



Hall of
Battle Mountain # 23-
F. O. M. - 1911 -

BATTLE MOUNTAIN NEV.





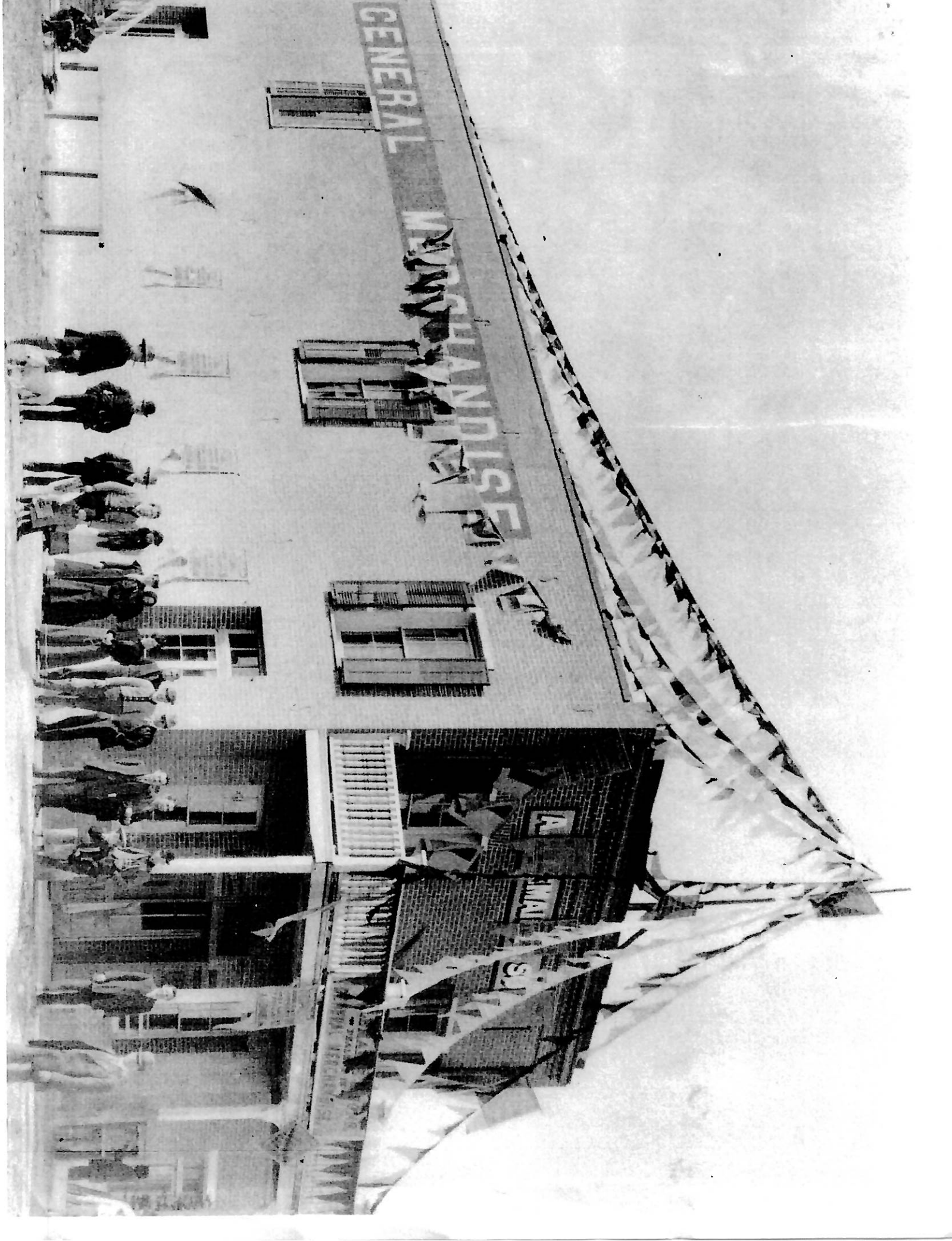
HAMILTON, BR...
SHOES

MEN'S FUND

A.D. LEMAIRE & SONS
DEALERS IN
GENERAL MERCHANDISE

A.D. LEMAIRE & SONS







Battle Mountain, Nev.

