Amargosa Valley Newsletter

"All the news that's fit to print (maybe)"

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February 2011

A Little Amargosa History By Jan Cameron

Almost all of us have spent time in one or more of our community buildings, but do you know their history? The early 1980's were a busy time for Amargosans. The community, which had for many years been referred to as Lathrop Wells (a corruption of Lathrop's Well), decided that it wanted to become a formally defined town called Amargosa Valley. With the support of the Board of County Commissioners, then numbering three members, the question was put on the ballot and Amargosa Valley was born in 1984.

In preparation for that, the people of the community had voted to take on a debt, in the form of 20-year bonds, to build the core community buildings: Fire Hall 1; the clinic, the Library and the Community Building, or Multipurpose building, as it is listed on your tax bill. The community paid off those bonds in twelve, rather than twenty years! The new facilities were completed in 1984.

The buildings were located next to the Elementary/Middle School, with had been built in 1974, and just around the corner, Amargosaspeaking, from the Senior Center which had been built at about the same time as the school.

The new library building was greatly needed, as the previous home was overwhelmed with books and underwhelmed with space for staff, volunteers or patrons.

Fire Hall 1 provided the primary home for the recently-registered Volunteer Fire Department. That service had actually started in 1965. In 1984, the firefighters gave up run pay to help pay for their first full-time member, Jim Rook,

Jr., who served for almost 30 years (in two stints) before retiring last year. About five years ago, two

more bays were added, along with the helicopter pad across the street from the clinic. Both were funded through Yucca Mountain PETT funds and championed by Comm. Joni Eastley. The Community Building was built to serve as a meeting-place and activity center for all residents the valley. It was built with a kitchen, stage (with

The Community Building was built to serve as a meeting-place and activity center for all residents of the valley. It was built with a kitchen, stage (with dressing rooms), and small meeting rooms upstairs so that it could be used for weddings and funerals, parties and wakes, dances and basketball, as well as community and town meetings. It is the school gym and assembly hall and the building for anything and everything an individual or group of people from the community needs it to be, within reason, of course. Though it (and all facilities in Amargosa) are technically owned by the County (Amargosa Valley in its current form cannot own property), this is not a county-built building to be used only to house staff or for official meetings – though it does serve that purpose too. It was built by the community to be used by the community. And it has been admired by al of our County neighbors for years, for its flexibility and usability. So when you see a social event at the Community Center or participate in a fundraiser or attend a

So when you see a social event at the Community Center or participate in a fundraiser or attend a meeting there, remember that was the intent of those who paid to build it. Smart planners, those predecessors of ours.

Happy New Year from Amargosa Valley School by Diane George

We said farewell to Mrs. Liberty our Principal on January 13, 2011. She spent three and a half years at our school. We will miss her, and we wish her good luck with her retirement. Please welcome Mrs. Hills as our new Principal. Many may already know her from her job as Principal in Beatty last year. She is excited to be here and is setting high expectations for our school. We have finished doing our computer MAPS testing for the district. Now begins some of the big State Writing and CRT Tests. The will be an **Honors Assembly in the**

<u>Community Center on Friday, February 4, 2011</u> <u>at 1:30 PM</u> to reward those students with awesome grades, behavior and attendance.

We handed out a survey at our last PTSS Meeting to see what parents would like from this organization. There will be a parent training on student success for the next PTSS Meeting on February 16, 2011 at 6:30 at the school. Parents will learn how to support academics, relate to school personnel, encourage your student's success and forge friendships with other parents. Parents must attend this training if they would like their child to participate in the next fun event from

PTSS. Please call the school if you would like to register for this class (372-5324). Student Council will be selling Valentine Grams during school lunch starting February 1, 2011. They can be delivered February 14 or taken when purchased. There will be NO SCHOOL on Monday, February 21, 2011 for President's Day.

Medical Information

The Nevada Health Centers Mammovan will be at the clinic on March 8th and 9th. To make an appointment please call 877-581-6266.

Also,

Congratulations Kristina Rook for passing your Fire Fighter 1 State test, we're all very proud of you.

You go girl!

New Medicare Program Ed Munton

Medicare and new private insurance policies will be required this year to cover the cost of many medical tests and services with no payments

Several examples:

Diabetes: adults with blood pressure over 135/80 should be tested for type 2 diabetes.

