good incentive to bring buyers to Shadow Ridge, quality has not been sacrificed.

"We are known for building quality custom homes while offering good value," he said. "These homes will all have the feel of custom homes."

Outdoor Adventures

On Saturday, December 19, there was a meeting of the State Wildlife Board in Reno. This meeting proved to be very interesting. In attendance at this meeting were James Ornellas of Gardnerville and Brad Quilice of Fallon.

These two gentlemen are our state's two new State Commissioners. Mr. Ornellas replaces Commissioner Merv Matrian, a sportsmen representative. Mr. Quilice replaces Commissioner Bill Frade the ranchers' representative. The new commissioners will be on the board at the next State Meeting in February, which will be held in Las Vegas.

Commissioner Frade was quite the gentleman at the end of the meeting; Commissioner Frade thanked everyone and expressed how much he enjoyed serving on the board. In the case of Commissioner Matorian, upon finding out that his replacement was going to attend the meeting, he elected to leave. Commissioner Matorian did not serve on his last meeting.

Over the next two years all of the present commissioners will be replaced, with the exception of Commissioner Coons. This is due to the new policy of term limits. The commissioner's term is three years long; they will now be able to serve two terms. Commissioner Coons is presently in his first term.

In July, Commissioners Kirsh, the public representative and Jickling, the environmental representative, will be replaced. Both have served at least two

terms. The makeup of this new state board will be good for the sportsmen of Nevada.

One of the issues that went before the board was a proposal by Clark County Advisory Board's Vice-Chairman, Rod Smith. The proposal dealt with an archery hunt for Desert Bighorn Sheep, in the River Mountains near Boulder City. The vote was 4 - 3 against this proposal.

The Commissioners from Clark County voted as follows: Commissioners Coons and Tiberti voted yes, Commissioner Kirsh voted no. A State Commissioner killed this proposal from Clark County. If Commissioner Kirsh had voted yes the proposal would have passed. Go figure.

The state board voted to put \$120,000 into the budget of ADC (Animal Damage Control). This will help with predator control. This is something that will help our herds a great deal.

The State Meeting to be held in Las Vegas in February is shaping up to be an event not to be missed. I will keep you up to date on events as they unfold.

On Friday December 17, I was able to MC the Mount Charleston Chapter of the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation in Pahrump. It was a great event for a great cause. Co-chairmen Fred Schmidt and Dan Simmons along with Banquet Chairman Jim Mutton of Channel 41 did an outstanding job. I'd like to thank committee members Ed Maak, Debbie

Mutton, Robin Schmidt, Violet McKay-Simmons, and Ben Potter for the great job that they did to make this banquet possible. Special thanks go out to all the members of the Las Vegas Chapter of the Foundation who supported the Pahrump Chapter.

Seeing all of the work that was done, by all of these people makes you proud to be a hunter. The money made at these banquets goes to elk management and improvements. To see examples of this, all you have to do is

Scenic, Arizona 'in the making'

January 7, 1986, the Director of the Mohave County Planning And Zoning Commission notified me of the positive action taken by the Board of Supervisors resulting from the efforts made, and the materials submitted to them. The letter, in part, reads:

"At their regular meeting on Monday, January 6, 1986, the Mohave County Board of Supervisors acknowledged that a portion of Elbow Canyon Road ... did qualify to become the access road that was needed.

While this action did create the needed access, the width of that access was inadequate by today's standards. It was only as wide as that which had been previously utilized by the limited traffic of previous years. The building of a required standard-sized road will result from the Scenic Improvement District plan. Therefore, the final resolution to that particular problem will come with this project, and the Right-of-Ways voluntarily obtained from property owners in order to meet County Specifications.

OTHER PROBLEMS! (If It's Going To Be, Gus, It's Up to Us!)"

