Office of Carson Paily Appeal. Carson City, Nevada, Amday Dec 10" 1865 Dear mellie: The mail Steamer "Colorado" and in fan Francisco last Freeday but brought and no letters. Perhaps I ment this disappointenent for my our negled in missing a mail which though have conveyed a letter to Jun. "Out of right, out of aund" is an agion which is it quite millified (from : nelliefied by the circumstances our separation; for The long, long weary days' which came and fo, adding time to the distance of my for removal from you, nicrease and rutensify the surse of longing to be near you once sume, which has become a france fear of my thoughts, wating and pleeping. Just at this first any reflections

Were fuddenly brought to a close by Willie Johnson, andes came with buy office curiderably out of breath, with the anerage " Pa is marting for you, in his buggy! Remembering that I had made an suggement to fato a vide with "a", I hastily had my manuscripe in my table drawer, and went to four that respatient paters - nal relative. We drove to the little town of Empire, about the miles here, on the Carm River, Juning though which cettlement to its Eachern End, we shapped as the Jelow Jacket mill' Old weisur as I am of the Pacifie Pars, my with to this ectablishment is the first that I love hade to a quarty mill. And that You any get a very superfect

nisight with the manner by which silver is extracted from the quation Nork in which it is held, I will attempt a short description of What I faw. I will Julface what I shall for of the suill, by chating the ful that the felow Justel mining Company" are is one of feveral Companies which are lugaped in extracting filver ones Cargentiferons quartz) from what is known the ming world over, as the "Construct. Ledge" at Vripina City, and the town of Gold Heil. The one which I saw in process of reduction is day out of the bowels of the Earth as an depth of some 450 fut from the senface of the fround. Being day out and bousted

to the purface, the one is put nito waynes and brought to the hull to be cruched, from to a Julp and its different patts y lock and muneral Reparated. And Serve I mile try and five you an idea of the way in which the work. is done. In the first place, the large prices of Rock are submitted to the Crenchy actin of an unnuce tion crusher which shalters The quarters to frices as readily do you comed snip a filbert in a nut Cracker. These, and other manes of Joshially Crushed cock and an then should with the batteries," as They are Called, to be stamped wito proder. There "batteries" are a peries I heavy and powerful eion stramps which thump away as the pashieles

2 Office of Carson Daily Appeal. 2 Carson City, Nevada, 186 of one until they are to five, that a little shear of water which rend Constantly through them carries of the finer particles to vats which are placed in readinies to acceve them. This 'fediment 'so to call is, being funply the one in a Julpy, muddy state ceculting from the reduction and admighten with water, is these put into freat avoir hans, which are kept Constantly revolving, and at the bottom of which are kept cutain quantities of genet selver, wit which whatever of pilver there analy be hi the crushed and pulverized ous, mill, in due pureus of time, amalgamate. This Amalgum it then

taken by the assayer and retorted" - that is to fay, the selver is separar "Ted, by means of Evaporation, from the quicksilver, the metter metter These kumps of pelver who great suggets or bricks' as The Rumers Call them, and the "filow bullion" of the commercial would is findly The grand final recall. Now this mill of the Julow Jacker Company" has forty stamps. With Each of theme stamps, two trus of ore, her day, is pulverized - that is to fay, the mile reduces Sight, tons of one her day; the pans and analganators expact To filver from the Eighty times of Cushings, every day - lever this lock to for curtains about thirty fine dollars in Each ton, the result of

Each days work amounts, as you will ascertain by taking Jun place and peneil, to all first \$ 280000 for day. Those byines look big, And they are by - and one would Very noturally think that at such cabes the felver mines right to get very tich, very fast. But here and are the time of the liftures. In the first place the mill cost, not fers than \$ 300,000 . Then at the mine, as m Writers, the Superintendent tells me, they employ about 150 handsas an Expense of about \$4000 from dollars a day lack. Then The Misting works, and the learning, and the 30 handy as the mill all cost lots of enoney - and to do farel and quickselver and

all the chemicals for for which are a necessary fait of the furces of reducing The film to the Shape of bullin. The Jellow facture is one of the achert Companies on the Constack Ledge, and its mill is me of the best in the state. And This Company is but one of not less than Awanty Amelar ampanies with the fin a 2 clar mills which are operating in the Constant. There are numerous test other minies and mills in other parts of the Plate, but as Jur, there is no fedge developed which compares in lybert and nehners with the Construction Perhops you well be able to Jet a vague idea of the nature and lytent of felver any in nevada, out of these few crude and Cleansy statements of Anine; and may