April 26, 1898

#13
In 1878, the two-story brick building in which we now hold our meetings was erected by Bro. J. W. McWilliams.

In March 1879, Bro. McWilliams, a member of Humboldt Lodge No. 16 suggested to Bro. A. D. Lemaire also a member of that same lodge, that there now being a hall in the town, it would be a good time to institute a lodge of Odd Fellows. With that object in view the two brothers withdrew from Humboldt Lodge, and with Robert McBeth, Frank Northway, Joseph Bachelder and P. T. Macrow, members who withdrew from their lodges to aid in instituting one here, assembled in McWilliams Hall, where D. D. G. M. Wm Blackstock, assisted by G. R. Walker P G, as Grand Warden, A Kleinhans P G, as Grand Secty, G. A. Krenkle P G, as Grand Treasurer, J. E. Sabine P G R, as Grand Marshall and D. Melarky P G, as Grand Guardian instituted Battle Mountain ~~ME~~ Lodge No 31 I.O.O.F. Election being held, the following officers were elected: A. D. Lemaire, N G; J. W. McWilliam V G; Robert McBeth, Secty and P. T. Macrow, Treas. Bro Northway was appointed Warden, and Bro. Pachelder was appointed Inside Guardian.

The first candidate was Sam Mozingo, whose application was received, referred to a Committee for investigation, balloted upon, and he given the five degrees of Odd Fellowship & all the same evening of the institution of the lodge, the necessary dispensation having been granted by the Grand Master, W. H. Davenport. The degrees were conferred by the brothers

Galena. Well, these mines were quite productive, and actually, Battle Mountain became the railhead for the southern part of Lander County. Austin was also quite productive at that time.

There were freight lines that were used to bring in supplies and take out supplies and bring in mineral wealth, and so forth, not only in these two large mines, but also from the county seat end of the county. So Grandfather did real well. He was a very thrifty Frenchman and he saved his money.

Directly across the street from Grandfather's store was a fellow by the name of E. B. Williamson, who built quite a large two-story structure. It also was built out of adobe brick, kiln-dried adobe brick. I don't know whether he became ill or whether he wanted to retire or what happened, but anyway, he sold that property to Grandfather Lemaire. Grandfather Lemaire developed quite a large mercantile business on the ground floor and he had some living quarters up above the store. Right adjoining (I think he built that later on), to the north and west of the main structure there, he built additions. That's where they had their living quarters, as their dining area was concerned. But they all slept upstairs in this big two-story adobe brick building.

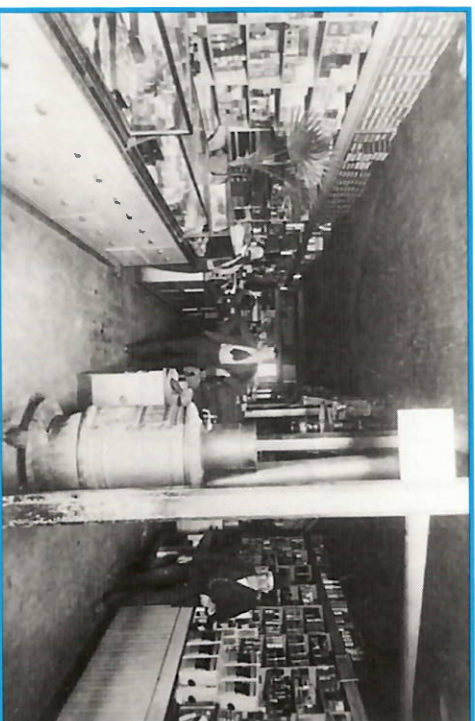
To the rear of this ground floor store section he had a vault, and in this vault, he kept money for a lot of the ranchers and miners. And that became sort of a depository or a place of safe-keeping for their valuables. As I said before, he built up quite a mercantile business. In fact, you could



The Lemaire children, c. 1885. Standing, left to right: Louis and Augustus; seated, left to right: Adele, Henry, and Ernest. (Photo courtesy of Gail Altenburg Trounaday)

for their trains to continue on the route, and both women were known for their hotel hospitality. Obviously, both were exceptional businesswomen as they both were primarily responsible for the management of their hotels. Lorenzo Dow Huntsman often wandered off in pursuit of other adventures, leading Nancy to file for divorce in 1884.

