

6 Apr 1956 Reno Evening Gazette  
Tonopah Pioneer Honored At Party

"Tonopah - In observance of the 81st birthday of Pete Petroni, Tonopah pioneer, a party was held at the Nye General Hospital recently.

Patients at the hospital shared with him ice cream and a beautiful birthday cake, baked by Mrs. Midge Crain. Members of his family present for the occasion were his wife Mary; daughter Mrs. Zelinda Langille of Tonopah; granddaughter, Mrs. Cecil Lang; great granddaughter Helene Lang and Mr. Lang, all of Hawthorne."

2 June 1956 Reno Evening Gazette  
Pete Petroni Dies In Nye

"Tonopah - One of Tonopah's best known residents, Pete Petroni, 81, died today in the Nye County Hospital after a four year illness.

A resident of Tonopah since 1901, Mr. Petroni was active in the mining and business life of the community for many years.

According to friends he made and lost three fortunes during the boom days of the famed mining camp. Among the business ventures he operated during his many years here were the Depot Hotel, the V. and I Saloon where Jack Dempsey trained for his fight with Johnny Sundberg, the Merchants Hotel, Bouquet Bar, Mammoth Club, Petroni Grocery and Petroni Garage.

He also excavated the basement of the Tonopah Club, and the bank building, and he constructed the first graveled main street in Tonopah.

Mr. Petroni, during his long career grubstaked many prospectors of the area. He and Mrs. Petroni, who survives, celebrated their golden wedding anniversary Sept 2, 1955. He also leaves a daughter, Mrs. Zelinda Langille.

A native of Lucca, Italy, Mr. Petroni migrated to Elko when he was 14 years old, and then moved to Tonopah."

12 Jun 1956 Reno Evening Gazette  
Scores Mourn Tonopah Pioneer At Last Rites

"Tonopah - Scores of relatives and friends paid final tribute to Raffaello (Pete) Petroni, well known Tonopah pioneer who died June 2, at last rites held from St. Patrick's Church here June 7. The Rev. Theodore Van Skee officiated.

Burial was in the Eagles plot of the Tonopah Cemetery with George Barra, George Boscovich, Peter Fabb, Walter Bowler, Angelo De Giobbe and Frank Del Papa as casket bearers.

Mr. Petroni, who had been a Nevada resident for 67 years, was a native of Lucca, Italy, where he was born March 25, 1875. He came to the United States at the age of 14 years and lived at Elko and Reno before moving to Tonopah in 1901. At various times Mr. Petroni operated the Depot Hotel, U & I Saloon where Jack Dempsey worked out for the Sunberg fight, Merchants Hotel, Bouquet Bar, Mammoth Club, the Petroni Grocery and Garage and also worked as a truck driver for the West End Mine. He became a naturalized citizen at the age of 21 years.

Old-timers will recall that Mr. Petroni was responsible for digging the ditch that enabled Tonopah to obtain water from Rye Patch, a job for which he was paid a \$100 bonus by the late Tasker Oddie. He hauled water to Rhyolite and Pioneer from Springdale in the early days and at one time, when water was scarce and very costly, donated the contents of a 600 gallon tank to put out a fire that threatened to destroy the town of Pioneer. Mr. Petroni is credited also with diffing the basements of the Tonopah Club and Bank building, two Tonopah landmarks, and paving Main Street with gravel.

Survivors include his widow, Mary, who he married in Tonopah in 1905; a daughter, Mrs. Zelinda Langille of Tonopah; granddaughter, Mrs. Cecil Lang, and a great granddaughter, Zelinda Lang, both of Hawthorne and several nephews."