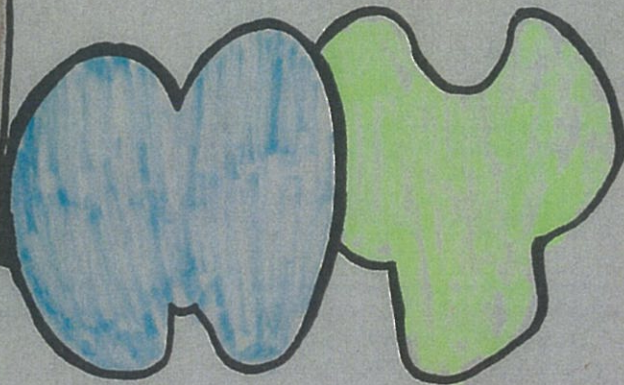


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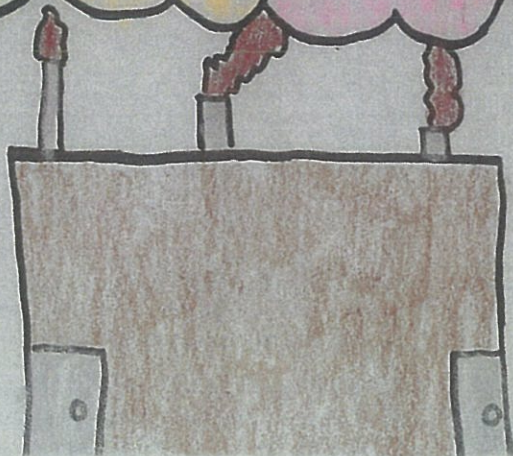
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Handwritten word: "Home" in a bubbly, colorful font (yellow, pink, yellow, pink).



PREFACE

Your hometown. The place where you played as a child, where you went to school, went shopping, got haircuts, had birthday parties and grew. Surrounding that hometown was a history, a beginning, a reason why the town was there.

The hometown for the children of Henderson does not have an ancient or even a frontier history. The history is closely tied to government projects and World War II. The building of Hoover Dam as well as Las Vegas being a railroad town were also important segments in its development. This history is a living history as many of the key "pioneers" of the town are still alive.

The purpose of this book is to provide written material for fourth graders in the schools to use in the study of their own hometown as none are available for this level. A by-product of the project has been to teach research and interviewing skills to 4th grade students of Gordon McCaw Elementary through field trips and personal interviews of community members. The involvement of the community in the learning experience was as exciting for the participants as it was for the students. The narratives and recollections brought the history alive for the students in a way not possible with a textbook.

The 4th grade students of Gordon McCaw Elementary School of 1990-1991 wish to thank the Junior League of Las Vegas for making this project a reality in awarding a grant for the funding. The Junior League's commitment to learning and preservation of history has made it possible to further preserve the history of Henderson for future generations.

This book is dedicated
to all of the citizens of Henderson
past and present

who have worked to make it the All-American city
it is today--one of United States' finest communities.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

To all of those who gave of their time to make this history come alive for our future leaders, the 4th grade students of Gordon McCaw Elementary School. A hearty THANK YOU and HUGS!

Marilyn Allen
Florence Baird
Selma Bartlett
Ilene & Don Bittle
Alice Brown
Miriam Burkholder
Clark County Heritage Museum
Clark County Museum Guild
Carol Gardner
Mary George
Gwen Gibson
Sister Robert Joseph
Lorna Kesterson
Scott Kramer
Bob LaPointe
Lou LaPorta
Chris Leavitt
Therol Lefler
Penny Lovitt
Lynn Maddox
Connie McKinley
Susie Medina
Wanda Mosley
Elizabeth Muzingo
Norman Parker
Phil Ratliff
Dale Riddle
Monty & Sandy Sager
C. T. Sewell
Elwood & Margaret Swift
Paul Szydelko
Don Taylor
Glen Taylor
Neil Twitchell
Nita Varick
Dorothy Vondenbrink
All at City Hall who made
the class tour possible.

FOURTH GRADE STUDENTS AT GORDON MC CAW

1990-1991

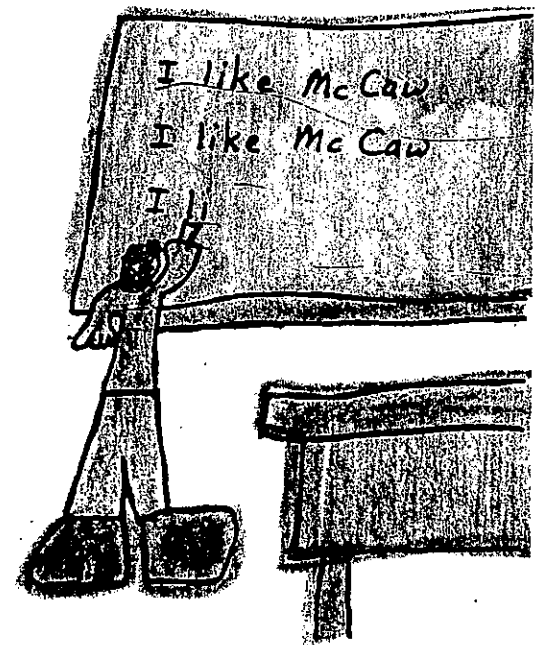
Mrs. Verus Young
Room 17
Amber Anderson
Jennifer Angell
Tarah Badger
Rheanna Barton
Beau Benton
Aaron Booth
Ryan Butler
Leslie Davies
Melissa Garner
Sara Hicken
Amber Hoff
Stephanie Hunsaker
Tiffany Jones
Wes Kramer
Damen Mc Daniel
Sumer Moniz
Nicholas Motis
Kimberly Mytton
Tiffany Reardon
Crystal Resch
Jennie Richards
Joseph Shaul
Dustin Stinnett
David Worth

Mrs. Janet Bremer
Room 18
Kris Bailey
Ryan Borchik
Randen Buckles
Laura Busch
Sam Cherry
Eric Christian
Nacole Dix
Melisha Fleming
Patrick George
Justin Gonzales
Leigh-Ann Gue
AdriaAnn Hash
Anthony Jensen
Paul Lavacs
Malisa Lynch
D'Auria Mosley
Michael Negrete
Michael Newhouse
Callie Patterson
Benjamin Sattley
Brandon Shaffer
Amanda Springer
Rebecca Thacker
Shawna Wilburn
Nick Whitney

Mr. Legrand Hall
Room 19
Kevin Angel
Jamie Aghas
Tammy Bales
Kendal Barnum
Steven Erwin
Michelle Ferguson
Christopher Heki
Danielle Jacobsen
Clay Keykendall
Kimberly Leavitt
Corin Lewis
Greg Lewis
Rachele Linford
Christi Lucas
Jennifer Lyons
Krystal Morris
Jonathan Patton
Jessica Pepper
Chris Preciado
Adrian Ream
Eric Schutts
Anthony Serrano
Mandy Swan
Justin Watson
Jennifer Webb

Mr. Heber Littlefield
Room 20
Jose Adorno
Adam Black
Peter Brickey
Reana Carlin
Michael Chapman
Shelbi Clark
Kristopher Close
Jesse Derby
Jason Dion
Christine Douglass
Ryan Houston
Bethany Hudson
Michael Johnson
Jason Kephart
Genevieve Ludwig
Christopher Mason
Joshua Montiel
Sasha Parker
Dana Quartucci
Aric Ream
Michael Rich
Nicholas Rowe
Sabrina Thompson
Jennifer Valdez
Any Whetstone

Mrs. Joyce Winterheimer
Room 25
Susan Back
Kristal Campbell
Charles Fansher
Corey Farrell
Richard Frederick
Branden Fry
Keith Grant
Michael Halladay
Chassie Halsey
Neil Houser
Tia Hughes
Patrick Mc Kinster
Christopher Meagher
Brad Nelson
Lola Paez
Micah Reyes
Cortney Salazar
Jessica Sellers
Anthony Sewell
Hillary Stone
Shannon Tancre
Jeremiah Turner
Katherine Webb
Mandy Wilkins
Joseph Zike

