

“Notes on Reno and Vicinity”

Autumn 1939...Herb Ringer

Notes on Reno and Vicinity

People sleeping beside road on desert near Winnemucca and dog guarding.
 Negro girl jumps aboard moving train - Limited 5:10 P.M. eastbound.
 Fight in hotel - Jimmy Driscoll and Jimmy Hass.
 Attend Baptist Church, woman faints.
 Three people die from Lethal gas in hotel room in Reno - fumigation.
 Met three people from town northeast of Stroudsburg, Pa on Salt Lake D.
 Met two people from Titusville, Pa in Wells, Nevada, cafe.
 Indian squaw in store with papoose in cradle - board, wicker work.
 Tex Kennedy, drunk in my room, talking, stole Jimmy Driscoll's clothes
 in exchange for debt, J.D. owned Tex. Later threatened to knife
 McC. - Mrs. Ryan relieved him of knife. Wanted me to go with
 him to Mexico - work on engineering project, or on ranch.
 Reno - actually 25 miles west of Los Angeles.
 Ben Wagoner was engineer on a southern railroad in the west.
 Piled up a freight at 65 m.p.h. in Oklahoma, oil cars on the
 train caught fire. Story of how he and friend walked beside
 cattle cars, poking the steers in - cattle had eaten too
 much spring grass - manure in friend's pocket - in plug-tobacco
 Two New Jersey cars in Reno W796M W0502
 Small searchlights send shafts upward in island center of Truckee.
 Fountains send water upward, makes beautiful sight.
 Montgomery Ward Fire - hunting thru debris.
 Mrs Mildred Poole arrives - last week of November.
 Stories about streamliner wreck - saw pictures of it. Poster in
 Reno station offering \$5,000.00 reward for information.
 The 49th a beautiful train, all silver finish, streamlined locomotive, hostess
 aboard. One pullman about two feet higher than normal cars, had
 small windows by upper berths. Car trucks pivoted to vestibules.
 1000 cars passed intersection at 4th street and Alameda in 37 min. on
 Friday evening Nov. 10, 1939 4:00-5:07
 Hundreds of ducks and geese in Idlewild Park. Very tame. Two black
 bears, coyote, fox, badger, 2 buffalo and birds were found in zoo.
 McC. received \$25.00 for representing niece of court clerk of county in
 Carson City.
 Doreateo Arango - real name of Pancho Villa.
 Hobo jumped aboard Pacific Limited at 5:10 eastbound in blinds be-
 hind tender.
 Hobo jungle southwest of hotel along Truckee River. Saw hobos

In the fall of 1939, Herb Ringer traveled west from Ringoes, New Jersey to pursue a divorce in Reno, Nevada.

He stayed at a small boarding house on Virginia Avenue for the next several months. While he was there, Herb recorded his observations...



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Three people die from lethal gas in hotel room in Reno-- fumigation.

Indian squaw in store with papoose in cradle-board, wicker work.’

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camp out here all winter. Girls, too. Cook, wash in the Truckee. Walk from Sparks, Southern Pacific division point. Bearded fellow from Trenton, stayed in hotel awhile. Picked up for attempted gas-station hold-up when he first arrived in Reno. Father has beer tavern near monument in Trenton. Ren told me he saw a Ponderosa Pine in California that cut 3 30 ft. sections and produced 26,000 ft. lumber. Visited Nevada State Prison at Carson City. Saw Cell Blocks, many of the prisoners, the new death house, gas (lethal) chamber and wall where prisoners were originally shot to death. Also the famous imprints of prehistoric animals. Padded "overcoats" for milk cans completely cover the cans. Tex, planned trip to Grass Valley, California in my room, drunk. His uncle, W. B. Kennedy, Narcotic Agent, Staten Island, N.Y. Tex used to run dope (Marijuana) and chinks across border. Lived with Blanch — Fan-Dancer from the Dog-House for awhile, also with Russel — wife while she was in hotel for divorce. Russel, lumberjack, threatened to knife Tex. Girl from New York and fellow from laundry in Reno, in Room 14 fighting, drunk, from 5: P.M. to 12 noon next day. American station - N6CW - in Reno, also am. W6BYR. In 1929 nearly 10,000 coyotes killed for bounty in one western state. California some years ago paid \$5.00 bounty on some 75,000 killed in state. First snow in Reno, Dec. 23, 1939. Mrs. Ryan married three times, rancher, Willows, California, died, butcher in Virginia City, Nevada, died, and Southern Pacific brakeman Sparks, died. Told me of home life as a girl on father's ranch, Willows, California. Thelma Brazil, now girl divorcee arrives with mother and daughter Janet. Martin Whalen, truck-driver and Viola — drunk. Had quart Bonded whiskey, treating everyone. Gave me pack of chewing gum. Viola tries to call taxi company. Too drunk. Montgomery Ward's, opened again, completely redecorated. Mrs. Ryan, Hank and I argue regarding water rights. Hank insisted man who lived near Mt. Rose owned water rights on Government land in Mono National Forest. Jack Kausman went to Frisco with Bill, truck driver. Stranded there. Maxine Rice sent money. Jack took bus to

'Hobo jungle southwest of hotel along the Truckee River. Saw hobos camp out here all winter. Girls too.'

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