

Back Country Byways . . . An Invitation to Discover

There is an axiom among seasoned travelers advising that the best way to get to know a new place is to get off the highway and visit the back roads, the side trails and the hidden, out-of-the-way corners where the true qualities wait to be discovered.

The same axiom holds true for America's public lands, the vast reaches of our nation that are all too often seen only from the windows of speeding cars or the tiny portholes of airliners.

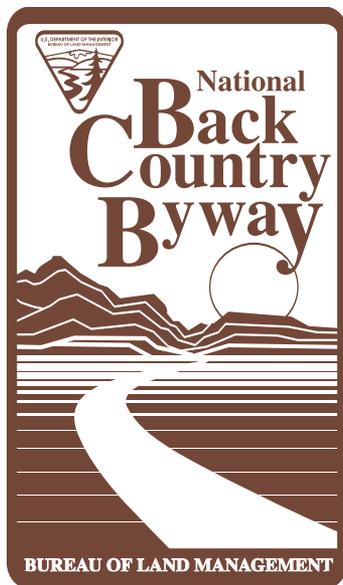
The Bureau of Land Management, America's largest land managing agency, is providing an exciting opportunity for more Americans to get to know their lands by getting off the main roads for leisurely trips on a series of roads and trails being dedicated as Back Country Byways.

The Back Country Byways Program, an outgrowth of the national Scenic Byways Program, is designed to encourage greater use of these existing back roads through greater public awareness. The system is expected to expand to 100 roads when completed.

In Nevada, each byway has a character and beauty of its own, taking travelers through scenery that is uniquely Nevadan, into historic areas that helped shape our state and near areas that have been largely untouched by man. They can see the multiple uses of their lands and come to a greater awareness of the need for the conservation and wise use of these resources.

And all this can be accomplished at little cost to the taxpayer. Because the roads are already in place, only interpretive signs and limited facilities are needed to better serve the public.

*Nevada's Back Country Byways,
A great way to get to know a great state.*



Lovelock Cave Back Country Byway



Nevada



Winnemucca Field Office

OREGON

IDAHO

CALIFORNIA

UTAH

ARIZONA



For More Information

For information on the Lovelock Cave Back Country Byway:

Bureau of Land Management
Winnemucca Field Office
5100 East Winnemucca Boulevard
Winnemucca, NV 89445
(775) 623-1500
www.nv.blm.gov/Winnemucca

For information on the Humboldt State Wildlife Management Area:

Mason Valley Wildlife Management Area
1 Lux Lane
Yerington, NV 89447
775-463-2741

Our Thanks To . . .

Drawings courtesy of Barbra Erickson and Nicole Asdrubale.

Photographs courtesy of Nevada Historical Society, Marzen House Museum, the Nevada State Museum, and Bob Goodman.

Our thanks to Dr. Catherine Fowler and the University of Nevada Anthropology Department, the Lovelock Paiute Tribe and the Oregon California Trails Association for their assistance with the text and content.

LOVELOCK CAVE BACK COUNTRY BYWAY

A SELF-GUIDED TOUR



Ancient tule duck decoy excavated from Lovelock Cave

Contents

Page

1. Driving Through Time
2. Before You Go
3. Using This Guide
4. Introduction
5. The Marzen House
6. The Northern Paiute
8. Round Courthouse
9. Big Meadows
11. Central Pacific Railroad
12. Chinatown and Downtown
- 13-15. Route Maps
17. Farming and Ranching
18. Sarah Winnemucca's School
19. Irrigation
20. The Big Five Dam
21. The Humboldt River Basin
22. Humboldt River Fish
23. Humboldt Sink and the Great Basin
24. The California Trail
25. Ancient Lake Lahontan
26. Mining
26. Desert Animals
27. CCC Windmill
27. Lovelock Cave
29. Conclusion



Conclusion

We hope you have enjoyed your experience along the Lovelock Cave Back Country Byway. The Great Basin is full of wonder and beauty, and the Bureau of Land Management is proud to be one of its caretakers. We hope your Back Country Byway tour has inspired you to experience more of the other natural, historic and prehistoric sites available to you in the Great Basin.

