

## ***RCOSA WILL BEGIN ITS SUMMER HOURS April 8th.***

**Match sign-ups start at  
8:00am  
Shooter's Meeting starts at  
8:30am  
Match starts at 9:00am**

## ***SHERIFF'S BLOTTER***

By Jasper Agate

Howdy all,  
We had a few brave souls bring out their trailers and join us for the weekend's festivities. We had our Fernley potluck on Friday evening and BeeBad was thrilled. Saturday morning was the warmest weather of the weekend. Seven of us shot Wild Bunch and I was glad Ike got to shoot a little before he headed out on the road once more. The group not shooting Wild Bunch was having their own style of fun on the bay next to us. Those of us who shot Wild Bunch went out after lunch and shot everything we had. Those guys that were napping couldn't stand it and ended up back on the range. We had a great potluck that evening lit a fire and enjoyed each other's company well into the night. It really wasn't that late as we had the time change and had to rise a little earlier. We had 39 shooters brave the wind for Reno Slims and Washoe Zephyr's WORLD FAMOUS RED SHIRT GUNFIGHTER'S MATCH although we only had 16 folks actually shoot that match. We had some old friends attend the match and surprise us with their presence. I knew that Rexx T Dog was going to join us, but I had no idea that Hick's Mtn Honey and my old friend Sand Dab Sam were going to show up. It was a real treat to see them again!! Speaking of the wind, I think that was one of the most extreme days I can

remember on the range. That wind beat the crap out of me!

At the HPD March match we had a joint board meeting after the match to discuss changes and such. We, the ROOP Board, voted to make Washoe Zephyr a Constable, he is going to ramrod the all-new Saturday Stampede. It will be held on the Third Saturday. It will be a match, but if you want to come out to practice that will be an option as well.

Zephyr our ramrod for the third Saturday Stampede and myself. HPD has three keys as well.

Washoe Zephyr and Drifter John are in the planning stage of rebuilding some of our tired storefronts, if you want to help them let them know. I'm sure they would appreciate any help you could give them. We also talked about painting our pavilion. We are also going to purchase a new flagpole and state flag.



Washoe is working on the info and details for the match and when he does I'll make sure it filters down to everyone. We now have three folks from our club with keys to the gate. Southpaw our Range Master, – Washoe

The locked gate was a little of an issue on Sunday afternoon. We only have so many keys and you really need to coordinate your departure with a group so those of us who are finishing putting away the last little bits and locking up

don't have to run out to let one of you out. Hopefully we can have someone stationed out at the gate after the match as well as in the morning.

I found a source for local bees wax for \$5.00 a pound, let me know if you want some and I'll put you in touch with the gentleman who is raising them. Our friend from over the hill, Nyack Jack has a rifle for sale or trade –

**What he has is a Marlin model 39 not a 39a. It has a high grade stamp,(s) prefix,manufactured from 1922 to 1938. This is a very nice ( rare ) rifle. He'll take \$1500.00 to sell outright or consider trade for**  
 1 - 357/38 Lighting rifle  
 2 - " " Model 73 carbine, **or will just see what people are willing to trade.**

I've received a couple of donations for Western States/ Shootout on the Comstock and we are looking for more. If you have something that you make or would like to purchase something for the raffle, let Dutch Dalton, Irish Ike or myself know. We have a new stage writer for this match this year. Turtle is taking over for Denio and we should be in for a real treat! (Bring Shotgun shells!!!! Ed.)

### ***SAINT PATRICK'S DAYS SIDE MATCH***

Big Pete put on his St. Paddy's Day side match.

Blow the snakes outa Ireland as quick as yah can.

4 snakes (rubber hoses) tossed at random.

Use your shotgun to get the snakes over the border as quick as you can.

The Title of this year's St. Patrick Shooter goes to Fallen Grace who got three of the slithery serpents with her first shot, then took two more shots to get the last vile viper out of the valley!

