

Virgin Valley Heritage Museum
Mesquite NV

Hughes, Verde

B-2-38B

1997

- Feb - Chili festival
- ground breaking Bowler Plaza
- Locksmith in town "Rainbow" - David Smith
- (Jan 30) - Bulldog Car Wash
- Mar - Black bays Playas Island
- Mar - Balloon Race -
- Gaming School opened
- Feb - Randy's Auto Parts
- Law Office (Bell & Young) opened
- Feb 17 - Rancho Mesquite Casino opened
- Desert Skies RV Park
- Jan - 2 - Dairy Queen opened Shell Station
- Apr - Red Rock Lock & Key bays MTC -
- July 1 - Black Bros take over Playas Island
- May - Fred Meyer purchased Smiths
- June - Radio Shack - Intermitt Health Care
- Cactus Art Gallery // Green Destination
- Computer Outlet store (Gannex Bldg)
- July - Mesq. Tube & Wash (Beno & Minky)
- 1 - KFC open
- Dr Andrus (Kyle) eye
- Mesq. Vista's golf course
- Bull's Eye Pizza
- go Cart Track at Oasis
- Aug. Mesquite Bluffs apts -

1997

- Sept - Bulldog Arches Built
- Nov - El Rancho Mkt opens
- Oct - Taco Tiro
- Jack In The Box

2003

Woodbury Lane opened. June.

Expansion of Court house/jail -

Aug - C. A. Hughes Middle School opened -

Jan - Joe Szalay honored by City for handling murder case! Ben

(Apr) 50th reunion of 1953 grad. class

Oct. Population reaches 17,000.

Sept - CAT Bus System replaced by Silver Rider System

July - 18 wheeler Truck crashed Mace's home

Boulevard Home Furnishings opens

Family Dollar Store opens Aug 2003

Dollar Stoppe & Smart Stoppe Aug 2003

Mesq. Art & Frame Aug 2003

Ranada Inn. Aug 2003

~~Thunderbird Rest opens Dec 12, 2002~~

Poissant Harbor Business Person of the Year 2003

2002

Oct = Walking Trail System finished

Feb - Hefen Lane West opened

: girls attacked at Casa Blanca - 1 murdered other paralyzed

~~Truck in Mac House~~

Playoffs Sports Bar

Tanners Pawn Shop closes

Mesq has its own radio station

Thunderbird Rest opens Dec 12, 2002

pl. truck hit Mac House

2001

"Bonky" retires from Police
after serving since 1994

New City Hall built

(Oct) Jim Pulsipher Park dedicated

(May) Oasis purchased by Black Bros

Mesq Skate Park open Jan 26, 2001

J. L. Bowler celebrates 92nd Birthday
Jan 23, 2001

Landmark Closes "The Corner Bar"
built in 1928. Aug 2001

Henry's Restaurant Closes 2001

New McDonalds opens 2001

Heritage Plaza opens April 25, 2001

2000

Veterans Park - Dedicated

Grand Opening Mesq Furniture Dec 15, 2000

Rio Virgin Cablevision adds 3 new Channels
Nov. 30, 2000

America First Credit Union July 31, 2000

Brickyard Plaza opens Sept. 30, 2000

The Valley Home Center Closes Sept 2000

The Craft Shoppe in the Aug, 2000
Brickyard

Blackbusters

Family Resource Center moved to
61 W. Willow Suite #5 Aug, 2000

Checks - N. Mail in the Brickyard Aug, 2000

Nesq Title Grand Opening Jan 18, 2000

Rancho Mesq gets new name Eureka Hotel
Casino. Jan 1, 2000

W.I.C. grand opening Mar. 2000

~~1998~~ 1999

Sept - Douglas Law New Police Chief
 Sun River Apts Aug 5, 1999
 Rancho Mesq. Spa open OCT 20, 99
 The Mesq. Journal Aug. 99
 Salvation Army Thrift Store Sept, 99
 Remodeled Golden West opens Oct 28, 99
 Highland Manor
 Valley Nutrition Center May, 1999
 Painter's Autoland May, 99
 200 Mountain Bikers come to Mesq. for
 the first time April 14, 1999
 Rite-Aid Pharmacy / Foodmart April, 1999
 American Red Cross in Mesq. Mar. 1999
 Animal Shelter May 11, 1999
 Mr. Philip Hartwell bought Kidde's Korner Jan 99

1998

D.M.V. opens Mesquite Office
 Security Finance Mar 1998
 Dollar Zone Aug. 1, 1998
 Ace Hardware June 1, 1998
 Vet Veterinary Clinic 2/5/98
 V.V. Pawn Shop Jan 29, 98

1997

Feb - Bayers Island sold to Randy Black
 July opened as Casa Blanca
 Marilyn (Redd) Park dedicated (Feb.)
 July - Library Park dedicated
 Bulldog Car Wash Jan. 30, 1997
 Randy's Auto Parts 2/28/97
 Dairy Queen & Shell Station 1/2/97
 Red Rock Locksmith April, 1997
 Radio Shack June 30, 1997
 Mesq. Lubert Wash June 30, 1997
 K.F.C. July 7, 1997
 Optometrist Mr. Kyle Andrus June 24, 97
 Mesq. Bluffs Apts Aug. 1997

OVER

1996-

Mar 8 - Golden West Casino opened.
 Feb Jan - Diamond Dry Cleaning opens
 Mesquite weather station opened -
 Feb - City built new public works facility
 Wenny's Restaurant April 26, 1996 opened
 Arby's & Texaco Station May 31st 1996 opened
 Hillside Chevron July 3rd 1996 opened
 Subway opens July 24th 1996
 Smith's Food & Drug opens Sept 18, 1996
 New laundromat in Northview Plaza July 15, 1996
 Holiday Inn Rancho Mesq. open Nov. 9, 1996
 V.V. Food Mart opens Nov. 8, 1996
 Eagle Appliance Service open June 17, 1996
 Jodde Sports Dec 9, 1996