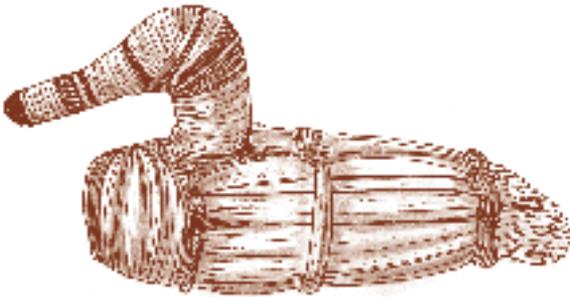
To return to Lovelock, follow the same route back or, for an interesting side trip, take the alternate return route marked on the route map. This route will take you to the Humboldt State Management Area and/or back to Lovelock via the I-80 frontage road. During drought years the Management Area is somewhat barren, but during wet years the lakes and marshes come alive with plants and waterfowl. Either way, you may catch a glimpse of any number of magnificent birds along the route through the agricultural fields to the frontage road.



Canada Goose

in the United States that are key to the interpretation of our nation's past and present. As an honored place, Lovelock Cave deserves our admiration and respect. Please enjoy your visit, but remember to “leave it as you found it.”

Archaeologists began excavating Lovelock Cave in 1912 and continued intermittently through the 1970s. Scientific and theoretical approaches to archaeology evolved significantly in the later half of the twentieth century allowing scientists to use the data from Lovelock Cave to more accurately date and understand the region's prehistory.



Tule Duck Decoy from Lovelock Cave

Many thousands of artifacts have been recovered from Lovelock Cave over the years, from elaborate mats and bags made of tule and cattail leaves to the remarkable cache of duck decoys, at 2,000 years old the oldest in the world! Each artifact and the position in which it was found adds to our understanding of human prehistory and the changing ecology of this region.

For example, we know Lovelock Cave experienced its heaviest use between about 2,000 B.C. and 1,000 A.D. during the period known as the Lovelock Period. It was a time when water was more plentiful and the area was rich in plant and animal resources. Over time, the area became warmer and dryer. Fewer people inhabited the area and the style of many of their tools and possessions, what archaeologists call “material culture”, changed.

Oral tradition among the Lovelock Paiute speaks of a battle between their Paiute ancestors and the red-headed giants known as the Sai'i. The Sai'i lived on islands in Humboldt Lake, kidnapped Paiute women and children and sometimes practiced cannibalism. According to the legend, the Paiute finally tired of the harassment by the Sai'i and attacked them. The Sai'i took refuge in Lovelock Cave where the Paiute defeated them by shooting flaming arrows and flinging burning sagebrush into the entrance of the cave. After this decisive battle, the Sai'i departed from the area leaving the Paiute to live in peace.

Driving Through Time

This booklet guides you along a 20-mile driving tour filled with thousands of years of human history and prehistory. You'll begin your tour at the museum in the historic Marzen House in Lovelock. From here, you'll visit the historic Chinatown district and Lovelock's uniquely designed courthouse built in the early 1900s.

On the way to the famous Lovelock Cave, you'll cross the historic California Trail, view sweeping expanses of agricultural land, and see the remains of the vast ancient lake Lahontan that filled this valley thousands of years ago. Along the way you might catch glimpses of local species of birds, animals and plants that live and thrive in this seemingly harsh environment.

Throughout your trip you'll pass through the traditional lands of the Northern Paiute people. Finally, you'll arrive at Lovelock Cave, used by Indian people for thousands of years to store items such as the famous Lovelock Cave duck decoys.

At Lovelock Cave you'll have the opportunity to walk the nature trail and learn about plants and animals that were essential to the lifeways of Native Americans.

The drive (roughly 40 miles round trip) and a visit to the site and nature trail will take you about 3 hours, but it will give you a chance to see a part of America too easily missed in today's rush of travel.

Before You Go

- Pack plenty of water. No water is available along the driving route or at the cave.
- Take sun screen, sunglasses and a hat, especially in the summer.
- You may wish to bring your own guidebooks, such as bird watching guides or plant identification books, and binoculars. (Watch for birds along powerlines and irrigation ditches).
- Wear adequate walking shoes or boots. The nature trail is not long, but is fairly steep and rough in places. Please watch your step and stay away from cliff edges. Children should be accompanied by adults at all times.
- A flashlight is handy to help illuminate the interior of Lovelock Cave.
- Pull to the side of the road when stopping along the route, but avoid soft ground that might bog down your vehicle.
- **Watch and listen for snakes.** During warm months rattlesnakes seek shelter from the sun under rocks and brush.
- Help protect historical and archaeological sites. Please do not disturb artifacts or deface sites.
- Take only pictures, leave only footprints.

11

Mile 18.9 CCC Windmill

Just ahead and to the right is a windmill built by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC). The windmill was used to draw drinking water for cattle. Ranchers used the Humboldt Sink extensively to graze their cattle.

