

NEVADA HIGHWAYS AND PARKS



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The upper view on this page shows riders in the saddle silhouetted against a western Nevada evening sky homeward bound. Bottom view shows ranch guests in the forests before an open camp fire near Reno preparing hot food and drink to appease sharpened appetites.

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COME TO NEVADA FOR RECREATION

RENO, the hub of a far-reaching recreational area, each year attracts an ever increasing number of travelers, tourists, and visitors who seek a variety of natural scenery and outdoor recreation in a delightful climate.

Within a radius of less than 50 miles of the beautiful city on the Truckee River such outstanding scenic places as the rugged and picturesque Sierra Nevada Mountains, the Truckee Canyon, the historic shrine of Virginia City, of Comstock Lode fame, Geiger Grade Skyline Drive, Mount Rose, Lake Tahoe, the delightful little State capital, Carson City, and Pyramid Lake are readily accessible over smooth hard-surfaced highways. Supplementing these are the numerous guest ranches found in the Reno area.

Western guest ranches have a great appeal. There are many of these, homelike in their setting and partially hidden among the shade trees, in the Truckee Meadows. Others, equally as inviting, are located near Pyramid Lake and in the nearby hills. All are within short driving distance from the city.

Riding in the saddle over the hills, up the canyons, or along the forest trails is an exhilarating adventure for both men and women. The democratic spirit and friendliness which prevails at the ranch house or along the trails will soon dissipate any strangeness one may possibly feel in a different surrounding.

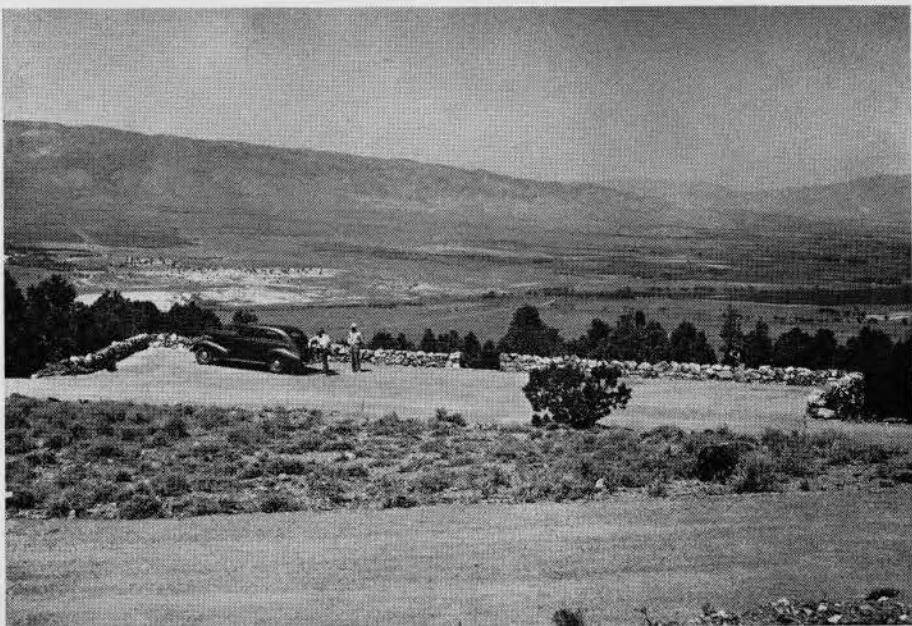
Riding is one of the principal diversions of the guest ranches. Well-groomed mounts are provided. It is a very familiar sight to see a dozen or more men and women in the saddle riding in small groups or strung out over the trail, in the distance, going for a morning canter or a day's excursion into the foothills. Guest ranch operatives giving their clients every consideration have kept pace with the modern trend. Should the day's objective be unusually distant or the climb up the flank of a peak through the forests difficult, or should the day be warm, fatigue may come to the riders after several hours in the saddle. What a different outlook life takes on when, upon reaching the objective, the tired riders find a "chuck wagon" awaiting them. Cooling drinks and refreshing snacks prepared at and brought directly from the ranch house by motorized wagon over the highways to the prearranged rendezvous revives the enthusiasm and energy of the riders. While lunch is served in a shady spot, perhaps overlooking a lake or mountain vista, the radio supplies music while the coffee boils on the open campfire, or the buckaroos will swing into a romantic western song to make it one of the most welcome periods of the day. Refreshed and rested after the picnic lunch, the party is again ready to start back for the corral and call it a day in the saddle. The views while slowly riding along the trail over the ridge line,



