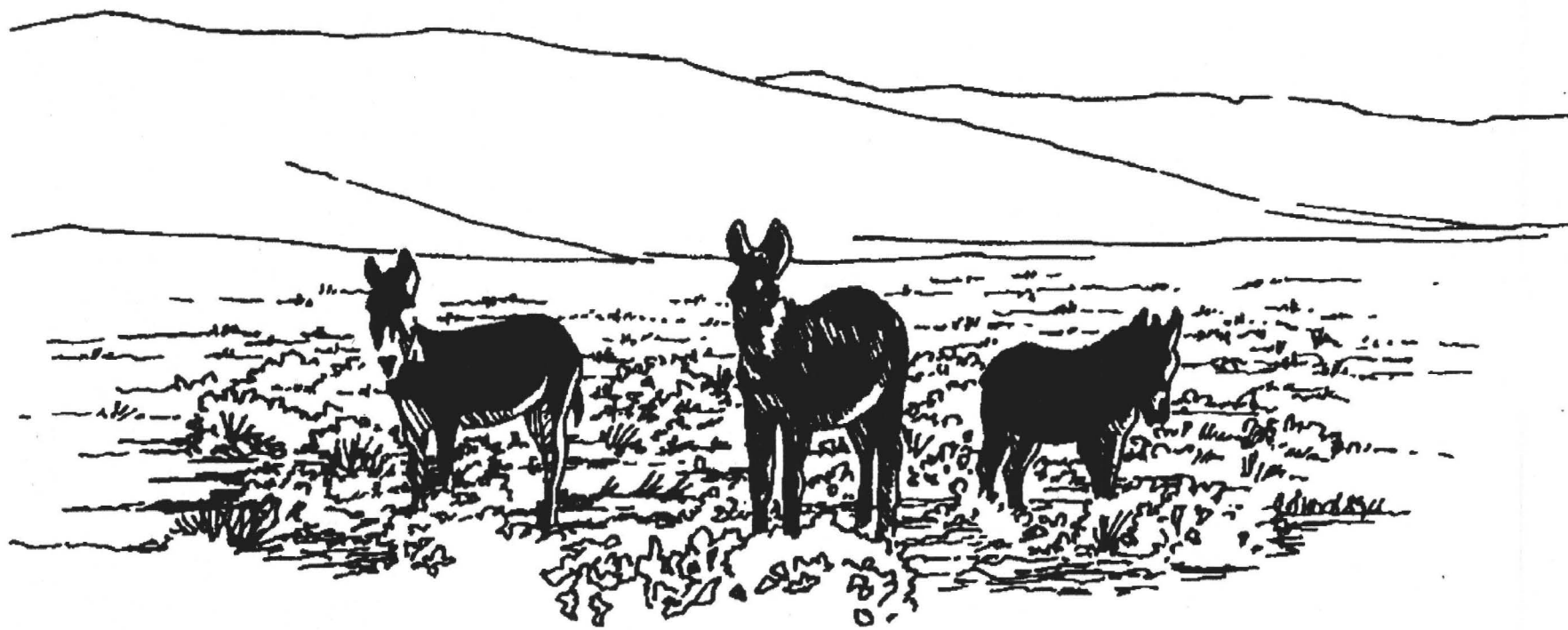


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# MARIETTA

**WILD BURRO RANGE DEDICATION \* MAY 3, 1991**



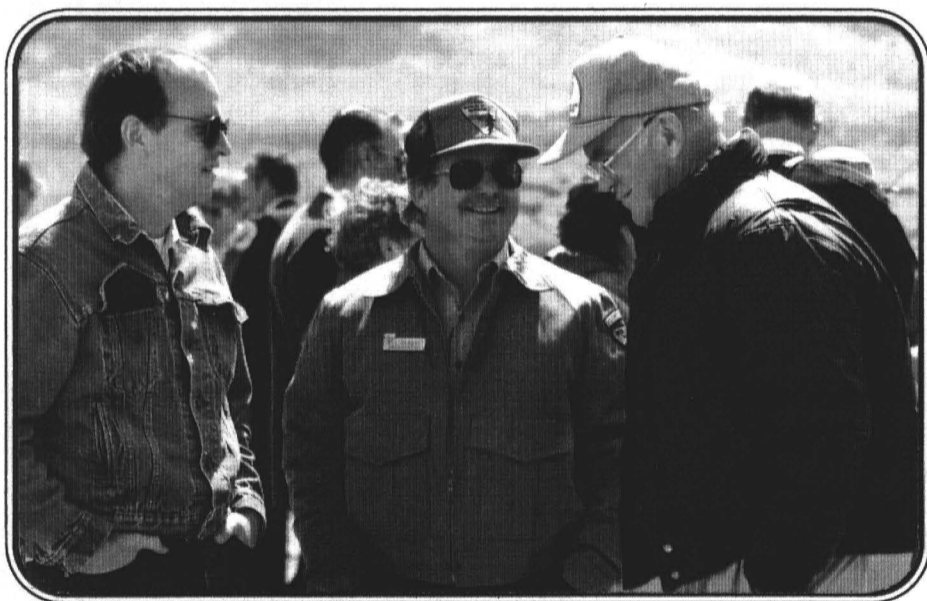
**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR \* BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
CARSON CITY DISTRICT, MARIETTA, NEVADA**

5/3/91

Marietta, the Nation's first Wild Burro Range, was dedicated on May 3, 1991. About 85 burros inhabit the area which includes nearly 66,500 acres of public land and about 1,500 acres of private lands. The range is managed principally for burros under a formal designation made by the Director of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM).



Located southeast of Hawthorne, Nevada, the Marietta Wild Burro Range is reached via Highway 95, State Route 360 and a maintained dirt country road. Entry signs guide the way to the valley where Teel's Marsh and the sparsely populated town of Marietta (1990 census: 5) are familiar sights to the