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THE MAGAZINE OF THE REAL WEST

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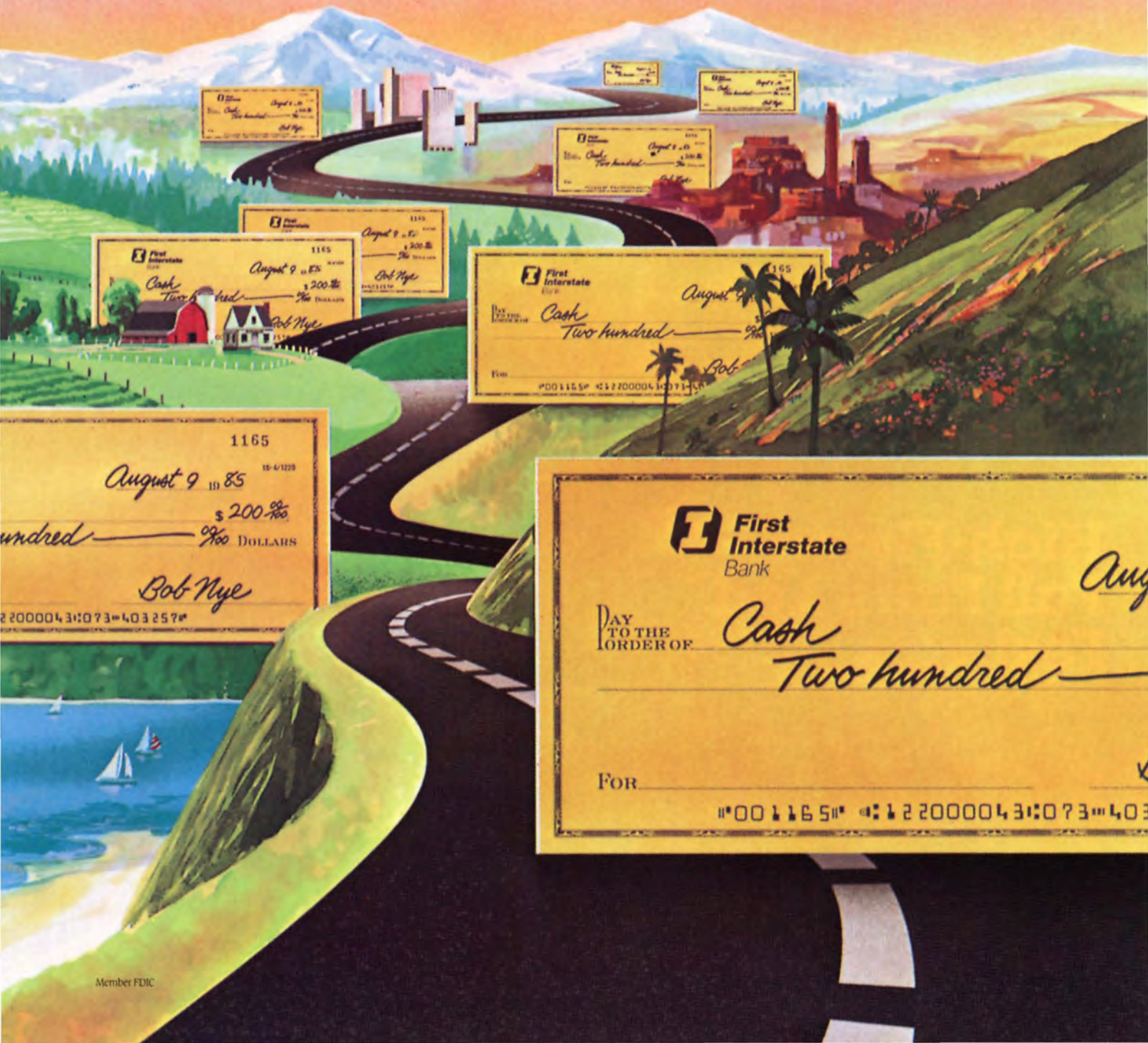
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NEVADA

Volume 46, Number 5

September/October 1986

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Nevada's Subterranean Sea

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ILLUSTRATION BY JOHN BARDWELL

MOLLY FLAGG KNUDTSEN COLLECTION

LISA J. TOLDA

Yesterday

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Cover: Balloonists in the Great Reno Balloon Race rise above it all September 5-7 at Rancho San Rafael Park. Another big hot-air event takes place during the North Las Vegas Fairshow October 24-26. Photograph by Richard Rowan.

NEVADA

Capitol Complex
Carson City, Nevada 89710-0005
702-885-5416



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ADVERTISING:

Patty Noll, Nevada Magazine, Carson City, NV. 89710-0005. (702) 885-5416.

Las Vegas, Reno, Carson City, Lake Tahoe:
Kelley-Rose, Inc., P.O. Box 20158, Reno NV. 89515, (702) 827-5551, or P.O. Box 60868, Las Vegas, NV. 89160, (702) 451-4833.

California (excluding Lake Tahoe):
Will Decker & Associates, 22312 Kirkwood St., El Toro, CA. 92630, (714) 770-8050.

East Coast/Midwest:

Resort Magazine Network, 322 Eighth Ave., 18th Floor, New York, NY 10001, (609) 348-3428.

NEVADA MAGAZINE (ISSN01991248) is published bimonthly by the State of Nevada at 101 South Fall Street, Carson City, Nevada. Second-class postage paid at Carson City, Nevada, with additional entry in Denver, Colorado. **POSTMASTER:** Send address change form 3579 to: NEVADA MAGAZINE, Capitol Complex, Carson City, NV. 89710-0005.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES: \$11.95 for six issues, U.S.; \$12.95 Foreign. Please allow six weeks for delivery.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS: New address should be accompanied by old address label and sent to Circulation Department, Nevada Magazine, Capitol Complex, Carson City, NV. 89710-0005. **Please allow six weeks advance notice.**

NEVADA MAGAZINE assumes no responsibility for damage or loss of any material submitted for publication. A stamped, self-addressed return envelope must be included.

Special assistance: OARC

Printing: A. B. Hirschfeld Press

Type: Graphic Services, Alpha Typographers

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Up Front

That's Life

When Nevada boosters heard that *Life* Magazine had included U.S. 50 across the state in a feature entitled "America, the Most" last July, they eagerly sought out the issue. There, alongside such extremes as the cutest kid and the town with the most pregnant women per capita, was a large color photo of U.S. 50 in Central Nevada. Its title was "The Loneliest Road."

The twilight shot by Philip Jones Griffiths showed the two-lane road running straight off across the desert. The only evidence of people were a car in the distance and a horse and rider crossing the road in the foreground.

It was a beautiful photo—but then there was the caption. It quoted an unidentified AAA counselor as saying "there are no points of interest" along the 287 miles between Ely and "Fernly," and, "We warn all motorists not to drive there unless they're confident of their survival skills."

That statement left many residents along the route aghast, prompting state Tourism Director Steve Richer to fire off a letter to *Life*. In it he said, "Highway 50 is the last opportunity to experience the vanishing American West." He concluded that "the only emptiness I find on Highway 50 is in the imagination, mind, heart, and soul of the unnamed AAA representative that you cited."

"We certainly didn't want to offend anybody in Nevada," said *Life* Assistant Editor David M. Friend, who was in charge of the feature. "The section was written in a humorous, tongue-in-cheek tone." Friend said the idea for "The Loneli-

est Road" was his. He had read the book *Blue Highways* by William Least Heat Moon, who had stated that U.S. 93 through Nevada "must have fewer towns per mile than any other federal highway in the country."

Friend said, "We called the Triple A people to verify that U.S. 93 was the most desolate, and they said, 'You got the wrong road.'" It was then that AAA singled out U.S. 50 as the most desolate, based on the number of services.

Richer said he'd try to capitalize on the attention with an "I Survived Route 50" campaign that would award cross-state travelers with badges of courage at the borders. But he pointed out that there are full services in Fallon, Austin, Eureka, and Ely, and even a McDonald's or two.

Some people, like Bob Carpenter of the Bay Area, prefer the road as it is, even when they're stranded on it. *Reno Gazette-Journal* reporter Steve Papinchak, doing a follow-up to the *Life* story, found Carpenter beside his broken-down '78 Chevy on a lonely stretch of Highway 50 about 20 miles east of Eureka. When told of the *Life* caption, Carpenter said, "I picked this road because I knew it is lightly traveled and scenic, and I'm in no particular hurry." He also said that during the hour he had been there, four people had stopped and offered help. "If I was a road," Carpenter said, "this is the kind of road I'd like to be."

Car and Driver felt the same way. In its January 1985 issue the national magazine noted, "U.S. 50 is quite remote. There just isn't anything going on out there, and the closer you get to Ely, the more fun it is.... You're climbing in and out of valleys and really whipping through some beautiful country." Those choice words were part of a special section—on the 10 best roads in the country.

☆

As this issue of *Nevada* was going to press, Kirk Whisler joined the magazine as its new publisher-editor. The former publisher of two Southern California-based magazines, *Camino* and *Somos*, Whisler brings a successful publishing background to the chief's desk. He foresees a bright future for *Nevada*. He also is anxious to get to know readers and reminds everyone to please fill out and return the questionnaire in this issue.—JC



RICHARD MENZIES

Highway 50: The loneliest road?

Letters

Valmy, Water, and the Great Train Robbery

Report From Valmy

Nevada Magazine apparently gets around to many states and many people. The response on the article "The Mayor of Valmy" by Richard Menzies in May/June '86 has not discontinued. Numerous travelers and personalities stop in with *Nevada Magazine* in their hands, asking, "Is this the place?" Perhaps after looking around they may wonder what a person is doing in the middle of nowhere.

At any rate NBC from Atlanta sent out their TV crews two days in June and completed their work on a return in July, to be aired sometime in late August or September on life on a Nevada desert. At about the same time an agent for Johnny Carson picked up a *Nevada Magazine* in Hollywood and interviewed for a possible appearance on *The Johnny Carson Show*. Uncertain at this writing. However, the point I wish to make is that *Nevada Magazine* gets around.

Gene Di Grazia
Valmy, NV

The cover of your May/June '86 issue shows a tent. In this era of high tech, external frame, and ultra lites, I'd thought the old-fashioned kind would have long disappeared! Anyone with a catalogue?

John Drake
Richmond, CA.

Andersen Was Right

Your magazine is proving especially interesting to me ever since a friend and I drove through Austin one day two summers ago. My friend refused to stop for reasons of his own. But I gazed in wonder at the whole setup from the cemetery on the edge of town to the oversized signs about Indian turquoise to those large red-brick churches spiraling up from the congested gulch. I loved it all and vowed I would get back there some day. I haven't made it yet, but I did subscribe to your magazine, *Nevada*. I read it with pleasure.

Last issue I flipped when reading about Jim Andersen's water-logged lots in Austin. Having lived on the California deserts for many years, I know exactly how he feels.

Ruth G. Dietman
Wickenburg, AZ.

Dietman, for more water theories, see page 12.—Ed.

I am not a genetics Ph.D. However, I want to change our genes to eliminate sleep so that one can enjoy Nevada 24 hours a day. I would think that Nevada would be the Sleeping Pill Capital of the United States. How can one sleep knowing there is so much excitement outside the bedroom?

Willard E. Crawford
Oroville, CA.

From Vegas to Tahoe

A recent issue had a story on Las Vegas in the early '50s. We were married New Year's Eve there in 1941. Stayed in a cabana and had a wonderful time. Peter L. Hayes and Mary Healy were on the stage. People today cannot believe that Las Vegas ever was so small.

Ed Hughes
Redondo Beach, CA.

I would like to compliment Jim Crandall on his most illuminating article, "Camping: Out Back, Up Close, and Off Beat," in your May/June '86 issue. In particular, at the beginning of his section on alpine camping, I found his description to be one of the best ever in singling out our wondrous area. To wit, "Mother Nature did such a first-class job of creating Lake Tahoe that 20 million people visit the lake each year."

Norm Hankoff
President & General Mgr.
KTHO Radio
South Lake Tahoe, CA.

Our Kind of Guy

I love your magazine. I think Nevada is the greatest state in the union to live in and Verdi the greatest town in Nevada. I'm in real estate, and I buy all my clients a subscription to your great magazine.

Bill Fiedrich
Verdi, NV

The Great Train Debate

I hope that you will print this letter so that in the future neither your magazine nor the people that buy it will be taken for a

NOTICE TO READERS

Please be sure to fill out and return the questionnaire in this issue.

THANKS!

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walk down the garden path. I'm referring to the story in the May/June issue, "The Great Train Robbery." There are a great many mistakes in the story, as written by Terri Sprenger-Farley, but she doesn't have to feel alone. I have in my files eight different accounts, by as many "so called writers." Farley and the rest of the so called historical writers have not done any real research.

Example: Both Chapman's and Parson's initials are wrong. Davis did not run the saloon in the Capitol House; another member did. Jones was not a boss. The amount taken was not \$41,600. Who ever heard of anyone's teeth turning blue? There never was \$3,000 missing. I have found the hideout, I have letters and records, and I say the story as written is pure bunk. I'm a disabled vet who has nothing to do but track down the truth about Nevada history.

Tom Wilson
Reno, NV

Wilson, here is the author's reply:

There's a shortage of eye-witnesses to most of the historical events I write about, so I rely heavily on the newspapers of the day. Obviously, they are not perfect.

For instance: Parsons was variously referred to as E.N., R.B., and C.B. Many times Squires was spelled Squeers. Chapman's disputed initials were even cause for discussion.

I found the amount of stolen gold reported as: \$41,600, \$41,485, \$41,488, and \$41,468. I chose to use Wells, Fargo's first reported figure. Reports on the missing loot varied, too, so I decided to go with the generally accepted amount of \$3,000. I'd encourage you to validate your discovery of the gang's hideout and share it, since apparently no one else has done so.

Regarding Davis' blue teeth, the dentists I consulted could come up with only one theory. Abscessed teeth—pretty common in 1870—are blue-gray. Confronted with a knowing deputy and police chief, Davis' face may have become pale and his teeth may have appeared to turn blue.

Historical researchers don't have to make choices; historical writers do. To point up each inaccuracy, I would have to step out of the time period and address the reader. This destroys the pace and mood of the article, so I just won't do it.—Terri Sprenger-Farley

Coming Up!

Please have a restaurant guide for Las Vegas. Enjoy the magazine very much.

Mrs. Frank Whalen
Garden Grove, CA.

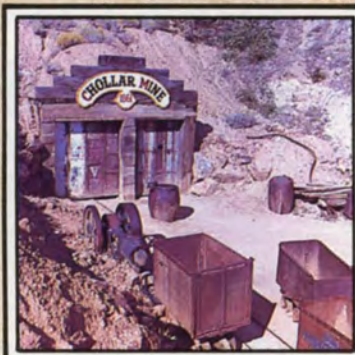
We love the area around Reno, Virginia City, and Lake Tahoe. Please, let's have lots of articles about these places.

Sharon Gamaleri
Highland, IN.

I presently get Nevada Magazine and just love it. I would like to get a gift subscrip-

(Continued on page 45)

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2451 May Peace be your Gift at Christmas and your Treasure through all the Year—artist *Katheryn Williams B.*



1205 Come join a dream of going back to those old-fashioned days...may you have a Merry Christmas in the good old-fashioned way! **A MEMORY OF CHRISTMAS**—artist *Joe Stahley*



1304 Merry Christmas and Best Wishes for a Happy New Year—artist *Gordon Snidow*



3253 Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year (with "Take Time To See", 24-line nature poem)—artist *Ted Blaylock*



2243 Happy Holidays and Best Wishes for the New Year! **THE FRIENDLY ROADRUNNER ON DESERT PATROL**—artist *Ruth M. Lau*



2483 Wishing you all the Peace and Love of this Holy Season (with "...there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God... Luke 2:13-14)—artist *Beverly Carrick Snow*



1496 May yours be a joyful Christmas and your New Year Happy!—artist *Hildred Goodwine*



4192 May the Peace and Joy of Christmas be with you through all the Year (with "Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace, good will towards men. Luke 2:14)—photo by *Fletcher Manley*



2140 Merry Christmas and Happy New Year (with "May your moccasins make happy tracks in many snows and the rainbow always touch your shoulder.)—artist *Lisa Danielle Lorimer*



2144 May you and yours this Christmas Day and every day this coming year be blessed with health and happiness **WHEN GOOD FRIENDS GATHER**—artist *Russ Vickers*



2388 Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year (with "In every home, in every heart..." 4-line poem)—artist *Ted Blaylock*



3319 Whatever else changes through the years, the glory of Christmas remains...may its light...bless you with joy...Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!—artist *Gene Dieckhoner*



We've loaded up everything and moved ...

2421 Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from our new digs!—artist *Ted Blaylock*



A Cowboy's Christmas Prayer
I wish I could give to people, and You may not know me, Lord —
I wish I could give to children who are poor. The little ones,
but You may have observed me out here on the lonely plain,
I wish I could give, better, to the other side of town,
where the poor live, where the old folks live,
where of the best gift in the world it comes to pass,
The best gift on earth, and the best gift, that we see,
Can look up at the stars at night and know we've got a Friend!

2222 "A Cowboy's Christmas Prayer" May the Peace and Good Will of Christmas always be with you (with "A Cowboy's Christmas Prayer" 26-line Western poem)—artist *Gordon Snidow*



1614 Wishing you all the love and promise that Christmas brings (with "Christmas is but one more word for love")—artist *Paula Butler*



1674 ...and best wishes for a Happy New Year from Our Outfit to Yours **WHOA, HOSS, WHOA**—artist *Vic Donahue*



3368 With Best Wishes at Christmas and Happiness through all the Coming Year—artist *Lisa Danielle Lorimer*



"I will lift up
mine eyes unto the hills..."

1424 May the Peace and Joy of Christmas be with you through all the Year—artist *John W. Hilton*



2322 May the Spirit of Christmas abide with you throughout the Coming Year (with "The heavens declare the Glory of God..." Psalm 19:1)—artist *Ruth M. Lau*



3372 May your Holiday Season be merry and bright!—artist *Lucille Martin*



Greetings from Our Outfit to Yours...

1286 With Best Wishes at Christmas and Happiness through all the Coming Year—artist *Paul Salisbury*



2422 May the meaning of the Season be deeper, its friendships stronger...as Christmas comes to you...(with "A Cowboy's Christmas Prayer" by S. Omar Barker)—artist *Dan Mieduch*



1651 May the warmth and love that is all around us as Christmas time fill your heart with joy... (with "Tidings of Great Joy", 5-line inspirational poem)—artist *Pawnee Indian Brummett EchoHawk*



2118 May you have the Spirit of Christmas which is Peace, the Gladness...which is Hope, the Heart ...which is Love (with Matthew 2:9, "...and lo, the star, which they saw in the east...")—artist *J. Clafflin*



2398 May Christmas bring Friends to your Fireside, Peace to your Pathway, and Good Health throughout the New Year—artist *Robert Wagener*



2454 May the Peace and Happiness of the Christmas Season abide with you through all the Coming Year (with 2-line inspirational poem)—artist *Beverly Carrick Snow*



3050 May the Peace and Joy of Christmas be with you through all the Year (with "The Star That Stayed 'Til Morning" 7-line inspirational poem)—artist *Garé Barks*



2404 Best Wishes for your Christmas is all you get from me, 'cause I aint no Santa Claus... Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year—artist Charles M. Russell



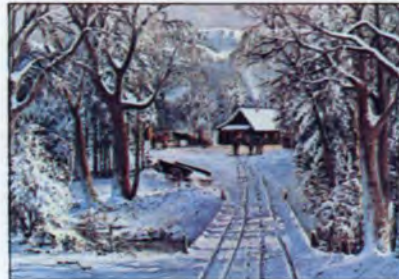
2225 May Peace be your Gift at Christmas and your Treasure through all the Year —artist Pawnee Indian Brummett EchoHawk



3375 Merry Christmas and Happy New Year ROADRUNNER'S CHRISTMAS—artist Ruth M. Lau



2426 May your Holiday Season be filled with cheer! (with "Twas the night before Christmas, when me and my horse..." 12-line poem)—artist Boots Reynolds



1140 May Christmas bring Friends to your Fireside, Peace to your Pathway, and Good Health... THE WONDER OF CHRISTMAS FILLS THE NIGHT—artist Bill Shaddix



1113 Best Wishes for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year THE ROADRUNNER AND HIS DESERT FRIENDS—artist Ruth M. Lau



1261 May the Peace and Joy of Christmas be with you through all the Year (with "When man begins to understand..." 4-line inspirational poem)—artist Vel Miller



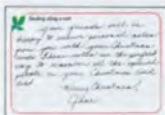
2431 Wishing you an abundance of the good things in life at Christmas and throughout the New Year BRINGIN' HOME A TREE—artist Dan Mieduch



2410 Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year (with "In every home, in every heart..." 4-line poem)—artist Ted Blaylock

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L.V. zoo's scarlet macaw.

CITY SIGHTS

What to Do in Town

Las Vegas

By Kate Butler

Park and Pant

Six in the morning, when the sun is low in the sky beside Sunrise Mountain, is a great time to join the early-morning joggers and power walkers at Jaycee Park. A lap around both the inner and outer circles of the rubberized Sportan track equals a mile. You can spend a few minutes on the stretching equipment and then join the retiree coffee clutches who gather after their workouts. Some joggers hit the track as early as 4 a.m., but running late is fine, too, since the park is lighted after dark. Jaycee Park is at St. Louis and Eastern; call 702-386-6297

Fall Color Alert

For about three weeks the colors of a New England fall are on display at Mount Charleston, 45 miles northwest of town. One colorful area is a short walk from the end of Lee Canyon Road. From the bulletin board on the west side of the ski area's parking lot, follow the trail about half a mile to a thick grove of quaking aspen, awash in yellows, reds, and browns. Kyle Canyon Road is another leafy route, with oak brush brightening the mountainside. Cathedral Rock Picnic Area at the top provides easy access to aspens. For fall color alerts on the mountain, phone the U.S. Forest Service's 24-hour information number, 388-6254.

Meet Ronald Raven

At the Southern Nevada Zoological Park, Nevada's only zoo, you'll meet Ronald Raven and Nevermore, two black ravens; Samantha, an Asian leopard; Zaira, a Bengal tiger; and a host of other creatures. The zoo's 250 species include exotic birds, a group of coati, a 400-pound African lion, a llama, two golden eagles, and some Barbary apes. Tamer attractions in the petting zoo are goats, lambs, and deer. The two-and-a-half acre park, which will expand to nearly three times its size in the next two years, has a retail store, For the Birds, and

is open 9 to 6 daily. Admission is \$2.50 for adults, \$1.50 for children under 16 and seniors over 60. It's minutes by freeway from downtown at 1775 North Rancho Drive; call 648-5955.

Light Flights

Take a night flight over Las Vegas and see the city lights sparkle like jewels in the desert. Rides are offered nightly from dusk to midnight by Action Jet Helicopters at the company's heliport near Caesars Palace. Flights of about two-and-a-half minutes cost \$10, five minutes \$18, and 10 minutes \$27. Bring your camera (no flash) and shoot the dazzling colors through plexiglass windows of the five-passenger ship. Reservations are not required. Action Jet, which offers daily rides to Hoover Dam, Lake Mead, and the Grand Canyon, is located at 3450 Las Vegas Boulevard South; call 796-6151.

Reno/Tahoe

By Deborah A. Mawhar

Jupiter and Beyond

On a clear night you can see all the way to Jupiter from the Fleischmann Planetarium in Reno. On the first and third Fridays of



The view is up at Reno's space place.

each month through winter, weather permitting, a planetarium employee gives a star talk while visitors look through the outdoor telescope at the moons and bands

of Jupiter. Also visible will be galaxies, star clusters, and interstellar gas clouds. It's free. Inside the domed building you can buy a ticket to a galactic double feature. Sit back—way back—and let the multimedia shows take you out of this world. Tickets are \$3.50 adults, \$2 children 12 and under and seniors 60 and over. No children under 6 are admitted to evening shows. For show reservations, call 784-4812. The Fleischmann Planetarium is next to the Nevada Historical Society and UNR's Lawlor Events Center on North Virginia Street in Reno. For a recording of shows and times call 784-4811.

Visit a Big Star at Home

If you've seen a show at John Ascuaga's Nugget in Sparks, you've probably seen



Bertha's beauty bath.

the Nugget's biggest star, Bertha the elephant. You and the kids also can visit Bertha out of the spotlight, at her yard every day from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., weather permitting. On the hot days of early September she might be found lounging in her private pool or making mud pies in the shade. Bertha eats 100 pounds of hay, lettuce, carrots, fruits, and veggies every day. It's all hand-picked, so resist the temptation to bring her a treat. Group tours can be arranged. Bertha's barn is at the west end of the Nugget's parking lot; call 356-3316.

Stalking the Colored Leaves

For some of the best fall color in Reno, take a walk on Riverside Drive just west of downtown. This landscaped section of the Truckee River will blaze in orange and red as the leaves turn on the locust, cottonwood, poplar, elm, and pin oak. To get a jump on the leaf-watching season, drive 10 miles south of town on U.S. 395 and head up the Mount Rose Highway seven miles to Galena Creek Park. The trail there leads you across the colorfully lined creek and through the pines for a relaxing stroll. Even higher is a view of Lake Tahoe, with pockets of yellowing aspens punctuating the evergreen forests. To get there, continue about 14 miles to the scenic viewpoint. □



Nevada's Mysterious Subterranean Sea

Scientists say a massive underground reservoir sits under about half the Silver State. If so, tapping it could turn the desert into a garden. But dare we rock the boat?

By Rose Anne DeCristoforo

In the desert valleys of Southern and Eastern Nevada, where less than 10 inches of rain falls each year, there are green places where trees, grass, flowers, and crops thrive on water that comes from huge springs. The mystery of these springs is that they flow even when there has been no rain for many months. Folk legend says the springs occur where underground rivers come close to the surface of the earth.

But Mother Nature has outdone the legend this time. Instead of rivers, a virtual ocean of water may lie under this most arid of deserts, a vast, almost unimaginable source of new water that could forever change the shape of Nevada's political, social, and economic landscape. This is water that, because of what is called "the artesian effect," may rise naturally to the surface, even from great depths. And because the water is very old, it may also be very pure.