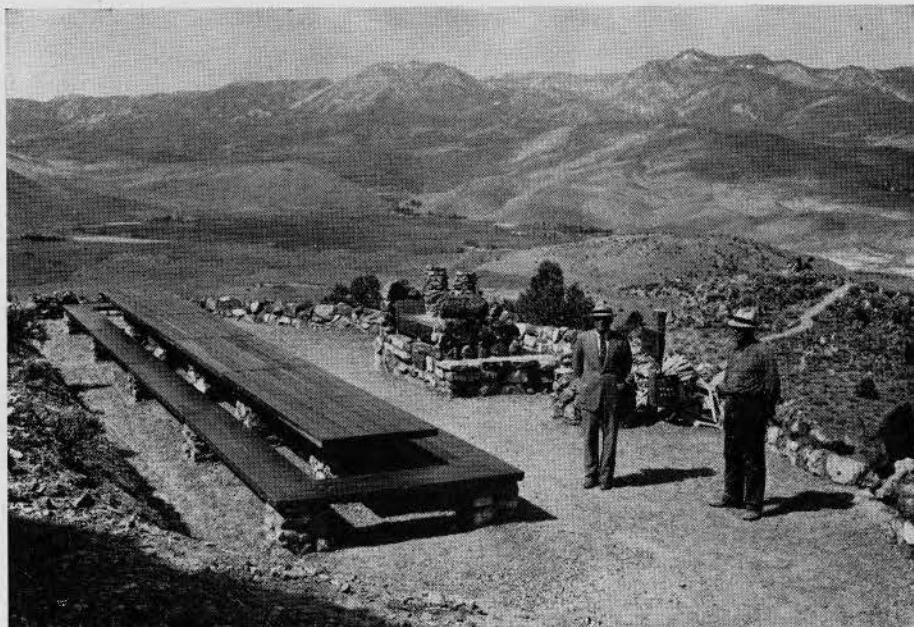
One of the popular guest ranch houses located in the Truckee Meadows a short distance south of Reno, Nevada, is pictured above. Set among numerous shade trees, velvet lawns, and flower gardens, colorful mountain views in all directions can be seen from this inviting spot.



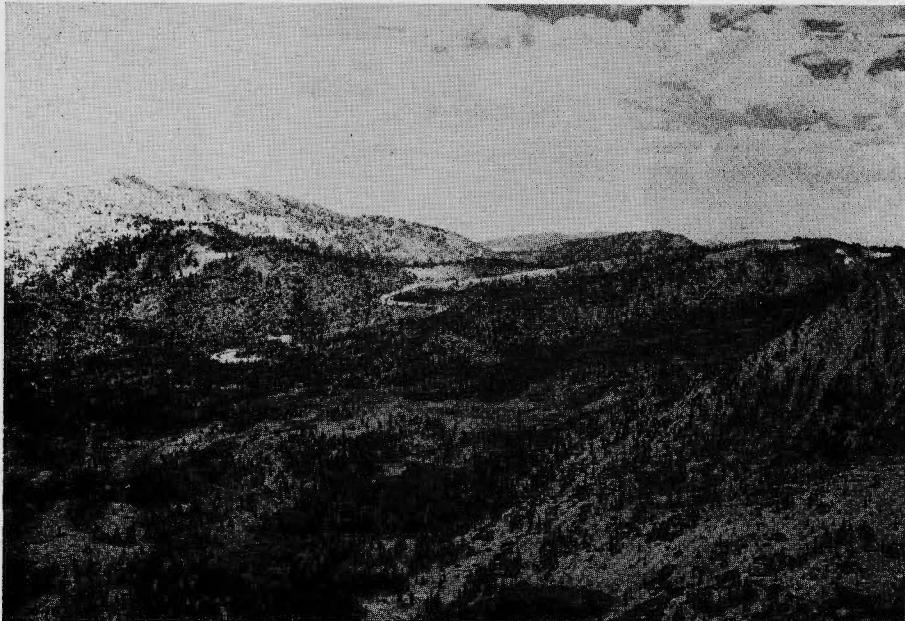
Through these gates motor cars enter the grounds at Geiger Lookout Station. On the new hard-surfaced, high-gear route connecting Reno and Virginia City, Nevada, this scenic point became popular as a recreation spot, principally for picnics and outdoor dinners.