1995

July = Players Island opened

(Sept) - Arboretum park dedicated
ARBOREATUM
Play

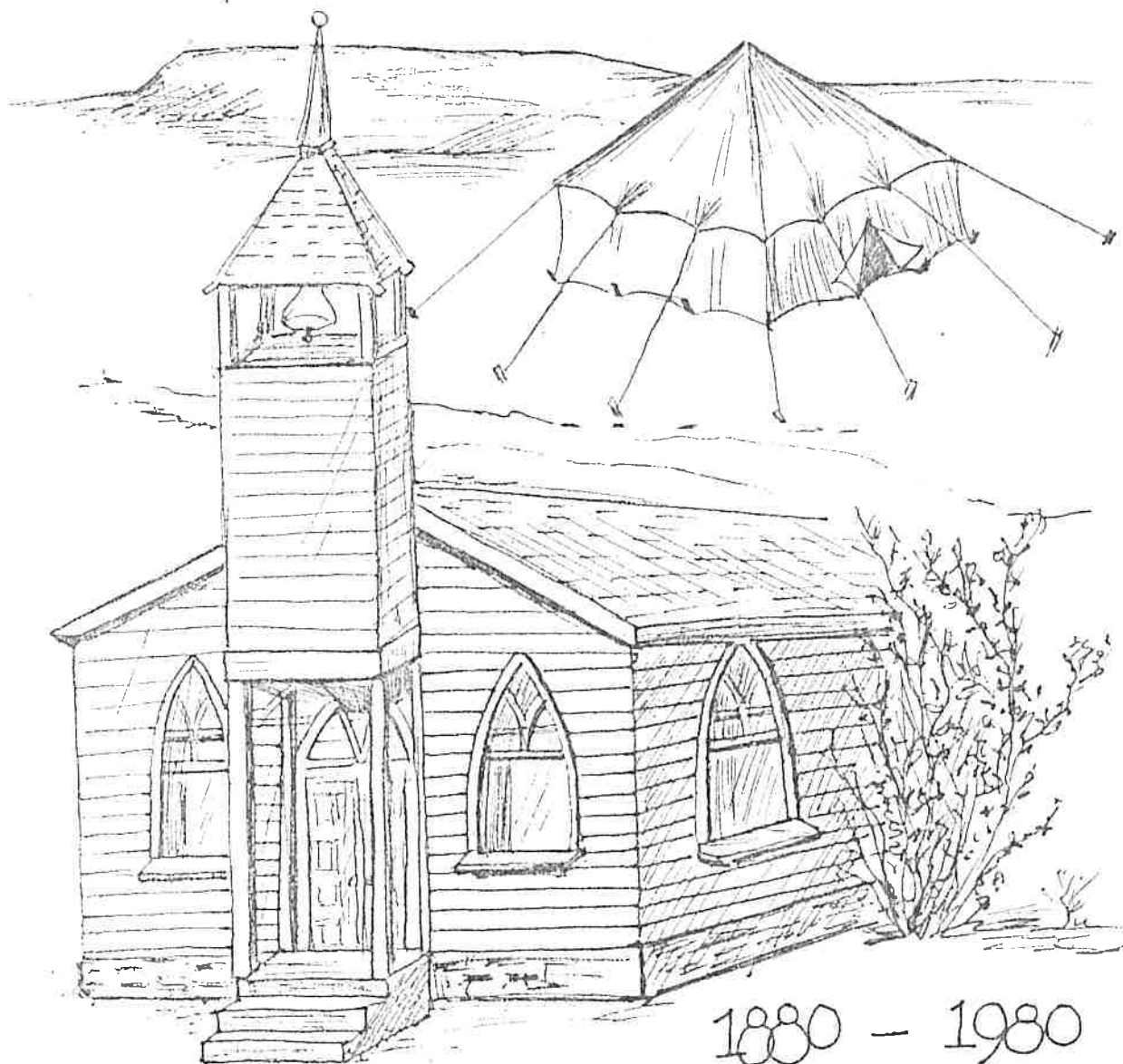
31-Dec Panda Garden opened -

1994

"Bonkie" Canine Police Dept

(Mar) Oasis bought by Blacks

Aug 25 - Virgin River Casino Robbed
\$200,000 = never solved -

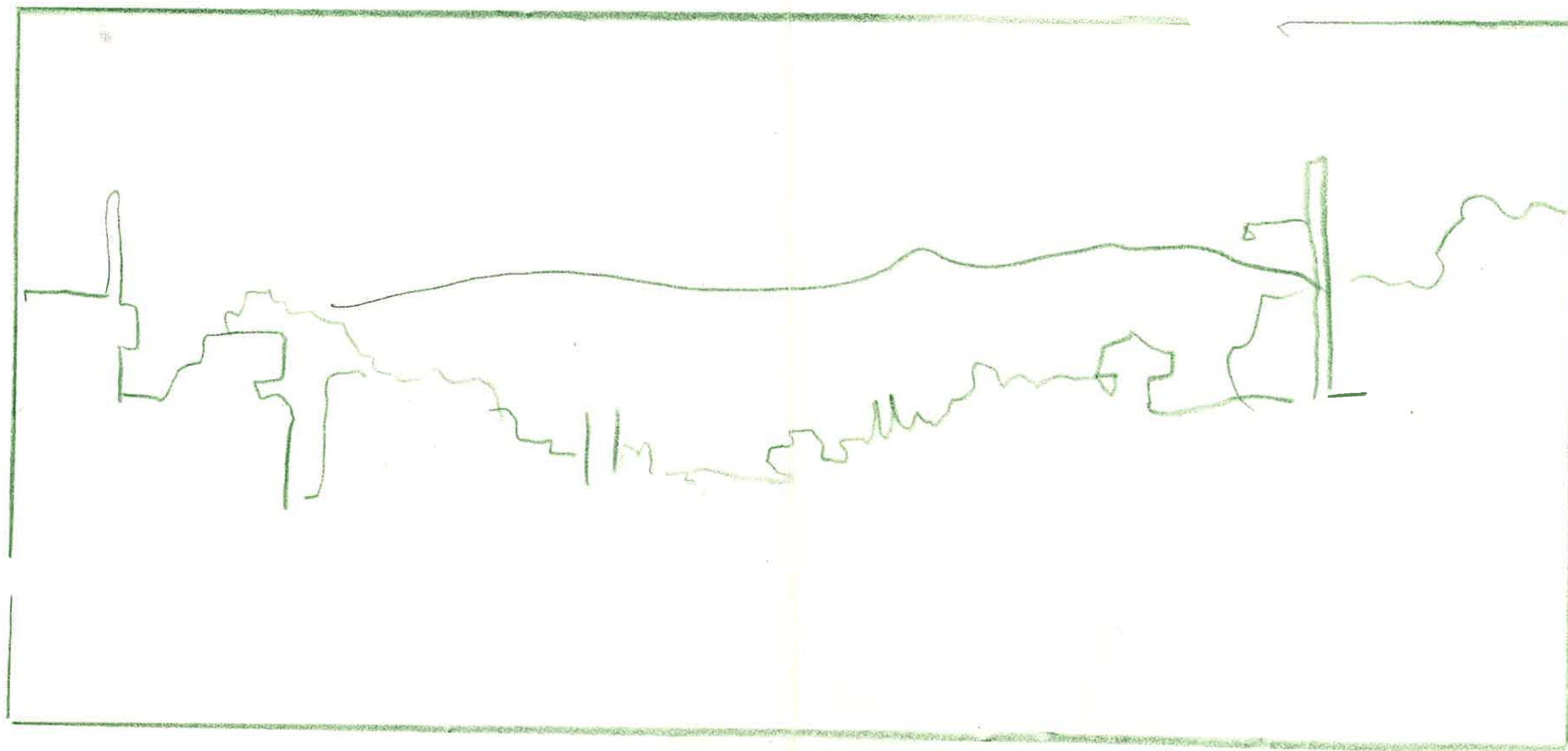


1880 - 1980

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PHOTO C

62%



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BUILDING THE MESQUITE DAM

Since the founding of Mesquite, a temporary diversion dam of rocks and brush was used to force water into the town canal for irrigation. Each flood would wash it out. When I was President of the Board of Directors for the Mesquite Irrigation Company, with Dee Hughes and Melburn Jensen Board Members and Vernon Pollock, secretary, we discussed the possibility of trying to put in a permanent dam in the river. Through the years there had been several attempts made to build a permanent dam, but they had failed. The Bureau of Reclamation said it would cost \$150,000 to put one in. The stockholders voted this proposal down.

In April, 1953, the Board of Directors asked the Soil Conservation Engineers to design a dam that would stand the test of floods, could be financed by the people, and allow excess water to flow on to the lower communities. Engineers from seven western states conferred on the plans. The dam was to cost \$160,000 and was to be paid back in 20 years.

A special meeting was called of the stockholders and the plan was presented to them. After much discussion, the plan was accepted. Because the dam was to be built in Arizona and the land to be farmed was in Nevada, there was a lot of legal red tape to go through. Filings on the water had to be completed in the two states. It took over a year to complete the legal requirements.

The contractors who took the job were the Espy Brothers and Elton Stout of Las

-72-

It was just a month later that the valley held the dedication ceremony to celebrate the completion of the dam. The site was on the high bluff that overlooks the dam and the surrounding area.

The contractors, the Espy Brothers, leveled off the area with their machinery. They also donated \$100 to buy the beef for the feast. The Relief Society, under the direction of Mrs. Estelle Hafen, prepared the meat. All the women of the town furnished the rest of the food. Lights were strung up around the area and a sound system installed so everyone could hear. Benches from the school were hauled up in trucks.

It was a hot day in August but most of the people were there to celebrate this important event. The men who had worked so hard to build this dam were also there.

I took charge of the meeting and praised our pioneer forefathers who had endured so many hardships in trying to keep a dam in the river. I introduced the following men, who were also speakers; Bud Reed and Darrel Evans of the Soil Conservation Service, June Young and William Hoff of the Farmer's Home Administration, Arthur Hughes, a pioneer resident, Dee Hughes and Melburn Jensen, Board Members, Vernon Pollock, Secretary, and James Espy and Elton Stout, contractors.

After the meeting, everyone enjoyed the feast and spent an enjoyable evening visiting and rejoicing that the dam had

-74-

Vegas, Nevada. They started work on the dam May 15, 1955. This was the low water season, but the contractors were warned about the flash floods that came so suddenly. They were especially warned to have the dam completed by July 20, as from past experience there were always floods at that time. This was the desert monsoon season.

The work went along steadily into the summer, with the skeptics saying, "They'll never finish it in time," "It won't hold," and "It's not practical."

One man said to the contractor, "You had better pray that the storms hold off for a while or we'll all be ruined." To which the contractor replied, "I don't know what chance I have, when ten thousand farmers are praying for rain."

But providence was certainly with them, because they were just taking out the last of the heavy machinery when word came that a flood was on the way. The next morning there was a torrent of water, three hundred and thirty feet wide and seven feet high pouring over the structure.

