FROM THE ARCHIVES

VEGAS PIONEER IS TENDERED WISHES ON HER BIRTHDAY
(Reprinted from the Las Vegas Daily Optic - Feb. 7, 1934)

OLDER RESIDENTS OF CITY PAY TRIBUTE TO LONG TIME CITIZEN OF AREA

"Happiness and an active life are offered by Mrs. R. Rose Goldsmith, pioneer resident of this city as the formula for long life.

Mrs. Goldsmith, one of the oldest residents of Vegas, yesterday celebrated her 94th birthday and received the congratulations of the older citizens of the area. Thirty-five pioneers attended the informal birthday party for the colorful character.

Mrs. Goldsmith is a real pioneer of the Rocky Mountain area, coming by oxen team to Denver from Leavenworth, Kan. in 1859. She and her husband established their ranch house in the heart of Denver and remained there until the rampaging Cherry Creek flooded their home away. The Goldsmith family then moved to Pueblo where they took up land. In 1889 the family migrated to Las Vegas where they established their home and where the family has lived continuously since.

Kidnapping, a new "racket" in modern officialdom, is not new to Mrs. Goldsmith. She tells of her first experience with kidnappers while in Denver. Indians stole a baby, one she took to raise besides her own six children - the baby is now Mrs. N. Weil of Ocate - and held the infant for ransom. Mr. Goldsmith ransomed the child for a quantity of tobacco and coffee.

Mrs. Goldsmith, who is a great-grandmother, fondly tells of raising her six children, Mrs. Weil, and her son's child, Abe Goldsmith of Santa Fe. Her living children are: Mrs. E. Canter, Mrs. Betty Gunst, H.A. Goldsmith, all of Las Vegas; Mrs. Lena Herzstein of Houston, Texas.

The pioneer, who says she will be here next year to greet all her friends, retains that famed Western hospitality and it is a breach of etiquette to visit her without having a cup of coffee and a piece of cake."

***************************************************************

FROM THE DAILY OPTIC'S OBITUARY OF ROSA GOLDSMITH PRINTED IN 1936

"Mrs. Goldsmith was 97 years old. She was born in Durkheim, Germany Feb. 7, 1840 and came to America in 1857, landing in New York where she was married to Abe Goldsmith. Mr. Goldsmith was engaged in the mercantile business here."

***************************************************************

Yet another reason is given for the Goldsmith's move from Cherry Creek to Las Vegas in a subsequent article:

"The family lived on one side of Cherry Creek with the Indians across from them. One day a child, Betty, was missing. When she couldn't be found, the family decided she had been kidnapped by the Indians. After questioning them, they admitted they had Betty and released her without any harm being done to her when the family gave them gifts of flour, calico and hickory. This experience caused the family to move again, this time to Las Vegas."

The information on this page comes from the Dorothy Bernhein Shipman papers. Her grandmother is the "Mrs. N. Weil of Ocate" mentioned in the article, and the 1896 picture on P. 5 of the "Big Wool Clip" features her grandfather's store in Ocate.
A big wool clip—Ocate.
This was in the latest V. M. Jewish Historical Society Bulletin.