A sweeping view of the broad Truckee Meadows and the Carson Range of the Sierra Nevada Mountains can be had from several vantage points at Geiger Lookout Station. At the foot of the grade Steamboat natural hot springs appear as a white spot on the valley floor.



Rustic tables and native stone open ovens have been placed in service for convenience of guests at scenic Geiger Lookout Station, about 15 miles south of Reno. The long table, which accommodates 45 persons comfortably, occupies a central location at the picnic grounds.



The above view was taken from the crest of Mount Rose at 10,800 foot elevation. It shows the winding highway as it courses through the forests and up the eastern flank of this lofty peak, affording a short scenic route from Reno and the Truckee Meadows to Lake Tahoe.

particularly around dusk, give scenic color impressions long to be remembered.

Service through the use of modernized chuck wagon has proved a very popular innovation. It has been adopted as part of the routine by guest ranches in the Reno vicinity.

Should you feel inclined to ponder the more serious things, a visit to some of the historic shrines of western Nevada will be fruitful in interest. The Comstock Lode at Virginia City is replete with historic tales, and always arouses the intense interest of the visitor. Gold is a magic word. It was this magic word which brought Virginia City into being, caused it to thrive and develop into a city of major size, and then brought about a decline. It is this magic word also which keeps the town alive, buoyed with hope and confidence that the future will see more gold come from its surrounding hills. The history of Virginia City's glamorous time has supplanted to a marked degree the actual production of gold. Nevertheless the industry still survives.

Over a virtually new smooth hard-surfaced highway Virginia City lies but three quarters

of an hour's drive southeast from Reno. The new Geiger Grade, with its climb from the valley floor at 4,500 feet to the summit of the Virginia range at about 6,000 feet, affords one of the finest scenic drives in the entire West. Where the old grade had steep stretches as high as 12 percent and taxed the stamina of even the best of motor cars, the new Geiger Grade offers pitches 6 percent or less and a scenic travel lane over which you can drive to the top in high gear.

So that travelers over the Grade may tarry and observe the broad expanse of mountains, forests and valleys, and likewise the gorgeous sunsets characteristic of the Reno region, on the way to the summit, "Geiger Lookout" has been developed. An area of about two acres at a strategic point nearly a thousand feet above and overlooking the Truckee Meadows' floor has been fitted with facilities for open-air luncheons or refreshments. Fireplaces and lookout stations constructed of vividly colored native rock, rustic tables and shelters placed among the junipers and pines, rock-lined paths leading to Geiger, Tilton and Thorp points, all named in honor of the pioneer partners who constructed the

original road, have made this one of the most popular halting places on this scenic and historic highway. Parties and groups gather at "Geiger Lookout" for picnics, to have dinner in the open air during the waning hours of the day, or to remain for the inspiring moonlight views. "Geiger Lookout" has also afforded an ideal spot for astronomical study groups which, on occasions, set up their telescopes at a favorite lookout point for observation of stars, planets, and constellations in the heavens. A visit to "Geiger Lookout" either during the daylight hours or after dark should, by all means, be included in your stay in the Reno region.

