

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Vice Chairman Schofield
Mr. Craddock
Mr. DuBois
Mr. May
Mr. Mello
Mr. Nicholas
Mr. Polish
Mr. Prengaman
Mr. Redelsperger

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Mr. Dini (Excused)
Mr. Jeffrey (Excused)

GUESTS:

Mr. Thomas E. Bilbos, Elko County
Mr. R. L. Kane, Elko County
Ms. Connie J. Hicks, Elko County
Ms. Gerri, Lunsford, Elko County
E. F. Lunsford, Elko Co.
Ms. Gayle M. Williams, Washoe Co.
Ms. Anita Mitchell, Elko County
Mr. Warner Mitchell, Elko County
Mr. Mike Marfisi, citizen
Mr. Andrew Puccinelli, citizen
Mr. John Carpenter, Elko Co. Commissioner
Mr. William B. Gibbs, Elko Co. Commissioner
Mr. James Miller, Elko Co. Sheriff
Mr. Geo. Hunt, Elko Wedding Center
Mr. Bob Truesdell, Elko Wedding Center
Mr. Mike Presti, Elko Co. Sheriff's Dept.
Mr. Ted Thornton, Carson City Co. Clerk
Mr. Dean A. Rhoads, Assemblyman
Mr. Joe Midmore, Elko Wedding Center

Vice Chairman Schofield called the meeting to order at 8:05 A.M.
The bill to be discussed is AB-93

Mr. Joe Midmore, representing the Elko Wedding Center, testified that the bill, as amended, becomes a very simple bill. He referred to the Amendment No. 249, a copy of which is attached hereto as EXHIBIT A, and becomes a part of these minutes. The original bill made changes in the marriage laws for counties with populations between 15,000 to 100,000, of which there are three: Douglas, Carson City and Elko. The amendment increases the hours of the county clerks by three hours on each weekend. I think the committee should know that the Nevada wedding industry is an important part of the industry. The income that the state benefits from as a result of approximately 100,000 weddings a year, is many millions of dollars. Elko believes that the wedding

business can be a lucrative one for the area, found a piece of property on which to build a wedding center. As of 1979, 3,600 weddings have been performed in Elko. The group petitioned the county commissioners for extra weekend and holiday hours of operation in the county clerk's office. We believe that these additional hours will be an economic boon to the City of Elko.

Senator Glaser and Assemblyman Rhoads testified against the bill. Senator Glaser stated that weddings have increased steadily over the years. My mail has been 10 to 1 against it. I agree with those opposed to it that it is an infringement into county affairs, with the state interceding into an internal affair within the county which I think can be better handled at the local level. Mr. Rhoads also opposes the bill and the amendment. Last April, the wedding center group stated that if Elko County did not comply, they would go to the Legislature and get the job done. This threat has created a very uncomfortable attitude in the Elko community against this operation. It is offered to enhance the business of only one group and is not requested by the community and I am violently opposed and hope that this committee will recommend a 'do not pass' on the amendment to the bill.

Mr. Midmore wished to answer Mr. Rhoads comment on the 'threat'. It was his understanding that the group would try to get the Legislature to assist them and that is a far different thing from saying they would get the Legislature to do something.

Mr. John Carpenter, Elko County Commissioner, with Mr. William Gibbs, Chairman of the County Commissioners Board, voiced their opposition to the bill and its amendment. When the wedding chapel approached us on extending the hours, we felt that it would not be an economical change to make, as you can see by the handout and the figures which show a downturn of marriage license business. A copy of the report is attached hereto as EXHIBIT B and becomes a part of these minutes. We asked the chapel group that if they would underwrite the cost of opening the chapel extra hours, we would try it on a trial basis. At first, they indicated they would do this, but later on, they withdrew their support of this plan. In Douglas County, where there are a number of resorts, they probably need to be open longer hours. In Elko, most of our clientele is from Utah and Idaho and those people can find out when the clerk's office is open so they can make arrangements to be there during the time it is open. We do not have many people coming in on the spur of the moment to get married because of the long distance they have to travel. If the business was such that it would help the county and the business people in Elko, to have the clerk's office remain open for a longer period of time, I am sure the Commissioners would respond to that. But so far, we have not

seen that. During the last six or seven months of the preceding calendar year, we had about twenty more marriage licenses issued than we did the preceding six or seven months. We really don't see a large influx of people wanting to get married to justify opening the office. If we did, we would do that. We feel that we can handle this on the local level and we would urge you people to also take that attitude. It is our feeling that they have misread the market. Opening up the courthouse, in the evening, especially in the winter, creates a security problem.

Mr. Gibbs stated that he feels that this bill would force us to provide a subsidy to the wedding chapel people. If they can increase the business, the county should provide longer hours. But until they show us there is more business there, our responsibility to the taxpayer is to do what we are doing now.

Mr. Dini stated that, as a matter of record, he would like to say that there is some support for the bill in Elko County. There is support and a letter from Holiday Inn, in Elko. He quoted: 'It would provide a real boost to Elko tourism. We are losing a substantial number of wedding parties and a substantial amount of revenue because of Elko County's marriage license hours being severely restricted.' We also have a letter from Nevada Advertising in support of it. We also have a letter from Esquire Motor Lodge. They say: 'Our motel is located in the same block as the Elko County Courthouse and I have talked to many disappointed couples who arrive too late to obtain their marriage license. They ultimately drive to some place else where they can get married. The county loses the license fee, I lose the motel rental, the restaurants, casinos, gift shops, flower shops and jewelry stores all lose too.' We also have a letter from Bodily's Furniture indicating support for some type of legislation.

Mr. Carpenter stated that they came to us the first time on April 10, 1980 and asked us to extend the hours. We had an agreement drawn up between them and the county where they would put \$27,000 into the bank and if the net proceeds to the county weren't as such, we could draw on that savings account. They did not desire to enter into that agreement and so we did try to accommodate them and we felt that with a real increase in business that they were going to get, there should have been no problem with them putting that money up. They chose not to and now it is a good thing that they didn't because they would have been short about \$27,000. The projections have just not materialized. I see Mr. Hatch from Esquire Motor Lodge. I see him often and I am sure if these things were happening and he was turning customers down, we would hear about it and we have not. This is very important, the fact that we are

not hearing about it. If in the next six months, there is a 10% increase in business, we will take steps to open up. We are also on the firing line in Elko, because Elko is a very conservative community and there a lot of people who talked to me and said that as far as they were concerned, they didn't want this operation in Elko. We, as public officials, of course, tried to help them. But if you had put something like this on the ballot in Elko, it would have gone over like the ERA and the BLM. Out of 24 motels/hotels in Elko and 20 have signed a statement that they oppose AB-93.

Mr. Carpenter, in answer to a question from Mr. Dini, stated that they encourage tourism. We bonded ourselves for \$2.5 million for a convention center to bring tourism to the community. This weekend we have the world chariot cutter championships. We do everything we can to get people to come to Elko but we do it where there is a dollar to be gained. We support the Chamber of Commerce with a direct appropriation; we do many things to encourage tourism and our town is full; we have many things going for us.

Mr. Bob Kane, Elko County Clerk, testified in opposition to AB-93 and in opposition to the amendment. He referred to EXHIBIT B in noting the decrease in marriage licenses.

Mr. Dini asked if there had been any decline in the marriage business since the chapel opened.

Mr. Kane indicated that 1978 was their biggest year, with business declining each year since then. The chapel opened in May, 1980.

In answer to Mr. Schofield's question of costs, Mr. Kane stated that at the present time it costs \$40.00 per weekend in wages, which does not include costs of security. There are three employees and me. It takes a girl approximately three minutes to issue a license. One of the three employees only comes in on weekends to work the three extra hours.

Judge Edward Lunsford, Justice of the Peace, Elko Township, and Municipal Judge at the City of Elko, testified in opposition to AB-93 as a whole and particularly the amendment. He complained that by his coming down on Saturdays and Sundays, it spoils his weekends. In order for him not to be in the office, he must call another judge, usually from Wells, to sit in for him.

Mr. DuBois asked how busy the judge was on the three hours on weekends.

Judge Lunsford replied that on Saturdays, when they are open from 10:00 A.M. to 12 Noon, licenses run from 6 to 7, to sometimes 12 to 14. On Sundays, 2 or 3. Last Sunday, there were eight. All of the hours are well established and known.

Mr. Mello asked the judge how many he performed of the eight. Judge Lunsford replied that he performed one and the chapel 7.

Mr. May commented that it is possible to obtain a license and get married for \$30.00. Judge Lunsford said that was correct.

Mr. May stated that one of the brochures states that, and one of the newspapers quotes that the wedding chapel's average cost might be \$100.00. Judge Lunsford indicated he could not comment on it.

In favor of the bill, Larry Pettie, attorney, stated that people have to call to find out what the hours are. Historically, people plan to come to Nevada to get married on weekends, since they usually work during the week. We are told by the representatives of the county that they will open if they see the need, but we never know if there is a need unless they open with extended hours. Regarding the agreement that was discussed earlier, the people involved never got beyond discussions, as they could not agree on the costs that would be involved. It has been testified that this bill would benefit one chapel but we have from Judge Lunsford, by his own testimony, that he really isn't in the marriage business and that he doesn't want a monopoly but this would sure be an imposition on him if the hours were extended. The county officials have to recognize that when they are talking about extending these hours for the benefit or detriment of one person, that is not exactly correct. The benefit may be for everybody and the detriment may be for somebody connected with the county. He stated that according to the records of his clients, 170 couples were turned away, since they opened last year, simply because the courthouse was closed.