The CCC was very active in Nevada during the 1930s constructing public works improvements such as the Humboldt Sink windmill.

Lovelock Cave is now visible as a dark slash in the dome of whitish rock to your left. Continue past the cave to the parking area and kiosk behind the cave.

12

Mile 19.6 Lovelock Cave

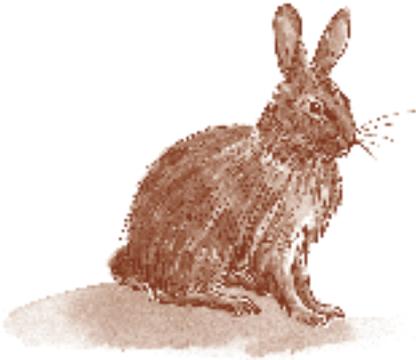


Lovelock Cave

Welcome to Lovelock Cave and the Nature Trail. Interpretive signs and a separate nature trail brochure are available to help you make the most of your visit to Lovelock Cave. Lovelock Cave is on the National Register of Historic Places, making it one of many sites

Mining

The colorful rock formations visible in the West Humboldt Range reflect ancient volcanic activity in this region. The calico colors are the result of hot mineralized water, and the pinkish hues indicate iron. Nearby mountains also hold gold and silver deposits which have been mined for more than a century. The 49ers traveling to the gold fields of California were unaware of the rich ore in the mountains they passed in this region.



Desert Animals

This region is home to many species of animals, some of which you might see during your tour. Local mountain ranges once were home to bighorn sheep, but they were eliminated by the 1940s due to overhunting and disease. If you are lucky, you may see one of the few which have been reintroduced in recent years. The mountains continue to shelter mule deer and an occasional mountain lion. Pronghorn can be found at lower elevations, especially to the north. The Humboldt River and marshes are home to river otter, voles, shrews, raccoons, muskrats and other animals.

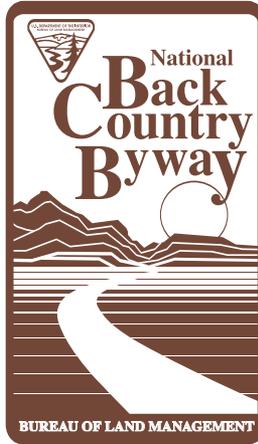
In the desert areas, animals such as the blacktailed jackrabbit, several species of ground squirrels, the kangaroo rat and the desert woodrat can be found. Other local desert animals include cottontail rabbit, badger, kit fox, bobcat, and numerous reptile species such as snakes and lizards.



Western Fence Lizard

Using This Guide

Interpretive sites along your route are marked with numbered signs corresponding with the numbers in your driving tour guide. Your guide also includes approximate mileages, starting from the historic Marzen House Museum in Lovelock.



To help keep track of your mileage, reset your trip odometer to zero, beginning at the Marzen House. If your odometer doesn't reset, simply record your current mileage and add the mileage between each stop.

Introduction

Rivers have always been pathways and corridors. Game animals and birds follow rivers. Ancient peoples made their trails and camps along them. Trappers and explorers followed these ancient pathways as they were sure that they would lead somewhere interesting. Emigrants on their way to new lands followed them as well, and new settlers came to live on their shores as they were often lush with resources and potential for settlement. Modern highways and railroads followed the same corridors established earlier.

Thus it has been with the Humboldt River corridor. In ancient times, the river and its surrounding country were a focal point for Native peoples. Trappers and explorers entered the region in the early 1800s, and followed ancient Indian trails and the river on their way east and west. Emigrant parties began coming through the region in the 1840s on their way to seek riches and settle new lands across the great Sierra Nevada. Some stayed to found a station and later a town, which grew because of the water provided by the river for agriculture. The railroad followed in the 1860s, highways in the 1930s, and ultimately a freeway in the 1960s. To all who have passed this way, including those who were here before and who stayed, the area is an oasis in the desert. This is its story, told as you travel the Lovelock Cave Back Country Byway.