Directly across the valley from "Geiger Lookout," about ten miles distant, the Mount Rose Highway climbs up the eastern flank of the Sierra Nevadas to provide a shorter, but highly scenic, approach to Lake Tahoe. This highway, as smooth as the carpeted floor, reaches an elevation of 8,990 feet before crossing the summit and then dropping down the western side of Mount Rose through dense forests to the beautiful stretch of water locked in by the encircling snow-capped mountains. Mount Rose, directly to the north, lifts its head almost 2,000 feet above the road level. From the summit of this lofty peak a panoramic view embracing hundreds of square miles of western Nevada and eastern California, stretching in all directions, is positively breath taking.

Natural scenery is often difficult to measure in value. Certain beauty spots, which nature has so wonderfully placed, appeal strongly to some persons, while others will rapidly pass them by. Lake Tahoe is different. No matter in what part of the world you have traveled; no matter which place or vista has captured your fancy in globe trotting; no matter how charming some particularly delightful scenic spot, though held in high world esteem, might have been, you will find Lake Tahoe equal to anything in scenic grandeur the old or new world has to offer.

Its 21 miles of water, locked in by granite peaks and crags, and forested flanks of smaller mountains, is indeed a gorgeous picture. Over its 15 miles of width chase continuously the zephyrs which swoop down across the high Sierras from the west, sometimes softly disturbing the surface, forming dancing and glistening ripples. Then again, when the winds are angry and wild, Tahoe's sur-

face will be churned into frothing white caps with waves breaking against the sand or pebble beaches, or dashed against bold granite promontories jutting out here and there into the strange mixture of emerald green and azure blue waters.

At its 6,225-foot nesting place in the broad expanse of rough highland country, Lake Tahoe, fed by the plenteous melting mountain snows, drains from its outlet at the northwest corner to bring into being the Truckee River.

Flowing in a general north and then easterly direction this rushing mountain stream has worn down the hills, washed away rocky obstructions, and filed a deep, magnificent canyon through the eastern foothills of the Sierras. For virtually 50 miles the Truckee, in ages past, has labored through the seasons until it vanquished the stubborn granite to pour its cold, sparkling waters out into the Truckee Meadows, near Verdi, Nevada.

From this point the river meanders across the Meadows, bisects Reno, flows through one of its smaller canyons to the east, and finally empties into Pyramid Lake, in north-eastern Washoe County, Nevada.

The Truckee River is indeed unique. It has Lake Tahoe for its source and Pyramid Lake as its terminus, but in Pyramid the waters remain.

Like Tahoe, Pyramid is landlocked by mountain ranges, but 2,500 feet lower in elevation. Unlike Tahoe, however, Pyramid's framework of lofty mountains lacks the crowded pines, but strikingly displays the vivid and varied colors native to the barren hills. Upon visiting Pyramid Lake for the first time one wonders by what rhyme or reason it should be found in such a strange place.

Pyramid is the largest so-called fresh water lake between the Sierra Nevada range to the west and the Rocky Mountains to the east. Nearly 40 miles long and from 15 to 20 miles wide its elevation is about 4,000 feet above sea level. It is the most picturesque sheet of water in all the Great Basin region owing to its intensely colored surroundings and its numerous rocky islands. Some of these islands, near the middle of the lake, pyramidal in shape and gray in color, rise several hundred feet above the water's surface and give to the lake its name.

Pyramid Lake is of great depth. At the south end the inflow of the Truckee River



Sparks, a modern and progressive railroad town with approximately 5,000 inhabitants, about four miles east of Reno on the Victory Highway, is also the gateway to Pyramid Lake. Pyramid lies about 30 miles north of Sparks, being served by a newly constructed highway.



Delightful small modern houses landscaped with well-kept lawns and flower gardens give cheerful and colorful touches to the homes lining the city streets of Sparks, division point for the Southern Pacific. Above scene is in the west end of town along the Victory Highway.