Mr. May asked what length of time was discussed as a trial basis under the agreement that was discussed by both the chapel owners and the county commissioners.

Mr. Pettie answered it could have been 6 months to a year.

Mr. May stated that inasmuch as the original proposal was for a 6-month to a one-year trial basis, has there been any discussion of letting this go and sunseting it after a six month basis, or possibly one year.

Mr. Pettie answered that whether or not it is a feasible thing is something to be checked with Mr. Daykin. My clients indicate if you want to put this on a year's trial, they are agreeable to it. However, what happens to it at the end of a year?

Judge Lunsford stated that in the portfolio submitted to the committee there are statements from twenty of the twenty-four motel owners stating their opposition to the bill. Although I have to evidence, it is my understanding that the motel association also opposes AB-93. Portfolio is attached as EXHIBIT C.

Mr. Andrew Puccinelli, attorney from Elko. What this whole thing boils down to is do you want to entrust the operation of the county clerk's office and the courthouse to our elected county officials. From the figures presented, I see no increase in business as a result of the wedding chapel being open. This is something that should be left to the county's discretion. Elko is much different than, say, Douglas or Carson City counties. Their population is much bigger. The only major population center that Elko can draw from is Salt Lake City. I don't think that setting hours at the state level of government is appropriate. Finally, when you have that building open, there is going to have to be security. The county clerk's office is upstairs in a secluded area of the courthouse. These decisions should rest with the local government. I don't think we should have to come to the Legislature every two years to figure out what hours we are going to open up the county clerk's office.

Mr. Mike Marfisi, attorney, testified that testimony has been given for the past two hours on an issue that I don't think you gentlemen want to be concerned with or should be concerned with because this is a matter of local discretion or should be, not to say that you do not have the authority to intervene in these situations. Elko County has been very responsive to tourism. It is their Number One industry. There has been no proof presented to this committee today by the supporters of this bill that there is any cost benefit ratio that outweighs the cost involved to supply these additional hours. Elko wants to determine these issues.

Ms. Connie Hicks, Elko resident, testified she is opposed to AB-93 and I do not think it justifies passage. I agree that discretion of such matters should remain up to county government and I also agree with Mr. Carpenter that when those of us disagree with the officials, we are there to discuss it with them and work for the best interests of our county and our community. I find the actions of the wedding chapel to be most inconsiderate of others.

Mr. Schofield stated that we had run out of time and no action will be taken on the bill at this time.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:00 A.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Lucille Hill
Lucille Hill

ASSEMBLY GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

GUEST LIST

Date March 18, 1981

Please Print

PLEASE PRINT YOUR NAME	PLEASE PRINT REPRESENTING:	I WISH TO SPEAK		
		FOR	AGAINST	BILL NO.
Thomas E. Bilbas	Union Elko Cont		X NO	AB93
R.L. KANE	ELKO COUNTY		NO	AB95
Connie J. Hicks	Elko County		✓	AB93
Hervie Lunsford	Elko County		✓	AB93
→ E.F. Lunsford	Elko County		✓	AB93
Paul M. Williams	Washoe Co		✓	AB93
Frnta Mitchell	ELKO		✓	AB93
WARNER MITCHELL	ELKO		✓	AB93
Mike Madson	SELF		X	AB93
ANDREW PUCYNELLY	SELF		X	AB93
John Carpenter	Elko County Commissioner		X	AB93
William B. Gilby	Elko County Commissioner		X	AB93
JAMES MILLER	ELKO COUNTY SHERIFF		X	
Geo. Hunt	Elko Wedding Cntr			AB93
Bob Tompkins	Elko Wedding Cntr			AB93
Miss Quati	Elko Co. Sheriff's Dept.			AB93

Please Print

ASSEMBLY

AGENDA FOR COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS

Wednesday

Date March 18, 1981 Time 8:00 A.M. Room 214

Bills or Resolutions
to be considered

Subject

Counsel
requested*

AB 93

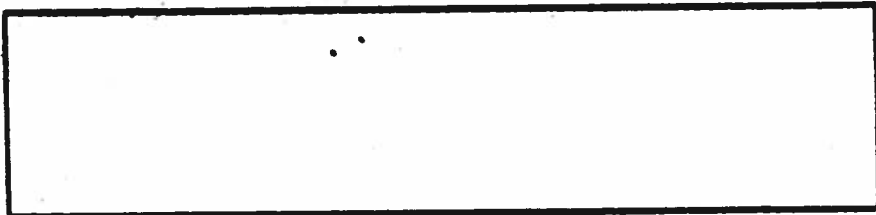
Changes requirements for issuing marriage
licenses and solemnizing marriages.

*Please do not ask for counsel unless necessary.

1981 REGULAR SESSION (61st)

ASSEMBLY ACTION	SENATE ACTION	Assembly	AMENDMENT BLANK
<input type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Lost Date: Initial:	<input type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Lost Date: Initial:	AMENDMENTS to <u>Assembly</u> Joint Bill No. <u>93</u> Resolution No.	
<input type="checkbox"/> Concurred in <input type="checkbox"/> Not concurred in Date: Initial:	<input type="checkbox"/> Concurred in <input type="checkbox"/> Not concurred in Date: Initial:	BDR. <u>11-540</u> Proposed by <u>Committee on Government Affairs</u>	

Amendment No. 249



Amend the bill as a whole by deleting section 1 and renumbering section 2 as section 1.

Amend sec. 2, page 2, line 15, by deleting "[100,000] 15,000" and inserting "100,000".

Amend sec. 2, page 2, by deleting lines 21 through 24 and inserting: "than 100,000, the office of the county clerk where marriage licenses may be issued must be open to the public:

(a) From 10 a.m. to 12 m. and from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. on Saturdays, Sundays and holidays; and

(b) From 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on all other days,

and may remain open at other times."

Amend the bill as a whole by deleting sections 3 and 4.

Amend the title of the bill by deleting the second through fifth lines and inserting:

"riage licenses; and providing other matters properly relating thereto."

11A: REGAL LICENSE ISSUED ELKO COUNTY NEVADA

DOUBLE COLUMN

MADE IN U.S.A.



FORM 30-10

YEAR	JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH	APRIL	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUGUST	SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER	TOTAL	
1 1962	117	138	181	197	187	203	234	227	217	187	181	195	2264	1
2 1963	138	132	168	181	180	187	220	216	229	188	220	175	2234	2
3 1964	134	161	156	151	178	182	186	217	196	161	149	124	1995	3
4 1965	139	155	179	165	190	171	179	202	234	191	181	146	2132	4
5 1966	155	137	164	172	195	202	237	227	221	172	185	185	2252	5
6 1967	130	146	175	201	184	221	238	231	255	221	226	199	2427	6
7 1968	145	172	210	208	230	239	239	275	208	217	211	183	2537	7
8 1969	156	168	226	221	297	228	263	264	254	215	244	237	2773	8
9 1970	192	208	223	220	249	249	296	226	260	246	230	226	2825	9
10 1971	196	182	229	215	288	276	303	280	270	275	220	207	2941	10
11 1972	184	205	246	258	255	296	303	285	329	242	239	251	3093	11
12 1973	177	242	255	249	296	310	300	293	302	253	287	257	3221	12
13 1974	167	195	283	253	312	303	297	377	287	271	319	310	3374	13
14 1975	186	219	252	294	361	315	319	366	270	287	312	272	3453	14
15 1976	243	235	268	299	312	325	357	359	314	334	316	330	3692	15
16 1977	251	264	258	350	352	303	358	317	332	325	318	322	3750	16
17 1978	265	309	286	346	334	355	404	380	323	317	294	312	3925	17
18 1979	238	255	330	353	329	319	334	295	325	274	291	340	3683	18
19 1980	182	265	312	303	324	322	322	371	286	298	315	275	3575	19
20 1981	232	308												20
21														21
22														22
23														23
24														24
25														25
26														26

Exhibit B

981

4	1931	5	3	8	9	13	15	19	33	21	26	34	17	203	4
5	1932	7	7	21	12	26	26	28	27	22	23	22	18	220	5
6	1933	7	4	11	18	11	18	22	12	21	14	15	26	179	6
7	1934	7	14	14	23	16	26	23	9	17	18	24	23	214	7
8	1935	18	8	8	10	20	26	13	19	31	20	19	21	213	8
9	1936	6	10	18	15	27	28	27	34	21	30	20	31	267	9
10	1937	9	10	16	18	24	20	26	28	31	34	39	30	285	10
11	1938	19	17	16	24	21	29	20	27	35	20	26	33	287	11
12	1939	20	12	21	25	30	31	36	29	35	38	31	28	336	12
13	1940	14	17	21	32	30	28	39	54	53	46	34	40	408	13
14	1941	19	15	31	40	35	35	57	76	72	65	64	52	586	14
15	1942	49	49	47	46	44	62	56	58	46	70	36	24	587	15
16	1943	29	26	40	34	47	71	48	71	65	78	54	62	625	16
17	1944	54	52	57	57	52	67	65	68	64	77	45	64	722	17
18	1945	53	43	62	51	67	68	86	77	92	113	105	130	947	18
19	1946	98	119	137	142	156	184	198	190	179	160	176	149	1888	19
20	1947	135	131	174	178	176	202	187	212	206	211	188	176	2176	20
21	1948	172	138	169	148	152	171	195	187	195	183	191	133	2034	21
22	1949	100	71	144	145	149	198	191	171	187	186	155	138	1835	22
23	1950	89	119	142	183	133	164	202	172	212	146	150	180	1892	23
24	1951	124	144	120	168	151	192	189	190	189	170	154	155	1946	24
25	1952	97	137	136	169	188	172	202	208	186	176	178	164	2013	25
26	1953	120	141	150	190	190	163	179	201	218	182	185	142	2061	26
27	1954	145	139	135	156	182	155	204	165	191	190	169	158	1989	27
28	1955	126	117	150	182	152	217	177	176	207	183	160	173	2020	28
29	1956	112	119	152	130	179	195	185	208	197	153	152	181	1963	29
30	1957	98	113	165	152	172	192	209	192	190	146	153	145	1927	30
31	1958	129	103	149	169	199	197	186	220	189	165	162	159	2027	31
32	1959	146	128	184	158	178	166	192	200	184	174	158	137	2005	32
33	1960	134	111	148	146	165	163	201	184	176	205	149	181	1963	33
34	1961	146	135	165	174	154	198	213	203	208	168	194	174	2132	34
35															35
36															36