Office of Carson Paily Appeal. 3) Carson City, Nevada, 186 also be able to understand how And why this shake produces Jearly, about \$ 30,000,000 of film bulling a very finall part of which helps to keep the appeal and its publishers and let Sutor in a state of lise ture. I have not forgotten that all This discloses the fact that The Julow forket kuil and king Company fail to observe the Mosaic rigualtin to Remember the falbath day and Keep it holy! And trang fine that far, I may go well make the further states 2 ment that all These fiel ming Companies conto every day à the

week. And it is only within a few months, in fact fince I came to Causon, that the busines lines have, by Ommon Current, cloud up on Andays. I was one of a very pleasant party that dened with hovern Blackel in Hunksgiving day, We had an excellent denne and passed a very pleasant wing, afterwards. (I will guier any misapprehension which any linve ansen in your mind with repair to that banquet, by arming Ju that the Governor is a shut testaller lunself, and Compels his guess to be, by fitting two fines or legions before them.) My ford friend Lance highlingiel

has just returned time from San Francisco, and as he has frommed & five me brough chemins to make up a box of minerological Curiorities for Add, I hope the able to fullfil my promise to send him a parcel of nevada ones for his Cabriet. I find you two more of my terribly ngly photoprophs, meg Which you may give to many lense and to other to due on "Mussy" juit as you please. I do with that The would find su that budget of family pictures which I begged of her. I my, de you please sur me one q Jun own pretines, main's, and Whatever other chave putraits of

the build family you may have on hand. I am getting the a fresh befor, you see. I hope and pray that we shall med when the ones come again and meet, never again to be leparated. It is a cruck fate which divides us, and a hard fortune which has made it necessary for me to come so for A away from you. But hellie, I ought to Thank god that I am well And able to work; and above all to feel the pratiful assurance that There is a warm place in that pure, Kind loving heart of yours for me. & May He preserve and bles you dailing. I am impatient for as rechnic to my proportion to have you for me ti fan Francis Co. But I will love yn none the less, known you any decide. " member and to Byrow add, Wach not the little ones, Kies Leve for nice and continue to pray for gues affectionated, plany R. Singhels.

PERSONAL.-Among the really pleasant acquaintances we made at Carson City, while we were there during the sitting of the late Convention, was that of the brave and talented editor of the Appeal, HARRY MIGHELS, Esq. Without wishing to flatter, Mr. Mighels is the best newspaper editor they have ever had in Carson, and the Appeal the best paper. The versatile pen of Mr. M. lends a charm to the Appeal which makes it one of the best papers in the State. The people of Storey county should more generally subscribe for the paper from the State capital. Much appears in it which they never see in the Storey county papers. As Carson is the centre of our State Courts, every lawyer, and every principal mine and business man should have a copy of the Carson Appeal.

TS AND ARTISTS

Maride

In gracious response to my request for guest writers to my weekly Arts and Artists column for a while this summer, a number of interested friends of the column who are active in community affairs are contributing articles.

Wonder 10

Writing today's column on Henry R. Mighels, pioneer editor, is Mrs. C. C. Taylor, past president of the Nevada Federation of Women's clubs and former instructor at the university in the departments of history and Latin. At present Mrs. Taylor is an assistant in the Nevada State Historical society of Reno.—Lillian Borghi.

#### HENRY R. MIGHELS

Among the interesting oil paintings to be found in the Nevada State Historical society in Reno is one of Henry R. Mighels, pioneer Nevada journalist and artist. This portrait, painted by an intimate friend of Mr. Mighels, was recently given to the Nevada State Historical society by Mr. Roy Mighels of Reno, son of Henry R. Mighels.

by Mr. Roy Mighels of Reno, son of Henry R. Mighels. Henry R. Mighels, familiarly known as Harry Mighels, was born at Norway, Maine, November 3, 1830. His father, Jesse Wedgwood Mighels, was a graduate of Dartmouth medical college. His mother was a schoolmate of Henry W. Longfellow. He was educated in the pub-

He was educated in the public schools at Portland, Maine, after which he studied navigation. In 1847 he studied medicine in Cincinnati, at the same time associating himself with some artists and acquiring so m e knowledge of painting in oils. On August 1, 1850, he started for California, going by way of New Orleans and then by sailing vascel to Son June del Norte

ing vessel to San Juan del Norte, in the Mesquite kingdom. He then descended the San Juan river, crossed Lake Nicaragua, where he kept a tavern during the winter. In the spring he Griffin. Mr. Mighels contracted tropical fever in Panama and was forced to remain there two months. From Panama he went to San Francisco on the steamer Panama. In 1851 he was in Nevada county, California. From there he went to Downieville, where in 1852 he painted, in oils, a drop curtain for the Downie-ville theater. This curtain was widely known in the early days. next went to Marysville, He working as a decorative paint-er. He decorated the first first Marysville theater and painted stage scenery and murals.

Still working at his art, we find him at Bidwell's bar in 1853. In 1965 he went to Oroville, where he opened a paint shop. In the fall of that year he became associate editor of the Butte Record. In the spring of 1857 he was, for a time, editor of the Sacramento Bee. In 1857 he ran for the assembly in Butte county and was defeated. In the fall of 1859 he went to San Francisco, where he was employed on the San Francisco National.

In January, 1860, the Marys-



HENRY R. MIGHELS, Pioneer Nevada Editor

masterful logic. His wit and repartee flashed like the diamond. He loved nature as a true poet loved it, and spent most of the summer months wandering through the mountains sketching and painting."

As an artist he was a conscientious reproducer of nature as he saw it, painting for the love of it and distributing his efforts among his friends. Although he never offered one of his pictures for sale, he might have earned a competency with his brush. He painted with great care and labor, and gave his works away as fast as they were finished.

After his death the press of Nevada and California joined in such earnest tribute to his genius, abilities and sterling qualities of manhood as could only have been called forth by deserving merit.