Picturesque in its setting the new city hall of Sparks, although small, adds a pleasing touch to this inviting Nevada railroad town whose principal street is bordered by broad parking strips and fine shade trees. Sparks is located in the northeastern part of Truckee Meadows.

keeps the water pure and fresh; at the north end the waters are slightly brackish. It has no surface outlet. The lake never freezes and is sometimes very rough.

The beaches, which are very pronounced because of past recession, are lined with calcareous rocks of all forms. Some assume massive size and grotesque shapes. Cathedral Rock is one of the most noted landmarks along the western shore.

Far toward the north end of this desert lake a tall slender pyramid appears, perfectly white at times. Some of the isolated rock islands are egg shaped and from 300 to 400 feet high. Fremont's Pyramid is the name borne by one of the taller of the pyramidal rocks near the head of the lake.

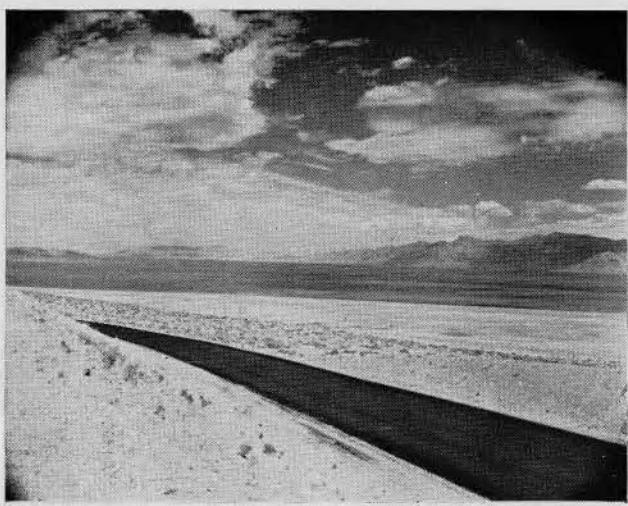
Pyramid Island projects 475 feet above the water's surface. It has several peculiar characteristics. From beneath the water's surface on its west side hot water issues from a hidden crevice in the rock. This water is almost boiling, and a hot vapor arises from the waters directly affected. Surrounded on all sides by the colder waters it is a strange experience to glide over the surface in a boat and note the distinct change in temperature.

Some persons who have doubted the story have painfully discovered its accuracy with blistered hands or feet. Another feature of this island is the fact that a hissing steam geyser ejects its spray upward many feet. This geyser is found in a small sheltered cove above the water line.

One of the larger islands harbors thousands of white pelicans. It is one of the largest flocks of this species in North America. Small groups of these birds often wander away from the home nest and travel 50 miles or more to fish in other western Nevada lakes, but these winged tourists always return to their island nesting ground.

Myriads of trout are found in the lake. Paiute Indians, who live on the reservation adjacent to the lake, each year catch thousands of these fish for market. Pyramid has attained a wide reputation for the large-sized trout taken from its waters.

