



KATHY GAY



BOBBY JOHNSON

**TOLER REALTY**

1044 No. Rancho Dr.  
Twin Lakes Shopping Center  
**648-0484**



L. LEWIS



VA, HUD  
SALES  
BROKER

**MLS**

JIMMY TOLER



Fifteen Southern Nevada teachers found out last week it IS nice to fool with Mother Nature . . . if you do it in a way that's environmentally educational.

The Mother Nature trip -- a day-long environmental workshop in Red Rock Canyon Recreation Lands -- was conducted by the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) Las Vegas District office as part of the "Exploring Nevada '77" program jointly sponsored by the Nevada Advisory Committee for Environmental Education and the Nevada Department of Education.

The week-long program was taught in Las Vegas by staff members of state and Federal agencies as a two-credit course under the University of Nevada Las Vegas' Continuing Education Department.

BLM's program was "hands-on all the way", according to Denise Meridith, environmental coordinator for the bureau in Las Vegas, who led the workshop.

The teachers received brief explanations of the parts of the environment ranging from soil characteristics to desert plant adaptations, to wildlife habits. From then on it was "dig in," sometimes literally.

"One task we did was to analyze the soil for alkalinity, moisture content, and for temperature changes," said Robert Sulenski, a geologist working for BLM. "The first step was to dig a foot-deep hole. That's hard work in some of the places we were at."

The teachers also investigated the climate of Red Rock Canyon, taking temperature, humidity and wind data at different locations.

When it came to desert plants, the group examined a wide range of vegetation to determine plant characteristics and differences.

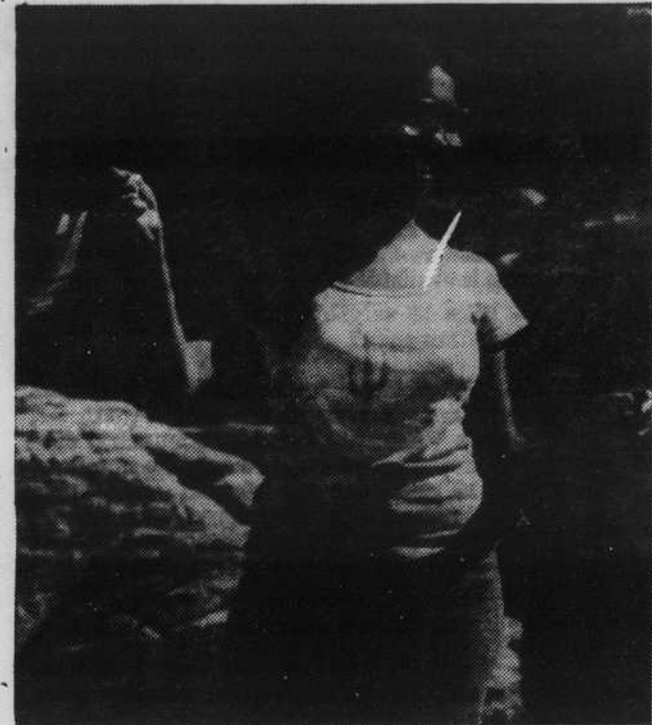
"After the examination," said Terry Driver, BLM range conservationist who led the plant session, "we tried to relate the adaptations some desert plants had made, to the soil and climate conditions in Red Rocks that probably instigated the changes in the first place."

A natural step from the plants was to the animals that depend on them for food and shelter. Richard Enriquez, a BLM wildlife biologist, guided the teachers through that portion.

After a discussion of the types and characteristics of Red Rock Canyon animals, the group dispersed near Willow Springs to locate signs of Wildlife.

Enriquez said, admiringly, that the group made quite a number of sightings of reptiles, some bird and rodent observations, and some valid burrow findings.

"A few picked up some animal tracks, like deer," he added.



HOW DRY IS IT? -- Denise Meridith, BLM environmental coordinator in Las Vegas, demonstrates the use of a sling psychrometer, a temperature measuring device used in determining relativity humidity. Ms. Meridith discussed climate factors in the desert during an environmental education workshop conducted in Red Rock Canyon Recreation Lands as part of the "Exploring Nevada '77" program. (BLM Photo)

Ms. Meridith closed the workshop with a summary and discussion that drew together the day's activities by relating the different parts of the environment to each other.

"We were aiming at seeing and understanding the evolutionary changes that had brought the environment to its current state," she said. "The final step was to look at and evaluate the often revolutionary changes that man imposes on the environment."

At the end of the workshop, Ms. Meridith distributed environmental education packets to the teachers.

"With these packets, teachers can bring their classes to Red Rocks and conduct the same kind of environmental investigations we did," she said. "Ultimately that's one of our objectives in Red Rocks -- to facilitate its use by all groups and ages as an environmental workshop."



CHECKING OUT THE ROCKS -- Four Las Vegas teachers examine rocks found in Red Rock Canyon Recreation Lands during a geology investigation task as part of the environmental education workshop conducted

by BLM as part of "Exploring Nevada '77". From left they are: Susie Parker, Monica Noland, Connie Addington, and Ann Green. (BLM Photo)

**EDITORS NOTE:** The Las Vegas Voice will publish your opinion on any subject - praise - complaints - questions - or answers. We do reserve the right to edit, and your letter must be signed with a valid address and phone number for verification prior to publication. We want your letters! At your written request your name can be withheld.

Dear Sir:

I am writing as a concerned taxpaying citizen who spends much time in and around Justice Court. After reading an article which appeared in a local newspaper, dealing with the crowded conditions in Justice Court, I feel somewhat compelled to respond.

Aside from it being economically feasible to consider expending funds toward any extension of Justice Court facilities, I think, in terms of priorities, Justice Court barely deserves consideration compared to other county funded facilities. In this connection, there are many alternatives which would alleviate the congested condition, some of which are outlined below.

(1) Revert back to the policy of allowing attorneys to waive the presence of their clients in all misdemeanor cases except where a strong presumption of guilt, and the seriousness of the offense, makes the defendant's presence necessary at the time of sentencing. It is not unusual for one attorney to represent six or more persons at arraignments and two or more subsequent appearances dealing with the same case before it is concluded.

(2) Judges should deal with matters orally as much as possible, rather than listening to defense motions, discussing same, then requiring defense counsel to reduce the same motion to writing, re-calendar and re-represent the same substance. This can also be prohibitive in cost to clients for attorney's fees.

(3) Justice Court should set a firm date for both prosecution and defense to appear for arraignment and penalize to some extent those persons who without good cause fail to appear. In the event the state fails to bring their case in on the designated date and time, the case should be dismissed, without prejudice to refile. This abuse is presently causing alarming confusion and repetition in Justice Court. Some courts in this land impose cash penalties for failure to appear while others may increase the amount of bail. It is not a practice of the Las Vegas Justice Court to take any action against persons specifically for failure to appear.

(4) Establish uniform rules for Justice Court which will deal strongly with repeat offenders in their trade for years and made a mockery of our system of justice. The majority of these persons have a revolving door through our jail and court and are metered by the same yardstick as a first offender or even stable citizens caught in a single conflict with our laws.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4