The language of one of his biographers is appropriate: "With the heart of a soldier and the soul of a poet in his breast, he died upon the field of the hardest won victories and most crushing defeats of his life, laying aside a sword, which, shattered though it was, he had taught his enemies to respect."

A collection of his poems and sketches was published after his deats under the title "Sagebrush Leaves." The book was completed during his last illness and dedicated to his wife. A copy of the dedication page follows:

"The odds and ends which make up this small volume were got into their present shape with much substantial assistance of scissors and paste; but they originated legitimately enough (as things go) in the due course of newspaper drudgery, done within the shade of the domestic vine and fig tree. The rather unusual circumstance is to be noted that the copy from which they were just printed passed at arm's length from the compositor, who also sat, while at work "at the case," under the shade aforesaid.

mountain ranges there--a number as infinite as the changes of the changing sky—as change-able as the clouds. To be sure, summer being cloudless, has a certain set of mountains for its landscape; but these must yield and be gone with autumn, with winter and with spring. Yesterday we caught a glimpse of an old friend of ours that had been gone, God knows where, these ever-so-many months. He showed his head, dark and threatening, as is his wont, high topping the crest of the Sierra there. Some veils of mist and changing storm clouds had revealed his outlines. He has been away, with the white mountain hares, the snowy owls and the pogonip, all sum-mer. He is as distinct from any mere summer mountain as if he were a storm or a Christmas eve.

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"Some weak philosopher will sneer at this Notary for a vagarist or a madman, perhaps. But where is any sanity or soberness of statement to be had if not in an account of the actual, the visible, and the present? Is there a peach - bloom - tinted mountain in the east, this heavy Tuesday? Was there not such a mountain there last Sunday at the going down of the sun? You swear to what you see, not to what might have been or may be again. That black mountain there, over against the western sky, capped with those frowning clouds, stands midway and above two sharply defined peaks, the two making a gorge and showing deep shadows and gloomy precipices, whic which was not so before. "The plain fact is, some migratory mountains, just from a summering at the north pole or amid the surges of the Antarc-tic, have come back again to their old haunts. You say, in your thoughtless way, that the lights and shades are so dis-posed as to bring out, in an unaccustomed relief, those moun-tain outlines. This, my dear reader, is to jump at conclu-sion. You are taking the unnecessary pains to build to suit yourself, the contour of your neighboring acclivities. Why not take them as you find them? "Is the old garden gate of your boyhood the gate that it used to be, seen through the eyes of long ago? Are the eyes themselves the same? Look at that complacent matron, her form rounded to a womanly fullness, her silky brown hair tinged with silvery strands, and her manner so gentle and winning, but so something formal, withal. Is that your sweetheart, Fanny, think you. No, sir! That motherly woman who meets you with so much of cordiality mixed with a wise reserve, is no more

ville Appeal was started, and Mr. Mighels was its first editor.

He was commissioned by President Lincoln in 1862 as an assistant adjutant general and assigned to the staff of General Sturgis. He participated in the second battle of Manasses, South Mountains, Antitem, first battle of Fredericksburg, siege of Vicksburg, siege of Spottsylvania, and others down to the battle of Petersburg, where he was shot through both thighs. After being honorably discharged from the army because of his wounds he returned to journalism.

In 1865 he assumed the editorship of the Carson City Morning Appeal, which he edited until his death. As an editorial writer he commanded the highest salary ever paid for such a service on the coast — \$500 a week as political editor of a San Francisco newspaper.

In 1866 Mr. Mighels was married to Miss Nellie Verrill in San Francisco. He was an ardent Republican in politics and presided over the house as speaker during the 8th session of the Nevada legislature. Myron Angel in his "History of Nevada" says of him: "His manner of "I dedicate this book, with due deliberation, to that very accessible compositor.

"Thirteen years ago (come August), that printer and this writer became partners for better and for worse, by the help of Rev. Dr. Stebbins; and so the domestic nature of our work, as also the propiety of this dedication become apparent to the reader.—H. R. M." Carson, Nevada) April 14, 1870)

The following is from 'Sagebrush Leaves'':

"MOUNTAIN LIGHTS AND SHADOWS--If you are impressible by colors and tones, tints and atmospheric phenomena of 1857 he was, for a time, edifor of the Sacramento Bee.

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In 1878 he ran for lieutenant governor, and although acknowledged as the head of the ticket, went down to defeat. Mr. Mighels died at Carson City May 28, 1879.

In Davis' "History of Nevada" we find the following: "His editorials were winged words and he ha da profound grasp of political affairs. His philosophical ruminations were original, spontaneous, brand new, and with the unmistakable stamp of genius upon them, and minted from the brain of a scholar and a gentleman."

One would look over his little one-horse country paper with wonder and surprise to find such a cultivated writer presiding over it. It was like 'finding money in ashes," to use some of his own expressions.

