



# Carson City Freeway Landscaped Enhancements

The theme of the Carson City Freeway Enhancement Project is “Carson City’s History in Motion.” This is your guide to the historic vignettes that are presented at each of the gateways and interchanges of the Carson City Freeway/Bypass.



GROW hopes that you enjoy this brief glimpse into our city’s history.

Additional information about each historical vignette can be found on the signs located along the freeway walking/biking path. This information may also be downloaded. Visit [www.Blurb.com/bookstore](http://www.Blurb.com/bookstore) and enter *Mary Fischer Grow* in the search box. Next you will see the book title. Click on this title to advance to the next page where you may obtain a copy of the book, “**GROW - Carson City Freeway Enhancement Phase I**” in a variety of formats ranging from a free e-book, a PDF or a published hard copy.

Information about the history of Carson City is also available at the Nevada State Museum and/or the Nevada State Railroad Museum.

The brochure will be updated when the final phase is completed. Until then, the following historic vignettes, in black, are completed. Those in red are forthcoming. The Phase II portion is being designed and funded by NDOT.

### Ranching @ 5th Street

Ranching has been called “a way of life that is as Nevadan as sagebrush.” The first ranch, Eagle Station, was established in 1851. In 1860, the census counted more than eighty ranchers, farmers and their families living in Eagle Valley, a total 980 people.

### Explorers @ Fairview Drive

In January, 1844, John Charles Fremont led an expedition into this valley at the base of the Sierra Nevada. A few days later, January 24, 1844, Fremont met his first Washoe.

### Basque Sheep Herders @ Koontz Lane

Sheep herding began in the Valley in the mid-1800s. Many Basque came to Nevada for gold, but found that raising sheep to supply wool and meat to the miners was better for them than mining.

### California Overland Trail @ Clearview Drive

The pioneers had a choice once leaving the Humboldt Lake area, to either take the Truckee route or the Carson River route. The Carson route was used by most immigrants in 1849 and 1850.

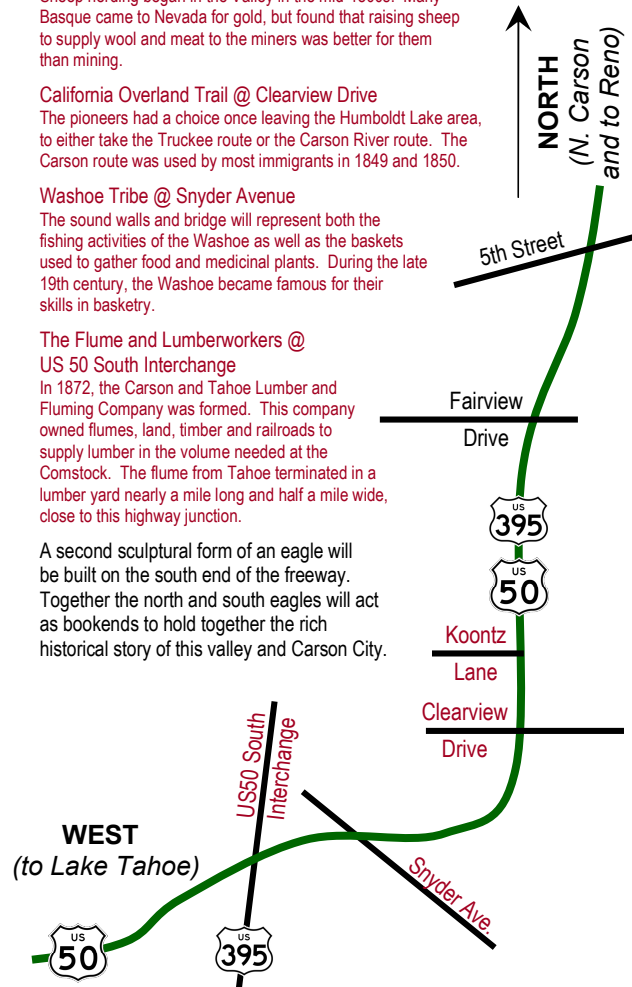
### Washoe Tribe @ Snyder Avenue

The sound walls and bridge will represent both the fishing activities of the Washoe as well as the baskets used to gather food and medicinal plants. During the late 19th century, the Washoe became famous for their skills in basketry.

### The Flume and Lumberworkers @ US 50 South Interchange

In 1872, the Carson and Tahoe Lumber and Fluming Company was formed. This company owned flumes, land, timber and railroads to supply lumber in the volume needed at the Comstock. The flume from Tahoe terminated in a lumber yard nearly a mile long and half a mile wide, close to this highway junction.

A second sculptural form of an eagle will be built on the south end of the freeway. Together the north and south eagles will act as bookends to hold together the rich historical story of this valley and Carson City.



# History of GROW (Gardeners Reclaiming Our Waysides)

GROW was a grass roots organization that began as a cooperative effort of Master Gardener volunteers and concerned citizens of the community in 1997. It obtained its non-profit 501(c) 3 status in July, 1999.

