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PIONEER DAYS June 26-80
OWENS VALLEY SILOS & PIES.
a. Reed

2010.25.21

Captions, Inyo's Silos

1. Wint Ford Ranch and silos north of Warm Springs road.
Adele Reed photo
2. George McKay and silo he and brothers built. Adele Reed photo.
3. Wonacott Silo on Dixon Lane. Adele Reed photo.
4. Charles Wonacott. Collection of Carrie Wonacott
5. The Wonacotts, Carrie and Bob. Collection of Carrie Wonacott.
6. The Trowbridge well-house. Adele Reed photo
7. Someone's home and ranch? Adele Reed photo
8. The Ford milking barn was large and stood some distance from
the four silos. Adele Reed photo
9. Map--Inyo's Historical Silos By Adele Reed

Pioneer Days

Inyo's Historical Silos

Monuments, or markers, are seen across our country, denoting famous or historical places, and, or, objects. Our O.K.V has its own "some things", namely, the long-overlooked silos that ~~held storage~~ those tall graceful storehouses for ~~feed storage~~ that were filled w feed for stock. These were once so plentiful & useful on dairy farms up & down the Baller.

~~Many of the silos~~ ^{that remain most of them} have ~~now~~ become the only land marks of home steaded land, pioneer land. memories bring forth the fact that so many times a ranch was handed down from father to son or other relatives. So we find that the silos, in many cases ~~do represent the first person to lead to the~~ ^{even this began in early 1900} people who first tilled the soil, even the

The silos that remain have, in most cases become the only land marks of pioneer land, even tho built in early 1900. In the early days a ranch was handed down to ^{from father} son or ^{other family} relatives which has helped to preserve bits of history ~~belonging~~ ^{relative} to each silo.

Let us think for a moment of the beaver country the settlers found in the O.K.V after their long & arduous travel. It was a vast area bordered by tall mts, a remote land. Waterways ~~came cascading down~~ from the snow fields came cascading down to make meadows of tall grass that became nesting places for the red-w black bird & a host of other feathered friends. There were sand & sage flats & forests in higher elevations. The O.K. found its way down the eastern side. Its winding course was marked by growth of cottonwood, willow & rose.

Historical Silos of Inyo

by Adele Reed

The tall graceful silos (feed storage) that we see here and there in Northern Inyo can be named markers of pioneer land. Granted, the silos were erected from 1898 into the 1920's.

However, memories bring forth the fact that so many times a ranch was handed down from father to son or other relative. We find these silos in many cases, do represent the first passo until the land.

Let us think for a moment of the beautiful country the settlers found in the Owens River Valley after their long and arduous wagon travel.

It was a vast area bordered by tall mountains, a wild and remote land. Waterways from the snowfields above came cascading down to make meadows of tall grass that became nesting places for the red-winged blackbird and a host of other feathered friends.

There were sand and sage flats and forests in higher elevations. The Owens River found its way down the eastern side. Its winding course was marked by growth of cottonwood, willow and wild rose.

In 1862, according to the Homestead Act, 160 acres of land were available. Under the Desert Act of 1877, 320 additional acres could be filed on. Land was cleared and tilled, no matter the long hard hours. Many crops were grown and homes, gardens and shade trees appeared. The town of Bishop Creek soon became the supply center for a great acreage where livestock of all kind were seen.

We began picturing the few (29) remaining silos several years ago and recorded dates, names and location. After gathering bits of memories from old-timers we now relate the stories of the silos. They have become notable beings, standing alone in this modern world and come in singles, pairs and a group of four. (Records that defy the tooth of time, "Young").

①

Adels Reed

Tall graceful Silos, Store houses, that held feed for live stock, were seen in Owens River Valley as far back as 1898.

They were, in most cases the only indication of land homesteaded by pioneer people in the early times. Several years back we began to note the (29) Silos remaining and recorded dates, names of Silos, Location, and pictures.

Unrecognized by most people we found there is a Silo-Cellar that stands across the Canal on Wye road, unique and very historic. Silo-Cellar means it was built for insulation winter and summer. Farmers had them built here and there.

Gus Cashbaugh tells that it stands on land that Tom Shone homesteaded along

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the Kyle road easterly. Shone was registered as a prominent rancher that was also concerned with bottle goods. His was the first Soda bottle in Dupo in 1888 and it carried the name J. Shone on it.

We find that a man named Joe Garner bought land from H. Shone to the north and had the Silo-Cellar built. It was built by using two sizes of Silo rings. These were ten feet high and the double walls had a space of about 20 inches between making adequate insulation. This had one door and two windows.

Garner built a room on top where he slept using a ladder entrance.

We do not know how many years he used the Silo-Cellar.

A Mr. A.D. Adams was the builder of all the Cellars that were so very popular in those days.

(3)

Mr. Adams built a Silo-Cellar
for Gus Cashbaugh in Oct. 29, '18.
His bill to Gus follows.

Gus Cashbaugh to A.O. Adams Oct 29, '18
Oct 29 - to building cellar \$ 216.00
Credit for hauling forms
from Barlow's;
Hauling cement from Laws
and for Team \$ 16.00

Paid, Oct 29, '18 A.O. Adams

In caps

General cement work, fence posts, Cellars
sidewalks, houses, Silos,

(Mr. Adams work on sidewalks can be
~~be~~ seen in town several places)

Years ago there was a house and the base
of a wooden silo near the Silo Cellar
on the Garner farm.

Can not give you when
D&P took over land

I have 2 pictures.

Adela Reed

Charles Wonacott Ranch

The George Huckaby homesteaded acreage on Dixon Lane is noted by one white cylinder just off #6 north of Bishop. George and Emily Huckaby and family and Charles Wonacott and wife Rachael (Huckaby) came from xx the east with a wagon train. They chose the Owens River Valley as their ultimate goal and arrived at the Love Bridge in 1874.