It was evident that most of the things that needed to be done, had to be done by property owners working as a group. That became evident as Scenic began to grow. Electric Power was initially brought into the area by three groups of land owners, at their expense (Which benefited all who came later.). By the time the effort to create an "Improvement District" had arrived, many land owners helped push for its success. From that involvement came a number of individuals who worked to improve the community on their own; plus others who have served, and those who are now serving, on the "Scenic Advisory Committee". Increasing community involvement has contributed significantly to the success of this effort.

Next came our effort to provide for our "acceptable access" needs. We utilized the newly created Improvement District to pursue our specific goal of obtaining acceptable "general access" by creating the "Street/Bridge Assessment District". It is to everyone's credit that the success of these efforts have been the result of their understanding of how this progress has to take place.

THE FUTURE: (An Interesting Time of Observable Action!)

WHEN THE "GET TO WORK" DIRECTIVE IS GIVEN: Once the Attorney receives the needed information concerning the bonding issues, the Board of Supervisors can hopefully complete the "Adoption" process. The Board will then give the Project Engineer direction to start developing the final Plans and Specifications for the Project. After completing the expected engineering work, which includes working with a number of Governmental agencies, he will report back to the Board with the plans. (This could take ...)

2

THE PROJECT'S PROGRESS AFTER THAT: The following steps represent a much condensed order of events, but individuals interested in following their order can look to them to determine how the project is progressing. Some of them are:

- a. After the Board approves the Plans & Specifications, a 15 day Protest period will be identified.
- b. BOS Resolution Ordering Work and Inviting Bids on the Project.
- c. Receive Bids, - Open and declare the "Award" at public meeting. Award the Contract!
- d. Other steps to come: Bonding, Assessments, Cash collections, Receiving Bond Bids, Sale of Bonds, Issue Notice to Proceed to Contractor. CONSTRUCTION BEGINS.

SCENIC TO BECOME A VIABLE COMMUNITY: (Viable =Capie of Growing Or Developing "Correctly.") This project will help insure that Scenic will continue to grow, and develop as it should, with the conditions and services that are necessary and desirable. This would include, FIRST: A condition which provides for financially contributing Scenic land owners (all) to develop their properties under a more similar set of circumstances. SECOND: This includes the establishment of two (not one dead-end) entrance and exit capabilities to the community. And, THIRD: Having at least one direct connection with a major freeway (I-15) for the eventual establishment of a Freeway Interchange. It is not necessary to have to go into another State, and through another City, in order connect with the local major transportation route, when one already goes through our Improvement District.

TO DO, SUGGESTIONS: (Suggested Concurrent Actions By Property Owners!)

(Continue with the "...It's Up to Us!" Understanding) In the meantime property owners can avoid many future problems, and create better conditions for themselves by:

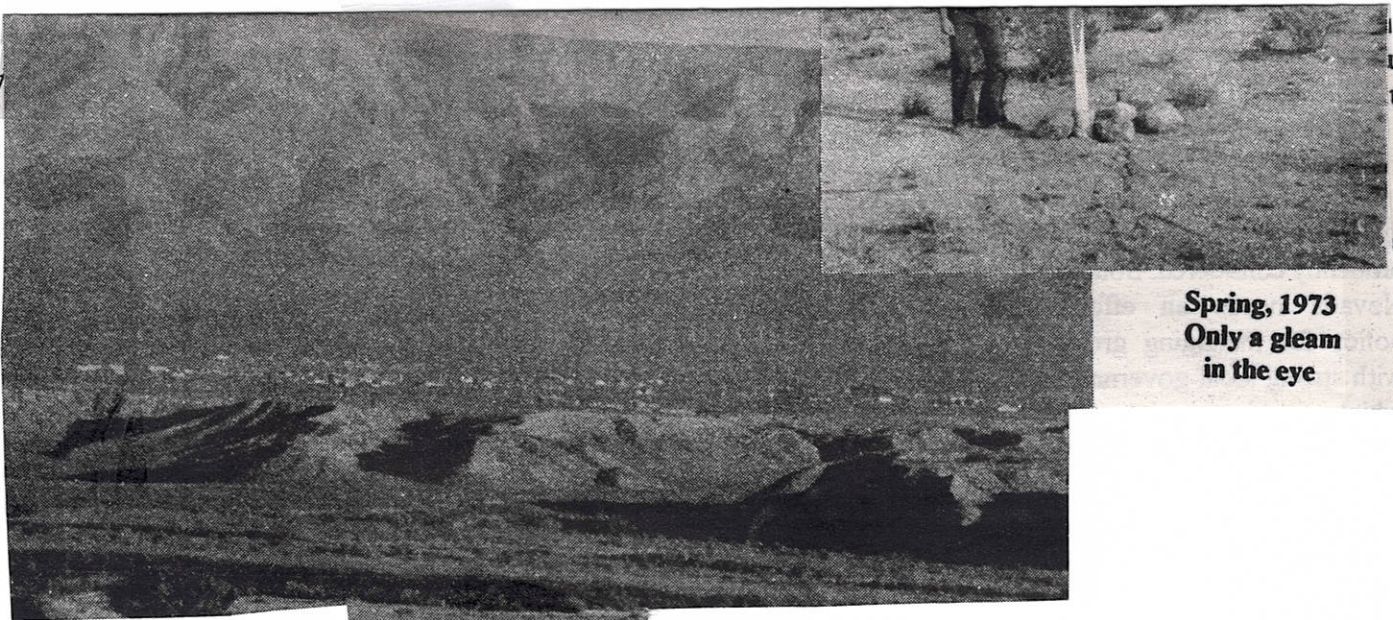
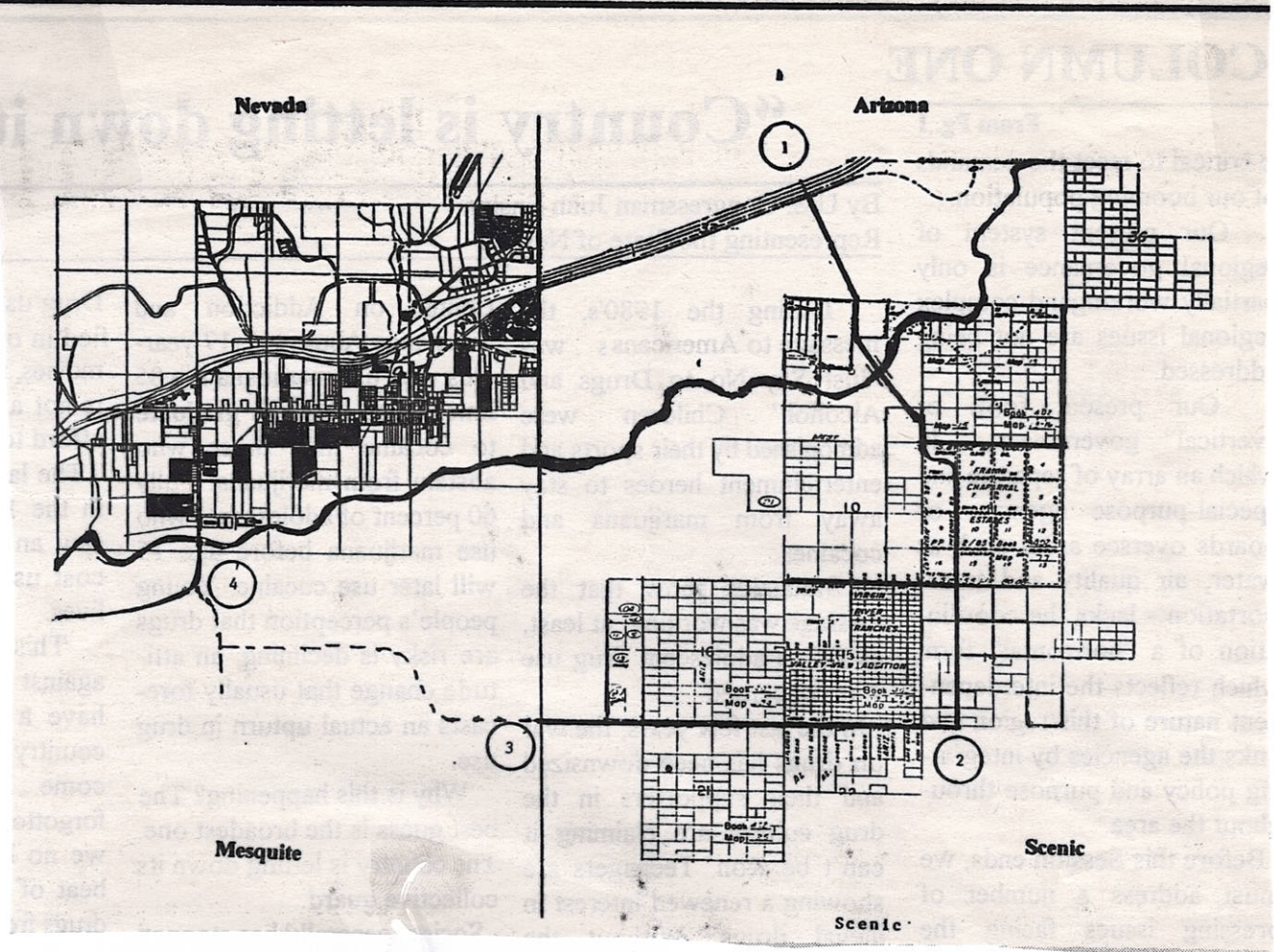
INSURING THAT THEY HAVE DONE THEIR PART: Every individual will benefit from the voluntary signing of the Road Right-of-Way's, which grants everyone the needed access on the planned roadway(s). A majority have already done so and they would appreciate the same consideration from others.

