

**NEVADA STATE  
EXHIBIT,  
MIDWINTER FAIR**

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Nevada State Exhibit, Midwinter Fair by J. A. Yerington

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**J. A. YERINGTON**

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Commissioners, 1893

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Nevada State Exhibit, Midwinter Fair.

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J. A. YERINGTON, Managing Director.

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## REPORT.

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*To the Honorable State Board of Agriculture:*

GENTLEMEN: I have the honor to present the following report on Nevada's exhibit at the Midwinter Fair, held in San Francisco, 1894.

Respectfully,

J. A. YERINGTON,  
Managing Director.

## REPORT.

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In order to fully illustrate Nevada's participation, it will be in keeping with the report of the Commissioners to republish a brief sketch of the Midwinter International Exposition, setting forth the object of its inauguration.

Following so closely upon the Columbian Exposition at Chicago, which was the grandest the world ever saw, the attempt seemed audacious, for it could not be expected that it would rival it in its colossal proportions, but it was a bright idea that suggested the possibility of transplanting many of the wonderful exhibits of that exposition to the western shores of the United States, and with them bring together thousands of the wonders of the Pacific Coast that could not be placed on exhibition at the World's Fair. Having taken the step with assurances of aid from the foreign countries, it was fittingly named the California Midwinter International Exposition.

Although the time was unpropitious, owing to the financial condition of the country, the people of the Coast believed it would be a healthy enterprise if it could be made a success. A capital of \$500,000 was asked of the citizens of San Francisco to make a success of the enterprise. The effort was conducted on a popular scale, and when \$300,000 was assured, the scheme was inaugurated on a beautiful site in Golden Gate Park on the 14th day of August, 1893. The press of the Coast, halting at first in their opinions as to the success of such a gigantic enterprise, wheeled into line, and their generous aid soon changed the current of an adverse sentiment to one of confidence and marked enthusiasm. The large and beautiful buildings seemed to spring up like magic. In chronicling its advancement toward completion, the press stated "there had never been such a display of activity in any country or in any age of the world." This, with all due deference to the astonishing vitality of the people of Chicago.

From the day the first stone was laid only four months remained before the day of opening, as announced, was to take place. A proclamation was issued inviting all foreign countries and the States in the Union to participate. The great fair was formally opened January 27, 1894, amid much pomp and great enthusiasm.

Governor Colcord having issued a circular letter to the citizens in which he pointed to the benefits that would be derived by Nevada

making an exhibit of its resources at the Midwinter Fair, held in San Francisco, January 1 to July 1, 1894, the Directors of the State Board of Agriculture consented to extend all the aid at their command, and also through them the citizens and Boards of County Commissioners were appealed to. The Chicago exhibit having arrived at Reno, it was extended to the State Board of Agriculture. J. A. Yerington was appointed by said Board as Managing Director, with the following Directors: C. H. Stoddard, P. H. Mulcahy, W. E. Sharon, W. T. Smith.

The Managing Director was requested to visit the site that had been allotted to the State of Nevada and make estimates upon the cost of erecting a State building and maintaining the State exhibit therein during the season of the fair. The time for the opening of the fair being nearly at hand, it was expedient to start the exhibit from the State at as early a date as possible. It was estimated that \$15,000 would be required to erect a building and maintain the exhibit. Estimates were made on a number of designs that were considered suitable for the State building, one in particular being in the shape of a pyramid, showing in proportion the amount of gold, silver and other precious metals that had been extracted from the mines of the State, but the cost of same being some \$8,000, it had to be abandoned and a building at a cost of \$5,250 erected. The plans were submitted to the State Board and approved by them. The site allotted to the State for the erection of this building, though not facing the main court, was pleasantly located on the north drive of the main Park road, adjoining the "49" Mining Camp, through which attraction many thousands were drawn towards the Nevada exhibit. San Joaquin and Humboldt county buildings were in close proximity. The architects and contractors spared no pains in making the building not only commodious and perfect in detail as suitable for an exhibit, but one that would reflect credit, as Nevada was the only State possessing its own building. The same, covering an area of 50x60 feet, was of Corinthian style of architecture, supported on the south and east sides by eight large columns, three stories high, including a roof garden, from which a view could be obtained of the main driveway and surrounding country. The building was covered with staff, and the Swiss windows gave to it a most pleasing effect. The main entrance faced the south.