Both families lived on the ranch, then the Huckaby family sold to Charles Wonacott and moved to land across the River until moving to Laws. George and Emily were the parents of Florence (Huckaby) Smith.

Wonacott built a two story home on Wonacott Lane, as earlier known. He teamed between Candelaria, Carson City and Bishop Creek and also was busy as a carpenter helping build several schools and some of the bridges over the Owens River.

Recently a pretty, ornate medal the size of a dollar was discovered near the silo by use of a metal detector. Embossed words, "The medal of excellence awarded to Charles Wonacott for a cartridge loader, 1877."

The historic piece indicates a sort of contest unknown in 1977.

Charles and Rachael raised eight children, one son Don managed the farm in later years and built the silo. His name is noted in the Inyo Creamery papers. The Wonacott children had to hike across salt grass fields to attend the Riverside school to the north. A son, Albert W. "Bob" and Carrie Thomson were

married in 1908. Their children were, Thomas, Thelma and Barbara Jean.

This family were known for their dairy business both near Bishop and at Mammoth Lakes. "Bob" liked to relate early happenings and tell how

"In those days there were no fences from our place clear into town" as told by a son, Albert W. "Bob" Wonacott. Bob liked to tell of the few years he lived at Tonopah, Nevada. His father was then the town undertaker and Bob was employed as a teamster, making the long trip to and from Sodaville which was then the end of the railroad from Carson and points north. The route used by stages and teams was across the flats by Millers and over the Mont ^ECristo Range with two night stop-overs. Another interest told by Bob was a mode of transportation between Tonopah and Goldfield after the T. and G. railroad was completed. Autos were equipped with flanged wheels so they could run on the tracks between train schedules. Passengers were hauled at a cost of thirty dollars per round trip. At holiday time parties would "charter" the rail traveling cars for a special event at Goldfield for a sum anywhere from thirty to fifty dollars.

In 1908 Bob and Carrie Thomson were married. They raised three children, Thomas, ^{Thelma} Thelma and Barbara Jean. The family was known for their dairy business near Bishop and also in the Mammoth Lakes area. Milk and cream were always delivered to the door with a cheerful greeting or a bit of news.

Bob and Carrie were very hospitable people, Bob welcoming friends with a reminder of early days, "put your horses in the corral and bring in your bedroll."

Family history from the late Bob and Carrie (Thomson) Wonacott.

One of the sons, Albert W. "Bob" Wonacott and Carrie Thomson were married in 1908. Their children were, Thomas, Thelma and Barbara Jean. This family were known for their dairy business both near Bishop and at Mammoth Lakes. "Bob" likes^d to relate early happenings and tell how

52

it used to be "when there were no fences from our place clear into town." "Bob" reminded of early times when he'd welcome friends with, "put your horses in the corral and bring in your bedrolls."

Family history--notes from the late "Bob" and Carrie Wonacott

INYO'S HISTORICAL SILOS

~~8X0X X0P XTHEX X100X~~

Monuments, or markers, are seen across our country, denoting famous or historical places and, or, objects. Our Owens River Valley has its own "somethings", namely the long-overlooked silos, once so plentiful and useful on the dairy farms. The white cylinders that stand tall are now the only landmarks of homesteaded land, since all ^{other} foundations, a milking barn and a silo cellar have been destroyed by owners, the DWP.

We began picturing the few (29) remaining silos several years ago and x recording dates, names and location and now use several directly connected with pioneer history. The graceful cylinders, although erected in 1912 to the twenties, lead to the people who first tilled the soil. They are notable beings standing alone in this modern world and come in singles, pairs and a spectacular group of four. (Records that defy the tooth of time, "Young.")

THE MCKAY RANCH

We visited George McKay in recent years and a drive to the Chas. McKay homesteaded ranch became important. Turning east on Warm Springs road south of Bishop, George waved to the right as he said, "there was Uncle John Bulpitt's farm way over there and on the left, see those two cement pillars, that was the "Chicken Smith" place, all he did was raise chickens. Further on, beyond the canal, that was the Kewley place."

The McKay ranch...now under lease...came into view to the right, a silo and corrals and small house. The silo was built by George and his brothers in 1912 and he tells; "we hauled sand from the river area and mixed it with cement to fill the three feet deep forms we built. One for each section and a horse and derrick was used to lift the concrete to fill them, it was hard work!"

Openings were left up one side and closed by boards so it could be emptied as needed, the openings were reached by ladder. The silage, usually