### ***THE BRIDE STAYED 3 MINUTES***

Next in a series from Harold's Club  
 Pioneer Nevada

Supplied by Slow Eddy

Pioche was settled in 1864 and within the space of six brief years became the roughest, toughest, wildest camp in the entire West. Guns were the only law and Pioche made Bodie, Tombstone and

other better known towns pale in comparison. Some 75 men were killed in gun fights before the first citizen died peacefully in Pioche!

In 1871 a young Illinois attorney arrived with his bride. For days they had been jolting over dusty desert roads, roasting in the daytime, and freezing during the hours of darkness. Wayside stage coach stations had little in the way of decent accommodations, often jamming all travelers into crowded quarters. The food was indifferent at best, the danger of renegade Indians always an unpleasant possibility, and the chance of stage coach holdups an equally nasty consideration. Since leaving Salt Lake City the stage had moved in the midst of a perpetual cloud of white alkali dust which filled the inside of the vehicle like a fog. It penetrated the lungs, eyes, clothes, bags, trunks, and possessions of every passenger. So when they dismounted finally in the center of the raw little camp at Pioche, it was with alkali reddened eyes, shortened tempers, and upset feelings which provided an emotional setting for the scene which then followed.

While the bridegroom handed down his wife from the stage to the board walk, a deputy sheriff standing nearby on the street corner espied three desperadoes standing on the other corners of the intersection. In the space of the few seconds required by the bride to walk across the board walk from the stage to the hotel door, the deputy drew his pistols, aimed, and killed each of the three desperadoes across the street!

The bride entered the building in an acrid cloud of blue gun smoke, accompanied by the echoes of the fusillade, the screams of the dying victims, and the shouts of the excited throng on the street!

Within three minutes the bride was back on the stage headed for home. Pioche was too much for her!

Old-timers used to wager on who would survive the day's shootings. The area was fantastically rich and produced more than \$40,000,000 in ore. Excitement was always forthcoming. . . . In 1871 a fire burned part of the town and touched off 300 barrels of gunpowder which flattened the rest of the community and most of the population with it.

Pioche is still active, but is now law-abiding, friendly, and quietly progressive. Low cost power from

Boulder Dam is expected to bring much growth to this colorful and picturesque area and many travel-experts feel a tourist industry could be built on the exciting relics of early day Pioche. Pioche rose to a population of 6,000 at one time and while it is now smaller, has enjoyed a steadier production from its mines than most camps and in many ways has brighter prospects for a prosperous future. Old-timers claim the camp "has only started."

### ***HEADS UP FOR OUR PICNIC***

By Fanny Seabride

Mark 'yer calanders!

Fanny's second annual "PicNic in the Park" at Mormon Station in Genoa, NV will be held on August 18, 2012!

There will be more details as the date gets closer.

### ***MURDER AND MINING IN COLUMBUS***

Columbus in its heyday was a colorful town that rose on the edge of a playa and salt marsh. Today it is a ghost town with just a couple of buildings and some rock walls still standing and a graveyard overlooking the town.

It was the Spanish who, in about 1863, made the first ore discoveries in the area but it would be the Americans who, two years later, began mining operations and built the town.

What Columbus offered, in addition to gold and silver, were large salt deposits that were a necessary ingredient in the chlorination milling of silver ore.

What Columbus also had that other mining camps did not was water, though a meager supply. So Samuel Youngs, seeing an opportunity, along with his partner A.J. Holmes, erected a quartz mill at Columbus.

In an ironic twist of fate, the wagons transporting the mill, in pieces, were passing through an area where water was scarce, when they were caught in a flash flood scattering the mill pieces over a large area. Fortunately enough of the pieces were saved to erect a four-stamp mill.

Animal pack trains then began the arduous task of shipping ore over the mountains from Candelaria some four miles to the northwest.

Over time the pack trains were replaced by wagons and Chinese laborers were hired to drive them. Those men would

struggle with their wagons and teams to the top of the mountain on one side, then with a scream they propelled the wagons down the other side, their queues whipping in the winds created by the careening wagons and scattering everyone in their paths.