On entering, the first thing to attract the attention of the visitor, was the life-sized portrait of Hon. J. W. Nye, Nevada's first Territorial Governor and United States Senator. It was suspended from the center pillar of the west gallery directly over the great Seal of State, where the full strength of the light from the large windows above had a most desirable effect. The register, in which all visitors placed their names, was near the entrance. The Secretary's office and gentlemen's lavatory were on the right, and the ladies' lower reception room and public school exhibit to the left on entering. Nearly the entire space on the main floor was devoted to the agricul-



tural, experimental, botanical, and public school exhibits. The center space was occupied by a pyramid 8 feet square at its base, rising to a height of 16 feet, similarly arranged to the one at the World's Fair Exhibit, with an addition of a very choice exhibit of preserved fruits and pickles in handsome jars, with choice bunches of a variety of grains intercepting each. The space above the pyramid was open to the roof, in the center of which was a circular sky scene painted in bright colors, 12 feet in diameter. Streamers of cream and white colored bunting were carried from its edges and draped to a point above the pillars surrounding the entire gallery, giving a very warm effect, and reducing the strong light that penetrated through the many large windows. The gallery pillars on the main floor were artistically covered with choice grains, as were also the intervening cross-beams.

In the agricultural line the most prominent exhibit was that from the Experiment Station of the State University at Reno, occupying the entire space on the north side of the main floor, and consisting of the following: A stand exhibiting grasses and their seeds; insects injurious and beneficial to the farmers of the State, arranged in neat glass cases, showing their effect upon the wood, tree or cereal attacked by them, and insecticides for the eradication of the same; an exhibit embracing the amount of digestible food necessary to produce ten pounds of fat on certain animals; one showing the full analysis of the ingredients constituting so many pounds of pure dairy products; the amount and analysis of matter contained in 100 pounds of alfalfa; eight velvet panels, 50x60 inches, representing forty varieties of grains in sheaf, corresponding with the same threshed, and arranged in redwood boxes on the pyramid, and a botanical exhibit giving the name of each variety arranged separately.

On the south side was an exhibit of honey in comb and extracted; an exhibit of many varieties of potatoes was also attractive.

Across the aisle, nearly the entire length of the building was devoted to a display of many varieties of choice apples. The butter and flour exhibits also occupied prominent space on this side of the building.

At the west end was an exhibit of hay, timothy, alfalfa, and cheese. To the right of the staircase was the original pair of snowshoes worn by "Snowshoe Thompson" on his travels over the Sierras whilst carrying the mail, and on the left a large piece of mahogany sent from Eureka county.

The east wall embraced a relief map specially exhibited by Churchill county. An exhibit of a granite monument, the granite having been produced at the quarry of John Barrett, Washoe City, Washoe county, created admiration and much interest. This monument, with its face and trimmings highly polished, compared most favorably with the finest imported Scotch granite that is so extensively used in this country for building and monumental purposes;

together with the exhibit of the Brann Manufacturing Company of Reno, consisting of a wrench and jack with a wheel conveniently arranged for illustrating the movements and advantages, had space on the main floor. A. E. Johnson exhibited a hand drill and an automatic telegraph instrument. A unique exhibit of horseshoes, made of nickel, and comprising every variety, was made by C. P. Ferrel of Reno.

At the first landing one was accosted with a reproduction of the original target shot at by Company F (Carson Guard) at the International Midwinter Fair Shooting Tournament.

On the left of the gallery was the office of the Managing Director, and on the right a reception-room thirty feet long, embracing the woman's exhibit of artistic needlework, hand-painted china, ceramic work, etc. This work was under the able management of Mrs. R. M. Clarke of Carson, assisted by Miss Ollie Bray. A case filled with choice needlework occupied the wall space facing the gallery. The balance of the gallery was devoted to a prehistoric and mineral exhibit of the State.

The wall space between the windows was occupied by large glass cabinets, embracing all of the individual, State and University collections, showing in detail every variety of mineral obtained in the State. At the base of the cabinets, and extending nearly the entire circuit of the gallery, was placed a raised bench, exhibiting all of the heavier minerals.