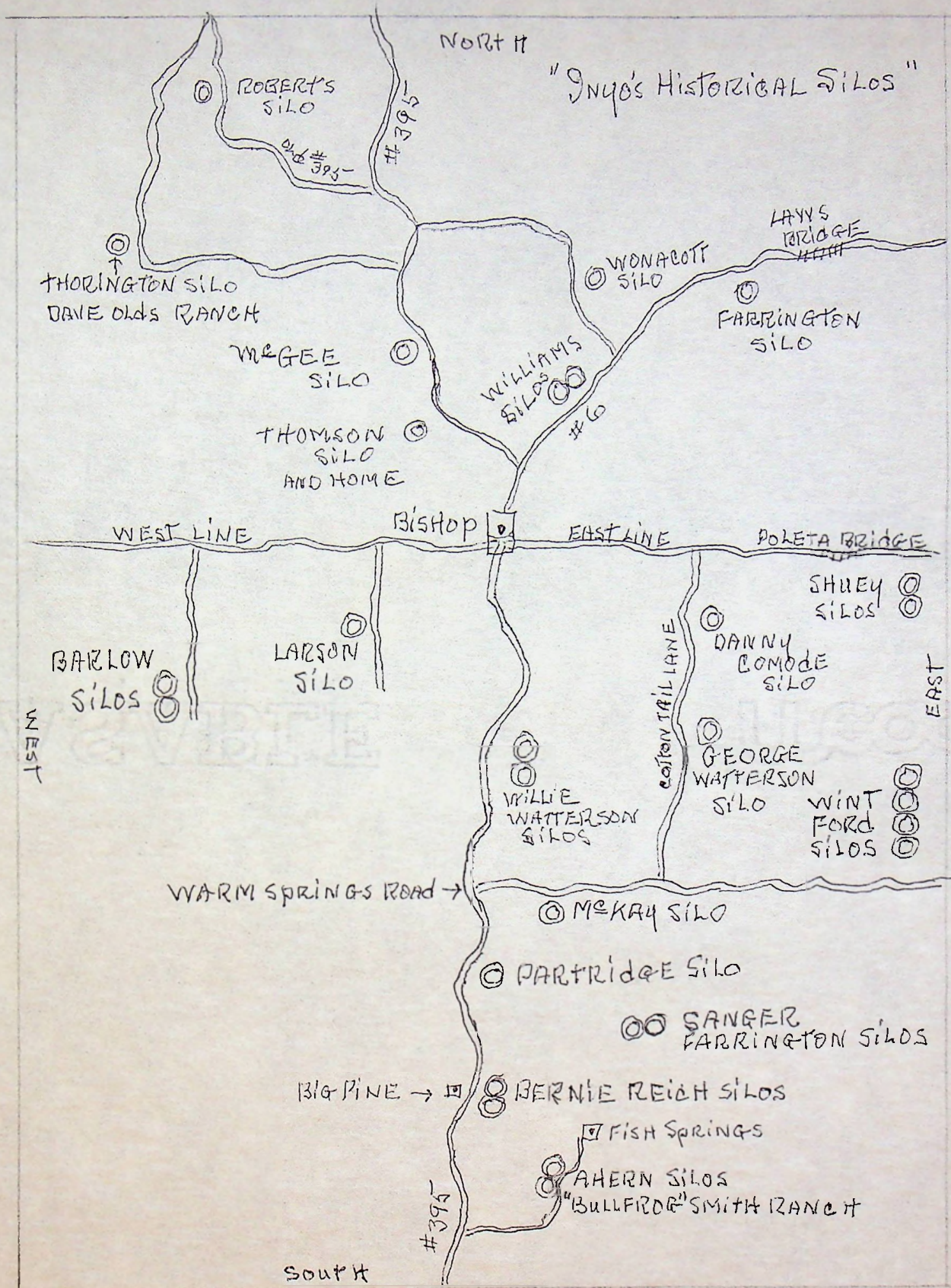
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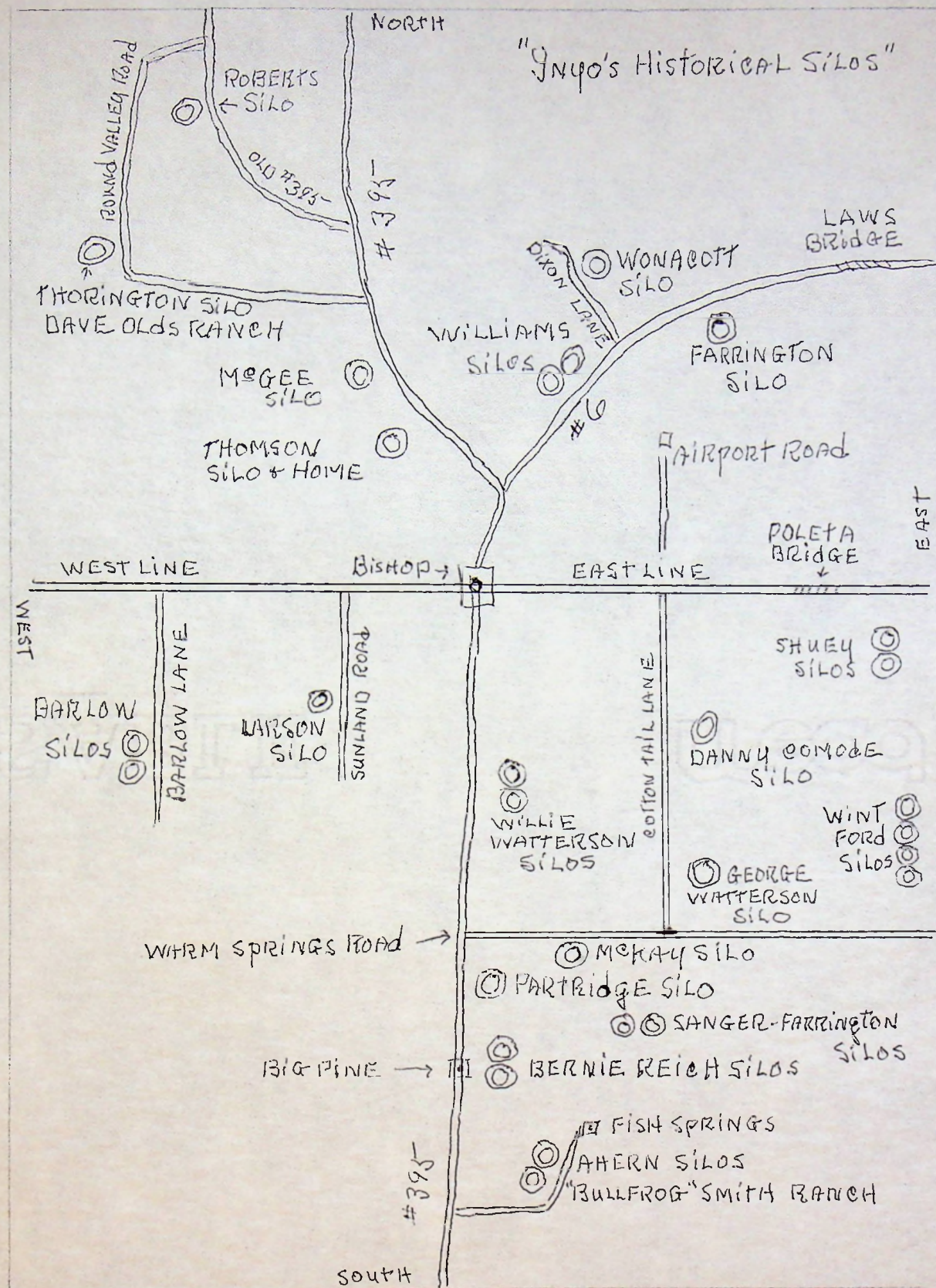
Quens Valley Silos June 26-'80