Membership was open to all individuals who subscribed to its purpose.



GROW’s mission was to ensure the establishment of low maintenance, water efficient landscaping on the slopes, interchanges and gateways of the Carson City Freeway using native or naturalized plants.

The result of this mission was to help Carson City to:

- Preserve Carson City’s aesthetic appeal.
- Provide recreational and educational opportunities for Carson City residents and visitors.
- Mediate smog and improve air quality.
- Control erosion.
- Control noxious weed growth.
- Minimize use of toxic chemicals.
- Enhance the image of our state capital as a scenic city that values the quality of life of its citizens.

Through public and private grants and donations GROW obtained the money necessary to fund the landscaping of Phase I of the Carson City Freeway/Bypass. Carson City funded the design, acted as steward of the grant money, and will maintain all vignettes as part of their Park Maintenance program. GROW completed its mission, after fifteen years, in 2012.

Landscaping and Art on Phase II of the Freeway has been designed and funded by Nevada Department of Transportation with the input of GROW and other citizen organizations.

GROW hopes you, your family and future generations will enjoy the landscaped enhancements along the freeway.



### US 395 Business Route

The valley in which Carson City nestles was named Eagle Valley in 1851. Eagle Station was the name given to a trading post in the west side of the valley where Frank Hall shot and killed an eagle, stuffed the bird and mounted it over the entrance to his trading post. The valley took its name from that trading post.



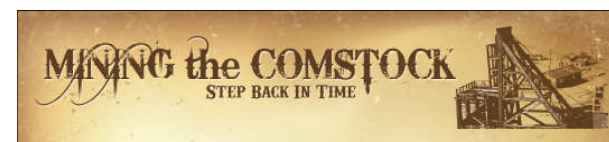
### Northgate Lane (east)

Sam Davis is credited with bringing the first Holstein cows to Nevada. The 640 acre ranch of Sam and Nellie Mighels Davis was known as the Holstein Ranch. It was located near this site.



### Emerson Drive (east) (Ronald Wilson Park)

Two of Carson City's active citizens, Nellie and Sam Davis, their two children, and some of their Holstein cows are depicted in the art at this site. Their history in Carson City, centering on the Carson Daily Appeal newspaper, is outlined at this site.



### E. College Parkway

Virginia City, located about twenty miles to the northeast of Carson City, was the site of one of the world's richest gold and silver discoveries. This Nevada wealth helped fund the Union cause during the American Civil War, develop Carson City and, with the promise of electoral votes for President Lincoln, helped to make Nevada a state on October 31, 1864.



### Northridge Drive

Travelers to Carson City in the 1860s had choices: walk, ride a horse/wagon or take a stagecoach. Hank Monk became legendary as a stagecoach driver when he told Horace Greeley, "Keep your seat. I'll get you there on time." This remark was retold in one of Mark Twain's stories, "Roughing It." James "Hank" Monk is buried in Carson City's Lone Mountain Cemetery.



### Highway 50

The Virginia & Truckee Railroad was a narrow gauge railroad that ran from Carson City to Virginia City and surrounding areas. The southbound engine #11, the "Reno," is depicted on the slope with Chinese workers constructing walls behind it. Notice the deer antlers on the engine's headlight.



### Highway 50

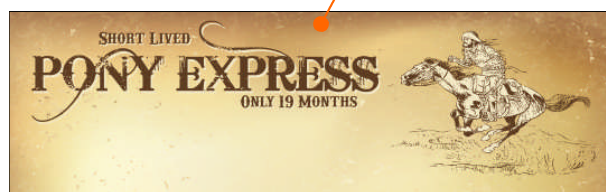
The center of operations for the Virginia & Truckee Railroad in Carson City was the Engine House located near Stewart Street, between Washington and William Streets. It was demolished in 1991. The northbound engine #5, at this location, is the "Carson."

Map continues on other side...



### Arrowhead Drive

In July, 1919, a convoy of numerous U.S. Army trucks and support vehicles left Washington, D.C. for San Francisco, California. The goal was to identify highway improvements needed to move traffic across the United States. Lt. Colonel Dwight D. Eisenhower was an observer and later made the Interstate Highway System a keystone of his presidency (1953-1961).



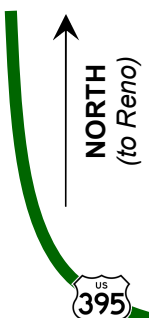
### Northgate Lane & Emerson Drive (west)

The Pony Express was only in operation for 19 months. It began in 1860 and demonstrated that year round transcontinental mail service was feasible. A historical marker is located on the northwest corner of Third and Carson Streets.

Indicates sign locations.

GROW secured the funding for Phase I.

GROW is grateful to the many individuals, businesses, clubs and government entities that helped make the freeway beautification project a reality. It could not have happened without community support. Photography by Mary Fischer.



Business Route  
US 395

Arrowhead Drive

Northgate Lane

Emerson Drive

US 395

E. College Parkway

Northridge Drive

US Hwy 50 East

US 395  
US 50