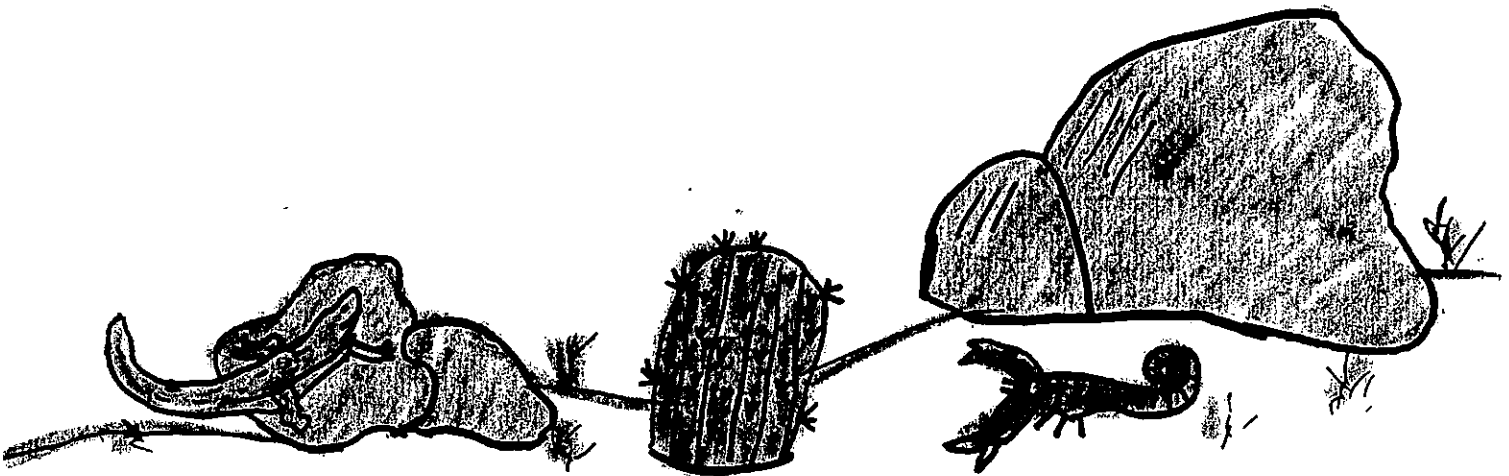


The town that is now called **Henderson** began as a place for factory workers to live.

There was no town here.

There were no people here.

The town wasn't really supposed to be a town. It was supposed to be a **temporary** town. It had **temporary** buildings.



All it was meant to be was a factory. The factory needed

workers. The workers had to have a place to live. The workers planned to work at

the factory and live close by the factory as long as they had a job there. The

factory that they worked at was called Basic Magnesium Project. The plants were

built from plans supplied by England. Spies smuggled the plans out of Germany.

Those plans left by ship from England. The ship was hit by a German torpedo and

the plans were lost. A copy of the plans was put on microfilm and finally arrived in Washington D.C. by airplane.

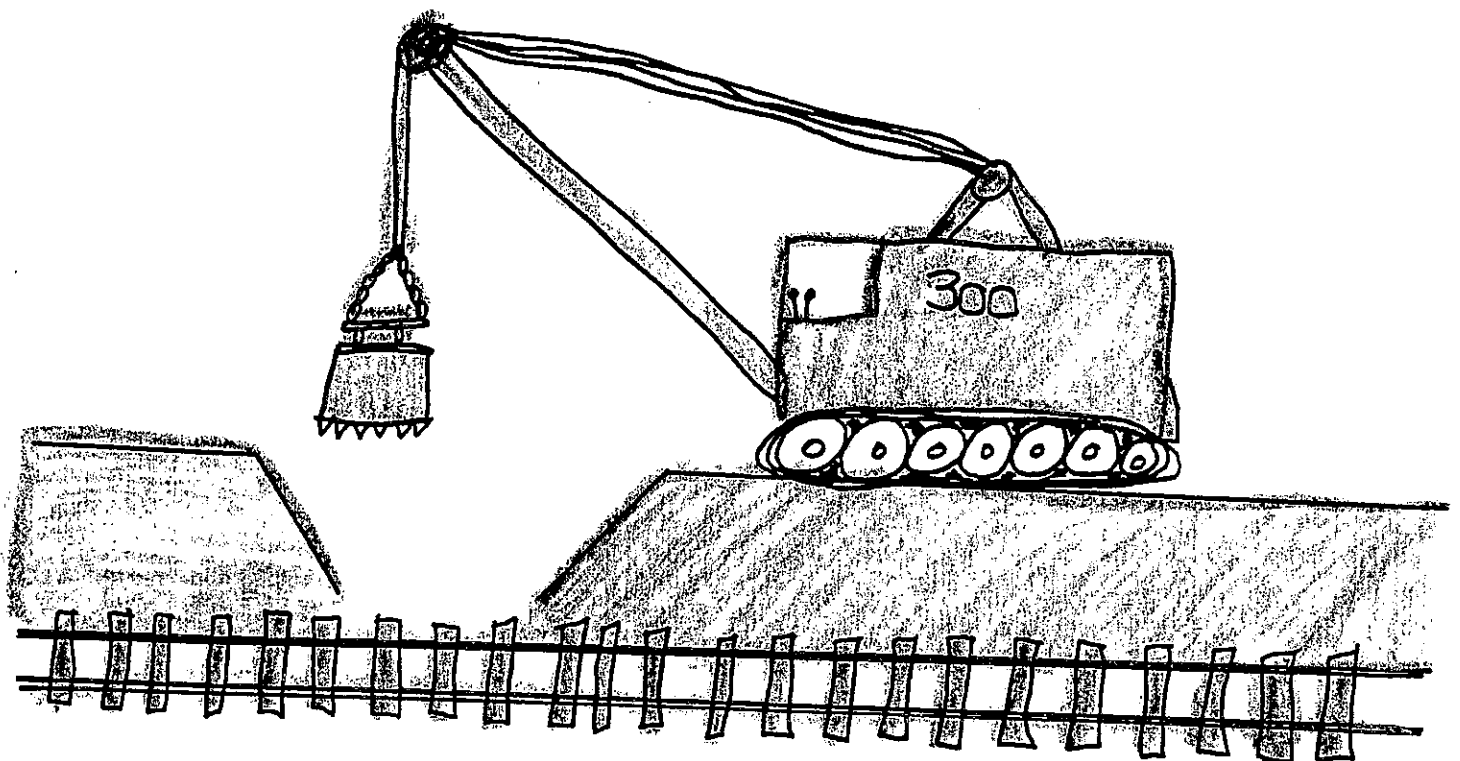
McNeil Construction Co. used the plans to build Basic Magnesium Project. The

building began in September of 1941 just 3 months before Pearl Harbor was bombed.

The men who worked on this construction project had trouble finding a place to

live. Some found housing nearby. There were no houses here. Some people just

camped in the desert. These men were working on a very big and important project.