5 pies in some very small

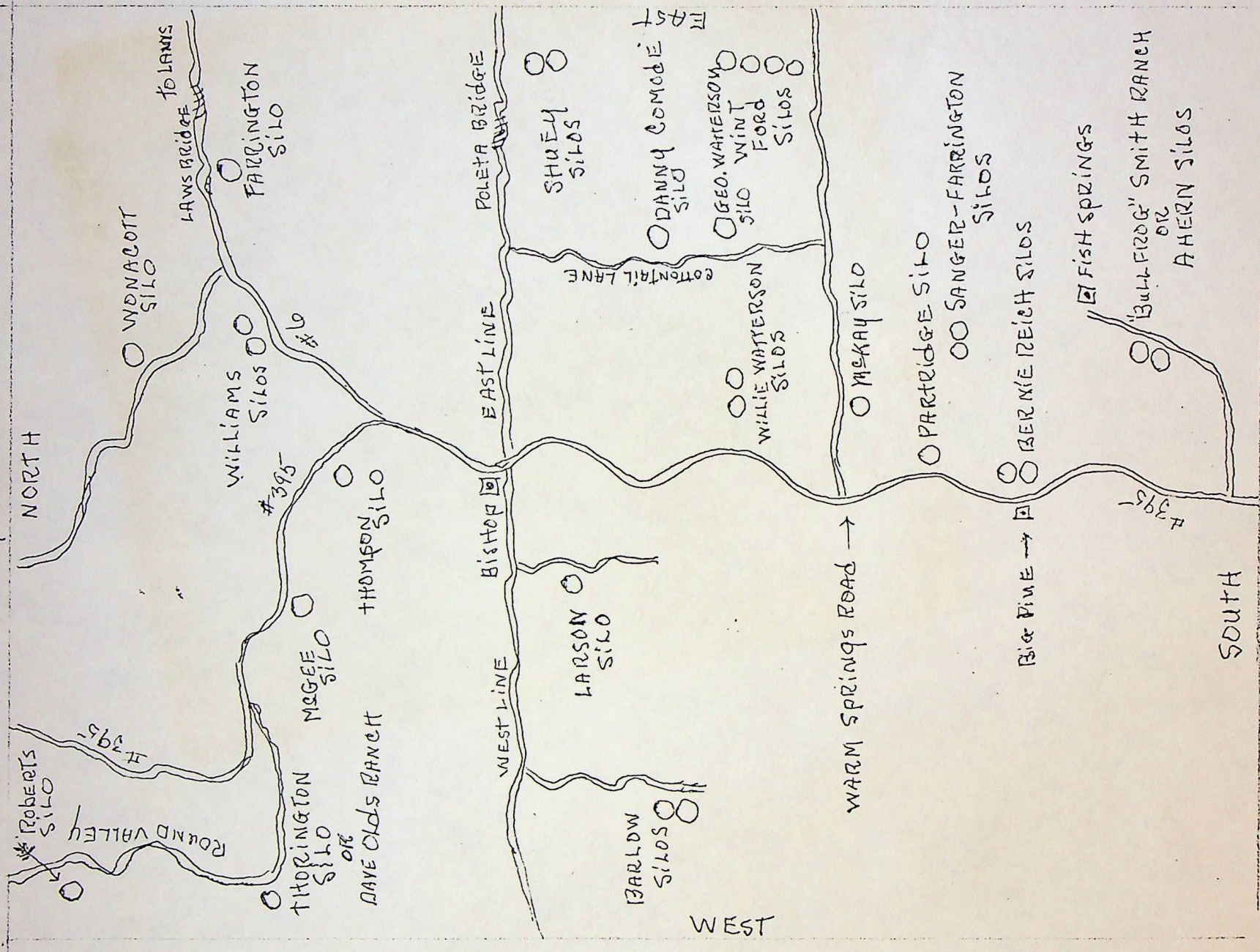
1 large one out

could use more
pies ?





-- Jnyo's Silos --



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Let us think for a moment of the vast, remote and beautiful valley the settlers found, bordered by tall mountains. It was well worth the price of their long and arduous journey. Waterways came cascading down from the snow fields to make meadows of tall grass. They became nesting places for the red winged blackbird and a host of other feathered friends. There were sand and sage flats and forests in higher elevations. The Owens River found its way down the eastern side of the Valley. It's winding course was bordered by growth of cottonwood, willow and wild rose.

In 1862 land could be homesteaded. No matter the long hours of hard work, the sagebrush was cleared, crops were grown and homes, gardens, shade trees appeared. It is told that our forsythia and lilac made the long trip from eastern states. Bishop Creek soon became the supply center for a great acreage.

We began picturing the few (29) remaining silos several years ago and recorded dates, names and location. We noted the cylinders vary between 55 to 65 years of age as found by the trademark of one A. O. Adams, cement contractor. His name and date of work was ssaed on a corner of cement floor of a milking barn and on cement steps of a pump house. The silos are more plentiful in the Bishop area, although some are seen from Round Valley south to Fish Springs. We find the cement bases of

wooden silos near signs of activity, the wood long ago filled other needs.