CORRECTING THEIR OWN LAND-LOCKED SITUATIONS: Individual property owners can work together to create Right-of-Ways (legal access for individual parcels) within their Section, and have them officially recorded with the County.

PIANNED FOR THE FUTURE OF THEIR SECTION: A group of property owners can identify desired property development goals within their Section. The sharing of these goals with the Mohave County Planning and Zoning Department, in conjunction with the evolving Area Master Plan, will help accomplish that the type of development they want to have happen.

NOTE: As evidenced by the large number of properties purchased in Scenic during the last year alone, the realization of a brighter

3.



Spring, 1973
Only a gleam
in the eye

Spring, 1997
The growth is evident
in the background

The Scenic Road and Bridge Project

By Verl Frehner

I was asked if I would share some of the events about the now-completed Scenic Road and Bridge Project.

I can give some of the highlights of that process, but because of the vast requirements of this project, there will be many things that will not be able to be mentioned because of space.

First, let's review how the Federal lands, now known as Scenic, Arizona, were shifted into private ownership.

I discovered from my research that the land in what is now known as "Scenic," originated through a number of separate transactions initiated by various Federal agencies.

Over time, each of these parcels were deliberately assigned to this location and were pieced together in such a way as to make one contiguous geographical unit.

The categories from which they came included: (1) The lands that were exchanged from Indian Territory, (2) School Sections that were appropriated, (3) Lands put up for sale for the benefit of Insane Asylums in Arizona, (4) Parcels withdrawn From Public Entry, (5) Direct Sale Patents were issued, and, (6) property obtained through Reality-Exchange.

Most of this happened at staggered times more than 50 years ago, and the area now is

composed of approximately 5,500 acres.

My interest in this large block of land began more than 35 years ago.

At that time, I searched out survey markers hidden in the desert shrubbery, and marked the maps of the area obtained from Mohave County.

Eventually, I and my two partners bought a large parcel of land within this much larger parcel.