Everyone flocked to the cliff that overlooked the dam to see if it would pass the test. Again there were predictions made, "It couldn't last that flood," "It will just be a matter of time and it will go as it has done so many times before." But this time it held! We were overjoyed. We could hardly believe it ourselves. It seemed like a miracle.

-73-

been tested and proved to be a permanent dam.

In the past the farmers would suffer loss of crops and days of hard labor trying to keep the water in the ditch. Sometimes the dam would be washed out several times in one summer. Now that worry was over. Each time I pass the dam now, I get a feeling of pride and joy that I was able to be one of the many who finally helped this dream come true.

NOTE: 1986 - The bond for the dam has been paid off and the dam is still holding.

*from Leonard Reber
Life Story*

-75-

Dam

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*from Leonard Reber
Life Story*

2nd settlement was Dudley Leavitt & his big families but after a few years the floods drove them out.

DAMS IN THE RIVER

1. In 1880 when people first came here under Bishop Branch, they built the brush dam and ditch which took water from the river to the fields. The ditch was two to three hundred yards long. *Big floods took out the dam & ditch & they*


3. In the ~~third~~ ^{second} settlement of Mesquite, Charlie Hardy, Jessie Waite, ~~Abe~~ ^{Woodbury}, John Hancock, Dan Dutton and Carlos Knight moved here. They cut cottonwood logs as large as they could haul. They put the trees across the river and tied them together with wire. They hauled brush and put on top of the trees and rock on the brush. They worked forty teams at a time, some hauling brush and some hauling rock until the water got so deep in the river the horses had to swim. (In 1955 when they put in a permanent dam with big machinery, when they ripped out the old dam those big cottonwood logs, as big as a man's leg, were still solid and green with the bark on them. They had been buried under the river for years.) *moved away*

Some old rock homes had been built then and missionaries returning to the valley from other areas brought five mulberry trees and planted them. Things looked good, but in July a flood took out the dam. Using scrapers and shovels the men built a brush and rock dam in the same place. By now the ditch had been lengthened to come through town. The second time the dam went out it was rebuilt in its present location.

During some years the dam would have to be rebuilt fifteen times. Crops would be taken away by the floods, no lives were lost, but a few horses drowned. In the spring of the year the water was high, in the summer it would be low and would last only a short time. Floods would last several days, when the water was high it used to take six weeks to put the dam in. The men would work in the mornings until the water raised, then they'd go load with rock and brush. Some times the dam would be washed away before it was finished.

In regard to building the dams, Bishop William Abbott says this, "We kept on building dams, shoveling sand out of our canals, and fixing breaks in our canals. I have worked in the river building dams in water to my neck for two and three weeks at a time. We put into our dam at one time 300 loads of brush and 500 loads of rock, and this had to be done so often."


Permanent Dam 1955



Dudley had at least ten strapping young men in his family, and it was thought paramount in this frontier setting that this manpower be expended to work the land rather than exhausting it by attending school. Each morning the boys would meet at first wife Mary's home, because hers was the most central. After breakfast, Dudley blueprinted what needed to be accomplished that day.⁵⁹

The boys accepted the summons to erect another dam and to dig the ditch deeper. The family named one section of the ditch "Dead Men's Cut" when the boys unearthed two skeletons chained together at the leg. One of the skeletons had been pierced with an arrow. This incident provided the boys an intriguing debate as to the treachery involved.⁶⁰ A practice began then of telling "tall tales" while men dug ditch and worked the dam, a tradition that would continue for more than ninety years.