No one is sure what this water will mean to Nevada. Some people envision Las Vegas doubling in size and Ely growing into a major city. Will it mean that Caliente can open a Wet 'n Wild water park for the benefit of its tourists? Should we look for water-dependant industries to migrate to Eureka and Pioche?

There are no answers yet. And the irony is that, even if the water is there, we may not be able to tap it at all.

Although the geologic formation that is said to hold the water is not fully understood, some experts describe it as "a giant bathtub full of crushed rock." The rock layer may be as much as five miles thick. In some places it is close to the earth's surface. In others it is so deeply buried that no wells have reached its bottom.

The Ruby Marshes are fed by springs originating in this formation, as is the Muddy River, which provides water for Glendale, Logandale, and Overton. Ely gets municipal water from one of these perennial springs, and the entire 30-mile length of the lush Pahranaagat Valley is made green by ancient spring water.

One of the first people to realize there was something curious about Nevada's bottomless springs was a young hydrogeologist named George Maxey. Maxey came to Nevada in the 1940s to map sections of the eastern Great Basin for the U.S. Geological Survey. He later founded the Desert Research Institute's Center for Water Resources. He lived in Reno and spent a large part of his career studying Nevada's water problems.

Remembered by former students as a

Pahranaagat Lakes (left), 80 miles north of Las Vegas, are said to be fed by the carbonate rock aquifer that has scientists and officials so intrigued. If so, fact is much like the legend, which holds that the two lakes receive their water from an underground remnant of the ancient White River. Located near the farming town of Alamo, the spring-fed lakes are part of a national wildlife refuge for migrating waterfowl. About 25,000 ducks, geese, coots, and other birds may rest there at one time in fall.



MARTIN MIFFLIN

George Maxey: His theories did hold water.

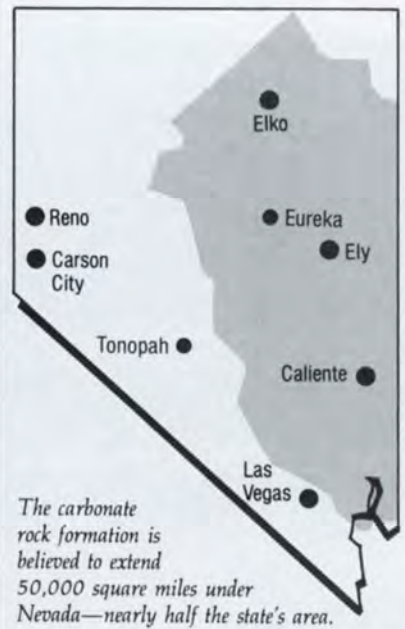
visionary and a workaholic, Maxey was an international figure in water planning, consulting for the United Nations and such far-flung countries as Mexico, Poland, and Egypt. The Montana ranch boy who sold apples to get through college went on to serve as president of the International Geophysical Union and to receive major national and international awards in his field. But he never let go of the puzzle

of Nevada's desert springs.

In the early 1970s Maxey and a former student, Martin Mifflin, worked on a project in Mexico that led to the discovery of water in a carbonate aquifer. When the two men found themselves back in Nevada, they applied the lessons of Mexico to the Great Basin. They had noticed that the water "budgets" for many of the valleys in Eastern Nevada didn't balance out. Some water basins contained more or less water than they should have had, based on annual rainfall. Water had to be traveling from one basin to another in the carbonate rock system. But how much water was there, and where was it going?

The springs, Maxey and Mifflin realized, were flowing from a thick layer of water-bearing limestone and dolomite that was laid down in Eastern Nevada and Western Utah 200 million to 500 million years ago. At the time a warm, shallow sea covered the area, which was at the western edge of the North American continent.

The rock beds were built up by marine life in the way coral reefs are created. Minerals precipitated out of the water in a Paleozoic Bahamas environment, and slowly built a 100,000-square-mile band of rocks—half of it under present-day Nevada—that geologists call the Great Basin Carbonate Rock Province. The water was stored during the Pleistocene



Epoch 10,000 to 25,000 years ago, when a wet climate left a third of the state covered with lakes.

In 1975, Maxey and Mifflin published a scientific paper describing the enormous water potential in what has come to be known as Nevada's deep carbonate aquifer. In early 1977 George Maxey died, but he and Mifflin had planted the seed.

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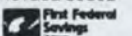
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NEVADA

NEVADA'S GOT IT

Today, a decade later, there are many voices of caution, but excitement is growing about the aquifer's potential. It is "a major system" that "could provide hundreds of thousands of acre feet of water for hundreds of years," Robert Broadbent, then Assistant Secretary of the Interior, told state legislators in 1985. Through the efforts of Broadbent, an Ely native who is now director of McCarran International Airport in Las Vegas, \$17 million in federal, state, and local money has been committed to probe the so-called "relic ocean" and determine its potential uses.

The existing data is impressive. Wells drilled into carbonate rock formations on

the Nevada Test Site in the early 1960s revealed enough water under its desolate wastes to provide for the state's needs, at the present rate of consumption, for about 40 years. "However," a state report cautions drily, "because this water is on a federal reservation and because this area is and has been involved in underground nuclear testing, this potential water supply might not be available."

And in 1979 Air Force researchers for the proposed MX missile system drilled into carbonate rock formations near Coyote Springs, 45 miles north of Las Vegas. One of their wells produced 3,400 gallons per minute for 30 days before it was capped.

Scientists believe the formation in Nevada tilts from the northeast to the south and southwest, so that the water moves toward Southern California. It is generally agreed that the carbonates drain a significant amount of water into the Colorado River System near Las Vegas. Water also may seep into Death Valley from the area near the Test Site.

The aquifer's storage capacity is unknown. USGS geologist Jim Harrill, project manager for the new government study, says there are other carbonate rock aquifers in the world, but he says Nevada's is unique. For example, Florida's is 1,000 feet thick, but experts believe Nevada's may be up to 30,000 feet in depth.

Greater thickness doesn't necessarily mean more water. The pressure on rocks at great depths could close openings that water might flow through. On the other hand, almost the entire carbonate rock bed in Nevada has been broken up by earth movement. This crushing and crunching may have created many openings capable of storing water.

Furthermore, earthquake activity has brought many of the carbonate layers close to the surface. Carbonate water has been found at depths as great as 10,000 feet, but, according to Martin Mifflin, the depth of those formations in Nevada may vary from a few hundred feet to five miles. Mifflin, co-discoverer of the aquifer, is a former research professor at the Desert Research Institute in Las Vegas.

"It is a complex problem," says Mifflin. "We know the flow systems are there. They are related to the carbonate rocks, but what we know is in broad generalizations. To go from that level of knowledge to finding the water is very difficult." Mifflin says reservoirs may be hidden in huge caverns that resemble Lehman Caves in Eastern Nevada, but it is difficult now to predict where those may be.

Although flow patterns also are something of a mystery, scientists speculate that water coming out near Las Vegas may have entered the aquifer 25,000 years ago in the Elko area, 400 miles to the north. New water from more recent rain and snowfall may be behind it.

The question is, how far behind is the new water? Would it take 30, 50, 100, or maybe 1,000 years to deplete the aquifer? Nevada's low annual rainfall obviously would not replenish the supply if serious pumping begins. If new cities the size of Las Vegas spring up in Eastern Nevada, their wells might run dry in a few hundred years. Such questions are being addressed by the joint USGS, DRI, and Bureau of Reclamation team now studying the aquifer.

To further complicate matters, Nevada's water laws simply don't provide for the possibility of an underground sea. They assume that the only water up for

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grabs is what little falls out of the sky and lands in lakes, streams, and basins. The state's water laws also are designed to prohibit anyone from drilling a well to "mine" water that cannot be replaced by normal rainfall.

If water does run from one basin to another, as Mifflin and Maxey concluded, there is cause for concern among those whose job it is to keep it all straight.

State Water Engineer Pete Morros, whose delicate charge is the allocation of water in this dry state, suspects that the eastern basins' water budgets don't add up because ground-water supplies and the carbonate aquifer are connected. Morros is worried that a push to mine water from carbonate rocks could endanger the flow from traditional sources, including the springs upon which communities like Ely depend. He says that before he allows anyone the right to use water from the carbonate aquifer he must have "a clear understanding of the effect on existing rights."

From the perspective of Central Nevada, Nye County Planner Steve Bradhurst also has expressed concern. He worries that drawing water out of the carbonates to quench a thirsty Las Vegas might result in what he calls "another Owens Valley situation," referring to the California valley whose water goes south to Los Angeles.

He says draining the carbonates could pull ground water into the ancient reservoirs. He then would envision "having to go deeper and deeper for water." If the bathtub-full-of-crushed-rock analogy is correct, Bradhurst says, "you could put a straw in one end of the bathtub and suck it all out."

Other states do allow the mining of water. In Florida and Texas deep aquifers have been tapped. Mifflin has studied the Florida carbonates, which supply water for Miami and other areas. Some of the problems he observed there include declining water quality, sinkholes, and lower water tables.

Mifflin says decisions about whether to mine the water under Nevada cannot be made until the extent and character of the aquifer is better understood. "Our proposal was to develop this information before the crunch hits," he explains.

If the state's leaders can predict how long the water will last and what will happen if it is taken out, they may decide to tap the aquifer, Mifflin predicts. "Using the water would be just like using oil, coal, and minerals," he says. "We don't stop mining those just because we have a limited supply."

Mifflin says he doubts that the carbonate rock aquifers will really be understood until they are developed experimentally.

Such a program should, among other things, pump a well field for 10 to 20 years, he says.

"This is not a simple scientific challenge. It has to be blended in with actual water demand. You can't just let the water run on the ground. We have to truly marshal the resources in a wise manner," Mifflin says.

In the meantime, Pat Pine, who manages the Las Vegas Valley Water District, says, "I am preparing my people for possible disappointment." Pine says Elko and Ely could turn out to be the only places in the aquifer that can be tapped without upsetting existing rights. Las Vegas needs to know if this is the case soon, Pine says,

because until they are told the water isn't there, they won't look for other solutions to the problem. "It's our children's future. We have an obligation to them to think about these issues, even though it is the human thing to wait until there is a crisis," he says.

"In the water business you have to look 40 years down the road," Pine says. "But right now people are saying, 'Don't worry, there's this vast underground sea.'" □

Rose Anne DeCristoforo is founder and former editor-publisher of the Nevada State Recorder, which was sold to a Los Angeles publisher in 1985. She is currently working as a freelance writer and consultant in Carson City.

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Showroom Survival

An insider's guide to tipping, taste, and temperament.

By Pete Mikla

One night a few years ago in Las Vegas, Willie Nelson was on stage at Caesars Palace when a young woman climbed up, walked over to Nelson, and gave him a big kiss. He smiled and kept on singing.

Encouraged, several other people got on stage and kissed Willie or shook hands with him before security guards stopped the interruptions.

During a break in the din, one woman in the audience exclaimed loudly, "Some people just don't know how to go to a show."

She was right, but not just about free spirits who get too spirited. Most of us know that we shouldn't climb on stage unless invited. But many showgoers, even experienced ones, encounter more subtle

questions of etiquette. There's always tipping: When should you offer a discreet gratuity to the maitre d' or captain? Or what to wear: Should it be jeans or Yves Saint Laurent? Then there are questions of strategy, such as how to angle for the best possible seat.

Most of the answers involve common sense and seating systems. Money seldom is the only answer; showgoing is not a simple case of survival of the tippest. Rather, it's usually a matter of knowing what to ask for and being willing to accept something less than center-stage ringside unless you're paying the casino's light bills that month.

Here are a few suggestions on showroom strategy and etiquette. There may

be variations among hotels in Las Vegas, Reno, Tahoe, and the rural areas. But these tips will help keep in focus the golden rule: Whatever happens, relax and enjoy the show.

Be Aggressive About Reservations

Many hotel showrooms do not issue tickets. Instead, showgoers make reservations and pay when the check is presented during the show. You can make reservations by going to the main showroom window or, easier yet, by calling ahead. Give your name, the number of people in your party, and which show (early or late) you want to attend. Some hotels take reservations several days in advance while others prefer to take them only on the day of the show. A few such as Harrah's take reservations 30 days in advance.

If you must make reservations on show day, make them as early as possible. For a superstar show such as Bill Cosby, Frank Sinatra, or the Pointer Sisters, call between 9 and 11 a.m., especially on Fridays and Saturdays, when the tourist population swells. Some stars, such as George Burns and Dean Martin, perform one show a night, which makes seats twice as hard to get. However, if a show doesn't sell out, as on the usually slower Sunday and Monday nights, reservations are taken almost up to showtime.

Keep in mind that many stage shows feature semi-nude showgirls. Even though these productions are presented in exquisitely tasteful settings, a few showgoers find the nudity offensive. If the lack of clothing is important to you either way, ask beforehand.

There is an alternative with "Beyond Belief," which stars illusionists Siegfried and Roy, at the Frontier Hotel. On the first Saturday of each month the hotel offers a special family performance in which the showgirls cover up. Even at \$29.50 per person this 6 p.m. performance sells out fast, so make reservations early.

Also, "Branded," a Wild West revue at the Reno Hilton, is an example of a show with no nudity. Some of the women's outfits are skimpy in back, but that's all, and children are welcome.



ILLUSTRATIONS BY JOHN BARDWELL



The Pre-Show Lineup

Seating for shows usually begins 90 minutes to two hours before the curtain goes up, so don't be alarmed by the long line you may encounter at the showroom. The line will move fairly quickly, and everyone will be seated in time.

While waiting, be patient. There are few ways to beat the crowd at a popular show. Avoid the temptation to get into the shorter "invited guests" line. It is reserved for media people, VIPs, and special groups. Try to sneak in and you'll end up at the back of the regular line.

Another tempting strategy is to arrive at the last minute. A couple or a group will risk getting poor or separate seats, but a person attending a show alone has an excellent chance of finding a single seat near the stage.

Successful Seating

After you check in with the maitre d' who runs the showroom, a captain will escort you to your seat. The maitre d' and his crew are adept at handling big crowds twice a night, every night. For example, 2,100 customers may be seated for a single performance of "Hello, Hollywood, Hello" at Bally's Reno's Ziegfeld Theatre, the biggest showroom in the state. Across town at Harrah's, the capacity is about 550, while Caesars Tahoe (1,600) and Harrah's Tahoe (up to 1,000) fall in between.

There also is a wide range in Las Vegas, where the biggest is the Hilton's 1,600-seat showroom, followed by Bally's Celebrity Room at 1,400. Others include Caesars Palace, 1,200; Bally's Ziegfeld and the Tropicana, 1,100; the Frontier, 900; the Stardust, 860; and the Golden Nugget's new Cabaret, 750.

That's a lot of seats to fill, but most maitre d's are experts at directing traffic and keeping high rollers and regular customers equally happy.

Some showgoers like to offer a tip immediately to the maitre d'—going right to the top—or to the captain. But you don't have to tip; your seat probably will be good anyway. If you are seated at a table, the fit may seem snug at first, but that sensation passes quickly. If you're lucky enough (or have tipped enough) to land in a booth, enjoy the roominess and square-to-the-stage view. But no matter where you're seated, especially in a well-tiered room, the view should be fine.

If you wish to improve your seats, you can offer the captain a \$5 to \$20 tip, or "toke." That usually will get you and your party moved up anywhere from a few rows to ringside. When offering the tip, a simple "Is there anything closer?" or a wave of the hand in the general direction of where you'd like to sit usually does the job.

Exactly how much should you tip? It depends on the show and how desperately you want to be near your favorite star. One thing to keep in mind if attending one of the huge stage spectaculars is that the best seats are not down in front but in the first row of a central level of seats about 40 feet from the stage. This vantage point allows you to see all the numbers unfold and keep an eye on acts developing on the side stages and even near the ceiling. The first row of booths in a showroom is always premium seating. Plan to tip big if you want to sit there.

A \$5 tip at a revue usually will net an excellent seat. It might cost a little more, perhaps \$10 to \$20, to get close to a big-name star. As far as the top superstars are concerned, if you absolutely, positively have to be ringside for Julio Iglesias, Dolly Parton, or Frank Sinatra in Las Vegas, it might cost \$100. Still, it never hurts to

ask. If seats are available up front, and you ask in advance, you might get close to your favorite star without any tip at all.

Dinner or Drinks?

A few hotels still offer dinner service in their showrooms, with menus listing four or five entrees. These include two or three cuts of steak (prime rib or New York cut), a poultry dish (chicken, Cornish hen, or turkey), and seafood (trout or lobster). Dinner generally includes the main course, salad, and coffee. Cocktails and other drinks, appetizers, and desserts cost extra. Generally, prices quoted in show guides are minimums, reflecting the menus' least expensive items.

At shows that are "cocktails-only" you receive one to three drinks, depending on hotel policy. Some hotels are giving more attention to nondrinkers at the late show. For instance, Harrah's Tahoe and Harrah's Reno offer a la carte menus featuring items like French dip and crab salad, dessert and coffee, and an assortment of "mocktails." Accordingly, it's no longer called the "cocktail show" but instead the "11 o'clock show."

Tipping for table service depends on courtesy, service, and the quality of the food, as in any restaurant. For a dinner show, the general rule is \$10 to \$20 for a party of two to four people. At a cocktails-only show, it's usually \$5 to \$10 for two to four people. Although casino chips are



accepted as tips, paying your bill with them is illegal, according to federal law, so figure to use cash or a major credit card.

Dressing Up or Down

Nevada showrooms do not have an official dress code. In the 1950s, men in tuxedos and women in jewels and evening gowns created a lasting image of the Las Vegas showgoer. Although not everyone was attired that smartly, it was customary to dress up for a show.

Over the years showgoers in Las Vegas, Reno, and Tahoe have adopted a more

casual wardrobe. For men, slacks and a sports shirt (no necktie) are as acceptable as a business suit or sports coat. Women in slacks and designer jeans now outnumber those in evening gowns. Country-music fans often show up in cowboy hats and jeans. However, swimsuits and the torn T-shirt look are not generally welcomed.

Despite this casual trend, tuxedos and evening gowns haven't completely disappeared from showrooms. It is not unusual to see women wrapped in their finest furs at a Frank Sinatra show, even on a warm summer night.



Beware of Big Mouths

Although virtually all showgoers are well-behaved, there are a few fans who call out to entertainers and interrupt their shows. Such loudmouths annoy the people seated around them, and a few may try to get on stage. But these folks often get more than they bargained for.

Last year Rodney Dangerfield was in the middle of his show at Caesars Palace when a young woman climbed on stage and asked the comic for an autograph in mid-joke. Dangerfield explained to her that he was doing a show, but the woman insisted on an autograph. Rodney handled the situation in a unique manner: He turned to the woman and propositioned her. She left the stage without the autograph.

In another incident, security guards at Bally's (then MGM) Grand in Las Vegas removed a woman from the audience at a Dean Martin performance. The woman, who apparently tried to outdrink the star, began calling out to Martin and bothering those seated near her. After failing to heed a warning from the guards, she was led away yelling, "I love you, Dino!" Martin replied, "I love you, too, but sometimes that's just the way it goes."

The moral of these stories is simple: Don't try to become part of the show.

Of course, most of us are more concerned with making reservations in time and getting seated smoothly. Then, when it's curtain time, all we have to do is sit back, let the waiters do the work, and enjoy the show. □

Pete Mikla is entertainment editor for the Las Vegas Review-Journal.

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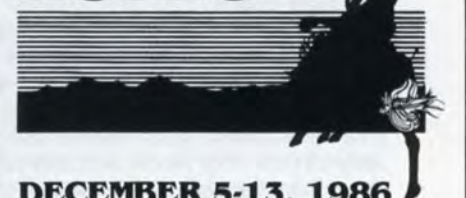
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Gunfighters of Pioche

In the late 1800s in Pioche, if you didn't pack a gun you might as well pack and run.

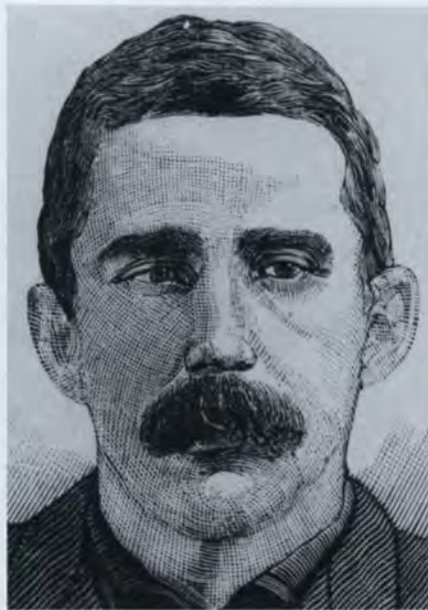
By A. D. Hopkins

"I'm Cemetery Sam, and I'm a gunfighter from Pioche." Those words mark the entry of the term "gunfighter" into the American language. They were written in 1874 in a humorous newspaper story about a frontier blowhard.

It was natural for Cemetery Sam to claim Pioche as the scene of his exploits, for Pioche in the 1870s suffered as sanguinary a reputation as any town in the West. Despite the current tendency to discredit romantic exaggerations about frontier gunfighters, in the case of Pioche the romantics are closer to the truth than the debunkers. The town attracted, and even created, real gunfighters as proficient as the fictional creations of Clint Eastwood. And Pioche was not satisfied with mere pistol duels between two antagonists; there were at least two pitched battles with 10 or more participants shooting away at each other.

Pioche today is a friendly, somewhat sleepy community that survives as Lincoln County's seat and one of rural Nevada's best historical attractions. The town's steep streets, its century-old courthouse and jail, its wooden opera house and high-ceilinged barrooms—all evoke the feeling that you have fallen through a hole in time and landed in an era most people see only in history books.

But 115 years ago Pioche was a wide-open boom town. It is often claimed that 72 people were killed there before anyone died of natural causes. The claim is not true—pneumonia and typhoid did take early victims—but Pioche certainly earned its violent reputation. Historians count more than 40 killings in Lincoln County between 1870 and 1875, with only two men punished. In 1870, the year for which



Morgan Courtney (top) was notorious even in Pioche, one of the West's toughest towns. Despite reports that in 1870 he packed Colt .45s, that gun wasn't made until 1873. Most fighters used a double-action Whistler (above) with the hammer filed flat and the barrel shortened for quick draws from coat pockets.

population figures are most reliable, Pioche had five homicides among its 1,171 residents. The following year there were 11 killings.

Many mining camps had violent years, but Pioche had special reasons for its wealth of gunplay. Its silver discoveries were concentrated in a small area, and close quarters led to disputes. Furthermore, there was the lull between the ore's discovery in 1864 and its development in 1870. Mormon settlers staked the first claims, but church leaders ordered members to concentrate on farming. Soldiers passing through also staked claims but failed to work them. So the mines' developers sometimes had to defend title against earlier claimants.

If Pioche had enjoyed a strong system of justice, these disputes might have been resolved peacefully. But Lincoln County's government was weak and notoriously corrupt. In one court case both sides bribed the same jury by stuffing money into a boot lowered from the jury-room window. Under such circumstances an honest verdict wasn't always available even when paid for, so a mine owner's only meaningful insurance lay in the best guns he could hire.

The most famous killings of the early years resulted from the mining companies' employment of professional "fighters" or "roughs," as they were called. While it is true that the roughs did some killings while defending claims, more lead flew during the gunmen's off-duty hours. Both the *Pioche Record* and a Lincoln County grand jury censured mining companies for hiring roughs and blamed that practice for the violence.

Charles Gracey, a mining engineer who helped develop Pioche, gave a reminis-

A. D. HOPKINS COLLECTION



While Pioche's rich mines eventually would yield \$100 million in silver, in 1873 the town was equally famous for flying lead.

cence to the Nevada Historical Society in 1908. In it he explained how one killing led to another.

The Raymond and Ely Mining Company, for which Gracey worked, had a wise policy of peaceably obtaining all claims, even worthless ones, adjacent to its own to prevent claim jumping or litigation by neighbors. One such buffer claim was the Washington and Creole. Two brothers named Newland had a claim up the steep hillside from the Washington and Creole. They asked permission to dig a horizontal tunnel to their claim through the W&C, thereby avoiding the greater labor of sinking a vertical shaft. Raymond and Ely officers consented, partly because they believed the W&C worthless.

But the Newland brothers hit ore while tunneling through the W&C. According to Gracey, the ore produced \$300 worth of silver per ton—a rich find at 1986 prices, and in 1870 it was on a par with King Solomon's mines.

The lawful owners, the Raymond and Ely Company, allowed the Newlands to lease and work the W&C for 30 days, and at the end of that time the company allowed the Newlands to continue using the tunnel to reach their claim. But as Gracey said, "A mountain of ore worth \$300 a ton will worry anyone when it is in plain sight and everyone is allowed to see it."

One morning the citizens of Pioche looked up the hillside to see a fort made of mine timbers, erected in a single night around the mouth of the Washington and Creole tunnel. Inside the fort stood gunmen hired by the Newland brothers. The Newlands threatened the officers of the Raymond and Ely Company with death if they so much as set foot on the claim.

Then the Newlands resumed taking out the high-grade ore, this time without paying for it. "There was no law in the country and no one to stop them," Gracey said.

About that time, he recalled, there showed up in town four "polite, gentlemanly fellows, all under 30 years of age." They were Morgan Courtney, Michael Casey, Barney Flood, and William Bethers. The four made a secret agreement with the Raymond and Ely Company to recapture the Washington and Creole in exchange for a written promise that the four could work it for 30 days.

Soon a quantity of whiskey arrived at the fort. One version of the story says that the whiskey was delivered as if by mistake. The claim jumpers winked at each other and said, "This is the place, all right." They proceeded to drink it with one hand and pat themselves on their backs with the other.

Most of the guards were dead drunk at 3 a.m. on November 9, 1870, when the four conspirators stormed over the wall with pistols blazing. Gracey said, "They drove the others out and away from their arms. I heard the shots and saw one man fall, Snell by name, and I saw Casey take a rifle and knock a man down a bank with it."

Snell was the only man killed in what was known as the Whiskey Fight, and Thompson and West's history of Nevada adds that 10 were wounded and two were thrown down a 70-foot shaft. The only attacker among the wounded was Courtney, and he wasn't seriously hurt.