Quoting from Myron Angel: "All of Mighels' characteristics were strikingly positive. He had more warm friends and bitter enemies than any man in the state. He was as thoroughly endeared to the one as he was relentless and uncompromising to the other. As a writer he had no superior on the coast. He penned the purest and best of English, and leveled all opposition by his A collection of his poems and sketches was published after his deaty under the title "Sagebrush Leaves." The book was completed during his last illness and dedicated to his wife. A copy of the dedication page follows:

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April 14, 1870)

The following is from 'Sagebrush Leaves'':

"MOUNTAIN LIGHTS AND SHADOWS—If you are impres-sible by colors and tones, tints and atmospheric phenomena, you call to mind the sunset hues of those mountains in the east yonder. Of a clear, still, gloam-ing the Pint Nut hills loom up into the golden ether aglow with such rosy lights and violet shadows as the painters whose skilled hands so often have portrayed the Tyrolean alps like to imitate upon their canvass. You say to yourself these gloomy peaks are not the pleasant mountains I saw at sunset. If they are the same, indeed then hath nature taken upon herself hath nature taken upon herself the arts of the changling and the false colors of the coquette. You accuse her of 'painting,' for you have caught her in her dishabille and without her rouge and her Bloom of Youth. But how do you know which is the right tinting for the face of yon hillsides to bear before your eyes? Why may not the mountains have moods as well as any man or woman? But in fact these grim peaks so black with the darkness of a dull October morn are not the same that you saw at twilight. Where is the deep and jagged ravine so shaded with the royal purple of sundown? It is gone. Where is that distant peak which casts a shadow upon its fellows, giving us the strong and definite outlines of an independent, self-sustaining mountain? Gone!

"This is another wall reared against the horizon. There are two, yes, an infinite number of swear to what you see, not to what might have been or may be again. That black mountain there, over against the western's sky, capped with those frowning clouds, stands midway and above two sharply defined peaks, the two making a gorge and showing deep 'shadows and great gloomy precipices, which was not so before.

"The plain fact is, some migratory mountains, just from a summering at the north pole or amid the surges of the Antarctic, have come back again to their old haunts. You say, in your thoughtless way, that the lights and shades are so disposed as to bring out, in an unaccustomed relief, those mountain outlines. This, my dear reader, is to jump at conclusion. You are taking the unnecessary pains to build to suit yourself, the contour of your neighboring acclivities. Why not take them as you find them?

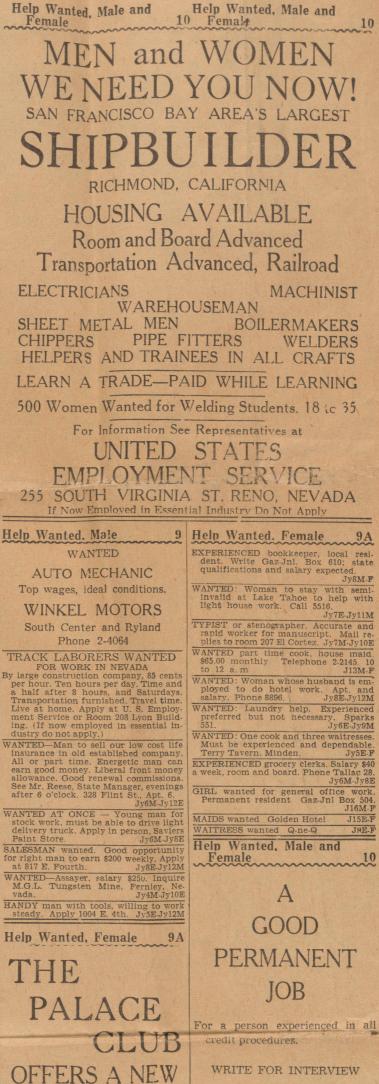
"Is the old garden gate of your boyhood the gate that it used to be, seen through the eyes of long ago? Are the eyes themselves the same? Look at that complacent matron, her form rounded to a womanly fullness, her silky brown hair tinged with silvery strands, and her manner so gentle and winning, but so something formal, withal. Is that your sweetheart, Fanny, think you. No, sir! That motherly woman who meets you with so much of cordiality mixed with a wise reserve, is no more Fanny of your boyhood than the glossy fabric of your wife's dress is a silk worm. Fanny vanished forever one day when she wept you out of sight, and went away o school, there to stay until she should be a woman. Also you went out of sight—her sight forever and ever. You who are so paternal and bewhiskered, what business have you to give yourself the airs of a boy of sixteen? Am I to be told that my broadcloth is a sheep's fleece because it once was wool? And if immortal man and beautiful woman are persons who have come to take the place of a certain boy and girl who once played together and made love, why not these mountains, which can throw "three different kinds whose very looks is a thing of the caprice of the clouds and a freak of the sunshine, why not these 'keep and pass and turn again'?"



