

Ray Peternell found the medallion after 13 clues hidden in a bush above a fire hydrant on North C Street in Virginia City.

Explanations of 2008 Nevada Day Treasure Hunt Clues

Clue No. 1

Lights, camera, action
Time to light the screen
To find this year's treasure
Dare to follow your dreams

(This is simply an introduction that sets the stage for the hunt.)

Clue No. 2

Psst! The show's
About to start
Grab a chair
Don't miss this part

(The key word is "chair." The treasure rests in a county seat.)

Clue No. 3

Misfits came and left their mark
In canyons, halls and flats
Trace their steps from morning sun
To where they hung their hats

(This clue narrows the search area to Washoe, Lyon, and Storey counties. "The Misfits" was filmed in Nevada at locations such as Quail Canyon in Reno, Odeon Hall in Dayton, and Stagecoach Flats east of Dayton. A clever hunter would also find that, although most of the cast "hung their hats" at the Mapes Hotel in Reno, Marilyn Monroe preferred the Edith Palmer Country Inn in Virginia City.)

Clue No. 4

It lies within 20
Over hill, over dale
A lake that served plenty
One should read Ramsdell's tale

(Within 20 miles of the treasure is Marlette Lake. In the late 1800s, an aqueduct system was built to feed water from that lake to Virginia City. New York Tribune reporter H.J. Ramsdell visited the area not long after its completion and wrote a story about how adventuresome folk would actually ride the flume in hog troughs. He, in fact, took a ride himself.)

Clue No. 5

He came out west
To fight and seek his glory
In films and in shows
Every picture tells a story

(Storey County is named after Captain Edward F. Storey who came to the area from Texas. During the Pyramid Lake War, Storey organized and commanded Company K, Nevada Militia, known as the "Virginia City Rifles." On June 2, 1860, Storey was ambushed, shot, and killed. He is buried in the Virginia City cemetery.)

Clue No. 6

A pancake was made famous
When two brothers died
Crop this scene out
And search to one side

(Henry Comstock, whose nickname was Old Pancake, is arguably the most famous man to strike it rich in the Virginia City area. However, it was actually brothers Hosea and Ethan Grosh who first found valuable ore. Their initial haul of silver was worth at least \$3,000, but both men died before they could profit from their discovery. The clue tells the hunter to search to one side of the outcropping in Virginia City where the main artery of gold was found.)

Clue No. 7

They couldn't find their Coffee
So they saddled up to go
And rode for two full hours
For a little cup of Joe

(In the television show Bonanza, the sheriff was named Roy Coffee. According to Wikipedia's listing about the Ponderosa Ranch, the horseback ride from the Lake Tahoe ranch to Virginia City, where the sheriff was normally found, presumably took two hours. "A little cup of Joe" refers to Ben Cartwright's youngest son.)

Clue No. 8

The territorial view
Was a breath of hell
Map what survived
And not what fell

(The Territorial Enterprise newspaper called the Virginia City fire of 1875 "a breath of hell." The treasure is hidden outside the area that burned.)

Clue No. 9

El barrio es donde
¿Comprende?
Feliz caza
Y buena suerte!

(The first line of this Spanish clue means "the neighborhood is where it is." The treasure lies in the Mexican district of Virginia City.)

Clue No. 10

When Howard came out gunning
And put one man in the ground
His shot drew the southern line
Where the treasure can be found

(At the end of the movie "The Shootist," which was filmed mostly in Carson City, actor Ron Howard kills the bartender who gunned down John Wayne's character. The "southern line" in this clue can be drawn from Howard Street to Cemetery Road in Virginia City. Hunters should look for the treasure north of that line.)

Clue No. 11

The key to this number
Is middle C
Note that an octave is missing
Oh where could it be?

(Streets that run north and south in Virginia City are mostly named by letters of the alphabet, although eight are missing – S through Z. The treasure rests somewhere along C Street.)

Clue No. 12

Thou shalt carry on, Chuck said
Search 'round where 10 unfold
Finding the treasure just could be
The greatest story ever told

(At a roadside rest at the north end of Virginia City is a plaque bearing The 10 Commandments. "Chuck" is a reference to Charleston Heston who acted in both "The 10 Commandments" and "The Greatest Story Ever Told." In the latter movie, Pyramid Lake north of Reno served as the Sea of Galilee.)

Clue No. 13

A tree trimmed
With fancy lace
Is near the treasure's
Resting place

(At the roadside rest referenced in Clue No. 12, there is a tree adorned with old shoes. Fancy lace refers to the shoelaces.)