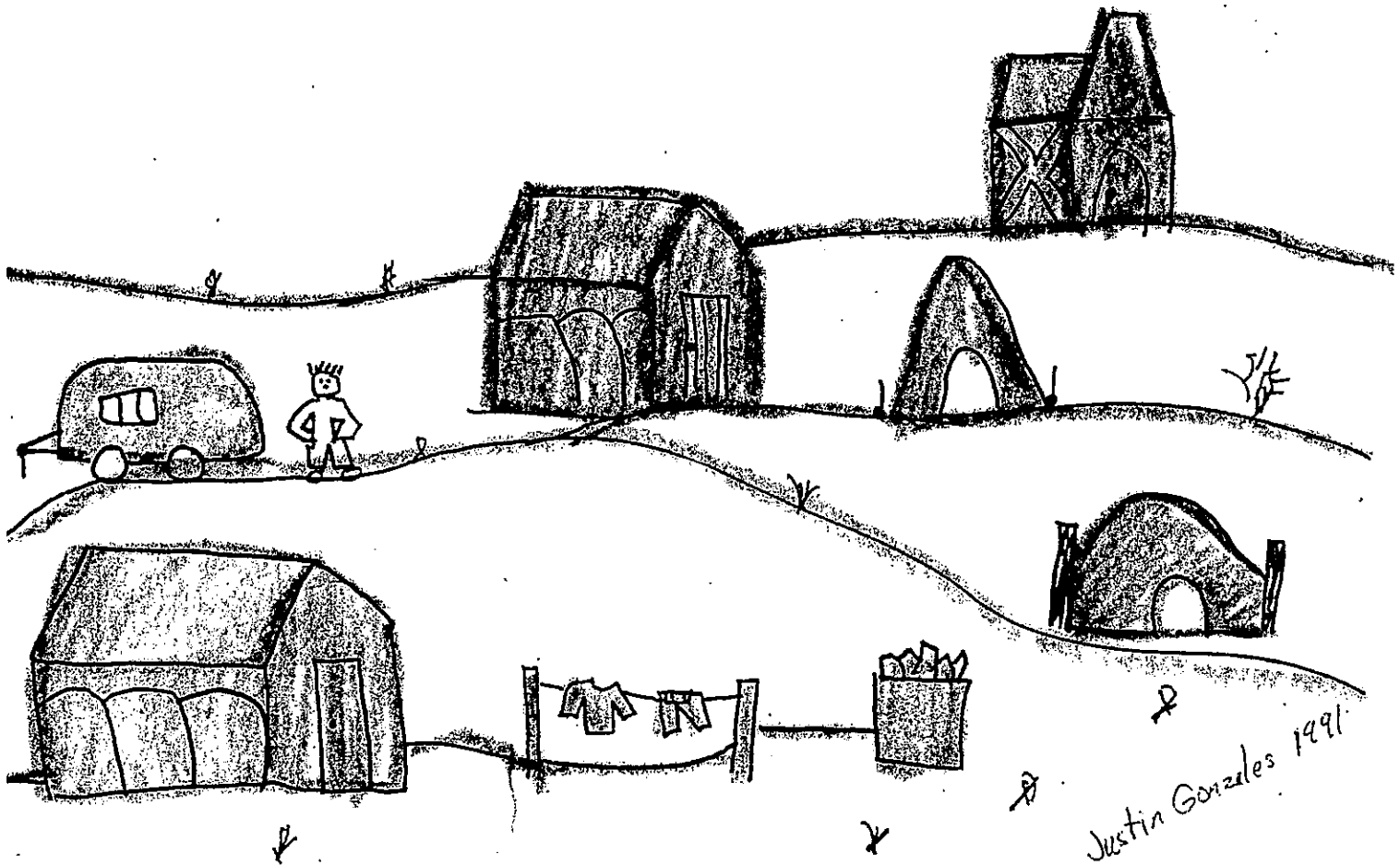
Neil Houser 1941

The United States entered World War II on December 7, 1941. All over America

factories were started to make products to help our soldiers. This factory in

Nevada was started to produce the magnesium which was then used to make

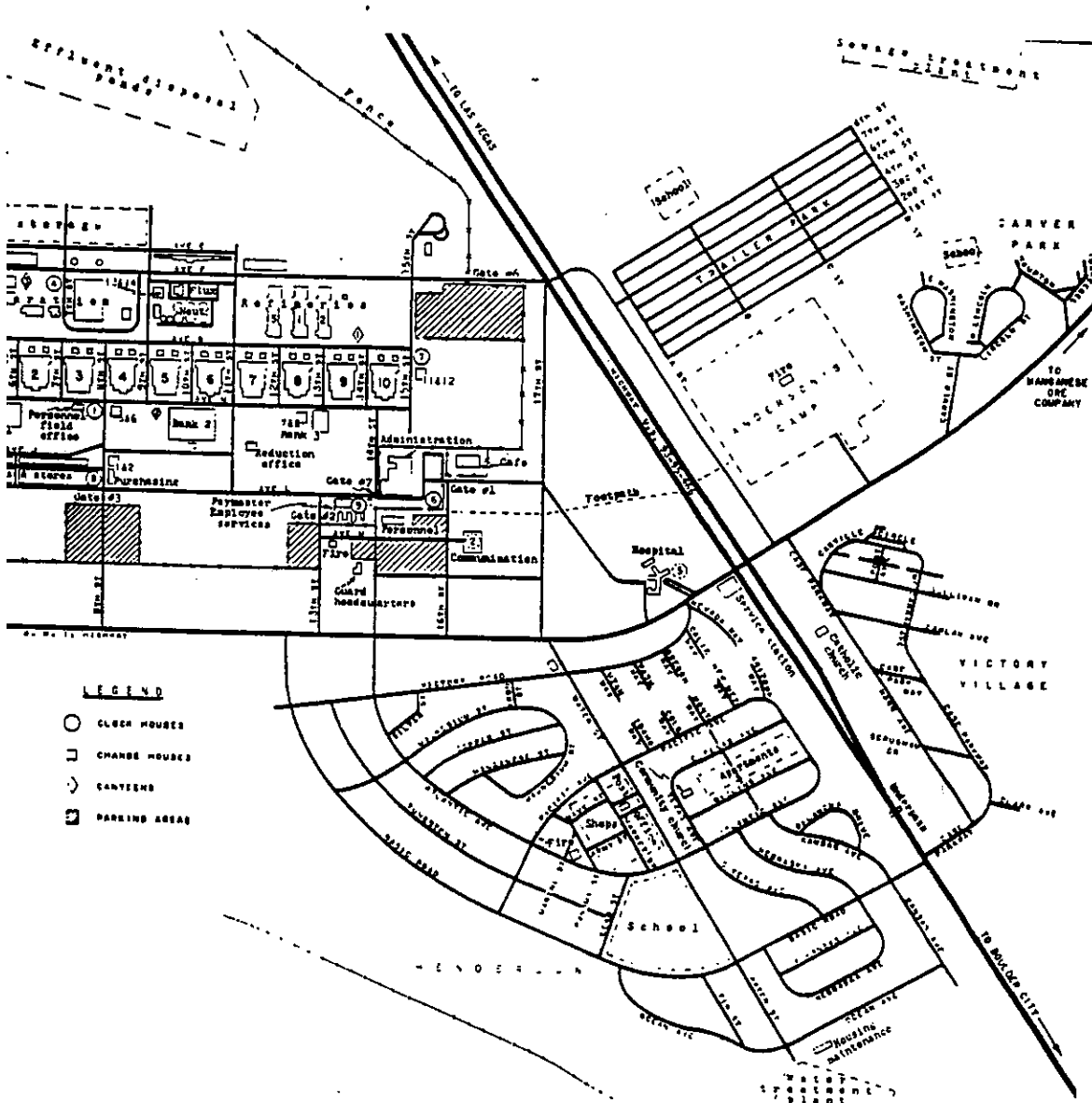
tracer bullets, incendiary bombs and the metal used in airplanes parts.



Justin Gonzales 1991

Construction was completed and the plant began production of magnesium in 1943. The first employees of the plant were men. They were housed in "Tent City". Tent City was located on Boulder Highway near where Albertson's Grocery Store is today. These tents had electricity. They served as sleeping rooms for the men until more adequate housing was built. Since this was during the war security clearance was needed to go into "Tent City".

There were three communities which were built especially to house the workers. These were federal housing projects-- Townsite, Carver Park and Victory Village. There was also a trailer park and a campsite.