By the time dairying became a growing industry, much of the early housing was replaced by larger, comfortable homes, many two story. The silos and milking barns were then permanent additions. The alfalfa and corn fields were bounded by water ditches. Their greenery...locust, willow and vivid flower life...marked the ranch borders. Some of the old ditches can be seen today among sagebrush.

Waterwheels were used as fish screens commonly seen in canal or creek outlets to contain the trout. Were it not for the silos it would now seem unreal that the fine ranches existed. The best time to view these "objects" is in early spring when the cottonwoods are showing green. They come in singles or a pair and one spectacular group of four. After gathering bits of history here and there as to who first tilled the land and who came next, we relate the stories of the silos. They have become notable beings standing alone in this modern world. "Records that defy the tooth of time", "Young"

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TROWBRIDGE RANCH

We came across an object of unique interest one day in a barren, dried up field across the Owens River below the Collins Road. It was called a Well-house and nearby were house foundations and several big trees, all marking the Trowbridge farm as told by friend Gus Cashbaugh. The one thousand acres of alfalfa and other crops were watered from the McNally Ditch all the way from Five Bridges. The well-house supplied water for domestic use. Inside it we noted eight iron hooks cemented into the walls near the water pipes, perhaps used for hanging meat. This indicates how early settlers had to make-do the best they could.

One for each section and a horse and derrick was used to lift the concrete to fill them, it was hard work!"

A site chopper was used to fill the silo through the openings up one side. Sections of 8 or 18 inch pipe carried the silage into each opening then they were closed by boards so it could be emptied as needed, using a ladder. The silage was usually green corn and provided winter feed for milking cows.

All kind of crops were raised on the ranch and a garden near the two story home. George was one of seven children born to Scotsman Charles McKay and wife Viola (Howell) and he attended the Warm Springs school down the road.

He told of the heavy snow years and recalled a trip with his father hunting dry wood; "I'll never forget, we came across one of our cows hung up in tree branches where she died. After the snow melted she was about six feet above ground!"

McKay summed up the disaster that came to a high desert valley; "One day our canal that had always held plentiful water for our needs was bone dry. We knew then what was ahead but nothing we could do."

As we returned George to his room he mentioned he had enjoyed "going back" but would be homesick as he was the only survivor of his family.

WINT FORD RANCH

The Warm Springs road is of historical interest for the many farms that once produced so well. Going east beyond the McKay ranch the School site was noted on the left side just past the old lane that branches north to the airport road. Next is seen the George Watterson and Lum Vandell farms to the right of Warm Springs road, one marked by old buildings and a big corral.

Continuing east is seen the "Case Slough" area where water once was

so plentiful that sometimes the road could not be travelled. It is now marked by a growth of huge old willows where the water ran to the Owens River. Farther east, on the north side of the road, there are four big, white silos in a row dominating the scene. These stand sturdily amidst ^{and} sand & high sage, once the Mint Ford ranch, homesteaded by Ford, Sr. A fine milking barn stood nearby several years ago and northwestward inscribed in a corner of the cement floor, "A. O. Adams, Bishop, Cal., 12-28-119." Mr. Adams was a cement contractor who built silos, silo cellars, milking barns, house and bridge foundations and sidewalks in Bishop.

A rocky two story home once stood near big shade trees and the large fields stretched to the north. In earlier years the Ford family trailed cattle up the Dry Trail to upper Long Valley for summer feed. When dairying became the big industry Mint Ford, Jr. had the four silos and milking barn built and his vast fields furnished silage. He owned around 1400 acres when he sold to the DWP and left the Valley.

History, courtesy Gus Cashbaugh.

"In those days there were no fences from our place clear to town" as told by a son, Albert W. Monacott, "Bob" to all. He liked to tell of the few years he lived at Tonopah, Nevada. His father was then the town undertaker and Bob was employed as a teamster. He drove teams the long trip to and from Sodaville which was then the end of the railroad from Carson and points north. The route used by stages ~~and the long teams~~ was across the flats by Millers and over the Monte Cristo Range with two night stop-overs.

Another interest of Nevada's early days ~~was~~ by Bob was a mode of transportation between Tonopah and Goldfield after the T.&EGG. railroad was completed. Autos were equipped with flanged wheels so they could run on the tracks between train schedules. Passengers were hauled at a cost of thirty dollars per round trip. At holiday time parties would "charter" the rail traveling cars for a special event at Goldfield for a sum anywhere from thirty to fifty dollars.

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Family history from the late Bob and Carrie (Thomson) Monacott

The Warm Springs road is of interest historically for ~~the~~ its many farms. ~~The Warm Springs~~ ^{that once produced so well} School site. ~~But~~ Cashbaugh has been very helpful in indentifying the location of the W. Spr. School, and ~~several~~ ^{the Geo. Watterson & Lum Yandell} ~~the Geo. Watterson & Lum Yandell~~ ^{the school site} ~~was noted~~ ^{on the left side of the road} just past the old road ~~leading~~ ^{branching} north to the airport. ~~On the right of W. Spr Road is seen the~~ ^{marked} Geo. Watterson & Lum Yandell farms, ~~one marked~~ ^{continuing east} by old bldgs & a big corral. ~~is the "Case Slough" area where water was so~~ ^{plentiful at times the road could not be travelled}. It is marked by a growth of huge old willows where the water ran to the ~~Ocean~~ ^{Ocean} River. Farther east, ~~on the no side of the road~~ ^{on the no side of the road} 14 big white silos in a row dominate the scene. There stand sturdily amidst sand & sage, once the W. Ford ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~creage~~ ^{home} ~~stead~~ ^{stead} ~~by~~ ^{by} W F senior in early times. A fine milking barn stood nearby several years ago. We found inscribed in cement in a corner of the floor "A.D. Adams, Bishop, Ca."