Establishing the Town, 1869-1880



The interior of the Lemaire store around 1900. A.D. Lemaire is on the right. (Photo courtesy of the Battle Mountain Museum)

Adam Altenburg was murdered in 1885, leaving Margaret, who could neither read nor write, to run the hotel. Both women successfully managed these businesses for the next 30 years.

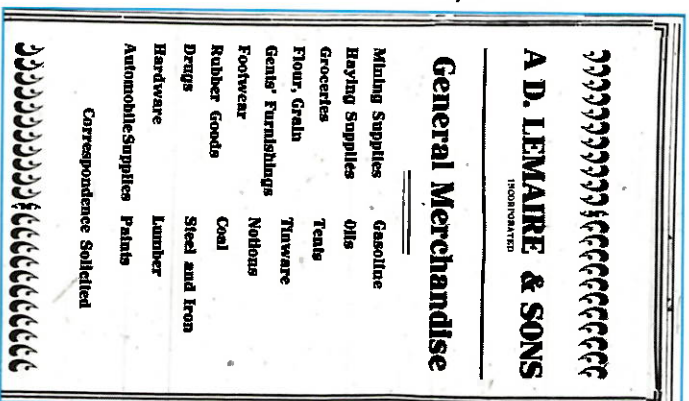
Adam and Margaret Finnegan Altenburg arrived in Battle Mountain with the migration from Argentina. Thirty-year-old Adam was a shoemaker, and Margaret, a native of Ireland, was about 10 years younger than her husband. With them came three children under the age of 6; two more were born in Battle Mountain. Their oldest daughter, Mary, married George Hinman in 1883; they and their son, George Hinman, Jr., later operated the town's meat market. In 1889, the widowed Margaret married a local miner named William Morgan, but she retained control of the hotel until she turned it over to her youngest son, Frederick, and his wife Estella Weaver, also a Battle Mountain native. The Altenburgs maintained control of the hotel, ushering it through many changes, for almost nine decades.

the corner of Reese and Front, Esteban and Petra Mendive's Cash Store in the center of the block on Front between Reese and Broad, and A.D. Lemaire and Sons on the corner of Front and Broad Streets. But the hundreds of people in surrounding camps and ranches provided a strong customer base.

These stores provided residents and visitors access to a wide variety of goods. In 1918, Mendive's Cash Store advertised the sale of

"everything to eat and wear," where the cost of a

house dress began at \$1.25; talcum powder was 15 cents, a necktie was 25 cents, and machine oil was 15 cents. With a miner's wage continuing to hover around \$5 a day when times were good, these prices were not all that low. Battle Mountain residents knew all about the latest fashions in both equipment and clothing as *The Central Nevada*, and later the *Battle Mountain Scout*, advertised San Francisco and Chicago businesses that sold farm implements and also hats, dresses, and genteel attire. With the advent of a women's page in 1901, *The Central Nevada* printed vivid details about the most current attire for both women and men. In 1910, A.D. Lemaire & Sons proudly advertised that the store had just received "a full and complete line of Gents' Furnishing Goods, including underwear, negligee and Golf Shirts, Golf Coats, Neckwear, Hosiery, Etc."



Battle Mountain Scout, 1914

Battle Mountain may have been geographically isolated, but its residents could be as well-dressed as anyone in the country.

One of the Lemaire sons, Louis A. Lemaire later reminisced about the operation of the A.D. Lemaire and Sons store in the early years of the twentieth century.