burros. Visitors to the range have a spectacular view of the White Mountains and Boundary Peak. The day before the dedication, the mountains received a dusting of snow, adding to the contrast of colors in the wide open, Western spaces.



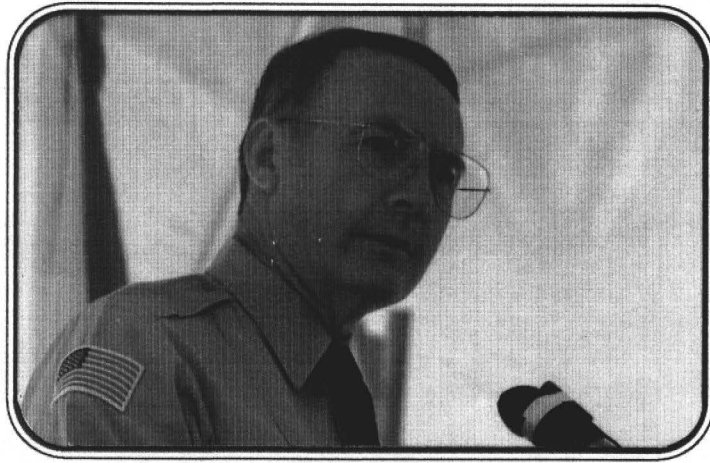
About 100 individuals gathered for the dedication ceremony which began shortly after 11 a.m. at a site overlooking the valley. The ceremony was one of the events sponsored by the BLM in Nevada to commemorate the 20th anniversary of Congressional passage of the Wild Free Roaming Horse and Burro Act. National, state and local officials were present for the dedication which was attended by local citizens, members of the press, interest group representatives and federal personnel.



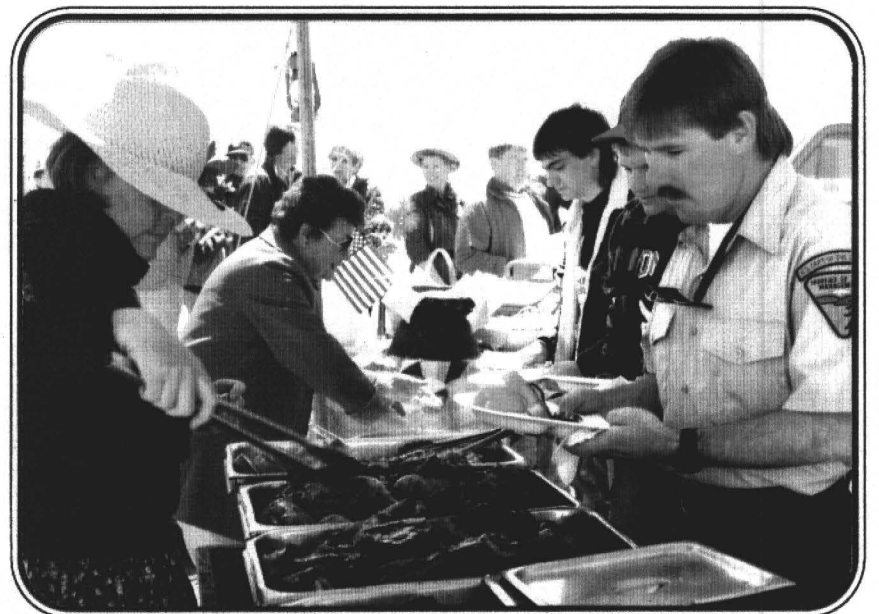
Prior to and after the dedication, there was an opportunity to enjoy the Nevada sunshine, observe a wild horse and burro exhibit, and view some wild burros which had been or were available for adoption.