Humboldt River © Bob Goodman

10

Mile 14.2 Ancient Lake Lahontan



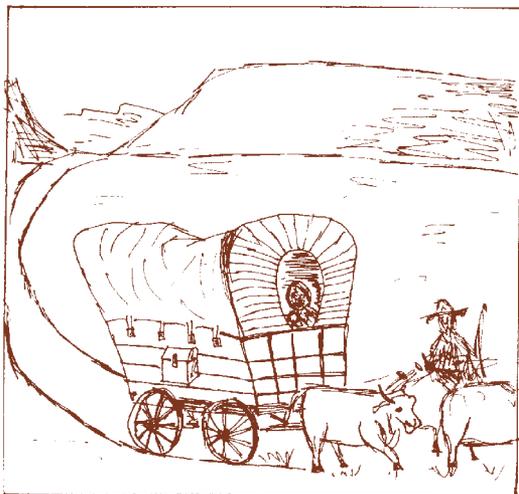
Along the slopes of the West Humboldt Range, to your left, you will notice several step-like horizontal lines. Each of these “terraces” was once an ancient shoreline of Lake Lahontan, an enormous body of water that filled numerous basins in northwestern Nevada from about 22,000 to 10,000 years ago. During that 12,000 year period you would have needed a boat to travel the present route of Interstate 80 between Reno, Lovelock and Winnemucca.

Like all lakes, Lake Lahontan rose and fell with the availability of water. The terracing reflects the variations in lake levels over thousands of years. The ancient lake reached its highest level of 4,380 feet above sea level about 15,000 years ago during the late Pleistocene epoch. During this period glacial ice covered much of North America, cooling temperatures and reducing evaporation. The result was higher water levels. At that time, the mountains surrounding you would have been mere islands. By about 11,000 years ago the water level fell to about 4,000 feet and Lake Lahontan separated into three or four lakes. Eventually, the largest lakes evaporated and disappeared, leaving only present-day Pyramid and Walker lakes as well as Humboldt and Toulon lakes during wet years.

9

Mile 11.2 The California Trail

To your right is a trace of the California Trail, one of the main emigrant routes to the west. Thousands of people and wagons and more than 100,000 head of livestock passed this way between the late 1840s and the early 1860s, most of them headed for California and its promised riches.



River valleys made attractive emigrant trails. The California Trail followed the Humboldt River from present-day Wells, Nevada, to the river's end in the Humboldt Sink. From here, the emigrants began one of the most treacherous parts of the trail – the dreaded, waterless 40-Mile Desert. Broken wagon parts, discarded material and the bones of draft animals were a common sight in the 40-Mile Desert through the 1920s.

After crossing the 40-Mile Desert, emigrants could rest temporarily along the Carson or Truckee rivers before pushing on towards their final major obstacle on their journey to California – the Sierra Nevada.

The distance you are traveling today from the Marzen House to Lovelock Cave (20 miles) would have taken the wagon trains an entire day to travel.

Mile 11.9 Turn right at the fork in the road.

1

Mile 0.0 The Marzen House



*Marzen House, Big Meadows Ranch
Courtesy of Marzen House Museum*

The charming Marzen House was built in 1875 by Colonel Joseph Marzen. The house originally graced Marzen's sprawling Big Meadows Ranch located 1.5 miles to the south. The historic structure was moved to its present location in 1984 to house the Pershing County Museum.

The museum within the restored Marzen House showcases fascinating artifacts and history from Lovelock's rich past and includes an exhibit on the archeology of Lovelock Cave and the Humboldt Sink. We highly recommend a visit to the museum as the first step in your Back Country Byway tour.

Marzen House Hours

November 1 to April 30: Monday-Friday, 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

May 1 to October 31: Monday-Saturday, 10:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

The Northern Paiute

Prior to its settlement by immigrants in the nineteenth century, this area was home to Northern Paiute people, ancestors of the present-day residents of the Lovelock Colony. The Lovelock Paiute were known as the “Ground Squirrel Eaters” because of the abundance of this type of food here. Stories passed down over generations describe this area as a place where food was plentiful. Berries grew everywhere along the river banks, as did vegetables such as wild onion, sweet potatoes, tule (reeds) and cattail shoots. The areas around the Humboldt River and nearby Humboldt and Toulon lakes were the richest sources of food, but the surrounding desert lowlands and mountains also provided edible plants and game.



Plants fulfilled the majority of the Northern Paiutes’ food needs. Fish, waterfowl, small game, insects, and large game (in that order) provided the rest. Plants also served as medicines and construction materials for houses, clothing, baskets, cooking utensils, boats, and baby cradles. Animal skins were also used for clothing.

The Northern Paiute were nomadic, moving with the rhythms of the seasons to harvest the foods that became available in different places at different times. In the spring they gathered cattail shoots, greens, roots, seeds and berries, fished the Humboldt River and hunted small and large game.