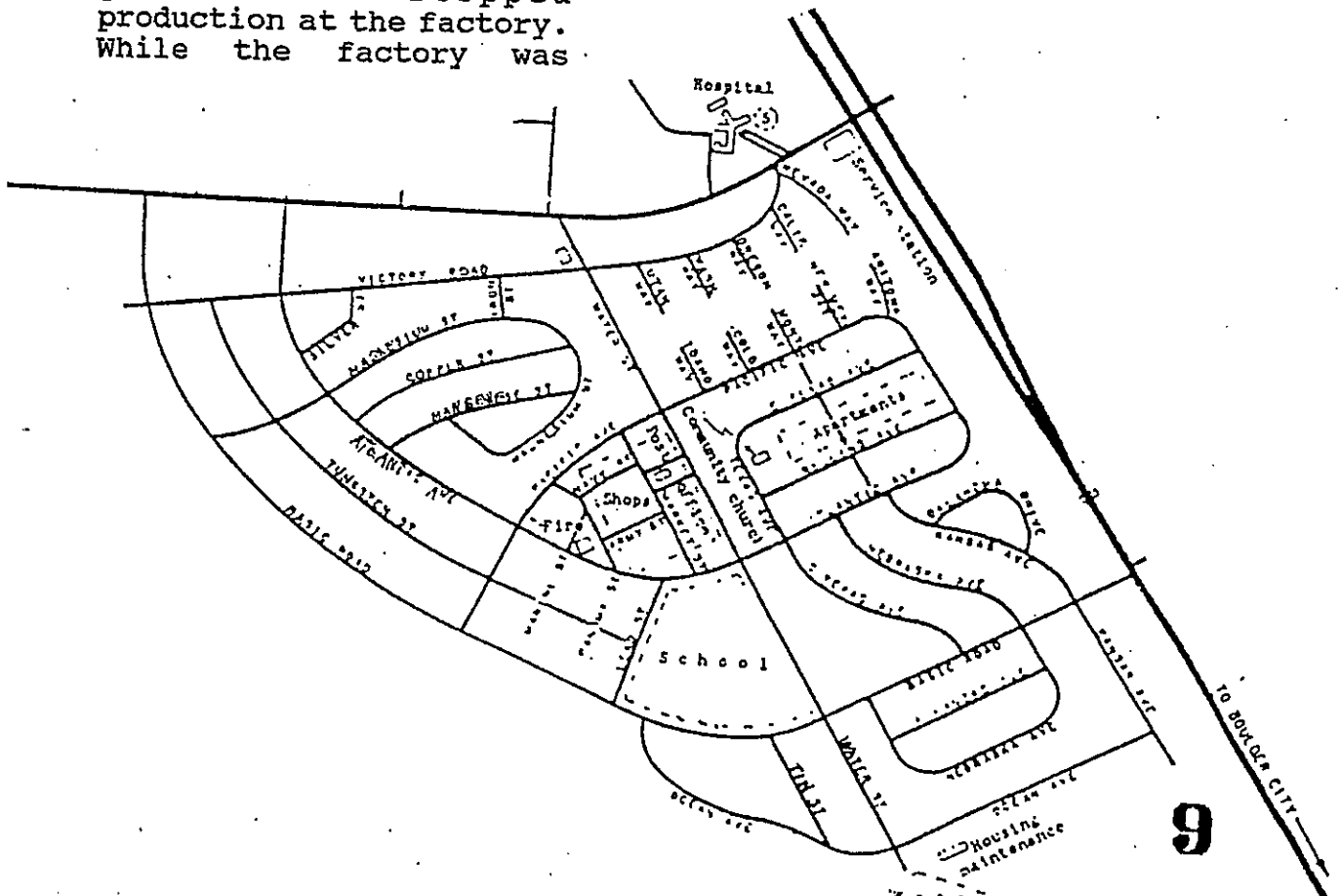
STREET MAP OF PLANT AREA
 BASIC MAGNESIUM INCORPORATED
 HENDERSON, NEVADA

TOWNSITE

Before Henderson became a town it was a townsite. The townsite was the place the government built homes for the workers and their families while they worked at the BMI plant. Stores, banks, churches and schools were also built for the people who lived at Basic Townsite. It was named that after the factory Basic Magnesium Incorporated.

The town site houses were "demountable" housing units. That means they were pre-cut and pre-drilled at a factory. They were ready for assemble when they arrived. The studs were made of redwood. These homes were meant to be temporary housing and then taken down. When the factory had made enough magnesium for incendiary bombs, tracer bullets and airplane parts the government stopped production at the factory. While the factory was

making magnesium the people needed a place to live. The men who lived in "Tent City" wanted to bring their families to live with them in more permanent housing. One thousand townsite homes were put up and became Basic Townsite. (The townsite apartments were also built later.) These houses belonged to the government. Workers at the factory could rent them. The Galbreath Co. was in charge of collecting the rent for the government. The rent office was in one of the townsite houses on Atlantic. Ave. (Mr. and Mrs. Monty Sager of Sandi's Office Supply live there now.)



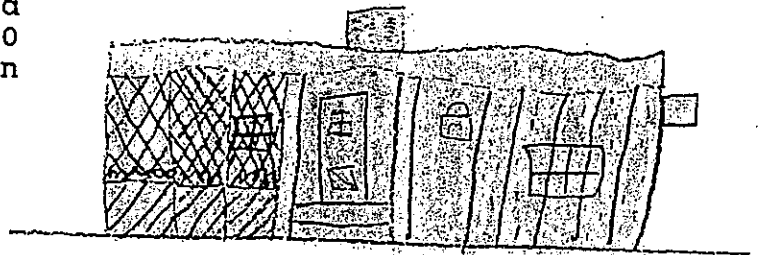
When Mrs. Miriam Burkholder and her husband Lyal moved to Basic Townsite she worked for Galbreath Co. He job was to collect rent. She said the rent for a three bedroom townsite house was \$33.33. This included the utilities of water and electricity. The students at Gordon McCaw who interviewed her were interested to learn that she later taught music at Basic Elementary (Gordon McCaw).

The townsite houses were modern homes. The homes had electricity and indoor plumbing. They consisted of a kitchen, bathroom, living room and bedrooms. The roofs were flat. There was a carport instead of a garage. Townsite houses were very much like other homes in America in the 1940's.

Later the government sold the homes having two kinds of sales. One price was charged to the workers at BMI. (approximately \$2,500) A higher price was charged if the buyer was not a BMI employee. (approximately \$4,500) Mr. Elwood Swift worked for Galbreath Co. maintaining the townsite houses when they were being rented. He had to pay the higher price since he did not work for BMI. Mr. Swift was a painter and a carpet layer. During an interview at his home he said that when the townsite houses were sold he and his son painted 200 houses on the outside in a few weeks.

When the factory closed in 1944 because enough magnesium had been made for the government. Many families moved away to find other work. Las Vegas was growing and housing was scarce. As people moved from Basic Townsite some people who worked in Las Vegas moved to Henderson. Some military families who were assigned to Nellis Air Force Base lived at Basic Townsite. When people live in one city and work in another, the city they live in is called a "bedroom community". Henderson has continued to be a bedroom community for Las Vegas.

Not all the people in Basic Townsite (Henderson) worked in Las Vegas after the closing of Basic Magnesium. In 1946 when the factory was sold. It was sold to the State of Nevada. The town had an industry again to employ people. It was managed by Basic Management Inc. Parts of the factory were sold to different private companies. The people got jobs with these companies. Now the people could think of making the place they lived an official town. In 1953 it became the town of Henderson. Charles B. Henderson helped the town by working to get the factory resold and reopened. Senator Henderson never did visit the city named after him.