Name it and we had it—barbed wire, blasting powder, sheep shears, hay, grain, rope, harness, drill steel, ladies' panties, red flannel undershirts, coal-oil lamps, buggy whips, thread and yardage, lace valentines; and of course, groceries and drugs.... Some of our biggest sellers ... couldn't be sold today...dried apples—usually wormy; dried cherries and blackberries and crackers, all in open barrels. Molasses and vinegar and coal oil came in barrels, too, and had to be measured out at time of sale. Jelly and candy [were] packed in wooden tubs and buckets. Dried codfish came tied in bundles that looked like kindling wood and tasted about the same. Coffee was sold "green" to be roasted and ground by the individual purchaser.

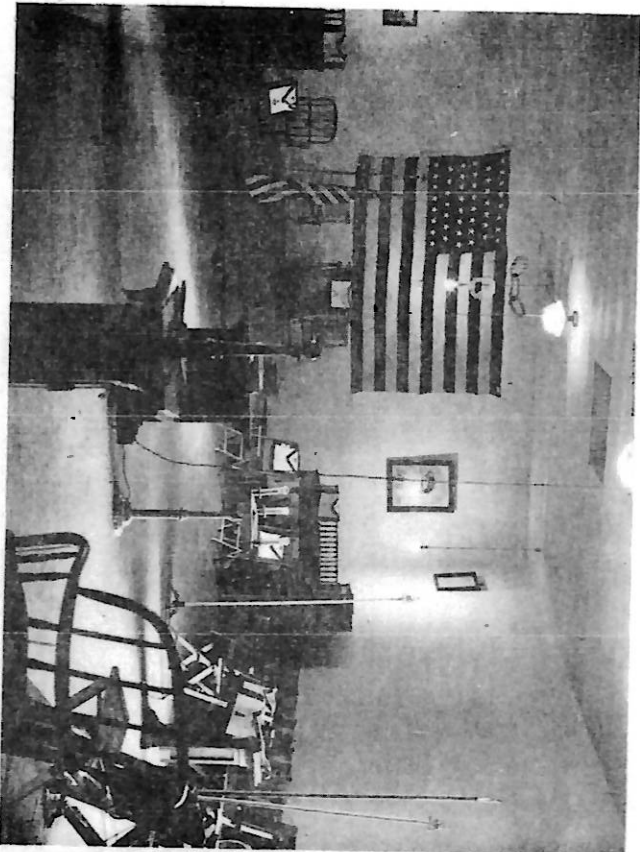
Whiskey was also sold in bulk and stored in oak barrels in the basement. At the foot of the stairs would be the cheap whiskey, which got progressively better until the far end where was kept the barrel of "the highgrade stuff." Lemaire explained that "when a man paid his bill that had been running several months, we invited him down to the basement for a drink—but we always tried to work it so these free drinks came out of the first barrel."

During this period, A.D. Lemaire and Sons also operated other businesses, such as a soda manufacturing plant. By contrast, the number of Blossom businesses had been reduced to Robert Blossom's livery stable, and before 1920, the Blossom brothers had left Battle Mountain for good. James died during the Spanish flu epidemic, and Robert married and moved to California.

Other Battle Mountain businesses included the

and prosperity of that section of Nevada through which the rails of the Southern Pacific and Central Pacific railroads would wend their way.

With the passing of the railroad through the extreme northern part of Lander county, Nevada, such a settlement was established in the summer of 1857, where the town of Battle Mountain now stands. There was nothing spectacular in the making of this settlement



Hall of Battle Mountain Lodge No. 23, F. & A. M., Battle Mountain, Nevada

when the rails were laid through the district; one or two farms had already been located in the neighborhood and were being tilled. When the railroad reached that point and its advantageous location for a possible distributing station was seen, a small freight house was erected, though it was but little past shanty proportions, and the road continued its eastern advance. In time this little way station, then unchristened, was joined by a companion shanty built in the vicinity, and later yet another larger structure appeared across the way, and the nucleus of a new town was formed. Thus was that isolated hamlet, later named Battle Mountain when it had assumed greater proportions, born; to become in time an oasis set in the midst

Book

History of Masonry in Nevada

of the desert, a place of irrigated land, trees and grass, and peaceful homes with substantial stores and rural enterprises.