Aneurysm: Men over 65 of age who smoked at any time in their lives should have an ultrasound screen for possible abdominal aortic aneurysm.

Hearing: Newborn infants should be tested for hearing loss.

Osteoporosis: Women over 65 should be screened for osteoporosis.

Around 80% of adults from 20 to 80 years of age are candidates for at least one of the free If these free tests were taken 200,000 lives would be saved.

More at the Senior's Center

Ice for sale \$1.00 for a 80z bag
Open pool: Friday night pool starts at
5:30pm you must be 18 or older to play.
Ladies pool: Is the fourth Wednesday of each month at 5:30pm.

Funding for the Senior Center

Why is the Senior Center always trying to raise money? It's a government program and everything is paid for. Right? Wrong!! Each local center is responsible for part of the employees' wages, certain food and drink items. Last Dec wages alone were over almost \$900 and food items over \$300. This means the center must raise over \$1000 monthly to meet expenses. The only way the center has been able to continue to serve the community is through savings that were made when expenses were less and donations were higher. So, please support the senior fundraisers. They are planned for community participation not just for the seniors. Also, the center is a not for profit organization and donations are tax deductible. Please consider the senior center for some of your charitable contributions.

Also...

Amargosa Senior Center will be selling Rada Cutlery Products on an ongoing basis. Rada sells reasonable priced, durable knives, stoneware, candles and food products. You can order online @ helpourfundraiser.com (Ordering #502818, password:avsrctr.) You can call Pam Hall @372-1621 with questions or to place an order.

Beatty Amargosa Little League

IT'S TIME TO ORGANIZE FOR THE 2011 LITTLE LEAGUE SEASON! WE NEED ALL ADULTS IN BEATTY AND **AMARGOA** TO STEP UP TO THE PLATE AND VOLUNTEER FOR THE KIDS!

WANTED:

Board Members Coaches **Assistant Coaches Concessions Volunteers** Field Preparation Volunteers **Umpires**

IT WILL TAKE ALL OF US TO MAKE IT A SUCCESFUL SEASON FOR THE KIDS.

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO VOLUNTEER, PLEASE CALL ERIKA AT 775-553-2339 AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. IF THERE ARE ENOUGH ADULT **VOLUNTEERS** WE WILL HOLD AN ORGANIZATIONAL **MEETING** IN BEATTY ON TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2011 AT 6:00 PM. IN THE SMALL CONFERENCE ROOM AT THE BEATTY COMMUNITY CENTER.

BINGO.... At the Senior Center,

the second Wednesday of each month, so mark your calendars and for January 12th 2011 and come and join in the fun. \$.50 / double card/game. 50/50 split. 5:30 pm. Daubers for sale.

If you are in need of a ride to the senior center to join us for dinner please contact one of the following people:

AJ Griffin @ 372-5614 or Jean Adams @ 372-1314 or Purdy Stengel @ 372-5138 and they would be happy to help you out.

Arts and Crafts every Wednesday from 1pm to 4pm

AMARGOSA HAM RADIO CLUB

We are still looking for friends to become Ham radio technicians. You are more than welcome to joins us. This is far better and more fun than talking on a CB radio. Your CB radio has its place in the car as well as your H.F. radio. You never know when you might be called upon to give aid and/or assistance in an emergency. WHEN ALL ELSE **FAILES YOUR HAM RADIO OPERATORS** ARE THERE. There are no longer Morse code test requirements and we will help you with studying for the Technician tests. If sitting in front of the TV or counting weeds is getting to you, this could be what you're looking for. Our meetings are on the second Tuesday of each month at 6:30pm at the Amargosa Community Center on Farm Road. Please come and join us at our next meeting night...

FYI: for those who travel through Death Valley, there is a new Cell tower at Furnace Creek. It will handle all cell phone types it works from the south