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business, I am not responsible for debts contratced, or damages incurred by the busienss known as FACIAL CON- TOUR, Reno, Nevada. Venner Kelsen. J23M-F
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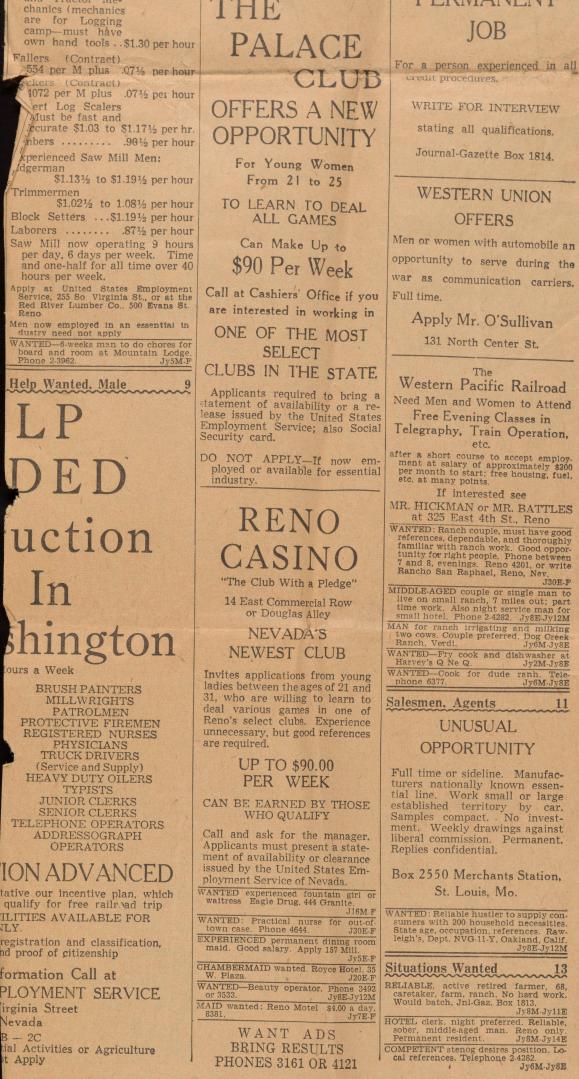
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# WHAT CARSON DID WHEN LINCOLN DIED

Recorder Dake was yesterday telling an old time story of fifty years ago in Carson City when the word came that President Lincoln had been shot. "At that time," said Mr. Dake, "there were many people living the city who were southern sympathisers but being in the minority, were careful of their remarks. However, they had become known and were looked upon with anything but friendly eyes by the majority. When the word came of the shooting excitement went to fever heat and the southern sympathisers were in rather a precarious situation as had any hot head have started trouble there would have been a riot. Later came the word that Lincoln was dead and the word was quietly passed around that every house in Carson City must show crepe on the door and a sign of mourning or that house would be demolished. At once the federals commenced the hanging of crepe upon their door knobs and soon the city had a somber hue, as those who were against the union dared not disobey the mandate and had their houses draped in black. The loudest of the secessionists in the city was the notorious Jack Harris, but it was noticed that his house had the most crepe and he appeared to be the saddest of the many. He had heard that he was to be the first one to feel the fury of the people if action was taken."-Carson News.

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[letterhead:] Office of Carson Daily Appeal

Carson City, Nevada, Sunday Dec 10th 1865

Dear Nellie:

The mail steamer "Colorado" arrived in San Francisco last Tuesday but brought me no letters. Perhaps I merit this disappointment for my own neglect in missing a mail which should have conveyed a letter to you. "Out of sight, out of mind" is an axiom which is quite nullified (pun: Nellified) by the circumstances of our separation; for the "long, long weary days" which come and go, adding time to the distance of my far removal from you, increase and intensify the sense of longing to be near you once more, which has become a passive part of my thoughts, waking and sleeping.

Just at this point my reflections

[page 2]

were suddenly brought to a close by Willie Johnson, who came into my office considerably out of breath, with the message "Pa is waiting for you, in his buggy." Remembering that I had made an engagement to take a ride with "Pa," I hastily put my manuscript in my table drawer, and went to join that impatient paternal relative. We drove to the little town of Empire, about three miles hence, on the Carson River. passing through which settlement to its Eastern End, we stopped at the "Yellow Jacket Mill." Old resident as I am of the Pacific States, my visit to this establishment is the first that I ever made to a quartz mill. And that you may get a very imperfect

[page 3]

insight into the manner by which silver is extracted from the quartz rock in which it is held, I will attempt a short description of what I saw.

I will preface what I shall say of the mill, by stating the fact that the "Yellow Jacket Mining Company" is one of several companies which are engaged in extracting silver ones (argentiferous quartz) from what is known the mining world over, as the "Comstock Ledge" at Virginia City, and the town of Gold Hill. The ore which I saw in process of reduction is dug out of the bowels of the Earth at a depth of some 450 feet from the surface of the ground. Being dug out and hoisted

#### [page 4]

to the surface, the ore is put into wagons and brought to the mill to be crushed, ground to a pulp and its different parts of rock and mineral separated. And now I will try and give you an idea of the way in which the work is done.

In the first place, the larger pieces of rock are submitted to the crunching action of an immense iron crusher which shatters the quartz to pieces as readily as you would snap a filbert in a nut cracker. These, and other masses of partially crushed rock are then shoveled into the "batteries," as they are called, to be stamped into powder. These "batteries" are a series of heavy and powerful iron stamps which thump away as the particles

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2)

of ore until they are so fine, that a little stream of water which runs constantly through them carries off the finer particles to vats which are placed in readiness to receive them. This "sediment" so to call it, being simply the ore in a pulpy, muddy state resulting from its reduction and admixture with water, is then put into great iron pans, which are kept constantly revolving, and at the bottom of which are kept certain quantities of quicksilver, with which, whatever of silver there may be in the crushed and pulverized ores, will, in due process of time, amalgamate. This amalgum is then

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taken by the Assayer and "retorted" -- that is to say, the silver is separated, by means of evaporation, from the quicksilver; the melter melts these lumps of silver into great nuggets or "bricks" as the miners call them, and the "silver bullion" of the commercial world is the grand final result.