MARRIAGE LICENSE ISSUED IN ELKO COUNTY, NEVADA

1978	TOTAL MONTH	AFTER HOURS	1979	TOTAL MONTH	AFTER HOURS	1980	TOTAL MONTH	AFTER HOURS
JANUARY	265	136	JANUARY	238	91	JANUARY	182	70
FEBRUARY	309	144	FEBRUARY	255	114	FEBRUARY	265	117
MARCH	286	118	MARCH	330	160	MARCH	312	172
APRIL	346	171	APRIL	353	165	APRIL	303	113
MAY	334	155	MAY	329	145	MAY	324	150
JUNE	355	139	JUNE	319	135	JUNE	322	126
JULY	404	181	JULY	334	143	JULY	322	123
AUGUST	380	159	AUGUST	295	110	AUGUST	371	186
SEPTEMBER	323	169	SEPTEMBER	325	170	SEPTEMBER	286	135
OCTOBER	317	152	OCTOBER	274	114	OCTOBER	298	134
NOVEMBER	294	154	NOVEMBER	291	125	NOVEMBER	315	163
DECEMBER	312	127	DECEMBER	340	144	DECEMBER	275	81
TOTAL	3925	1805	TOTAL	3683	1616	TOTAL	3575	1570

1981	TOTAL MONTH	AFTER HOURS
JANUARY	232	93
FEBRUARY	308	148
MARCH 1-12	102	43

ELKO COUNTY MARRIAGE LICENSE ISSUED AFTER REGULAR HOURS

1978 DATE	SAT	SUN	SAT	SUN	SAT	SUN	SAT	SUN	SAT	SUN	WEEKENDS		MONTH
											SUN	TOTAL	
JANUARY	2	7	8	14	15	21	22	28	29			136	265
DATE	10	15	15	19	10	27	11	10	10				
FEBRUARY		4	5	11	12	18	19	25	26			144	309
DATE		27	10	27	9	24	14	26	7				
MARCH		4	5	11	12	18	19	25	26			118	286
DATE		15	10	32	4	24	9	20	4				
APRIL		1	2	8	9	15	16	22	23	29	30		
DATE		27	7	23	11	28	10	20	4	30	11	171	346
MAY		6	7	13	14	20	21	27	28				
DATE		24	7	27	12	37	11	27	10			155	334
JUNE		3	4	10	11	17	18	24	25				
DATE		23	15	23	14	24	10	25	5			139	355
JULY		1	2	8	9	15	16	22	23	29	30		
DATE		34	17	25	8	18	10	30	7	21	11	181	404
AUGUST		5	6	12	13	19	20	26	27				
DATE		28	12	27	7	33	11	25	16			159	380
SEPTEMBER	1	2	3	4	9	10	16	17	23	24	30		
DATE	3	37	14	2	23	8	20	13	21	7	21	169	323
OCTOBER			1	7	8	14	15	21	22	28	29		
DATE			17	35	8	22	13	23	11	12	11	152	317
NOVEMBER		4	5	11	12	18	19	24	25	26			
DATE		22	9	16	8	22	11	27	35	4		154	294
DECEMBER		2	3	9	10	16	17	23	24	30			
DATE		15	9	24	5	15	11	14	1	18	31	127	312
TOTAL 1978											15	1805	3925

1979 DATE	SAT	SUN	SAT	SUN	SAT	SUN	SAT	SUN	SAT	WEEKEND		MONTH TOTAL
	6	7	13	14	20	21	27	28		SUN	TOTAL	
JANUARY	14	9	8	13	10	4	23	10			91	238
DATE FEBRUARY	3	4	10	11	17	18	24	25				
	14	10	15	11	24	13	20	7			114	255
DATE MARCH	3	4	10	11	17	18	24	25	31			
	22	11	19	12	20	14	21	14	27		160	330
DATE APRIL		1	7	8	14	15	21	22	28	29		
		10	28	10	29	7	33	8	29	11	165	353
DATE MAY	5	6	12	13	19	20	26	27				
	33	9	17	7	24	11	22	22			145	329
DATE JUNE	2	3	9	10	16	17	23	24	30			
	14	4	15	4	28	12	21	12	25		135	319
DATE JULY		1	7	8	14	15	21	22	28	29		
		12	22	8	25	8	35	9	16	8	143	334
DATE AUGUST	4	5	11	12	18	19	25	26	31			
	17	6	17	6	29	8	22	2	3		110	295
DATE SEPTEMBER	1	2	8	9	15	16	22	23	29	30		
	40	14	19	15	11	10	26	9	16	10	170	325
DATE OCTOBER	6	7	13	14	20	21	27	28				
	18	14	17	12	17	5	16	15			114	274
DATE NOVEMBER	3	4	10	11	17	18	24	25				
	30	9	23	9	23	11	13	7			125	291
DATE DECEMBER	1	2	8	9	15	16	22	23	29	30		
	15	11	9	12	24	8	15	12	26	12	144	340
TOTAL 1979											1616	3683

DATE	SAT	SUN	SAT	SUN	SAT	SUN	SAT	SUN	SAT	SUN	WEEKEND		MONTH
											SUN	TOTAL	
JANUARY	8	6	11	9	10	10	11	5			70	182	
FEBRUARY	12	7	19	7	23	10	26	13			117	265	
MARCH	24	10	33	11	21	9	25	14	17	8	172	312	
APRIL	32	5	16	11	17	7	19	5			113	303	
MAY	22	12	15	6	27	10	25	15	1	17	150	324	
JUNE		15	17	12	17	7	18	12	20	8	126	322	
JULY	8	28	7	20	14	19	10	13	4		123	322	
AUGUST	18	11	29	7	15	12	20	12	13	36	13	186	371
SEPTEMBER	4	17	12	23	10	23	17	22	7		135	286	
OCTOBER	4	28	5	22	13	25	5	21	11		134	298	
NOVEMBER	32	5	22	13	26	7	23	12	18	5	163	315	
DECEMBER	27	7	11	3	9	5	11	8			81	275	
TOTAL 1980											1570	3575	
1981													
JANUARY	16	6	11	4	19	7	14	6	10		93	232	
FEBRUARY		8	22	8	48	13	20	10	19		148	309	
MARCH	7	22	14	23	8						74	144	

Commissioners say they're responsible for courthouse signs

The Elko County Commission yesterday notified the Elko Wedding Center that commissioners — and not the justice of the peace — are responsible for signs around the courthouse.

And it appears the sign calling attention to the duties performed by the justice of the peace will be painted at least once more, as a result of commission action.

Following the meeting, however, wedding chapel operator Bob Truesdale said he is agreeable to a compromise worked out informally after the meeting by him and Commissioner John Carpenter.

Truesdale removed a wooden sign from the top of his compact station wagon and said his personnel would stop escorting chapel customers from the chapel into the courthouse while the couples obtain their marriage license.

He noted the couples have already placed a deposit at the chapel by that time.

In return, the county will allow only the wording "Civil Marriages" (deleting the word performed) in the signs, and the signs will have one background color.

Truesdale said he would keep his end of the agreement for one week in a "good faith effort."

He said he realized Carpenter is only one member of the commission and that the arrangement would need formal commission action.

Commission Chairman Dale Porter opened yesterday's meeting by explaining the commission was not taking sides with Justice of the Peace E. F. Lunsford or the wedding chapel, which has filed suit against Lunsford before the Nevada Supreme Court.

Porter said the commission just wanted everyone involved to know the commissioners are the ones who have the sole responsibility and authority for signing on the Elko County Courthouse grounds.

He noted all of Judge Lunsford's signs

had been approved by the county manager and paid from the county's buildings and grounds fund.

He said directional signs were needed, especially for the basement where several departments are housed.

The wedding chapel claims the signs are a violation of Nevada law which prohibits the soliciting of marriage business on courthouse property.

Porter said one sign should be changed from "Marriage Ceremonies" to "Civil Marriages Performed."

He concluded, "Unless we can be shown to be in error, no other sign will be changed or removed, for in our judgment all the signs are needed to responsibly serve the public."

Commissioner Carpenter said he believed the signs are "directional. I see nothing wrong with that."

He said he would like to see everyone involved at the county level, including the district attorney, public defender and the justice of the peace, "get back to performing their duties."