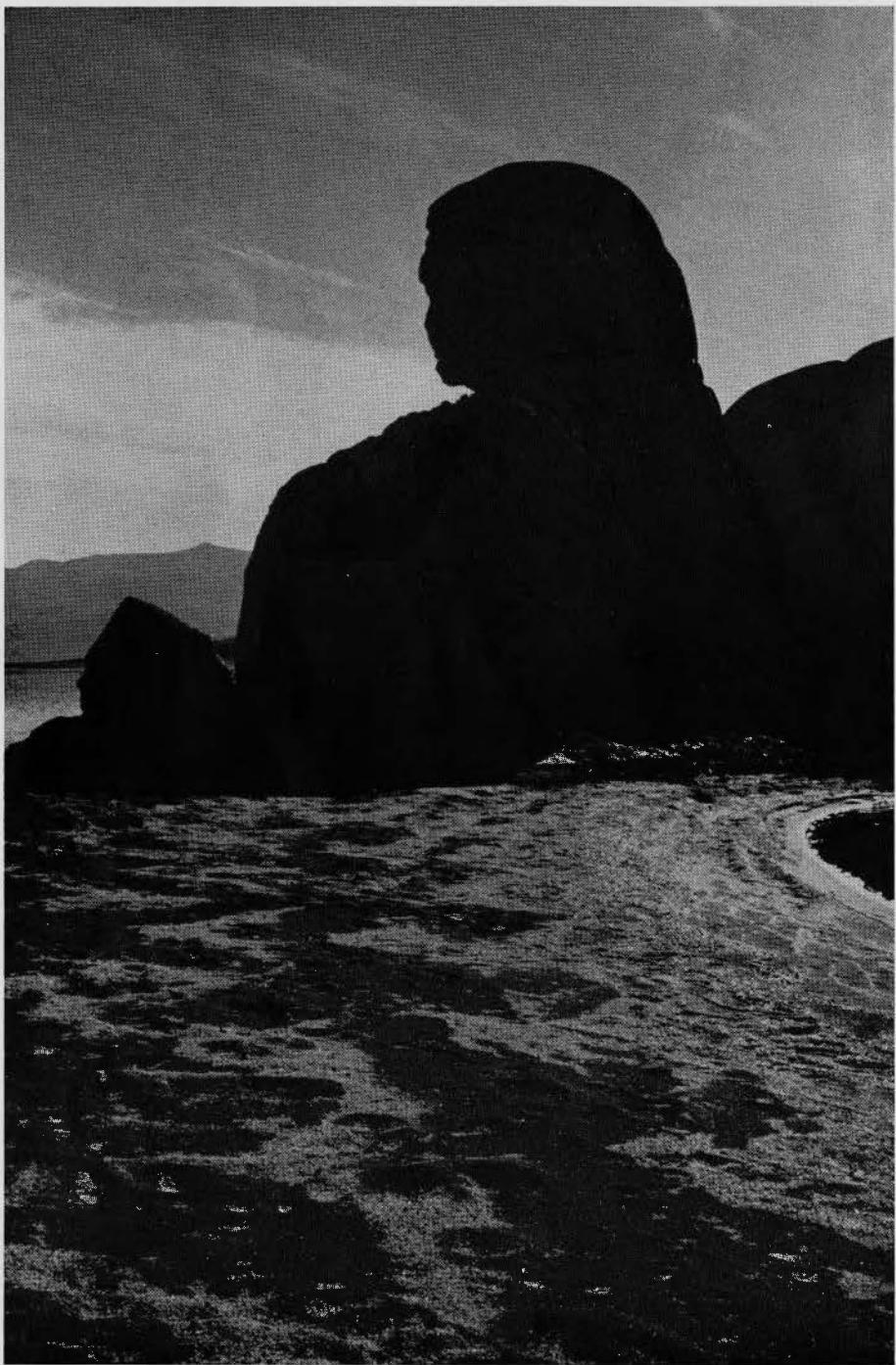
Numerous guest ranches have their locale along the shores of this strange body of water. Many Hollywood celebrities spend weekends or vacation periods at Pyramid, which is less than 45 minutes drive from Reno over a hard-surfaced highway.