The Washington and Creole was thus returned to its rightful owners, and the use of hired fighters, and even fortifications, had begun. The following May, W.R. Warnock was shot dead as he passed

one of the forts. His killer was never convicted. By September 1872 the Raymond and Ely Mine had a number of fighters on the payroll, and when its miners and some from the adjacent Phenix Mine tunneled into ground claimed by both, an underground gunfight with revolvers and rifles ensued. Because both forces were protected by barricades, only one man was killed, but the shooting continued off and on for 17 hours.

Who were these men who made Pioche's name a byword for violence? They were drawn from the disadvantaged classes of their times. Most were immigrants, and many had been driven from Europe by hunger during the Potato Famine of 1845-46. Some, like Morgan Courtney, came without the parents who might have helped them make a better life. Many of the fighters were Irishmen. Since these were times when signs advertising better jobs warned, "No Irish need apply," it is not surprising that Irish names are disproportionately numerous on the roll of the roughs.

Following just four of the gunfighters—Whiskey Fight heroes Courtney, Flood, Bethers, and Casey—we get a particularly good picture of what Pioche gunfighters were like and how they were made.

On February 22, 1871, three months after the Whiskey Fight, a miner named Thomas Coleman was stabbed to death. Barney Flood and Morgan Courtney were arrested but released for lack of evidence. Flood soon got in trouble for knifing another man—who did not die—and skipped town. Bethers left town soon afterward and was killed in a gunfight in Eureka.

In the meantime, the rightful owners of the Washington and Creole had kept their promise to let the four work the rich claim for 30 days. Gracey says they made \$60,000, which they divided among themselves, making them rich men.

On the day they took the money to the bank, Mike Casey got into an argument with a man named Tom Gossen, and both drew guns. Gossen missed but Casey didn't. But before Gossen died, he gave away all his money except \$5,000, which he left in trust for whoever killed Casey.

There was much argument in town about who was to blame for the Casey-Gossen gunfight. A miner named Jim Levy saw the fight and said Casey fired first. On May 30 Casey ran into Levy in a store and asked him if he had indeed said that. Levy admitted he had, and Casey commenced abusing him.

"Levy said in a quiet way, 'You can abuse me now while you have your gun with you. Casey told him to get his gun and come shooting,'" related Gracey.

Levy went home, armed himself, and returned. Casey and a friend, Dave Neagle, lay in wait for him, but Levy popped out of an alley and surprised both. Levy creased Neagle's skull with a bullet, wounded Casey with at least one more, and then closed in on Casey and beat him over the head with a pistol. Neagle continued to fire but hit Levy only once, in the chin, leaving a scar Levy would wear for life.

Casey died not of the bullet wound but of the pistol whipping. For Levy and Neagle, the event began their careers as two of the West's most noted gunfighters. Most of Neagle's was at least nominally on the side of the law. As a deputy under Sheriff Johnny Behan in Tombstone, Neagle was

one of the few people who tried to cut the burning fuse before the Earp-Clanton feud blew up into total war. He killed more than one outlaw in other episodes, and for a time he was Tombstone's chief of police. The best known event of his life occurred in 1889, when he was a United States Marshal, assigned to escort U.S. Supreme Court Judge Steven Field. David Terry, a prominent attorney and successful duelist, slapped Field in a train station, apparently trying to provoke a duel. Then Terry reached for a bowie knife, Neagle said, so he shot him dead. Ten years later Neagle came to Carson City in the service of U.S. Senator William Stewart, who was facing a stiff reelection challenge from Congressman Francis Newlands. The election was in the hands of the Nevada Legislature, and the former gunfighter helped persuade lawmakers to reelect the incumbent. Neagle was still alive in the 1920s, and presumably he died in bed.

Levy collected the \$5,000 reward for killing Casey, and from that day forth he was a changed man—a gambler and a gunman. "Casey's friends were now the enemies of Levy and tried their best to kill him," Gracey said. "But he proved to be the most fearless and aggressive in that line that had ever appeared and was soon the terror of all the fighters." In a series of articles he wrote about gunfighting, Bat Masterson confirmed that assessment of Levy's nerve and skill. Levy was accused of firing the fatal shot in Pioche's underground fight but was never convicted. He died in Tucson in 1882, ambushed by men who were afraid to face him in a fair fight.

Courtney, considered the leader of the crew that recaptured the Washington and Creole, continued to court trouble. He remained in Pioche and in June 1872 got into a barroom argument with a man named Sullivan. Sullivan followed him outside, drew a knife, and, according to Courtney, called him an S.O.B.—an accurate but unwise description. Courtney, safely out of range of Sullivan's knife, drew his revolver and ordered Sullivan to eat his words or die. Sullivan didn't take them back, and Courtney shot him through the heart.

Despite vigorous prosecution, a jury acquitted Courtney, probably because of the language Sullivan had used against him. The term "S.O.B." may be casually applied to friends today, but newspapers of the 1870s are full of evidence that it was then a fighting word.

As soon as the verdict was announced, Courtney was arrested again, this time for a 1868 murder in Virginia City. But luck was still with Courtney. The witnesses against him were miners who ran off to a new strike before the trial. They could not be found; the charges were dismissed.



Courtney's dying statement, found 100 years later.

So Courtney returned to Pioche in the spring of 1873—but why? The town must have been full of men who wanted to kill him for revenge or simply because he was "the chief"—Nevada's term at the time for a top gun—and killing him would earn that crown.

Perhaps he returned because Pioche was the only place where Morgan Courtney had ever amounted to much. His heroic image had been sullied by his bloody deeds, and yet people still seemed to like him. He was a free spender. He belonged to two fire companies, which were important social organizations. Some say he helped raise money to build Pioche's first Protestant church, although he was a Catholic.

So he came back and landed a job as superintendent of a mine. He also landed a girlfriend named Georgie Scyphers. She was a prostitute with a tough streak. When one customer assaulted her, she shot him in the arm. Several years later she killed a man for defaming her sister.

The other man in Georgie's life, not counting paying customers, was James McKinney. He was a gambler and was reputedly addicted to both whiskey and laudanum, the heroin of the 19th century.

As one would expect, Courtney and McKinney crossed paths. Georgie Scyphers later testified that McKinney grew angry because she broke a date with him on the night of August 1, 1873. McKinney denied that story. He said that Courtney was jealous and called him various names, names that even today read rough in the court documents.

McKinney and other witnesses claimed Courtney had ordered McKinney to leave town or die. But McKinney couldn't leave town; he was suffering from serious intes-



Pioche, the Lincoln County seat, is 175 miles north of Las Vegas and 109 miles south of Ely.

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tinal blockage and was unfit to travel by horseback or stage.

It may have been that McKinney decided it was better to die from Courtney's bullet than from a forced journey. It may have been simply that a man with a blocked intestine is apt to be cranky. But McKinney borrowed a pistol and went looking for Courtney. When he found him, he fired six shots, hitting Courtney with five. Courtney tried to draw his own gun, but his arm had been disabled, and by the time he could draw it a policeman was dragging McKinney to jail.

The shots had been fired at such close range that Courtney's linen coat was burning, and passersby tore it from him and trod the fire into the dirt street. Then they carried him into a nearby drugstore, where a doctor examined him and told him he would not live. Courtney dictated a dying statement, which was recorded in pencil on a piece of wrapping paper.

That statement says who shot him and who gave McKinney the pistol and how Courtney knew who gave it to him. It even explained why Courtney did not defend himself.

What it did not express was a single regret for the deaths of Snell, Sullivan, the man in Virginia City, or any of the others Courtney was suspected of killing. It contained not one word of love for Georgie Scyphers, the woman over whom he had fought. Between the coldness of his dying words and the ease with which he could switch from boon companion to bully, we see the personality of a sociopath.

Morgan Courtney got a hero's funeral. A brass band and the fire companies marched in the procession, followed by most of the people in town.

During McKinney's trial there was talk of lynching him, but nobody was ever lynched in Pioche despite the emergence of a vigilance committee about this time. McKinney was finally acquitted, partly due to Courtney's choice of threatening language—ironically, the same defense that Courtney had used in the Sullivan case.

McKinney stayed out of trouble after shooting Courtney. He apparently got well, overcame his addiction to laudanum, and was said to be still alive in 1908.

Courtney's killing wasn't the last in the chain that started at the W&C. John Manning, a friend of the late gunman, picked a fight with a big policeman named W.L. "Fat Mac" McKee, implying that Mac had set Courtney up. McKee tried to brush him off, but Manning went for a gun. According to the *Pioche Record*, McKee outdrew him, with consequences fatal to Manning.

Dime novels aside, this is the only reliable report the author has ever seen of one gunman outdrawing another who started

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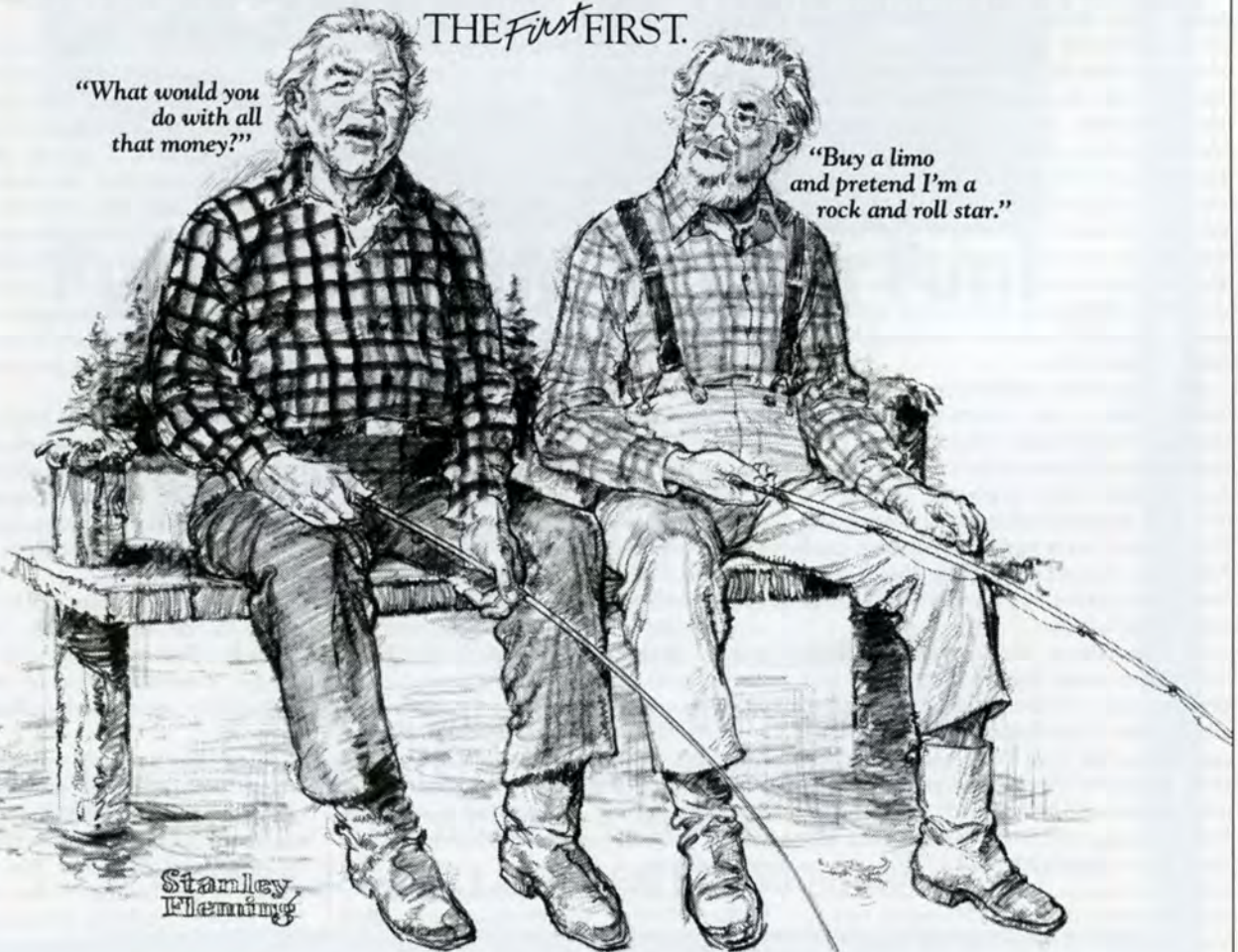
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Stanley
Fleming

to draw first. Possibly Manning was drunk and McKee sober. Also, Manning had to reach under his coat for his revolver, and it probably was a single-action, which could be fired only by pulling the hammer back before pulling the trigger. McKee carried a double-action revolver which, like most modern revolvers, could be fired quickly without cocking the hammer. However McKee accomplished his feat, he was admired for it; he later was elected sheriff.

The firearms used by Pioche gunmen are another point in which folklore has departed considerably from reality. It has been written that Courtney arrived in Pioche in 1870 wearing a pair of low-slung Colt .45s, which is demonstrably untrue because the Colt .45 wasn't made until 1873. He did carry a Colt, but it was probably a percussion Navy or pocket model. It had to be reasonably compact because he carried it in his right coat pocket.

Nor were percussion Colts as popular with early gunmen as generally believed. Stories of gunfights in Nevada newspapers of the late 1860s and early '70s frequently mention revolvers, particularly Whistlers, which apparently were double-action types.

Because the gunfighting era in Pioche lasted only through 1873, its weapons were percussion arms, firing round balls that needed to be placed with more precision than did the more powerful .45 slugs that came later. So the Pioche gunfighters aimed carefully. Except for the confrontation between McKee and Manning, the outcome of gunfights did not depend on who could draw a gun fastest. If an invitation to "go into the street" was accepted, the gun might be drawn even before going outside and pointed downward until the antagonists had reached a reasonable distance to open fire.

But that such invitations were commonly given and commonly accepted there can be no doubt. The men who gave them were different from us in an important respect—they grew up in a world in which personal violence was accepted. Only a few years earlier the formal duel had been common in both the United States and Ireland. Personal courage was still valued highly.

Perhaps these men valued courage more than most, for so much of it had been required of them. They were, after all, children of the Potato Famine, come of age during the Civil War. And they made their marks in Pioche, the mining camp where you could become rich, famous, and highly sought after—by both clients and rivals—as a gunfighter. □

A.D. Hopkins is editor of the Nevadan, the Las Vegas Review-Journal's Sunday magazine.



RICK MOSER

Gunfighters often stayed at the Million Dollar Courthouse, which is now a tourist landmark.

Pioche: New Look at the Old West

Visitors to Pioche will find that the former gunfighters' capital is one place where the vanishing Old West is reappearing. Thanks to a grant worked out by residents and the State of Nevada, Main Street businesses have been restored and revitalized with new paint and mortar. At the old telephone building, modern siding on the front was replaced with brick, which photographs show was its original exterior in the 1800s. The old Nevada Hotel has a new porch; its restoration also was based on old photographs. Other buildings have been repainted to fit the times—whether 1883 or 1933—that they were built.

"We want to show how Pioche evolved," says Mary Louise Christian, one of the town's 650 residents. "And it doesn't date just from the 1880s. The theater was built in 1935, and so was the bank, the Nevada Club, and many other buildings. We want the town to be historical, naturally." A survey of the town is being conducted with the goal of putting Pioche on the National Register of Historic Places.

When arriving in Pioche, visitors are encouraged to stop in at the Chamber of Commerce Cottage, open 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., at the top of Main Street. There you'll find a two-page walking tour of the town's historic sites. The cottage, once the county library, also has impressive old furniture, such as a two-sided attorney's desk from about 1900.

Down the street is the Lincoln County Museum, which has many displays and photos describing Pioche's wild past, and a few blocks away is Boot Hill Cemetery, where you can see a number of gunfighters' epitaphs.

A high point of the walking tour is the Million Dollar Courthouse, so called because of a cost-overrun scandal that

burdened county taxpayers for 50 years. The jail, which is cold even in summer, housed Morgan Courtney and James McKinney as they waited out their murder trials. The place is open for tours most days except in winter, and you can read the gunfighters' names on the jail rolls.

History is an essential ingredient in the town's festivities, too. Pioche recalls its mining heritage on Labor Day Weekend with a three-day town party featuring mining contests, a parade, street dance, and many activities for kids as well as grownups (see the Nevada Calendar). Two other annual events are the Burro Races on Father's Day Weekend in June and Heritage Days in late July. The former is staged with wild jackasses rounded up just before the race, while the latter is an unbridled tribute to the past with melodramas and parties.

Visitors will find all basic services in Pioche, including two motels, a hotel, two cafes, three bars, tennis courts, two gas stations, and a free (donations appreciated) RV park with 10 spaces and hook-ups. Services also are available in Caliente, 25 miles south.

Anglers and campers will find four state parks in the area—Spring Valley, Echo Canyon, Beaver Dam, and Cathedral Gorge; Kershaw-Ryan remains closed, having been wiped out by a flash flood two years ago.

By car, Pioche is 175 miles north of Las Vegas and 109 miles south of Ely. The elevation is about 6,000 feet, and the fall weather is pleasant, with daytime temperature in the 70s and 80s. Write the Chamber of Commerce, Box 127 Pioche, NV 89043 or call the cottage at 702-962-5544 for more information. □

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Cowboy Classics

Whether braiding ropes or tooling saddles, these Elko outfitters hold a tight rein on their western artforms.

By Caroline J. Hadley

Saddle maker Eddie Brooks moved from Texas to Elko because he missed the old ways. "Elko is still the big country, about the last there is," he says.

Indeed, Elko County stretches 17,127 square miles across Northeastern Nevada, and cows outnumber people here five to one. About half of the county's 22,000 residents live in the city of Elko, which, with 350 ranches spread around it like a western skirt, is a pure cow town.

Elko also is one of the last places in the West where true artists like Brooks make everything a buckaroo is ever going to need. Here they can not only practice their traditional crafts but also thrive.

As in any artist's colony, the cowboy craftsmen and retailers of Elko tend to huddle in one downtown neighborhood, where the trains used to run before the tracks were moved two years ago. On River Street, near the Humboldt River, is Eddie Brooks Saddlery, where Brooks builds custom-tooled saddles from the tree up. Two blocks away on Commercial Street is the J.M. Capriola Company, a store that promises to make or supply everything to cattlemen but the horse.

Close by on Railroad Street is the Elko Bootery, where cobbler Clyde Gregory works miracles on cowboy boots. Around the corner on Idaho Street, which was the main highway before Interstate 80 was

built, is Elko General Merchandise, which offers durable, no-frills western and work wear in a 1940s setting.

Two artists don't have stores because they don't need them. Randy Stowell braids collector-quality rawhide and horsehair creations during long, slow winters on his ranch in Currie. Mark Dahl builds his gold- and silver-inlaid bits, spurs, and jinglebobs in Deeth. Both men sell most of their work to other buckaroos.

In this age of jumbo jets and polyester, it's good to know there's a place to go if your reata is frayed or your boots are wearing thin. Even if you don't own a saddle or a horse, these talented artists and purveyors of cowboy gear are worth a visit. After all, they make, sell, or fix the stuff that holds the West together.

The Rawhide Braider

Randy Stowell grew up on his family's Elko County ranch working cattle and training horses, and during the long cold winter nights he taught himself the art of rawhide braiding. Nowadays, aside from being in the cattle business with his brother Gary, he's swamped with orders from other cowboys for his reins, reatas (lariats), and horsehair ropes.

"My father used to rawhide when he was younger, but about all I got from him was the desire," Stowell says. "Braiding is time-consuming, tedious. The more you

do, the better you get. The hardest thing to do is make the braids smooth and even." Especially when you cut the rawhide strips by hand. At first he used the old-timers' method of slitting strips with a pocket knife. But that was too clumsy, so he designed his own string cutters. "Then I started making little stuff like quirts and tassles and giving them away to other cowboys."

Now, after years of practice during solitary evenings in the backcountry, his horsehair cinches and ropes, called mecates, and his rawhide reins and hackamores, bozals, hobbles, headstalls, and reatas are of museum quality. But collectors would wince at the fact that Stowell uses his creations for everyday ranchwork.

"Very few cowboys use a rawhide reata anymore because nylon ropes are much stronger and easier to use," Stowell says. Typically 30 feet long, a nylon rope can withstand an abrupt jerk when you rope an animal. However, a rawhide reata is usually 60 to 80 feet long because the cowboy has to give the animal more slack as he eases it to a halt. "It's way harder to use a reata, and you have to be more skilled," he says.

With about 60 head of horses at the ranch in Currie, Stowell finds enough material to make mecates from his own stock. He uses mane hair solely, because it's softer, and says it takes three or four



CAROLINE J. HADLEY PHOTOS



hours to make a rope.

"But to make a rope you have to pick the hair first. You have to get the hair ready to twist out, with all the strands going in a different direction. It has to be like a girl's hair that's ratted, a mess. So you have to take three or four strands of hair and pull it out of your hand and drop it in the box, and that just fluffs the hair up and gets it all mixed up. That's a real slow process. It takes six or seven hours picking out hair for one rope.

"I've got a lot of mane gathered up and classified: box of white, box of black, box of sorrel," Stowell says. "The white is the softest hair and is real hard to come by because there's not too many white horses around. At least not as many as sorrel or black."

Mecates vary in thickness from about five-sixteenths to three-quarters of an inch. The heavier ropes are used to start a horse; the lighter gauge is for horses that are better trained, or "lighter in the face" as Stowell puts it.

Even though this particular buckaroo is quiet and shy, Stowell also knows how to weave a fine set of verse, as evidenced by his readings at the last two Cowboy Poetry Gatherings. Chances are he'll be at the annual Elko event again this January, but in the meantime he'll be working long hours with his horses and cattle and cowboy art. You can reach him by writing



BARNEY NELSON

Elko County rancher Randy Stowell not only uses his rawhide and horsehair creations for practical ranch work but also sells them to other cowboys and collectors. The rawhide reata (left) was the standard cowboy rope until nylon came along. Stowell picks the horsehair from the manes of his own stock for mecates (above). Possible colors and designs are endless; in this one he used gray, sorrel, and white hair.

SR1, Box 33A, Ely, NV 89301. He admits, "You might have to wait a year because of all the orders I've got now."

The Saddle Maker

When Eddie Brooks was a youngster living in Fort Worth, Texas, he discovered leather. "There was a guy that lived a little ways from us that done leather work. He wasn't a saddle maker, but he made bill-folds, purses, and belts, so I got to hanging around."

The first piece of leather that Brooks tooled and sold was a belt he copied from a Montgomery Ward catalog. He was 11 years old. The materials cost \$5, and he sold the belt for \$5. He took the economics lesson to heart.

After high school Brooks cowboied a little, rodeoed a little, and hung around saddle shops in Texas. Finally he joined Leddy Brothers, "which was a famous saddle shop back then."

He stayed for seven years, until 1964, when he came to Elko to work for J.M. Capriola Company. Two years later he returned to Texas because his wife was homesick. He came back to Elko in 1975 minus the wife and worked for seven more years at Capriola's. He opened his own shop in Elko in 1982.

Brooks' talent is in working leather. He doesn't make trees (the framework) for his saddles, and he doesn't engrave silver. But he's an expert at picking the right trees for riders and horses. "You need to find out just what type of horses the people ride and the kind of riding they're gonna do. I kind of eye 'em up and down and quiz 'em and really find out just what they want. Then I make suggestions that I think would work good for them." When it comes to trees, Brooks likes cottonwood for a lady's saddle because it's light and tough but not too hard. White pine and fir also are good, he says.



Having chosen a tree, he turns to his selection of cowhides. "I use neck hide for the ground seat. It's real thick and course-grained with big fibers, so it stretches. The fenders and seat will come out of the butt because that's the most dense fiber, highest quality, and it's real tight grain. For stirrup leather, I use the back, where it's really strong and won't stretch too bad."

If he had a choice, Brooks would make saddles only for working cowboys. Unfortunately, they're usually the ones who can least afford them. "People who really know saddles and use them a lot, well, they know what feels good. The way different guys are made makes a difference, too. You need to spend a lot of time skiving it just right, because the guys that ride 'em, they sit in 'em all day long."

"In cheaper, production saddles, you feel like you're set up on top of it instead of settin' down in it. And they'll make you sore. After 30 years' experience I can spot a saddle across the street and tell if it's any good or not."

It takes Brooks 40 to 400 hours to make a saddle, and his base price is \$1,300. Double rigging is \$95 extra, flat plate rigging is \$110 more, and a full basket stamp adds \$375. Involved tooling and silver work can drive the time to 400 hours and the cost over \$3,000. "It just depends on how fancy and intricate you get," he says.

And just as he knows saddles, the riders



Saddle maker Eddie Brooks has come a long way since he used a sharpened bolt and a mechanical pencil with no lead to make his first belt. Now his saddles are the Bugattis of the cowboy world. Although he doesn't build the tree or engrave the silver, he selects, cuts, stitches, and tools all the cowhide. He also spends a great deal of time beforehand sizing up both riders and horses because, he says, a person who rides one of his saddles may have to sit in it all day long.

know him. Ask any buckaroo in the West about the best of the saddle makers, and he'll probably mention the name of Eddie Brooks.

The Silversmith

When the bottom fell out of the cattle business several years ago, Mark Dahl was working on a ranch for his brother and had a few cows of his own, but that wasn't enough to support his family. He started hauling ore north of Elko from Stormy Canyon to Deeth. "I wrecked a couple of trucks, and that didn't work out too good," he says with typical understatement. "So I just went into silversmithing full time."

"I knew how to weld good," he says, "and to make bits and spurs you need to know how to weld." He took a jewelry-making class at the community college in Elko and learned about tools from jewelry and gunsmithing catalogs.

His workshop sits on a rocky hill behind

his house in Deeth, 32 miles northeast of Elko. Inside is a milling machine, wood bandsaw, welding torch, a tumbler, and lots of homemade tools. With this assortment of hardware he produces beautiful buckles, spurs, and other fine silver work.

The news of Dahl's talents has traveled via Nevada's buckaroo grapevine. "I'm dealing with a narrow populace, especially in bits and spurs," he says. "The people who buy my work know the difference between stamped work, low quality work, and fine engraving."