2/1: American Legion 7PM VFW Hall

2/2: Middle School Basketball Games, AVCC

2/8: AARC 6-8pm, AVCC

2/8 Amargosa Valley Chamber of Commerce

2/9: Middle School Basketball Games, AVCC

2/10 Amargosa Town Advisory Board 7:PM AVCC

2/15 VFW Ladies Auxiliary 6:PM VFW Hall

2/16 VFW Men's 7:PM VFW Hall

2/24: Household Hazardous Waste Workshop

5pm, AVCC

2/24 Ladie's Pool 5:30 at the AVSC

2/24: Town Advisory Board mtg. 7pm, AVCC

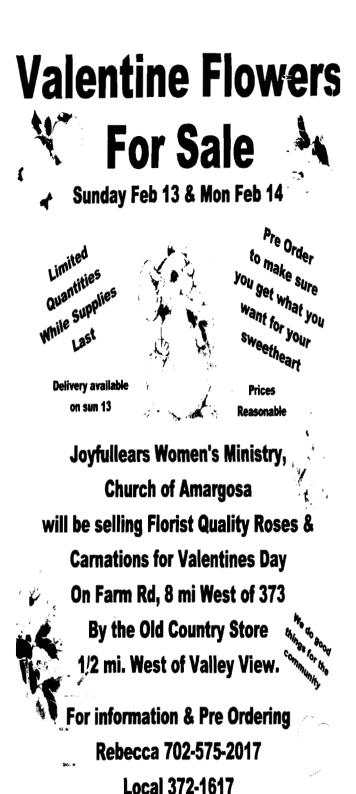
RECYCLING

Where I lived before, everyone paid for recycling. Though a good idea, it certainly wasn't fun. Aluminum (but not other metals) had to be separated from glass (clear only), which had to be separated from newspapers (not including glossypaper ads or Sunday magazines). Each had its separate container that was color-coded. Heaven help you if you mixed the contents; they weren't taken!

Did you know how easy it is to recycle in Amargosa Valley? Amargosa Disposal (a dba of Pahrump Disposal) provides a large bin in front of the Horizon Academy at the corner of Mecca and 373. You may toss plastics (types 1 or 2), all glass, aluminum (including aluminum foil), all other metals (including those that used to contain Pledge or other sprays) and all paper and cardboard into the bin. They may be separated or mixed, washed or not, as long as they get into the bin. When the bin is getting full, the staff at the Academy call Pahrump Disposal and they replace it with an empty one, taking the full one off for its contents to be sorted and recycled.

Local Non-Profit WebSite Addresses

www.avnv.biz Town Information, Public Comment
www.avnv.us Local Photography and Classifieds
www.amargosachamber.org Amargosa
Valley Chamber of Commerce
www.amargosachamber.org/cal Local Events
Calendar



Goodbye and Thank You, Tammy Been

The seniors of Amargosa valley have been extremely fortunate for the last three years while Tammy Been has served as our Senior Center Site Manager. She has fed us and nurtured us. She has cheered us and consoled us. She is an intelligent, talented, compassionate, loving young woman, who will be sorely missed when she leaves us to return home to Colorado this month. In addition to her work hours, she has donated countless hours to make all of our lives more pleasant. Travel safely, Tammy. Be well. And remember all of your friends in Amargosa Valley. We will certainly remember you. Thank you for all that you have done.

REMEMBER...at the SENIORS

February 2we will be having the TV Drawing @ 5:30 pm so make sure you buy your tickets to win

We will be having breakfast on February 11, and will be serving: Scrambled eggs, Bacon, Hash browns, Country gravy, Whole wheat toast, Peach cup, Coffee and 2% milk

Our Valentine's Day dinner will be on February 14 and we will be serving: French dip, AuJus, FF Potato wedges, Broccoli with cheese sauce, Baked beans, Pears