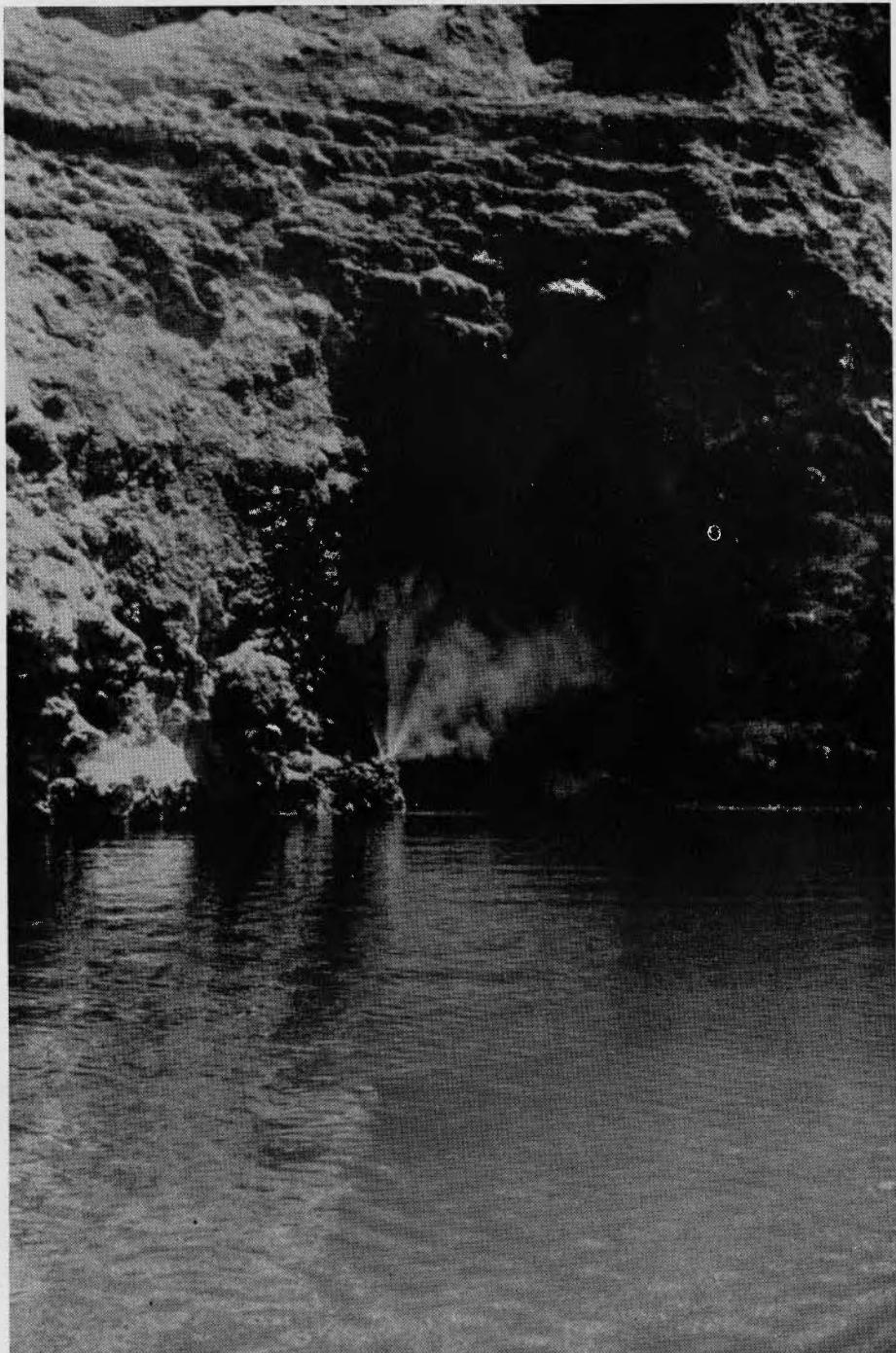
Pyramid Lake

THIS general view of Pyramid Lake, with the mountains as background, composes the larger photograph at the bottom. Top views are incidental at the lake: The new road leading to this remarkable body of water in the desert, a new generation of Indians whose home is nearby, and the present and past methods of transport to Pyramid Lake are shown. Pyramid Lake is 40 miles long and 15 miles wide.





The above group of rocks near the northern end of Pyramid Lake, in western Nevada, is known as "The Squaw Woman with Her Basket." It is one of many strangely formed rock projections found along the shore and on some islands in this remnant of a prehistoric lake.



On the west side of Pyramid Island, near the middle of Pyramid Lake, there occurs a strange phenomenon. A hot water geyser issuing from a narrow fissure in the rocks just above the lake surface spouts its stream from ten to twenty feet high in a fan-like spray.