Dahl makes bits and spurs, conchas, and three-piece buckle sets. He will add new rowels or jinglebobs to a favorite spur, or make trophy buckles and saddle-horn caps. "I like to work on horn caps because you've got a lot of country to engrave on."

"Most people think that if something's engraved, it's engraved. But some of it is really crude, looks like it has been done with a chainsaw. What makes nice engrav-



Mark Dahl, a cowboy-turned-trucker-turned-silversmith, has a knack for artful shaping and intricate engraving. The silver-mounted buckaroo-style spur (above) features a rowel that won't cut a horse but will give it the message. The snaffle bit (right) is a gentle bit designed to get a young horse's attention without cutting its mouth. The conchas are pure silver and pure show.



ing is a smooth cut, and when the cut is very smooth and shiny with a mirror finish, it reflects the light. It's like a cut stone."

Even though most of his work is custom-made or one-of-a-kind, a few consignment pieces can be found at Eddie Brooks Saddlery in Elko and the D-Bar-M Western Store in Reno. If you'd like more information, write to Mark Dahl, Box 55, Deeth, NV 89823, or call 702-752-3475. His bits run from \$300 to \$1,200, a pair of spurs may be \$300 to \$600, a buckle \$200-plus, or rowels from \$36 a pair.

Whatever you might get from Mark Dahl, rest assured that it is already a collector's item. And by the time he's really discovered, not many of us will be able to afford his work.

The Boot Fixer

Tucked away on a forgotten part of Railroad Street, where trains rolled by before

the tracks were moved, the Elko Bootery looks about as commercial as a shoebox. But the store is more famous for its mailing address than its plain-front facade.

The store was opened in December 1984 by Michael Franzoia and his wife, Anita. They advertised in trade magazines to encourage western stores and boot shops to send their repair jobs to Elko. Today, Michael, the manager, handles the business end of the long, skinny store and opens the mail, which comes from across the country. Although he sells boots, the store's claim to fame is its repair service that specializes in cowboy boots.

The cobbler is Clyde Gregory, who can fix or save just about any boot ever made. He also makes custom boots. With his time-consuming services in demand, Gregory says he adheres to his boss' motto: "Quality first, and the hell with quantity."

"The average shoe repairman knows how to repair a shoe with no problem,"

says Gregory, "but shoes are a whole different world compared to a cowboy boot." He explains that a cowboy boot is strange because of the way the shanks are put together, because of the height of the heel and the specialized equipment needed to replace or repair its parts.

"If properly cared for, a good boot will last for many years," says Gregory. "But if I get a \$45 pair of boots that needs \$38 in repairs, I just suggest they spend another seven bucks and buy another pair."

Even though most are made of cowhide, cowboy boots come in anteater, lizard, anaconda, elephant ear, and other exotic skins. Gregory can fix any of them, but he refuses to use half soles: "I think that it's a very rude thing to do to the boot, plus it's very dangerous because it can get caught in a stirrup. And here you are—you're hung up, you're in a wreck, and you've got nowhere to go."

Gregory adds a good measure of horse



Elko Bootery cobbler Clyde Gregory understands the true sole of the West. He can fix just about any cowboy boot ever made, and chances are it'll be better than new. He also makes custom boots molded to your feet. Above, he shows the application of a horsehide lining to a boot in which the cowhide lining had been sweated out.



sense to his work. For instance, if he has to reline a boot that's been rotted out by sweaty feet, he'll use a horsehide lining. "You have to understand a little bit about the animal, OK? A horse sweats through its whole body; a cow sweats through its nose. Horsehide is more porous and will let water go through it; cowhide won't. One thing about horsehide linings—they'll soak up water real quick in winter, but they're a whole bunch cooler in summer."

If you want Clyde to make a pair of custom-made, handcrafted boots, measured exactly to fit your feet, you'll need a few hundred dollars, but once you slip them on you'll probably never buy another pair off the shelf.

If, however, you go to a store to buy boots, take Gregory's advice. "The most important part about a cowboy boot is what you can put on your foot and be comfortable with right off the shelf. I

don't care if it costs you \$2 or \$2,000 a pair. If that's what's comfortable, then that's the boot you belong in."

Everything But the Horse

"We supply anything western that anyone would ever need, except the horse," Paula Wright says, adding quickly, "but that can be arranged." Paula and her husband, Doug, own the J.M. Capriola Company, an Elko store that has been fulfilling that promise so well since 1924 that today it is known by buckaroos from Alaska to Australia.

The store's founder, Joe M. Capriola, learned the art of making and selling cowboy gear from another legend, G.S. Garcia. When Garcia arrived in Elko in 1896, his flashy Spanish-style bits and spurs impressed the local cowboys, and he opened a store advertising saddles and other leather goods. Within three years he had 20 employees.



Capriola's has produced quality gear like this silver-inlaid blue steel spur since 1924. Owners Doug and Paula Wright, with son John, carry on the tradition.

Later, Capriola worked for Garcia for several years before leaving to work on a ranch. Then in 1924 he returned to Elko to open his own saddle shop. Garcia and Capriola were friendly competitors, and business was good for both. By 1929 Capriola had moved to a bigger place at 500 Commercial Street, where the store is today.

Garcia died in 1933, and five years later his sons moved the company to Salinas, California, leaving Capriola with a near monopoly in Elko. Capriola retired in 1958 and sold the store to Elko cowboy Paul Bear. By then the name J.M. Capriola was as valuable as the store.

Paul and Betty Bear sold the business to their children, Bob, Bill, and Paula—now Paula Wright—in the early '70s. They added a second-floor saddle shop and pulled the ultimate Elko business coup—they bought the Garcia Bit and Spur Company.

Today Paula and Doug Wright still cater to cowboys and livestock producers, offering saddles, chaps, reins, bits, spurs, ropes, and boots. All leather tack is made by craftsmen in the saddle shop, and everything they don't make comes from the best sources. Horsehair mecates are hand-made, as are rawhide reins and reatas. Angora chaps can be made to order.

"We started making a collector series of spurs from G.S. Garcia's original patterns," Paula says. "We took six styles and made them up, not more than 25 of each. They are made of blue steel with sterling silver inlay, and sell for \$330 a pair. We also took six patterns of his bits and have the same type of collector series."

Capriola's may be an authentic and useful store for working cowboys and ranchers, but it's also an experience for bankers and housewives shopping for clothes, boots, and jewelry.

"I imagine in 10 years it will be difficult to get some of these things because there's too much time in them," Paula says. "There will be some people making them, but they won't be for sale—people will be hoarding them."

Western and Work Wear

Inside Elko General Merchandise you'll find lots of denim, felt, cowhide, wool, and cotton in boxes that scale the walls and spill down onto tables, counters, and the floor. Anita Franzoia and her mother, Margaret Anacabe, don't seem to mind the clutter. It's homey, and besides, Joe wouldn't have wanted it any other way.

The store was founded by Margaret's late husband, Joe Anacabe, who came to America from the Basque Provinces of Northern Spain in 1901. Old calendar ads on the wall show that Joe sold general merchandise and auto parts in McDermitt, Nevada, in the late '20s and had a store in Berkeley in the '30s. In 1936 he opened in Elko. Joe liked Elko because it had a large Basque community of sheepherders and working people, and he stocked his store with clothes to fit the needs of his country clientele.

In 1950 Joe's first wife died. He left the store with his son, Frank, and returned to his homeland. There he met and married Margaret. She was 30 years younger and spoke no English when she arrived in Elko with Joe in 1952. Two years later Anita was born. As Joe grew older, management of the store fell more onto Margaret and Anita, and after Joe died in 1971, the two ladies were careful not to change a thing.

"The store has always sold whatever the person in Elko needed," Anita says. "We cater to cowboys, miners, and construction workers. I call it western and work wear. Some of the clothing is made from tightened cloth, and it's good for welders because sparks just bounce off. And if you

Elko: Heart of a Cow Town

Western crafts aside, there is plenty of cowboy character in Elko's nightlife, lodging, and countryside. Restaurant goes in this town of 11,000 might call the cuisine buckaroo international. Basque restaurants serve tongue, lamb, steak, sweetbreads, and oxtail. There also are Chinese, Italian, and American gourmet eateries.

The major hangouts are the three hotel-casinos. The Stockmen's has 150 rooms, a swimming pool, casino, dance floor, and dining room. Its coffee shop is packed with ranchers and construction workers in the early morning, and its lounge and bar are crowded with the same folks late at night.

The Commercial has 30 rooms, a casino, lounge, coffee shop, dining room, and an enormous stuffed polar bear in a glass case. The Commercial was the first place to feature big name entertainment in Nevada when it presented Ted Lewis and his orchestra in '41.

The modern Red Lion Inn and Casino at the east end of town has 154 rooms (with 111 more across the street), a swimming pool, dance floor, shows, dining room, coffee shop, and buffet. With an occasional star policy that has brought in Mel Tillis, Donna Fargo, Freddie Fender, and Montana, the Red Lion has become a hot spot.

Of course, Elko has many conventional stores. Even the local J.C. Penney features a western line, and Bob's Togs on Idaho Street sells everything from western wear to tuxedos.

Major events in town include the Elko County Fair, which features horse racing and a livestock show on Labor Day Weekend (see the Nevada Calendar); the Cowboy Poetry Gathering during the last

weekend in January; Western Festival Days in May; and the National Basque Festival on July Fourth Weekend.

The Northeastern Nevada Museum, located next to the Chamber of Commerce, has excellent exhibits, including work by G.S. Garcia.

By Interstate 80, Elko is 290 miles east of Reno and 237 miles west of Salt Lake City. Las Vegas is 470 miles south. Elko is served by Amtrak and Sky West.

For more information, write the Elko Chamber of Commerce, Box 470, Elko, NV 89801 or call 702-738-7135.—CJH



get around barbed wire, it does nothing to it. Our insulated suits are used by miners and by ranchers for feeding stock in winter."

Most days you'll probably find a local



Anita Franzoia (above) and her mother, Margaret Anacabe, run Elko General Merchandise.

buckaroo checking out the goods. "We'll pull the workshirts and boots out for them because working cowboys are not going to rummage through boxes. They just ask for what they want," Anita says.

A small notice on the door says, "Everyday Low Prices." Anita explains, "We don't have sales. We cater to the working person, and they know the merchandise will last because the material's good."

The marketing strategy of Elko General Merchandise may be unusual, but it works. They have a steady clientele, and their decorating bills are low.

They also know that here in Elko's cowboy county, craftsmanship, quality, and tradition will always count. □

Caroline J. Hadley, former publisher-editor of Nevada, often stocks up on cowboy gear during the Elko County Fair on Labor Day Weekend and the Elko Cowboy Poetry Gathering in January.



ALICE M. GOOD

A WOMAN OF BREEDING

Molly Flagg Knudtsen gave up the good life for the great life raising cows on her ranch near Austin.

By Alice M. Good

The slender woman wipes the blood off her knife with a sponge and waits for the three cowhands to bring another calf down the chute and wrestle it onto her worktable. Moving with an efficiency that comes from long practice, she vaccinates and brands each calf. Then she does the knife work. She cuts a mark on the ears of each calf so she'll know her stock when winter hair covers the brands. She works quickly, easily keeping ahead of the men. The heifers take only a minute; the steers take a little longer—they have to be castrated.

Last year Molly Flagg Knudtsen branded 867 calves on her 9,000-acre Grass Valley Ranch. That's rough work for a former debutante.

Running a cattle ranch in Central Nevada might seem a strange occupation for a woman who was raised in riches. Her explanation, straight as a buckaroo's hat brim, is laced with a cultured British accent that dates from her days at Miss Spaulding's School for Girls.

"I could have lain on a couch all my life like Madame Recamier, but I wanted to contribute to my new state and to help young people who didn't have the advantages I had as a youngster."



At age 17 Molly Flagg made her debut before the king and queen of England.

So, besides wrestling stock at her ranch, she's been known to tangle with politicians in board rooms across the state, lobbying for funding for academics in her role as university regent. She's led students on archaeological trips into the remote reaches of Central Nevada, and her fascination with Nevada's previous civilizations also is evident in the two books she has written.

Her transition from socialite to rancher began in the early 1940s when she came to Nevada to help train race horses on a friend's ranch in Reno. While there, she also took advantage of the state's six-week residency law to obtain a divorce. She dismisses that episode casually, saying that even though the marriage lasted a few years, the memory of it is vague.

While in Reno, the subtle beauty of the desert grew on her. And so she adopted the state with the same maternalism she showers on her "little girls," the cows on the Grass Valley Ranch.

Her move to Nevada surprised her eastern friends and relations. "She had an extremely privileged upbringing," says John Pierrepont, a childhood friend from another New England blue-blood family who visits her occasionally. "Molly was

vaguely dissatisfied with her life as an eastern socialite. We were shocked when she decided to live in the deserts of Nevada, but I think she was really searching for some kind of fulfillment and accomplishment in her life. She seems to have found it in Nevada."

Molly Flagg was the only child of an heiress and an architect. Her father died when she was seven, and her mother married a U.S. Army colonel. He took his new family and governess to the ancient hills of Rome, the sand dunes of Abu Sambel, and the dew ponds of Southern England. They had homes in the well-heeled neighborhoods of Long Island, New Jersey, and Florida.

As a pampered little girl, she once bit her horse in a fit of temper. As a cultured young woman, she made her debut before the king and queen of England at the Court of St. James in the late '30s. A sense of obligation to community, learned from her military stepfather, was nurtured in the Blue Ridge Mountains of Virginia. There, in her late teens, she did volunteer work for six months with critically ill patients and their families.

Her love of horses and adventure drew her into the first of several male arenas—the international horse circuit. As a child Molly had watched her stepfather ride his own horse in the Grand National; in her early 20s she became one of three licensed women horse trainers in America.

During her first Nevada stay on that ranch in Reno, while she was preparing to race horses in California, she met Dick Magee, a wildly attractive Irishman 15 years her senior who had a penchant for unpredictability and liquor. (It's said he once rode his horse into the bar of Reno's Riverside Hotel.) His Princeton background and indulgence in race horses matched Molly's Foxcroft finishing school élan. They were married in Fallon in 1942, and Molly went to live on his Grass Valley Ranch, 26 miles northeast of Austin.

"She won't last six months," Magee's doting mother said about his impetuous bride. But Molly stuck it out. While Magee trained thoroughbreds on ranch racetracks, she rode her horse sidesaddle as she had with her French riding master in the parks of the Trianon Palace. Neighbors traveled 20 miles to see her fall off. She never did.

During those first few years on the ranch, Molly plunged into Nevada history with typical drive and determination. "I read everything about Nevada I could get my hands on," she says. "I was desperately trying to understand where I was."

She rode her horse from one end of Grass Valley to the other, learning about

the men and women who lived there during the thousands of years before the coming of white men. In her wanderings, she noticed an alarming situation. "I grew concerned about the churches, the old churches of Austin, which had been abandoned," says Molly, who admits she is not particularly religious. "I was horrified to see them crumbled to ruin and worried about the young people and the future of their institutions, including the schools." So she helped in a restoration effort that put a new roof on St. George's Episcopal Church, and she donated a Steuben cross for the altar. Soon St. George's was flourishing, and other churches began to revive.

Molly and Dick had a son, Bill, who is now a stockbroker in Dallas with two small boys of his own. It was a rocky beginning for mother and son. He was a sickly child, and Magee's mother took him to live in San Mateo, California. "It wasn't as though I gave him up," Molly says, "but once he was there, I couldn't get him back. He would raise such a fuss when I tried to take him from his grandmother that I let him stay."

Molly's son never did live on the Grass Valley Ranch. "I wish I had grown up with my mother," Bill says, "and at one time in my life it was an issue. But I know she cares a lot about me and we now have a great relationship. She's helped me

immeasurably in the things I've accomplished in my life. We're friends as well as mother and son."

With no child to rear, Molly turned her attentions to the ranch. In her childhood travels she had observed livestock in the Hebrides and the Sudan. She had seen the sacred cows of India dozing in the streets of Bombay and cattle on the slopes of the Pyrenees worked by the Basques. Her love of animals, nourished during her race horse period, was brought out on the isolated ranch.

"You find no shortage of people who like horses, but there seems to be an aversion to loving something that will be eaten," Molly says. "I happen to like cows."

The first 26 years she lived at the ranch, no buckaroo was hired. She doctored, branded, gathered, and worked the 2,500 head of cattle, trying to breed a commercially successful line of straight-bred Herefords. When she started, only three out of 10 cows were giving birth, and the calves averaged only 350 pounds. Now nine of 10 cows give birth, and the calves average 500 pounds, an astounding accomplishment.

"Molly does what other people talk about, like culling," prominent Texas Hereford breeder Doug Bennett says of her ability to spot and eliminate weaker cows from the herd. He knows Molly's expertise well since he sells bulls to her



JONAS DOVYDENAS

An accomplished rancher, Molly has left her mark both on her cows and on the university system.

and buys cattle from her, too. "She's a tough businesswoman," he adds.

Molly's tangles with livestock are legendary. Last year, after a joust with a 2,600-pound bull had split her shin, she returned to Grass Valley from the hospital on crutches. As she passed the field of yearling purebred heifers, kept inviolate for breeding to a worthy registered bull, she saw smiles on their brown-and-white faces. In their midst was an amorous bull from the University of Nevada's Gund Ranch, which is nearby. The bull had broken through the fence like a fraternity boy on a pantie raid.

"I threw away my crutches, sprang on my horse, and drove that bull from paradise 20 miles to the Gund Ranch. Those naughty ladies are enough to drive me mad!" she laughs.

Molly's work in churches and schools, with the university's herds and with archaeological relics put her in contact with people and educators around the state. She thought she saw inequality in school districts and was concerned about the kind of education that rural youth were getting. While she considered running for the local school board, some urged her in 1960 to try for the university system's Board of Regents. In those days it was a male- and Las Vegas-dominated board to which no woman had

ever been elected.

"They told me, 'You can't have a woman on the board,'" Molly recalls. "Well, at that time there were 800 women students. I've never been a feminist, but that kind of challenge was just what I needed to spur me on. I had done things all my life that women weren't supposed to do."

With the slogan "Molly Magee for District Three," she campaigned on the platform "You need a woman on the Board of Regents." She crisscrossed the state's rural counties from Panaca to Denio and carried more parade flags than a National Guard private. But this was familiar ground, for she had ridden in New York parades with her stepfather, who had once been a deputy chief of police. Molly Magee won the election by a landslide and remained on the board for 18 years until her retirement in 1980, when she declined to run for a fourth term.

"She was one of the best regents the university ever had," says Dr. Fred Anderson, a longtime former regent from Reno who remembers carrying her up the stairs to meetings after ranch accidents had shattered her knee caps and bruised her face.

In the lion's den she spoke her mind. Author Robert Laxalt says, "She never went for political expediency. She voted for what was right." Laxalt came to know Molly as one of the early supporters of the effort to establish the University of Nev-

ada Press. Her background in printing dates back to her grandfather, who in the late 1800s patented the Hoe Printing Press, which remained the standard press for newspapers for half a century.

"Molly has a mind like an academician. She knows what a university should be," says sociologist Jim Richardson, who, as chairman of the powerful UNR Faculty Senate during the turbulent '60s, opposed her on many issues. "She would sometimes treat us like a mother hen and bawl us out like she does the cows on her ranch, but she always listened fairly and understood the concerns of the faculty and the students."

Molly's work in helping establish the UNR Department of Anthropology and the Desert Research Institute earned her an honorary doctorate of science. She is still active as chairman of the College of Agriculture's Citizens Advisory Committee and as a Friend of the University Press.

But while Molly played regent and rancher, Dick Magee took his thoroughbreds to California to race. One day in 1967 he didn't come back. "That was a lonely time in my life," she admits. "He told me I couldn't make the ranch work. It was a good thing he said that, because I did."

Shortly thereafter, a tall, drawling horse trader, Bill Knudtsen, came to Grass Valley to gather up horses. He stayed all winter, and the reason was Molly. They were married on Easter Sunday in 1968. "It's been a happy marriage," says Molly. "If I had looked the world over, I would have never found anybody better for me or the ranch."

"She's the best damn cowman I've ever seen," reciprocates Bill.

Does she have advice to young women working in male provinces?

"Pin a rose behind your ear. When you're in a difficult situation, be a storyteller like Scheherazade. Have a sense of humor. Get along. Be sure of yourself, but always be a woman."

Now "solidly in my 60s," Molly looks forward to future challenges in cattle breeding and in educating young people. "It's important to open new vistas, to be creative, to have ideas," she says.

In her 1975 book *Here is Our Valley*, which was republished in 1985 by the College of Agriculture, she recounts tales of the "men and women... whose names are still remembered in the valley... they too left their mark not easily seen, not always recognized, and yet indelibly stamped on Grass Valley."

The same could be said for Molly Knudtsen. □

Alice M. Good, Communications Coordinator for the UNR College of Agriculture, is neither a debutante nor a buckaroo.

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drawings by George Carlson

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Muench's Gallery

David Muench visits Lake Mead

The first blush of day is reflected on the calm, blue waters of Lake Mead and the sun's light warms the surrounding terrain dotted with green creosote bushes. It's the perfect time of day to sit back with a cup of coffee and do some reflecting of your own.

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Las Vegas' Mr. Jazz

Alan Grant's Monday night sessions have helped put Southern Nevada on the jazz map.

By Bill Willard

Imagine giving up all the Haagen Dazs you could eat for the not-so-easy job of presenting topnotch jazz in Las Vegas. That was what Alan Grant did four years ago. Grant, well known as a jazz broadcaster on both coasts, had helped his cousins in L.A. establish their upscale ice cream distributorship, and he decided to move on to Las Vegas.

In town, he made contact with Ed DeVries, food and beverage executive for the Four Queens Hotel. Happily, they talked not about ice cream but about jazz. DeVries asked Grant if he'd be interested in producing a weekly night of jazz, suggesting Wednesday. Grant assented, but he said he needed a Monday night in order to deal for musicians traveling between jobs and cities, and DeVries agreed.

Grant proposed trying the plan for a month. "If it works, continue it," Grant told DeVries. "Otherwise, forget it."

It worked.

Now into his fifth year without a single hiatus, Grant has made Monday Night Jazz at the Four Queens a Las Vegas institution. Musicians from all points of the compass in the U.S.A. and other countries know about this haven for mainstream jazz. The list of star names, instrumentalists and singers in that field who have played Monday dates for Grant, amounts to over 120 and still counting. And their music reaches millions each week as the American Public Radio Network beams the show around the country.

For his first Monday Night Jazz at the Four Queens, which took place on March 8, 1982, Grant went with local musicians. That evening he presented some of Las Vegas' finest—leader Jay Cameron, saxes; Ron Feuer, piano; Bill Flavin, bass; trombonists Carl Fontana and Eddie Morgan; and Santo Savino, drums.

Subsequent shows have featured a mix of local jazz names with nationally-known

singers and musicians whom Grant knows from 40 years of plugging their product on radio.

And once in a while during a Monday Night Jazz session, perhaps while Papa John Creach is playing jazz fiddle, Grant will edge over to the piano and start singing the blues. Cheered by his audience, Grant later offers a quiet confession: "I joke around, but when I really want to sing, I have to remember that I promised Frank Sinatra I wouldn't sing while he's still working in town."

Grant, who was born in Brooklyn in 1920, grew up with jazz. He gigged around New York when he was a youngster playing tenor saxophone. During high school and a short stint at Columbia University he worked in various groups and orchestras. Now, at age 66, he recalls, "I was out of the Chu Berry, Lester Young bag. First thing I learned was Coleman Hawkins' 'Body and Soul. I guess every sax player of that era did the same thing."

"I always had an involvement with jazz, even when I was growing up," Grant muses. "My father would give me some money, and I'd jump on the subway and be up in Harlem, where I'd listen to all the jazz people, Charlie Parker and other big names."

In World War II Grant served in the Third Infantry under Patton. "Then I joined the 12th Army Group Band, which was the continuance of the Glenn Miller Band after Miller went down with his plane over the English Channel."

After the war he returned to New York, where in the 1950s and 1960s, he was with ABC spinning records and talking about jazz in his rich, resonant voice. "They called me the Johnny Appleseed of Jazz," Grant reminisces. "I moved from station to station, broke other deejays in, and kept the chain going."

His best forum was a tiny Manhattan bar and eatery called the Half Note that offered jazz on weekends. In the '60s Grant suggested a broadcast via ABC Radio; the club would have to pay only about \$25 for the line charges, and ABC would pay for the musicians. It turned into a one-hour Friday night jazz show that was picked up by Armed Forces Radio and broadcast to 72 countries.

Rosemarie Canterino, whose family owned the Half Note, is now a 21 dealer at Circus Circus in Las Vegas. "I have a very soft spot in my heart for Alan," she declares. "There were times at the Half Note when we couldn't pay that \$25 Friday night broadcast fee. He paid it out of his pocket and we never paid him back."

During his New York jazz journeys Grant also was the only white disk jockey on a black station, WWRL, "probably the Number 1 black station in the country." But he went south to play jazz on the air waves of Miami, where he promoted con-

When it comes to jazz, impresario Alan Grant knows who to call.



TAD CHEYENNE SCHUTT PHOTOS

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John Ascuaga's
Nugget

certs with the backing of his radio station. In came the orchestras of Duke Ellington, Maynard Ferguson, Buddy Rich, Stan Kenton, and Woody Herman, and then the smaller groups of Freddie Hubbard and Stanley Turrentine. He broke open Florida for Chuck Mangione's hit, "Land of Make Believe," and brought the trumpet player to Miami for a concert. The same push was made for George Benson's "Masquerade," with a subsequent concert.

By this time married to his second wife, Gloria, who remains his closest companion and colleague, he was lured to San Francisco for a spin at KJAZ. He returned to Miami for another whirl, but something about Horace Greeley's sage advice still tugged within him. So Grant came to Lake Tahoe to broadcast out of Kings Castle, which is now the Hyatt Tahoe, at Incline Village. There followed his brief sojourn in L.A. and his arrival in Las Vegas.

Rosemarie Canterino has followed his Las Vegas career. "As far as I'm concerned, he's one of the most unselfish men I've ever met. He has dedicated his life to jazz, the music he loves, with very little financial return.