MENU FOR AMARGOSA SENIOR CENTER 775-372-5413

			i idppy		
	MONTH OF:	Feb. 2011	Valentines day		
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRDAY
		1-Feb	2-Feb	3-Feb	4-Feb
		Spinach lasagna	Roast beef	Ham and beans	BBQ Chicken
		Garlic bread	Baked potato	Corn bread	Baked acorn squash
		Cheeseburger soup	Green beans	Garden salad	Cucumbers in sour
CLOSED		Salad bar	Veggie soup	Strawberry cup	cream
		Apple sauce	Pineapple upside down	Brownies	Biscuit, Honey
			cake		Ambrosia 72
			TV DRAWING @ 5:30		
	7-Feb	8-Feb	9-Feb	10-Feb	11-Feb
	Baked pork chops	Baked meat loaf	Lemon and herb	Spaghetti	Breakfast 9am to 10:30
	Stuffing	Mashed potatoes	<u>Chicken</u>	Corn on the cob	Scrambled eggs, Bacan
	Mixed veggies	Steamed spinach	Seasoned Zucchini	Vegetable soup	Hash browns
CLOSED	Scalloped potatoes	Let. & Tom. Salad	Scalloped potatoes	Garlic bread	Country Gravy
	Garden salad	Cracked wheat bread	Salad bar	Salad bar	Whole wheat toast
	Chocolate chip cookie	Apple butter 56	Mocha cappuccino	Strawberry cup	Peach Cup
		Oatmeal date bar	ice cream pie		Coffee & 2% Milk
	14-Feb	15-Feb	16-Feb	17-Feb	18-Feb
	Valentines day	Cheese enchiladas	Egg plant parmesan	Oven fried chicken	Seasoned Cod
	French dip, AuJus	Salsa and sour cream	Spinach spaghetti	Peas & carrots	Wild rice
CLOSED	FF Potato wedges	Refried beans	Carrot raisin salad	Mediterranean soup	Baby carrots
	Broccoli with cheese sau.	Vegetable soup	Garlic bread	with mozzarella cheese	Dinner rolls
	Baked beans	Salad bar	Fruited yogurt pie	Colorful salad	Tapioca pudding
	Pears, Garden salad	Pears	Orange banana juice 18	Bread pudding	Soup
	Brownies		Birthday cake		
	21-Feb	22-Feb	23-Feb	24-Feb	25-Feb
	Hot turkey sandwich	Fiesta beef enchiladas	Baked pineapple ham	Tuna patties	Chicken broccoli rice
CI 2000	Green beans	<u>Zucchini delight</u>	Broccoli	Rice pilaf	Beet salad
alosed	Mashed potatoes	Salad bar	Sweet potatoes	Baby carrots	LS Margarine
	Gravy	<u>Peaches</u>	Layered salad	Salad bar	Honeydew/Cantaloupe
	Chocolate chip cookie	Bread pudding	Baked apples	Tapioca pudding	Fruit cup 38
	Mixed fruit				
	28-Feb				
	· · ·				
	Baked liver and onions Mexicorn	Нарру			
alosed	Tomato vinaigrette	Valentines day			
acould	Mashed potatoes	Tale in he s day			
	, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,		***		
	WW Bread Apple butter 101				
	Sliced peaches			<i>₹</i> 77 	
	oliced peaches		20/ MILL/ SEDVED	MEALS SERVED EDOM	
[2% MILK SERVED	MEALS SERVED FROM	

MENU SUBJECT TO

CHANGE

4:00 TO 5:30 P.M.

NCSO Break-in Violates Sanctity of AV Town Offices and finds – NOTHING

This Man's Opinion

by brent mathewson

In the mid-morning of January 11, 2011 two armed men, Deputy Sheriff Scott of Amargosa, and Detective Murphy of The Nye County Sheriff's Office, entered the building of The Amargosa Community Center, went upstairs to a meeting room area of the facility and proceeded to attempt to gain access to a locked fire-proof filing cabinet/safe that the Town uses to store records, data, and burial-plot maps relevant to The Amargosa Cemetery. The safe-like devise is used for these purposes by The Amaragosa Cemetery Committee in order to comply with State Law that requires documents of this type to be handled and stored in this manner.

At the time of entry into The Amargosa Community Center by these representatives of Nye County Law the building was completely unoccupied other than the presence of the building's custodian who was involved in his normal workday routine activities. The room of the Town Office, which the Town Secretary works out of, was closed with the door locked. *No other people were on the premises*.

The two armed men worked diligently, but fruitlessly, for about a half an hour to overcome the obstructions offered by the deviousness of the manner in which the lock on the vault had been designed. Their initial efforts were to no avail and the safe-like vault remained temporarily impregnable. However, these armed men were members of Nye County's Finest and were undeterred.

Oh, did I mention what these armed men were armed with during the time of their morning's follies and activities on this most un-fortuitous date? Why, their side arms of course. But... they didn't have a search warrant. The one thing that it would seem they needed above all others in order to legalize their otherwise illegal activities they didn't have! They not only didn't have one in their pocket they didn't even have one in their imagination. An imaginary search warrant would have been better than none — wouldn't it?