Legend

The early history of the district involves the presence of a tribe of Indians who lived along the banks of the Humboldt river just over the adjacent mountains, but whose hunting grounds were in the section where the town is now located. There is a tradition that discord and inharmony developed among the members of this tribe, and that they gathered for a "pow-wow" in the center of the valley around which the range of mountains known as the Battle Mountain range almost circles. The pow-wow lasted for many days, but the strife among the factions could not be appeased, and tribal war was declared, the factions retiring to opposite sides of the valley, one to find shelter among the rocks and crags of the mountains, the other to hide in a cave high up among the ledges of a mountain directly across the valley. From these points of vantage they would venture forth to meet upon a battleground in the valley, and by force of arms or cunning and conniving, endeavor to satisfy their honor. And so, it is said that their forces became depleted and but a remnant of their former number remained.

The climax was reached when the Indians who occupied their retreat among the rocks and crags, stole away from their mountain fastness one night, climbed to the cave in which the other faction was immured, built an immense fire at the mouth of the cave, and virtually roasted the other faction out, for they are said to have mysteriously disappeared. Whether they escaped by some other egress or retreated to distant parts of the cave and were overcome by heat and smoke and perished, is not determined. Sites are still found in the mountains where the reposes of the Red Man once stood, and the charred remnants of old council fires are unearthed even today, and at times flint arrows and spear heads are found where once raged a mighty tribal war and where the toll of battle almost exterminated a once powerful tribe, and where the legends born of daring deeds of that combat are still recited to the descendants of the victorious tribe, legends which are interwoven into the exciting history of the early days of Nevada, and have found lodgment in the story of Battle Mountain.

However, Battle Mountain did not acquire its name by reason of this tribal strife, but is said to have received its christening through



+ [Intro](#)

+ [Chapter I: Carson #1](#)

+ [Chapter II: Washoe #2](#)

+ [Chapter III: Virginia City](#)

+ [Chapter IV: Esmerelda #6](#)

× [Chapter V: Lander #8 & Austin #10](#)

CHAPTER V LANDER LODGE NO. 8 AND AUSTIN NO. 10

Cradled in the heart of the mountains, the secret of its silver hoard guarded throughout untold ages, the district now embraced in the confines of Lander and Eureka Counties, remained virgin territory long after the rumble of the prairie schooner disturbed the primeval quiet of the western plains, and the ceaseless trek of gold mad men and women, moved toward the land of the setting sun, in search of fortune. Romantic and glamorous is the pageant that crossed the pages of history during the mad rush of the early sixties to the silver bearing hills and mountains, and the rich gold fields of Nevada. Tales of undreamed wealth had stirred the pulses and fired the imagination of the adventurous in the states East of the Mississippi; the gold rush of '49 had opened up new trails leading westward from the "Father of Waters" and, out over the rolling prairies, and winding over rugged mountains, and through tortuous canyons, came the hurrying throngs in search of fortune. Eager to reach the gold fields of California, impatient to pan her limpid streams reported rich in alluvial sands, the gold mad throngs passed by other treasure troves, compared to which the golden flow from California's streams proved negligible, for Comstock, Aurora, Austin, Eureka, Treasure Hill, and in later years Tonopah and Goldfield yielded the secret of their unbelievable wealth, and their rich ores, not only enriched the coffers of their promoters, but helped to stabilize the credit of our war torn nation. As might be supposed, many Masons were flung into this maelstrom of humanity, and with the settling of the tide found themselves in the midst of the excitement of some newly discovered mining camp. It was so in the newly established camp of Austin, where were found the high and the low, the rich and the poor, the cultured and the ignorant, the chaste and the uncouth. Local conditions in all of Nevada's mining camps during those years were largely the same, where at first the rougher element held sway. So mixed was the flow of humanity from the East that all grades and conditions of mankind were spewed upon the ground, and lawlessness, licentiousness, murder and arson were the order of the day. Into such an environment Masonry in the Austin district was born, for it was found soon after the camp was developed, that Masons from every section of the States had foregathered here, who with the passage of time, knew one another after the fashion of the craft. If you have followed the history of our early mining camps in Nevada, you have observed that in almost every instance Masonry followed quickly in the wake of such newly settled districts, and almost invariably its progress in these camps was practically the same. First a Masonic Association; then formation under dispensation; then the chartered lodge; its infantile struggles; ultimate financial establishment; numerical progress; the acquiral of its own lodge building; then disaster, usually in the shape of fire; then recovery, and finally partial or total dissolution, due to exhaustion of mineral supply in the districts in which these lodges were established. Not in every instance has this been the case, but in the main, the process of