Now this mill of the "Yellow Jacket Company" has forty stamps. With each of these stamps, two tons of ore, per day, is pulverized -- that is to say, the mill reduces eighty tons of ore per day; the pans and amalgamators extract the silver from the eight tons of crushings, every day -- and as this rock contains about thirty five dollars in each ton, the result of

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each days work amounts, as you will ascertain by taking your slate and pencil, to just \$2,800.00 per day. Those figures look big, and they are big -- and one would very naturally think that at such rates the silver miners ought to get very rich, very fast. But here now are some of the expenses. In the first place the mill cost, not less than \$300,000.00. Then at the mine, as Mr Winters, the Superintendent tells me, they employ about 150 hands -at an expense of about four dollars a day each. Then the hoisting works, and the teaming, and the 30 hands, at the mill all cost lots of money -- and so do fuel and quicksilver and

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all the chemicals &c &c which are a necessary part of the process of reducing the silver to the shape of bullion.

The Yellow Jacket is one of the richest companies on the Comstock Ledge, and its mill is one of the best in the state. And this company is but one of not less than twenty similar companies with similar mills which are operating in the Comstock. There are numerous other mines and mills in other parts of the state, but as yet, there is no ledge developed which compares in extent and richness with the Comstock.

Perhaps you will be able to get a vague idea of the nature and extent of silver mining in Nevada, out of these few crude and clumsy statements of mine; and may

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also be able to understand how and why this state produces yearly, about \$30,000,000 of silver bullion -- a very small part of which helps to keep the Appeal and its publishers and Editor in a state of existence.

I have not forgotten that all this discloses the fact that the Yellow Jacket Mill and Mining Company fail to observe the Mosaic injunction to "remember the Sabbath day and keep it holy." And having gone that far, I may as well make the further statement that all these great mining companies work every day in the

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week. And it is only within a few months, in fact since I came to Carson, that the business hours have, by common consent, closed up on Sundays.

I was one of a very pleasant party that dined with Governor Blasdel on Thanksgiving day. We had an excellent dinner and passed a very pleasant Eving, afterwards. (I will quiet any misapprehension which may have risen in your mind with regard to that banquet, by assuring you that the Governor is a strict teetotaller himself, and compels his guests to be, by setting no wines or liquors before them.)

My good friend Lance Nightingill

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has just returned home from San Francisco, and as he has promised to give me enough specimens to make up a box of minerological curiosities for Add, I hope to be able to fullfill my promise to send him a parcel of Nevada Ores for his cabinet.

I send you two more of my terribly ugly photographs, one of which you may give to Mary Gosse and the other to Lue or "Gussy" just as you please. I do wish that Lue would send me that budget of family pictures which I begged of her. Pray, do you please send me one of your own pictures, Mary's and whatever other spare portraits of

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the Verrill family you may have on hand. I am getting to be a great beggar, you see.

I hope and pray that we shall meet "when the roses come again." and meet, never again to be separated. It is a cruel fate which divides us. and a hard fortune which has made it necessary for me to come so far away from you. But Nellie, I ought to thank God that I am well and able to work: and above all to feel the grateful assurance that there is a warm place in that pure, kind loving heart of yours for me. May He preserve and bless you daily. I am impatient for a response to my proposition to have you join me in San Francisco. But I will love you none the less, however you may decide.

Love to all. Good night dear Nellie. Remember me to Byron, Add, Wash and the little ones, kiss Lue for me and continue to pray for yours affectionately,

Henry R. Mighels

[left margin: I send you a picture of Lance Nightingill. It was taken in San Francisco. Is it not beautifully done?]

[newspaper clipping:]

PERSONAL. -- Among the really pleasant acquaintances we made at Carson City, while we were there during the sitting of the late Convention, was that of the brave and talented editor of the Appeal, HARRY MIGHELS, Esq. Without wishing to flatter, Mr. Mighels is the best newspaper editor they have ever had in Carson, and the Appeal the best paper. The versatile pen of Mr. M. lends a charm to the Appeal which makes it one of the best papers in the State. The people of Storey county should more generally subscribe for the paper from the State capital. Much appears in it which they never see in the Storey county papers. As Carson is the centre of our State Courts, every lawyer, and every principal mine and business man should have a copy of the Carson

Appeal.

[handwritten in top margin] Wonder where Maude dug all this up -- Suppose she wants this picture too?

[newspaper clipping, with photo of painting captioned HENRY R. MIGHELS, Pioneer Nevada Editor; Reno Evening Gazette July 8, 1944 p. 9]

In gracious response to my request for guest writers to my weekly Arts and Artists column for a while this summer, a number of interested friends of the column who are active in community affairs are contributing articles.

Writing today's column on Henry R. Mighels, pioneer editor, is Mrs. C. C. Taylor, past president of the Nevada Federation of Women's clubs and former instructor at the university in the departments of history and Latin. At present Mrs. Taylor is an assistant in the Nevada State Historical society of Reno, -- Lillian Borghi.