Form 1542-2
(January 1972) 12-20-69
12-20-79
UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

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Bakersfield, CA 93301
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OFFICIAL BUSINESS
PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE \$300

POSTAGE AND FEES PAID
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
INT 415



Mr Adams was a cement

Contractor and built silos, silo cellars, milking barns, as well as house & bridge foundations & side walks in town.

Mr. & Mrs. Wm. J. Reed (128)
272 Shepard Lane
Bishop, Ca 93514

Pioneer Days

Owens Valley Silos

BY ADELE REED

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forget, we came across one of our cows hung up in tree branches where she died. After the snow melted she was about six feet above ground!"

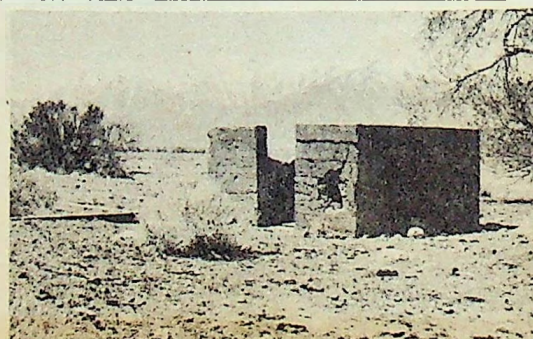
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Continuing east is seen the "Case Slough" area where water once was so plentiful that sometimes the road could not be travelled. It is now marked by a growth of huge old willows where the water ran to the Owens River. Farther east, on the north side of the road, there are four big, white silos in a row dominating the scene. These stand sturdily 'midst sand and high sage, once the Wint Ford Ranch, homesteaded by Ford, Sr. A fine milking barn stood nearby several years ago and we found inscribed in a corner of the cement floor, "A. O. Adams, Bishop, Cal., 12-20-'19." Mr. Adams was a cement contractor who built silos, silo cellars, milking barns, house and bridge foundations and sidewalks in Bishop.

A roomy two story home once stood near big shade trees and the large fields stretched to the north. In earlier years the Ford family trailed cattle up the Dry Trail to upper Long Valley for summer feed. When dairying became the big industry Wint Ford, Jr. had the four silos and milking barn



SOMEONE'S home and ranch?

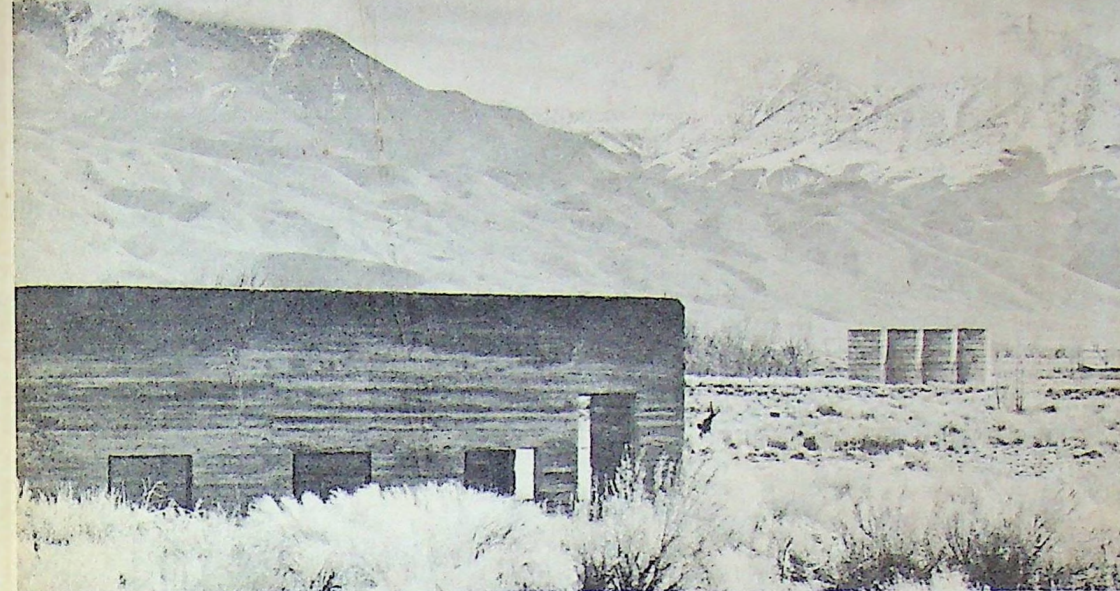
—Adele Reed photo

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THE CHARLES WONACOTT RANCH

George and Emily Huckaby and family and Charles Wonacott and wife Rachael (Huckaby) came from the east with a wagon train. They chose the Owens River Valley as their ultimate goal and arrived in 1874 at what was then known as the Love Bridge, now Five Bridges. George homesteaded acreage on Dixon Lane and one tall white silo cylinder is a marker standing just west of U.S. Hwy. 6 northerly of Bishop.

Both families lived on the ranch, then the Huckaby family sold to Charles Wonacott and moved to land beyond the River until moving to Laws. George and Emily were the parents of Florence (Huckaby) Smith. Wonacott built a two-story home on Wonacott Lane, as earlier known. He teamed between Candelaria, Carson City and Bishop Creek and also was busy as a carpenter helping build several schools and some of the bridges over the Owens River.