About that time various individuals began to move to this location and a name had to be found for the community, so the County followed a set process and took suggestions and by a process of elimination came up with the name, "Scenic."

The community continued to grow despite the lack of conveniences and with only a very crude one-way road to service the area.

As time passed it became apparent that the growth of this emerging community would, without proper development, direction and plan-

ning, establish undesirable conditions and situations in the community that would become permanent, and would be difficult, or impossible to correct.

It was decided that "now" was the time to act in order to avoid that condition.

The first thing that needed to be done was the creation of a paved roadway to and through Scenic, and the building of a bridge over the Virgin River in order to help accomplish that goal.

Based on that belief, I prepared and presented to Dick Skalicky of Mohave County Public Works my plan for creating a road and a bridge for Scenic.

We soon discovered that the financial responsibility for this project fell totally on the shoulders of the landowners because of the county's financial inability to assist us.

Following the guidelines set by the county and the State of Arizona, I spent a few years preparing conditions that were necessary in order to get the approval of property owners to obligate themselves to provide the funds necessary to build the project.

It was encouraging to have numerous individuals join us in this effort.

One of the first, and most consistent and supportive fellow-workers was Frosty Rall.

For many years he and I, and then many others, traveled to Kingman, Arizona, the Mohave County seat in order to meet and plan for this project with personnel in the public works department, and to attend the Supervisor's meetings.

One of our greatest problems in getting the project started had to do with "right-of-ways."

Fifty years ago when this property was established here, 90 percent of the land of

Scenic was without right-of-ways.

This condition created an extreme hardship on the property owners wishing to build and develop, and even more difficult for us was to build a road where "right-of-ways" did not exist.

Because of this, it was decided that it would be necessary for property owners to work together and donate right-of-ways beside their properties so that the road and bridge project could happen.

The greatest majority of landowners were eventually willing to donate the amount of right-of-way that was needed as the roadway passed their property.

They could see the benefit of having the roadway next to their property.

There were a smaller number of property owners who chose not to do so.

Initially, this caused us to consider the abandoning of portions of the road where right-of-ways could not be obtained.

To guide the events caused by having this project, an Adversary Committee was formed, and was added to over the years until all of the following individuals were included in the Committee: Dave Anderson, Joyce Barnes, Laurie Brown, Ken Duke, Verl Frehner, Juan Hernandez, Eugene Hughes, Melvin Hughes, Gerald Hunt, Mark Jolly, James McQuire, Dale Nash, Max Neilson, Marvin Pequillan, Buzz Peterson, David, Rall, DeForest Rall, Don Rawson, Lyle Starks, Alf Frehner, Troy Stockwell, Tom Stoddard, and Charlie Tejerina.

On January 31, 1996, the Scenic Improvement District Advisory Committee decided to make one last effort to see if we couldn't find a way to

• see PROJECT page 57

PROJECT

From page 56

obtain the right-of-ways on Elbow Canyon Road as we had originally hoped to do.

If we were successful, this action would allow properly owners not living on the road itself, to have close access to a paved road.

In order to do this it eventually became necessary for the remaining property owners in Scenic to purchase the needed right-of-ways from others.

A good representation of the people in Scenic throughout this long process consistently volunteered to help on the project.

One of the first things that had to be accomplished was the assembling and posting of many hundreds of "wooden stake notices" on every road, path, and trail found in the Scenic Improvement District, announcing the intent to create the district.

Accompanying that procedure was the mailing of approximately 600 letters to local and absent property owners living in more than 30 states and three foreign countries, requesting their support of the project by signing the petition for the creation of the district.

After a couple of years we were able to get a majority of the signatures that were needed in order to create the district, only to be told by Mohave County personnel that the conditions for the signing of the petitions had changed while we were gathering them.

This made it necessary to have 50 percent of the signatures sent back to the parties to have them re-signed, as required.

It took another year and a half to get the re-signing of petitions accomplished.

