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Carson City Mints a Base Ball Club, 1869–1870

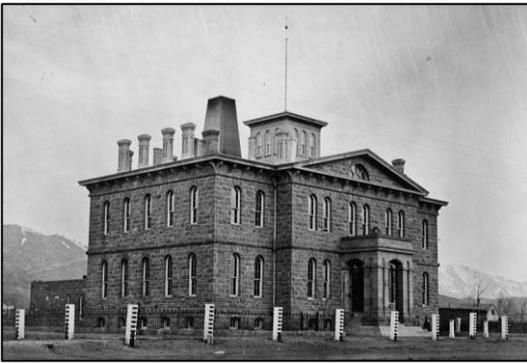
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Carson City Mints a Base Ball Club, 1869–1870



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Upper left: Carson City Mint, ca. 1879. *Library of Congress Reproduction Number HABS NEV,13-CARCI,20—1.* (<https://www.loc.gov/pictures/collection/hh/item/nv0030.photos.104025p/>)

Lower right: Nevada Capitol on the Plaza in Carson City, 1872. *Library of Congress Reproduction Number HABS NEV,13-CARCI,4—3.* (<https://www.loc.gov/pictures/collection/hh/item/nv0051.photos.104044p/>)

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Carson City Mints a Base Ball Club, 1869–1870

Mark E. Eberle

Carson City, Nevada was established at the site of a trading post and ranch established in 1851 as Eagle Station on one of the overland routes into California. The land was purchased in 1858 by a group that included Abraham Curry. The new owners had the land surveyed and platted as a townsite, and a federal post office was established in November 1858. The nascent town was named Carson City after the nearby Carson River, which John Frémont had named for his scout, Christopher “Kit” Carson. At the time Carson City was established, it was in the Utah Territory, and there had been attempts to separate the western portion as a separate territory, all unsuccessful. Undaunted, Curry set aside a parcel of land—referred to as the Plaza—for use as a public park and possible site for a new territorial capitol. In the meantime, only a few months after the town was established, gold—and later, silver—were discovered nearby, leading to a rapid increase in Carson City’s population. The main silver deposit was later named the Comstock Lode.¹

The Nevada Territory was finally established in March 1861. This action came in the aftermath of the brief and tragic Pyramid Lake “War” between white settlers and Paiutes in the summer of 1860 and just before the US Civil War would threaten to rend the nation. Newly elected president, Abraham Lincoln, appointed James Nye to be the first territorial governor and Orion Clemens to be the territory’s secretary. Clemens was joined by his brother, Samuel, who first used the penname Mark Twain while he was a reporter for the *Territorial Enterprise* in nearby Virginia City. Nevada was admitted as a state in October 1864, and Nye would serve two terms as one of Nevada’s US Senators.²

In 1863, while Nevada was still a territory, Congress authorized the Carson City Mint. This mint would allow coins to be produced without the costs and risks of shipping silver and gold mined in the region to the mint in San Francisco. Ground was broken for the Nevada facility in 1866, but construction of the sandstone building was not completed until December 1869. Abraham Curry was appointed to serve as the mint’s first superintendent, and he oversaw its construction. The first coins—seated Liberty dollars with a CC mint mark—were produced on the mint’s single coin press in February 1870. When mining of the Comstock Lode declined, there was no longer any need for the mint, and the production of coins in Carson City ended in 1893. The building was sold to the state in 1939, and it now serves as the Nevada State Museum.³

To transport ore from the Comstock mines to mills along the Carson River and carry lumber up to the mines, the Virginia and Truckee (V&T) Railroad was constructed from Carson City through Silver City and Gold Hill to Virginia City. The distance from terminus to terminus was 13.5 miles, but the line’s tracks curved for 21 miles to accommodate the terrain and the change in elevation of 1,575 feet. The route included seven tunnels and a trestle 85 feet high and 500 feet long. Grading crews, including

numerous Chinese laborers, began work in February 1869. Work progressed apace, but in late September, as the first rails were laid near the mint in Carson City, miners from Virginia City and Gold Hill marched en masse to drive off the Chinese laborers. The miners were told Chinese laborers would not be allowed to work in the mines, and construction on the railroad in that area resumed after a few days. The first freight and passenger trains traveled the entire route from Carson City to Virginia City in January 1870.⁴

While the railroad and mint were under construction, Carson City organized its first baseball club. More than just a baseball team, it was a social organization intended to provide opportunities for group exercise by men employed in offices and shops. The club also included honorary members. These clubs were typical of the era in towns across the country, including baseball's frontier west of the Mississippi River, far from the center of baseball activity in the Northeast.⁵ The ball club organized in Carson City in 1869 was not the first in Nevada, but it represented a progression of the sport in the state.