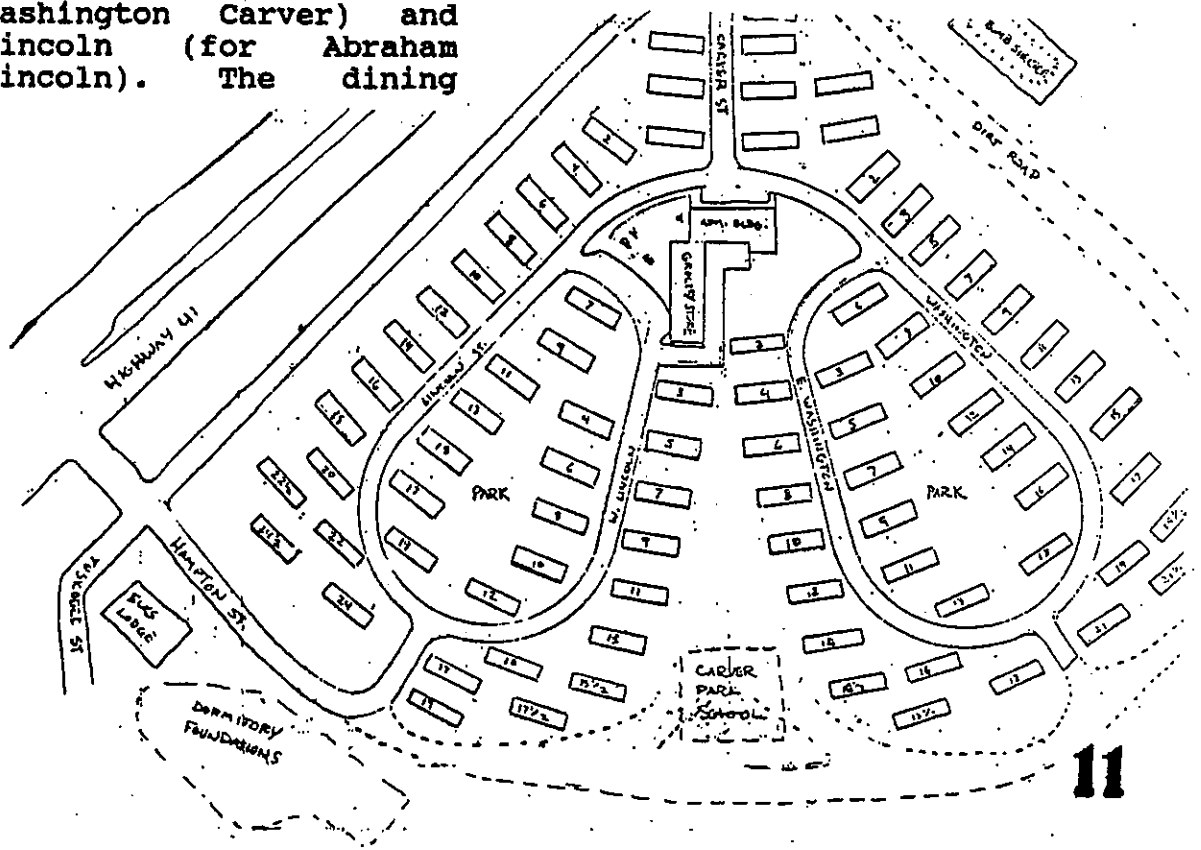


CARVER PARK

Carver Park was a housing area that provided temporary housing for workers at the plant. Carver Park had 324 apartments and dormitories for 175 men when it was completed in 1943. This was the only housing available to non-whites at the time because of existing government regulations. The children of these families attended the Carver Park Elementary School which was the only integrated school in this area. Carver Park was built to be used just 5 years and the buildings were used for 30 years! The buildings were built on a cement floor. They were one story buildings which were long and skinny and had 4 apartments in a row. There was an administration building, a community hall, a day care center, and a church. The streets were named Carver (for George Washington Carver) and Lincoln (for Abraham Lincoln). The dining

commons was the building where the Elks Club Lodge is today on Lake Mead Road. The apartments had electric refrigerators and a gas stove. Each room had a single light bulb hanging from the ceiling. Each room had one electric outlet. The first family to move in was the Williams family from Arkansas-- Robert and Rosie and their 4 children Theodore 14, Cleopatra 13, Roscoe 9, Clarise 5, and Yvonne 3. There were 3000 black workers at BMP. Not all of them lived in Carver Park. By 1960 300 people resided there. By that time it was a segregated housing area. The white people lived on the east side and the black on the west.

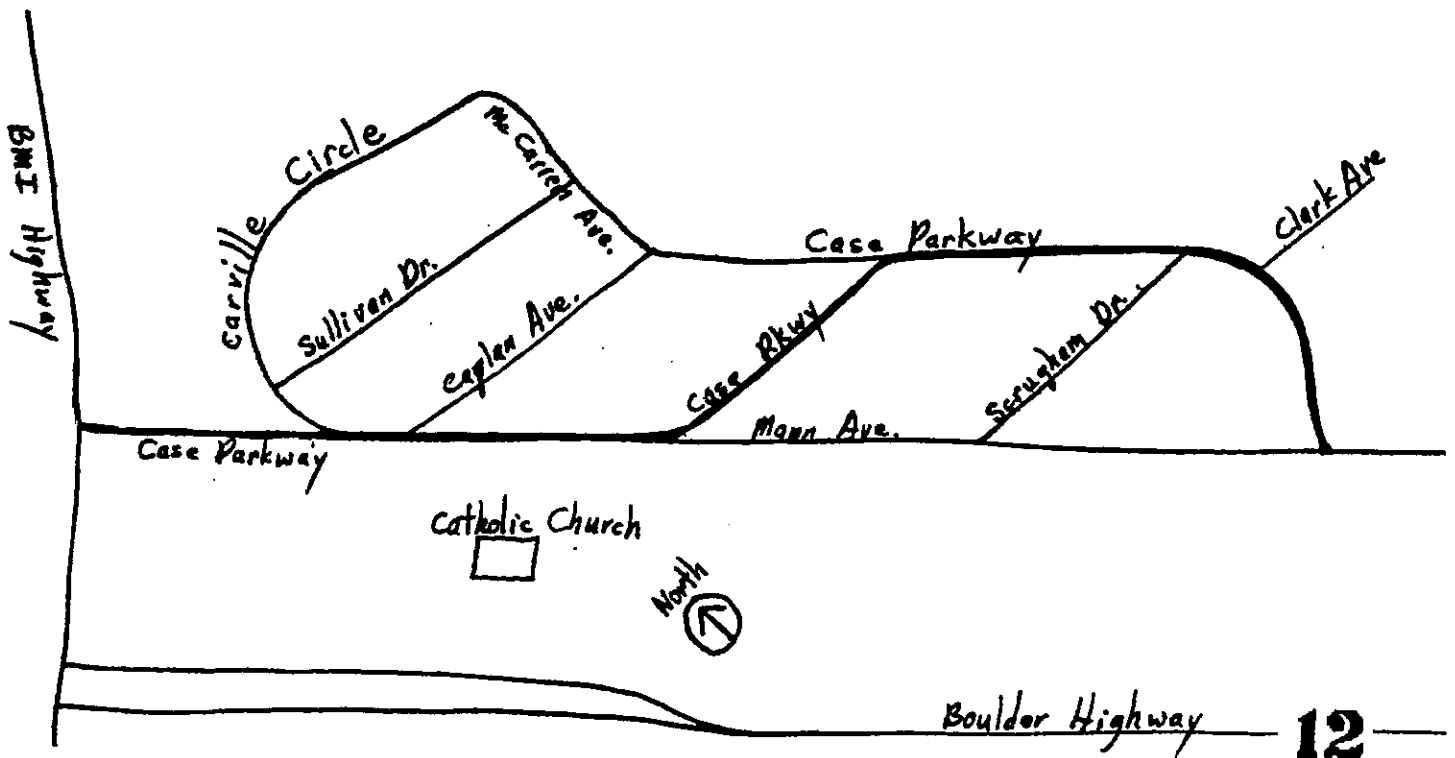
All of the people moved out and the buildings were torn down in the 1970's.