"He would help musicians. To this day there are guys down at the Four Queens who just don't fit in, but he books them because they're down and out, or he knows them for a long time and he doesn't want to see them hurting. What he's done down there on Monday nights into his fifth year is unreal. Monk Montgomery and the Las Vegas Jazz Society succeeded for a while, but Monk's gone now. No one has been as consistent as Alan Grant."

And his show consistently reaches a huge audience. By way of local public-radio station KNPR, which broadcasts the show on Friday nights, "Four Queens Jazz Night From Las Vegas" reaches 120 stations on the American Public Radio Network, with the station's top jazz host, Brian Sanders, the producer of the tapings.

Early last March, birthday cake and buffet were served free to customers to honor Grant's fifth year of Monday Jazz Night. Phil Woods was the featured soloist, his sometimes tortuous alto sax in the bop vein a contrast to his earthy humor. He was with his own group, consisting of Hal Galper on piano, bassist Steve Gilmore, drummer Bill Goodwin, and a remarkably gifted trumpeter, Tom Harrell, and the gala-night performances went way past midnight.

An early summer Monday Night Jazz session featured pianist Dorothy Donegan, an old friend from New York jazz nights, who flew out for three shows. A typical gesture from Grant's musical friends over the years, this special one-



Dorothy Donegan played to a full house.

night treat by Donegan, the scintillator of jazz, brought on rejoicing from her worshipful fans, some of whom traveled from Los Angeles to see her. The French Quarter came alive as Donegan moved dynamically through her wide repertoire, expressed by her twinkling fingers, delicious commentary, and singing occasional bars of evergreens and the blues.

Grant prefers to stay within the course of mainstream jazz, but he will go to outer fringes sometimes. "With people like Joe Henderson, even Freddie Hubbard and Phil Woods, I throw things at them, like it's an open lounge and keep it rhythmic, nice and pretty, some jazz things," he says.

"They're not commercialized. We've had guitarist Kenny Burrell out here, Lockjaw and Sweets, we've had a lot of wonderful players here. Singers Lorez Alexandria and, of course, Marlena Shaw, Gloria Lynn, Billy Eckstine, Arthur Prysock, and Joe Williams, who stayed on in July for a couple of weeks after a Monday Jazz. It's pretty well established at this point.

"There are many people who walk in and don't know who's here, just so they know that on Monday night they can listen to some jazz. It's probably the only place in the world where you can sit down and listen to jazz and not pay admission—only a one-drink \$3 minimum."

On very rare occasions on Monday night, customers may hear the impresario himself. During a recent show, with Si Zentner and his orchestra as guests, Grant sang his own arrangement of "The Nearness of You," which he dedicated to his wife, Gloria. He sang it beautifully—almost stunningly—and stepped off the stage to cheers. "You see," he said when he got back to his table, "I wasn't kidding when I said that thing about Frank Sinatra." □

Bill Willard, actor, artist, and columnist, lives and writes in Las Vegas.

LETTERS (Continued from page 6)

tion for my friends who are going to make their first visit to Nevada and are very excited about it. I will be going with them and am just as excited as the first time I went. (This will be my 35th.)

Belvine Glodowski
Amherst, WI.

No Slack from Texas

The first issue was not what we are looking for. You have too much advertising. The format reminds us of an airline in-flight magazine.

James Rozek
Roanoke, TX.

I'm not interested. You have a long way to go to bring your magazine up to the quality that our state (Texas) has. Yours has too many black-and-white pictures, and the cost is higher.

Eddie Bylsma
Zavalla, TX.

Joining the Outfit

The Rex Bell and Clara Bow article in July/August '85 was real interesting to me as I worked for him as a cowboy one summer.

In early March of 1933 I was waiting in front of a hotel in Cedar City, Utah, for the barber shop to open, when up drove a Model A Ford roadster with a couple of well-dressed cowboys. One of them went inside the garage next-door, and the other one introduced himself. He was Rex Bell. He said, "You look like a cowboy with your big hat and boots. Do you want a job?" I said yes. So within an hour we were on our way to the ranch. The other cowboy was the ranch foreman, Earl Simpson.

The adjoining ranch and our outfit joined together for the spring roundup. Most of the time we camped together, all 17 including the cook. I remember only a few of their names. Here are some: Ace Bogart, Nute Woral, Old Purcey, Albert and Henery, young Claude Hallsel, Blacky, Sparky, Slim, Shorty, and Ben. They called me Utah.

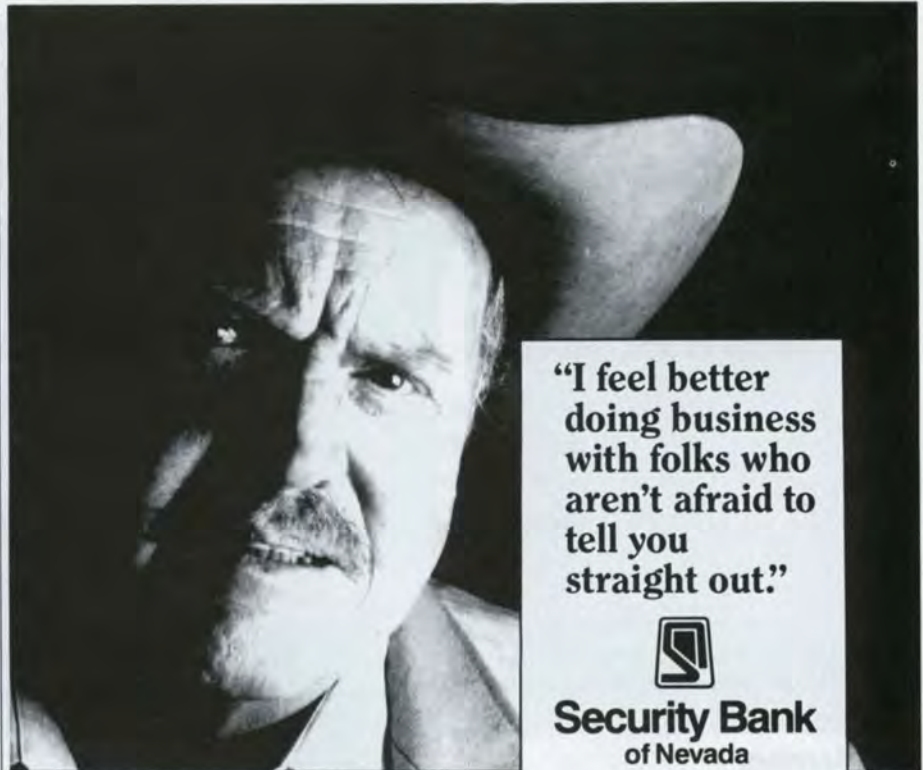
The last time I saw Rex was at a parade. He was riding a big white gelding. I waved to him, and he came over, leaned down, shook my hand, and rode on. By the way, I named my oldest boy Rex.

Thomas Al Lunt
Henderson, NV

A Rush Order

Please renew my father's subscription. He has just about worn out his back issues from repeated reading, so your magazine must be very special. Please start with the latest issue—you'll make him one happy man!

Lisa Ryan
Hastings, NB. □



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THE NEVADA CALENDAR

Swinging into September and October with more than 200 fun-filled festivals, races, and other special events throughout the Silver State.

Listing by Melissa Loomis, Prose by Lee Adler

LAS VEGAS TERRITORY

September

Exhibit, thru 10/12, Museum of International Folk Art's collection on transportation, Charleston Heights Arts Center, 386-6384

Planetarium Program, thru 10/18, "In the Deep Shadows of Space," Clark County Community College Planetarium, North Las Vegas, 644-5059

Goumond Ranch Tours, thru 10/26, 2pm Sat.-Sun., Floyd Lamb State Park, 645-1998

Jerry Lewis MDA Telethon, 8/31-9/1, from 6pm Sun. to 3:30pm Mon., studio audience tickets are free and may be picked up on the taping date, Caesars Palace, 731-7324

Art Show, 1-30, handmade paper by Bernice Breedlove, Lost City Museum, Overton, 397-2193

Art Show, 1-30, Boulder City Art Guild show, Valley of Fire State Park, 294-9982

Art Exhibit, 1-10/31 works by Paul Brach, Nevada State Museum and Historical Society, Lorenzi Park, 385-0115

Exhibit, 1-11/30, trading in the West, 1860s to 1880s, Clark County Southern Nevada Museum, Henderson, 565-0907

Frontier 500, 5-7 off-road race, on Fri. registration and tech inspection in front of Frontier Hotel, on Sat. race day with start-finish line at Sloan, 15 miles south of Las Vegas, 734-0385

Clark County Basque Festival, 6-7 on Sat. traditional Basque entertainment and dinner benefit for Catholic Community Services of Nevada at the Silk Purse Ranch, tickets are \$100, 385-2662; on Sun. Lagun Onak Las Vegas Basque Club's family picnic and entertainment at St. Viator Community Center, tickets \$2, ages 12 and under free, 361-6834

Annual 50- and 75-Mile Water-ski Marathons, 6-7 on Fri. boat inspection and registration in Boulder City, on Sat.-Sun. races start 9am, Las Vegas Boat and Ski Club, Special Events Beach, Lake Mead, 458-8282

San Gennaro Feast, 11-21, outdoor Italian food festival with singing, dancing, and celebra-



LISA J. TOLDA

OCTOBER 31 Nevada Day

Nevada, a state that came into being by the whirlwind of Civil War politics, will be a hardy 122 years old on October 31. Not much introspection is likely to be evident that Friday as residents of Carson City and many thousands of visitors congeal into one big, happy, dawn-to-dark hoodang. The Admission Day festivities will include a huge parade, dances, the soggy stratagems of water fights, a musical lollipop of a band concert, and a rock-drilling mining contest (as shown above by Carson's Ray Oster) that evokes as well as anything the kind of arm-wearing work that sustained Nevada in its early years.

Meanwhile, in Las Vegas, UNLV will celebrate with performances by the dance, music, and theater departments, an art show, campus tours, and barbecue. On Saturday, there will be a parade downtown at 9 a.m. followed by a western-style barbecue and beer garden at the Landmark Hotel.

ties, adults \$2, senior citizens \$1 children 12 and under free, Continental Hotel, 737-5555

Moonlight-Wildlife Walk, 13, bring flashlight with red filter, no children under 8, 7-9pm, Spring Mountain Ranch State Park, 20 miles west of Las Vegas, 368-2885

UNLV v. Portland State, 13, football, Sam Boyd Silver Bowl, 739-3267

All-Star Wrestling, 20, Showboat, 385-9123

UNLV v. Wisconsin, 20, football, Sam Boyd Silver Bowl, 739-3267

Park Program, 20, geology of area, bring water, 1pm, Valley of Fire State Park, 397-2088

Jazz Concert, 20, performed by Mozart on the Fifth, Charleston Heights Arts Center, 386-6383

International Mus Tournament, 20-27 Basque card game, on 27th banquet with Basque entertainment, Union Plaza, 361-6834

"Plaza Suite," 25-27 Neil Simon comedy, performed by Boulder First Nighters, 7:30pm, Basic High School, Henderson, 293-1824

ESPN/Top Rank Boxing, 26, Showboat, 385-9123

Las Vegas Silver Cup, 26-28, celebrate Lake Mead National Recreation Area's 50th Anniversary (9/13) with an unlimited hydroplane race;

on 23rd hydroplane display free to public on Fremont Street from 6-9pm; on Fri.-Sat. qualifying 10am-noon and 2-5pm, on Sun. finals noon-5pm, public seating at Boulder Beach, race pits at Special Events Beach, Lake Mead, 731-2115

Under the Stars, 26-28, play and ethnic food fair, tentatively at Spring Mountain Ranch State Park, 20 miles west of Las Vegas 739-7771

SNORE 250 Off-Road Race, 26-28, headquarters at Holiday Casino, 369-5112

Golden Gloves Boxing, 27 Showboat, 385-9123

UNLV v. Cal State Fullerton, 27 football, Sam Boyd Silver Bowl, 739-3267

October

Star '86 Striptease Artists Round-Up, 1-4, open to women from around the U.S., Sahara Hotel, 739-8911

Art Show, 1-31 Moapa Valley Art Guild, Lost City Museum, Overton, 397-2193

Art Show, 1-31, Boulder City Art Guild, Boulder City Library, 294-9982



ANDY ASERION PHOTOS



SEPTEMBER 11-14

Reno Air Races: The Flight Stuff

By Michael Colin

The fan sits ramrod straight on the hard bleacher seat, as he has for the past three days, six hours a day. His back aches. His nose is burnt to a crisp because he forgot the zinc oxide. There are faint red circular marks around his eyes from hours of binocular pressure. Last night he didn't do so well at the casino. His wife's considering divorce, he looks like hell, his dog hates him, and, on top of it all, he's got Excedrin headache Number 22. But he's smiling. And as the screaming pack of World War II vintage aircraft streaks around a pylon, leaving eight colorful blurs that can be identified only by a quick eye or the reassuring bark of the announcer the fan sighs that enigmatic sigh of rapturous fulfillment peculiar to those who are in the presence of something truly extraordinary.

It is September in Reno again, and sleepy Stead Airfield, 10 miles north of town, has once more been transformed into Mecca for sport aviation's far-flung constituency. More than 100,000 devotees have single-mindedly sojourned to Stead for Reno's National Championship Air Races, an annual event for the past 23 years. Some have driven, some have taken a train or commercial jet, some have come in their own aircraft. But all have been drawn by a common purpose—that peculiar, collective sigh that comes from watching one's heroes at play.

Before visiting this year's races on September 11-14, the casual-but-wholly-

uninterested observer might ask, "Why in the world would anyone want to sit around watching airplanes fly in circles?" Such a question, although it would make any of our fans hyperventilate with mirth, underscores a valid point: Air racing might not be a love-at-first-flight sort of thing. To someone who thinks airplanes are just vehicles to get from point A to point B, the first sight and sound of a thunder machine like the popular P-51 Mustang might be a little jarring. But air racing grows on you, although it can take time. The first-time attendee might have to wait, oh, five or 10 minutes before he or she is a rabid fan for life.

While other sports breed a hero worship for their players, air racing also engenders a certain awe and respect for the fliers who make it all possible. Such is the nature of life-and-death entertainment.

As mercilessly worn out as it is, the phrase "The Right Stuff" might best describe the men—and one woman—who fly at Reno. Take Skip Holm, a test pilot who's a two-time champion in the Unlimited category. He looks quiet and unassuming. He could be a farmer from Nebraska. But as he climbs into *Stilleto*, his highly modified P-51 and cranks the engine to go chase a third gold medal, he appears bigger than life.

And you can't help but feel a shiver of profound admiration for another racer—he was in the lead only to be distracted by his engine blowing up—as he glides his

wounded craft to a flawless landing.

While pilots in general have a reputation as adventure-seekers, your average pilot—the guy who takes out a little Cessna on weekends—might cringe at the thought of climbing into a 40-year-old warplane, cranking up a few thousand horsepower and chasing other 40-year-old warplanes around pylons a scant few feet above the desert floor.

Thanks to the good graces, healthy budgets, and steel nerves of an elite pack of daredevils, the Cessna pilot can experience that thrill vicariously, as do the many non-fliers who attend the races.

Mind you, being a zealot is not a prerequisite for attendance. Reno's air races have something for everyone with even a passing interest in aviation. One need not be baptized into the ranks of the devoted to enjoy the four classes of racing (Formula One, Biplane, AT-6, and Unlimited), the military and civilian aerobatic routines, the displays on the ground, or the vibrant atmosphere created by the crowd. There's an energy at Stead that makes airplane exhaust wonderfully fragrant and engine noise pleasantly musical.

Try it. But before you go, make sure to pack a seat cushion, and don't forget the zinc oxide. □

Michael Colin, who lives in Goleta, California, will be among the faithful at this year's Reno Air Races, September 11-14. For details, see the Calendar listing.

OCTOBER 24-26 Fair-For-All At NLV

The North Las Vegas Fairshow is an old-fashioned fair with attractions from kids' games to balloon races October 24-26 at the Clark County Community College campus. There's a carnival, clown acts, and also a bubblegum-blowing contest for visitors who like to clown around. Competition will be heated at the chili cook-off. Fair-goers can cool off at the beer garden and enjoy food booths, a toga party, balloon rides, bands, and amateur photography contest. And the Nevada Championship Hot Air Balloon Races will be held on Saturday and Sunday.

OCTOBER 24-26 Rustic Run

An estimated 450 vintage cars built prior to 1937 and their appropriately costumed drivers will motor from the Imperial Palace in Las Vegas to the Valley of Fire, Boulder Beach at Lake Mead, and back during the hotel's annual Antique Auto Run. The run is on October 25, and spectators are welcome to attend the opening festivities, which include bands and balloons. It's a good chance to snap some classic pictures when the caravan leaves at 7 a.m.



KATE BUTLER PHOTOS

OCTOBER 7-12 High Thrills In Las Vegas

A Southern Nevada tradition returns October 7-12 when the Las Vegas Jaycees State Fair opens its midway, fires up the rides, and lights up the stage for seven days of fun and excitement.

Organizers say the 33rd edition of the Jaycees State Fair promises to be an even bigger, fun-filled event than in years past. In addition to the many rides and midway, there's good food, displays, and contests.

A highlight will be the incredible Great American High Dive Team. The world champion divers hurl their bodies into the water during Olympic-style, synchronized, and comedy diving stunts. The grand finale is a dive from a 96-foot platform into only 10 feet of water.

For two nights, the best bands in Southern Nevada will perform live during the fair's music festival. It'll be rock n' roll as you like it. For country music fans, there will be a number of country-western bands performing throughout the seven days. Look for Dixieland jazz bands also.

Something special for the kids will be a live performance of the Smurfs. Also scheduled is a cheerleader contest for Southern Nevada high schools, magician John Todman, the renowned hypnotist La Barr, and armwrestling contests.



RICHARD ROWAN PHOTOS

SEPTEMBER 27-28 Blowhards & Proud Of It

For a long time, polite society tended to regard whistling as an ill-wind produced by the ill-bred.

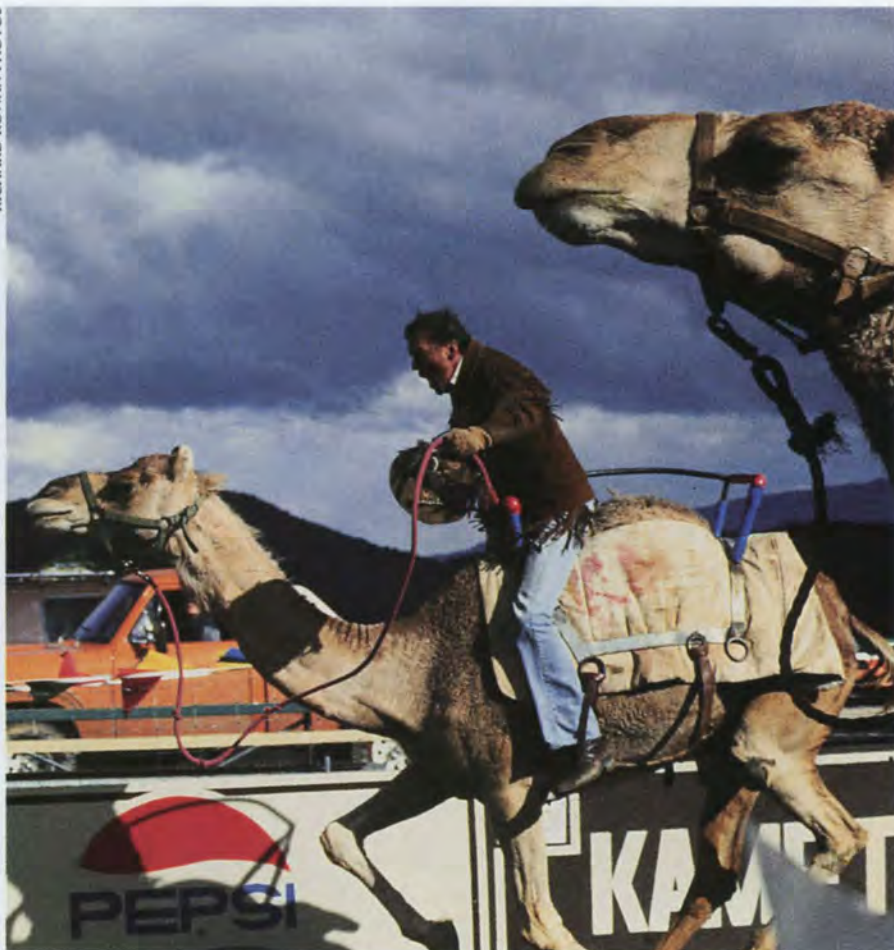
One compilation of early American dos and don'ts placed whistlers on the same loutish level as those who slurped from saucers, neglected to pluck "the small hairs that project from their nostrils," and insisted upon "ejecting great streams of tobacco juice on the sidewalk." *The Little Book of Early American Gentility* went on to admonish: "Don't whistle in the street, in a public vehicle, at public assemblies, or any other place where it may annoy; don't, as a matter of fact, whistle at all."

This arbitrary and somewhat snotty commandment is joyously trampled each fall in Carson City, where world-class practitioners of pucker power gather at Mills Park for the International Whistle-Off.

The September 27-28 competition is an amiable marriage of seemingly incompatible musical styles and philosophies. Sometimes the park vibrates like a forest in heat with looney tunes and merry melodies. Other times, you find yourself in the sweet thrall of a remarkable human instrument capable of producing the haunting, soulful resonances of a cello. Some of these whistlers strive to elevate the art by warbling the works of Mozart and Tchaikovsky. One such person is Nancy Foran (above) of Yakima, Washington, a former Whistle-off grand champion.

The nine-year-old event seems sure to endure as one of the capital city's most trilling attractions. It has already outlived an event billed as "the first annual moose-calling contest ever held south of Portland."

Now, if they could only find a moose that whistles.



SEPTEMBER 5-7 Sitting Pretty In Virginia City

... Provided, of course, that you're just a spectator at the 28th annual Virginia City Camel Races on September 5-7

The fun lies in the incredible irrationality of it all. There's absolutely no reason to try to convince some humped and haughty denizen of the desert that it's in its best interest to haul you 100 yards. The penalty for trifling with such beasts can be harsh indeed: "I got dumped off onto my

head three years ago, and there are still 45 minutes I don't remember," confided one camel jockey, since retired.

In addition to the races on Saturday and Sunday, there's an 1860s Costume Ball on Friday at the Virginia & Truckee Freight Depot between D and E streets. On Saturday there's an 11 a.m. parade through town with races following at the depot.



PHILLIP QUEEN

AUGUST 30 No Guts, No Glory

There will be aid stations at one-mile intervals as the hardiest of the hardy push themselves beyond exhaustion during the World's Toughest Triathlon at South Lake Tahoe. The August 30 event demands the ability to swim two miles, then bike 100 miles and run an additional 18.6 miles over rugged and steeply angled terrain that snakes upward to an elevation of more than 9,500 feet. Competitors will be trying to beat the record of 10:28:29 set by Scott Molina of Del Mar, California. The starting point is Camp Richardson; the finish line is the main lodge of Kirkwood Ski Area.



The Reno Philharmonic will help send balloons aloft at Rancho San Rafael on Saturday and Sunday. Later this autumn, North Las Vegas entries ascend.

SEPTEMBER 5-7 / OCTOBER 24-26

Balloon Races: A Symphony of Hot Air

In a world that seems to worship the sleek, the slim, and the swift, hot-air balloons stick out like your great-great-grandma's bustle.

They don't rumble or roar; they haven't any supersonic aspirations. They just bob on high, celestial Christmas tree ornaments bearing such ornamental handles as Bananaman, Wingless Wonder, Earth Station I, and Rich Witch II.

Notwithstanding their high-calorie profile—some resemble teardrops that are excessively fond of chocolate cake—balloon flying seems to have become as trendy as lean cuisine. This despite antecedents dating back at least to the court of King Louis XVI of France.

In a move that predated the sending of the first chimp into space by more than 150 years, the Montgolfier brothers endeavored to make hay with sweet XVI by sending aloft a small barnyard contingent.

By one account, the animals returned intact—except, that is, for a rooster that broke a

wing as a result of being kicked by a sheep.

Louis was pleased, and he offered to volunteer a criminal for the first manned flight. But the king never quite lost his head over the pastime. That came later—on the guillotine.

At any rate, the rooster's fowl experience points up the fact that life in a gondola is not always the lazy idyll it appears to be, that one of these colorful seven-story mountains can, under certain conditions, become bumpy and belligerent. Even a "deceptively challenging breeze," says one learned tract, "can turn that limp mass of color, called the envelope, into a rolling, bouncing, bronco-like adversary."

If you want to watch these airborne anomalies in action, there are two major balloon events in Nevada this fall. The Great Reno Balloon Race rises over Rancho San Rafael Park on September 5-7 a week before the Reno Air Races. Then on October 24-26 the 1986 North Las Vegas Fairshow takes place at the Clark County Community College campus. There,

aeronauts and their aesthetic airbags will both soar gracefully, like Las Vegas showgirls, and compete in several tests of precision and skill.

SEPTEMBER 27 Men & Mules

In a personal, free-form way, people have been comparing each other to jackasses for centuries. But the process has now been institutionalized in Northeastern Nevada with the 20-mile Man-Mule Race from Lamoille to Elko. What started eight years ago with a bet between a mule owner and his marathon-running buddy has evolved into a joyous tangle that also includes folks on horses, bikes, roller skates, roller skis, and even pogo sticks. Waiting at the finish of the September 27 event will be sourdough pancakes, western music, and recitations of cowboy poetry.

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Dixijuana - Dixieland Band

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Championships

Sponsored by KFM Radio

Magician

**Jaycee Fair Race
10K and Two-Mile Fun Run**

Sponsored by KXTZ Radio

**John Todman
Wonder Show**

Clowns

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From daredevil high divers to Nevada's finest rock bands, from sweet country western music to All American cheerleaders, the Jaycees State Fair has something for everybody. Let's not forget the usual assortment of clowns, magicians, hypnotists, and, even the SMURFS!

So on OCTOBER 7 to 12, Cashman Field is the place to be for the 1986 Las Vegas Jaycees State Fair. It's truly a "Special" Event!

Call 457-8832
for more information.