looking substantial stores, one or two boarding houses and a hotel to care for transient trade. Here and there slightly homes appeared on other streets, trees were set out, gardens were planted, while the tinkle of a tiny bell called the children of the community to foregather at a neat and comfortably equipped schoolhouse - and Battle Mountain was on its way. "Time marches on" and in its passing, changes came to the little settlement which numbered less than a dozen people in 1859. By 1876 - the "Centennial Year" - it boasted of some 200 inhabitants, several stores catered to the community's needs, and a newspaper owned by Mark W. Musgrove, which he moved over from Ward, Nevada and edited under the name, "The Battle Mountain Messenger," chronicled the happenings of the community and published the news of the day. In the meantime, among the residents of the town and district who had settled there during the passing years, were members of the Masonic fraternity who were eventually drawn together by the invisible ties of brotherhood; at first there were but one or two known to live in the town but, as time marched on, others came and the urge to meet on a common level and enjoy Masonic contact in a legalized home of their own, impelled R. McBeth, Omar B. Vincent, D. A. Dunlap, Fred Dunn, A. R. Hastings and a few others to assemble in the latter part of March, 1881, to discuss plans for the organization of a Masonic lodge in the town. This meeting is said to have been held in what was then the John W. Williams building, but later acquired by A. D. Lemaire, and was called to order by F. W. Dunn, who was made chairman of the meeting, and D. A. Dunlap was appointed secretary. The next order of business was to select a name for the new organization. Four names were proposed: Battle Mountain Lodge, Eureka Lodge, Enterprise Lodge, and Capital Lodge, the first of which, Battle Mountain Lodge, being the unanimous choice of the brethren, who then proceeded to draft, sign and address a petition to DeWitt C. McKinney, Grand Master of Masons of Nevada, asking permission to open a Masonic lodge under dispensation in Battle Mountain. At the suggestion of David A. Dunlap, the by-laws of Crockett Lodge No. 139 of California were adopted and converted to the use of the proposed new lodge. At the next called meeting of the brethren held on April 8, 1881, the aprons worn by the members and officers were presented as gifts from Mrs. F. W. Dunn and Mrs. David A. Dunlap. It is of interest to note that these aprons were used by the lodge until the more elaborate aprons acquired from the defunct Masonic lodge, No. 14 of Austin, Nevada, came into possession of Battle Mountain Lodge No. 23. Prompt action was given to the prayer of the petition of the brethren at Battle Mountain; in the proceedings of the Grand Lodge, held in Virginia City in June, 1881, is found the following: "April 11, 1881, issued a dispensation for a lodge to be holden in Battle Mountain, to be known and hailed as Battle Mountain Lodge Under Dispensation, By-laws and records of the lodge accompanied with a petition in regular form and with the usual fee, praying for a charter to perpetuate Said lodge. Signed: Jno. D. Hammond, Grand Secretary." Also another memo which reads: "On April 11th, I granted a dispensation to a constitutional number of brethren to open and hold a lodge of Free and Accepted Master Masons at Battle Mountain, and instructed the worshipful master of that lodge that it was not necessary to install the officers of a lodge Under Dispensation, Signed: DeWitt C. McKinney, Grand Master." In the meantime, a hall on the second floor of the August Desire Lemaire building, a two story structure located in the heart of the business district of the town, and admirably suited to the requirements and needs of a fraternal organization, had been secured by the housing committee for a future meeting place of the new Masonic unit, and with slight alterations and the installing of necessary lodge furniture, was pronounced ready for the brethren to occupy. In due time the brethren received the coveted dispensation, and a new lodge came into existence in the Nevada jurisdiction, a unit of Masonry destined to develop into a strong and prominent factor in