The first baseball clubs currently documented in Nevada were in Virginia City, the largest city in the state at the time. Baseball had reportedly been popular there since 1864. The city had at least two clubs in 1866, when the Virginia Base Ball Club (BBC) scheduled a game with the Northwestern BBC for the championship of the city.⁶ In a region of deserts and mountains, where towns were often distant and travel by ball clubs was a challenge before railroads were constructed, early games were usually played by two teams chosen from members of the local club or between clubs in a larger town, such as Virginia City. In 1868, the Austin and Lander BBCs, named for a mining town and county in central Nevada, also played each other before the Carson City club was organized.⁷

In February 1867, the *Carson Daily Appeal* reported that "arrangements are being made for a match game of baseball, between a party from Virginia [City] and one from Carson [City]—for \$100 a side." However, no game is known to have taken place.⁸ It was not until June 1869 that positive steps were taken to organize a "Carson Base Ball Club." The impetus for its organization was the arrival that summer "of the young gentlemen who are to be engaged upon the Mint." These immigrants from the other side of the country were "thoroughly proficient in the rules and practices of the game of base ball as played in the East." Among these experienced players was Henry W. "Harry" Berthrong.⁹

Berthrong played for the National Club of Washington, DC from 1865 through 1868. In 1867, the Nationals strengthened their roster and made a 20-day tour by train and steamboat through the Midwest and Upper South. The tour was undertaken in the spirit of reconciliation following the Civil War through an exhibition of the national pastime. The effort was directed at the white populations of the North and South, not Black and white Americans. The team played 10 clubs in Columbus (1 game), Cincinnati (2), Louisville (1), Indianapolis (1), St. Louis (2), and Chicago (3). The Nationals won all but one game, a surprising loss to the Forest City Club of Rockford, Illinois (played in Chicago). In the spring of 1869, Berthrong departed for San Francisco. From there, he would make his way to Carson City to take up employment with the mint. While in Nevada, Berthrong also gave dancing and art lessons.¹⁰ Supporters of the national pastime in Carson City would look to him for guidance in baseball matters.

The ball club organized in June 1869 was initially called the Carson BBC of Carson City, but the name was soon changed to the Silver Star BBC. Members of the club held meetings and practices through August, presumably under the tutelage of the gentlemen from the East. Two months after its founding, the Silver Star BBC issued a general challenge to whatever club considered itself to have “best nine players in the state of Nevada.” The game was to be played in accordance with the rules of the National Association of Base Ball Players. The *Gold Hill Daily News* announced the challenge and asked if a club from Silver City or Virginia City would respond. Within a few days, the Virginia BBC accepted the challenge, but the game would not be played until September 25 on the Plaza in Carson City. This would be followed by a return game in Virginia City, in what was referred to as a home-and-home match.¹¹

The level ground at the Plaza was prepared for the match and fenced to keep cattle out. To keep spectators clear of the playing field on gameday, they were asked to enter the grounds at two specific points—the corner closest to Greenbaum’s store and in front of the store operated by Mason and Huff. Fans were then asked to view the contest while staying “within the two rows of trees on the north and west sides.” This suggests home plate was in the northwestern corner, facing to the southeast, but the orientation of the field was not specified. “Seats for ladies will be placed where a good view of the playing can be had.” The same nine players who would take the field for the Silver Stars in both games are listed in Table 1.¹²

The V&T Railroad was still under construction, so the Virginia BBC traveled to Carson City in “one of Wells, Fargo & Co.’s coaches,” with left fielder William “Billy” Crandall at the reins.¹³ One of the other players for the Virginia City club was pitcher Thomas L. “Tommy” Beals, who had celebrated his nineteenth birthday in August. Like Berthrong, young Beals had played baseball in the East in 1867 and 1868 with the Union Club of Morrisania (Brooklyn, New York).¹⁴

