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FROM: The Silver Stage Players
TO: Theater Enthusiast
ATTN: Arts Events/Public Service/Human Interest Editor
RE: Players Help Celebrate Jarbidge's 100th Birthday with Production!
FOR: Immediate Release



Happy Birthday Jarbidge, Nevada!

Join the Silver Stage Players as they help celebrate Jarbidge's 100th birthday with their production of Beth Fine's *The Last U.S. Stage Robbery: A Mellerdrammer of Truth & Fiction*. Silver Stage Players continue their 2009 Season: *Come Play With Us* with the staging of this classic melodrama inspired by Helen Wilson's account of the last documented stagecoach robbery in the West in her book *Goldfever*. The performance will be held in Jarbidge's Community Hall, Saturday August 15 beginning at 7 pm.

What other community can boast a rich history in mining, ranching, and culture, be the location of the last documented stage coach robbery in the West, and has a giant, man-eating Indian Spirit named Tsaw-haw-bitts who would pick up people, put them in his basket, take them home, and eat them? Welcome to Jarbidge, Nevada!

The first major gold discovery was made on August 19, 1909. By the end of 1911, Jarbidge had a population of 1,200 people, a Community Hall, new school, improved road, a variety of businesses, and telephone service. Jarbidge is also the location of the last stagecoach robbery in the U.S. It happened on the night of December 5, 1916. Fred Searcy was found dead by his freight wagon with mail and \$3,000 missing. The sheriff from Elko, Joe Harris, followed a trail of blood and dog tracks. The dog was found and led them to a bundle containing a black overcoat which some had seen Ben Kuhl wearing. Kuhl was arrested, tried, and convicted. Jarbidge not only had a "last", it also had a "first" in this case. Kuhl had left a bloody palm print on a discarded letter at the site of the murder. This was the first time a palm or fingerprint had ever been admitted as evidence in a court trial in the world.

Directing the Players for the eighteenth time is Board of Directors Chairman, actor, and director Frank L. Sawyer. Mr. Sawyer's directing credits include *Much Ado About Nothing*; *Love, Sex and the I.R.S.*; *I Do! I Do!*; *The Odd Couple*; *The Zoo Story*; *Talk Radio*; and *Bringing it All Back Home* among others. About the opportunity Mr. Sawyer said, "On behalf of everyone in Silver Stage Players, we are excited to be here and join in the celebration of your 100th birthday!" Starring and providing technical expertise in this production are SSP members Jason Hoch, Tony Piper, Shanelle Millage, Chisholm Morris, Bailey Billington-Bensen, Donald Jones, David Morris, Rodney Billington, and Trent Thompson.

Celebrating its 73rd anniversary, the Silver Stage Players is dedicated to providing the finest theater, community service and educational opportunities to its members and the residents of northeastern Nevada. Its history is one of creativity and thought provoking theater. The company has challenged audiences, pushed the envelope of live theater and attracted the area's most talented actors, designers and directors since the 1930s. Recent productions include *Death of a Doornail*, *Lysistrata*, *Quilters*, *Greater Tuna*, *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, *The Man of La Mancha* and *Much Ado About Nothing*.

For more information about *The Last U.S. Stage Robbery: A Mellerdrammer of Truth & Fiction or the Silver Stage Players*, please call the director at (775)753-5474, e-mail the company at act@silverstage.org or visit us on the web at www.silverstage.org. The Silver Stage Players are proud members of the Elko Chamber of Commerce and The Theater Coalition of Nevada.

Silver Stage Players...Discover Something Unexpected!