#### HENRY R. MIGHELS

Among the interesting oil paintings to be found in the Nevada State Historical society in Reno is one of Henry R. Mighels, pioneer Nevada journalist and artist. This portrait, painted by an intimate friend of Mr. Mighels, was recently given to the Nevada State Historical society by Mr. Roy Mighels of Reno, son of Henry R. Mighels.

Henry R. Mighels, familiarly known as Harry Mighels, was born at Norway, Maine, November 3, 1830. His father, Jesse Wedgwood Mighels, was a graduate of Dartmouth medical college. His mother was a schoolmate of Henry W. Longfellow.

He was educated in the pub-

lic schools at Portland, Maine, after which he studied navigation. In 1847 he studied medicine in Cincinnati, at the same time associating himself with some artists and acquiring some knowledge of painting in oils.

On August 1, 1850, he started for California, going by way of New Orleans and then by sailing vessel to San Juan del Norte, in the Mesquite kingdom. He then descended the San Juan river, crossed Lake Nicaragua, where he kept a tavern during the winter. In the spring he went to Panama on the barque Griffin. Mr. Mighels contracted tropical fever in Panama and was forced to remain there two months. From Panama he went to San Francisco on the steamer Panama. In 1851 he was in Nevada county, California. From there he went to Downieville, where in 1852 he painted, in oils, a drop curtain for the Downieville theater. This curtain was widely known in the early days. He next went to Marysville, working as a decorative painter. He decorated the first Marysville theater and painted stage scenery and murals.

Still working at his art, we find him at Bidwell's bar in 1853. In 1965 [1855] he went to Oroville, where he opened a paint shop. In the fall of that year he became associate editor of the Butte Record. In the spring of 1857 he was, for a time, editor of the Sacramento Bee.

In 1857 he ran for the assembly in Butte county and was defeated. In the fall of 1859 he went to San Francisco, where he was employed on the San Francisco National.

In January, 1860, the Marys-

ville Appeal was started, and Mr. Mighels was its first editor.

He was commissioned by President Lincoln in 1862 as an assistant adjutant general and assigned to the staff of General Sturgis. He participated in the second battle of Manasses, South Mountains, Antitem [Antietim], first battle of Fredericksburg, siege of Vicksburg, siege of Spottsylvania, and others down to the battle of Petersburg, where he was shot through both thighs. After being honorably discharged from the army because of his wounds he returned to journalism.

In 1865 he assumed the editorship of the Carson City Morning Appeal, which he edited until his death. As an editorial writer he commanded the highest salary ever paid for such a service on the coast -- \$500 a week as political editor of a San Francisco newspaper.

In 1866 Mr. Mighels was married to Miss Nellie Verrill in San Francisco. He was an ardent Republican in politics and presided over the house as speaker during the 8th session of the Nevada legislature. Myron Angel in his "History of Nevada" says of him: "His manner of presiding over that body has never been equaled in the state. By reason of his quickness and tact business was transacted with nearly double the usual speed."

In 1878 he ran for lieutenant governor, and although acknowledged as the head of the ticket, went down to defeat. Mr. Mighels died at Carson City May 28, 1879.

In Davis' "History of Nevada"

we find the following: "His ediitorials were winged words and he had a profound grasp of political affairs. His philosophical ruminations were original, spontaneous, brand new, and with the unmistakable stamp of genius upon them, and minted from the brain of a scholar and a gentleman."

One would look over his little one-horse country paper with wonder and surprise to find such a cultivated writer presiding over it. It was like 'finding money in ashes," to use some of his own expressions.

Quoting from Myron Angel: "All of Mighels' characteristics were strikingly positive. He had more warm friends and bitter enemies than any man in the state. He was as thoroughly endeared to the one as he was relentless and uncompromising to the other. As a writer he had no superior on the coast. He penned the purest and best of English, and levelled all opposition by his

#### [column two:]

masterful logic. His wit and repartee flashed like the diamond. He loved nature as a true poet loved it, and spent most of the summer months wandering through the mountains sketching and painting."

As an artist he was a conscientious reproducer of nature as he saw it, painting for the love of it and distributing his efforts among his friends. Although he never offered one of his pictures for sale, he might have earned a competency with his brush. He painted with great care and labor, and gave his works away as fast as they were finished. After his death the press of Nevada and California joined in such earnest tribute to his genius, abilities and sterling qualities of manhood as could only have been called forth by deserving merit.

The language of one of his biographers is appropriate: "With the heart of a soldier and the soul of a poet in his breast, he died upon the field of the hardest won victories and most crushing defeats of his life, laying aside a sword, which, shattered though it was, he had taught his enemies to respect."

A collection of his poems and sketches was published after his death under the title "Sagebrush Leaves." The book was completed during his last illness and dedicated to his wife. A copy of the dedication page follow".

"The odds and ends which make up this small volume were got into their present shape with much substantial assistance of scissors and paste; but they originated legitimately enough (as things go) in the due course of newspaper drudgery, done within the shade of the domestic vine and fig tree. The rather unusual circumstance is to be noted that the copy from which they were just printed passed at arm's length from the compositor, who also sat, while at work "at the case," under the shade aforesaid.

I dedicate this book, with due deliberation, to that very accessible compositor.