Anyway, as I said they were undeterred determined armed men and the obstructionist mentality of the safe-like devise was no deterrence to these dedicated officers of the law. They would compel it to their needs if that's what it took. And they went next door and borrowed a drill and some drill bits and came back to the arena of the unwilling subject of their desires and began the process of compelling it. A half hour later of vigorous compelling activity brought them to their goal and they had it conquered. The drawers to the vault yielded, gave way and rolled open. They looked inside, and found - cemetery records. In order to make any sense of this nonsense and apparent crime against the integrity and legitimacy of the Town of Amargosa some background information is in order:

- 1) On or about late September-early October 2010 an investigation was opened by the Nye County Sheriff's Office due to allegations by a person or persons presently unknown that misuse and/or misappropriation of public funds had taken place at the Amargosa Community Center.
- 2) In the course of the investigation on October 18, 2010 Detective Eric Murphy of the Nye County Sheriff's Office requested and received a legal Search Warrant ordering the search and seizure of items specifically mentioned in the Search Warrant, i.e. Any and all computer components, Computer Towers, Hard Drives, any and all CD's or DVD's and an internet camera located in the Amargosa Town Office. The items mentioned were specifically not limited to those owned by Nye County. A search was conducted of the Amargosa Town Office and items were seized on that date.

3) On October 28, 2010 at a regularly scheduled meeting of the Amargosa Town Advisory Board (TAB) Nye County auditor Dan McArthur informed the TAB that potentially serious irregularities in the manner in which the petty cash funds available to the Town Board and its various committees had been and were being handled were in violation of appropriate procedures required by law. McArthur's comments to the TAB were in the form of a stern rebuke to the Board and included the suggestion that immediate corrective action needed to be taken.

The TAB took McArthur's recommendations to heart, began a process of immediate corrective actions and in the weeks that followed put in place corrective procedures in order to bring the manner in which the petty cash fund was handled into compliance with statutory requirements.

In the meantime the course of the County's investigation rolled on. (It is now well into its 4th month.)

- 4) In November 2010 an election was held at the Amargosa Community Center to fill seats that were becoming vacant on the TAB. The turn-out for the election was huge. No other word could perhaps properly describe it. The unprecedented size of the crowd was orderly and easily handled by a well organized election committee and the efforts expended by a dedicated crew of volunteers.
- 5) In December 2010 the Nye County Board of Commissioners (BOCC) refused to initiate a process that would recognize the results of the election and allow the newly elected members of the TAB to be sworn in and seated on the Board. By now it was becoming obvious to all citizens of Amargosa, except perhaps 2 or 3 that had been vacationing for the last six months in New Jersey or someplace, that a serious split of non-cooperation between the BOCC and the TAB was festering. The split and fracture in the relationship of the two governing bodies had begun at least as far back as early 2010 when the County began a set of maneuvers to take over control of the Amargosa Volunteer Fire Department.
- 6) One of the most public of the festering wounds caused by the County's apparent grab for power over Amargosa's emergency services personnel was brought to light when County bureaucrats fired several of Amargosa's most dedicated, knowledgeable, and long time serving volunteers. Then for good measure they fired the Fire Chief from his paid position. The BOCC's response to this action which was seen as an outrage to the citizens of Amargosa was to sit on their hands.
- 7) On January 27, 2011 at a regularly scheduled meeting of the Amargosa Town Advisory Board, Nye County auditor Dan McArthur returned and presented to the TAB what appeared to be an 'interim' report of his audit that was running parallel to the ongoing investigation by the county. McArthur explained that he would be giving a more 'detailed and final' report to the BOCC at a later date presumed to be sometime in late February 2011. The auditor's presentation to the TAB was nothing less than blistering as he listed in somewhat chronological order violations of NRS LAW that had occurred in the manner in which petty cash funds had been handled over the past several years by the TAB. The attack culminated when he charged in no uncertain terms that the minimum amount of monies that were either 'missing or unaccounted for' in the petty cash fund was \$3575. As a whole, the members of The Amargosa Town Advisory Board sat in stunned silence upon hearing and at the same time trying to reject this violence to their ears.

It would take until later in the evening for an informed and knowledgeable member of the Amargosa community to ask the pregnant question, [the following is not a direct quote, it is a very accurate paraphrase to the best of the author's recollection] "How is it possible for mismanagement and violations of Nevada law of the extreme that you have described to have occurred over the extended period that you refer to without being brought to the attention of the Town Advisory Board by audits conducted in the past?" (Since McArthur was the auditor that had conducted all those past audits it was more than interesting to watch him try to wriggle off this gnarly hook of a question – a feat never close to becoming accomplished in a satisfactory manner for the duration of the evening.)