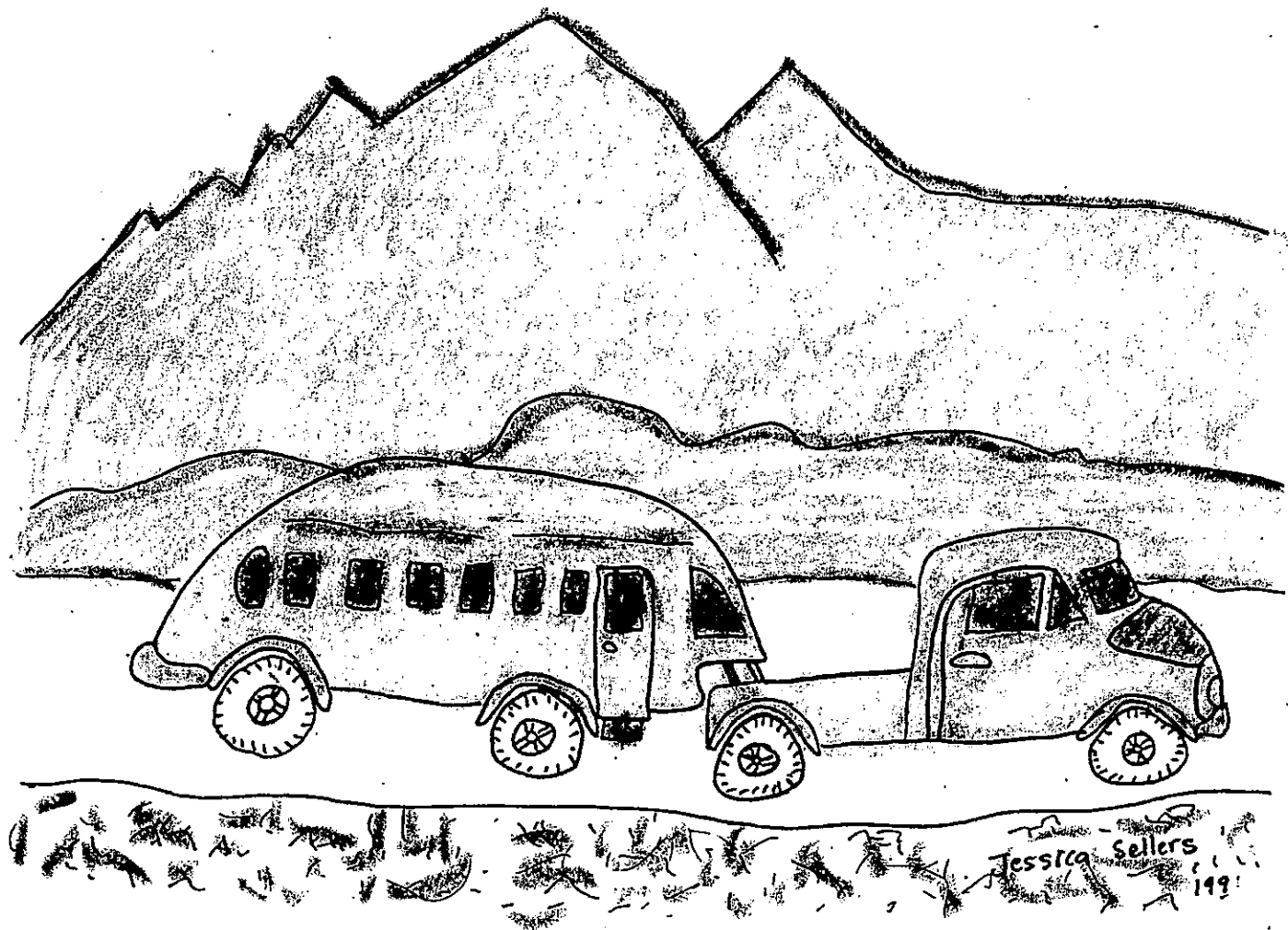


VICTORY VILLAGE

Victory Village was an apartment complex used as temporary housing while waiting for a townsite house. There were 500 housing units and several 1 story dormitories to accommodate 320 single men. There was a cafeteria, and unfurnished community hall, a central office, a recreation room and a day nursery. The streets were named for plant personnel and local and state dignitaries. The main thoroughfare was Case Parkway (for F.O. Case the BMP general manager). Mann Ave. was named for Howard Mann who was the project manager. Other streets were: McCarran (for Nevada's U.S. senator),

Scrugham (another senator) and Carville Circle (for Governor Carville). The apartment buildings were one story and were built on a cement floor. The buildings were brick. There was no insulation because the inside walls were painted brick. There were no bathtubs-only showers. They were cooled by swamp coolers. The buildings were situated so that the entrances faced each other with a grassy courtyard in between. There were 1, 2 and 3 bedroom units. By the early 50's Victory Village was owned by the Clark County Housing Authority and was an inexpensive place to live. It was torn down in the 1970's.



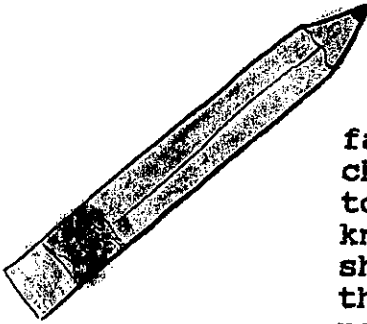


Pony Express

The Pony Express Stages was the name of the company that provided a bus service for the people who worked at the plant. It was important that the people who lived here and worked at BMI could get to and from work. This company owned only one bus. It operated from 6:25 a.m. until 11:35 p.m. It covered all of the housing areas. To ride the bus you had to buy a ticket that cost \$1. It was good for 20 rides! The bus driver didn't collect money. He just punched the ticket.

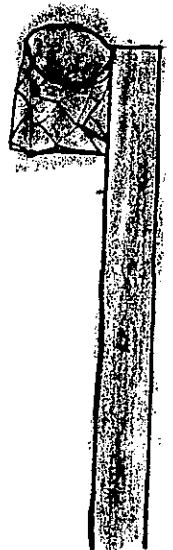
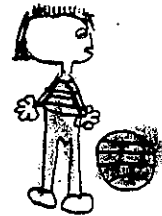
EARLY SCHOOLING

All of the students who lived in this area went to the same school. It was called Townsite School Campus. It had elementary students, junior high students and high school students all in the same building. There were 18 classrooms and an auditorium. This building was completed in October 1942. It was built and paid for by the US. Government.



There were many new families in town. Many of them had children. Since no one had ever gone to school in this place before no one knew how many children the school should plan for. The summer before the school opened Mr. Roy Petrie the new superintendent of schools walked from door to door in the townsite neighborhood asking if there were school aged children to come to the new school. When the school opened it was already very overcrowded. There were 1002 students for only 13 teachers! There were 6 classes held at the same time in the auditorium. The school was on double sessions. New schools were quickly planned.

The very next fall school was held at Carver Park School and at the Trailer Park School in Pittman. In 1946 a building was moved from the BMI plant to the school and 8 new classrooms were put inside. Three more rooms and a P.E. building were added in 1948. In 1951 another building was moved from BMI to make 4 more classrooms.



SCHOOLING AS THE TOWN GREW

Carver Park Elementary

As the town grew new school buildings were needed. Carver Park School opened in 1943. The building it was in was a converted barracks. There were 6 classrooms there. The first principal was Miss Margaret Snyder. The school opened with 51 students. When more room was needed 2 rooms were rented near the school. In 1951 when the school needed two more classrooms a bar and a beauty parlor were converted into first grade and second grade rooms.

Basic Elementary School

Gordon Mc Caw Elementary School

The building that was called Basic Elementary School was built in 1953 and had 20 rooms for classroom use. The rooms were cooled by swamp coolers. Large windows were in each room. School lunches were cooked in the kitchen for students at this school and for the students at the Townsite school. The playground areas were dirt. It was renamed in 1969 for Mr. Gordon McCaw. Mr. McCaw was the principal of this school in 1960. He was called to work as the Field Director of the American Red Cross in 1945. He returned to be the principal of the entire school (grades 1-12) later. Gordon McCaw was born in Australia. He came to the U.S. in 1931. He became a citizen in 1937. He graduated from the University of Nevada in 1934.

Principals----

1953-56	Robert Taylor
1956-60	George Jeffs
1960-66	Gordon McCaw
1966-73	Dale Riddle
1973-78	Norman Parker
1978-87	Neil Twitchell
1987-91	Carol Blount
1991-	Janet Dobry

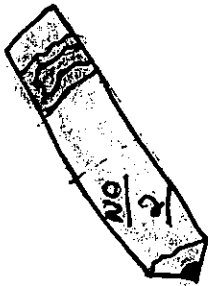




Park Village Elementary

Robert Taylor Elementary School

Park Village Elementary School opened in October of 1955. Students from Carver Park School attended this new school. The old Carver Park School was then closed. It had grades 1-6. This school was re-named Robert Taylor Elementary School in 1973. Mr. Taylor was its first principal.



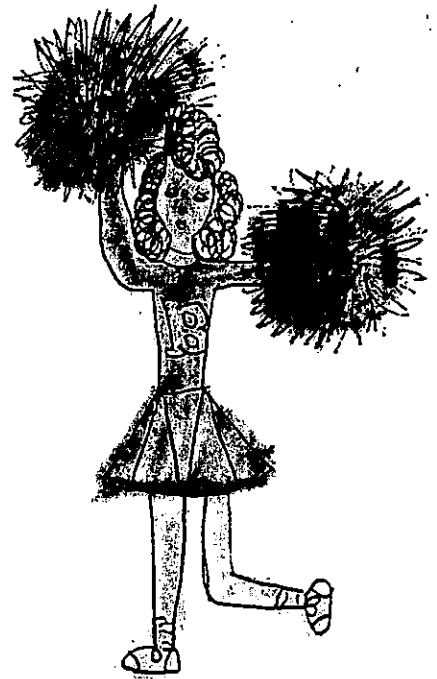
Valley View Elementary

C.T. Sewell Elementary School

Valley View Elementary School opened in 1959. Hal Binion was its first principal. It was renamed C.T. Sewell Elementary School in 1966. Mr. Sewell had come to this area as an engineer and had worked to build the plants. He was a Henderson school trustee from 1953-56. The schools then merged with the Clark County School District. Mr. Sewell continued to serve on the school board until 1966.

Basic High School

Basic High School began in the first building that was built for this community to house a school. It was called Railroad Pass High School until the name was changed to Basic High on May 24, 1946. The first principal was Mr. Lyal Burkholder. All of the 12 grades of school were all in the same building. That building is where our Civic Center is today. The building was used by the whole community. The auditorium was used for Red Cross meetings, card parties, American Legion dances and badminton. It was also the only place to see movies on the weekends. In 1942 the prices were: Adults- 25 cents, Children under 12-10 cents. Basic High played its very first football game against Las Vegas High on Saturday October 3, 1943. The score was 21-0----but we don't know who it was that won. Mr. Estes McDoniel was the coach. The school moved to a new building on Van Wagenen Way in 1952. (That is the building where Burkholder Junior High School is now.) It was located at that site until 1972 when it moved to its present location on Palo Verde. If your parents graduated from Basic High School before the year 1972 they went to school in the old building where you will go to junior high soon. The new building was designed by John Dooley. Mr. Dooley used some of his vacations to visit schools in many places. He wanted



to see other schools and get ideas about how to make the best building for students. It is a good place to go to school.