It took six weeks for the Leavitt family to lay the foundation of the dam, and ingenuity and resourcefulness to erect it. This was accomplished by placing three-sided log pig-pens edge-to-edge along the entire width of the river and heaping them with rocks.⁶¹



From Howard Pulsipher:

We had so many amusing things happen while working on the canal and the dam but I will only relate one at the dam.

Of course the dam was never washed out only when the floods and high water. It was the custom for all the outfits leaving town to take as large trees as they could. These trees were left on the south side of the river, as the water was always following the north ledge. The best team of horses was selected and with a chain the trees were floated across in place near the head gate. These trees were wired together and weighted down with loads of rock.

This was extended approx half way across the flood channel then they would start on the south end and with the same procedure would work toward the center. As the opening in the dam got smaller the current increased and the water deepened. Just before the channel was closed off Uncle Joe Leavitt (Heber and Woodruff's father) went in and unloaded his rock and started to turn around and come out - but he got too near the hole in the dam and it took his team wagon and all down. The funny part was the wagon caught on a stump of a tree. There he and his outfit was headed down stream with his wagon stuck and his horses swimming but could not go. He

was trying to free the horses from the wagon before they would drown so he took his pocket knife and tried to cut the traces. Of course help came and the wagon was pulled back off the stump and the out fit got out all right. We all had a good laugh about him trying to cut those traces which were chains.

FRANCIS EVAN HUGHES, one of many young men who helped.

The men were working on the dam in the Virgin River when I was about fifteen and they hauled brush and rocks with teams and wagons to fill in the dam. This was the first time I had been permitted to take a team by myself to help. I had a load of mesquite brush with the tops upstream and chopped ends downstream. The river was running high when I drove in to cross under the dam. The pressure of the water caught the limbs and tipped us over with me underneath the wheel of the wagon. The only thing that saved me was holding onto the reins with one hand, which turned the horses downstream and I came floating out under the wagon. Either Ralston or Leonard Reber was the first to get to me. I was so weak and nearly drowned that I couldn't get myself up over the bank. He helped me up where they pushed water out of my lungs then built a big fire where I could get warm and dry out until time to go home. I had many experiences while working on the dam, some funny and some a worry, but none so near tragic as that one.

The people had such a struggle here that President Edward Snow said he had heard there were three kinds of poor; The Lord's poor, The Devil's poor and the Poor Devils. The people in the Virgin valley were the Poor Devils.

One of the early pioneers, Arthur Hughes, said, "I have said one of my desires was to live to see the ditch cemented to the end and I've been privileged to do this. One summer the ditch went out fifteen times. We always dreaded to see a storm because it nearly always meant to put the dam back in with rocks and brush, and clean the ditch by hand with shovels. It would often take up six weeks and lots of hand work and we'd lose part of our crops because the water was out. Days and days and more days every year we had to work on the ditch, it was a constant dread. A big wind would blow limbs in the ditch and many times I'd walk full length cleaning it out. I was happy when they completed the permanent dam. We got this dam through an F.H.A. loan. It cost \$60,000.00 and is made of steel rails and rock. It was engineered by the Soil Conservation. After people started using tractors and got rid of their teams we couldn't get anyone to work our brush and rock dam. A big flood ~~came~~ ^{came} down in 1955 and I don't believe it moved a rock, that was a happy day. I just take delight in riding along the ditch to see how smooth it runs. In 1896 it was a very small ditch and when floods would come it would put the dam out and fill the ditch with mud and we'd be weeks cleaning it with our pony teams and scrapers and shovels. Now the washes have dykes and an overshoot over the ditch for flood water. Right after they turned the water in I went full length of the ditch and so many memories went with me but I had such a thankful heart."

When the permanent dam was built a large cement head gate was built with a heavy metal screw gate that could be raised and lowered to turn the water into the canal. A sand trap was also built to wash the sand down the river before the water went into the fields.

After the dam was completed, the workmen had just moved the big equipment, the pile drivers, drag lines, dump trucks, cats, bulldozers, etc. when a flood came down. People stood on the cliffs to see what happened.

From C. A. Hughes book: "It was a happy day to see that it was a PERMANENT DAM."

The people had a big celebration for the completion. It was on a moonlight night. They had a Kohler plant for power, and showed films etc. Tables were set up, a sound system was set up. The Espy Brothers, the contractors for the dam, leveled the area with their machinery and donated one hundred dollars for a beef to barbecue for the feast. The Relief Society ladies, under the direction of Estelle Hafen prepared and furnished the rest of the food. Also in attendance

were t
to the

examined on the project. State and County officials were invited After examining the possibility of moving his family to Mesquite, Dudley finally decided in 1883⁵⁴ to relocate there, on the northeast side of the river.⁵⁵ This was no small undertaking. Dudley, a polygamist, had five wives and over fifty children living at that time and so the influx of this one unusual family re-established with one fell swoop a bustling neighborhood in Mesquite again.⁵⁶

JAN 16, 2003

Desert Valley Times

Hughes Set To Retire At Museum

Verde Hughes, the mainstay and foundation for the Virgin Valley Heritage Museum will retire next week.

An informal retirement reception is being held for Hughes on Friday, Jan. 24 from 3 p.m., upstairs at city hall.

The public is invited to drop by and thank Hughes for her dedication and valuable service through the years.

Light refreshments will be available.

At 84 years old, Hughes felt the need to step down.

Bryan Montgomery, city manager said, "Verde is an irreplaceable treasure."

"She has more knowledge of Mesquite's history than anyone else I know."

Hughes has lived in Mesquite since the early 1950's when she moved here with her husband, Wesley Hughes, who was born here.

For a time she was a teacher.

In the early 1980's when the Desert Valley Museum (now named the Virgin Valley Heritage Museum) was being conceived, she and Wesley were active, enthusiastic supporters in the process.

When the museum was established, Hughes became the first curator and started the process of its collection including histories of its original settlers, its pre-history and information on native plants and

other related matters.

Hughes said, "I started with an apple box half-filled with folders."

Beginning in 1988, Hughes was paid for 10 hours a week, but spent countless hours of her own time interviewing and writing histories of valley residents and collecting items for the museum.

In 1998 she was moved to 19 hours a week.

It was toward the end of that year Hughes requested Nora Hughes become the museum coordinator and that she would act as an assistant.

"Almost everything you see today at the museum is primarily the work of or was directed by Verde Hughes,"



Verde Hughes

said Leonard Morrow, Hughes' department head.