fraternal circles, and to give to the order men of outstanding mental, moral, social and fraternal qualifications. During the next two months the lodge was busy clearing the Trestle Board of accumulated work, and several new members were added to its roster. At the communication of the Grand Lodge held in Virginia City in June application was made for a charter, reference to which is made in the Journal of proceedings for 1881, as follow: "The records and books thus far used by Battle Mountain Lodge are in a fine condition and neatly written. Its membership is small, but for the length of time it has been in existence, less than two months, an unusual amount of work has been done; this is not always a good sign of prosperity, for in the desire for membership, some bad material may creep into the lodge, against which we caution them. "We recommend doing away with the 'Book of Rules' adopted by the lodge and we offer in conclusion the following: "RESOLVED, That a Charter be granted Battle Mountain Lodge, and it be numbered Twenty Three, under the Jurisdiction of Nevada." Signed: William McMillian, Henry M. Jewett, Alexander Wise. Committee on Charters. Pursuant to this resolution, a charter dated June 15, 1881, was issued to the following officers and members of the new lodge: Omar B. Vincent, worshipful master; Frederick W. Dunn, senior warden; Alvin B. Hastings, junior warden; Louis M. Pugh, treasurer; Jacob Gerrito, secretary; David A. Dunlap, senior deacon; John M. Brush, tyler. And the following Master Masons: Jos. A. Been, Robert McBeth, Edw. Palmer Lovejoy, Edward T. George, Jno. P. Meder, C. W. Hinchcliffe, Thomas Nelson; also, Daniel W. Willis, a Fellowcraft who, with the exception of Jacob Gerrito, signed the constitution and By-Laws in the order named. Just why Brother Gerrito who, as indicated was elected secretary of the lodge, failed to sign the record is not known, but it appears that his term of office was of short duration, for on September 9, 1882, Brother August Desire Lemaire, (father of Louis A. Lemaire, later becoming Senior Grand Warden of the Grand Lodge of Nevada), was raised in Battle Mountain Lodge, and became secretary of the lodge almost immediately. He held this position for several years, serving with credit and honor the institution he loved, and to which and for which he devoted his time, financial support, and both mental and physical efforts to enable the lodge to carry on, and it may be said that to the untiring efforts of Brother Lemaire his lodge became a strong unit in Masonic circles. However, in justice to those who served with this outstanding member of Battle Mountain lodge, there was unity among the entire membership; all joined to make their lodge a forceful factor in the community, there were no drones among the membership, and the course of the lodge was onward and forward. The jewels and officers aprons and gavels of the Master, Senior and junior Wardens, were at one time used and owned by Austin Lodge No. 10 of Austin, Nevada, before it surrendered its charter in 1871. The jewels were made from silver, mined, milled and smelted in Austin, and were donated to the lodge by various members of that lodge when it was organized, and were engraved with the name and number of that lodge, also with the name and the member donating the jewel. The gavels were made from native mountain mahogany grown and found on the slope of the mountain from which the silver used in the manufacture of the jewels was mined. The candle holders used in a triangular form within the lodge are unique, and are ingeniously made, embodying the use of an old fashioned pie pan for a base, on which is firmly soldered a trumpet shaped stem about thirty inches tall, topped with a disc which holds the candle. There are three of these holders, all painted black; they were made in Battle Mountain by Frank Weitman, a local tinsmith in 1881, and cost two dollars. The aprons worn by the lodge officers are elaborate creations of blue velvet, tied by blue silken cords, with the station emblems worked in gilt braid, indicating that in selecting its lodge regalia, the brethren of Austin lodge No. 10 had secured the latest and best made in the market at that period. As an indication of the standing of the