Jim Elliot, BLM Carson City District Manager  
Bill Templeton, BLM Nevada State Director  
Anita Sullivan, Senator Harry Reid's Representative  
Nancy Walther, Representative Barbara  
Vucanovich's Representative  
Karen Sussman, Pres., International Society for the  
Protection of Mustangs and Burros  
Dawn Lappin, Executive Director,  
Wild Horse Organized Assistance  
Mike Penfold, BLM Washington Office,  
Assistant Director, Land and Renewable  
Resources



After the dedication ceremonies, LUNCH,  
compliments of Wild Horse Organized Assistance!

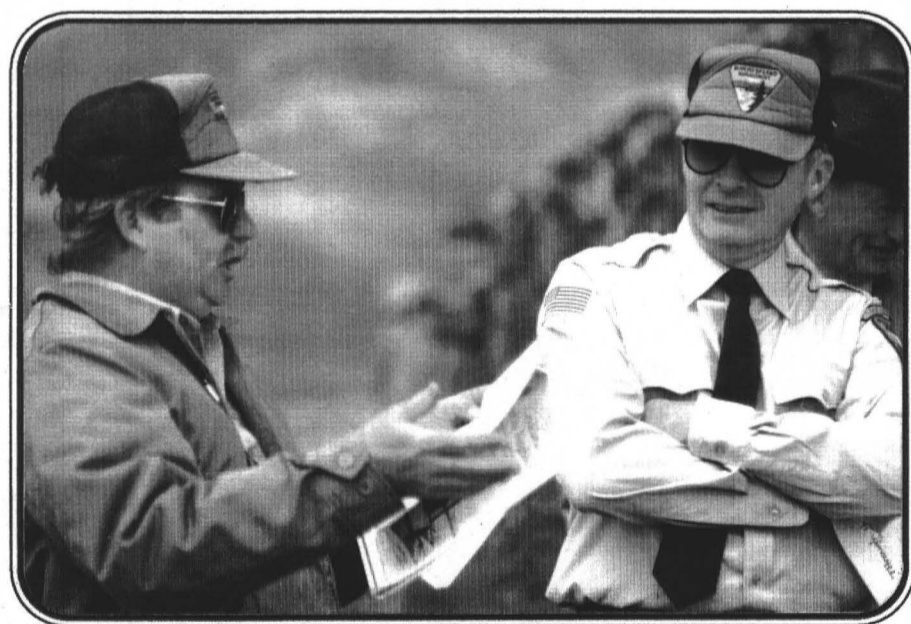
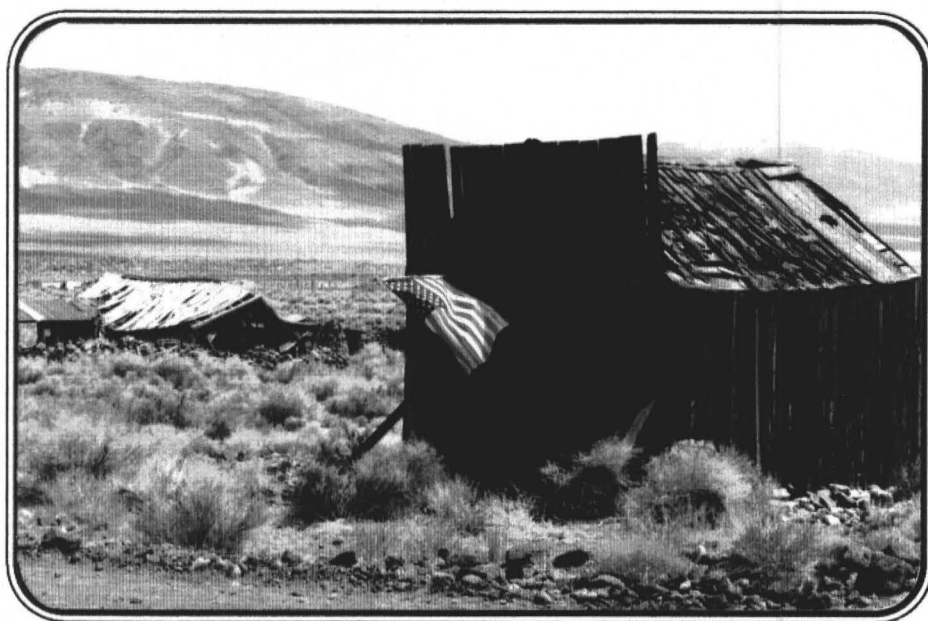