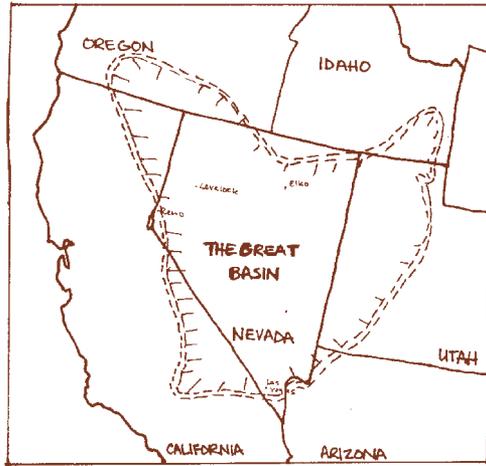


In the spring and early summer, fishing parties would travel to Pyramid Lake and the Truckee River. In the summer, camps moved to where the seeds were ready to harvest. Surpluses of seeds collected in late summer were ground to flour on flat stones and stored for the winter.



Fall was the primary time for gathering roots and hunting deer, antelope, big horn sheep, rabbit and mud hen. It was also the time when the Paiute headed east to the Stillwater Range to collect the prized pine nut (tuba) which would

The Humboldt Sink and the Great Basin



The mountain range in front of you is the West Humboldt Range. Behind you beyond I-80 is the Trinity Range. Here, between these ranges lies the Lower Humboldt River Valley and in the distance to the right is the Humboldt Sink.

The term “sink” was first used by early explorers and settlers in the region who were surprised that the river drained into a closed basin. The Humboldt Sink is one of many independent drainage basins that together are part of the Great Basin. The Great Basin includes most of Nevada and parts of Utah, California, Oregon and Idaho. The surrounding mountain ranges and high plateaus prevent water from the Great Basin from reaching the ocean. An internal drainage system is the defining feature of the Great Basin, where elevation averages about 4,000 feet above sea level. Precipitation in this region averages 10 to 12 inches per year. Its high elevations make the Great Basin a region with potentially extreme temperature ranges. Temperatures range between minus 35 degrees Fahrenheit in the winter to as high as 112 degrees F in the summer.

Flora and fauna change subtly with elevation as you move up the slopes of the Great Basin. Plants such as greasewood and seepweed grow at lower elevations in the valleys. Sagebrush and grasses appear as you move up the slopes from the valleys, followed by juniper trees and a few pinyon pine between 5,500 and 6,500 feet in the West Humboldt Range as well as in the Stillwater Range to the east.

Continue straight ahead on main road.

The tall, spindly, silvery green plant along the river banks is tamarisk, also known as salt cedar because of the salty oils it secretes from its leaves. In the winter it turns rusty red and in the spring pink or white flowers tip its reddish stems. Tamarisk was introduced into the United States in the late nineteenth century as an ornamental tree and windbreak. It thrives in an alkaline environment and has spread rapidly into the Humboldt Sink. Its deep roots pull up significant amounts of groundwater that evaporates into the air, resulting in a decline in groundwater level and an increase in groundwater salinity that threatens local plants, birds and fish. Tamarisk is classified as a noxious weed by the State of Nevada. It is extremely difficult to eradicate.

Humboldt River Fish

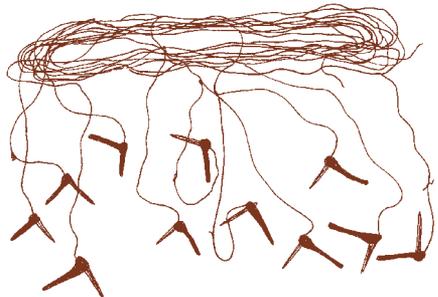
The Humboldt River is host to a variety of native and foreign fish species. Native fish include redbside shiners, suckers, speckled dace and Tui chub. All these species except redbside shiners were discovered in archaeological excavations of Lovelock Cave. Lahontan cutthroat trout were present in the Humboldt River above the Humboldt Sink until the 1930s.



Tui Chub Fish

Non-native fish species include carp, speckled bass, and walleye. Carp are easy to spot in this section of the river. Look for yellowish-colored fish with large, reddish scales.

Northern Paiute people from Lovelock fished the Humboldt River using a variety of techniques, depending on the size of the fish, including nets, basket traps, and lines baited with numerous tiny hooks.



Fish Hooks From Lovelock Cave



*Northern Paiute Pinenut Harvest
Courtesy of the Nevada Historical Society*

help to sustain them through the winter. Because the Paiute moved in small family groups most of the year, the pine nut harvest was a much anticipated time of socializing, dancing, feasting, and celebrating.