By 1866 there were 200 people living in the desert town. The amenities included a 14x20 rough lumber and adobe hotel and bar that some say was so badly built that a gritty dust, supplied by the seemingly never ending winds, settled on everything including the food that was prepared at one end of the building in a lean-to.

In 1869 what started as a petty squabble between Youngs and Holmes escalated into an outright legal battle between the two men. When it was over, an embittered Holmes left town cursing that another year would find grass growing in the streets of Columbus. But he would have his revenge and what he did almost spelled the end for Columbus. He bought the Northern Belle, one of Candelaria's top producing mines and immediately stopped shipping the ore to Columbus. Instead he built a new mill and created a new town named Belleville.

Soon it wouldn't matter that Holmes had almost brought Columbus to its knees. Within a year, the town was in the borax business.

The year was 1871. Things were looking bleak. It was then either William Troup (or Troop), or Francis Marion "Borax" Smith realized what the pesky white stuff blowing across the dry lakebed was. It was Ulexite better known as borax. The substance is used as a flux in soldering metals as well as in the manufacture of artificial gems, soaps and antiseptics, according to Webster's dictionary.

Troup was a former Comstock miner and according to some historians he ran a test on the white stuff and soon discovered that it was borax while other historians say it was Smith, who had been making his living by hauling wood from faraway hills and supplying it to the mills at Columbus who first ran across the stuff while looking for wood.

It was Smith however who staked and claimed the whole area and eventually he gained possession of the borax works at Columbus and created the Pacific Coast Borax Company.

Columbus also had her share of

lawbreakers. Take the 1873 New Year's dance for example. Apparently there were only two women in town at that time and one of them, a Chilean guitarist, was playing with the orchestra. Apparently a man identified as Victor Monega wanted her to dance with him but she refused. Livid, he grabbed her guitar and smashed it. A prominent Columbus resident, Antonio Rivera, came to her defense and got a knife in his ribs for his trouble.

Monega was arrested but didn't long remain in jail. A group of drunken town folk was more than happy to escort him from his confines and take him instead to the butcher shop where he was lynched. Columbus was barren of trees but the shop had a windlass that was perfect for the job.

The men went back to their drinking and sometime later returned to cut down the murderer. But Monega made a convulsive jerk, so the men once again returned to their drinking.

It was the following morning before they returned to the butcher shop. A coroner's jury was assembled beneath the hanging man's body. Concluding he was dead, they adjourned to a saloon to celebrate the victory.

Just a few days later, San Bernardino deputies, who arrived with a warrant charging Monega with two murders there, quickly departed after hearing the murderer was answering to a higher court.

The town's greatest prosperity was between 1871 when borax was first discovered and 1875 when Smith discovered new borax deposits at Fish Lake Valley and moved his operations there. By 1880 there were fewer than 100 people living there supporting the small town. Then like so many before, the town died.



# THE BACKPAGE

## OUR RANGE HOST



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## NEW VENUE ON 3<sup>RD</sup> SATURDAY OF THE MONTH



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[www.northernnevadacas.com/hpd/index.htm](http://www.northernnevadacas.com/hpd/index.htm)

This will be an informal practice session with stages set up like regular match stages. Fees will be \$10.00 per shooter (funds to go to range improvements). Washoe Zephyr will be Match Director. Contact (775) 721-6619

## WANT ADS

### WZ COMPACT FOLDING GUN CARTS

WZ is offering compact, folding gun carts for sale. They fit great in smaller vehicles such as Jeeps, SUV's, and compact cars. These carts breakdown and fold up with no tools to 36"x20"x20". They hold 4 long guns, have 10" wheels, and a 9"x12"x14" ammo box that doubles as a seat. The carts are unfinished, but sanded and ready for your own personalization. Cost is \$165.00 To order contact Washoe Zephyr at (775) 721-6619.



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