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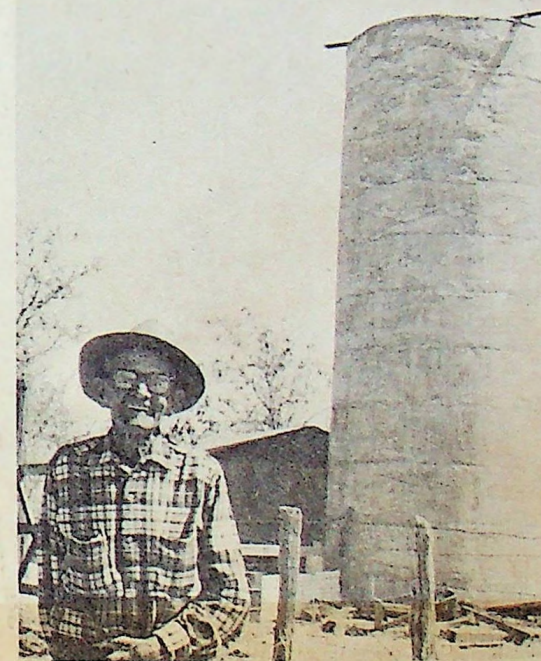
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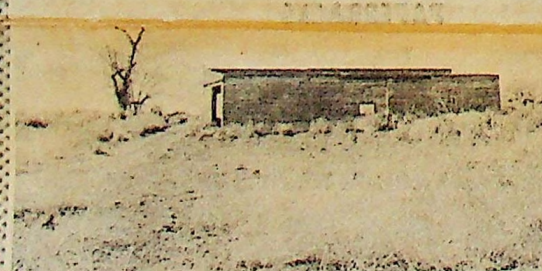
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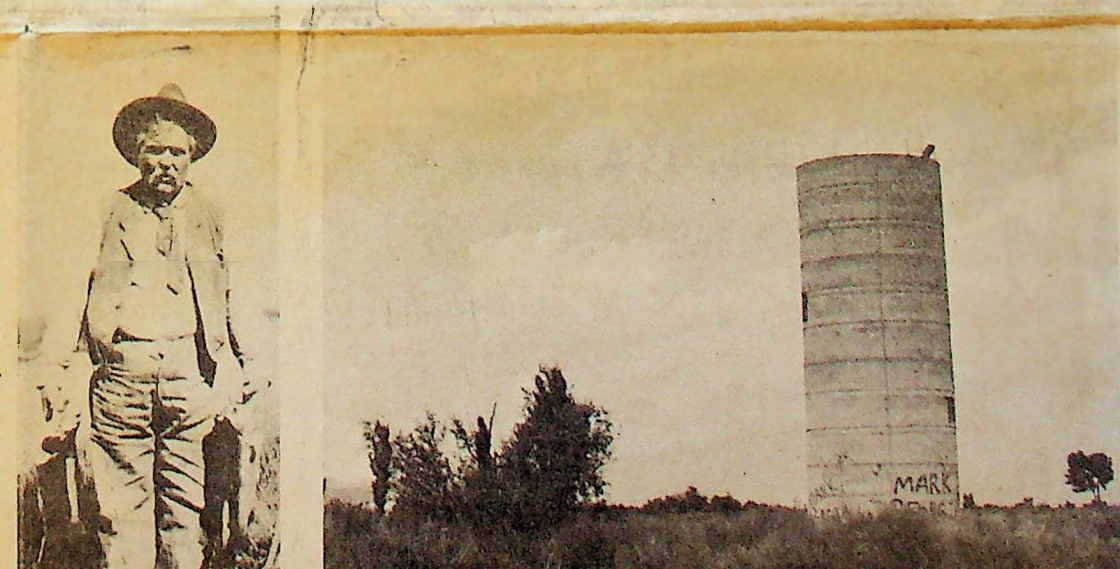


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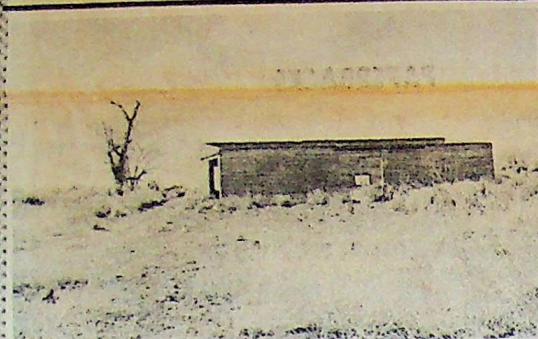
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or a pair and one spectacular group of four. After gathering bits of history here and there as to who first tilled the land and who came next, we relate



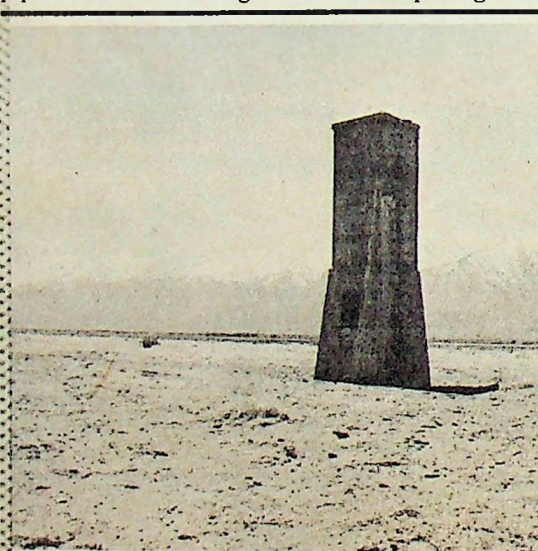
THE FORD MILKING barn was large and stood some distance from the four silos. —Adele Reed photo

the stories of the silos. They have become notable beings standing alone in this modern world.

Records that defy the tooth of time, "Young." THE McKAY RANCH
We visited George McKay in recent years and a drive to the Charles McKay homesteaded ranch became important. We turned east on the Warm Springs road south of Bishop and George waved to the right as he said "there was Uncle John Bullpitt's farm way over there and on the left. See those two cement pillars? That was the "Chicken Smith" place. All he did was raise chickens. Further on, beyond the canal, that was the Kewley place."

The McKay Ranch . . . now under lease . . . came in view to the right, a silo and corrals and a small home. The silo was built by George and his brothers in 1912 and he tells; "we hauled sand from the river area and mixed it with cement to fill three feet deep forms we built. One for each section and a horse and derrick was used to lift the concrete to fill them. It was hard work!"

