

Lincoln Highway Tour

The primitive 1913 road



2009

By

The Nevada Chapter

Of

The Lincoln Highway Association

Introduction

Primitive roads and trails of Nevada.

Where did this road come from? ? On this tour we will cover the section from west gate to Austin and back. We will be dealing with about a half dozen roads and trails in about twice that many years.

In 1913, Henry Joy, president of the newly formed Lincoln highway association, said it best, he followed history and common sense and followed the pony express and the overland stage across Nevada. I assume this was said after his first drive across the country.

So where did those trails come from? California was growing very rapid after the discovery of gold, and in Nevada, mines were popping up all over the place, so the need and importance of wagon roads were imperative.

In 1859, captain James Hervey Simpson, of the United States army corps of topographical engineers was given the task to locate a fast direct wagon route from camp Floyd to Genoa. (The great basin of the territory of Utah).

His expedition consisted of sixty four men, including a geologist, artist, photographer, taxidermist, and a twenty man military escort, ten infantry and ten dragoons, fourteen wagons, Pete a Ute Indian, and the man who established Genoa, John Reese as guides.

On Simpson's outward trip he went to the north of Austin some six or seven miles and dropped down into the valley. Reese had been here some years before, exploring to Genoa. So for explorations and services, Simpson named the valley and river after him. Camp no. # 25, May 29.

On the tour you will see the pass Simpson crossed over and into the next valley, camp # 26 May 30, was across the valley and at the mouth of a canyon with a creek running out of it. Simpson named this place after his assistant, lieutenant J. L. Kirby Smith, (smith creek and smith creek canyon). The valley was named after captain I. C. Woodruff. (Woodruff valley). Then he went to the south and on through Gibraltar canyon, (now Carroll summit road,) and (Gibraltar now eastgate).

On the return trip he went to the north from west gate to cold springs, which he named for the cold water from the creek that the men pleased themselves drinking. He then went to the north and east and up Edwards creek canyon, witch he named the creek and canyon after one of his assistants, Edward Jagiello, he had a hard time pronouncing the last name, so this place became Edwards, creek. The valley he named after the Indian agent back at Genoa, Major Frederick Dodge.

At the summit he found the head waters of smith creek, he followed it down to its mouth, and back at woodruff valley. So much for the short history and place names on where our road came from.

The 1913 Packard motor car co. Lincoln highway guide book followed the Simpson route practically all the way. We will be on as much as possible of the 1913 road, with other lincoln highway year roads pointed out.

It is my theory, and after much research, mapping, and many days on the trail, and confusing road guides, I have come to this conclusion, at different years, there were several Lincoln highways through this area.

This booklet is what I came up with. I'll let you be the judge.

Geno Oliver
Nevada State Director
Lincoln highway association

Raiment of 1928 concrete boy scout marker
Found just east of the old gas station
At east gate



MAP OF WAGON ROUTES

IN

UTAH TERRITORY

Explored & opened by

CAPT. J. H. SIMPSON TOPL. ENGRS. U.S.A.

Assisted by

LIEUTS. J. L. K. SMITH AND H. S. PUTNAM TOPL. ENGRS. U.S.A.

