

#25 Hotels in Bishop Jan. 27, 1983

2010.25.25

The Pal View Hotel ^{in Bish.} was a busy place
in early days ~~with~~ stages coming & going.

The Pioneer Livery Stable, owned by
F. E. Herrick. adver. livery service, stock
boarded, grain & baled hay for sale,
Horses, wagons, etc bought, sold & transferred
outfits for tourists met & trips

Jake's Auto Line office (in later years)
adver. autos to all parts of the ~~Collegio~~ Mts.
~~all~~ down the O.R. Val, wherever
other stables provided ~~travel~~ ^{all} stages to the R.R.
Stations - Laws, Zurich near B. Pine, Aberdeen,
Kearsarge, Manzanar & Dewey (where the
Standard Gauge met the narrow gauge).

The Pal View Hotel in Bish. was a very busy place. It
was ~~the~~ a Way Stop for thru stages & the
loading & unloading of passengers & baggage
from the Laws Depot after the C.O.C. & G. train
serviced the O.R.V. The Pioneer Liv Stable in Bish.

~~The Pioneer Liv Stable~~
An ad in the Inyo Reg, Willie Chal editor & publisher
dated Jan 3-1889 tells of the Pal View H, Bish Creek.
"This house is now open for the use of the public. It
offers the inducements of pleasant, well fur. rooms, a
table always first class, reasonable rates, & careful
attention to the wants of guests.

use this with (Hotels) Istania etc

1) Istalia Hotel
First known as ~~Bowland Hotel~~ ^{the Bishop Creek Hotel},
it was built in 1861. In the 1890's it was
oper. by S.F. Bowland & known as the
Bowland Hotel. In 1900 Bert Rhine
bot the prop.; had the orig Hotel torn down
and built a new 2 story Hotel, named
~~the~~ Istalia after one of his dau. This
bldg. was destroyed by fire and a new
larger one was built. It was 2 story
w. a large court in the center w. ^{surrounding the} flowers
& plants. It was in use many years, & its
site is now the location of Bishop's downtown
Safeway store. When excavation for
the new bldg. was going on, beau. old bot.
were dug but so far as known, none of the little
tokens, memorabilia of an early era.

Clark Hotel don't have taken
Mar 1 Pienna Bak

Mar 1 Peterson B. Pine not Bish. then Peterson in Bish
G.K. Collins Pool Hall

Pondy, variation

Mar 5 Keough Dance

Keough's Hot Spr. 7 mi so of
B. Big dance floor
out doors, used all summer

Hutcheon starriff
Mar 3 Dusenberry

Vol V, p. 16 In 1876 D.H. Hill came to Bishop Creek
from Bodie and built a hotel the V. View on
main st. as it was centrally located it was a way-
place for stage coaches, loading & unloading pass-
& baggage. D.H. Hill as he became known

Ingo - anno Domini 1912 "Beau Owens Valley"
The O.R. Poultry Co was founded by Fred & Gus
Eaton ^{in 1912}. It was planned to become one of
the leaders in its line in the country.
With 440 a. in its domain, ^{it was} fenced by
steel posts set in concrete. Many buildings
as 24 maturing houses w spacious yards ^{planted}
alfalfa & shade trees. Brooders & incubators
of great size, a steel car track to carry
in feed & clean out. 60 laying houses &
provided quarters for 7,200 laying hens,
120 to ea. house.

Fred Eaton was formerly in the cattle
business, ^{in early 1900} the Eaton L & C Co. of Long B.
Then he began a huge enterprise, the O.R.
Poultry ~~for~~ Co farm. co by B. P. in 1911 or 12
Beside the ^{numerous & large}
~~many~~ bldgs of the chicken ranch, a mill
for storage & machinery for grinding
& mixing chicken goods ~~that~~ ^{which} included
~~as well as a residence~~ and a residence. The 440 acres
was fenced by steel posts set in concrete.
In later years it became ^{known as} the Howdy Smith
Sheep & Cattle Ranch.

C & T E Jones, first settlers in R. Val.

Walter F. Smith of the Fish Springs Ranch ranged
a flock of 3000 sheep in nearby Sierra Mtns.
Also opera a dairy.