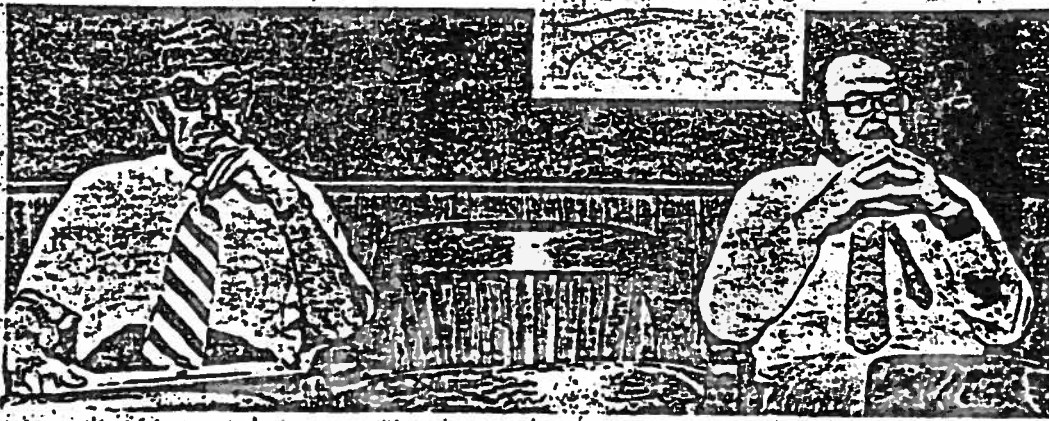
Zane Miles, county public defender, also represents the wedding chapel. He is allowed a private practice. The district attorney's office has been involved through preparing an opinion that the judge's signs appear to be within the law.

Carpenter also told the wedding chapel representatives that if they wish to pursue their suit, "you should direct it at the commission instead of the court."

Following comments from the two commissioners, Porter asked if there were any comment from the audience. Everyone — including Truesdale and Miles — sat silently.

Carpenter then moved to have the wording on one sign changed to "Civil marriages performed," as Porter had suggested.

The motion carried unanimously.



Wedding chapel operator Bob Truesdale (left) and his attorney, Zane Miles (right), attended yesterday's commission meeting.

GETTING MARRIED?

THIS INFORMATIONAL SHEET IS GIVEN
TO YOU
SO THAT YOU WILL NOT BE CONFUSED
BY MISLEADING SIGNS POSTED ON OR
ABOUT COURT HOUSE PROPERTY

A MARRIAGE LICENSE CAN ONLY BE
OBTAINED AT THE CLERKS OFFICE THROUGH
MAIN ENTRANCE ON SECOND FLOOR OF COURT HOUSE

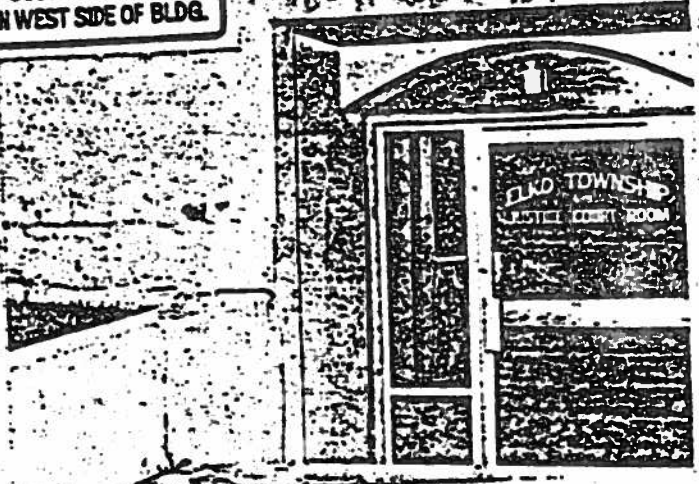
NOT !! JUSTICE OF PEACE
OFFICE

AFTER RECEIVING YOUR MARRIAGE LICENSE
YOU CAN BE MARRIED BY A LICENSED
MINISTER OF ANY CHURCH IN THE STATE

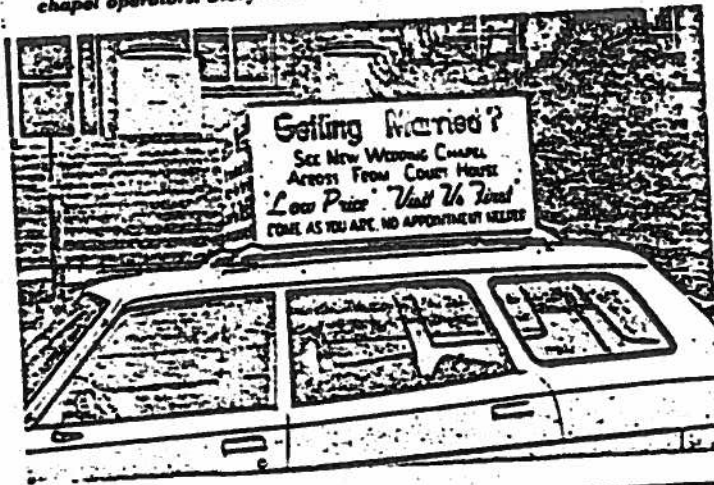
(see church registry in yellow pages)
or any Justice of Peace in the state of Nevada (except marriage
commissioner townships) or marriage commissioners in commissioner
townships.

OR A NON-DENOMINATIONAL
MINISTER AT THE ELKO WEDDING
CENTER ACROSS FROM COURT HOUSE

JUSTICE of the PEACE
IN WEST SIDE OF BLDG.



Shown above are two of the nine signs which the wedding chapel finds objectionable. Below is roof-top sign on car usually parked in front of courthouse by chapel operators. Story and related photos appear on front page.

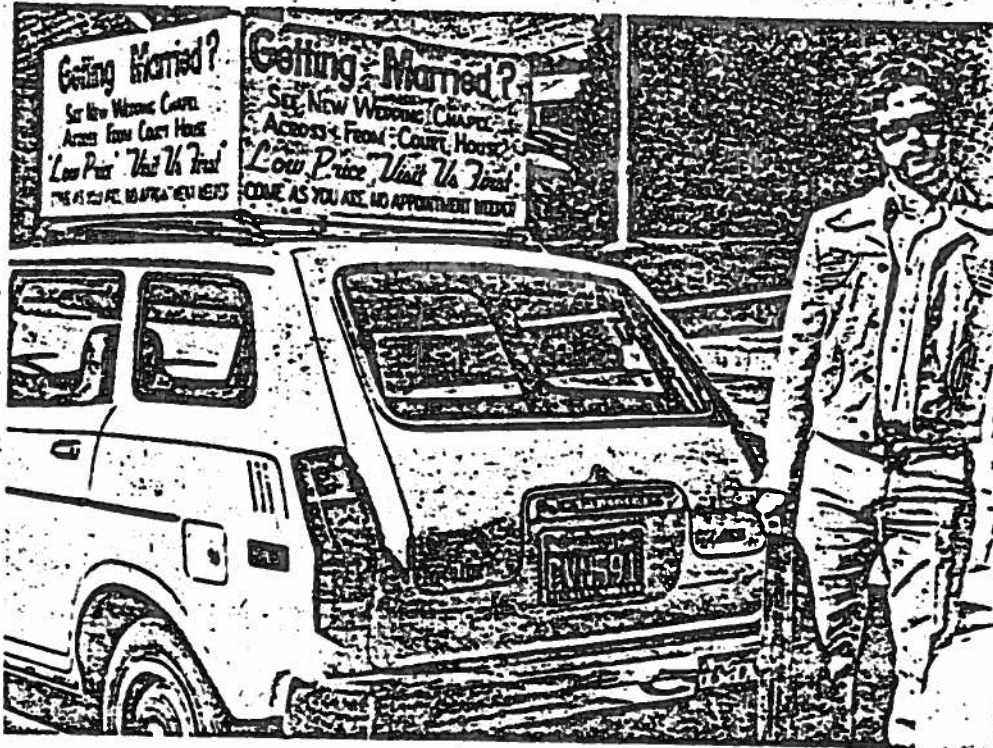


SALE
Remember our 50% off sale
now going on thru Sept. 1st.
All you young ladies remember our
Carnous '80 Campaign
MODE O'DAY
Elko Shopping Plaza

Bergin Animal Hospital
has received a new shipment of Parvo
vaccine and will be able to complete
second injections due this week and
next on Wednesday, Aug. 20, 10 a.m.
to noon, 2-5 p.m.
No appointments, please.

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Rick Truesdell of the wedding chapel stands beside newly uncovered sign. He holds sign administrator's fee of \$5.

'Sign war' apparently heating up again

The "sign war," using the Elko County Courthouse as a battlefield, appears to be heating up again this week.

The county commission reviewed the courthouse signs at a Wednesday morning meeting.

Larry Petty, attorney for Elko Wedding Center Inc., said his clients are concerned about two of the signs which state the justice of the peace performs marriage ceremonies.

The wedding chapel once filed suit against Justice of the Peace E. F. Lunsford. The suit said the chapel owners objected to nine signs around the courthouse directing people to the office of the justice of the peace.

The suit, filed by county public defender Zane Miles, asked the Nevada Supreme Court to issue a writ of prohibition which would order the signs taken down. The Supreme Court refused and dismissed the suit.

Petty asked the county commission what the status was of the signs.

Chairman Dale Porter replied the commission believes it, and not the justice of the peace, is responsible for signs around the courthouse.

He said County Manager George Boucher was responsible for having the signs painted at the direction of the commission.

Commissioner John Carpenter said he

had held an informal meeting with chapel operator Bob Truesdell because the sign situation "was getting completely out of hand."

"We had the public defender filing actions against the justice of the peace."

Miles had also represented the chapel owners at commission meetings.

He said he personally favored a change wanted by the wedding chapel — having the sign read "civil marriages" and omitting the word "performed."

He said Truesdell had agreed then to stop using a sign on top of a small foreign station wagon and to stop having chapel personnel escort couples from the wedding chapel to the county clerk's office.

Petty, a Reno attorney, said he believes the current courthouse signs, painted in different colors are "an attempt to influence people to be married by the justice of the peace. And that has been outlawed since 1877."