"Verde is dedicated to the community, its history and to the historical preservation of buildings and artifacts.

"She has a warm, friendly demeanor and her work and attitude have always been exemplary."

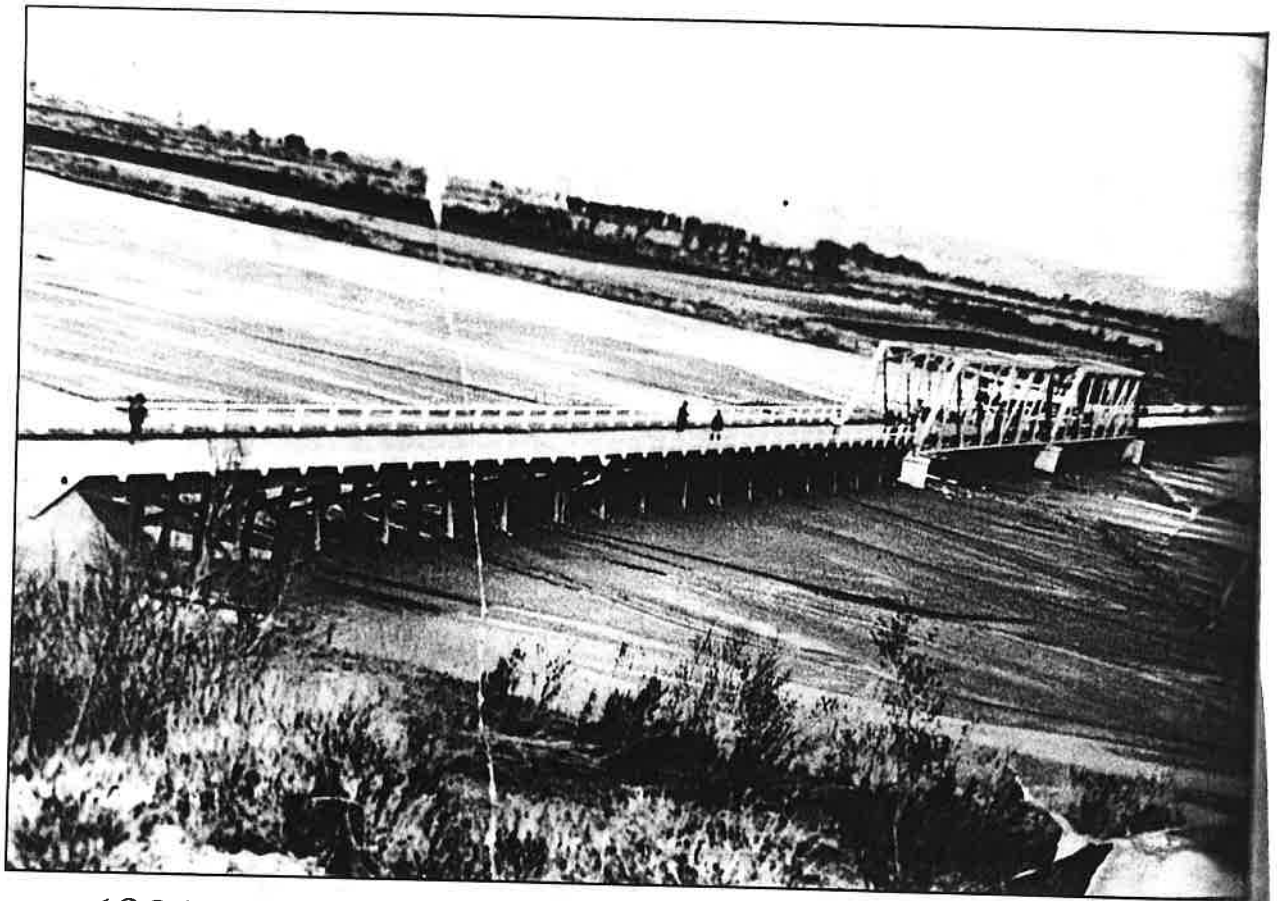
Hughes said she intends to keep assisting the museum by volunteering and helping when needed.

Tell -
Susan + Ed.
October 10
Meeting

A badly needed bridge between Mesquite and Bunkerville was finally completed in

piles driven in the river bed."³⁵ The two spans contained 1,500,000 pounds of steel.³⁶ "I remember watching the first bridge being built and marveling at such modern wonders," Daisy Leavitt recalled. "It had a high metal side that extended up and over the top."³⁷

March 18, 1921 was designated as "Bridge Day," and friends and dignitaries, including Nevada Governor Emmet D. Boyle, assembled from far and near for its dedication.³⁸ In good traditional style, they gathered early and stayed late. The bridge was decorated with flags, "the stars and stripes of America,"³⁹ and dazzling bunting draped on the sides of the bridge echoed the patriotic and festive attitude of those present. A decorated platform erected in the center of the bridge provided the seating for dignitaries, speakers, and the Dixie Normal College orchestra which included Professor Earl J. Bleak on the cornet; Karl Larson, trombone; Claude Worthen, drums; and Mrs. Stella Bleak, piano.⁴⁰



1921-First Bridge Between Bunkerville and Mesquite

William E. Abbott, chairman of the event, welcomed the 2000 plus visitors. Karl E. Fordham, music teacher at the high school, directed the high school choir in "Lovely Nevada."

This song, according to one reporter, was a "sweet and spirited song which breathes patriotism in every line."⁴¹ The words to the chorus are:

*We love dear Nevada
Our hearts will e'er be true
Go where we will, Nevada
We'll come back home to you;
and when life's sun is setting
We'll bless the happy day
We first set foot in Nevada
And knew enough to stay.*

*I love your changing seasons,
The sunshine, rain and snow,
The grain fields and the meadows,
The winds that gently blow:
I love the thrifty people
Throughout the state's domain,
Who stand for truth and freedom
The builders of her fame.*

The skillfully rendered program thrilled the crowd. Patriarch Joseph I. Earl offered an eloquent dedicatory prayer. The choir sang other numbers including, "The Flag Without a Stain," "Kentucky Babe" and "A Perfect Day." Bishop William E. Abbott, President John M. Bunker, S. A. Bunker, John R. Wallis, and Stake President Willard L. Jones of Overton were given "hearty applause for their speeches."⁴²

A spirited penny-a-vote contest between a woman candidate from Mesquite and one from Bunkerville (to see who would drive in the last spike) came "right down to the wire." Mesquite's candidate, Emma Abbott, principal of the elementary school, emerged as winner. After being presented with an engraved gold locket, Emma proceeded to drive the last spike into the bridge. Emma's service and contributions to the community qualified her for this honor. The bridge linking the communities had finally become a reality, and the towns that had been so long separated by a river were united.⁴³