LAS VEGAS JAYCEES STATE FAIR

**a Fair
of the Heart!**



SEPTEMBER 6-7 Basque Balls In Las Vegas

Zesty foods and zealous dance" will be served up al fresco at the fifth annual Clark County Basque Festival September 6 at the Silk Purse Ranch north of Las Vegas. For \$100 a ticket you get fun, games, and enough local celebrities to induce eye-strain. For details call 385-2662. On September 7 there will be a more family-oriented (\$2 admission with kids 12 and under free) bash at St. Viator's Community Center, which offers both the opportunity to sustain caloric excess (the grub includes chorizos and lamb) and to work it off by taking part in a weight-carrying competition. But don't weight too long. Call 361-6834 for tickets.



SEPTEMBER 5-7 The 500's New Frontiers

Traditionally, the Frontier 500 off-road race has run off clear up the state, starting near Las Vegas and going through towns like Beatty and Tonopah all the way up to Dayton and Virginia City in the Reno area.

But on September 6 the fifth annual race will run on a loop of approximately 120 miles near Las Vegas, forsaking, at least for the time being, the point-to-point format that was becoming increasingly more expensive for both the organizers and the participants.

The new format will reduce costs as well as distances. Instead of several pit and "chase" teams leap-frogging up U.S. 95 from Las Vegas to Reno, trying to stay ahead of their race vehicles, only three or four crews may be needed at the stationary pits on the new Frontier 500 route. And they won't have to check out of their Las Vegas hotel rooms.

The start-finish line for the new course will be 15 miles south of Las Vegas at Sloan, which was used for the start of the first three Frontier 500s. Most of the course will be run through mountains and valleys southwest of Las Vegas.

Fans can watch the registration and tech inspection of the vehicles in front of the Frontier Hotel on September 5, the day before the race. There will also be booths, race displays, and a parade of the cars down the Strip.—*Don Chase*

AUGUST 30-SEPTEMBER 1 OCTOBER 4-5 Melon Fever

Nature's abundance has always filled people with passion and delight. In celebration of their town's own wholesome, sun-dappled bounty, Fallon is holding its first annual Hearts of Gold Cantaloupe Festival August 30 to September 1.

If nothing else, the event will answer the long-standing question of why "honeydew cantaloupe with me?" It's simply because it wants to hang around for such treats as the championship cantaloupe eating contest, a rodeo,

parade, stock car race, stage shows, crafts, pancake breakfast, and a 10-kilometer run.

Once you've gotten the world-famous melons digested, you can move on to the Great Western Pumpkin Harvest Festival on October 4-5 in Yerington. They weigh them, they bake them, they carve them, they eat them, they name football games after them (the Pumpkin Bowl), and then they set the remains aside and enjoy parades, theatricals, hayrides, games, and crafts.



SEPTEMBER 26-28 Thunder On Lake Mead

They call them "thunderboats"—and they aren't kidding. Upwards of 6,000 pounds of aluminum and fiberglass, hydroplanes trail great geysers of water in their wake as they traverse the distance of a football field in a single second. They are driven by hyperthyroid powerplants able to generate 4,000 horsepower and speeds of up to 200 miles per hour.

Driven, in fact, by guys like five-time national champion Bernie Little, who says that in his novice days he thought that achieving mastery over his 28-foot vessel required "nothing more than buying gasoline."

He learned otherwise in his first competition when his boat blew its engine. Afterwards, Little was told by the crew chief of a rival rig—who must have had to struggle to keep a straight face—that he might have done a little better had the ship's crankshaft not been installed backwards.

You can see this specialized art, artfully performed by specialists like Little, at Lake Mead on September 26-28, with top prize money of \$150,000 and the possibility of a national championship on the line.

The event is the Budweiser Las Vegas Silver Cup Unlimited Hydroplane Race—"unlimited" because there's no bar to the size, speed, or power of the boats that will be running the 2.5-mile Lake Mead course during the 12.5-mile qualifying heats and final race.

The event marks the return of hydroplane racing to Southern Nevada and Lake Mead after a 26-year absence. More than that, it's the grand finale of an 11-event racing season that began in June in Miami.

The show will be nationally televised. But why drape yourself around the tube when you can watch it in person—and for free—from Boulder Beach.



ELKO DAILY FREE PRESS

AUGUST 29- SEPTEMBER 1 Labor Day Pursuits

The nobility of toil will yield the right-of-way to the mobility of travel this Labor Day Weekend as the multitudes fan out across Nevada in pursuit of varied pleasures and relatively cheap thrills.

What, for example, could be more romantic than watching a kangaroo court August 29-31 in pastoral Pioche?

Or more venturesome than voyaging to the Elko County Fair and Livestock Show August 29-September 1 on the off chance that your horse will pay off at 100 to 1?

Or more earth-shaking than a demolition derby at the Elko Fairgrounds September 1 and the steam-up of a vintage locomotive August 30-September 1 at the Nevada State Railroad Museum in Carson City?

Or more fun than shooting turkeys, chasing greased pigs, and watching women mud-wrestle August 29-31 in tiny but lusty Lone?

This great holiday bouquet of country pleasures also includes singing, dancing, and displays of Native American arts and crafts at the Reno-Sparks Indian Colony in Reno August 29-31 the state's oldest rodeo, a wine tasting, and a western art show August 29-31 in Winnemucca; and a picnic and other family events August 30-31 in Rhyolite. Other American-as-apple-pie events include a fine arts show August 30-31 at Northstar-at-Tahoe and the Hearts of Gold Cantaloupe Festival August 30-September 1 in Fallon.



OCTOBER 6-12 Conspicuous Consumption

Clear your palates and prepare to pounce as the Mediterranean madness of the Great Italian Festival resumes in Reno. When it comes to pasta, there ain't no such word as "basta!" That is to say, enough is never enough when the bill of fare includes bofo buffets and grape stomping, wine tasting, spaghetti eating, and sauce-making contests, garnished by the bravura presence of opera singers and musicians. It takes place October 6-12 at the Eldorado Hotel.



DAVID MOORE

SEPTEMBER 12-14 Pahrump's Town Party

It began 22 years ago as a weekend of relaxation for Pahrump Valley farmers, who finally could rest knowing the hay was in. The Pahrump Harvest Festival has kept its roots on the farm—vegetable-growing contests and barbecued beef are staples—but nowadays the event attracts thousands from the Las Vegas area with a parade, PRCA rodeo, and a large country-fair lawn party. This celebration of the bounty of the earth includes ladies' and gents' "sexy legs" contests, boxing, auto racing, a full-sized carnival, and four barbecue pits working to satisfy visitors' cravings. This year's festival is September 12-14; Pahrump is 60 miles west of Las Vegas.



Using this map as a key, you'll find each town's events under the territory designated by the Nevada Commission on Tourism. For more travel information, write the Commission on Tourism, Capitol Complex, Carson City, NV. 89710, or call 702-885-3636.



SEPTEMBER 20-21 Hot At Tahoe

Chili chefs with a burning desire to win will gather at the High Sierra Regional Championship Chili Cook-Off on September 20-21 at Del Webb's High Sierra at Stateline. With prizes and merchandise totaling \$2,000 and a trip to the world championship at Rosamond, California, at stake, cooks will try to prove their kettle amid the country-western party atmosphere. Their ingredients must be chopped, diced, sliced, and simmered to perfection on the spot, and they only have three hours to do it. Later, during the judging, spectators can taste samples. Above, Rick Hoover, left, and Louis Beaupre of Virginia City relax at last year's cook-off. There will be two competitions on Saturday and a final "heat" on Sunday.

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"Plaza Suite," 3-4, Neil Simon comedy, performed by Boulder First Nighters, 7:30pm, Basic High School, Henderson, 293-1824

Las Vegas Jazz Festival, 3-5, music and celebrities, benefit for missing children, Sam Boyd Silver Bowl, 454-0004

Museum Exhibit Dedication, 4, a renovated Henderson Townsite house recaptures the 1940s and joins other historic structures on the Heritage Street display, Clark County Southern Nevada Museum, Henderson, 565-0907

Art in the Park, 4-5, show and sale of fine art and crafts, auction, food booths, at Wilbur Square (Government), Bicentennial, and City Hall parks, Boulder City, 293-1748

Las Vegas Jaycees State Fair, 7-12, midway, rides, Great American High Dive Team, music festival, Smurfs performance, cheerleader contests, magician, hypnotist, armwrestling contests, Cashman Field Center, 386-7100

Circus Show, 8-11 taped performances of TV and movie stars for 11th annual *Circus of the Stars* show, audience tickets are free and may be picked up on the taping date, Caesars Palace, 731-7324

ESPN/Top Rank Boxing, 10, Showboat, 385-9123

Powwow and Indian Crafts Fair, 10-12, Native Americans from most of the 126 recognized tribes in North America will participate with dance contests, arts and crafts displays, and Indian foods, \$2, Henderson Convention Center, 642-6674

Orienteering Seminar, 11 bring compass, 1pm, meet at the Cabins Picnic Area in Valley of Fire State Park, call 397-2088 for reservations
Intermountain Tennis Championships, 14-19, top college players and pros from Nevada, Utah, Idaho, Colorado, Wyoming, and Montana compete, free, Desert Inn, 733-4577

Museum Exhibit, 15-11/15, display on Nevada Day celebration of 1910 at an early Las Vegas home, Clark County Southern Nevada Museum, Henderson, 565-0907

"Coppelia," 16-19, classic comic ballet, 8pm Thurs-Fri., 2pm and 8pm Sat., 2pm and 7pm Sun., Nevada Dance Theatre, UNLV, 739-3838

Henderson Expo, 17-19, exhibits on services and goods for the home, Henderson Convention Center, 565-8951

AWA Wrestling, 18, Showboat, 385-9123

UNLV v. San Jose State, 18, football, Sam Boyd Silver Bowl, 739-3267

Art Show, 19-11/6, paintings by Dick Termes, Charleston Heights Arts Center, 386-6383

Haunted City, 20-31, for children and adults, Cashman Field, 739-7771

Imperial Palace Antique Auto Run, 24-26, main date is 25th with parade and opening festivities at Imperial Palace, followed by caravan to Valley of Fire, Boulder Beach at Lake Mead, and back, 731-3311 ext. 3114

North Las Vegas Fairshow, 24-26, hot air balloon races, carnival, bazaar, chili cook-off, kids' day, clown day, Calcutta dinner and auction, toga party, continuous entertainment on stage area, crafts exhibits, antique auto parade and show, North Las Vegas Police K-9 Corps demonstration, rides for kids in a snorkle (ladder-type device) from a North Las Vegas fire crew, Clark County Community College, North Las Vegas, 642-1944

Fall Colors Hike, 25, 9:30am-noon, Spring Mountain Ranch, 20 miles west of Las Vegas, 368-2885

KNPR Craftworks Market, 25-26, juried crafts

show, live music and dance, crafts, artist demonstrations, food, \$3, \$5 per couple, children 12 and under free, Paradise Park, 456-6695

Silver Dust 400, 25, off-road race, start-finish in Mesquite, 459-0317

Hike, 25, 3-mile round trip, bring water and lunch, 10am, meet at Rainbow Vista parking area, Valley of Fire State Park, 397-2088

Holiday Parade Gift Mart, 25-26, 10am-6pm Sat., 11am-6pm Sun., \$3 adults, children 12 and under \$1, Hacienda Hotel, 384-5780

Nevada Day Celebration, 31 performances by UNLV's dance, music, and theater departments, art show, campus tours, barbecue, UNLV, 739-3621

Nevada Day Celebration, 11/1 9am parade downtown starting at First and Fremont streets, followed by barbecue, beer garden, and displays at Landmark Hotel, 383-6022

Las Vegas Senior Classic, 11/6-9, Senior PGA golf tournament, \$250,000 purse, \$37,500 first place, Desert Inn Country Club, 733-4488

GAMING TOURNAMENTS

Here's a roll call of gaming tournaments scheduled this autumn in Las Vegas. They range from casual to high-roller affairs, so call ahead for details.

September

Craps, 2-10/28, every Tues., Lady Luck Casino, 384-4680

Blackjack, 3-10/31, every Wed. and Fri., Lady Luck Casino, 384-4680

Blackjack, 7-9, Four Queens, 385-4011

Video Poker, 7-10/26, every Sun., Lady Luck Casino, 384-4680

Stairway to the Stars Poker Tournament, 8-25, Stardust Hotel, 732-6234

Blackjack, 14-17, Frontier Hotel, 734-0110

Slots, 19-21, Marina, 739-1500

Pan, 21-24, Union Plaza, 386-2110

Slots, 28-10/1 Union Plaza, 386-2110

October

Slots, 13-16, Frontier Hotel, 734-0110

Gin, 19-23, Union Plaza, 386-2110

Blackjack, 24-26, Marina, 739-1500

Craps, 26-28, Frontier Hotel, 734-0110

Blackjack, 26-29, Lady Luck, 384-4680

PIONEER TERRITORY

September

Ione Days and Ore House Jamboree, 8/29-31 miners' events, games, Texas stew, women's mud wrestling, Ione, 285-2669

Pioche Labor Day Celebration, 8/29-31, 80th annual with parade, mining events, balloon and horse racing, fireworks, music, street dancing, contests, dinner in the park, arts and crafts show, pet show, 962-5811

Rhyolite Labor Day Celebration, 8/30-31 picnic, family events, Rhyolite No. 2

Ichthyosaur Fossil Shelter Tours, 2-12/31 10am and 2pm Fri.-Mon., Berlin-Ichthyosaur State Park, 23 miles east of Gabbs, 867-3001

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Las Vegas

Slide Show, 6, 8pm, Echo Canyon State Rec. Area, 728-4467

Pahrump Harvest Festival, 12-14, PRCA rodeo, parades, carnival, country fair, pit barbecue, gymkhana, dance, exhibits, media events, backhoe contest, horseshoe tournaments, youth amateur boxing, stock car races, midway, Men's Sexy Legs contest, Women's Sexy Legs contest, Pahrump, 727-5791

"Great Mohave Desert," 13, film by National Geographic, 8pm, Cathedral Gorge State Park, 728-4467

Meadow Valley Days, 19-21 off-road racing, demolition derby, 6-mile Pony Express run, baseball, horseshoes, golf, pool tournament, talent show, kids' games, hayride, gymkhana, Caliente, 726-3126

October

Nevada 86, 1-15, photo show, Walker-Wassuk Arts Alliance, Hawthorne, 945-3030

Victorian Fair, 11-12, melodrama and forensic competitions, antique sale, car show, games, Hawthorne, 945-5896

Nevada 86, 22-11/5, photo exhibit, Central Nevada Museum, Tonopah, 482-9676

Halloween Carnival, 30, costume contest, haunted house, Hawthorne, 945-2411

PONY EXPRESS TERRITORY

September

Hearts of Gold Cantaloupe Festival, 8/30-9/1 rodeo, parade, World Championship Cantaloupe Eating Contest, Farmers Market, Dry Gulch Saloon, stock car races, arts and crafts fair, pancake breakfast, 10-km. run, play, music, food booths, held at Oats Park, fairgrounds, and downtown, Fallon, 423-2544

Living History Talks, thru 9/30, 1pm Sat. and Sun., on fort history and 1860s, Fort Churchill State Historic Monument, 577-2345

Jackpot Arm Wrestling, 1-2/87, every Mon. until February, Bank Club, Ely, 289-8778

Cow Penning, 7 Snyder Livestock, Yerington, 463-2821

Hidden Cave Tours, 13 and 27, meet 9:30am, County Museum, Fallon, 882-1631 or 423-3677

White Pine High School Rodeo, 27 fairgrounds, Ely, 289-2137

Nevada State Four-Man Team Golf Championship, 27-28, White Pine County Golf Course, Ely, 289-4095

Horse Show, 28, fairgrounds, Yerington, 463-4785

October

Great Western Pumpkin Harvest Festival, 4-5, largest pumpkin contest and baking and carving contests, parade, food, games, Yerington, 463-3915

Smith Valley Fun Day, 5, country fair with breakfast, gymkhana, 3-mile run, carnival games, barbecue, trapshooting, and wild horse breaking demonstration, Wellington, 465-2333

Hidden Cave Tours, 11 and 25, meet 9:30am, County Museum, Fallon, 882-1631 or 423-3677

Arts, Crafts, and Antiques Show and Sale, 18-19, Hazen Bar on U.S. 50-A, 867-3066

Austin Halloween Parade and Dance, 31 costume parade down Main Street with prizes

and refreshments afterwards; at dance, prizes for best costumes, Town Hall, 964-2440

COVERED WAGON TERRITORY

September

Winnemucca PRCA Rodeo and Tri-County Fair 8/29-31, Sat. parade, Fri.-Sat. oldest Nevada rodeo, Fri.-Sun. fair, street dances, 4-H show and sale, exhibits, and booths, fairgrounds, Winnemucca, 623-2225

Western Art Round-Up, 8/29-31 show and sale, wine tasting, auction, awards banquet, Convention Center, Winnemucca, 529-0452

Elko County Fair and Livestock Show, 8/29-9/1 home arts display, 4-H livestock competition and sale, fine arts displays, stock horse competition, branding competition, and quarter and thoroughbred horse racing, fairgrounds and National Guard Armory, Elko, 738-3616

Demolition Derby, 9/1 fairgrounds, Elko, 738-3616

Art Exhibits, thru 8, watercolors by W.W. Bradford and works by Peter Coin, Northeastern Nevada Museum, Elko, 738-3418

Festival of Planes, 6, air show, Elko Municipal Airport, 738-6030

Rifle Silhouette, 7 French Ford Gun Club, Winnemucca rifle range north of town, 623-4117

Fall Festival Art Show, 10-10/1 works by members of Elko Art Club, Northeastern Nevada Museum, Elko, 738-3418

Art Show, 10-10/8, works by Walter S. Long, Northeastern Nevada Museum, Elko, 738-3418

Horseshoe Tournament, 13-14, Cactus Pete's horseshoe pits, Jackpot, 755-2321

Bigge Duncan, Jr. Memorial Rodeo, 13-14, 9am, free, rodeo grounds, Lovelock, 273-7874

Cactus Pete's Ladies Pro-Am Golf Tournament, 15, Jackpot Golf Course, 755-2264

Wells Amateur Golf Tournament, 20-21 Wells Golf Course, 752-3355

Man-Mule Race, 27 20-mile race from Lamaille to Elko, followed by food, music, and poetry readings, 738-7135

Nevada State Dirt Track Championships, 27-28, time trials begin at 5pm on Sat., noon on Sun., \$10,000 purse, rodeo grounds, Lovelock, 273-2949

Plays, 28, Covenant Players of California perform, potluck supper follows, Wild Horse Ranch and Resort, Northfork, 6471

Hunter Sight-In, 28, French Ford Gun Club, Winnemucca rifle range, 623-4117

October

Spinning and Weaving Display, 3-22, Northeastern Nevada Museum, Elko, 738-3418

Cactus Pete's Air Race, 4, from Great Falls, MT to Jackpot, 755-2321

Art Exhibit, 10-11/12, works by Lady Jill Miller, Northeastern Nevada Museum, Elko, 738-3418

Bigbore and .22 Hunter Pistol, 12, French Ford Gun Club, Winnemucca rifle range north of town, 623-4117

Keik Cooking School, 14, demonstrations, exhibits, Elko Convention Center, 738-7118

Art Exhibit, 24-11/19, by Nick Ali, Northeastern Nevada Museum, Elko, 738-3418

Pistol State Championship, 25, French Ford Gun Club, Winnemucca rifle range north of town, 623-4117

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"Miwok Meal." Elder woman grinding maize into meal.

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"Where Friends Gather"

Sagebrush Gourmet

A diner's guide to the Silver State

Following is a selective guide to reader-approved Nevada restaurants whose advertisements appear in this section. Besides descriptions of menu and atmosphere, the listings include prices, hours and other details for your convenience. If you have any comments on the establishments listed, drop us a line at Nevada Magazine, Sagebrush Gourmet, Capitol Complex, Carson City, NV. 89710-0005.

CATLEMENS

Hwy. 395, Washoe Valley
Between Reno and Carson City. 849-1500
A ranch-style restaurant, the cozy Cattlemens offers excellent meals at moderate prices. The special sirloin steak dinner is a popular and good buy. Currently \$7.95, this dinner includes a baked potato, salad, bread, ranch-style beans, sirloin steak and a glass of wine. Other entrees range from a simple hamburger steak to a filet mignon and lobster. The Alaska king crab is delicious! Open seven days a week for dinner from 5 p.m. No reservations. AE, MC, VISA.

COMSTOCK HOTEL & CASINO

Second and West Street
Reno. 329-1880
Home of the famous One-Pound New York Steak Dinner for only \$5.99. The Comstock's popular 24-hour **Miner's Cafe** also features complete breakfast, lunch, and dinner items. Enjoy reasonably priced meals served in an intimate and relaxing atmosphere in the **Comstock Dinner House**. Full-course dinners are a bargain at \$5.99 in the **Specialty Room Restaurant**. Every fine meal tastefully prepared to your order. Valet parking available. The Comstock Hotel and Casino, "Where the Old West comes alive every day in Downtown Reno." AE, MC, VISA.



LOUIS' BASQUE CORNER

301 E. 4th Street
Reno. 323-7203
Louis' restaurant offers a warm, unhurried atmosphere that hints of yesterday. Master chefs prepare genuine Basque cuisine such as Tripes Callos, Poulet a la Basquaise, Paella, Boeuf Bourguignon, and entrees including Coq au Vin (chicken in red wine sauce), Lapin Chasseur (hunter's rabbit), and Ris de Veau (sweetbreads) as well as many other delicious French and Spanish Basque dishes all served family style with complimentary wine. You can enjoy a famous picon punch, cafe royale or perhaps an Izarra. Basque culture is reflected in the pottery, artifacts and pictures from the Pyrenees which grace the walls of the two traditional dining rooms. Louis and Lorraine Erreguible host many special dinners and parties in this authentic Basque restaurant. Ample free parking. Lunch: Mon.-Fri., 11:30-2:00, Dinner: 6 p.m., nightly. All major credit cards accepted.

MARTIN HOTEL

Railroad & Melarkey Streets
Winnemucca, NV. 623-3197
"We ate here!" Delicious Basque dinners at the famous Martin Hotel. Founded in the late 1800s, the Martin retains its old Basque hotel traditions and a comfortable bar. Lunch: 11:30-2 (menu). Dinner: 5:30-10 p.m. (no menu). Fixed fare includes steak, side dish (clams & rice, oxtail or tongue). Prime rib or steak Saturday only. Basque fare and wine, \$10-\$12. Seating family-style. No reservations. Closed all major holidays. MC, VISA. Rooms available.

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RENO/TAHOE TERRITORY

September

Art Show, thru 7 ceramics by Fred Reid and Greg Allred, Sierra Nevada Museum of Art, 329-3333

Art Show, thru 21, fish-and-game still life imagery in American painting, Sierra Nevada Museum of Art, 329-3333

History of Lake Tahoe Exhibit, thru 10/31 Lake Tahoe Historical Society Museum, South Lake Tahoe, 916-541-5458

Numaga Days Celebration, 8/29-31 powwow, competitive dancing, singing, drums, plus Native American arts, crafts, food, and stick games, Reno-Sparks Indian Colony, 329-2936

Reno Padres v. San Jose Bees, 8/29-31 class-A pro baseball, 7:30pm Fri.-Sat., 1:30pm Sun., Moana Stadium, 825-0678

Coors Truck Pull, 8/29-31 fairgrounds, 329-1294

World's Toughest Triathlon, 8/30, top male and female triathletes participate in the 2-mile swim, 100-mile bike ride, and 18.6-mile run event in the South Lake Tahoe area, start at Camp Richardson and finish at Kirkwood Ski Area, 782-9723

UNR v. Cal. State Fullerton, 8/30, football, Mackay Stadium, UNR, 784-4600

Nevada Paint Horse Show, 8/30-31 fairgrounds, 849-0216

Fine Arts Show, 8/30-31 also jazz, magic show, and wine tasting, free, 10am-5pm, Northstar, N. Lake Tahoe, 916-562-1010

Railroad Museum Steam-Up, 30-9/1, restored V&T engine No. 25, Nevada State Railroad Museum, Carson City, 884-4810

Black Powder Varmint Rifle Silhouette, 8/31 Palomino Valley Gun Club, 22 miles north of Sparks, 323-3950

V.F.W. Post 10331 Barbecue and Dance, 8/31 27th annual, live music, prizes, Gerlach Park, Gerlach, 557-2220

Muscular Dystrophy Assn.'s Telethon, 8/31 9/1 local television cut-ins will be at the Peppermill Hotel (main show is at Caesars Palace in Las Vegas), 329-7727

Coors Truck Pull, 1 fairgrounds, 785-4307

Art Exhibit, 1-26, 34 arpilleras (colorful cloth pictures stitched and embroidered) from Chile, Manville Gallery, UNR's School of Medicine, 784-6001

Art Show, 1-30, paintings by Helen Coxhead McFarland and Peg DeRuntz, Nevada Artists Assn., Brewery Arts Center, Carson City, 882-6411

Ducks Unlimited Dinner, 5, men only, Carson Valley Inn, Minden, 782-9711

Northstar Open Tennis Tournament, 5-7 for all ages and abilities, Northstar, N. Lake Tahoe, 916-562-0321

Great Reno Balloon Race, 5-7 on Fri. contests for hot air balloonists, music by Sierra Nevada Chorale, on Sat.-Sun. Dawn Patrol show, contests, music by Reno Philharmonic and others, Rancho San Rafael Park, 786-1131

Virginia City Camel Races, 5-7 on Fri. 1860s costume ball, Sat.-Sun. races every 30 min. from 9:30am-5pm, 847-0311

UNR v. Sam Houston State, 6, football, Mackay Stadium, UNR, 784-4600

Trailride to Mariette Lake, 6, 10-mile round trip by horse, meet at Spooner Lake, Lake Tahoe State Park, call for reservations, 831-0494

Yard Sale, 6, 8am-4pm, Roberts House Museum, Carson City, 882-5950

Hunter Sight-In Days, 6-7, Palomino Valley Gun Club, 22 miles north of Sparks, 323-3950

National Team Penning Finals, 6-7 fairgrounds, 785-4307

Classical Concert, 7, John Lenz Trio, 2pm, free, Chateau, Incline Village, 831-0781

Model Racing, 7 fairgrounds, 785-4307

Lecture, 9, by artist Richard Guy Walton in conjunction with "Desert Mirage, Casino Gaming and the Image of Nevada" exhibit, 7pm, free, Nevada Historical Society, 789-0190

Art Show, 10-10/12, paintings by Ruth Anne Kocour, Sierra Nevada Museum of Art, 329-3333

Nevada 86, 10-24, photo show, Fallon Community Center, 423-4556

Survival Hike, 11 meet at Spooner Lake, 9:30am, Lake Tahoe State Park, 831-0494

National Championship Air Races, 11-14, only place in the world where WWII fighter planes race, \$400,000 purse for closed-course pylon races in Formula One, Biplane, AT-6, and Unlimited classes; plus the U.S. Air Force Thunderbirds, Starduster Parachute Team, Bob Hoover, and Ray-Ban Golds, 10:40am each day; qualifying (free to spectators) from 9/8-10, Stead Airfield, 348-7403

Ghost Town Adventure '86, 12-14, 4-wheel drive trail ride from Lake Tahoe through western Nevada, for Dodge Ram pick-up and Ram-charger owners, call Rod Hall 786-6748

Autumn Jubilee, 12-21 10-day festival includes parades, contests, sports, and music, North Lake Tahoe and Truckee, 916-583-7625

Nevada All-State Trail Riders 100, 13, 100-mile horse ride, Virginia City, 847-0515

Mexican Festival, 13, fairgrounds, 785-4307

Art Show, 13, works by Chris Ranes, Lake Gallery, Tahoe City, 916-583-1002

Grand Trapshoot, 14-21 The Gun Club, Sparks, 826-2121 ext. 600

Carson Valley Inn Golf Tournament, 19-20, Golf Course, Gardnerville, 782-9711

Dixieland-at-Tahoe Jazz Festival, 19-21 weekend of concerts in the Tahoe area; highlights include jazz sessions Fri. 8pm Stateline; Sat. noon Incline Village, 9pm Cal-Neva Lodge; Sun. 10am Hyatt Lake Tahoe, 831-8440

UNR v. Montana, 20, football, Mackay Stadium, UNR, 784-4600

Bowers Mansion Festival, 20, bluegrass, traditional, folk, and old-time country music and dancing, food and beverages, \$5, \$10 per family, bring blanket, Bowers Mansion on Old U.S. 395 South in Washoe Valley, 849-0276

Concert, 20, folk-rock music performed by Silverwind, Pioneer Theater, 786-5105

High Sierra Regional Championship Chili Cook-Off, 20-21 \$2,000 in prizes and merchandise and chance to go to world championship in Rosamond, CA., Del Webb's High Sierra, Stateline, 588-6211

Sparks Indian Rodeo, 20-21 professional cowboys and cowgirls from seven western states and Canada compete, arts and crafts, Indian food, Gondolfo Arena, Sparks, 356-8429

Ferrari Hill Climb, 20-21, race up State Route 341 from Silver City to Virginia City, 847-0311 or 415-776-0505

(Continued on page 74)

Southern Nevada Show Notes

By Pete Mikla

George Burns was a youngster of 64 when he made his Las Vegas debut in 1960 at the Sahara Hotel. On the bill with him were the DeCastro Sisters and a kid named Bobby Darin. "That show was so good that I almost didn't go on because they didn't need me," kids Burns, who is now a Caesars Palace headliner. The 90-year-old ex-vaudevillian says, "The most important thing at my age is to keep moving. Never retire. Don't fall in love with your bed unless there is someone in there with you."