When the first snows of the winter fell, families converged into villages in present-day Lovelock and the Humboldt Sink where they lived in dome-shaped tule houses. Draped in rabbit skin blankets, they cooked and warmed themselves with fires fueled by greasewood and sagebrush. In the winter food was scarce. Stored pine nuts were ground up, mixed with water and made into pine nut soup, which was sometimes set outside to freeze into pine nut “ice cream”. Pine nuts, seeds and other stored foods were supplemented with ice-fishing and some deer and rabbit hunting.

The Paiute people had a deep spiritual association with their lands and with the plants and animals that lived on it. Families remained close-knit and maintained a great respect for their elders as keepers of knowledge and wisdom. These values are maintained to the present-day. The Tribe hopes that you will respect the areas that you will be visiting and the plants and animals you will see.

From the Marzen House, turn left onto the paved road, proceed to the stop sign and turn left onto the main road (Cornell Avenue). As you drive east on Cornell Avenue (.3 miles), you'll pass on your left the road to the Lovelock Paiute Colony. This 20-acre colony is home of the Lovelock Paiute Tribe. Continue on Cornell Avenue to the first stop light. Turn left on Main Street and continue on to the Round Courthouse. There is a parking area adjacent to the courthouse.

2

Mile 1.0 Round Courthouse



*Main Street & Round Courthouse c. 1920s.
Courtesy of the Nevada Historical Society*

The Pershing County Courthouse stands as a symbol of efforts in the early 1900s to form a separate county out of a portion of Humboldt County. Pershing County was founded in 1919 despite bitter complaints from residents in other parts of Humboldt County.

Renowned architect Frederick DeLongchamps expressed the county's newfound independence by ignoring the traditional rectangular shape of courthouses in favor of a circular design. DeLongchamps went further by placing the jury box in the center of the courtroom under the building's dome. This reflected his belief that juries should play an integral part in the judicial process. The acoustics in the courthouse are amazing!

Pershing County Courthouse Hours

The courthouse is open to the public weekdays during normal business hours, excluding holidays. A more detailed history of the structure is on exhibit inside the courthouse.

To the right of the courthouse parking lot, on the library grounds next to the flag pole, is a brown railroad rail Trails West marker commemorating the California Trail Big Meadows campsite.

8

Mile 10.5 The Humboldt River Basin



Common Egret on Humboldt River © Bob Goodman

The Humboldt River basin is Nevada's largest watershed, encompassing about 17,000 square miles. The Humboldt River meanders for 1,000 miles from its headwaters in northeastern Nevada before reaching the Humboldt Sink, by which time most of the water has evaporated, except during wet years when the surplus forms Humboldt Lake.

Slow-moving rivers such as the Humboldt tend to form curving channels called meanders. When the river runs high, the water seeks a straighter channel and can cut through a meander, creating an oxbow. The Humboldt has an amazing complex of meanders and oxbows as it twists and turns towards the Humboldt Sink.

On the ground in this area are white deposits of "crunchy" material, which is actually salt. As the Humboldt River meanders its long course, it collects dissolved salts, which concentrate in the soils of the lower Humboldt River Valley. Few native plants survive in this high salt and alkaline environment. Two exceptions are greasewood and seepweed. Greasewood plants have tap roots capable of growing more than 50 feet to reach moisture in the clayish soils.

On the banks of the river live stands of willow which stabilize the ground and help create meadowlands. Plants that grow along the river provide, food, shelter, and breeding habitat for birds and animals.

7

Mile 10.2 Big Five Dam

At the beginning of the twentieth century, five area ranchers recognized the need for a reliable water supply. Their solution was the construction of a dam and irrigation ditch known to local residents as the “Big Five.” Flooding in the 1910s washed out the original Big Five, located further down the Humboldt River. A larger reservoir was built about 20 miles north of Lovelock in 1936. Today, Rye Patch Reservoir supplies the valley with irrigation water.

The dam structure visible at this point in your tour pools water and diverts it to irrigation ditches. Drainage of the irrigation water removes excess salt that otherwise would reduce crop yields. Irrigation from the Humboldt River is vital for crop production, but it hasn't come without environmental cost. Small dams in the region are difficult for fish to negotiate, occasionally resulting in the die-off of hundreds of fish attempting to jump the dam. The effects of irrigation coupled with periods of drought also impact the health of marshes and wildlife along the lake and river. Conversely, the cattails, willows and other plants growing along the irrigation ditches provide habitat for birds and other wildlife.