"Thirteen years ago (come August), that printer and this writer became partners for better and for worse, by the help of Rev. Dr. Stebbins; and so the domestic nature of our work, as also the propiety of this dedication become apparent to the reader. -- H. R. M." Carson, Nevada) April 14, 1870)

The following is from 'Sagebrush Leaves".

MOUNTAIN LIGHTS AND SHADOWS -- If you are impressible by colors and tones, tints and atmospheric phenomena, you call to mind the sunset hues of those mountains in the east yonder. Of a clear, still, gloaming the Pint Nut [Pine Nut] hills loom up into the golden ether aglow with such rosy lights and violet shadows as the painters whose skilled hands so often have portrayed the Tyrolean alps like to imitate upon their canvass. You say to yourself these gloomy peaks are not the pleasant mountains I saw at sunset. If they are the same, indeed then hath nature taken upon herself the arts of the changling and the false colors of the coquette. You accuse her of 'painting,' for you have caught her in her dishabille and without her rouge and her Bloom of Youth. But how do you know which is the right tinting for the face of yon hillsides to bear before your eyes" Why may not the mountains have moods as well as any man or woman? But in fact these grim peaks so black with the darkness of a dull October morn are not the same that you saw at twilight. Where is the deep and jagged ravine so shaded with the royal purple of sundown? It is gone. Where is that distant peak which casts a shadow upon its fellows, giving us the strong and definite outlines of an independent, self-sustaining mountain? Gone!

"This is another wall reared against the horizon. There are two, yes, an infinite number of

#### [column 3:]

mountain ranges there -- a number as infinite as the changes of the changing sky -- as changeable as the clouds. To be sure. summer being cloudless, has a certain set of mountains for its landscape; but these must yield and be gone with autumn, with winter and with spring. Yesterday we caught a glimpse of an old friend of ours that had been gone. God knows where, these ever-so-many months. He showed his head, dark and threatening, as is his wont, high topping the crest of the Sierra there. Some veils of mist and changing storm clouds had revealed his outlines. He has been away, with the white mountain hares, the snowy owls and the pogonip, all summer. He is as distinct from any mere summer mountain as if he were a storm or a Christmas eve.

"Some weak philosopher will sneer at this Notary for a vagarist or a madman, perhaps. But where is any sanity or soberness of statement to be had if not in an account of the actual, the visible, and the present? Is there a peach - bloom - tinted mountain in the east, this heavy Tuesday? Was there not such a mountain there last Sunday at the going down of the sun? You swear to what you see, not to what might have been or may be again. That black mountain there, over against the western sky, capped with those frowning clouds, stands midway and above two sharply defined peaks, the two making a gorge and showing deep shadows and great gloomy precipices, which was

#### not so before.

The plain fact is, some migratory mountains, just from a summering at the north pole or amid the surges of the Antarctic, have come back again to their old haunts. You say, in your thoughtless way, that the lights and shades are so disposed as to bring out, in an unaccustomed relief, those mountain outlines. This, my dear reader, is to jump at conclusion. You are taking the unnecessary pains to build to suit yourself, the contour of your neighboring acclivities. Why not take them as you find them?

"Is the old garden gate of your boyhood the gate that it used to be, seen through the eyes of long ago? Are the eyes themselves the same? Look at that complacent matron, her form rounded to a womanly fullness, her silky brown hair tinged with silvery strands, and her manner so gentle and winning, but so something formal, withal. Is that your sweetheart, Fanny, think you. No, sir! That motherly woman who meets you with so much of cordiality mixed with a wise reserve, is no more Fanny of your boyhood than the glossy fabric of your wife's dress is a silk worm. Fanny vanished forever one day when she wept you out of sight, and went away to school, there to stay until she should be a woman. Also you went out of sight -- her sight -forever and ever. You who are so paternal and bewhiskered, what business have you to give vourself the airs of a boy of sixteen? Am I to be told that my broadcloth is a sheep's fleece because it once was wool? And if immortal man and beautiful woman are persons who have come to take the place of

a certain boy and girl who once played together and made love, why not these mountains, which can throw "three different kinds whose very looks is a thing of the caprice of the clouds and a freak of the sunshine, why not these 'keep and pass and turn again'?"

[newspaper clipping:]

### WHAT CARSON DID WHEN LINCOLN DIED

Recorder Dake was yesterday telling an old time story of fifty years ago in Carson City when the word came that President Lincoln had been shot. "At that time," said Mr. Dake, "there were many people living in the city who were southern sympathisers but being in the minority, were careful of their remarks. However, they had become known and were looked upon with anything but friendly eyes by the majority. When the word came of the shooting excitement went to fever heat and the southern sympathisers were in rather a precarious situation as had any hot head have started trouble there would have been a riot. Later came the word that Lincoln was dead and the word was quietly passed around that every house in Carson City must show crepe on the door and a sign of mourning or that house would be demolished. At once the federals commenced the hanging of crepe upon their door knobs and soon the city had a somber hue, as those who were against the union dared not disobey the mandate and had their houses draped in black. The loudest of the secessionists in the city was the notorious Jack Harris, but it was noticed that his house had the most crepe and he appeared to be the saddest of the many. He had heard that he was to be the first one to feel the fury of the people if ac-[incomplete]