

THE TRAIL MAP The story of early trails through Nevada must remain incomplete. Some explorers were too busy trying to survive to maintain records, others were able to keep only meager ones. Students and historians continue to follow up on old trails, sometimes with success. Despite some lack of information, many of the old routes are reasonably well established and accurately located. The more important of these trails are shown, and the major explorer-trail blazers noted below.

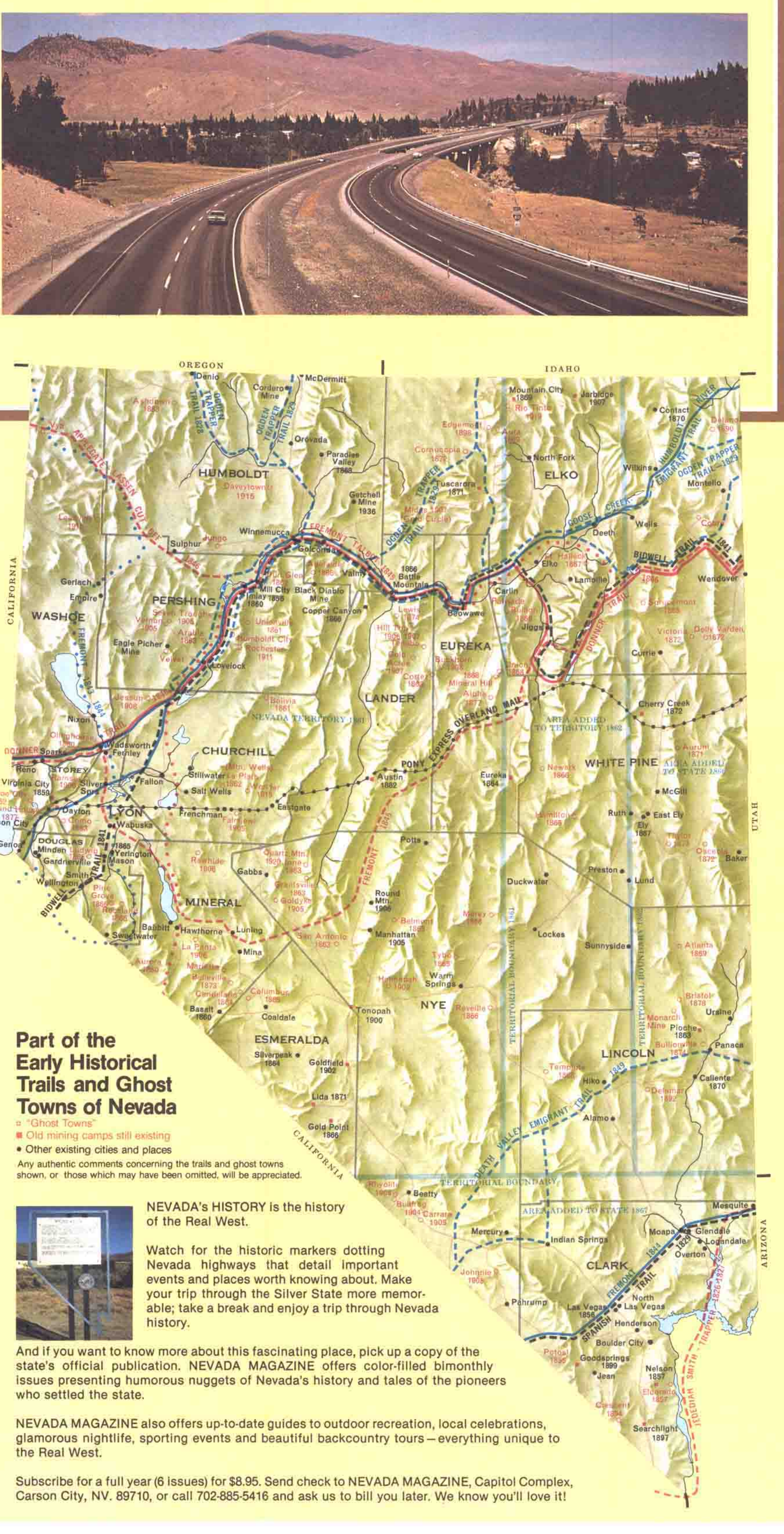
PETER SKENE OGDEN He led a Hudson's Bay trapping expedition along what is now known as the Humboldt River, but earlier called Ogden's River and Mary's River before Fremont gave it its present name. Some scholars believe Ogdren entered Nevada in the Elko County area as early as 1806. This would have made him a Canadian, the first white man to enter northern Nevada.

JEDEDIAH S. SMITH The first American to enter the state was known to have crossed the southern tip in 1808 on his way to California. The remarkable trapper-explorer returned east the following year by an incredibly difficult journey across central Nevada.

JOHN C. FREMONT Perhaps the best known of Nevada's trail makers, he came down from Oregon in 1843 into what is now northern Washoe County. He discovered and named Pyramid Lake, crossed the Sierra south of Carson Pass and crossed signed Lake Tahoe which he named Lake Borland. His return from California brought him across the southern end of the state in 1844 along the Old Spanish Trail.

In 1845, while exploring eastern Nevada, Fremont split his party. **Joseph Walker**, veteran of several previous trips through the state, guided his half of the group through the Humboldt Mountains to the west where he met the Humboldt. Fremont, with the remainder of the party, crossed the Ruby via Harrison Pass and continued southwesterly to Walker Lake for an eventual meeting with Walker's division.

OTHER TRAILS The Goose Creek-Humboldt Emigrant Trail with its main fork along the Truckee and Carson Rivers was the most used route. The Bidwell-Bartleson Trail was the route of the first emigrant party to cross the state. The group had to abandon the route in eastern Nevada and pack through to California. The Donner Trail, as it became known after the disaster of using the route which was impractical for wagons led to further difficulties and tragedy near the Lake Summit which now bear the party's name. The Applegate-Lassen Cutoff provided a lower pass through the Sierra Nevada mountains but required crossing the infamous and waterless Black Rock Desert. The Spanish Trail, closed in the state, was established by missionaries and traders. Later a section of the route became known as the San Bernardino-Salt Lake Wagon Road and was well used by the emigrants. The Death Valley Emigrant Trail was a shortcut into southern California in the late 1840's, but lack of water and difficult terrain caused it to be abandoned within a few years.



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State Metal: SILVER
State Bird: MOUNTAIN BLUEBIRD
State Flower: SAGEBRUSH
State Animal: DESERT BIGHORN SHEEP

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Message from the Honorable
Governor of Nevada
Richard H. Bryan