In the center of the gallery on the east side was a table  $2\frac{1}{2}$  feet wide by 20 long, subdivided, with a display of all the latest discoveries of gold ore in quantity sufficient to enable samples being given freely to capitalists and others interested. At the west end of the building a fine display of sulphate of copper (bluestone) in hand-some glass jars was exhibited by the Morgan Mill.

The exhibit of coal from Esmeralda county created the keenest interest. Analysis showed: Volatile matter, 34.7 per cent.; fixed carbon, 47.4 per cent.; ash, 17.9 per cent. In front of this was a special case of all the ores of White Pine, exhibited by Joseph Grandelmyer. To the right an exhibit of a special case of rare and beautiful minerals was exhibited by R. E. Kelly; adjoining, an exhibit by the Occidental Alkali Company and Aluminum Lustre Company of Esmeralda county. Their product of silica received the highest award at Chicago. A carload was recently shipped to Boston. A space reserved against a wall was filled with samples of their sodas and polishing compounds, which were freely extended to all visitors. The Delaware Mining Company of Storey county made an exhibit of a piece of silica some  $3\frac{1}{2}$  feet long by 1 foot wide, with neatly arranged samples for distribution. This company's mine supplies the Electro-Silicon Company of New York. The exhibit from the Comstock lode, showing the first piece of "black stuff" picked up on the Comstock and presented to George Hearst in 1858, was extended to the State as an exhibit by A. B. Paul, and ores embrac-

ing all the principal mines along the lode, from the surface to the 3200-foot level of the Hale and Norcross mine (the lowest point at which ore was ever extracted) giving in round numbers the production of some \$400,000,000, the dividend from one mine amounting to \$77,000,000. This proved a great surprise to many who were not familiar with the early history of Nevada's output, and especially the large percentage of gold that was contained in the ore as exhibited. In front of the exhibit of the Occidental Alkali Company was a large model showing in detail the entire system of underground timbering on the great Comstock lode; views illustrating the system of stoping, and of Virginia City, were suspended from the pillars. The northwest corner of the gallery was devoted to Nevada's chemical exhibit neatly arranged in a large case, being a fac simile of the exhibit as described in group 48 at the Columbian Exposition. Attention was called to its having taken fourteen highest awards. Near this was the exhibit of the different salt companies, and adjoining was an exhibit comprising a pyramid of native and refined sulphur from the Humboldt Sulphur Works, with the official award and ribbon issued to same at the Columbian World's Fair, illustrating its purity, viz: 99.57 per cent.

The balance of the north gallery was devoted to the special exhibit of Mineralogist E. C. Morrison, comprising some 5,000 specimens, and embracing every variety of minerals produced in Nevada. W. E. Lindsey made an exhaustive exhibit of Nevada's marble and building stones, including his famous sky-blue marble and travertine. Phosphate of lime, of which there is reported a very large deposit near Deeth, Nevada (the analysis showing it carrying  $7\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. of phosphoric acid), created much interest. A ton of mineral soap from Elko in its natural condition was prepared and extended to visitors as a great curiosity. There was an interesting exhibit of iron ore and pure lime from Washoe county, and pyrites of iron carrying 52.5 per cent. sulphur from Ormsby. One piece of antimony from Lander county, weighing 1,600 pounds, and a piece of lead ore weighing 2,280 pounds, from the Diamond mine in Eureka county, were placed on either side of the main entrance in front of the building. A large exhibit of shale was sent from Elko county. Gypsum, of which there are large deposits, was freely sampled. This product is being shipped to California. A most interesting exhibit was that made by the Pamlico Mining Company of a model showing in detail the entire underground workings and the contour of the mountain in which the mine is situated. The two ledges on their course in the mountain were represented by gauze, which clearly defined all breaks and angles of the same. The recent discoveries of gold at Ferguson, Kennedy, Silver Star and Pine Nut Districts, together with the exhibits from the mines in Johanna and Robinson Districts, and others from Hawthorne District and Pine Grove, camps of earlier date, were freely sampled and carefully analyzed, samples in sufficient quantities having been spe-