Cattail

Continue straight ahead on the main road. Cross the bridge over the Humboldt River. Park your vehicle off the left side of the road.

Big Meadows

The Humboldt River spread out in this area prior to the development of agriculture in Lovelock, creating acres of lush, grassy meadows ideal for Native American winter village sites. In the mid-1800s the area became known as Big Meadows by emigrants traveling the California Trail. Some emigrant wagon trains were large and well organized; others small and less well-provisioned. By the time they reached Big Meadows, all were worn by the long journey and low on provisions. Big Meadows offered emigrants a place to rest, refit, graze their livestock and cut natural hay to fatten their animals for the long and arduous journey still ahead. In 1849, an emigrant recorded his impressions of the intense activity:

This marsh for three miles is certainly the liveliest place that one could witness in a lifetime. There is some two hundred and fifty wagons here all the time. Trains going out and others coming in and taking their places is the constant order of the day.

Cattle and mules by the hundreds are surrounding us, in grass to their knees, all discoursing sweet music with the grinding of their jaws. Men are seen hurrying in many different ways and everybody attending to his own business. In fact joyous laugh and familiar sound of the whetted scythe fifies an air of happiness and content around that must carry the wearied travelers through to the "Promised Land".

Emigrants passing through or settling down in Big Meadows caused a disruption of traditional Native American lifeways in this area. Sarah Winnemucca Hopkins was a daughter of Chief Winnemucca and granddaughter of Chief Truckee. In her book *Life Among the Piutes* (1883), she describes her impressions of the emigrants: "...they came like a lion, yes like a roaring lion, and have continued ever since". She relates how in the beginning of the world there were two dark children and two white children. The dark and white children fought and so their parents sent the white children off. When white people came to the Humboldt Sink in the mid-1800s the Paiutes initially assumed that they were their white brothers returning and welcomed them with open arms. In time however the white people came to be feared. She states:

My people said they had something like thunder and lightning, and that they killed everything that came in their way.

Friction between settlers and the Northern Paiute eventually led to war at Pyramid Lake in 1860, and to intermittent clashes in years to come.

Farming began in the Big Meadows in 1861. A year later, Englishman George Lovelock arrived and built a small stage station. The Central Pacific Railroad arrived later in the decade and the town of Lovelock was born. An 1879 account described Lovelock as “a side track station with a telegraph office, a store, post office and a few adjoining buildings.”

Settlers cleared sagebrush and greasewood to plant barley and potatoes, and cattle grazed along the Humboldt River. By 1890, most of Big Meadows was agriculturally developed, along with much of the traditional hunting and gathering grounds of the local Paiute people. Many of them adjusted to the new conditions by finding work with ranchers and other local businesses.



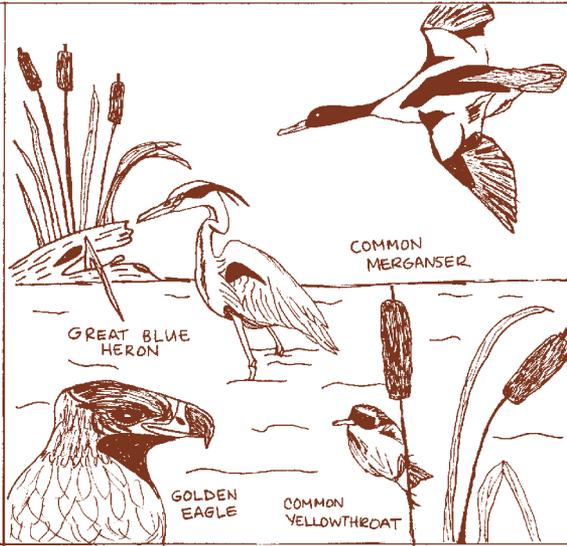
*Paiute Harvest Scene Lovelock, 1897
Courtesy of the Nevada Historical Society*

Return to Main Street and head back to the stoplight at the intersection of Main Street and Cornell Avenue. Continue on Main to West Broadway Street.

6

Mile 6.0 Irrigation

At this point in your tour you'll see an irrigation ditch along the side of the road that brings water from the Humboldt River to local agricultural fields. In the early 1870s irrigation ditches began replacing the less reliable method of flood overflow. Vegetation growing along the banks of the ditch provides habitat for birds and animals.