Upon their arrival, the Virginia BBC was met by the Silver Stars’ Committee on Invitation. No estimates were published of how many people “gathered upon the places assigned to spectators,” but it was reported that “over 500 ladies” attended the game. The Plaza had “an unusually lively appearance.” With Berthrong and other club members being familiar with baseball as played at the highest levels in the Northeast, a detailed box score for the game was provided to the *Carson Daily Appeal* for publication the following day (Figure 1). However, the newspaper offered no description of the game. At the time, pitchers were limited to underhand deliveries and no gloves worn by the defenders, which is why “fly balls caught” were noted in the game summary. These facts also partially explain why scores were substantially higher than those of recent decades. Thus, the Silver Stars were able to greatly distance themselves from the Virginia BBC by a score of 82–31. Nevertheless, the “best of feeling prevailed during the game and the contestants adjourned after their sport to attend a big dinner given by the Silver Stars at the Ormsby House.”¹⁵

At the same time the Silver Star and Virginia BBCs were playing their game, the Cincinnati Red Stockings, the first openly professional team, were on a western tour of much greater geographical scope than the tour of the National Club of Washington, DC

Table 1.—Rosters of the Silver Star Base Ball Club (BBC) of Carson City, Nevada in two games against the Virginia BBC of Virginia City, Nevada in 1869 and during a six-game tour of California in 1870. The 1870 team also included players from the Virginia BBC. Names and initials of players in brackets are based on a Silver Star BBC roster published in the *Carson City Daily State Register* on 15 June 1871.

1869	1870
Henry “Harry” W. Berthrong	Thomas L. “Tommy” L. Beals
[C.W.] Burgesser	Henry “Harry” W. Berthrong
Joseph R. or William J. Cowen	[C.W.] Burgesser
Harry Day	Harry Day, captain
[James R.] Finney	[James R.] Finney
	Hopkins
[Willie M.N.] Johnson	
	McCloskey
	McLane
Meder	
[Edward J.] Parkinson	[Edward J.] Parkinson
	Sellers
[Henry] Sharp	

only two years earlier. Taking advantage of the recently completed transcontinental railroad, the Red Stockings traveled all the way to San Francisco. The tour was widely covered in the press, and it probably stirred memories in the minds of some of the Nevada players about their time with major clubs in the East. The Red Stockings were about to begin their return trip to the east when, on September 28, three days after the game in Carson City, the *Carson Daily Appeal* reported that the Silver Star BBC “have invited (or are going to invite)” the Red Stockings for a game on the Plaza. However, the V&T Railroad would not connect Carson City with the transcontinental railroad at Reno until 1872. On October 2, the *Daily Appeal* reported the reality of the situation, which probably surprised few, if any, knowledgeable fans in Carson City. The Cincinnati Red Stockings, traveling in their own railcar, could not afford to make the side trip to Carson City.¹⁶

Nevertheless, the Silver Stars continued to hold meetings and practices. After all, they still had a return game to play in Virginia City on October 9, when the Virginia BBC hoped to even the series at a game apiece. The Virginia City ball ground was at the lower end of town, “near the works of the Virginia Gas Company,” which fueled lights for local streets and businesses (homes were still lit with kerosene lamps). The field was prepared, and seats were provided for female spectators. “No profanity will be allowed, but everything will be conducted in the most gentlemanly and orderly manner.” Most of the “several hundred persons” who watched the game were “gentlemen,” and the “few ladies present” remained in their carriages.¹⁷

SILVER STAR CLUB.		
	Outs.	Runs
Day, 3d base.....	1	11
Parkinson, R. F.....	3	8
Berthrong, S. S.....	2	9
Cowen, 1st base.....	5	8
Burgesser, C.....	4	9
Johnson, P.....	6	7
Finney, 2d base.....	1	11
Sharp, L. F.....	1	11
Meder, C. F.....	4	8
Total.....	27	82
VIRGINIA CLUB.		
Campbell, C. F.....	5	2
Brady, S. S.....	5	1
Ricker, 3d base.....	3	3
Adams, L. F.....	5	1
Collins, 1st base.....	2	4
Beals, P.....	1	6
Kelly, R. F.....	4	3
Angell, 2d base.....	0	7
Hopkins, C.....	2	4
Total.....	27	31
HOME RUNS.		
SILVER STARS:		
Day.....	5	2
Parkinson.....	1	1
Berthrong.....	1	1
Finney.....	1	1
Sharp.....	2	2
Total.....	7	7
VIRGINIANS:		
Beals.....	2	2
Angell.....	1	1
Hopkins.....	1	1
Total.....	4	4
FLY BALLS CAUGHT.		
SILVER STARS:		
Berthrong.....	4	4
Cowen.....	1	1
Total.....	5	5
VIRGINIANS:		
Beals.....	1	1
Collins.....	1	1
Angell.....	1	1
Ricker.....	1	1
Kelly.....	1	1
Total.....	5	5

