

DESERT DUST

Carlin Historical Society Newsletter - Carlin, Nevada



ABOVE: *This historic photo shows many Carlinites gathered at the Fish Pond. It is unknown why but if you have an idea give us a shout!*

Carlin's Fish Pond

WRITTEN BY ELLA B. TRUJILLO

Many who grew up in Carlin or live here now are familiar with the Fish Pond (also known as the Chinese Gardens). It sits west of town and is fed by water from Mary's Creek which comes down from Mary's Mountain. There are many natural springs in the area and in 1995 it was developed into the Chinese Garden's Nature Study Area. Here is a little history about this Carlin hotspot.

Continue...Carlin's Fish Pond

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Several sources state that because of the Chinese who came in advance of the tracks started growing vegetables in and around Carlin that is was called the "Chinese Gardens". We don't know if this is true but many of us have often wondered what the area was called before the Central Pacific Railroad named it Carlin. But, the Fish Pond wasn't called the Chinese Gardens until it was redeveloped in the 1990's. So, what was it called before?

Larry Bianucci references an "Arthur Pond", recalled by Darlene Bianucci, that lay west of Carlin. She remembered having picnics, wading through troughs, and going ice skating on the pond. The current Fish Pond never freezes but we must remember that it used to get much colder in Carlin. Some who worked at the ice ponds recall it getting 50 degrees below zero! So, our pond could have been Darlene's Arthur Pond.

But! In 1950, the Reno Gazette Journal reported that the Elko County Fish and Game Management Board had decided to

build fish ponds in each county community and stock them with trout. So, did they actually build a pond? If yes, is that the Fish Pond that exists today? We don't think so. We think they just used Arthur's Pond because the Nevada State Journal describes a "Fish Derby" at the "new" pond less than a month after the announcement to create a pond. Do you think that the photo on the first page is a Fishing Derby?

We do have further confirmation that the Fish Pond used to be Arthur's Pond. In 1999, Frances Thiercof describes going to Arthur's (which she stated is now the Chinese Gardens) where the willows provided a little shade in the summer.

Also, it appears that one of the many Springs that give Carlin its water is called Arthur's Spring.

Now we can all wonder who Arthur was and how he got a spring and a pond named after him.

In the end, the Fish Pond is as popular now as it was then!

News and Gossip

Monthly Meeting - 3rd Tuesday
of each month at the Carlin
Museum at 5:30 p.m.

We have pulled out the "historic" green carpet in the Main Gallery of the Museum! We hope to do some work on the wood floors that lay beneath. Check out our progress on our Facebook Page!

We will be posting new blog articles about Carlin history on our website each month! Make sure you check it out!

www.carlinhistoricalsociety.com