AND MR. HENRY ENGELMANN

in 1858-59

by authority of

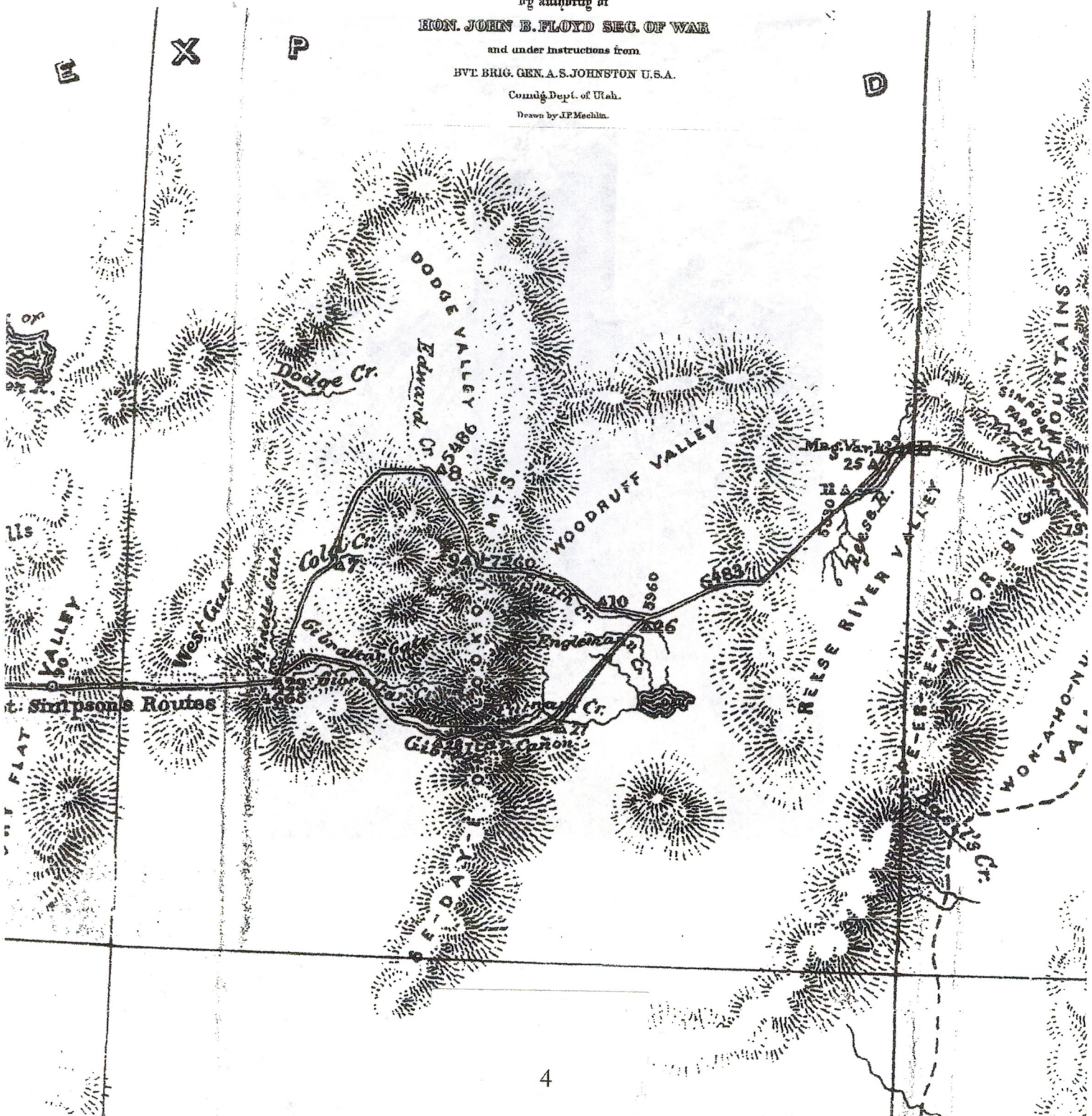
HON. JOHN B. FLOYD SEC. OF WAR

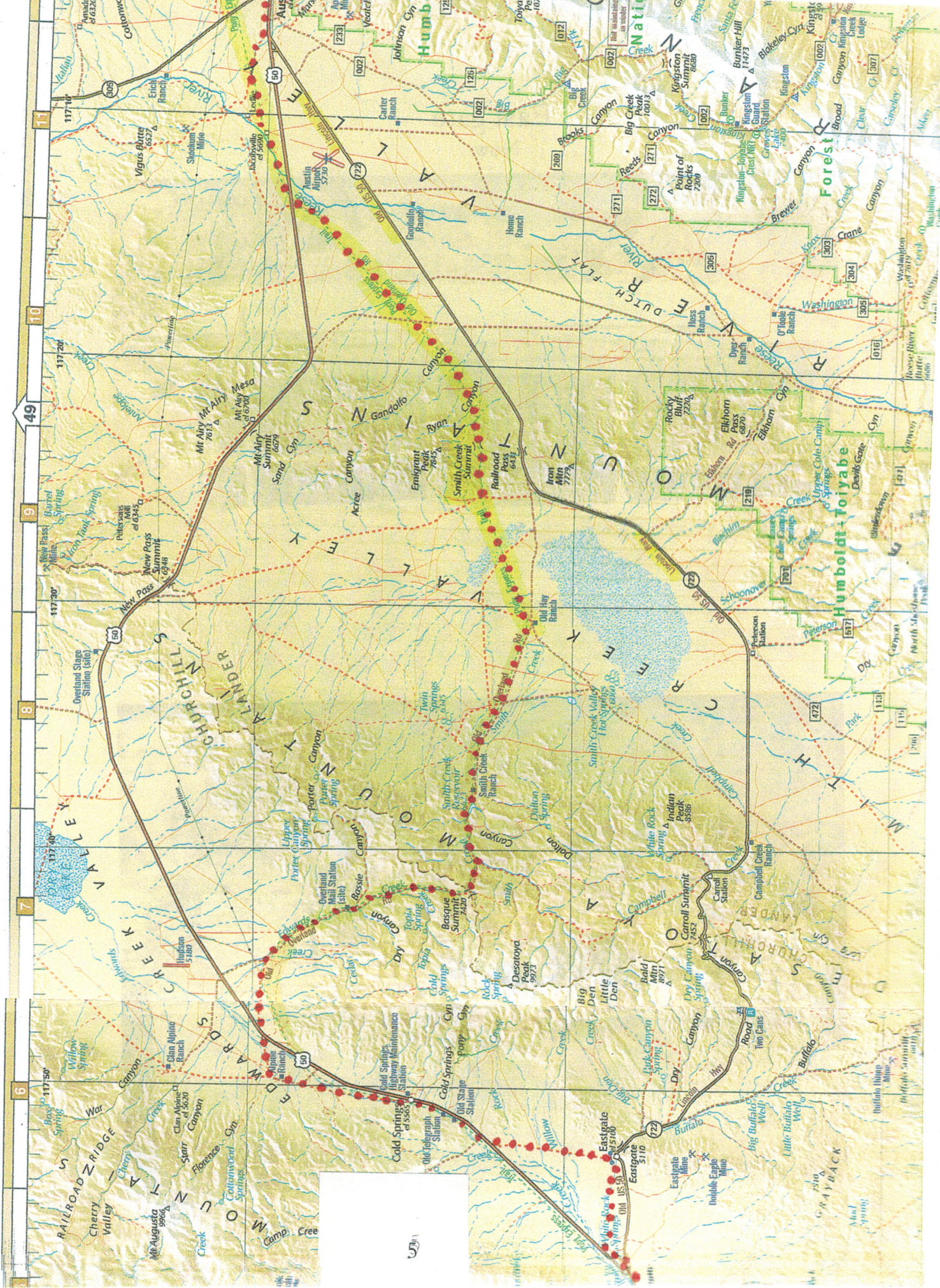
and under instructions from

BVT BRIG. GEN. A. S. JOHNSTON U.S.A.