The So Pacific R.R. runs thru O.R.V. connecting
w. the Ogden Rte on the no. & the city of P.A. on the So.
n. gauge, expected to become broad-gauge.

Bar-room of the Valley View Hotel.

Picture, ~~courtesy~~ Louisa Shack collee.

Left to right

John Alpers (Dutch John); the prop.
D. H. Hill; Lou Girard; Tom Nance;
Seated was U. S. "Chicken" Smith who
later operated the Smith Auto Garage
in Bishop.

See tokens
in last pages

*all quarters a tree-shaded 2nd or 3rd story bldg in 1712.
 view in which a fine view can be seen of the river & call
 from at river & carrying the trail & express, also an auto
 on corner in the hotel in a lively stable, in stage meeting
 before 1885.*

BIRD BITTERS

Indep Hotel leading hallway of 2nd floor. Founded by H. Perry

There are hundreds of different bitters, human cure-alls.

They come in fancy or plain bottles, in all sizes and shapes. But only one so rare as to be made exclusively "for the birds."

In Watson's "Bitters Bottles" the author quotes from an example in his collection, "The box and label, both in yellow, black, and red, picture a canary. Label reads, 'P. B. F. Bird Bitters. To impart new life and vitality to your bird and to bring out his song, put a few drops of bird bitters in his drinking water. This remedy is particularly valuable when your bird is languid and sings seldom, and during the moulting season. Food for Song. Since 1882. Phila. Bird Food Co., 339-341 N. 4th St., Phila., Pa. Alcohol 26%, 20 minims to each fluid ounce."

Mr. Saalfrank, early and extensive collector of bitters, once stated, "I found a mention of bird bitters in a Schieffelin Pharmacuetical Wholesale Catalog dated 1891." He had never seen an example.

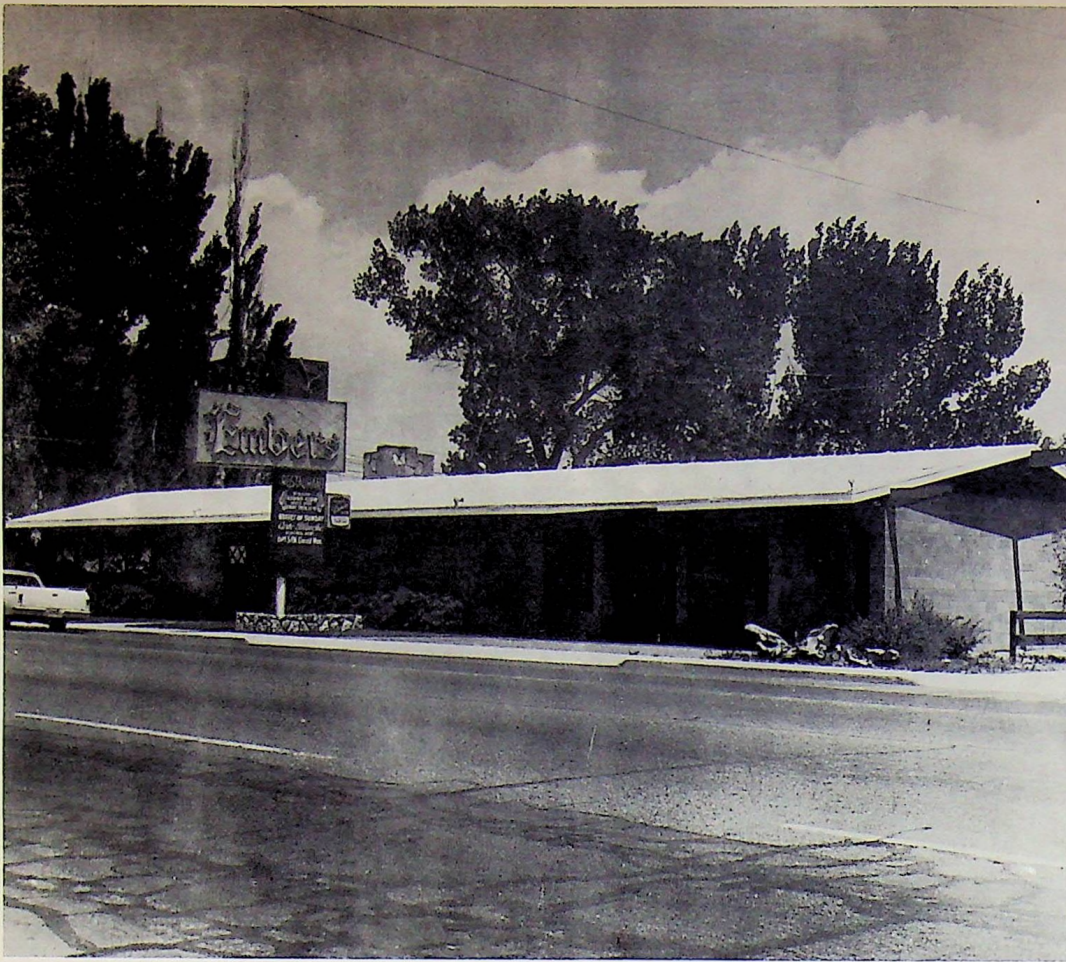
The two shown were dug from deep under the Tonopah dump--treasure chest of old--one has partial contents, both show the name Bird Bitters as well as bits of label information. The oldest has sloping shoulders and a ring around the neck just above the shoulders. It has embossed on reverse, "ASCHENBACH & MILLER, PHILADa."

