

# I AM TONOPAH: A Letter to Nevadans, North and South

*I am Tonopah and I am alive  
I am the heart and the soul of the past  
I am the future and I will survive  
So the stories of Tonopah will forever last*

*My boundaries are made of rock and of dirt  
Some of my streets have never been paved  
The sage brush encases my soul like a shirt  
I am Tonopah and I will be saved*

*I'm the soul of the miners that built this state  
I'm forever in the heart of the cowboys too  
My veins pulse with the history that made us great  
I'm a bond forever connected to you*

*I am the tears that the miners cried  
When they lost all that they had  
I felt their pain because I know they tried  
And with each of their losses I too felt sad*

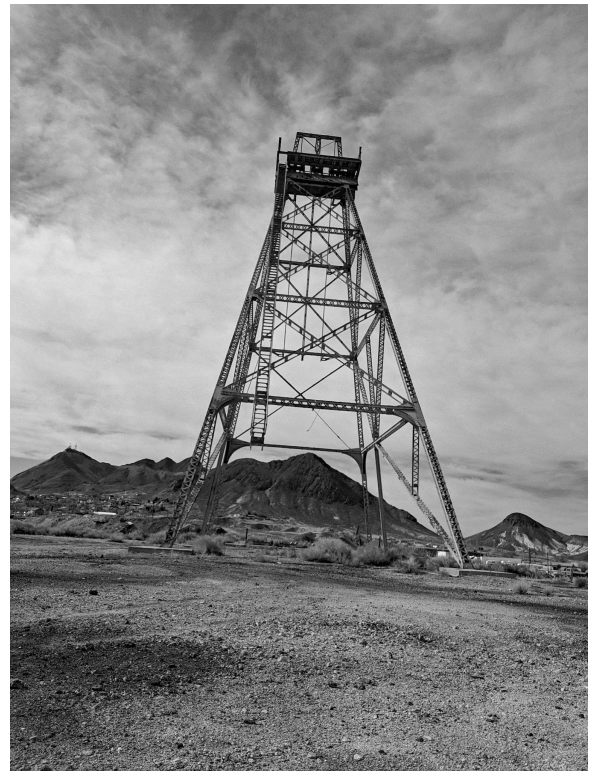
*I've given turquoise, silver and some gold  
To thousands of people who have just passed thru  
But I've given more as I grow old  
To the people who love me just like you*

*I've given the soil where you built your home  
I've given the hilltops where you climb  
I've tugged at your hearts when you wanted to roam  
I've called you my family for such a long time*

*I'm the beauty of the sunset on a clear desert night  
I'm the breath of the wind as it blows  
I'll show you the stars that glisten so bright  
I'm the inner peace that everyone knows*

*I nurtured the soldiers in World War Two  
I kept the secrets of the stealth  
The miners, the soldiers, the ranchers and you  
Have all gained by the strength of my wealth*

*My wealth to some has been precious stones*



*To others it's that inner peace of mind  
I'm the heart of the desert with its quiet tones  
I'm whatever peace that you wish to find*

*I am Tonopah and I will not quit without a fight  
Because I am so proud of my past  
I will stand tall thru day and thru night  
I am Tonopah and I will forever last.*

***Anna Whiteside  
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**Photographs by Anna Whiteside**