After the ceremony, a jubilant throng gorged on barbecued meat, cheese, pickles, home-made bread, and other mouth-watering food set up on the south side of the bridge. Those who had cars entertained themselves and their friends by driving back and forth across the new steel phenomenon.⁴⁴

As part of the celebration, productions were held at both Bunkerville and Mesquite, including a minstrel show directed by the local musician and impresario Karl Fordham. Fordham involved the high school students in the musical, which received positive reviews from those who watched, and of course the "Bridge Day" would not have been a real celebration without a dance.⁴⁵

Made spiffy for the occasion, the spit-polished shoes, would not remain shiny for long. Not wanting to miss one dance number, the people waited as the band from St. George tuned up. Then the prancing and preening began. Andrew Karl Larson, a member of the band and later

a Dixie historian, described "the big barbecue, the crowds and the dance on the bridge.... The people 'whooped and hollered' and tromped with great enthusiasm."⁴⁶

On April 1, 1921, Bishop William E. Abbott wrote a letter to the Washington County News thanking the editor for the story about the bridge being dedicated and reminding them that the official opening for traffic would be on April 15. He invited the people of Utah, Arizona and Nevada to attend and to "boost for still other improvements that are so badly needed all along the Arrowhead Trail." Abbott continued, "The weather is ideal, crops are looking fair, health of the people is good. Never have the people of the Virgin Valley been more prosperous than today; a happy contented people who have come up through much tribulation, not to a standard of wealth but to enjoy some of the comforts of life."⁴⁷

Pile River Bridge

1916

Town is the only one in the entire state that Highway 91 passes through.

The Virgin River has been practically subdued as far as a barrier to communication is concerned. As early as 1916 a pile bridge was built between the town of Mesquite and Sunkerville. Perhaps no one thing has been of greater importance to the development of the town; than has this bridge. For quicksand and automobiles just don't work well

The Bridge

"And God Commanded the Waters to be separated and let the dry land Appear."

No more wrecked wagons in flooding waters?

No more worn, worried horses and frustrated drivers?

No more fear of being sucked into quicksand or being stranded on one or the other side of the river?

The bridge over the Rio Virgin between Bunkerville and Mesquite was completed and on this day, March 18, 1921, a celebration was under way.

The first graders, under the direction of teacher, Hazel Keply, sang and danced. Other grades had parts on the program and the Nevada State Song was sung by a chorus of girls. Only one I remember and that was Wilma Potter (now Reber).

The Song:

**Nevada My Nevada, Oh independent state
Possessed of every resource within your
borders great.**

**I love your rugged canyons, the sunshine, rain
and snow,**

**The grain fields and the meadows, the winds
that gently blow.**

**Nevada, My Nevada our hearts beat firm and
true.**

**Go where we will, dear Nevada, we'll come
home to you.
And when life's sun is setting, we'll bless the
happy day
We first set foot in Nevada and knew enough to
stay.**

In the plans of the celebration the most popular lady in the Valley was to drive a gold spike as the last nail in the bridge. About twenty name were submitted in the contest. The voting was a penny a vote. Shortly before "Bridge Day" the two with the highest votes were the contenders for the honor.

As the program came to a close "Uncle" Walter Hughes, chairman of the celebration committee, stood on the railing of the bridge and rapped for attention. He then announced that the committee had decided that a gold spike would probably be dug out for it's monetary value so they were presenting the lady with a gold engraved locket instead and a steel spike would be driven in the bridge.

The locket was then presented to Emma Abbott and the spike was driven deep in the Mesquite end of the bridge. As far as I know it remained there until the bridge was torn down when a new steel and concrete bridge was nearly completed.

I say "Nearly Completed." Torrential rains and floods took their toll on the old bridge. Waves and debris were devastating as they

washed over the floor time and again, weakening the edifice until it was considered unsafe. About 1930-31, I believe, a new one was begun west of the old one.

One day, as we came from school in Bunkerville, one bus crossed over to the Mesquite side in safety, but when the other bus, which was about a half hour later, a terrific flood had come down the river and the old relic was creaking and swaying so the second bus driver didn't dare cross over.

The new bridge was completed except the "Aprons" on each end so huge planks were laid across the "Abyss" but cars could not cross. The bus on the Mesquite side would bring the students to that end of the bridge and they would walk across, board the bus on the Bunkerville side and go on to school. In the evening the procedure was reversed.

date? Now, over 50 years later, the second bridge was pronounced inadequate. It was extremely narrow and hazardous for two cars to pass in these modern days of larger cars and faster driving. Just last year the bridge was completely remodeled, adding greater strength, wider passage, and foot paths making passage quite safe.

Maurine A. Hughes

WESTERN VILLAGE



WESTERN VILLAGE

As I stated, the boys had commenced planning a large travel center to be built on the ranch and in the spring of 1959 with all plans, financing, etc., completed, the contract for building was finally awarded to the Talboe Construction Company at a cost of nearly a half million dollars. When the highway was built across this part of the ranch, it was graded up to a height of some ten or twelve feet above the level of the farm, so to erect a building on the property directly facing the highway, a fill of dirt was first put in to bring the building site to the level of the highway. This necessitated the moving of a great deal of earth which was done before the building could be commenced. All of this took time and, though the contractors worked very efficiently, it was mid-summer before enough of it was completed to open the doors to the public.

However, finally with all in readiness, a two-story deluxe motel with 24 units, a super service station and truck terminal, fine swimming pool and large modern kitchen and cafe — with beautiful neon signs reading "Western Village" — was ready for its grand opening. It was one of the nicest and most complete travel centers on any highway, and all under one management. Our old friend Al Cahlan, managing editor of the *Las Vegas Review Journal*, came with his staff of reporters, photographers, etc., and gave the place a wonderful "spread" in their paper. The boys had employed as head chef and manager of the place people with a great deal of experience and training and from the very beginning it seemed to be evident that it would be a success, as people seem to be rather surprised but happy to find such facilities for their comfort and pleasure out here in the desert.

So our time this year was very well spent in and around the valley, as all of our children and grandchildren were here a great deal of the time.

Lewis and Bill had made their home in Salt Lake City for the previous 15 years, where they own and operate a wholesale business, Intermountain Tourist Supply. Lewis, the older of the two, had been president and general manager and Bill the secretary, treasurer and director of the company. But with this new large business they reversed the organization of their other corporation and Bill became the president and general manager while Lewis is secretary, treasurer and director of their holdings here.

J. Lewis Duke
Hist.

Excerpt from University of Arizona Bulletin #2, Arizona Place Names (p.248)

Littlefield Mohave Co. Map, McClintock, "Mormon Settlement".

In T. 40 N., R. 15 W. "West side Virgin river, mouth of Beaver Dam creek. The people wanted a postoffice but authorities would not call it Beaver Dams so they compromised on Littlefield." Letter, Walter Cannon, P.M., St. George, Utah.