Adele Reed

272 Shepard Lane

Bishop, California 93514

*The Pioneer Air Stable in Park owned by F.E. Herrick
 also, river over, stark loaded, grain & loaded hay
 for sale, horse, wagon etc, etc, sold & transferred
 digits for transfer with tags. Office of JAKE'S AUTO
 LINE, Cuts to all parts of valley by river*



EMBERS

*John C. Morris
John L. Morris*

Located on US Highway 395 - 970 North Main, Bishop, California

Pioneer Days

Bishop's Early Hotels . . . Real Class

by Adele Reed

We go back a "few years" and think of life in Bishop Creek town—so named until 1880. The growing town, headquarters for a great area, brought many so-called drummers or salesmen. They arrived by stage or horse and buggy and sometimes by spring wagons or buckboards. Their arrival and their trade brought about the building of several hotels, eventually. The commercial travelers were greeted by sample rooms to show their goods.

The first hotel was built on lower Main Street in 1861 by John Clarke, as noted by Gus Cashbaugh who has much to offer of the old days. It was named the Bishop Creek Hotel and the first proprietor was one of the Mairs family of Independence.

In 1886 the Hartshorn brothers, Herb and Henry, were in charge of the Bishop Creek Hotel. Herb's son, Elbridge, was born there in 1889. Elbridge in later years was a blacksmith at 375 South Main for long years. After the "mighty smithy" was gone, the sound of the bellows, the ting of the anvil continued as his two sons, William and Finley, operate their own blacksmith shop at the same place—a tradition. Next we find that an early rancher, S.L. Bourland, operated his ranch on the north fork of Bishop Creek in West Bishop. He became the operator of the hotel in the 1890's and named it the Bourland Hotel. Then in 1900 a man named Bert Rhine, who had married Leona Collins, was the next owner. He had the old hotel buildings torn down and a new two story hotel was built. It was named Istalia, after a daughter.

The hotel had rooms, office and bar and a large court in the center which was entered by a driveway. Inside the court were seen the beauty of shrubs, flowers and greenery. It was known up and down and was a landmark in the town of Bishop, then in the 1920's it became a victim of fire. The site is now the location of Bishop's downtown Safeway store. When excavation for the new building was going on, beautiful old bottles were found.

Gail (Remington) Willets, who lived in Benton 1909-1914, recalls the annual festival at the Istalia Hotel in Bishop. "There were all kinds of stands in the center of the hotel court holding fruits, vegetables and flowers. Then, in what I presume was the sitting room or parlor there were all types of handwork, sewing, knitting and I got a prize for buttonholes!

"There was a great to do over the horse racing and around the corner was a 'movie house,' what a thrill to me. When the seats were cleared out there was dancing—waltz, one step and others. Oh yes, there was a real ice cream parlor nearby with curtains on the windows. It was a treat to sit on metal chairs and eat ice cream on little round tables. In Benton we only had ice cream in winter, so it was a great surprise." Jess and Ellen Summers sold hot meals and wonderful chocolate candy and ice cream.

