

It's a Rough Road That Leads to the Heights of Greatness

There were very few good roads during Inyo County's early days. And with the county's great size and voluminous distance, it wasn't very easy to get around.



"Where there's a need, there is a buck to made", once said a wise entrepreneur. Toll road builders were fairly active during Inyo County's formative years.

Here is the Sherwin Toll Road, the predecessor to

modern day Sherwin Grade.

James Sherwin built the road in the 1870s so that he could haul lumber from his mill near Rock Creek down to the Owens Valley. He also charged a toll to others to use it. Eventually, Inyo County or the State of California took over all the toll roads in the area.

These roads built by private citizens greatly helped draw businesses as well as visitors to the remote yet exceedingly scenic area.