Settled by Mormons, 1864. Extreme northwestern settlement of present Arizona. Five miles south of Utah line and three miles east of Nevada line. Founded by Henry W. Miller. For a time called Millersburg in his honor. Formerly Beaver Dams. No one seems to know for whom it was finally named. P. O. established Oct. 25, 1894, Matilda Behner, P.M.

Hancock Peak - 8,012 ft. above sea level -
the highest peak in the Virgin ~~range~~
of Mountain Range.

In 1871-72 men from Major Powell's
third Colorado River / Grand Canyon
exploratory trip (Prof Steward, Clarence King,
F. S. Hellenbaugh & the clerk: James E. Bangs,
Clarence King gave this peak the name
of Mt. Bangs & so it is recorded
on the maps.

Locally it is called Hancock Peak.
John Hancock Sr. had a little yard
& cattle ranch there. That is where the
name originated. He had sheep and
goats & raised a garden. Sr. Hancock
broke a hand cart to town for supplies.

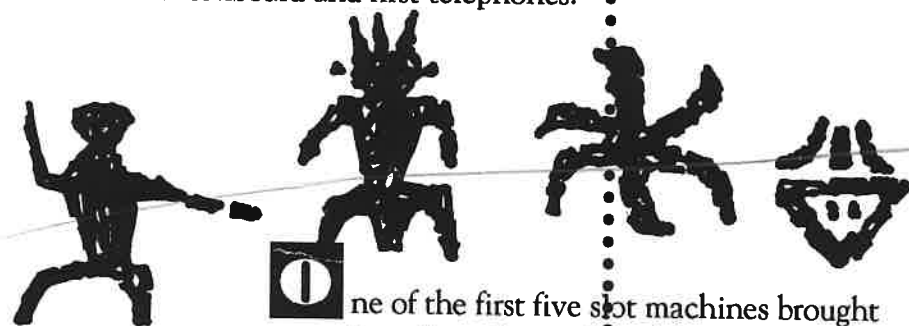
It is the first canyon in the range ^{into}
south of the Virgin and West of the Narrows
A steep & rough road went up to the ledges where
there was a spring of pure water.
Virgin Mountain Range (over)

HOPE FOR THE FUTURE . . .

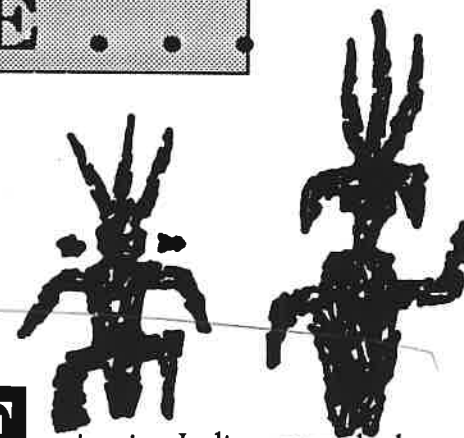


B beautiful turn-of-the-century wedding dress with switchboard and first telephones.

State Basketball trophies from 1915 and 1916, including an amusing story of camping out overnight on the mesa as the team traveled by team and wagon to Moapa to take the train to Reno.



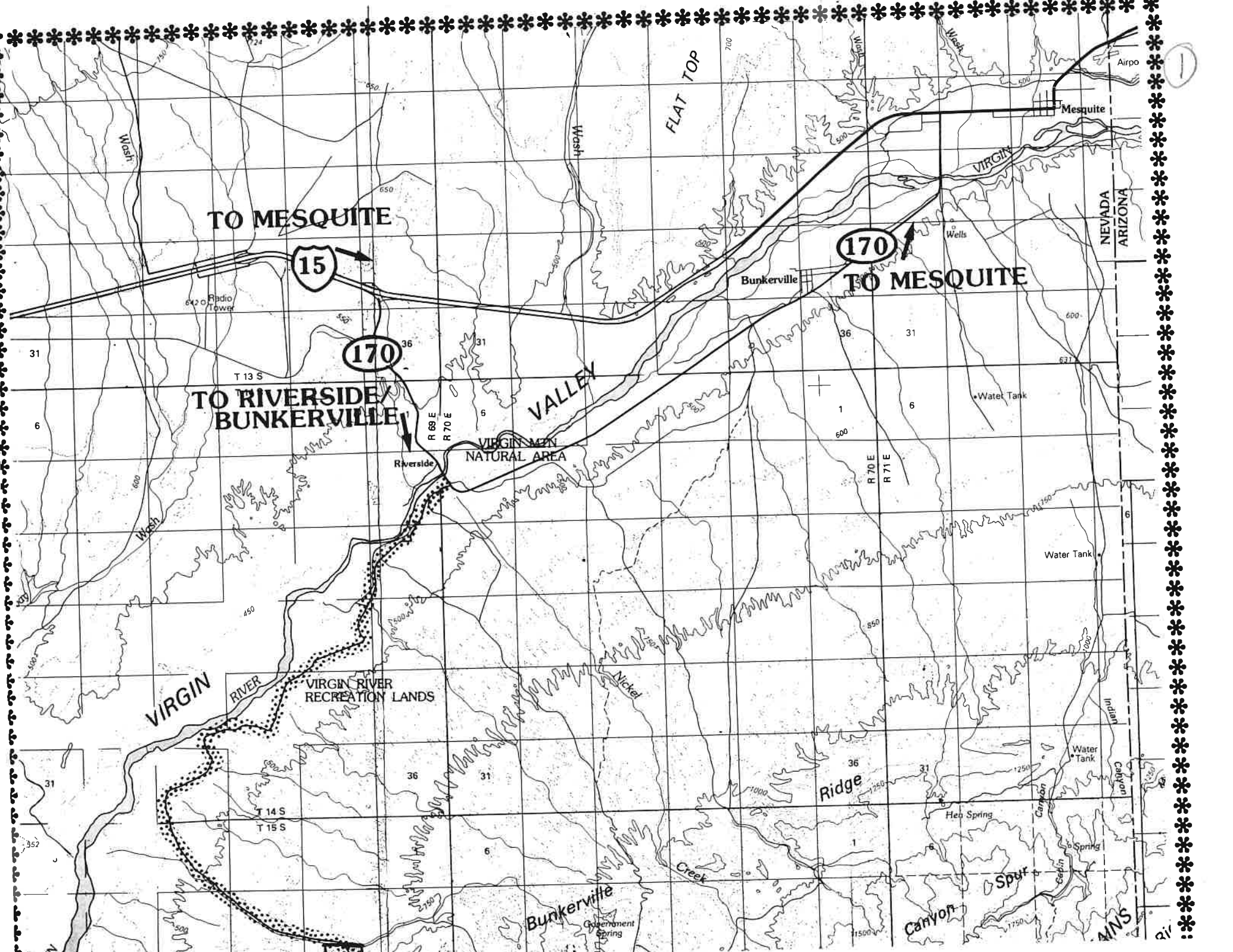
One of the first five slot machines brought into the valley by Vonda's Cafe in 1936.