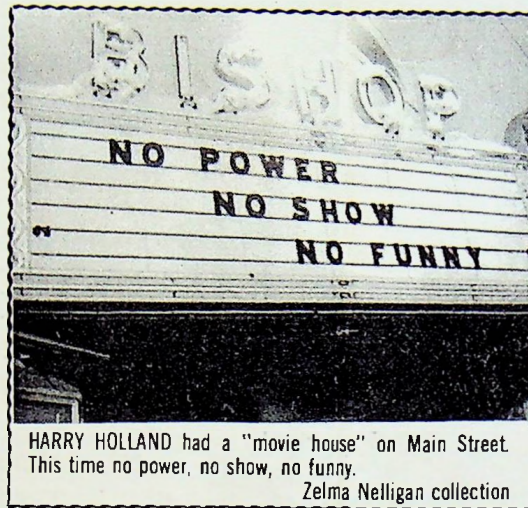
Gail's remembrance of a "movie house" brings thoughts of one of Bishop's largest buildings. Charles Wildasinn, owner of property at Old Mammoth, where he had a hotel, store and sawmill, built the Hall in 1903 of Mammoth timber. He also built their family home. The Wildasinn Hall was two story with a seating capacity of 800 people, the location was East Line Street.

The hall was very popular for dancing and enter-

on what is now known as Brockman Lane. It became a little town called West Bishop. From records in the National Archives, Washington, D.C., a postoffice named Avena was in the area.

Alexander Spencer, 1st. P.m., Oct. 4, 1880, mail to Bishop Creek June 16, 1885. Located in the N.E., ¼, sec. 2, T7S, R32E, on the route from Bishop Creek to Mammoth City. Two and a half miles from Bishop Creek P.O., One eighth of a mile from the stream called Bishop Creek and on the north side of the Creek. To serve 200 people in the Village of West Bishop. Application made Sept. 21, 1880.

Mr. Hill had a family grocery store on the east side of the lane where later the Preston family lived. The Thomas Key two story home was also on the east side and is in use today. Across the lane was another two story house known as the Nelligan home. Charles Wonacott had sold three acres to the Nelligans. Wonacott helped build the house and he planted several pine trees in the front yard, they are very tall pines



HARRY HOLLAND had a "movie house" on Main Street. This time no power, no show, no funny.