Comdg. Dept. of Utah.

Drawn by J.P. Meelin.





East gate
Now



East gate

Then



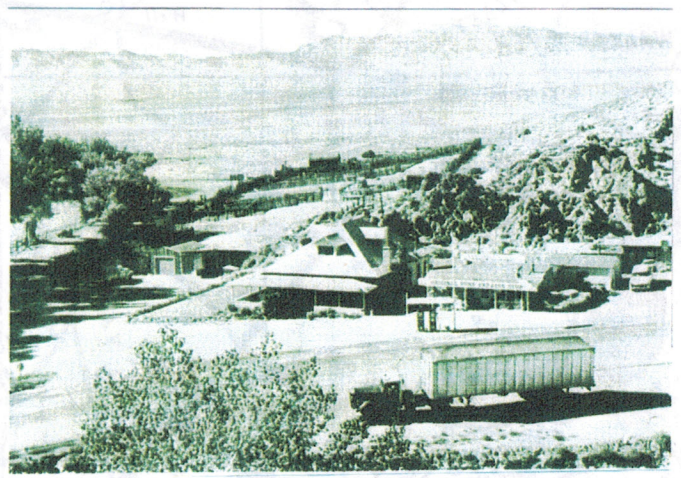
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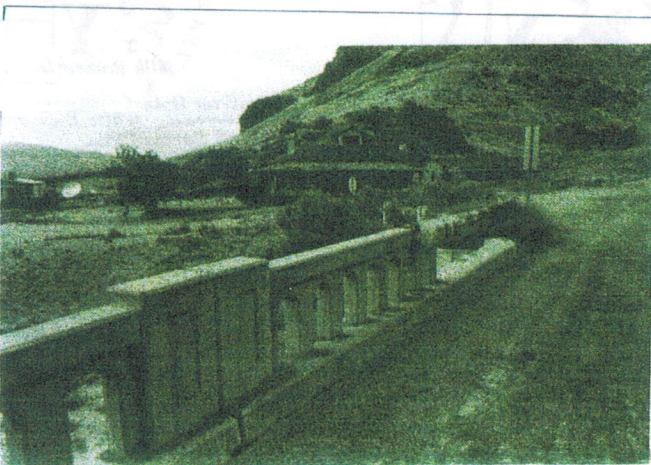
courtesy NDOT