Fascinating Indian petroglyphs.



LINKED TO THE PAST



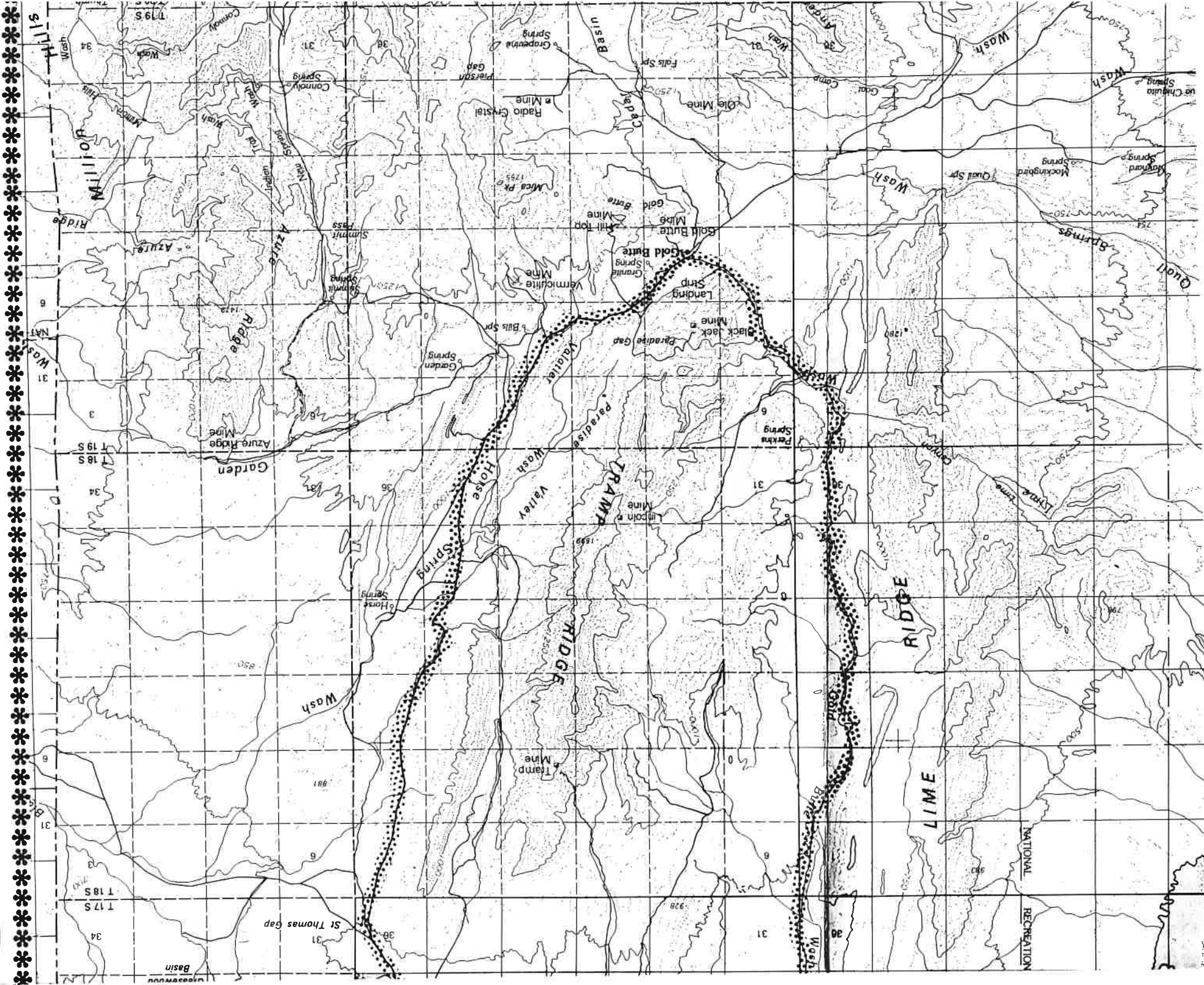
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1. The Rock House
2. Charlie Hardy Home
3. James E. Hughes House and Store
4. Relief Society Building and Tithing Lot
5. Hughes and Frehner Store
6. City Hall
7. Dairy Barn
8. The Granger Auto Court
9. The Hotel Granger
10. Vonda's Cafe
11. Abbott Hotel
12. Arthur Hughes Home
13. Edgar and Bertha Leavitt Home
14. Open Air Dance Hall
15. Bakery and Drug Store
16. Gymnasium
17. Desert Valley Museum

18. Abram Woodbury
19. John David Pulsipher
20. Abbott-Way Station
21. Howard Pulsipher
22. Egg House - Rio Virgin Dale
23. Tent Church & School
24. First Chapel - school
25. Steep Chapel - school
26. Edward Theater
27. Virgin Valley Fire Dept.
28. Spanish Trail
29. Mormon - Arrowhead - Hwy 91
30. Grist mill
31. Tunnel Point
32. Mesquite Ham

3





Dam

You ask about the beet seed in that valley. The best information I can give on that is to refer you to the Charles A Hughes Family. He and his boys were the largest producers and knew more about the business than any body in that district. If you do not get the information you would like let me know.

We had so many amusing things happen while working on the canal and the dam but I will only relate one at the dam.

Of course the dam was never washed out only when the floods and high water. It was the custom for all the outfits leaving town to take as large trees as they could. These trees were left on the south side of the river, as the water was always following the north ledge. The best team of horses was selected and with a chain the trees were floated across in place near the head gate. These trees were wired together and weighted down with loads of rock.

This was extended approx half way across the flood channel then they would start on the south end and with the same procedure would work toward the center.

As the opening in the dam got smaller the current increased and the water deepened. Just before the channel was closed of Uncle Joe Levitt (Heber and Woodruff's father) went in and unloaded his rock and started to turn around and come out - but he got too

near the hole in the dam and it took his team wagon and all down. The funny part was the wagon caught on a stump of a tree. There he and his outfit was headed down stream with his wagon stuck and his horses swimming but could not go. He was trying to free the horses from the wagon before they would drown so he took his pocket knife and tried to cut the traces. Of course help came and the wagon was pulled back off the stump and the outfit got out all right. We all had a good laugh about him trying to cut those traces which were chains.

It was usually my job to work in the water from my waist to my neck all day with the team placing the trees. By being right on the spot I seldom missed the funny parts.

Well I better stop

Love - Howard

Howard Pulsipher