He added the signs do not list all the judge's functions.

Porter said the commission would review the law with its counsel, Gary DiGrazia, and decide at the October meeting how the signs will be worded.

Immediately after that, the chapel operators left the meeting and tore paper which had been concealing the sign on the small station wagon to reveal the sign.

And they added a new sign on the car which reads "Minister fee only \$5."



For Elko and vicinity:

Fair through Sunday with highness. Low tonight and Saturday high Saturday 63, Sunday 62. Wind and variable becoming southw 5-15 mph afternoons. Zero chance through Saturday.

For northeastern Nevada:

Variable high cloudiness through day. Lows 33 to 45, highs 75-85. Wind and variable, becoming southw 10-20 mph afternoons.

The extended outlook for northern Nevada for the period Sunday through Tuesday:

Fair. Highs 75-85, lows 30-40.

The weather for the 24-hour period ending at 11 a.m.

	Temp.	Max.	Min.
Boise	76°	49°
Elko	63°	39°
Ely	79°	57°
Las Vegas	93°	62°
Reno	80°	47°
San Francisco	71°	52°
Salt Lake City	78°	49°
Winnemucca	86°	58°
Battle Mtn.	83°	59°
Toiyah	80°	46°
Lovelock	80°	47°

the overburdened, understaffed, underpaid personnel be plagued by at does like to do, and feels everything is change it seem No Fault to Fault; Amend Green-04 vs Questions

crew of six—may have 29,000 feet.

vestigation has ascended. Strategic Air Command.

Lunsford Says They're Informational, but... Chapel Doesn't Like Signs

of taxes is near under a 5 year There are in other areas equities exist,

and Utilities. es have been for many range is part of ince 5 senior tried to handle in the years 1 In our country a little or no overall utility assessment total 10 to 10 years case and mine years.

Homes. Study is shown that able homes in underassessed. gistrate has and has failed and get this ected. Today able homes sell times the state reciated value n their assess-

Many mining depleting our s without proceeds of his is particu- case of barite in and Eureka dition many of operations are e grazing lands e restored. lo se page 2

The Elko Wedding Center has asked the Nevada Supreme Court to order Elko Justice of the Peace E.F. Lunsford to take down signs in and around the Elko County Courthouse. The center charges that the signs, which state that Lunsford performs weddings, are cutting into its business.

"It smacks of Judge Roy Bean," Chapel operator Bob Truesdell said Tuesday, comparing the Elko JP to the frontier judge who advertised his services in bold letters

above a saloop in Langtree, Texas.

But Lunsford says the signs have been there for 15 years, and they'll stay, unless the Supreme Court rules otherwise.

"The only signs up are informational," the JP said, "they're not solicitations. All except two of them have had the same wording for at least fifteen years."

Truesdell charges that Lunsford's actions make him

"blatantly guilty" of violating NRS 122-215, a Nevada statute regarding conduct of the state's judges. During an interview yesterday with the Independent, the chapel owner threatened criminal action against Lunsford "even if I have to make a citizen's arrest."

But Lunsford reiterated his contention yesterday that the signs are merely informational, and not designed to hamper wedding chapel business.

The two signs which have been altered now read: "JUSTICE OF THE PEACE Marriage Ceremonies, Small Claims, Traffic Fines and Other Court Matters." Until their alteration they simply read "JUSTICE OF THE PEACE Marriage Ceremonies.

This is the second controversial incident between the chapel and the county since the Elko Wedding Center

opened downtown across from the courthouse. The chapel has also requested that the County Clerk's office expand its hours, arguing that its present hours put constraints on chapel business.

Elko attorney Zane Miles is representing the chapel in its action against Lunsford.

Lunsford is represented by the Elko law firm of Puccinelli and Puccinelli.

BLM Issues Ruby Valley Assessment

Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Elko District Manager, Rod Harris has announced the release of a draft environmental assessment of potential agricultural development in Ruby Valley.

Lifesaver Contract To Be Awarded

Announcement of the successful bidder for construction of the Fifth Street overpass and railroad corridor portions of Project Lifesaver will be made by the Elko City Council tomorrow afternoon at 4:30 in city hall.

Bids for the work were opened last Thursday afternoon. Max Riggs Construction of Las Vegas submitted the low bid of \$8,440,387.

Five other firms also submitted bids. Cost of the work was estimated at \$9,852,462.

The council will award the construction contract to the successful bidder at the meeting tomorrow.



Volunteers Needed!

For Elko's Muscular Dystrophy Tele-Thon. August 31st, 4:00 P.M. Thru Sept. 1st 4:00 P.M. (24 Hours). Persons interested please call Sandy Burt at 738-6442. Help Jerry Lewis and His Kids!



Date High Low Precip

Date	High	Low	Precip
August 13.....	95	46	.00
August 14.....	93	49	.00
August 15.....	75	49	.05
August 16.....	85	44	.00
August 17.....	92	48	.00
August 18.....	75	42	.05
August 19.....	73	42	.00
August 20.....		39	

Temperature Normal: Max.88 Min.46

Precipitation: Total for week.....16
Month to date.....10
Normal for month...61
Water yr to date...15.90

Five day extended forecast for NE Nevada for the period of Friday thru Sunday. Fair and mild, highs in the 80's, lows in the 40's.

TRUCK VICE REPAIRS
40 STREET
OR 625
434 08071

★ Home Appliances
★ Carpets
★ Furniture
★ Paints

HOME FURNISHINGS
738-4068
570 Commercial Street
Elko, Nevada

Septic Tank Service And Drains
Prompt Emergency Service
738-7389
Penrod's Plumbing

Rite-On-T's
Wrangler jeans
Painter
Pants
Cords & Casual
Jeans

We Have T-Shirts for Everyone
5th & Idaho 738-8882

Elko Federal Credit Union
Has Direct Deposit
"The Safe, Convenient Way to Handle Your Funds"
876 Idaho Street
738-4082

NCUA



Elko Wedding Center manager Janice Hogle and owners George Flint and Bob Truesdale announced the opening of their establishment.

Elko Wedding Center now open for business

The Elko Wedding Center has opened its doors at 518 Idaho St. and invites the public to attend a grand opening celebration at 6 tonight.

The center offers "an alternative to church or courthouse weddings," according to owners George Flint and Bob Truesdale, and will provide a full line of wedding accessories to those planning marriage.

Janice Hogle, former Elko Chamber of Commerce secretary and eight-year resident, will manage the Elko Wedding

Center. Flint and Truesdale will perform ceremonies.

Flint formerly worked with the Nevada Mission Fellowship and has operated the Chapel of the Bells chain for 18 years. The Elko Wedding Center is a part of the Bells chain which has chapels in Reno, Las Vegas and Lake Tahoe.

Flint stated that the average cost of a Center wedding would be approximately \$100.

The Elko Wedding Center can be reached by phoning 733-8638 or 733-8252.

6-6-80.

484.411 Parking in alleys.

1. Unless otherwise provided by ordinance of the local authority having jurisdiction, a person shall not:

(a) Stop, stand or park a vehicle within an alley in a business district except for the expeditious loading or unloading of goods.

(b) Stop, stand or park a vehicle in any other alley in such a manner, or under such conditions as to leave available less than 10 feet of the width of the alley for the free movement of vehicular traffic.

2. A person shall not stop, stand or park a vehicle within an alley in such position as to block the driveway or entrance to any abutting property.

(Added to NRS by 1969, 1502)

484.413 All-night parking prohibited. Unless otherwise provided by ordinance of the local authority having jurisdiction, a person, except physicians or other persons on emergency calls, shall not park a vehicle on any highway which has an official traffic-control device prohibiting all-night parking for a period of time longer than 30 minutes between the hours of 2 a.m. and 5 a.m. of any day.

(Added to NRS by 1969, 1503)

484.418 Parking for certain purposes prohibited. No person shall park a vehicle upon any highway for the principal purpose of:

1. Displaying such vehicle for sale.

2. Washing, greasing or repairing such vehicle, except repairs necessitated by an emergency.

3. Soliciting business.

4. Selling merchandise from such vehicle except in a duly established market place, or one so authorized or licensed by the local authority.

5. Storage, or as junkage or dead storage, for more than 24 hours.

(Added to NRS by 1969, 1503)

484.421 Parking adjacent to schools. When official traffic-control devices are erected giving notice thereof, a person shall not park a vehicle upon either side of any highway adjacent to any school.

(Added to NRS by 1969, 1503)

484.423 Parking prohibited on narrow highways. When official traffic-control devices are erected prohibiting parking upon a narrow highway, a person shall not park a vehicle upon any such highway.

(Added to NRS by 1969, 1503)

484.425 Standing or parking on one-way streets. When official traffic-control devices are erected giving notice thereof, a person shall not stand or park a vehicle upon the left-hand side of a one-way street.

(Added to NRS by 1969, 1503)

Monday, August 18, 1980 ELKO DAILY FREE PRESS, Elko, Nevada

Wedding chapel files suit against Lunsford

CARSON CITY (AP) — The operator of a new Elko wedding chapel today asked the Nevada Supreme Court to stop Elko Justice of the Peace E.F. Lunsford from advertising that he too performs marriages.

Rick Truesdell of Elko Wedding Center Inc. said Lunsford has posted nine signs advertising "marriage ceremonies" or the location of his office since the wedding center opened its doors across the street from his office in June.

Truesdell, represented by lawyer Zane Miles, asked the Supreme Court for a writ to stop Lunsford's advertising, on grounds it's cutting into his business and would appear to violate state law and canons of conduct for Nevada judges.

