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Missing marker honoring Nevada's first flight turns up

Brian Duggan/Nevada Appeal

BY BRIAN DUGGAN BDUGGAN@NEVADAAPPEAL.COM,

One hundred years ago, Ivy Baldwin made history when his biplane took off at the old Raycraft Ranch in north Carson City.

That flight — Nevada's first and at the time a record-breaker in terms of its elevation — was commemorated 35 years ago by local aviation enthusiast Hazel Hohn, who helped establish a state historical marker along U.S. 395 where Glen Eagles now stands. And about nine years ago, that marker went missing.

Today, it's been found.

The Nevada Appeal received a tip from a reader during the weekend that the missing historical marker was located in a yard operated by the Nevada Department of Transportation just north of Highway 50 overlooking the Costco.

The marker, celebrating the first air flight in Nevada on June 23, 1910, was found resting on the desert floor, slightly rusted, along with two other missing historical markers for the Washo Tribe and Cave Rock in Douglas County.

Hohn's daughter, Carol Hohn, has been looking for the marker ever since it went missing some nine years ago, likely amid the U.S. 395 widening project.

"My mom worked so hard on it," Hohn said, adding others had lent their time to search for it, too. "So I'm so glad it's going to be put back up where it belongs.'

Mara Jones, the architectural historian for the State Historic Preservation Office, said a crew will pick up the markers on Thursday. She said the state will be able to use the text plates, saving the state several hundred dollars or more in replacement costs.

It took Hazel Hohn about three years to establish the marker, which was erected in 1974.

"After all my mom's hard work she deserves the recognition," Hohn said in an e-mail Monday. "Yipee!"

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- Photos by Shannon Litz/Nevada Appeal

Missing historic markers to be spruced up

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A Sparks construction company came to a Nevada Department of Transportation yard on Thursday to pick up three missing state historical markers.

Among them was the marker erected in 1974 that commemorated the first flight in Nevada history by Ivy Baldwin, June 23, 1910, at the former Raycraft Ranch in north Carson City.

The marker had been missing for about nine years.

The other missing markers were for the Washo Tribe and Cave Rock.

The Nevada Appeal ran a story about the missing marker in October, when the Nevada Day parade celebrated 100 years of aviation in the Silver State. A reader contacted the newspaper over Christmas weekend about finding a missing marker in the NDOT yard just north of the Spooner Highway near Carson City's Costco.

Susan Hohn, the daughter of Hazel Hohn, the woman who pushed to establish the marker recognizing Baldwin's historic flight, was present when the markers were loaded into the back of a truck and taken to be refurbished.

"It's been resolved," Hohn said. "It's come full circle and I'm happy that it's been found. It'll be re-erected and she'll be honored."

Hohn added that she wanted to give a "heartfelt thanks" to the reader who found the marker.

The find could save the state up to \$4,000 in replacement costs. The text plates cost about \$1,000 each and the Nevada-shaped structure they're placed on costs about \$1,000. One of those may be salvageable.

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