To this observer, to try and separate the background described above from the event that occurred on January 11, 2011 when an expensive fire-proof vault was destroyed by actions taken by Nye County law enforcement personnel during an invasion of the Amargosa Community Center without Search Warrant is to be naïve to the extreme.

Believe it or not: The paramount question in all of this is not whether the NCSO was required to have a search warrant in hand before entering the building and destroying the fire-proof vault in order to gain access to its contents.

No. It is taken as a given that the DA will argue that they had every right to destroy the vault in order to gain access since it was 'only county property to begin with.' This assumption is made because of all the documentation that is in hand that illuminates the amount of collaboration that took place between the Nye County Sheriff's Office and the District Attorney in an apparent or possible attempt to misdirect attention away from the fact that Murphy and deputy Scott did not have a search warrant in hand when they entered that building.

In a nutshell their story is:

- (A) The fire-proof safe is County property and if they want to look inside it they have every right; and if they have to force it open in order to get a look that's just the way it is implying of course that the unasked question as to whether a search warrant would be necessary to do such a thing is too trivial a matter to get into so please don't waste their time asking about *that*.
- (B) They had asked a lot of people as to where the key to the safe was prior to forced entry being made. Out of all of the people that had been asked, none of them knew or would admit to it. There were strong suspicions that some of the people they had asked about the location of the safe's key were being uncooperative and purposefully obstructing justice.

[Interestingly none of the 'lot of people' that were supposedly asked about the location of the safe's key are identified other than Scott's claim that he had asked a member of the town's staff for it and she had not provided it to him. Scott's story is that he had asked her for it some time ago at the same time they requested several other things. Since they did not write down their requests, she probably forgot about it. The staff member being referred to adamantly states that no one at any time ever asked her anything about a key to that safe. The reader can be assured that the two other most logical people that would know the location of the key, the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the TAB were never asked. This is a well established fact and they will both swear to it. For that matter so will the staff member referred to.]

But the Paramount Question is: Did the contents of the vault that Murphy and Scott removed from the building and took with them contain private or public information? The contents that were removed are Cemetery Records under the care of the Cemetery Committee of the Town of Amargosa. State Law requires them to be stored in the manner that they were stored in. If the District Attorney, Brain Kunzi, wants to argue that the information and records stored in this manner are 'public records' in order to legitimize their seizure without Search Warrant then what he is really arguing is that all information and records under the care of all cemetery committees in the State of Nevada are public records. Dead or Alive. Buried or Not. Competent legal council has assured this writer that that concept would be a very difficult thing to sell.

The point of the issue is a mile wide and cannot be drawn with a fine line. It is the strong-armed tactics used by Detective Murphy in his smash and grab takings of the contents of the vault that have brought the issue to the surface. Perhaps if we lived in a police state it would be all cut and dried.

Well, if the cemetery records of the dead and planned to be dead people are private then what is the NCSO doing with them in its possession? How could the NCSO possibly have legally seized them without Search Warrant? Kunzi's problems and the correlating problems of the NCSO in this matter do not end with this question. Both the Sheriff and Kunzi are documented as stating that sincere and continuous attempts had been made to locate a key to the vault before destroying it in order to gain entry. One would have to assume that if that were the case then written reports that NCSO personnel are required to make during an investigation of this type should name who and when anyone had been asked for a key to this particular vault. This would seem to present a difficulty since the three most logical people to have been asked such a question are all willing to swear that no such question or any like it was ever asked of them. It goes without saying that if written reports in regards to this investigation contain false statements that were known to be false at the time they were written then the entire investigation is tainted.

Being careful perhaps to cover over some of the stuff he is apparently stepping in the DA states in one of his missives, "This is not Nye County against the Town. This is Nye County against misuse of public funds." No one

had asked him about the question he was referring to but I guess he just figured he'd better get it in there for the record anyway, or something.

Perhaps the good people of Amargosa Valley should thank the gods in Nye County for not deciding to set fire to The Amargosa Community Center so that the fire department in Pahrump could practice putting it out.

That is, This Man's Opinion

The author of this article can be contacted by e-mail at $\underline{rbsnctry@netscape.com}$ or $\underline{bmathewsonessays@aol.com}$ if you have any comments or questions.

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