☆

Las Vegas, which has long boasted that it is the Entertainment Capital of the World, is getting some competition from a little town 90 miles south. In Laughlin, the Riverside Resort started booking big-name stars for weekend engagements last December. Frank Sinatra, Jr. was first. His moderate success encouraged stars Mel Tillis, Bobby Bare, Tammy Wynette, and Merle Haggard to visit the Colorado River community, and more bookings are expected.

☆

There have been a lot of Platters during the past 30 years, but there's only one Buck Ram. Even at 75, the composer of "Only You," "Twilight Time," and "The Great Pretender" is always ready for a good battle. "Every so often I hear about people who are trying to copy the Platters," says Ram, a Las Vegas resident. "I call this illness 'Platteritis.' The cure is a call from my lawyers who explain that there are only five Platters, and they all work with me." The real Platters are headquartered in the French Quarter at the Four Queens Hotel, where they will play through most of September.

☆

Sammy Davis, Jr. has done a lot of dancing in Las Vegas, but last fall a hip injury caused him to be literally wheeled out of the Desert Inn and hospitalized after his opening show. Now Sammy is back at the DJ, tap-dancing and gliding across the stage with ease. One thing he doesn't do anymore, however, is jump up and click his heels during his "Mr. Bojangles" number. "To be perfectly honest," Sammy explained, "I stopped doing that even before the hip operation. I decided that jumping up in the air and clicking my heels was not something a 60-year-old man should be doing every night." □

Pete Mikla is entertainment editor for the Las Vegas Review-Journal.

SHOWGUIDE

Where the stars and shows are playing
this September and October.

By Melissa Loomis

Following is a muster of the stars, revues, and extravaganzas you can see in Nevada showrooms in September and October. Hotels and casinos are listed by territory as shown on the map in this issue's Nevada Calendar. Schedules can change, so it's wise to call ahead for times, dates, and reservations. For out-of-state callers, Nevada's area code is 702. For the hotels' toll-free phone numbers, call 800-555-1212.

LAS VEGAS TERRITORY

Bally's Grand Hotel, 739-4567: *Ziegfeld Theatre*: "Jubileel" indf.; *Celebrity Room*: Tom Jones, 8/28-9/3; Dean Martin/The Goldiggers, 9/4-10; Wayne Newton, 9/11-17; Tom Jones, 9/18-10/1; Engelbert Humperdinck, 10/2-15; Dean Martin/The Goldiggers, 10/16-22; Wayne Newton, 10/23-11/12

Barbary Coast, 737-7111: *Emerald Isle Bandshow*, thru 9/3; *Scot Frasino and Ginger Rogers*, thru 9/10; *Sam Butera and the Wildest*, 9/4-10/1; *Irish Showband*, 10/2-12/10



The sunshine boy of the entertainment world, George Burns, brightens Caesars Palace.

Caesars Palace, 731-7333: *George Burns/Petula Clark*, 8/28-9/1; *David Copperfield*, 9/3-8 and 9/10-15; *Joan Rivers/Pia Zadora/Jim Stafford*, 9/17-30; *Pointer Sisters*, 10/1-6; *Julio Iglesias*, 10/8-13; *Diana Ross*, 10/15-20 and 10/22-27; *Kool and the Gang*, 10/29-11/3

Circus Circus, 734-0410: *Circus acts*, free

Desert Inn, 733-4566: *Sammy Davis, Jr.*, thru 9/3; *Crystal Gayle/Brad Garrett*, 9/4-24; *Tony Orlando/Juliet Prowse*, 9/25-10/15; *Smothers Brothers/Doc Severinsen*, 10/16-11/5

Dunes, 737-4110: *Comedy Store*, indf., continuous lounge entertainment

Edgewater, Laughlin, 298-2453: *Cathy O'Shea*, 9/16-10/12

El Rancho, 796-2222: *Lounge entertainment*

Flamingo Hilton, 733-3333: "City Lites," revue, indf.

Four Queens, 385-4011: *Dondino*, thru 11/1; *Platters*, 9/2-28; *Ronnie DiPalma*, 9/2-28; *Van-Dells*, 9/30-10/19; *Mamas and the Papas*, 10/21-11/2; *Monday Night Jazz*, indf.

Frontier, 734-0240: *Siegfried & Roy* in "Beyond Belief," thru 11/29; *family performances (no nudity)* 9/6 and 10/4

Golden Nugget, 386-8100: *Paul Anka*, 9/4-16; *Frank Sinatra*, 9/19-20; *Alan King*, 9/25-30; *Dionne Warwick*, 10/2-14; *Merle Haggard*, 10/17-18; *Frank Sinatra*, 10/24-25

Hacienda, 798-0571: *Entertainment TBA*

Holiday, 369-5222: "Rocky Sennes' Roaring '20s"

Imperial Palace, 733-0234: "Legends in Concert"

Landmark, 733-1110: *Entertainment TBA*

Las Vegas Hilton, 732-5661: *Rodney Dangerfield*, 9/1-7; *Monkeys/Grass Roots/Gary Puckett and the Union Gap/Herman's Hermits*, 9/8-14; *Rodney Dangerfield*, 10/21-27

Marina, 739-1500: "A Touch of Burlesque"

Maxim, 731-4300: *Playboy's Girls of Rock and Roll*

Mint, 387-6468: *Roy Clayborne*, thru 9/13; *TSC Band*, 9/15-10/18; *Sonny Turner*, 9/29-10/19; *Frenz*, 10/20-11/1

Palace Station, 367-2411: *Lounge shows*

Peppermill Resort, Mesquite, 346-5232: *Nightly entertainment*

Regency, Laughlin, 298-2439: *Piano bar*

Riverside Resort, Laughlin, 298-2535

Riviera, 734-5301: "Splash!" production show, indf., with *5th Dimension* thru 9/23; "An Evening at La Cage," revue, indf.; "An Evening at the Improv," comedians, indf.

Royal Casino, 733-4000: *Nightly entertainment*

Sahara, 737-2424: "A Chorus Line. Broadway musical, indf.

Sam Boyd's California, 385-1222: *Nightly entertainment*, 7pm-7am

Sam's Town, 456-7777: *Danny Byrd*, thru 9/25; *Randy Anderson*, 9/5-10/9; *Don Holiman*, 9/26-10/9

Sam's Town Gold River, Laughlin, 298-2242

Sands, 733-5000: "Sizzle," revue, indf.

Silver Slipper, 734-1212: "Boylesque," revue, indf.

Stardust, 732-6325: "Lido de Paris," indf.

Sundance, 382-6111: *Kathy Dahl/Richard Yusco*

Tropicana, 739-2411: "Folies Bergere," indf.

Union Plaza, 386-2444: *Broadway entertainment*

Whiskey Pete's, on I-15 at the California-Nevada border, 382-4388: *Lounge entertainment*

RENO/TAHOE TERRITORY

Bally's Grand Hotel, Reno, 789-2285: *Ziegfeld Theatre*: Suzanne Somers in "Hello Hollywood, Hello!" thru 10/21 *Lion's Den*: Danny Marona, 8/27-9/16; Pat Collins, *The Hip Hypnotist/Coast to Coast*, 9/17-10/14; Danny Marona, 10/15-11/11

Caesars Tahoe, 588-3515: "Star Street," revue, indf., Ritz Fashion Auction, indf.

Carson City Nugget, 882-1626: Cheryl Cotten, 9/2-28; Michael John and Kimberly, 9/30-10/26

Carson Valley Inn, Minden, 782-9711: Ben Crocker and the Dealers, 9/1-13; Tamra Steele, 9/15-10/4

Circus Circus, Reno, 329-0711: Circus acts

Crystal Bay Club, North Tahoe, 831-0512: Nightly top 40 rock entertainment (dancing)

Del Webb's High Sierra, Tahoe, 588-6211: "Flesh n' Fantasy," revue, indf., Pat Collins, *The Hip Hypnotist*, thru 9/7; Doug Kershaw, 9/2-21 Danny Marona, 9/23-10/12; Willie Tyler and Lester, 10/14-26; Pat Collins, *The Hip Hypnotist*, 10/21-11/9

Eldorado, Reno, 786-5700: *Bourbon Street Lounge*: Two of Clubs, thru 9/7; Gary and Glenna, 9/8-14; Neill and Christine, 9/15-28; Two of Clubs, 9/29-10/12; Joe and Terri, 10/13-11/2 *Cabaret*: Krush/Garden Avenue Seven, 9/1-21 Treniers, 10/21-11/9

Harolds Club, Reno, 329-0881: Ricky Santos/Bobby Reynon and Lin Maureen and Dennis, thru 9/7

Harrah's Lake Tahoe, 588-6211: *South Shore Room*: Mac Davis, 8/29-9/11, Donna Summer, 9/12-14 and 9/16-18; Don Rickles/Lynda Carter, 9/19-25; Eddy Arnold/Smothers Brothers, 9/26-10/2; Wayne Newton, 10/3-9; Crystal Gayle, 10/10-16; Sammy Davis, Jr., 10/17-21 Jay Leno, 10/22-23; Sammy Davis, Jr., 10/24-30; Oak Ridge Boys, 10/31-11/6; *StateLine Cabaret*: "Bottoms Up '87" revue, thru 12/15 Wed.-Mon., Rain: A Tribute to the Beatles, 9/2-14; Paul Revere and the Raiders, 9/16-21 Blues Other Brothers, 9/23-28; Byrds, 10/7-12; Platters, 10/14-26; Bill Medley, 10/28-11/2

Harrah's Reno, 329-4422: *Headliner Room*: Roger Whittaker, 8/28-9/3; Mickey Gilley, 9/4-17 Alan King/Kay Starr, 9/18-24; Andy Williams Show, 9/25-10/1; Captain and Tennille, 10/2-8; Glen Campbell, 10/9-15; Tony Orlando, 10/23-29; Mel Tillis, 10/30-11/12; *Casino Cabaret*: Paul Revere and the Raiders, 9/9-14; Jack Mack and the Heart Attack, 9/16-21; Rob Hanna Salutes Rod Stewart, 9/23-28; Platters, 9/30-10/12; Bill Medley, 10/14-26; Bus Boys, 10/28-11/2

Harveys, Tahoe, 588-2411: *Top of the Wheel*: Ron Rose Sound followed by top 40 music, indf., *Theatre Lounge*: "20th Century Foxes," revue, indf.; "Broadway Varieties," revue, indf., Cathy O' Shea, thru 9/7; Terry Gregory, 9/1-21; Bach, 9/8-21; Tommy Bell, 9/22-28; Winchester Cathedral, 9/22-10/19; Steppin Stones, 9/30-10/19; Command Performance/Atlantis, 10/20-11/9

Hyatt Lake Tahoe, 831-1111: Dae Han Sisters, thru 9/7; Garfin Gathering, 9/9-21 Jay Ramsey Band, 9/23-10/5; Bruce Zarka, 10/7-26; Liz Damon, 10/28-11/9

John Ascuaga's Nugget, Sparks, 356-3300: *Celebrity Cabaret*: "Legends in Concert," thru 9/1; Weather Girls, 9/2-15; Donna Fargo, 9/16-29; Sha Na Na, 9/30-10/13; B.J. Thomas, 10/28-11/10; *Casino Lounge*: Bobby Freeman Show, 9/1-21; Vince Cardell, 9/2-21 Bach, 9/22-10/12; Motifs, 9/23-10/12; Links, 10/13-11/2; Garfin Gathering, 10/14-11/2

Karl's, Sparks, 358-4771: Gary Xavier at the piano, days, indf., entertainment nightly featuring Mokikei

Mother Lode, Carson City, 883-0900: ETS, 8/26-9/14; Scooter and the Bee, 9/16-10/5; Two Bits, 10/7-19; Smokey and Bonnie, 10/21-11/2

Ormsby House, Carson City, 882-1890: David Proud, thru 9/7; Kathy Lee/Don Lee, 9/9-21 Garfin Gathering, 9/23-10/12; Four Tunes, 10/14-11/2

Peppermill, Reno, 826-2121: Gloria Michaels, 9/1-28; Tommy Bell, 9/1-11/9; Wrays, 9/29-11/2

Pick Hobson's Riverside, Reno, 786-4400: Nightly dancing

Reno Hilton, 785-7100: "Branded," revue, indf.

Reno Ramada, 788-2000: Live entertainment

Sharkey's Nugget, Gardnerville, 782-3133



The Captain and Tennille sail into Harrah's Reno this October 2-8.

Tahoe Billmore (formerly the Nevada Lodge), 831-0660: Sutro, 9/1-3; Network, 9/4-14; Small Favors, 9/22-27

Topaz Lodge, Topaz Lake, 266-3339

Western Village, Sparks, 331-1069: St. Romain/Ira Allen, 9/1-28; Network/Lelands, 9/29-10/26; Gary Joe Wade and the Bump/Neal Kell, 10/27-11/2

COVERED WAGON PONY EXPRESS & PIONEER TERRITORIES

Battle Mountain: Owl Club, 635-5155

Elko: Commercial Hotel, 738-3181; Red Lion, 738-2111; Stockmen's Hotel, 738-5141

Ely: Hotel Nevada, 289-4414

Fallon: Fallon Nugget, 423-3111

Jackpot: Cactus Pete's, 755-2321; Coast to Coast, thru 7/6; Horseshu, 755-2331

Pahrump: Saddle West Casino, 727-5953

Tonopah: Mizpah Hotel, 482-6202; Station House, 482-9777

Wendover: Nevada Crossing, 664-4000: Live entertainment nightly, Tues.-Sun., Peppermill, 664-2255; Red Garter Casino, 664-2111; Silver Smith, 664-2231; Sonny Turner, 9/2; State Line Casino, 664-2221

Winnemucca: Winners Hotel-Casino, 623-2511

Yerington: Casino West, 463-2481; Dini's Lucky Club, 463-2868: Live entertainment weekends □

Northern Nevada Show Notes

By Guy Richardson

Fall begins in Northern Nevada at the 9,000-foot level, where Toni Tennille hikes the Sierra peaks above her log mansion at Tahoe. As the frost slowly dips to lake level, Tennille and The Captain will descend to Harrah's Reno to make honeyed harmonies October 2-8.

Something about the tang of wood smoke in the nose makes old favorites poignant and sweet. Listen to Tennille's redwood voice booming low on "More Than You Know" and find mellow autumn passion.

☆

This is not the season for against-the-wall rock-and-roll. It's the time for holding your lover and dancing close. Which brings us, circuitously, to one Mr. Garfin, known to his mother as Howard but to the rest of the world as Speedy. Garfin, who's been a musician long enough to gray his hair, plays elegant music at the Hyatt Tahoe, Carson's Ormsby House, and John Ascuaga's Nugget in Sparks this fall.

Garfin is known for his able female singers, one of whom was Lynda Carter, then just plain (plain?) Linda. This September, Lynda nee Linda will be at Harrah's Tahoe with Don Rickles. Another Garfin grad, Tamra Steele, plays at the Carson Valley Inn in Minden and—small world—follows Garfin at the Nugget.

☆

As autumn leaves turn to golden oldies, the Treniers harmonize on the Eldorado stage and the Links sail into John Ascuaga's Nugget. If, however, all this smooth stuff needs some roughening, wake up at Bally's Grand with Danny Marona, a piano prodigy at seven, now a caustic comic perhaps wittier than Rickles. My favorite Marona line is: "Money can't buy happiness. If you had \$100,000, could you buy happiness? Noooo—but 10 years ago you could have."

☆

Fall is rising time for funny man Jay Leno, who, after packing Harrah's lounges, gets his main-room shot October 22-23. Good clean comedy pays off. Amazing, in an age of Eddie Murphyisms.

☆

OK, for those unseasoned people in the back of the room screaming ROCK-AND-ROLL, Paul Revere returns to Harrah's lounges this fall, as does Jack Mack and the Heart Attack. And so we will shake the last leaves from the trees. □

Guy Richardson is a well known columnist for the Reno Gazette-Journal.

Travel Guide

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Nevada Notes

Lead-foot legislation
and the fish that almost
got away.

By Jim Crandall

The Long and Straight of It

Last July 1, speeders traveling up to 70 mph on a 33-mile stretch of Interstate 80 east of Reno were perfectly within the limits of Nevada law—for about 10 seconds. That's how long the state's new 70-mph speed limit was in effect.

It was actually a speed trap aimed at catching the federal government asleep at the wheel. When the national 55-mph speed limit was enacted in 1974, the state went along, but with oil flowing more freely, Nevadans have said the 55 law should not apply to long, straight desert stretches.

In 1983 the Nevada Legislature reduced the penalty for speeding between 55 to 70 mph to a token \$5 fine. Two years later legislators passed AB390, saying that if the feds didn't increase the speed limit by July 1, 1986, Nevada would raise the limit itself. And if the feds threatened to withhold any highway allocations, Nevada would rescind the law.

So on Tuesday morning, July 1, when state transportation chief Garth Dull arrived at his office in Carson City, Federal Highways Administration official Tony Horner met him at the door. Dull upped the speed limit on paper, Horner announced all funds would be withheld, and Dull canceled the speed limit.

The next day the attorney general's office filed a suit that says the federal speed limit is unconstitutional. So the speed trap is sprung, but we've yet to see who gets stuck with the ticket.

Feeling Like a Million

According to people counters, July was a banner month for Nevada. Sometime in that month the state's peoplemeter clicked over to one million. That's double what the state's population was in 1970 and nine times what it was in 1940, when there was only about one person for each of the state's 110,540 square miles.

Alvord, Is That You?

When Humboldt County rancher Harry Wilson, Sr. went fishing one day half a century ago, he didn't know he'd make

history. All he wanted to do was catch enough fish to stock a fishing hole.

Wilson and three friends drove to Thousand Creek Gorge and fished until they filled a barrel with fat, live trout. Back in Virgin Valley, they dumped the fish in a pool created by a landslide across the Virgin Creek on Wilson's ranch.

The fish thrived in the little stream, and Wilson had a fine fishing hole. The fish averaged about 18 inches, and he thought they were Lahontan cutthroat trout, although they had a redder skin and fewer spots and scales. But they tasted just fine when fried in butter on the wood stove.

The landslide prevented the fish from leaving the ranch, and over the years they multiplied. Now the fish have caught the attention of wildlife specialists across the country. The new interest was sparked in 1983 when Nevada Department of Wildlife fish biologist Jim French sampled the stream. He thought the fish could be the Alvord cutthroat trout, a subspecies of the Lahontan cutthroat that was thought to be extinct.

In 1985 a team of DOW experts caught and sent some of the fish to Graham Gall, animal sciences professor at the University of California at Davis, for electrophoresis evaluation to determine genetic purity. At the same time Biology Professor Robert Behnke of Colorado State University compared some of the fish to a preserved specimen of the Alvord that had been caught in 1934.

Both scientists agree the fish are ancestors of the Alvord, although mingling with rainbow trout has diluted the true blood lines. But since only a few fish have been tested, it is thought that there could



This "extinct" trout is making a comeback.

be a chance of finding some pure Alvords in Virgin Valley.

The DOW did a little more fishing on the ranch in August, and ichthyologists are busy studying the catch. The DOW plans to set up a secret fishery and reintroduce the fish to the Alvord Basin of Northwestern Nevada and Southwestern Oregon. "But right now we're trying to keep a lid on this thing," French says. "You can't imagine how many fishermen would love to catch and mount an Alvord trout."

—Contributed by Julie Anderson

More Film Roles

When film crews for *West of the Imagination*, a six-part public television series due to air this fall, were looking for a way to depict the forging of the railroads, they chose the Virginia & Truckee Railroad in Virginia City.

The film-makers arrived for a day's shooting to find a slice of history chugging along as if the 20th century had never happened. A crew was spiking rails by



V&T crew members became instant stars when film-makers found them working the rails.

hand while an iron horse steamed on the tracks—all in a day's work for Bob and Tom Gray, who are extending their tourist railway through Tunnel Number 4 in Gold Hill along the V&T's original route.

When producer-director David Kenard saw the men at work, he put some of them on his payroll for the day, dressed them in authentic western garb, and said, "Just do what you were doing." The series, which will be narrated by James Whitmore, will air on September 22, and the V&T segment will run in the third program, *Images of Glory*.

Film-makers for all types of movies, including Sylvester Stallone's "Over the Top," which was shot in Las Vegas last summer, are finding Nevada more and more appealing. The trend is due in part to heavy promotion by the Nevada Division of Motion Pictures, which was formed in 1983. DMP head Bob Hirsch says Nevada's starry rise is due at least in part to the fact that "we're a small state" and "if there's something unusual that a film company wants done, it's more likely that we can let them do it here." □

Jim Crandall is Nevada's Feature Editor.

THE NEVADA BOOKSHELF

From Reno to Revolution

American Commander in Spain,
by Marion Merriman and Warren Lerude.

It is a love story that begins in Nevada. It is the account of two graduates of the university in Reno who join the fight against fascism in the Spanish Civil War. It is also the hottest-selling book ever published by the University of Nevada Press.

The book is: American Commander in Spain: Robert Hale Merriman and the Abraham Lincoln Brigade, written by Marion Merriman Wachtel, the subject's widow, and Warren Lerude, Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist and a UNR professor. After the book appeared last spring, its initial run of 2,000 copies sold out in a month, and a subsequent printing is going at a fire-sale pace. Hollywood producers have called Lerude in hopes of getting the story of Bob and Marion Merriman onto the big screen.

The story is a dramatic one. Bob Merriman was a scholar, but in the 1930s he led a brigade of Americans against Franco. He was said to be a model for Ernest Hemingway's character Robert Jordan in For Whom the Bell Tolls.

American Commander, told from Marion's perspective, opens in Moscow in 1937. A telegram has just arrived, telling her that Bob has been wounded. Soon she is heading south to Spain to look for him, and she recalls:

"It was strange there on that French train to think of the faraway little University of Nevada in Reno with its quadrangle of lush green summer lawn where we had fallen in love nine years earlier. How long ago, I thought, how far the distance from that ivy-covered campus where, on frozen winter evenings, we had skated on a small icy lake and had huddled to warm ourselves by bonfires as we sang our college songs."

The evening was typical of Western Nevada in early summer. A glaze of stars brightened the vast dark sky. The nearly full moon illuminated the remnants of winter snow that highlighted the peaks of the Sierra Nevada.

We drove west of Reno, my girlfriends and I, on the old two-lane Highway 40 along the banks of the Truckee River. We parked the car in the village of Verdi and stepped into the chill June evening.

As we walked into the old dance hall I looked around and saw friends from Reno High School I had known for years. We drifted into conversations at the fringe of the dance floor, each of us looking about, wondering who the more interesting boys were that evening.