brethren who belonged to Battle Mountain lodge in its early history, one needs only to refer to its roster to note their outstanding merit. Glancing over the old record, we find the name of Charles Warren Hinchcliffe, who was raised in the lodge May 10, 1881, and who for some years continued to be an outstanding member of the lodge; upon his entry into the Grand Lodge of Nevada, his love for Masonry, his remarkable capabilities and his fitness to serve, marked him for advancement and resulted in his election as Grand Master of Masons of Nevada for the year 1889-1890. Among the charter members of Battle Mountain Lodge we find the name of Omar B. Vincent, well known in the district for his fine community spirit, his pleasing personality and the esteem in which he was held by all who knew him. He was a trusted employee of the railroad, an accountant of rare ability whose records and accounts were most beautifully and neatly kept and the envy of all who saw them. His zeal for Masonry and his interest and effort in organizing a Masonic unit in Battle Mountain, led to his unanimous selection as first master of the new lodge under dispensation. Another member of the lodge who was esteemed not only by his lodge brethren but by the community at large was David A. Dunlap, the first appointed Senior Deacon; Brother Dunlap was a tireless worker in the order, and for a long period of years held his membership in the lodge of his adoption. Later he removed to Lovelock and demitted from Battle Mountain lodge; eventually he moved from Nevada to Idaho and was elected sheriff while maintaining his residence in Nampa. The business, political, civic, community and fraternal life of Louis A. Lemaire has been unusually interesting; his life has been colorful and his many activities instrumental in bringing to him prestige and favor from his colleagues and associates. The son and in later years a business associate of his father, the late Auguste D. Lemaire, by application and concentration absorbed many of the unusual business traits and principles of his father, and with his brother Henry continued to carry on the many enterprises left when the elder Lemaire passed away. Brother Lemaire is not only a shrewd and successful business man, but is also a student as well. He is probably one of the best posted men in Nevada on Indian chronology, customs and habits, and is an enthusiastic collector of Indian antiques and mementoes, his collection of pottery, arrow and spear heads and woven willow baskets would excite the Envy as well as the admiration of any collector. He is familiar with the language of the tribes, especially those who lived in Battle Mountain district, and possesses a fund of legend and tradition connected with the Red men who once roamed the hills and valley around the northern part of Lander county. The writer is indebted to Brother Lemaire for the Indian tradition referred to in this article. Brother Lemaire has served Lander county both as state senator and assemblyman, in which offices he gave a good account of his stewardship. He also served as county commissioner for several terms. His fraternal activities not only include a long and progressive membership in Battle Mountain Lodge No. 23, F. & A. M., of which he is past master, but he has also served the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Nevada, as Senior Grand Warden, and would have doubtless been advanced to preside as Grand Master of Nevada Masons, had not health and business prevented him from accepting this honorable and coveted position. He has, however, served the Grand Lodge, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, as Grand Master, having been elected to that office in 1901. Well known in the commercial, industrial and political activities of Nevada, is N. H. Getchell, who for years has been a member of Battle Mountain Lodge No. 23, and who has successfully served Lander county as state senator. A younger, but by no means less known member of Battle Mountain Lodge is George P. Coleman, whose meteoric advancement in Masonry has brought honor and credit to him, and honor to the lodge of which he has always been a valued member. In 1934 he first joined the Grand Lodge official staff as an appointee to the office of Worshipful Grand Pursuivant. In 1936 he became Worshipful Grand Deacon. The death of Right Worshipful Deputy Grand Master Frank E. Murphy on April 21, 1939, created a vacancy in that office, and at the annual communication of the Grand Lodge of Nevada the following year, Brother Coleman was elected to that chair, and in June, 1940, at the Communication of the Grand Lodge held in Virginia City, Brother Coleman was unanimously elected Grand Master. Always an ardent and conscientious worker in Masonic ranks, Brother Coleman has already given evidence that he will continue his good work, and that his administration as Grand Master will not only add fresh laurels to his record but will bring honor to our order, and peace and harmony to the brethren. And so, for more than half a century Battle Mountain lodge has continued to carry on; some of the years have been lean, some of them have been prosperous and full; but, whether the years were full and the lodge prosperous, or whether the years were lean and reflected both numerical and financial loss, yet the fine spirit of loyalty and devotion of the brethren has never wavered, their courage has never faltered and they have continued to function, maintaining and promoting an active and progressive unit of Nevada Masonry.