Figure 1.—Box score published in the *Carson Daily Appeal* on 26 September 1869 for the first game between the Silver Star Base Ball Club of Carson City and the Virginia Base Ball Club of Virginia City played on the Plaza in Carson City, Nevada.

En route to Virginia City, the Silver Star BBC was met by their hosts at Gold Hill, who escorted their guests the rest of the way. What form of conveyance was used was not mentioned. The V&T Railroad was not yet completed all the way to Virginia City, but the team might have ridden on a work train part of the way. The game was called at noon, after the teams enjoyed breakfast at Delmonico's. Unfortunately for the home team, they lost again, but the score was not as high (54–18). One of the baseball fans in attendance was Senator James Nye, who had “seen a good deal of this kind of sport” and was impressed by the talent of Tommy Beals.¹⁸

One play during the game involved a reporter from Virginia City's *Territorial Enterprise*, where Samuel Clemens had worked a few years earlier. The reporter's description sounded a bit like something Mark Twain might have written. Given that he referred to himself in the plural, perhaps he was channeling the former city editor. The reporter was sitting in his carriage on the margin of the outfield, unbounded by a fence, when a ball was hit on the fly in his direction. He “knew that something had got to be done.”

Having lately been elected an honorary member of the Virginia Club we thought we had some sort of right to stop the ball. So we just whirled about and caught it without moving from our seat in the carriage—we caught it just below our left shoulder-blade. At first we thought we would catch it on the end of our nose; we are glad now we didn't.¹⁹

After the game, the Virginia BBC treated their guests to dinner and took them to the Opera House to enjoy unspecified entertainment, presumably a variety show then performing at Piper's Opera House.²⁰

With two victories to their credit, the Silver Stars continued their monthly meetings and occasional practices through the end of the year. Harry Berthrong and Joseph Cowen also opened a short-lived Dancing Academy. In November, “Indian men and boys hereabout seem to have caught the base ball contagion” and take “much delight in batting and tossing and getting their fingers hurt catching.” At the end of the month, the Virginia and Northwestern BBCs of Virginia City played the final game of the season, with the loser providing supper. The game had been delayed by weather “so stormy that it was impossible for them to play in their light uniforms, or to catch a ball with the snow driving in their faces.” The Virginia BBC won, 52–19, and presumably claimed their meal.²¹

For Carson City, 1869 brought two major accomplishments—construction of the V&T Railroad to Virginia City and construction of the federal mint. The following year, production of coins began at the mint and construction of the state capitol began on the Plaza, with the stonework of the walls completed in September. Despite these successes, the V&T Railroad would not be extended to Reno, providing an important connection with the transcontinental railroad, until late 1872.²² These events affected the Silver Star BBC in three ways. Off the field, some of the club's members were now fully employed at the mint. On the field, the club would have to find a new ball ground, and they would have to travel by stagecoach, at least to begin their journey, if they wanted to play baseball in towns other than Virginia City. And that was exactly what they intended to do.

The new ball ground was on the lot of the new state Orphan's Home to be built that summer.²³ The Silver Star BBC got to work early, as shown by a report in the *New York Clipper* on March 19, which included a box score for an intramural match.²⁴ The Silver Stars hoped to welcome the Striped Stocking BBC of Elko, Nevada that spring, but the negotiations became contentious.