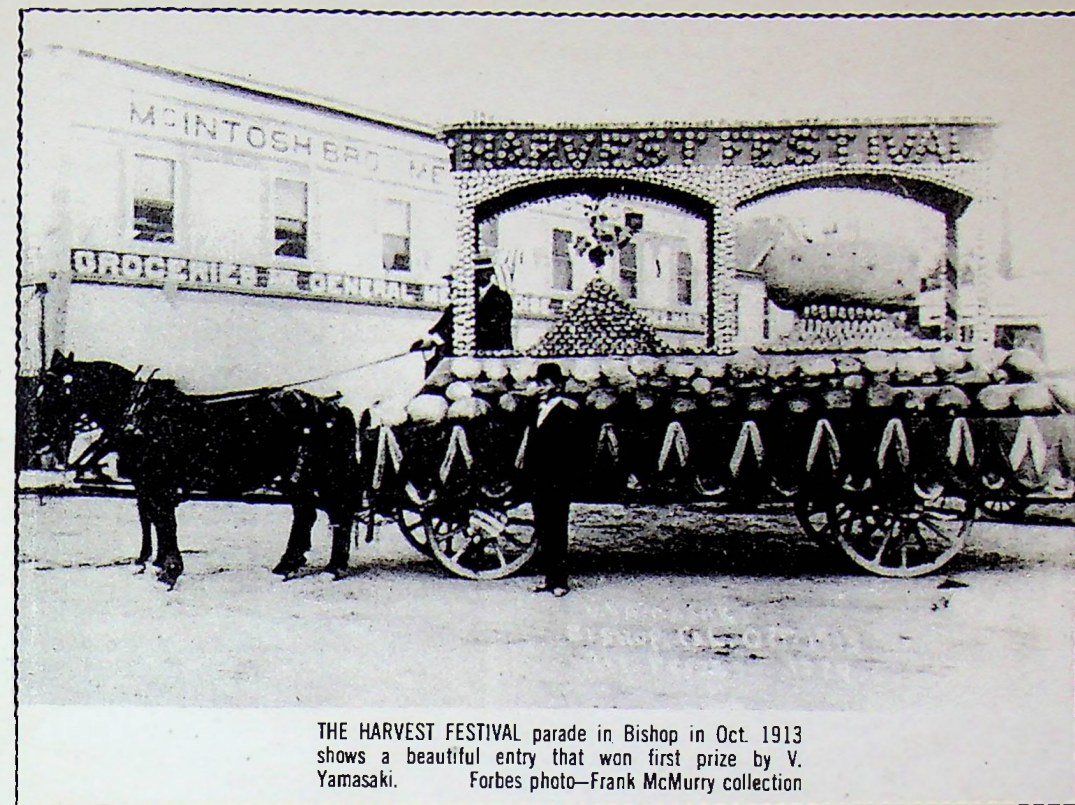
Zelma Nelligan collection

today. North of there was seen the small home where the McAfee family lived, and the Alec Reeve home. Alex Spencer had a store in the area and mention has been made of a saloon by the name Temple of Folly as at Mammoth City. Not much is now known of the little settlement of West Bishop.

The town was relocated easterly to Bishop Creek town and Mr. Hill bought a strip of land along Church Street from Eldred and Hall. It extended from Main and to Warren Street, across from the Ed. Bulpitt store, now Joseph's Bi-Rite.

Hill built a large two story hotel with a balcony extending across the front and part of the north side. It commanded a great view of the surrounding country side. Being centrally located it was a busy place having the way stop for the through travel of the stages. Also the loading and unloading of passengers and baggage from the Laws Depot after the C. and C. narrow gauge train serviced the Owens River Valley.

Louisa Schoch recalls: "My girl friends and I would go up on the balcony to watch parades and horse shows.



THE HARVEST FESTIVAL parade in Bishop in Oct. 1913 shows a beautiful entry that won first prize by V. Yamasaki. Forbes photo—Frank McMurphy collection

Hotel, Bishop Creek, Calif. "This house is now open for the use of the public. It offers the inducements of pleasant well furnished rooms, reasonable rates and careful attention to the wants of the guests. Rooms singly or ensuite. Board by the day, week or month. In the bar room will be kept a full stock of wines, liquors and cigars. A fine billiard table will shortly be added. The public are invited to call and favor me with their patronage. O.H. Hill." Another later advertisement: "O.H. Hill, Valley View Hotel, 1899. Meals 25 cents to \$1, lodging 25 to 50 cents. Sample rooms available for commercial travelers."

The proprietor of the fine hotel was fond of fat pork and also salted trout and was noted for setting a good table for his customers. "O! Hill" as they called him, would send a three foot keg and a sack of salt to his friend, Tom Rigg, who lived at Mammoth. It took about three hours of fishing on Twin Lakes to fill the

to R. John Alberts, known as "Dutch John," O.H. Hill, prop., and Lou Girard. Standing is young Tom Nance, identified by James Croker of Carson City, Nevada. Seated is U.G. Smith known as "Chicken Smith" and later owner of the Smith Garage in Bishop.

Tom Nance ran the hotel in 1917 and operated a candy, ice cream and cigar business. He also rented some of the upstairs rooms. Nance also used a trade token, T.E. Nance, candies, ice cream and cigars, Bishop, Calif. Good for 12½ cents in merchandise. This hotel was destroyed by fire near the 30's.

THE CLARK HOTEL

According to Gus Cashbaugh's records the third hotel in Bishop Creek was named Clark Hotel. It was built on Main Street in 1878 by Ritta (Harnes) Clark. The building was two story with a balcony on the front which extended over the walkway. The location was north of the Ed. Bulpitt grocery store. H.C. Hartshorn





THE BAR ROOM of the Valley View Hotel. Left to right, John Alberts or "Dutch John," O.H. Hill, prop.; Lou Giraud. Standing, Tom Nance. Seated was U.G. Smith, later owner of the Smith garage in Bishop. Collection of Louisa Schoch



THE ISTALIA HOTEL was popular with traveling men who roomed there and enjoyed the family style meals. Lillis Killian photo

tainment. Upstairs were lodge rooms for the Woodmen of the World, the Fraternal Brotherhood and others.