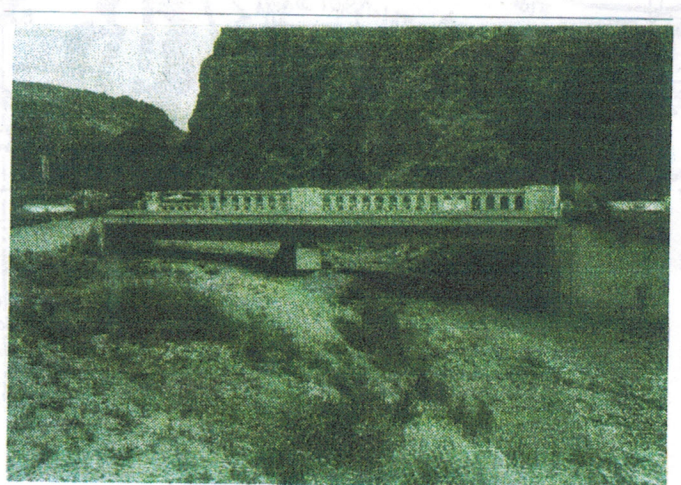
courtesy NDOT



courtesy of Nevada Historical Society



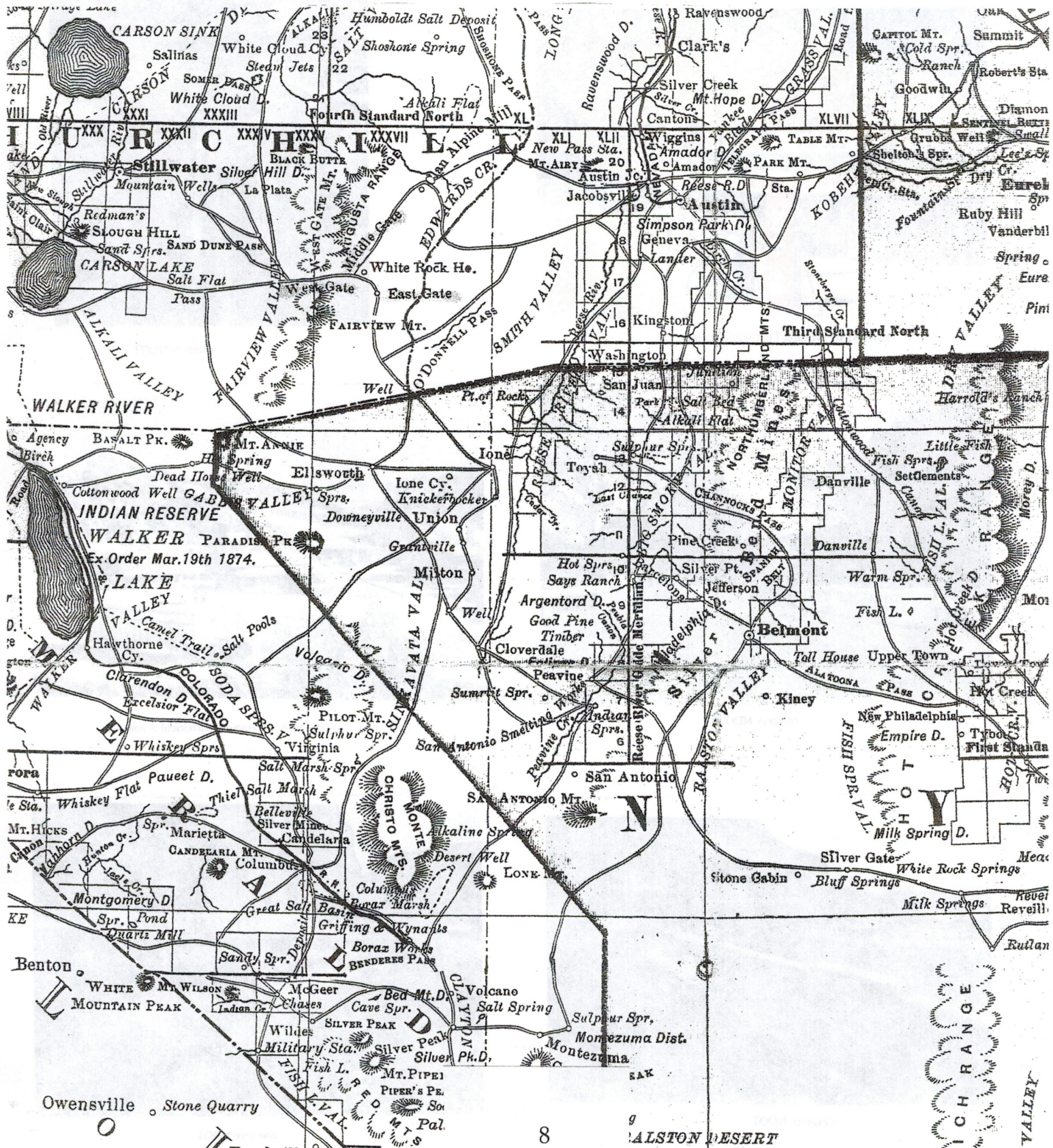
Courtesy NDOT



courtesy NDOT

NEVADA

1881



CHANCE VALLEY

Rand McNally JUNIOR Auto Trails Map CALIFORNIA NEVADA

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	PAVED ROADS
	IMPROVED ROADS
	UNREPORTED OR DIRT ROADS
	MILEAGES

THIS CIRCLE INDICATES TOWNS IN WHICH ARE LOCATED BRANCH OFFICES OF THE BANK OF ITALY.

TRAIL & HIGHWAY MARKINGS

	1 LINCOLN HIGHWAY RED, WHITE, BLUE		4 OLD SPANISH TRAIL RED, WHITE, YEL. BLACK LETTERS		7 NAT'L. OLD TRAILS ROAD RED, WHITE, BLUE		10 BANK-HEAD HIGHWAY YEL. WHITE, YEL. BLACK LETTERS		16 PIKE'S PEAK "O TO O" HIGHWAY RED, WHITE		15 ATLANTIC & PACIFIC HIGHWAY BLACK AND YELLOW
	2 PACIFIC HIGHWAY BLACK ON WHITE		5 MIDLAND TRAIL ORANGE, BLACK, ORANGE		3 VICTORY HIGHWAY METAL SIGN		11 SOUTH-ERN NATL HIGHWAY RED, WHITE, BLUE		14 LEE HIGHWAY BLUE & GRAY		17 NAT'L. PARK TO PARK HIGHWAY BLACK & WHITE
	8 CALIF. BANFF BEE LINE WHITE, BLUE, WHITE BLACK LETTERS		6 EVER-GREEN NAT'L. H.V. GREEN ON WHITE		9 NEW SANTA FE TRAIL BLACK AND WHITE		12 ARROW-HEAD TRAIL BLACK ON WHITE		18 LONE STAR TRAIL BLUE BANDS RED STAR ON WHITE		13 DIXIE OVER-LAND H.V. RED, WHITE, BLUE, YEL.