The businessman said Lunsford put up his signs advertising "marriage ceremonies" or "justice of the peace" on the

front courthouse lawn, and at various points inside and outside the courthouse itself.

The cumulative effect of all this, said Truesdell, is to entice people who get marriage licenses in the Elko County Courthouse to be married by Lunsford, whose office is in the basement of the building.

The wedding chapel owner said that would appear to violate state law and at least three canons of the Nevada Code of Judicial Conduct requiring judges to show decorum and refrain from dealings that tend to "exploit" their judicial positions.

Truesdell asked for a Supreme Court order to require Lunsford to take down the signs he finds objectionable, or at least stop him from putting up more signs "which influence persons to be married in the office of the justice of the peace."

Saturday, September 6, 1980 ELKO DAILY FREE PRESS, Elko, Nevada

Supreme court rules against wedding chapel operator

CARSON CITY (AP) — The operator of a new Elko wedding chapel lost Friday in his efforts to get the Nevada Supreme Court to stop Elko Justice of the Peace E.F. Lunsford from advertising that he too performs marriages.

The high court ruled against Rick Truesdell of Elko Wedding Center Inc., who said Lunsford had posted nine signs

advertising weddings or the location of his office since Truesdell opened his chapel in June.

Truesdell sought either a writ of prohibition or mandamus against Lunsford. But the Supreme Court said that's not "appropriate" in this case.

Truesdell said Lunsford's advertising was cutting into his business and appeared to violate state laws and canons of conduct for Nevada judges.

The businessman said the judge put up his signs advertising "marriage ceremonies" or "justice of the peace" on the front courthouse lawn, and at various points inside and outside the courthouse itself.

Truesdell's wedding chapel is located across the street from the courthouse.

Contacted yesterday afternoon, Judge Lunsford said he was "very happy" with the Supreme Court decision.

Elko County Manager George Boucher said a decision about any further painting of the signs will be made at a Sept. 24 county commission meeting.

The wedding chapel was represented in its suit by Elko attorney Zane Miles, who is also county public defender. Lunsford had retained the Elko firm of Puccinelli and Puccinelli.

Friday, March 6, 1981 · ELKO DAILY FREE PRESS, Elko, Nevada 3

No formal action taken on letter from Stringfield

The Elko County Commission — after hearing a sometimes heated discussion over the incident — decided to take no formal action yesterday on a letter from District Attorney Tom Stringfield about the issuance of a wedding license.

Stringfield's letter said he had been approached by Bob Truesdell of the Elko Wedding Center about what "he felt to be discriminatory practices."

Truesdell produced a signed statement from his employee saying deputy county clerk Bobbi Prunty issued a license sometime between 8 and 11 p.m. on Sunday, Feb. 21. The clerk's office closes at noon on Sundays.

The statement said Mrs. Prunty "got Judge Lunsford to do it (marry the couple)."

The statement added the wedding chapel has requested Mrs. Prunty to make herself available on weekends without success.

The DA's letter to the commission said that if the allegations were true, commissioners should "take such actions as to insure that such discriminatory practices do not happen in the future and to disassociate the county government from this one individual act by a county employee."

County Clerk Bob Kane said Stringfield had never asked him or his staff about the incident, and instead had written "a dirty, nasty letter to the commission."

He said the DA owed Mrs. Prunty an apology.

He introduced his brother-in-law, Frank Carrillo, who told the commissioners he met some old fishing friends the

night of Feb. 21. They had some friends who wanted to get married that night.

He said he called Kane, who would not issue the license. Carrillo then called Mrs. Prunty, who said she would.

"I was just trying to help these people out," said Carrillo.

Mrs. Prunty told the commission she agreed to issue the license if Carrillo could find someone other than the wedding chapel and the justice of the peace to perform the ceremony.

Carrillo said he had tried to reach the wedding chapel three times that night without success.

Mrs. Prunty said she had no idea who was to perform the ceremony when she issued the license. She added she issued the license as a personal favor to Carrillo, whom she called a very good friend.

Kane related that Justice of the Peace E. F. Lunsford told him he had been called by an employee of the Nevada Dinner House and asked to perform the ceremony.

He said the "big stink came when these people went to get their deposit money back from the chapel."

He added that another of his deputies, Win Birdzell, was called last June 8 by the wedding chapel and asked to come to the office at 4:11 p.m. — which she did — to issue a license. He said she was called back to issue another license at 4:50 that afternoon — which again she did.

"The wedding chapel never called that discriminatory," said the county clerk.

He said on another date, two people came in with a wedding chapel attendant

and an affidavit prepared by attorney Zane Miles' office, but Kane said the affidavit did not say how old the people were.

Truesdell confronted Stringfield, who ended up calling the girl's mother and the sheriff's office in her home town. The DA then prepared an affidavit stating how old the woman was.

Commissioner John Carpenter asked Stringfield what his justification was in becoming involved, and Stringfield said he wanted to avoid an argument between Truesdell and Kane.

"I think you acted in the same good faith that these people (Kane and Mrs. Prunty) did," replied Carpenter.

"It's unfortunate these kinds of situations occur when you act in good faith and try to help a friend in a little way.

"I think Kane has gone out of his way to help the wedding chapel in the past, and if they were people of character, they would just let something like this go."

He said the wedding chapel operators "substitute the almighty dollar for their god, and they attack anybody whether it's justified or not."

He said it was obvious to him the clerk's office would never again issue an after-hours license, and Kane and Mrs. Prunty agreed.

He told Stringfield the DA should have just asked Kane about the matter and then let it drop after the facts became clear. "The DA should have gone to the people involved before writing the letter," said Carpenter.

"I don't think we need to pay any attention to the letter."

County commission sued over signs

A civil suit has been filed in federal district court by Elko wedding chapel operators against the county commission.

Chapel operators contend the commission has caused signs to be maintained around the county courthouse which "promote the interests of the justice of the peace in commercial enterprise."

The suit, filed Tuesday in Reno, seeks immediate removal of one sign which advises that the justice of the peace performs marriage ceremonies.

Commissioners today decided to ask the county's insurance company if it will represent the county against the suit. If the company declines, commission counsel Gary DiGrazia will be asked to answer the suit.

DiGrazia noted this morning the suit contains two pictures of signs outside the courthouse but added the pictures are several months old and do not accurately portray the signs currently in front of the courthouse.

Another change in the signs was ordered by the commission this morning.

All signs around the courthouse were ordered to appear with blue lettering on white background.

On the east side of the courthouse, by the jail entrance, the sign will now read, "Jail Entrance to Basement Offices; Vehicle License Plates, autos, trucks, trailers; Justice of the Peace; Elko County Welfare."

Authorized for the west entrance was a sign which will read "Elko County Welfare; Justice of the Peace."

On the sign on the lawn along Court Street, the sign will carry an arrow and the words "Entrance to License Plates, autos, trucks, trailers; Justice of the Peace, civil marriages performed, small

claims, traffic fines, and other justice court matters."

The action was taken after DiGrazia informed the commission the signs would be "reasonably consistent" with Nevada law.

The chapel operators have contended the signs violate Nevada law because they solicit marriage business for the JP. Commissioners have contended the signs are only informational and directional.

In the federal suit, chapel owners are seeking removal of the sign saying "Justice of the Peace, marriage ceremonies;" a prohibition against erection of any such new sign; and punitive damages in excess of \$10,000.

The suit was filed by Reno attorney Larry Petty. The formal complaint was signed by chapel corporation officer George W. Flint.

County counter-sues against wedding chapel

Elko County has counter-sued against the Elko Wedding Center contending wedding chapel personnel have illegally solicited business in the courthouse.

Gary DiGrazia, counsel for the county commission, made that announcement today during a commission meeting.

He noted the wedding chapel had filed suit against the county in federal district court contending a civil rights violation.

The wedding chapel objected to the signs around the courthouse either directing people to the office of the justice of the peace or stating the JP could perform marriages.

DiGrazia told the commissioners he answered the original suit by telling the court the signs which the wedding chapel

objected to were not on display any longer — and had not been for some time before the suit was filed.

The commission's counsel also explained to the court the county has ordered new signs which the commission believes are in "substantial compliance" with state law.

DiGrazia said his answer also questioned the federal court's jurisdiction in the matter.

The counter-suit alleges wedding chapel personnel have solicited business in the courthouse, an act which DiGrazia noted is prohibited under state law.

DiGrazia added he had been in contact with the wedding chapel's attorney, and he expects the chapel's original suit to be withdrawn.

Commissioner John Carpenter asked if the county could still then pursue the counter-suit, and DiGrazia said the counter-suit could then be pursued, but he would recommend against it at that point.

Tuesday, August 26, 1980 ELKO DAILY FREE PRESS, Elko, Nevada

Courthouse signs subject of special commission meet

The signs around the Elko County Courthouse will be the topic of a special meeting of the Elko County Commission Thursday afternoon.

The special session starts at 4 p.m. Thursday in the commissioners' meeting room of the courthouse.

County Manager George Boucher explained the meeting has been called "to discuss and define the authority for the signing of county property in and around the courthouse."

Justice of the Peace R. F. Lunsford has signs advising people he performs marriage ceremonies, as well as other court functions.

Owners of the Elko Wedding Center Inc. have filed suit with the Nevada Supreme Court asking to have the court declare the signs to be illegal and a violation of judicial canons.

The suit was filed in behalf of the wedding chapel by Zane Miles, who also serves as county public defender.

CARSON CITY (AP) J.A measure apparently designed to provide more business for an Elko wedding chapel J but not for an Elko Justice of the Peace J has been introduced in the Assembly.

AB93, introduced by and referred to the Government Affairs Committee Monday, was requested by wedding chapel lobbyists and tailored to affect Elko County. Committee Chairman Joe Dini, D-Yerington, said.