The *Elko Independent* reported the Striped Stockings hoped to travel to San Francisco and, perhaps, to the East "to play a match game with the champion players of the country." The *Carson Daily Appeal* suggested the Elko club make the shorter trip to Carson City to play the Silver Stars. Elko was on the transcontinental (Central Pacific) railroad 230 miles east of Reno (farther by train). The first game for the Striped Stockings was against a team closer to home—the Central Pacific BBC of Carlin, about 20 miles down the tracks. There were also clubs at Corinne and Mountain City that might be interested in games with the Striped Stockings. The latter club submitted a box score to the *New York Clipper* in May. Elko defeated the Central Pacific club, 91–39, but the Striped Stockings almost missed the trip. Although trains provided an excellent means of transportation for baseball teams and their supporters, they were not without drawbacks. On gameday, the westbound train through Elko was about 10 hours late. Fortunately, a local supporter, P.M. Eder, arranged to pay for a special train to transport the team and fans from Elko in time for the game.²⁵

On April 15, the Silver Stars sent a letter to Elko, challenging the Striped Stockings "to play a match game." Five days later, the Striped Stockings accepted the challenge. As the challenged party, they claimed the right to set the terms, and they scheduled the game for May 21 in Elko. Therein laid the problem. The Silver Stars intended their challenge to be an invitation to come to Carson City. In response to this "base ball controversy," the *Carson Daily Appeal* published a letter from Carson City's resident baseball expert, Harry Berthrong. In the letter, Berthrong wrote that the "Rules of 1868 ... expressly state that the challenging club have the right to the grounds for the first game." He added that it was the custom of "all the clubs in the East." The Striped Stockings demurred, and the Silver Star BBC "referred the matter to the Chairman of the Committee on Rules of the National Association of Base Ball Players." Both clubs agreed to abide by his decision. However, the *Elko Independent* suggested baseball custom was not the real problem. Perhaps neither team was anxious to bear the "considerable expense" of the long trip by rail and stagecoach.²⁶

Henry Chadwick, an English immigrant, had made himself into a prominent promoter of baseball in its early days—so prominent that he was among the first inductees into the National Baseball Hall of Fame. It was Chadwick who responded to the Silver Stars' request for judgement. A series of letters exchanged among Chadwick, the Silver Stars, and Striped Stockings were published in the local newspapers. From these, it is clear that Chadwick's reply on May 11 did not help. He said there was no rule governing the matter at hand, but his comments throughout nearly the entire letter confirmed Berthrong's explanation that the challenging club traditionally chooses the ground, typically their own. Thus, the challenge of the Silver Stars "having been accepted, it should follow that the game be played on your [Silver Star BBC] grounds." Elsewhere in the letter, however, Chadwick offered his opinion that, "By right, I think the challenged party should name the

time and ground.” Not surprisingly, both ball clubs seized upon the parts of the letter that supported their respective positions, and no game was ever played.²⁷

In June, the Silver Star BBC moved on to another, more ambitious plan. They challenged clubs in San Francisco, Oakland, Sacramento, and Stockton, California. Top among them was the Eagle Club of San Francisco. In the eyes of the Silver Stars, this particular match would determine the “championship of the Pacific Coast.” The willingness of the club to undertake this trip a month after failing to arrange a game with the Striped Stockings suggests the unwillingness of the Silver Stars to travel to Elko was largely a matter of principle. The strong competition they would face in California led the Silver Stars to add Tommy Beals and other players from the Virginia BBC to their roster (Table 1).²⁸

The Silver Stars left Carson City on June 23, and their first game was played two days later against the toughest opponent—the Eagles. The *New York Clipper* expected it to be a good contest, “as the Silver Stars have among its players Beals, formerly of the Unions, of Morrisania; McLane, of the Jeffersons; and Berthrong, Phinney [*sic*], Burgeser [*sic*] and Day, of the Nationals, of Washington.” The *Clipper* had also mentioned former baseballists from Washington, DC clubs playing for the Silver Stars earlier in the spring.²⁹

A small crowd of about 500 spectators came to the Recreation Grounds in San Francisco to watch the game, which lasted 3 hours and 40 minutes. “During the entire game the wind was blowing very strong, and the clouds of dust rendered the playing uncomfortable to both the participants and spectators.” The Eagles won, 34–16. The *San Francisco Chronicle* reported neither team played well but credited Beals with gaining “the laurels of the day for his remarkable pitching. With the exception of Brainard, of the [Cincinnati] Red Stockings, he is the best pitcher we have ever seen in this State.” The Eagles were shut out in three innings, and they scored single runs in two others. However, the Eagles scored 11 runs in the fourth inning and 13 in the seventh, due in part to poor fielding by the Silver Stars, perhaps influenced by the wind and dust. In addition to Beals, Berthrong, “the catcher, did very well, and made the best score of any of the members of the [Silver Star] Club.” It was “a beautiful strike, sending the little sphere almost out of sight to the left field” for a home run, one of two he hit that afternoon. The *Carson Daily Appeal* reprinted the story and box score published in the *San Francisco Chronicle* but omitted the entire description of what happened each inning. (The *Chronicle* published lengthy descriptions and box scores for all four games played in San Francisco).³⁰