Among the species of wildlife found here are many varieties of birds. Some birds are residents; others migrate by the thousands on their way along the great Pacific Flyway. Migration is especially active in the spring and fall when local marshes, lakes, rivers and irrigation ditches provide migrating birds with resting and feeding grounds. This area is popular among bird watchers looking for great blue heron, night heron, white-faced ibis, red-tailed hawk, rough-legged hawk, Coopers hawk, harrier, prairie falcon, golden eagle, barn owl, longspur and egret. Many other species frequent this area, such as raven, white pelican, Canada goose, whistling swan and ring-necked pheasant. For more information about bird species in the area, contact the Winnemucca BLM office, the Stillwater Wildlife Management Area, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in Fallon, Nevada.

Turn left at the intersection onto Derby Road. Follow the main road to the across the irrigation ditch. Park on the turnout to the left.

Sarah Winnemucca's School

Nearby in the fields to the left is the site of the first Indian-operated school for Northern Paiute children. The school was started by Sarah Winnemucca Hopkins. Born in 1844 near the Humboldt Sink, Sarah was the first Native American woman to write a book, *Life Among The Piutes: Their Wrongs and Claims* (1883). She was an avid spokeswoman for Native American rights, lecturing extensively throughout the U.S.

Sarah founded her school in 1886 and operated it for two years, using the proceeds from the sale of her book to fund its operation. The school was unique in that it taught the children Paiute language and culture as well as English and occupational skills.



Sarah Winnemucca

Courtesy of Nevada Historical Society

3

Mile 1.1 Central Pacific Railroad

The railroad tracks trace the route of the Central Pacific section of the famous Transcontinental Railroad. The railroad was completed in 1869 and linked the east and west coasts of the United States. The renovated train depot to your left is the oldest standing Central Pacific depot in Nevada.



*West Broadway Street, Central Pacific
Railroad Tracks and Depot Lovelock, 1910
Courtesy of Nevada Historical Society*

Cross the railroad tracks, turn right onto Amherst Avenue and drive to Ninth Street.

4

Mile 1.3 Chinatown and Old Downtown Lovelock



*Buildings from Lovelock Chinatown
Courtesy Nevada State Museum*

Prior to construction of I-80, Lovelock's Chinatown was located in the vicinity of the present-day park and interstate to your left. Several buildings from Lovelock's past were also located in this vicinity including George Lovelock's Station, the county hospital, the county jail and a brothel.

Chinese played an important role in the development of the West. During the mid-1800s many Chinese workers left their impoverished homeland to come to America to help build the Transcontinental Railroad. As in other western states, some remained in Lovelock following the completion of the railroad, opening businesses and working as laborers. Many of the Chinese occupied structures here between 1880 and the late 1930s. Lovelock's Chinese worked primarily in service businesses such as restaurants, hotels and laundries, but were also employed in mining, gaming and ranching.

5

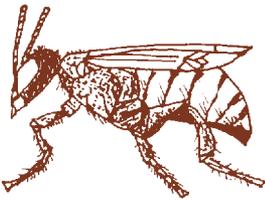
Mile 3.8 Farming and Ranching



*Marker Ranch, Pershing County, 1920s
Courtesy of Nevada Historical Society*

Since its beginnings, Lovelock's economy has focused on farming, ranching, and mining. Alfalfa, grown as a seed crop and as forage for cattle, can be seen along your byway route. Other local crops include wheat, oats, barley, garlic and native blue hay – used by ranchers for winter feed.

Busy Bees



Along your drive you may see white boxes or white storage sheds housing beehives. Leaf-cutting bees were introduced from western Asia in the 1930s and play an essential role in the pollination of local alfalfa. They are more efficient pollinators than honey bees. Leaf-cutting bees build their nests in small holes, line them with expertly cut leaves and then lay their eggs. Farmers entice the bees into making their nests by drilling holes in boards or blocks of Styrofoam. Farmers begin their 21-day incubation period in the spring so that the bees will be ready to pollinate alfalfa in early summer. Leaf-cutting bees do not sting.

Archaeological and historical studies of Lovelock's Chinatown by the Nevada State Museum from 1975-1977 showed that this community flourished from about 1910 to the 1920s. Over 22,000 artifacts were recovered during the excavations. The most amazing find was a ceramic snuff jar filled with 112 U.S. gold coins. These and other artifacts from the excavation are curated at the Nevada State Museum in Carson City.



*Gold coins from Lovelock Chinatown
Courtesy Nevada State Museum*

By 1940, the Lovelock Chinatown had dwindled away. Labor surpluses contributed to discrimination against the Chinese and many moved to larger coastal Chinese communities or returned to China. Today little remains to mark the presence of the Chinese in Lovelock.

Continue south on Amherst Avenue.