A silo chopper was used to fill the silo through the openings up one side. Sections of 8 or 10 inch pipe carried the silage into each opening then



THE TROWBRIDGE well-house.

—Adele Reed photo

they were closed by boards so it could be emptied as needed, using a ladder. The silage was usually green corn and provided winter feed for milking cows.

All kinds of crops were raised on the ranch and a garden near the two story home. George was one of seven children born to Scotsman Charles McKay and wife Viola (Howell) and he attended the Warm Springs school down the road.

He told of the heavy snow years and recalled a trip with his father hunting dry wood; "I'll never

SOMEONE'S home and ranch?

—Adele Reed photo

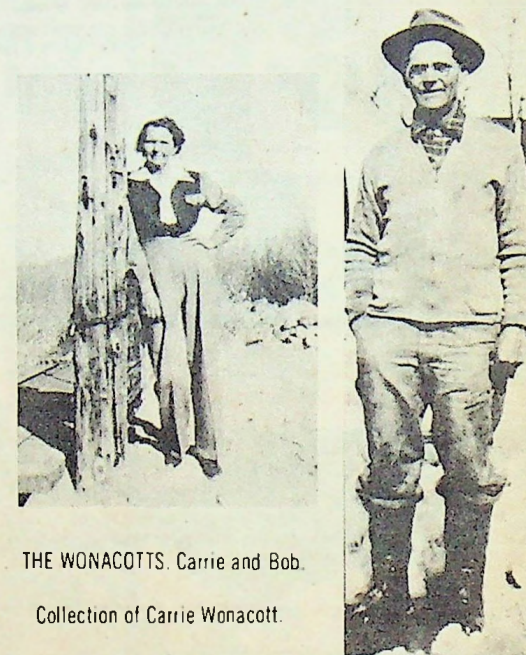
built and his vast fields furnished silage. He owned some 1400 acres when he sold to the City of Los Angeles and left the valley. History, courtesy Gus Cashbaugh.

THE CHARLES WONACOTT RANCH

George and Emily Huckaby and family and Charles Wonacott and wife Rachael (Huckaby) came from the east with a wagon train. They chose the Owens River Valley as their ultimate goal and arrived in 1874 at what was then known as the Love Bridge, now Five Bridges. George homesteaded acreage on Dixon Lane and one tall white silo cylinder is a marker standing just west of U.S. Hwy. 6 northerly of Bishop.

Both families lived on the ranch, then the Huckaby family sold to Charles Wonacott and moved to land beyond the River until moving to Laws. George and Emily were the parents of Florence (Huckaby) Smith. Wonacott built a two-story home on Wonacott Lane, as earlier known. He teamed between Candelaria, Carson City and Bishop Creek and also was busy as a carpenter helping build several schools and some of the bridges over the Owens River.

Recently, a pretty, ornate medal the size of a dollar was discovered near the Wonacott silo by use of a metal detector. The embossed words, "The medal of excellence awarded to Charles



THE WONACOTTS. Carrie and Bob.

Collection of Carrie Wonacott.

Wonacott for a cartridge loader, 1877." The historic piece indicates a sort of contest unknown in 1877.

Charles and Rachael raised eight children. One son, Don, managed the farm in later years and built the silo. His name is noted in the Inyo Creamery papers. The Wonacott children had to hike across salt grass fields to attend the Riverside school to the north.

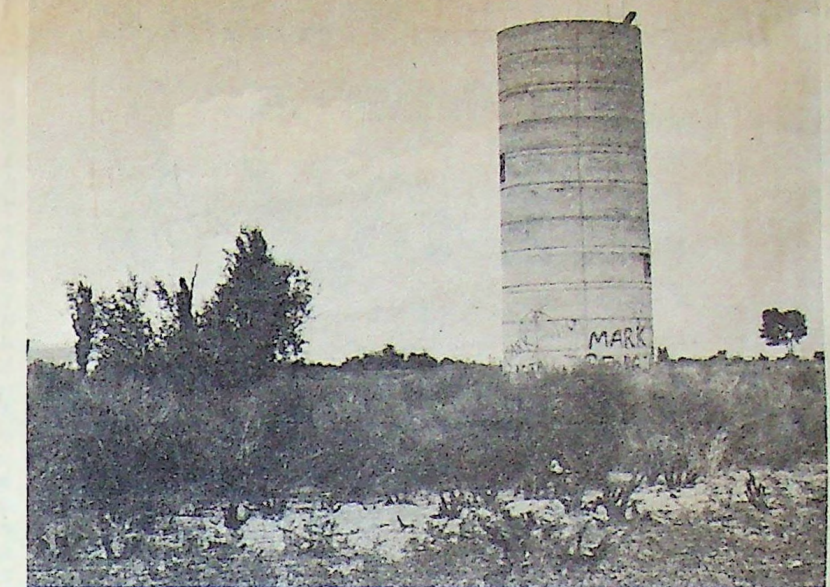
"In those days there were no fences from our place clear to town" as told by a son, Albert W. Wonacott, "Bob" to all. He liked to tell of the few years he lived at Tonopah, Nevada. His father was then the town undertaker and Bob was employed as a teamster. He drove teams the long trip to and from Sodaville which was then the end of the railroad from Carson and points north. The route used by stages and the long teams was across the flats by Millers and over the Monte Cristo Range with two night stop-overs.

Another interest of Nevada's early days told by Bob was a mode of transportation between

The well-house supplied water for domestic use. Inside it we noted eight iron hooks cemented into the walls near the water pipes, perhaps used for hanging meat. This indicates how early settlers had to make-do the best they could.



CHARLES WONACOTT.
—Collection of Carrie Wonacott



WONACOTT SILO on Dixon Lane.

—Adele Reed Photo.