The Silver Stars lost two more games on the Recreation Grounds on June 27 against the Wide Awakes of Oakland (losing 27–16) and on June 28 in a second match with the Eagles (losing 34–23). In the game against the Wide Awakes, Berthrong hit a leadoff homerun “far into the left field.” This game was again marred by strong winds, which resulted in numerous foul balls, several of which were caught for outs. Like the first, windblown game against the Eagles, it lasted longer than usual at 3 hours and 25 minutes. There was little wind in the second game with the Eagles, which lasted only 2 hours and 30 minutes. Beals experienced arm trouble while pitching, apparently in his shoulder, and he was relieved in both games with the Wide Awakes and Eagles. Commenting on the second game with the Eagles, the *San Francisco Chronicle* hypothesized, “there can be little

doubt that if Beals had continued pitching the Silver Stars would have won the match—or, at least, the score would have been different.”³¹

After losing the first three games, there was concern back in Carson City, even though the differences in scores were progressively smaller. Abraham “Curry was heartless enough to telegraph them to ‘play one game with the boys of the Blind Asylum and then come home.’” Even the *Elko Independent* took a shot at the Silver Stars. “If the club had come to Elko, as it ought to have done under the arrangements, and got away with the Striped Stockings, it would have had a recommendation to cross the Sierra Nevada mountains and throw down the gauntlet to the crack club of the coast.” Despite the taunts, the Silver Stars’ luck—and display of skills—changed for the better. On June 29, in their fourth game on the Recreation Grounds, they defeated the Occidental Club of Oakland, 30–5. According to the *San Francisco Chronicle*, “The batting and the fielding of the Silver Stars were excellent, and far superior to their playing on any other day.” In addition to pitching well, Beals, his lame arm apparently feeling better, hit a homerun, as did Berthrong and Sellers.³²

The Silver Stars then started back to Nevada, stopping to play two more games on the way home. On June 30, they easily defeated the Oak Leaf BBC of Stockton, 58–8. The *Stockton Daily Evening Herald* provided no other information about the game, except to suggest that the “Oak Leafers ... do not practice enough.” On July 1, the Silver Stars earned another easy victory over the Sacramento BBC, 64–21. The *Sacramento Daily Bee* took solace in the view that “This is not as bad as the Oak Leafs of Stockton were beaten by the Silver Stars.”³³ In the end, the Silver Star BBC, with help from the Virginia BBC, completed the week of competition in California on a crescendo toward a record of 3–3.

That was the end of the season for the Silver Stars. In Virginia City, the three ball clubs—Virginia, Northwestern, and Comstock—talked of pooling their talent and challenging the Striped Stockings or Wide Awakes. However, the Wide Awakes would have little incentive to make the long trip from Oakland, and the Striped Stockings had gone dormant after their disagreement with the Silver Stars. Instead, the Virginia City clubs played among themselves that summer. In September, a mixed team in Virginia City called the Enterprise BBC challenged the Silver Stars. The game scheduled for October was postponed multiple times due to injuries and finally by the weather, leading to an indefinite postponement.³⁴

If the game had been played in October, it would not have featured the regular lineup for the Silver Stars. Harry Berthrong had returned to the East Coast in July 1870, after the club’s trip through California. He joined the Olympic Club of Washington, DC.³⁵ Tommy Beals of the Virginia BBC also returned to the East and joined the Olympic Club in 1871 under the pseudonym W. Thomas.³⁶

Back in Nevada, the Silver Star BBC continued to play a few more years. The ball ground for the club moved again in 1871 to an open area behind B.H. Meder’s residence, “east of the city.” It would continue to be relocated as the city grew. In 1875, the Silver Stars were joined by the Granger BBC of Carson City, but baseball faded over the next few years. The waxing and waning interest in town team baseball occurred in communities

across the country. However, teams with different names would periodically be organized in Carson City, as well as other towns across the state.³⁷

The importance of the Silver Star BBC in Nevada history rests with its status as Carson City's first town team, organized with the assistance of experienced baseball players from the East, such as Harry Berthrong. These baseball immigrants were likely instrumental in the club's goal of participating in intercity—even interstate—competition. The presence of these ballplayers in Carson City and Virginia City was directly connected with a boom economy driven by mining the Comstock Lode and the establishment of the Carson City Mint. It was a time of great expectations in Carson City celebrated on a baseball ground optimistically set aside more than a decade earlier as the future home of a state capitol.