John Dooley was a former principal.

Basic High School is the only high school Henderson has had. The principal now is Mrs. Joanne Pughsley. She became the principal in 1989. The third senior class, which graduated in the year 1944, had 23 graduates. Basic High School has grown so much that in the year 1990 the graduating class had 540 students! In the fall of 1991 a brand new high school will open in our town. It will be the Green Valley High School. As this town grows maybe it will need even more high schools some day.

This community in the desert was named Henderson in 1953 when it was incorporated into a town.

It was named for Charles B. Henderson who was a United States Senator from Nevada in

1918-1921. Our first mayor was James French. He was sworn in to office on May 27, 1953. It has grown and changed and grown

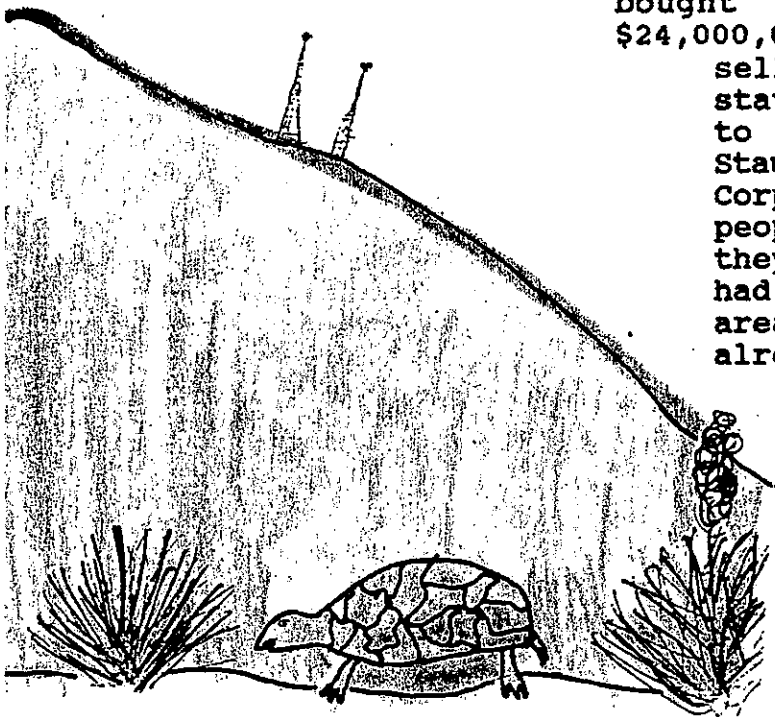
again since that time. It is still growing. The surprising thing is that it didn't become a ghost town. It was very close to becoming a ghost town after

World War II. BMI closed in 1944. Most of the employees moved away. Almost half of the houses were vacant. Since the homes were owned by the government no one who lived in

the area owned their own house. Each family only rented from the U.S. government. The BMI complex was taken over by the War Assets Administration and was under its control until 1948. The government offered

the plant and the housing areas for sale. No one wanted to buy such a big project. Since no one wanted to buy the plants the government almost tore it all down. Then the state of Nevada bought the plant for \$24,000,000. They offered to sell the houses one by one. The state sold parts of the plant to several different owners-- Stauffer Chemical Co., Flintkote Corp., and Kerr-McGee. Now the people could buy the houses that they had been living in. People had already been living in the area for ten years. There was already a school for this new

town. There was already a bowling alley and a water system. There were already two churches. The streets were already there and a hospital. The difference was that the people could now own the property. They set up civic clubs. The people were excited and very proud of the town. They planned their future together.



Enough steel was used in building BMI to build the Empire State Building.

St Peter's and the Community Church each cost \$25,000 to build.

Henderson's 1950 census--5,419 people.

Tropicana Ave. was still called Bond Road in 1950 before it was paved.

The Royal Club was Henderson's first major casino in the downtown area.

Henderson's 1990 census--80,000 people.

Previous names for Lake Mead Road: BMP Road--Frontier Blvd.--Sloan Cut Off.

In June 1952 there was no Henderson cut off--you had to go through Las Vegas to get to California.

Jim Thorpe All opened Jim Thorpe's Supper Club on American birthday Club (May 28, his 64th birthday) in Pittman. (He lived on the premises which was the remodeled Hut Club.)

TRIVIA

Henderson's telephone prefix was--FRONTIER.

The first fire station in the area was located at the BMI complex. Later one was built in the townsite on Panama

The Townsite house at the county museum on Boulder Highway is a 3-bedroom house from 306 W. Basic. It was formerly owned by Ralph and Lola Twitchell. They raised 5 children there.

BMI brought in 13,000 new residents to Henderson. Almost 3,000 of those were black.

Henderson's first radio station was KBMI which was run by Morry Zenoff and was operated from a converted bomb shelter on BMI grounds.

Bill Byrne ran a grocery store on Army St--just down from Victory Theatre which was run by Nathan Van Wagenen.

The Victory Theatre opened in 1943. Admission was 14 cents for children.

GLOSSARY

A-B

ANDERSON CAMP--also known as "Tent City" see Tent City

ANDERSON COFFEESHOP--Located inside BMI complex. It provided food and drinks to workers. Employees at the coffeeshop also made sandwiches and took them to the canteen throughout the complex for the shift workers to buy while on the job.

BASIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOL--Original name of Gordon McCaw Elementary School located at 57 Lynn Lane

BASIC BOMBARDIER--newspaper produced for workers at BMI plant during WWII.

BASIC HIGH SCHOOL--Named for Basic Magnesium Incorporated. First housed at Townsite Campus. Later moved to 355 W. Van Wagenen. Present location 400 Palo Verde Dr.

BASIC MAGNESIUM HOSPITAL--The name of the hospital constructed near the plants in 1942. Renamed Rose deLima Hospital in 1947 when Adrian Dominican Sisters purchased the facility. The name was changed again in 1973 to St. Rose deLima Hospital. At present it bears the name of St. Rose Dominican Hospital.

BASIC MAGNESIUM INC.--Name of magnesium processing plant built by the U.S. Government to produce magnesium ingots for the war effort during World War II.

BASIC MANAGEMENT INCORPORATED--Name of the plant complex management company after World War II.

BASIC TOWNSITE--The name of the community living around the BMI plant before it became the town of Henderson.

BLOUNT, CAROL T.--Principal of Gordon McCaw Elementary 1987-1991

BMI--Basic Management Incorporated

BMP--Basic Management Project

BOMB--See incendiary bombs

BOULDER DAM--original name of Hoover Dam in Boulder City. see Hoover Dam.

BOULDER HIGHWAY--The highway between Las Vegas and Boulder City.

BULLETS--see tracer bullets

BURKHOLDER, LYAL--School administrator who was involved in the early development of Henderson schools.

BURKHOLDER, LYAL JUNIOR HIGH--Originally built in 1953 to house Basic High School. Located at 355 W. Van Wagenen. Named for Lyal Burkholder.

C-D

CANTEEN--A food area in the BMI plant complex where sandwiches and drinks were delivered for workers from the main coffeeshop. Four such canteens are known of.

CARVER PARK--a segregated living area in Henderson that had housing, a school, stores and a recreation area.

CITY COUNCIL--The governing body of a city made up of elected councilmen and the mayor.

CLARK COUNTY--A county in Southern Nevada in which Henderson is located. You live in Clark County.

CLARK COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT--The school district that serves Henderson.

COMMUNITY--a group of people who live in the same area.

COMMUNITY CHURCH--One of the first churches in this community. It was built by the U.S. Government at a cost of \$25,000. The original building is now the Senior Center, located on Texas St. see Appendix __

COPPER--a brown metal. Copper was used as a conductor of electricity. During World War II it was very scarce.

COUNTY--the geographical areas that a state is divided into. You live in Clark County.

DOBRY, DR. JANET--Principal of Gordon McCaw Elementary 1991.