Post-dedication festivities included van tours of the Marietta Wild Burro Range and the historic town. Marietta became a town in 1877. In the foreground of the top photograph, the post office still stands, and in the background is the stage stop.

The town's activity can be attributed to mining. According to Stanley W. Paher's book, "Nevada Ghost Towns and Mining Camps," salt mining activity began at Teel's Marsh in 1867. Camel trains and pack mules took the product to Virginia City, Nevada. While scouting for wood in 1872, Francis M. Smith obtained borate samples from the marsh. When assays came back favorable, Smith and his brother staked a large section of the marsh.

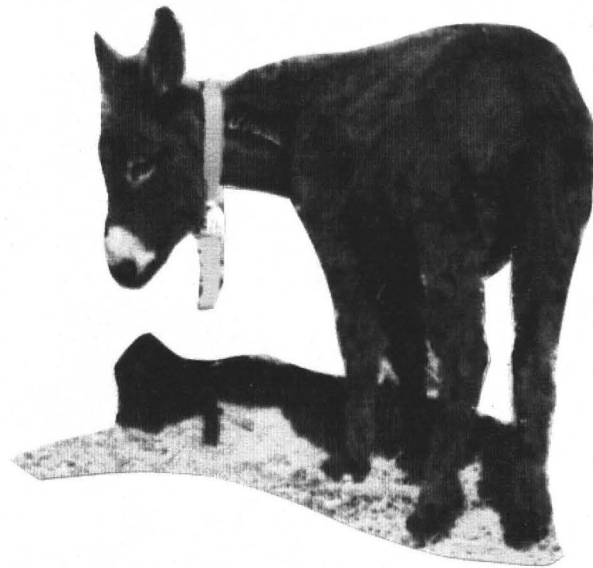
Word of the discovery brought prospectors, and several borax plants sprung up on the southeastern end of the marsh. Dedication visitors learned more about the town from BLM interpreters. One of the town's claims to fame was a five-stamp mill. The mill came to Marietta after being on display by the State of Nevada at the Philadelphia Centennial Exhibition.



Tour guide Tom Abbett (top, left) enlisted Mike Penfold and others in a bit of play acting near the store owned by "Borax" Smith. Seems the town of Marietta had its share of wild West mischief, and these visitors helped act out one of the shooting deaths involving several of the town's citizens. The stage had its share of road agent activity, too. Paher says the daily six-horse stage was robbed 30 times in 1880 and in one week no less than four times.



"The Borax Miner" in its September 15, 1877 edition noted: "There are now in Marietta five saloons, two blacksmith shops, three boarding houses, ten families and about eighty voters; total population about eighty-five persons. A petition is numerously signed, and will doubtless be granted by the Board of County Commissioners, making the appointment of M. Burrell as Justice of the Peace--an officer very much needed for the preservation of order."



The animals will continue to roam freely near the ruins of the historic Nevada mining town and the seasonally changing Teel's Marsh. The Walker Resource Area Management Plan provides the general guidance for management of the area. Future plans include the addition of an overlook which will provide visitors with information on the burros and their environment. Interpretive signs will be maintained in the area. Brochures and a display about the Range will be available in Nevada and California cities which might serve as an entryway to the Range.