Acknowledgements

Most newspapers were accessed through Newspapers.com and the Nevada Library Cooperative (<https://nvlibrarycoop.contentdm.oclc.org/digital/search/advanced/>). The *New York Clipper* was accessed through the Digital Collections of the Illinois University Library (<https://digital.library.illinois.edu/>). General information about early baseball clubs in Nevada was obtained through Protoball.org.

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¹ Moreno (2011).

² Moreno (2011). • Powers (2005).

³ Anonymous (2017).

⁴ *Carson Daily Appeal*, 26 March 1868, p 3; 26 May 1869, p 3; 24 August 1869, p 2; 28 September 1869, p 3; 30 September 1869, p 2; 2 October 1869, p 2; 10 October 1869, p 3; 12 November 1869, p 3. • *Gold Hill Daily News*, 10 March 1869, p 3; 8 May 1869, p 2; 16 September 1869, p 2; 28 September 1869, p 3; 29 September 1869, p 3; 5 October 1869, p 2; 7 October 1869, p 2, 3. • Myrick (1992).

⁵ Eberle (2017; 2018; 2020a; 2020b; 2020c). • Nylen (1990).

⁶ Protoball.org, *Pre-pro Clubs and Games in Nevada*, <https://protoball.org/NV> (accessed 19 January 2021).

⁷ *Daily Reese River Reveille*, 17 April 1868, p 1; 20 April 1868, p 2; 27 April 1868, p 2; 8 May 1868, p 1; 1 June 1868, p 1.

⁸ *Carson Daily Appeal*, 21 February 1867, p 3.

⁹ *Carson Daily Appeal*, 13 June 1869, p 3; 16 June 1869, p 3. • *New York Clipper*, 8 May 1869, p 35; 9 July 1870, p 109.

¹⁰ *Carson Daily Appeal*, 26 October 1869, p 3; 10 February 1870, p 3. • *New York Clipper*, 9 September 1865, p 170; 8 May 1869, p 35. • Swanson (2015).

¹¹ *Carson Daily Appeal*, 16 June 1869, p 3; 2 July 1869, p 3; 5 August 1869, p 3; 6 August 1869, p 3; 13 August 1869, p 2, 3; 24 August 1869, p 3; 21 September 1869, p 3. • *Gold Hill Daily News*, 16 August 1869, p 3.

¹² *Carson Daily Appeal*, 21 September 1869, p 3; 22 September 1869, p 3; 25 September 1869, p 3.

¹³ Nylen (1990).

¹⁴ *New York Clipper*, 19 October 1867, p 220; 27 June 1868, p 93. • Sternman (2016).

¹⁵ *Carson Daily Appeal*, 25 September 1869, p 3; 26 September 1869, p 3. • *Gold Hill Daily News*, 8 October 1869, p 3. • Nylen (1990).

¹⁶ *Carson Daily Appeal*, 28 September 1869, p 3; 2 October 1869, p 2. • Rhodes et al. (2019).

¹⁷ *Carson Daily Appeal*, 1 October 1869, p 3; 5 October 1869, p 3; 12 October 1869, p 2, 3. • *Gold Hill Daily News*, 5 October 1869, p 3; 8 October 1869, p 3. • Nylen (1990). • Shamberger (1972, page 38).

¹⁸ *Carson Daily Appeal*, 12 October 1869, p 2, 3. • *Golden Hill Daily News*, 11 October 1869, p 3. • Myrick (1992). • Nylen (1990).