DOMINICAN SISTERS--Members of this Catholic service group worked at St. Rose DeLima Hospital when it was purchased.

DOOLEY, JOHN--A school district administrator.

DOOLEY, JOHN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL--A school in Henderson named for John Dooley. Located at 1940 Chickasaw Dr.

DUCK CREEK SCHOOL DISTRICT--The school district that serviced the Pittman and Whitney areas of what would be Henderson and East Las Vegas.

E-F

FIRST INTERSTATE BANK--The present name of the Nevada State Bank. This was the first bank in Henderson.

G-H

GABBS, NEVADA--Magnesite was mined from this town and trucked to Basic Magnesium Project (Henderson) to be processed into magnesium.

GALBREATH CORP.--Real Estate company that handled rent and maintenance of townsite houses and later conducted the sale of these homes.

GREEN VALLEY--an area of Henderson in the northwest. At present the fastest growing area of Henderson.

GORMAN, BISHOP THOMAS K.--Catholic bishop of Nevada during World War II. A Catholic high school in Las Vegas is named for him.

HAYNES, WILLIAM O.--A building contractor who built many major buildings in Henderson including Gordon McCaw Elementary and Robert Taylor. He had a nickname "Hook" because he threw a ball that "hooked" when playing softball. As a first baseman it often fooled the opponents.

HENDERSON--The name of the town you live in. One of the fastest growing cities in Nevada.

HENDERSON, CHARLES B.--Nevada's U.S. Senator for whom Henderson was named.

HENDERSON HOME NEWS--Local newspaper in Henderson. Features of local school children are often seen in the Home News.

HENDERSON SCHOOL DISTRICT--The school district that served the Henderson area after Railroad Pass School District.

HINMAN, EDNA--An administrator of Clark County School District.

HINMAN, EDNA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL--An elementary school in the Pittman area of Henderson (450 Merlayne Dr.)

I-J

INCENDIARY BOMBS--Bombs made of magnesium made at BMI plant during World War II. These bombs created a hot fire and were used against the enemy.

JEFFS, GEORGE--Principal of Gordon McCaw Elementary School 1956-1965.

JERICHO HEIGHTS--name of the ranch that became Midway City. see Midway City, Pittman.

K-L

KESTERSON, LORNA--The mayor of Henderson in 1991. She is a past editor of the Henderson Home News.

LAKE MEAD--The lake which was formed when Hoover Dam was built.

M-N

MACK, NATE--community leader who donated money to UNLV and various other civic projects.

MACK, NATE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL --A school in Henderson's Green Valley area. It is located at 3170 Laurel Ave.

MANGANESE--A metal ore mined out of 3 Kid's Mine in the early 1900's. It is a hard grey metal with some red in it. It is used to make iron & copper strong.

MAGNESIUM--The light weight metal produced at the BMI during World War II. It was used to make tracer bullets, incendiary bombs and airplane parts.

MAYOR--the head political person of a city. Lorna Kesterson is now the mayor of Henderson.

MCCAW, GORDON--Principal and administrator of schools in Henderson, Basic Elementary was re-named in his honor.

MCCAW, GORDON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL--located at 57 Lynn Lane. The first name of this school was Basic Elementary. It was re-named in honor of Gordon McCaw in 1969

MCDONIEL, ESTES--The first football coach of Basic High. Later he was the principal of Basic High School and the mayor of Henderson at the same time.

MCDONIEL, ESTES ELEMENTARY SCHOOL--A school in Henderson's Green Valley at 1831 Fox Ridge Dr.

MIDWAY CITY--The name used to describe the tent community on a ranch owned by Mr. Jefferson. He subdivided it into a housing area called Jericho Heights. The name was changed to Midway City (later called Pittman) in the 1930's. It housed men who worked on the Hoover Dam Project and lived in tents.

MINE, 3 KIDS--Manganese was taken out of this mine in the early 1900's. It was shipped by train to a processing plant.

MORAN, FATHER PETER--the priest at St. Peter's church who contacted the Dominican Sisters about the sale of the hospital. The sisters named it Rose de Lima after it was purchased.

NEVADA STATE BANK--the first bank in Henderson. It is now called First Interstate Bank.

NICKEL--a grey metal used in the manufacture of titanium.

O-P

PARKER, NORMAN--The principal of Gordon McCaw Elementary School 1973-1978.

PETRIE, ROY--First superintendent of schools in the Henderson area.

PITTMAN, VAIL--A senator that a section of Henderson was named after.

O'CALLAHAN, MICHAEL--Prominent figure in Henderson, former governor of Nevada. A park in Henderson is named in his honor.

Q-R

RAILROAD PASS SCHOOL DISTRICT--The name of the first school district that served the first students of the Basic Townsite area (Henderson).

RATION STAMPS--During World War II a stamp was needed as well as money to buy items (meat, tires, gasoline, etc.).

RED CROSS (also known as the International Red Cross)--This organization was started in the 1800's to take care of the wounded, sick and homeless. Mr. Lyal Burkholder and Mr. Gordon McCaw served with this organization during World War II.

REXALL DRUG--The name of one of the first drug stores in Henderson.

RIDDLE, DALE--A long time resident in Henderson and principal of Gordon McCaw Elementary School 1966-73.

ROYAL CASINO--The first casino in Henderson.

S-T

ST. PETER'S CATHOLIC CHURCH--The Catholic church built by the U.S. Government at a cost of \$25,000. This church was used as a location in the movie "Smoky and the Bandit II" Local residents were used in the church scene.

ST. ROSE DE LIMA HOSPITAL--see Basic Magnesium Hospital.

ST. ROSE DOMINICAN HOSPITAL--The present name for the hospital in Henderson.

SWANKY CLUB--The name of a restaurant. The Cattle Baron now sits on this site.

SWIFT, ELWOOD--"Pappy" Swift as he was nicknamed, is a longtime resident of Henderson. He and his wife Margaret live in their original townsite house. It was the last home finished. A painter and carpet layer, he found work in Henderson during the war in Henderson. He retired after working many years for the city at the Youth Center on Basic Rd.

TAYLOR, ROBERT--He was the principal of Basic Elementary School (Gordon McCaw Elementary School) from February 1954 when it opened until 1956.

TENT CITY--This temporary housing for workers at the Basic Magnesium Project was also called Anderson Camp. It was a large complex with tents for dormitories, commissary and cafeteria. Located there now is the Albertson's-Sav-on shopping area.

TITANIUM--A white metal produced from ore at Timet in Henderson.

TOWNSITE--The place selected to build a town.

TOWNSITE HOUSE--One of the original homes built in the town when it first began. Some students who attend Gordon McCaw Elementary School live in townsite houses.

TRACER BULLETS--These bullets glow in the night and leave a light trail when shot. The magnesium used to make these bullets was produced at Basic Magnesium Project.

TREEM, MRS. HARRIET--A long time resident and educator of Henderson. She still lives in her townsite house.

TREEM, HARRIET ELEMENTARY SCHOOL--A school in Henderson's Green Valley located at 1698 Patrick Lane.

TWITCHELL, MR. NEIL--Mr. Twitchell came to Henderson in 1956 and was hired by Gordon McCaw to teach 6th grade at Townsite Elementary School. Mr. McCaw who had failing eyesight at that time, had Robert Taylor read Mr. Twitchell's resume to him in that interview. Mr. Twitchell worked in Clark County as a teacher and then a principal. He was the principal of Gordon McCaw Elementary from 1978 until 1987 when he retired. He loves children and always put their best interest above all else. Community involvement has also been an important part of his life serving in numerous capacities. Now working for Boy Scouts of America he continues to work with children and support the community.

U-Z

VALLEY VIEW ELEMENTARY SCHOOL--The original name for C.T. Sewell Elementary school. see C.T.Sewell Elementary School.

VEGAS VILLAGE--A department store in downtown Henderson that has now been replaced by the Rainbow Casino and restaurant.

VICTORY GARDENS--These were vegetable gardens grown at home during World War II in an effort to be self sufficient, thus helping with the war effort.

VICTORY VILLAGE--This was an apartment complex in the area behind the present K-Mart. People often moved into this housing until a townsite house was available. There was a park area in the center. It was used as a recreation area for the local children.

WORLD WAR II--The United States of America entered World War II after the bombing of Pearl Harbor in Hawaii on December 7, 1941. A factory was built to produce magnesium for this war. It later became the city of Henderson.

ZINC--A bluish-white metal used by Timet in the production of titanium.