The bill requires a sheriff in "a county having a population of 15,000 or more but less than 100,000" to issue marriage licenses when the county clerk's office is closed. The county clerk would be charged \$5 by the sheriff for each of these licenses issued.

Last April Elko wedding chapel operator George Flint boasted he could get legislation passed requiring smaller counties to keep marriage license bureaus open longer.

The measure also prohibits a Justice of the Peace performing a marriage in the same building where licenses are sold.

Justice of the Peace E.F. Lunsford got into a dispute with Flint's associate, Rick Truesdell, last year over signs advertising Lunsford's office in the basement of the Elko County courthouse, where marriage licenses are issued.

The measure also provides for increases J from the present \$20 fee to \$25 during "regular" hours and to \$30 at other times J in the cost of marriages performed by a Justice of the Peace.

02-02-81 11.27PPS

2-3-81

Letters to the Editor

8-29-80

EDITOR'S NOTE: The opinions expressed in the letters used by the "Daily Free Press" do not necessarily express the opinion of this newspaper. We consider that the "Letter Box" will always be considered a place for the exchange of ideas, and give our readers an opportunity to express themselves publicly at all times.

wedding chapel across the street. How many overtime parking tickets does he receive a day? Also, who gave him permission to advertise his services in front of our Court House?

If it's too cold in the north for him, tell him to go south. Ever since his arrival in Elko he has become quite a controversial figure.

We like Elko for the peace and quiet air that prevails. We don't need his type to create an "OK Corral" atmosphere amongst our city officials and citizens.

Mary C. Hadwin
A Contented Elko Resident

Editor:
Bob Truesdell! Who is he? His statement in the Elko Free Press that our beloved Justice of the Peace E. F. Lunsford smacks of Judge Roy Bean" brings to my mind that Truesdell may be a "bounty hunter."
I see a car parked on Idaho street in front of our Court house which advertises a

\$10.00 DISCOUNT ON YOUR WEDDING

Our Pleasure To Serve You

ELKO WEDDING CENTER
518 Idaho St., Elko, NV 89801
Chapel of the Bells
Beautiful Weddings Since 1962

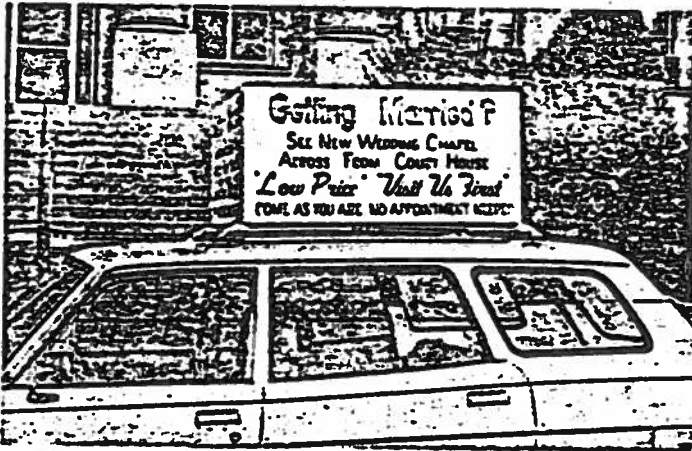
700 W. 4th Street, Reno Bridal Florist on Duty
Phone (702) 323-1375 Wedding Photography

PRESENT THIS CARD AT TIME OF CEREMONY

**JUSTICE of the PEACE
IN WEST SIDE OF BLDG.**



Shown above are two of the nine signs which the wedding chapel finds objectionable. Below is roof-top sign on car usually parked in front of courthouse by chapel operators. Story and related photos appear on front page.



SALE
Remember our 50% off sale
now going on thru Sept. 1st.
All you young ladies remember our
Campus '80 Campaign
MODE O'DAY
Elko Shopping Plaza

Bergin Animal Hospital
has received a new shipment of Parvo
vaccine and will be able to complete
second injections due this week and
next on Wednesday, Aug. 20, 10 a.m.
to noon, 2-5 p.m.
No appointments, please.

ELKO DAILY

Established Jan. 5, 1883

ELKO, ELKO COUNTY, NEVADA

Commission employee re

The Elko County Commission has decided to pay the employees' portion of retirement — meaning an average eight percent increase in take-home pay — and has begun reviewing department budgets.

In budget hearings yesterday, Sheriff Jim Miller was successful in getting several items and two employees added to his budget, while District Attorney Tom Siringfield did not fare so well.

The decision to pay the retirement contribution was made Thursday.

Commissioner John Carpenter noted

state law mandated the move for all law enforcement and fire personnel effective July 1, and he said he believes all county personnel should be treated the same.

Commissioner Ernie Hall said he did not support the idea of giving what amounts to cost of living increases in a percentage basis.

Carpenter said he agreed with Hall, and noted that in previous years the commission has divided cost of living pay equally among all employees based on the number of hours worked.

"But we're in a special situation this

Wedding license bill aimed at Elko County

CARSON CITY (AP) — A measure apparently designed to provide more business for an Elko wedding chapel — but not for an Elko justice of the peace — has been introduced in the Assembly.

AB31, introduced by and referred to the Government Affairs Committee Monday, was requested by wedding chapel lobbyists and tailored to affect Elko County, Committee Chairman Joe Dini, D-Yerington, said.

The bill requires a sheriff in "a county having a population of 15,000 or more but less than 100,000" to issue marriage licenses when the county clerk's office is closed. The county clerk would be charged \$5 by the sheriff for each of these licenses issued.

Last April Elko wedding chapel

operator George Flint boasted he could get legislation passed requiring smaller counties to keep marriage license bureaus open longer hours.

The measure also prohibits a justice of the peace performing a marriage in the same building where licenses are sold.

Justice of the Peace E. F. Lunsford got into a dispute with Flint's associate, Rick Truesdell, last year over signs advertising Lunsford's office in the basement of the Elko County courthouse, where marriage licenses are issued.

The measure also provides for increases — from the present \$20 fee to \$25 during "regular" hours and to \$30 at other times — in the cost of marriages performed by a justice of the peace.

REE PRESS

25 CENTS

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 1981

votes to pay retirement cost

year because the legislature has pretty well forced us to do this," said Carpenter. County Manager George Boucher said he estimated it would cost the county \$165,000 to cover all retirement costs, including those for elected officials.

He said there are 114 county employees, and of those, 23 are employed in law enforcement. The county will pay 15 percent of the general employees' salary for retirement and 17 percent of the law-enforcement employees' salary, said Boucher.

The formula is set by state law. General employees are currently paying eight percent themselves, and law enforcement employees are paying 8.5 percent.

The motion to approve the retirement pay passed unanimously.

The commission began reviewing department budgets yesterday afternoon and completed preliminary action on the sheriff's and district attorney's offices.

Commission Chairman Bill Gibbs said the county is experiencing growth and will need "strong law enforcement."

New pay ranges for some sheriff's employees were approved. The undersheriff went from a range 15 to range 19, or a monthly pay increase of about \$250.

Sheriff Jim Miller argued he had deputies making \$17,000 annually, or \$2,600 more than his undersheriff. He said Harris is highly qualified and will be used to train personnel in the department.

Undersheriff Neil Harris will no longer be eligible for overtime, except under extreme emergency conditions, according to the commission action. The sheriff explained Harris has been averaging 27 to 30 hours monthly.

The position of lieutenant was approved, as was a matron position. No individuals were named yesterday to fill those positions. All commission actions are effective July 1, the start of the new fiscal year.

The commission agreed with Miller that an additional deputy needed to be hired for the Montello area. Residents there had requested a full-time deputy after having a succession of part-time, special deputies.

Also approved was a new patrol car and related equipment for the deputy.

An additional position of bailiff/civil process server was created. The person filling the existing position will continue to serve civil papers, and will perform secretarial duties as well.

Turned down by the commission were two additional deputy positions, one for Jackpot and one for Spring Creek. Also rejected was an animal control officer.

The commission approved the sheriff's request to start a reserve deputy program to consist of six people, who will be paid only a uniform allowance of \$250 each annually.

New equipment includes three shotguns, one desk and chair, and one handy-talky.

After concluding with Miller, the commission reviewed Stringfield's budget.

The commission last month approved an additional deputy DA to start at \$20,000 until he passes the State Bar test, when the wage would go to \$24,000.

Stringfield yesterday requested that the commission consider a salary schedule for deputy DAs who are not currently in the county's wage classification system.

He argued for a salary of slightly over \$21,000 for Pat Mooney, his chief deputy. He said Mooney is an extremely valuable employee with several years' experience and several district court trials.

On motion by Carpenter, the commission set Mooney's salary for next year at \$26,000; Barbara Byrne's salary at \$21,000; and the new deputy, Don Smith, at the already-agreed-to rate.

Stringfield said the commissioners "are telling Pat he's going to have to leave. No experienced attorney will work for \$26,000."

The commission approved one additional secretary, at one pay range lower than Stringfield requested, for the new deputy DA.

Stringfield complained the commission "doesn't even know what goes on in my office."

Carpenter replied that Stringfield would have 10 employees, "more than ever before, more than any law office in town. You should really be able to churn out the paper."

The commission voted to continue the federally-funded child support program but did not add an additional secretary for the program sought by Stringfield.

Gibbs noted the commission has entered that type of program before, watched the funds end, "and then have to hire an employee."

The DA argued unsuccessfully that the new employee would have generated extra federal funds for child support collections.

Also rejected by the commission was Stringfield's request for an investigator at a salary of \$20,000.

The budget session will be continued next week with review of other department budgets.