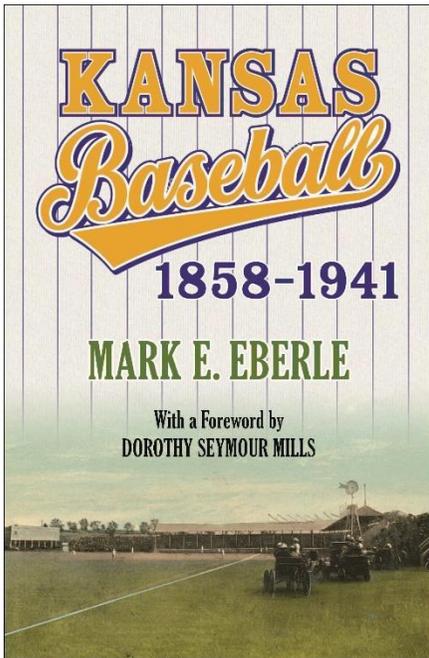
¹⁹ *Carson Daily Appeal*, 12 October 1869, p 2.

²⁰ *Carson Daily Appeal*, 12 October 1869, p 2, 3. • *Gold Hill Daily News*, 6 October 1869, p 2.

²¹ *Carson Daily Appeal*, 14 October 1869, p 3; 16 October 1869, p 3; 26 October 1869, p 3; 4 November 1869, p 2; 5 November 1869, p 3; 21 November 1869, p 3; 23 November 1869, p 3; 25 November 1869, p 3; 26 November 1869, p 2; 2 December 1869, p 3; 3 December 1869, p 3. • *Gold Hill Daily News*, 1 December 1869, p 3. • *New York Clipper*, 18 December 1869, p 293.

²² *Carson Daily Appeal*, 19 April 1870, p 3; 20 May 1870, p 3; 22 September 1870, p 3. • *Carson Daily State Register*, 24 August 1872, p 3; 1 October 1872, p 3.

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- ²³ *Carson Daily Appeal*, 15 June 1870, p 3; 21 September 1870, p 3. • Nylen (1990).
- ²⁴ *New York Clipper*, 19 March 1870, p 397.
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- ²⁸ *Carson Daily Appeal*, 15 June 1870, p 3; 24 June 1870, p 3.
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- ³⁰ *Carson Daily Appeal*, 28 June 1870, p 2. • *New York Clipper*, 16 July 1870, p 117. • *San Francisco Chronicle*, 26 June 1870, p 3.
- ³¹ *San Francisco Chronicle*, 28 June 1870, p 3; 29 June 1870, p 3. • *New York Clipper*, 23 July 1870, p 125.
- ³² *Carson Daily Appeal*, 28 June 1870, p 3; 2 July 1870, p 2. • *Elko Independent*, 2 July 1870, p 3. • *San Francisco Chronicle*, 30 June 1870, p 3. • Nylen (1990).
- ³³ *Carson Daily Appeal*, 3 July 1870, p 2. • *Sacramento Daily Bee*, 2 July 1870, p 3. • *San Francisco Chronicle*, 30 June 1870, p 3. • *Stockton Daily Evening Herald*, 1 July 1870, p 3.
- ³⁴ *Carson Daily Appeal*, 22 July 1870, p 2. • *Elko Independent*, 6 August 1870, p 3. • *Gold Hill Daily News*, 26 July 1870, p 3; 2 August 1870, p 3; 5 September 1870, p 3; 11 October 1870, p 3; 14 October 1870, p 3; 24 October 1870, p 3; 28 October 1870, p 3.
- ³⁵ *Carson Daily Appeal*, 31 July 1870, p 2. • *New York Clipper*, 30 July 1870, p 131.
- ³⁶ *New York Clipper*, 2 September 1871, p 172. • Sternman (2016).
- ³⁷ *Carson Daily Appeal*, 14 October 1873, p 3; 1 September 1874, p 3; 25 April 1875, p 3; 27 July 1875, p 3. • *Carson City Daily State Register*, 13 May 1871, p 3; 15 June 1871, p 3; 18 August 1872, p 3. • *Carson City Morning Appeal*, 13 April 1880, p 3; 16 April 1880, p 3; 4 May 1880, p 3. • Nylen (1990). • Protoball.org, *Pre-pro Clubs and Games in Nevada*, <https://protoball.org/NV> (accessed 19 January 2021).



You can learn more about the early history of baseball played by teams throughout Kansas in the book *Kansas Baseball, 1858–1941*, published in 2017 by the University Press of Kansas and available in paperback or e-book through bookstores and online retailers.

The book explores the early game played by hundreds of town teams composed of white males, as well as teams of women, African Americans, American Indians, and Mexican Americans. Also described are the regional minor leagues and major league tours, along with the histories of towns still playing baseball in the state's oldest ballparks constructed between 1924 and 1940.