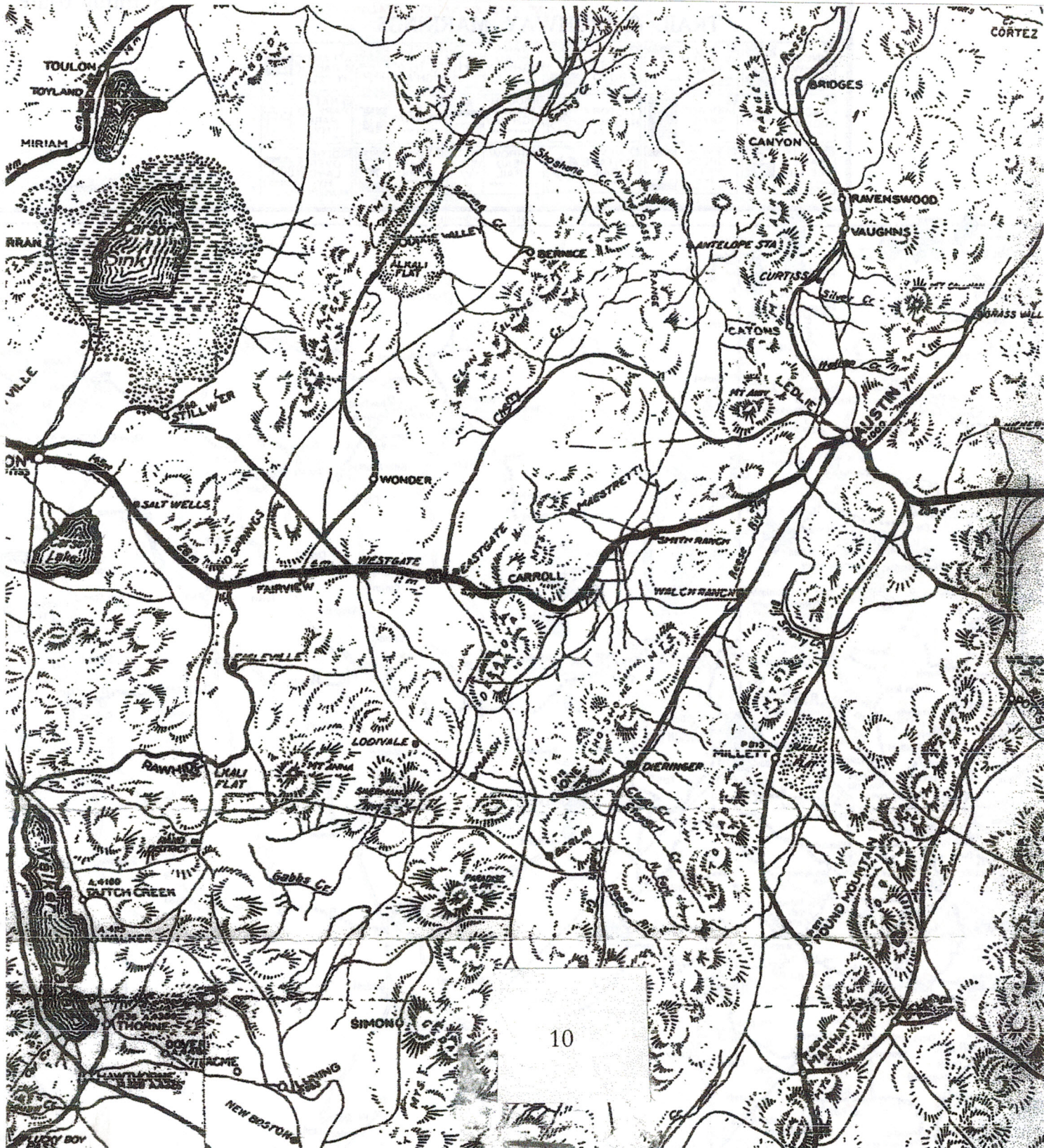


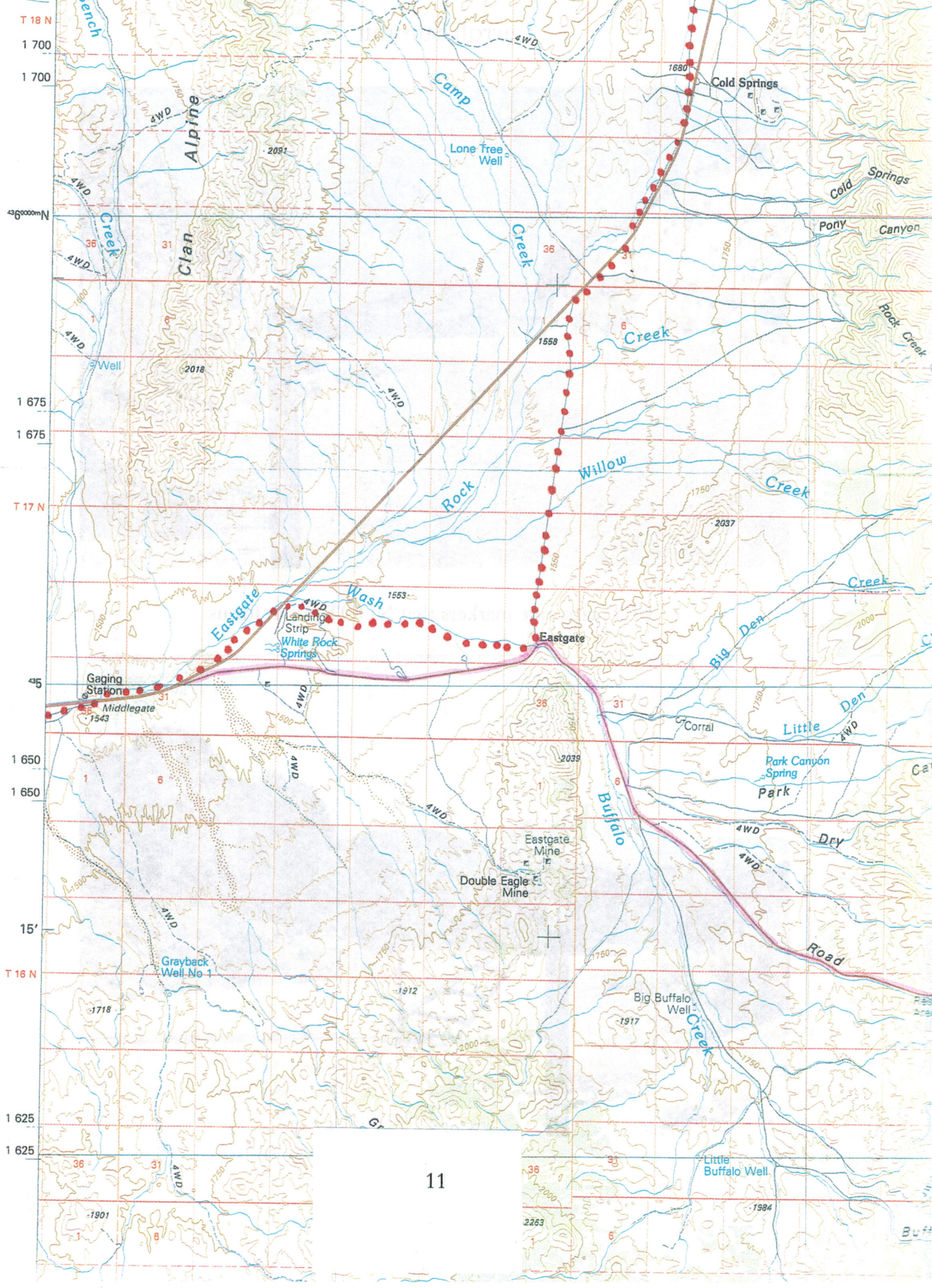
This may be or probably is a 1920 map

This map shows the L.H. still using the new pass route from Austin to Alpine. Notice the improved road on the Carroll Summit route.