Bulloch Brothers Engineering (the St. George, Utah office under Marc Brown) was eventually chosen to head the

project.

This engineering company worked until the "Detailed Design Stage" for the project was finished. They understood that if the project did not get beyond that stage, the engineering company would not be paid for their work. (When they reached that stage, the money due to them was in the six figures.)

On July 3, 1997, in order that the project could proceed, I made an agreement with Mohave County, and the engineering company, to insure that in the event that the bond funds were not available later to pay the engineer for his work, that my land could be sold and the money due to them would be paid to them from the proceeds of that sale.

This allowed the faltering project to continue.

On May 28, 1998, the project was granted a few small parcels of land, from The Bureau of Land Management that was needed at certain locations of the new road.

On September 11, 1998, some right-of-ways from the State of Arizona were purchased in areas where they were needed.

On September 18, 1999, Zelda Wright (over Improvement Districts for Mohave County) presented a list of Scenic property owners with a "ratio of full values of assessment."

This was for the purpose of allocating future assessments to be paid for the project construction. (At that time there was a projected November 2000 project completion date for the project).

There were 86 parcels of private land that needed to give right-of-ways for the road project.

By October 8, 1998 there were 26 parcels left for which the owners were not willing, or able, to give their right-of-way so that the project could proceed.

As a result, the completion of the project was not to happen for another two years while the problems were worked out.

In the meantime, for the future benefit of the community, we tried to obtain properties from the BLM for a fire protection site, a cemetery site, a school site, and a wastewater treatment site.

On 10-26-98 we were informed by Mohave County that since the Scenic Improvement District is a political subdivision under Mohave County, the county has statutory authority to hold land for us, for these purposes.

As of this date the first two requests are on the way to being obtained.

The third is very being held for that purpose, and the fourth request is still in question.

There were a few street names in Scenic that were carried over from previous development attempts, but the city needed to have a major network of the major streets named.

Hearings were held here at the high school in Mesquite for that purpose.

There are now 53 recorded street names in the community of Scenic, most of which are for major streets, or where future major streets will be made.

Addresses to these streets were also established (on paper), and now as people move into Scenic they can obtain an address from the County.

As the project continued, I was reminded that the time had come for me to prepare the \$1,000,000 assurance bond that I had promised to obtain for them years earlier, or the project could not go forward.

By working with Ken Sanders and Brian Taylor at the Mesquite State Bank in arranging for our needs, and gathering support from willing property owners, the assurance bond was finally obtained.

The efforts of these two bank presidents went far beyond normal expectations in arranging for this essential need.

It was understood, and was apparent, that the Mesquite State Bank was probably the only bank west of the Mississippi River that could have accomplished our request.

This was because of the uniqueness of our need, and the willingness of Ken Sanders and Brian Taylor to assist us in getting the project accomplished.

By May 23, 2000, the eleven entities (couples, individuals, organizations) needed

in order to put up the \$1,000,000 "Bond Assurance" for the bond sales for the Scenic Improvement District was identified.

These property owners obligated their Scenic property as collateral in order to provide the "Assurance" to Mohave County, Arizona, that the bonds that were sold for the construction of the road and bridge, would be guaranteed repayment.

Those property owners who stepped forward to provide for these financial needs were: David & Mary Anderson, Michael & Lori Black, Joseph & Dixie Bowler, Verl & Toni Frehner, Alan & Sherry Green, Bryan & Dawn Hafen, Melvin & Ione Hughes, Mark Jolly, David & Cora Rall, DeForest & Margaret Rall, and Michael & Lynette Waite.

When in the midst of all this activity I was asked why I put my efforts into the accomplishment of this project, I responded:

1. To provide the people of Scenic with a badly needed, paved highway into their community.

2. To do away with the condition that makes Scenic, a "Dead-End-Community."

3. To establish an in-state (Arizona) connection with AZ Highway 91 next to the I-15

• see PROJECT page 58