The document, filed Monday, shows \$4,239 in commissions from Kerns RT Inc., in which Saunders is a director, at (continued on back page)

in probe of Billy

WASHINGTON (AP) - Billy Carter's partner told Senate investigators that Billy obtained a \$220,000 loan and the two sought an oil deal with Libya after being warned the Libyans might be trying to use them "to influence U.S. policy."

The partner, Henry "Randy" Coleman testified he and Billy disregarded the State Department warning because they considered their relations with the Libyans as "nothing political."

"It was just good old Southern hospitality," Coleman told a special Senate judiciary subcommittee.

Philip W. Toner, the subcommittee's special counsel, disclosed that the State Department warned the two in a letter Dec. 12, 1978, that Libyan officials were "establishing contacts outside Washington."

"The Libyans hope to use such contacts to influence U.S. policy toward their country and the Arab world," the letter said.

The letter, written by a State Department Libya desk officer, said that Ahmed Shahati, head of the Libyan Foreign Liaison Bureau and the man Billy Carter was dealing with, was one of the Libyan officials making such contacts.

But Coleman said he and Carter continued their Libya dealings and arranged the loan for Billy and tried to set up the oil

deal through Shahati and other Libyan officials.

Coleman said he picked up the \$220,000 in checks from the Libyan Embassy in Washington for the loan to the president's brother.

Frost threa

Cloudy skies delivered another dab of rain last night, .05 of an inch at the Elko airport, and ushered a threat of frost into the Elko area, according to Weatherman Andy Anderson.

The clouds were expected to clear away this afternoon and this evening to make way for "possible frost tonight in most areas outside Elko," Anderson said in his midday forecast. He predicted a low reading of 35 degrees early tomorrow morning at the Elko airport.

The abrupt change in Elko's weather was the result of what was described by the weather bureau as "an unseasonably strong cold front" that brought wind, showers and cooler temperatures to much of northern and central Nevada. It was pointed out Elko's high reading of 73 yesterday afternoon was 13 degrees below Sunday's high temperature of 82.

Airport meeting scheduled

Elko City Manager Barry Thompson announced a meeting between local and Federal Aviation Administration officials will be held at 9 a.m. Wednesday, Aug. 27, in city hall.

Future airport development will be the main topic of conversation, according to Thompson.

City and county officials are seeking federal funds to increase the length of the airport's paved runway.

FAA official Les Hopkins is scheduled to attend the airport meeting and visit Elko's airport.

In addition to reviewing development at the airport, the officials will discuss navigational aid development plans, including noise and land use plans.

Judge Lunsford:

Nothing wrong with signs

Elko Justice of the Peace E. F. Lunsford said he has done nothing wrong in having signs which call attention to the fact he performs marriage ceremonies.

He also said his attorneys will file a formal answer to a complaint filed with the Supreme Court by the Elko Wedding Chapel Inc.

The wedding chapel yesterday petitioned the Supreme Court for a writ of prohibition or for a writ of mandamus. The petition says the signs cut into the chapel's business - without specifying actual dollar loss - and would appear to violate state law and canons of conduct Nevada judges.

The suit was filed by Rick Truesdell, wedding chapel. The chapel is represented by Elko attorney Zane Milk, who also serves as county public defender.

The document filed with the court says Lunsford has posted nine signs advertising "marriage ceremonies" or the location of his office since the wedding chapel closed its doors across the street from the courthouse in June.

Lunsford noted yesterday most of the signs merely direct people to his offices in the basement of the courthouse, welfare office, justice courtroom, and assessor's office.

Three signs indicate the justice of the peace can perform marriage ceremonies. Two of those, while recently reworded, have been in place for approximately 20 years, said Lunsford.

The third is located on an informational sign in the courthouse lobby and was there before he took office 22 years ago, Lunsford said.

He said he believes the public has a right to know what duties he performs. Before he had the signs repainted, he said he received a written opinion from the district attorney's office which said informational signs were permitted under Nevada law.

The repainted signs originally read "Justice of the Peace" and "marriage ceremonies."

Lunsford said he added wording on his own volition to the sign to identify some of the other functions of the justice of the peace. It is that version which now appears on the Idaho Street sign.

A picture of that sign is adjacent to this story.

The wedding chapel complaint says the signs entice people who obtained marriage licenses in the courthouse to be married by Lunsford.

The wedding chapel operator said that appears to violate state law and at least three canons of the Nevada Code of Judicial

Conduct requiring judges to show decorum and refrain from dealings that tend to "exploit" their judicial positions.

Truesdell asked for a Supreme Court order to require Lunsford to take down the signs he finds objectionable, or at least stop him from putting up more signs "which influence persons to be married in the office of the justice of the peace."

Lunsford responded by saying that in the 22 years he has been Elko justice of the peace, he has always tried to maintain "high standards of conduct."

Rather than exploiting his office, he says the signs describe the official duties of the justice of the peace.

"They're strictly informational," said Lunsford. "The public has a right to know what duties I perform."

"I have always tried to operate my office at the highest possible level of integrity, and I see no change in that because of those signs."

He said the Elko firm of Puccinelli and Puccinelli will represent him in the matter.

He added there is one other sign in the courthouse which deals with marriage ceremonies.

That one is on a list of fees for duties of the justice of the peace, and includes the solemnization of marriages for \$10.

"That's required by state law," added Lunsford.

Democrats held as high as a 2-1 voting margin.

Now there are 146,975 Democrats, 102,571 Republicans, and 18,317 independents. Libertarians, Independent American Party members, nonpartisans and others who declined to state any political affiliation.

The various splinter groups account for seven percent of all registered voters, and showed an increase of six percent over their 1978 primary registration totals.

For the 1978 primary there were 136,107 Demos, 85,595 Republicans, and 17,296 splinter group or nonpartisans registered to vote, for a total of 232,998.

"We're ecstatic about the results we've been getting," Fahrenkopf said of the new

fact that unrest."

But people don't always vote as they register, and the final test will be the way the voters cast their ballots in the November general elections, he added.

Karamanos

LAS VEGAS (AP) — The Clark County business licensing department has turned over complaints from a catering company and casting company to the district attorney's office which is investigating allegations that University of Nevada Regent Chris Karamanos used his influence to monopolize the motion picture casting and catering business in Las Vegas. Business License Director Dan Fitzpatrick declined Monday to identify the com

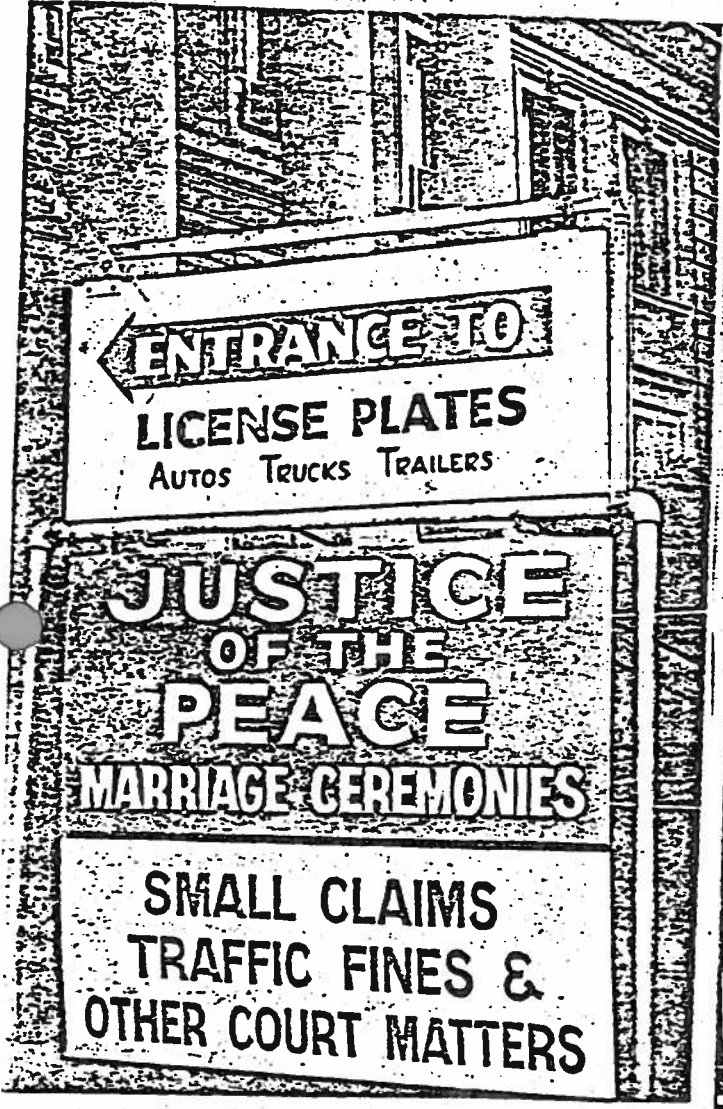
pany billing, which totaled more than \$16,000, was questioned by county welfare director Marguerite Tourreull.

Sharigan said some psychologists "have overstated what they can do. We can't cure criminality. We can't predict 'dangerousness' very well."

Griepentrog ended the meeting by urging local agencies to use the rural mental health clinic as the primary contact for all dealings with the mental health division and the Institute.

t forecast

Clear and cool weather is expected to prevail in the Elko area through tomorrow; and Anderson's five-day outlook calls for continued fair skies with a warming trend that is forecast to boost afternoon temperatures into the mid 80s by Saturday.



This is one of the signs — recently recorded — which the wedding chapel finds objectionable. Related photos on back page.



This is the sign which formerly appeared on Idaho Street, with the wedding chapel sign in background.