We visited Zelma Nelligan recently and found that she has a large picture of the inside of the hall which is most interesting. It shows a meeting of the Woodmen of the World with a drill team of eight lined up in the orchestra pit. We could identify one, Norm McAfee. Back of them stand nine officers and behind them we counted 79 members, making a wonderful picture, if we only knew the names.

The hall had fancy colorful curtains, many lights over the large stage, side doors to dressing rooms and back of the stage. At each side are box seats, two high, and above these are two large paintings of Mammoth Lakes, one each side of the stage. One is of Twin Lakes and the falls, the other is of Lake Mary and its beauty. No one so far can name the artist of the colorful scenes. We wonder what big names played in the footlights in the old days. It is certain that Charles Wildasinn built a beautifully furnished opera house in line with large cities.

Elma Crosby gives us some history: "Do you remember that the town of Bishop Creek was built on low land where water and growth made a swamp. So, for years, the town was named 'Gospel Swamp'!" She continues, "A man named Harry Holland came to Bishop with a traveling show. They came many miles to do plays that were well attended by all. We younger ones could hardly wait for their trips. Holland played the drums and was also a ventriloquist. He would come on stage and do his bit while the troupe would be changing their act. He went with them to Tonopah one time but soon came home and got some money together to buy the hall, which he did in about 1916.

Holland named it the "Bishop Opera House" and soon he had a Saturday night feature. After the movie was over and the floors cleared the Jitney dance followed. Each couple would continue walking between dances until they came to the Jitney Pot where they put in a jitney, 10 cents for the next dance."

Holland married Belle Nelligan and they raised four boys and two girls. On Jan. 6, 1924 the opera house was destroyed by the largest fire ever known, it could be seen many miles away and several homes were burned. Old timers tell us that the floor of the hall was built over springs that would sway as you danced. After the fire the blackened springs were seen all over the area.

In 1925, with donations from the Masons, a new, two story cement building was erected by contractor E.T. Dewey Albright. It was named Masonic Hall, in use today.

Harry and Belle operated the downtown theatre "movie house" for long years.

VALLEY VIEW HOTEL

We find that a man named O.H. Hill came from the mining camp of Bodie in the 1870's and settled

It was thrilling to see the coming and going of the stages. The teams would come galloping into town. Guests of the hotel often used the balcony and were interesting to us who did not see many people from the 'outside.' "

An advertisement in the Inyo Register, Willie Chalfant editor and publisher, Jan. 3, 1889. Valley View

keg. Tom would then take it by wheelbarrow down to the meadow and send it to Bishop by a lumber wagon from the Wildasinn Saw Mill.

Gus Cashbaugh, historian, recalls: "When I was in school my friends and I used to play ball near the hotel. Many a time we had to climb over the fence and into the pig pen that Mr. Hill had, in order to chase a ball. The pen was directly back of the hotel where today there is a parking lot."

Brass, star shaped key tags were used for the rooms and hung on an oval shaped key board. One of these has been found with Valley View, 2. Tokens for trade were good for 12½ cents and these usually would buy a shot of liquor.

The George Leidy family operated the hotel in early 1900. A man by the name of Millard Munson was another proprietor. We identify the group in picture, L.

was the bartender and the hotel advertised: "Board and lodging, turkey dinner every Sunday." To this day old timers can find the horse rings that served to tie up your horse, they are still in the curb by the Joseph Bi-Rite store and along to the theatre.

In 1911 T.C. Harnes, a brother of Mrs. Clark, was proprietor. In later years the hotel was moved from Main to Warren Street and Mrs. Rena McMurry operated it until it burned down in the 1950's.

Dr. Ed Bulpitt, son of the store keeper recalls: "The moving of the large building was really something to see. It was done with a windlass, or a winch nowadays, and four horses abreast. The men placed timbers like tracks and it set on big rollers of wood. With the windlass staked to the ground, every time the horses went around they had to step over the cable. Thus the hotel was pulled backward and set up about where the Smart and Final store is today."



THE STAGE for Candelaria about to depart from the Valley View Hotel, Bishop. The galloping team of six horses as they came to town always drew sightseers on the balcony. Collection of C. Lorin Ray