RAND McNALLY
OFFICIAL
1922
AUTO TRAILS MAP
DISTRICT No 15-16



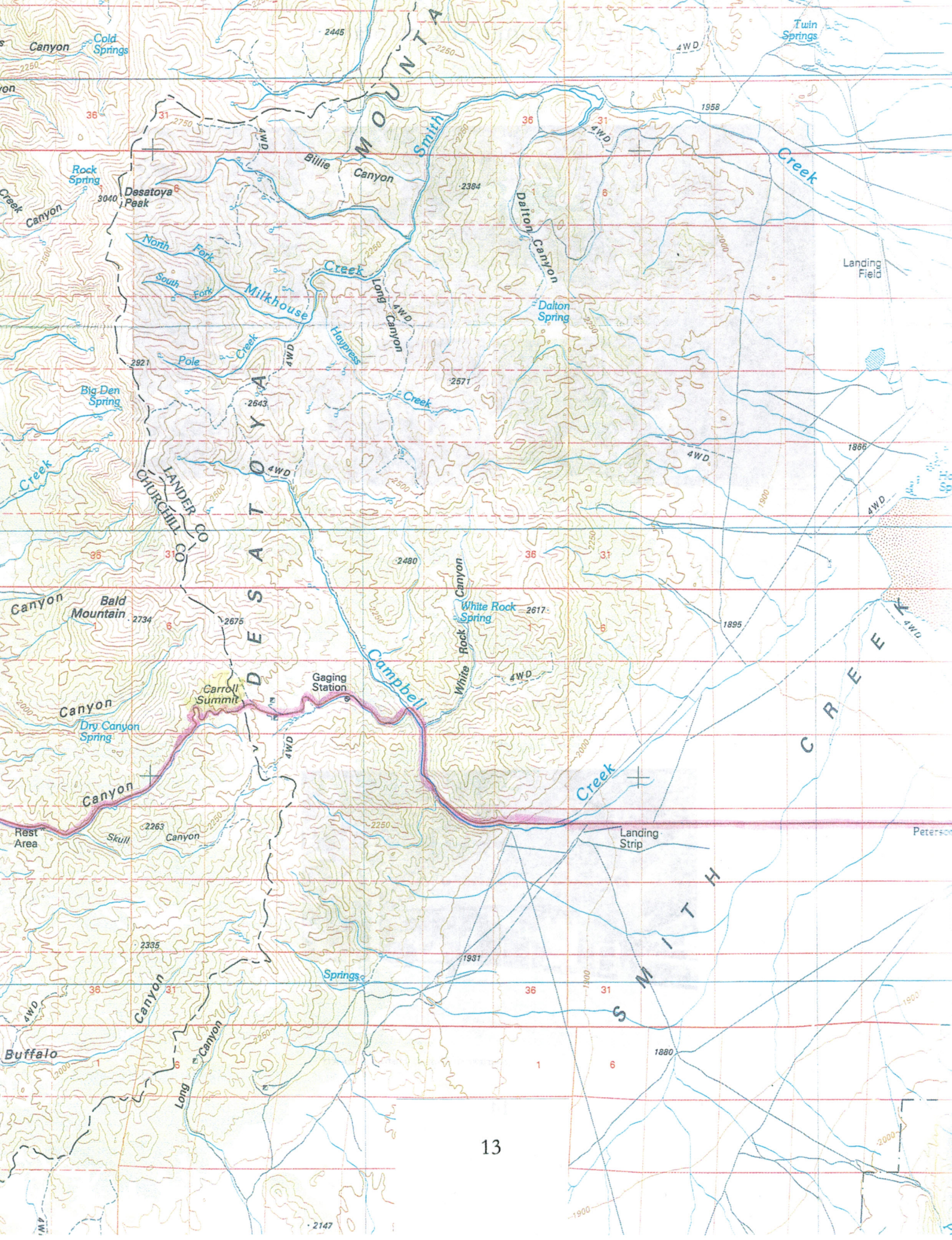


Carroll Summit



BLM carsonite markers that NDOT put in for us.

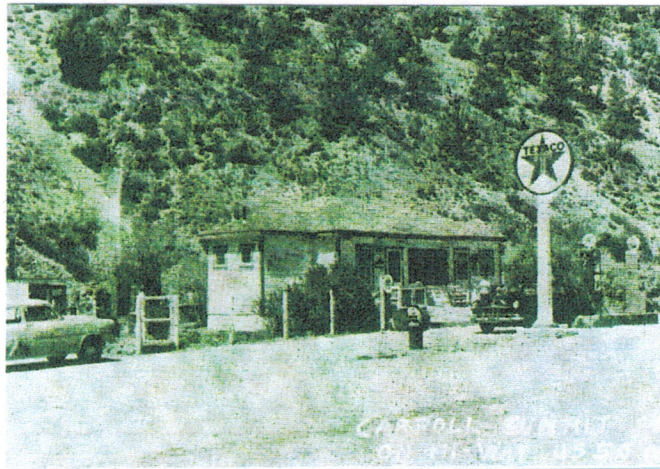




Carroll Summit Texaco Station



Now and then



courtesy of Nevada Historical Society

