



Dear honored guests and adventuress souls!

Whatever route you took to get to Tonopah, outside of your private jet, was a familiar route to the residents and visitors of Tonopah in 1900.... except what took you up to seven hours would take them 4-10 days. They traveled to Tonopah in open air wagons and stage coaches, and slept while moving, stopping to eat and freshen up at various stage stops along the way. Many of those stops are still evident...the corrals, the falling barns and cold storage stone buildings, the wells, the wooden tables and furnishings which were all welcome sights to the weary, but motivated, travelers of the early 1900's. Please accept our appreciation of your pioneer spirit as we welcome all of our weary but motivated travelers! Not everyone musters up the fortitude to get to Tonopah, and we hope you have a rewarding and fun experience during your stay.

The Klondike Gold Rush was a phenomenon of the depression of 1897, and set the stage for the silver rush of 1900 In Tonopah. Massive unemployment, low wages, and national disillusionment enticed men to pack up all their belongings and head north to Alaska and The Yukon for gold...the answer to a life that was otherwise out of their control. They traveled thousands of miles, only to be a day late and a dollar short when the goldfields of Dawson City and surrounds ran out. Over 100,000 people embarked on this dangerous journey, only to be thwarted by mother nature and those who reached the fields first. 30,000 travelers actually made it to their destination and soon realized that the gold they fought so physically and psychologically hard for was unattainable. Many went onto Nome, and many started back south, only to hear of the large silver strike in Nevada by Jim Butler. As remote as Tonopah was, it was a cinch compared to the treacherous Klondike gold rush.

The camp of Butler had 250 people in 1900. Jim Butler discovered a rich vein of silver, which would eventually become the second largest silver producer in the nation. The quality and longevity of the strikes, both gold and silver, got the attention of large investors in New York and around the world, as well as doctors, lawyers, and other professionals. The town grew up from camp status and was named Tonopah in 1905. My Great Uncle came to Tonopah in 1900, owned a bar in Tonopah, spent time in Goldfield, and made his fortune by grubstaking miners. He brought his sister to town, my Grandmother Emma, who served as postmistress in Goldfield, and once he made his fortune, he took her to the bay area where she eventually met and married my grandfather. Tonopah had a significant effect on my life; if it hadn't been so good to my great uncle, I am sure that my grandmother would never have met up with my grandfather, and thus it could be said,

realistically, that without the bounty of Tonopah, I would not exist. This is how we became connected to Tonopah.

The Nevada State Bank and Trust building broke ground in April of 1906, and remains an example of the economic solidarity of early Tonopah. The history of its owners and tenants also tells a story of the precariousness of speculators and dreamers, and the hazards of the boom-and-bust phenomenon of the mining industry. Thomas B. Rickey commissioned the building in 1906 to house his bank, The Nevada State Bank and Trust Co. of which he was president. The architect, G. E. Holesworth, designed this building, and also designed The Mizpah Hotel, The Goldfield Hotel, and The John S. Cook Bank in Rhyolite. It is a neo-classical revival style design, popular in the early 1900's. Mr. Thomas Rickey opened his bank, which enjoyed the space for four months, and then closed due to poor investments. Thomas B. Rickey, president, was eventually charged with embezzlement. It was not until 1922 that the State Bank claims were finally settled. Despite the fraud that took place, the bank space was eventually taken over by Nevada State Bank, and the building tenants moved into the inevitable ebb and flow which represented the boom-and-bust rhythm of the mining industry. The tenants were interesting and varied, with a good representation of attorneys, physicians, surveyors, engineers, dentists, insurance companies, and interesting retail groups which sold candy, hats, clothes, drugs and liquor. The Nevada Club Bar, located on the main floor at the northeast corner of the building, was voted one of the 10 best bars in the United States in 1908. Hugh Brown and Key Pittman were two important figures who had offices in the building. Tonopah became the richest silver producer in the nation, and in 1905 became the county seat of Nye county, as it remains today. The population at its height was 10,000 souls, and nearby Goldfield swelled to 20,000 souls in its heyday in 1908. The first car did not arrive in Tonopah until March 20, 1908.

Tonopah Mining District produced over \$114 million between 1900 and 1920. The town and its buildings were built with permanency in mind, but the economy, labor disputes, and the remoteness of the camp all took their toll. The town, in 1904, received more mail than New York City. Companies, investors, and speculators from all over the world played their hands in Tonopah.... using this building to construct and design major mining deals, major swindles, and major illusions, then would go across the street to The Mizpah and celebrate their good fortune at The Mizpah Bar and Hotel. These two buildings represent the hopes and dreams, the boom and bust, and the tenacity of the human race. Against all odds, this remote place was tamed by those in search of a better life and a brighter future for themselves, their families, and their communities. The preservation of these buildings, the telling of their history, will hopefully remind all of us of the unbounded human capacity for innovation, survival, and belief in a better future.

We hope you enjoy your stay while you are in Tonopah, and hope you can get out to the local mining park or history museum or even Belmont or Goldfield and try to imagine life here in 1906!

Sincerely,
Nancy and Fred Cline