I noticed four young men watching us from across the dance floor. They were dressed in cords and argyle sweaters, brown and white saddle shoes, and long-sleeve shirts, neatly pressed, with sharp cuffs and crisp collars. One young man was very tall, well over six feet, I guessed. I watched as he talked with his friends and occasionally looked around the hall. He had a warm smile.

"Hi, I'm Bob Merriman," he said as he and the others walked over and joined us. "Would you like to dance?"

"Thank you," I found myself saying, a little nervously. "I'd be happy to."

I had to muster self-confidence. I hadn't dated much in high school or since. The

orchestra was shifting to a foxtrot, and I was not a good dancer. In fact, I was quite timid and a long way from graceful. Bob Merriman turned out to be an excellent dancer, however, and I felt secure in his arms.

"Are you going to the U. this fall?" he asked.

"Yes, I am. I'm looking forward to it," I smiled.

"Me, too."

I felt, almost immediately, that most of the people in the little dance hall were watching us. Bob Merriman made me feel not only comfortable, something I didn't always feel around boys, but even special.

"I thought I'd try it out, see how I like college," Bob said. "If I don't like it I can always go back to the lumber camps. There'll always be trees to cut." I thought I could detect, despite his uncertainty, a taste for adventure, as though he were talking about going off to China or Timbuktu rather than just up the hill to the campus overlooking Reno.

A few weeks later, as I walked toward the main gate of the campus on the first day of the college semester, I heard the brassy honk of a horn and turned to see a Dodge roadster with a rumble seat. Bob Merriman was at the steering wheel. "Hey, Marion," he called out. "Come on. Jump in. We'll go for a ride." He beamed as he reached across the front seat and pushed open the passenger door.

I slipped into the roadster and we were off. Bob drove south on Virginia Street, the main thoroughfare of Reno, past rows of white frame Victorian houses. When he saw a red light he slowed half a block away and inched the car along, almost lugging it to a halt, until the light turned green. Then he stepped on the gas and shot the roadster through the intersection. He turned toward me, eyes meeting mine, and laughed. I could see a sense of adventure at work, if only to challenge the system of the traffic lights.

The Reno of 1928 was a community of about 17,000 persons. Its quick divorces, speakeasies with illegal but flowing whiskey, and craps tables were reminiscent of the frontier era. Reno had, for decades, attracted characters from around the world, captains of commerce, mining, cattle, and railroading, and, always, its share of writers. Sherwood Anderson was one.

Growing up in Reno, we were proud of the dubious fame of our little city. I suppose it gave us an extra dimension, made us feel special to live in a place that drew such attention, even if it was the attention given to the slightly tainted, the risqué.

The University of Nevada was spread over a campus of Victorian buildings, mostly white frame, some of red brick. Some sported cupolas, others bell towers. Students relaxed beneath giant elm trees

Marion and Robert Hale Merriman, Nevada graduates on the battle lines, 1937



along the grassy shores of a small, picturesque pond called Manzanita Lake or on the grassy quad, the thick green center of the campus. The university was a community unto itself, situated at the north end of town with its stately ivy-covered library, small brick gymnasium, and classroom buildings and dormitories that accommodated about a thousand students.

The school's president, Dr. Walter E. Clark, told us in that late summer of 1928: "Our campus traditionally mingles hard work with a reasonable proportion of joyous play. Work and play alike help to develop intelligent, democratic, unselfish leaders." What Dr. Clark may not have fully realized was that he was describing a campus that also had come to be known around the Pacific Coast as a party school, probably because of its setting in speak-easy Reno.

We took quickly to college life, much of it centering around fraternities and sororities. I majored in English and Spanish, Bob in economics. Bob got a job at J. C. Penney's and, because of his discount there, quickly became one of the better dressed men on the campus.

Bob could be tough-minded and demanding, too much so at times. Once, when I used on him a bit of the humorous sarcasm I had learned from attempts to

keep up with my father's repartee, Bob responded, all too quickly, that sarcasm destroys both the person using it and the person at whom it's directed. It isn't fair, he said. What's more, he wouldn't stand for it. I challenged his sudden seriousness but agreed with his point.

At other times he could be open and vulnerable, seeking out help when frustrations overcame him. Once, about midway through college, Bob thought about quitting. Everything seemed to be going badly. He was becoming disillusioned with his fraternity brothers' hazing activities, which he felt were cruel, especially "tubbing" pledges in icy water until they passed out. He was offended by the fraternity and sorority system, believing it unfair and dehumanizing. We both knew students who would have been good fraternity or sorority members but who were not rushed because they lacked "snob appeal." The rejection shattered them. Bob realized that fraternity life exerted a tremendous pressure to conform and that he wanted to live by his own standards, not those imposed by a fraternity.

The social life on the Reno campus was consuming. We prowled about in Reno's speakeasies. Bob liked to play craps, and I tried my hand at blackjack. But I quickly concluded that the only winners are the people who own the tables, not the cus-

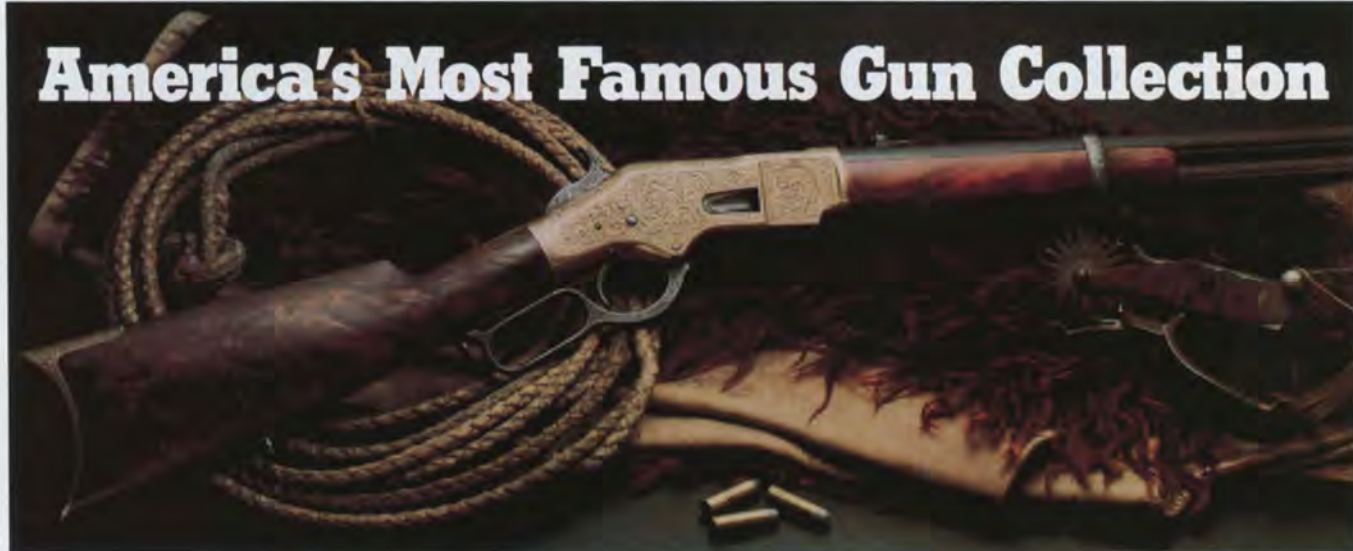
tomers, and I shared my thoughts with Bob. He laughed and said there wasn't anything wrong with gambling so long as you didn't risk more than you could afford to lose. He set a \$3 limit for himself and frequently ran the 25-cent bets up to the few dollars it would take to pay for our evening on the town.

To earn extra money, Bob signed up for advanced Reserve Officers Training Corps classes. The army paid the student cadets \$8.50 a month, and Bob always needed more money because he liked to spend it on our nights out, on clothes, and on keeping his Dodge roadster going. A fraternity brother, Tom Wilson, told a friend that "almost everyone hates ROTC but Bob Merriman loves everything about it."

But it was economics, not the military, that most captured his imagination. For Bob, economics was not simply a classroom subject but a concern about how people lived. Carefree 1928 had turned, after the crash of the stock market in 1929, into the Great Depression of the '30s; economics became a reality in the streets, not simply a textbook topic.

As our college years came to a close, we had mixed feelings—joy for the marriage we had long planned to coincide with graduation but trepidation about the worsening Depression. Bob knew he wanted to go

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on to graduate school at Berkeley so he could pursue his interest in economics.

We were unsure how we ought to go about getting married. We thought of eloping but also knew our friends would want to take part. We didn't have the money for a big wedding. The matter was resolved when Mrs. Ross [Marion lived with Silas and Emily Ross] called me one afternoon.

"Marion, will you give me an honest answer to a question?" she asked, seriously.

"Of course, Mrs. Ross," I replied.

"Were you and Bob married secretly?"

"No, but we are planning to get married," I said. I bit my lip against the temptation to add that we had not lived together either.

Very well, Mrs. Ross said, she and Mr. Ross would give us a formal wedding in June. I was flustered but grateful. I told her that while I was very appreciative, I wanted to talk to Bob. That didn't please Mrs. Ross, who still considered Bob far too liberal for a young woman in conservative Reno.

Bob and I agreed quickly that a big wedding would be fun, for us, for the Ross family, and for our many friends. So we set about the task of ordering tuxedos, a wedding gown, and special dresses for six bridesmaids.

On Monday, May 9, 1932, Bob and I joined 80 classmates in graduation ceremonies. We marched in procession along the grassy quad where we had strolled and studied during our four years at Nevada. We took our seats at the 10:30 a.m. commencement in the gymnasium. Bob was presented a second lieutenant's commission in the U.S. Army Officers Reserve Corps. We took our degrees, Bob's in economics, mine in English.

And that afternoon, I became Mrs. Robert Hale Merriman as 300 guests gathered for our four o'clock formal ceremony at St. Stephen's Chapel, just off the campus. Mrs. Ross welcomed everyone to a lavish reception at her home. She radiated over all the details, which included a bell of carnations that cost \$500.

We drove over the winding mountain road to Zephyr Cove at nearby Lake Tahoe for a brief honeymoon in a cottage in the pines. We spent the days on the warm sandy beach. We swam in the crystal-clear Tahoe waters. We strolled in the evenings, the pine needles and fragile little cones cracking beneath our feet. And we began to plan our new life on the campus at Berkeley. □

The preceding excerpt from American Commander in Spain is reprinted with permission. The 255-page hardcover book is \$16.95 and may be purchased at bookstores or from the University of Nevada Press, Reno, NV 89557

New on the Shelf

By Guy Shipler

Geology of the Great Basin: A Natural History, by Bill Fiero. University of Nevada Press, Reno, NV 89557 198 pages, \$22.50 hardcover, \$14.50 softcover.

This beautifully designed volume, with its scores of spectacular color photographs, provides far more than the average coffee-table decoration. Fiero, a professor of geology at UNLV provides a rare and badly needed layman's explanation of the awesome mystery of this vast "dry bowl." The Great Basin contains almost all of Nevada, half of Utah, and parts of Oregon, California, and Idaho. It adds up to a quarter of a million square miles, where "New England would be lost in one corner." Among Fiero's topics are minerals, fossils, mountain-building, caves, and volcanoes.

Forty Years in the Wilderness: Impressions of Nevada, 1940-1980, by James W. Hulse. University of Nevada Press, Reno, NV 89557 \$9.95, 141 pages, softcover.

The state's gambling industry is taken to task in this book by a distinguished Nevada native who is a former newsman and is now professor of history at the University of Nevada-Reno. Hulse, who is from Pioche, believes that a reliance on gaming

has hurt the state's growth in other ways. But aside from his controversial stance, Hulse's book contains a concise and highly informative history of the development of the state during those 40 years.

Nevada, by Clint McCullough. Lyle Stuart, Inc., Secaucus, N.J. 07094. \$19.95, 561 pages, hardcover.

This first novel closely follows the history of gambling in Nevada, including references to scores of real Nevadans like Benny Binion, Hank Greenspun, Vail Pittman, and Jim Cashman and casinos like Caesars Palace in Las Vegas and the Hyatt Tahoe and Cal-Neva Lodge at Lake Tahoe. McCullough skillfully weaves his soap-opera fiction with plenty of action and belt-level emotion.

Silver Hillside: The Life and Times of Virginia City, by Barbara Richnak. Comstock-Nevada Publishing, Box 6431, Incline Village, NV 89450. \$29.95, 200 pages, hardcover.

The publishers proclaim this volume to be special because of its "wealth of photographs"—about 220, largely from historical archives. The reproduction of the photographs is uneven, but all are well worth having in a single volume, especially since author Richnak has done a fine job of research for her well-written text. □

Guy Shipler of Carson City is a columnist and TIME/LIFE correspondent.

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Nuts About Pine Nuts

Ah, the feel of a gooey pine cone, the smell of nuts roasting on the campfire. There's something about pine nut hunting that really sticks to you.

By Jim Crandall

I greeted my first invitation to go pine nut hunting with a haughty sneer I was used to the tall, tall pines of the Sierra, where the cones are as big as watermelons. By contrast, pinyon pines seemed about as big as house plants, and their cones looked smaller than baseballs. I figured the nuts must be the size of BBs.

But my dyed-in-the-sage Nevada friend told me a few things about pine nuts. "They're huge, as big as peanuts," she said. What's more, for the Washoes, Paiutes, and Shoshones, the nuts were important everyday food. Nevada Indians ate pine nuts raw, roasted, and in soups and stews. They also used them to make bread and even mashed them into mush, which was served hot or cold.

The best time to get the nuts is in September, after the first frost, she said.

Before that the cones are covered with a sticky pine pitch and closed as tight as clams. After the first freeze, however, the pitch dries out and the cones open. Then the nuts fairly pop out.

My friend assured me that frost had hit the upper slopes, so we prepared for a three-day camp trip, loading sleeping bags, frying pans, and her two sons in the back of a '56 Chevy pickup. Then we headed for the Como Range east of Dayton, about 40 miles south of Reno.

We climbed into the hills and pulled under two tall cottonwoods near the ruins of the old mining camp of Como. The cones on the pinyons looked green, sticky, and unfrosted. I mentioned this fact to my friend, who was busy setting our stream-side camp in order. She just shrugged. "Maybe it'll frost tonight," she said. "If it

doesn't, I brought along a bottle of Wesson oil."

Oh. Lucky for that.

"What's the oil for?" I asked.

"You don't know anything, do you. You smear it all over your hands and arms so you don't get sticky when you pick green cones."

The next morning I awoke to the pleasant smells of coffee and bacon cooking on the campfire. I was handed a cup of java and a bottle of Wesson. "Let's go," she said, brandishing a broom handle with a hook on the end. "I found a great tree."

The tree was pretty big for a pinyon, about 25 feet high. I pointed out that there were no cones on the thick, lower branches.

"They're up there," she said, pointing her spear at the higher branches. "Can't

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you climb?"

I glanced longingly at the coffee pot and said casually, "Of course I can." I sprang for the lowest branch. In midair I remembered that my arms were as slippery as bear spit. I spun around the branch like a gymnast and dismounted like a klutz.

Deciding on a more methodical approach, I hoisted the kids into the tree. They expertly scampered to the higher branches and soon were sending down a shower of cones. I picked up one of the cones and immediately regretted it, since I'd wasted most of my protective oil on the earlier acrobatics. The cone stuck to my hand like a wad of flypaper.

The camp boss pried the glob from my hand. Then she took the cone and peeled back a leaf. Two brown nuts as big as, well, as big as peanuts popped into her hand. She continued to peel, stripping the cone of 14 healthy nuts. I stood agog.

Then I did something that changed my life: I cracked open the thin shell of a pine nut and ate the meat. My mouth filled with a sweet, delicious taste, and on the spot I became a pine nut fanatic.

I quickly polished off the handful of nuts, doused my hands with more oil, and grabbed another cone. I pried it open and greedily filled my hand with nuts. Gobbling, I searched the ground for more cones while directing the kids to climb higher and pick faster.

With the tone of the day set, my friend left for other trees that had cones on lower branches. Those that she couldn't reach by hand she yanked down with her broom-handle hook. The higher cones she saved for the kids.

That day we filled two gunnysacks, a pillowcase, and my knotted undershirt with cones. Finally, at dusk, she dragged me away from the trees and back to camp. "Don't eat too many nuts raw," she said. "Some people get sick."

She stoked the fire and put a piece of tin over it. Then she placed some cones on the tin. The heat dried the pitch and opened the cones. "This is what the cones look like after the first frost," she explained. "When they're like this on the tree, the kids can just climb up and shake the tree and the nuts fall to the ground like hail. All you have to do then is lay a couple sheets on the ground to catch the nuts."

She spread a layer of nuts in a frying pan, added some water and salt, and set the pan on the fire. A half-hour later we had roasted pine nuts. They were easier to crack and shell than the raw nuts. They also were a little harder but twice as tasty.

Nowadays as I travel through mountain passes in the fall, I study the pinyons, looking for cones. Not all trees bear nuts each season; the pinyons from which we'd picked that first year were barren the following two. But the trees just over the hill

Picking Those Nuts

Besides the fact that pine nut hunting is free, it's also a great excuse for an autumn camping trip. Daytime temperatures are mild in September and October, but it gets nippy at night, so make sure to pack heavy clothing and warm sleeping bags.

Pinyons grow in areas between 4,500 and 7,500 feet in elevation, which means you can find pine nuts on mountain ranges all over Nevada. The Bureau of Land Management and U.S. Forest Service don't require permits if you pick less than 25 pounds of nuts (about five large gunny sacks of green cones). If you plan to pick more than that, you'll need a commercial picking permit, which the BLM and Forest Service auction off with a minimum charge of 20 cents per pound of nuts picked. Commercial pickers harvest thousands of pounds of nuts each year, and the nuts sell in grocery stores for about \$4 per pound.

If you have questions about particular pine nut areas in Nevada, contact the following agencies. The area code is 702 throughout the state:

- Toiyabe National Forest (Western, Central, and Southern Nevada), 1200 Franklin Way, Sparks, NV 89431 (784-5331); or 550 East Charleston, Las Vegas, NV 89104 (388-6503).

- Humboldt National Forest (Northern and Eastern Nevada), 976 Mountain City Highway, Elko, NV 89801 (738-4071).

- Bureau of Land Management (state-wide), Box 12000, Reno, NV 89520 (784-5496); or for district offices: Box 26569, Las Vegas, NV 89126 (388-6403); 1535 Hot Springs Road, Suite 300, Carson City, NV 89701 (882-1631); Box 831, Elko, NV 89801 (738-4071).

Or contact the Nevada Commission on Tourism, Capitol Complex, Carson City, NV 89710 (885-3636). Ask for the free Nevada camping brochure that lists more than 150 public and private campgrounds and parks.—JC

from that camp were loaded with cones.

When I find a fruitful area, I've learned to wait patiently for the first frost. But I make sure to pack the Wesson oil, just in case. □

Jim Crandall is Nevada's Feature Editor.

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Raymond Craig
Whitehill



When Raymond Craig Whitehill quit his job as an air traffic controller at Los Angeles International Airport and moved to Dayton Valley in 1983, he didn't plan to paint cowboys or landscapes. He came to Nevada to paint airplanes. "The Reno Air Races is the most thrilling attraction on the aviation calendar," says Whitehill, who has attended the races since 1972. He's also intrigued by

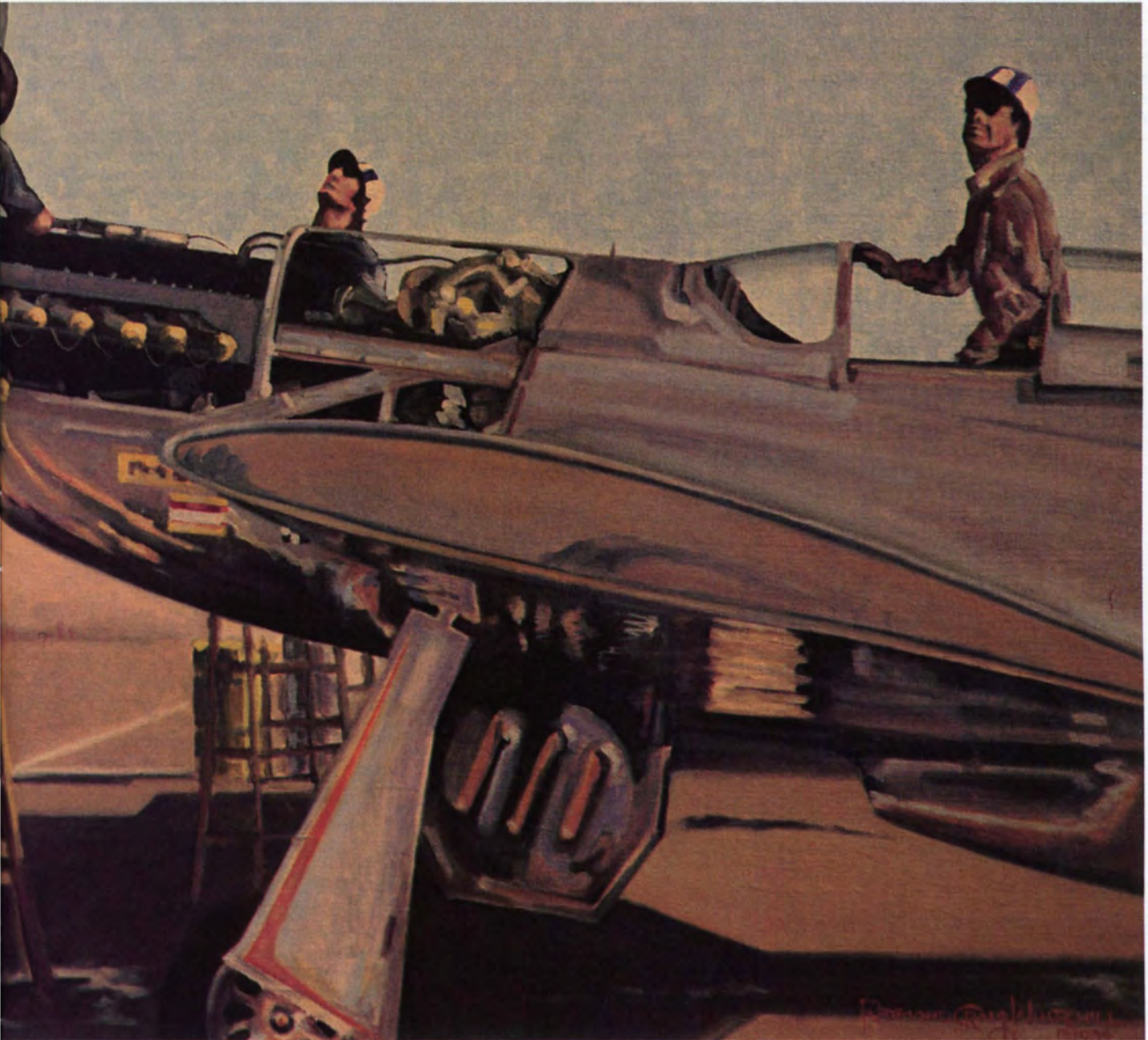
Nellis Air Force Base and the state's balloon races.

His fascination with flight comes naturally. His grandfather was a pilot in the German air force in World War I, and his uncle flew B-25 bombers in World War II. Whitehill studied art in high school in Southern California, but he didn't go to an art college. He joined the Air Force instead. After his tour of duty he moved to Carson City and discovered Nevada's busy skies. In 1976 he left for L.A., but he returned in 1983 with a private pilot's license.

To buy paint and pay the bills, Whitehill works at a Carson lumber yard and also runs a small graphics business. His work can be seen at Hangar Seven at the Carson Airport.—*Jim Crandall*



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Fall Season Hike, 21 10am Spooner Lake, Lake Tahoe State Park, 831-0494

Model Racing, 21 fairgrounds, 785-4307

Team Roping, 23-28, fairgrounds, 785-4307

Don Johnson Look-A-Like Contest, 25, open to all men over 21 Hacienda del Sol, 323-4107

Nevada Festival Ballet, 27-28, 2:15pm, Pioneer Theater, 329-2552

International Whistle-Off, 27-28, whistlers from U.S., Canada, Mexico, England, and Australia vie for titles in contemporary, classical, popular, novelty, and duet whistling, Mills Park, Carson City, 882-1565

Candy Dance Arts and Crafts Fair, 27-28, Mormon Station, Genoa, 782-2590

Art Show, 27-10/26, tapestries by Alexander Calder, Sierra Nevada Museum of Art, 329-3333

Hunter Pistol Silhouette Match, 28, Palomino Valley Gun Club, 22 miles north of Sparks, 323-3950

Art Show, 29-10/31 mixed media by Katrina Lasko, Manville Gallery, UNR School of Medicine, 784-6001



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Art Show, 1-25, paintings by Pat Holub, Brewery Arts Center, Carson City, 882-6411

"Macbeth Did It," 3-4, comedy, Proscenium Players, 8pm, Brewery Arts Center, Carson City, 883-1976

Yard Sale, 4, 8am-4pm, Roberts House Museum, Carson City, 882-5950

Oktoberfest, 4, sponsored by Municipal Band and Highlands Fire Auxiliary, school gym, Virginia City, 847-0465

Mike O'Callaghan Golf Classic, 4, benefit for the Easter Seal Capital Building Fund by Mike O'Callaghan, four-person scramble, \$200 entry, Edgewood Golf Course, Stateline, 359-2880

Horse Show, 4-5, fairgrounds, 785-4307

Canyon Hike, 5, bring water and sack lunch, 10am, call park for meeting place, Mormon Station Historic Monument, Genoa, 782-2590

Mexican Dance, 6, fairgrounds, 785-4307

Great Italian Festival, 6-12, grape stomping contests, spaghetti sauce cook-off, pasta making demonstrations, buffets, wine tasting, and music, Eldorado Hotel, 786-5700

Lecture, 7 by UNR Professor James Hulse on casinos and their role in development of the state, Nevada Historical Society, 789-0190

Classical Concert, 7 Reno Philharmonic, Pioneer Theater, 329-1324

Big Barne's Big Bandsound Orchestra, 10, dance contests, no host cocktails, 8pm-midnight, free, Chateau, Incline Village, 831 0781

Sensational Scarecrow Contest, 10, carnival, games, pumpkin sale, tricks and treats, Jessie Beck Elementary School, 826-0207

"Macbeth Did It," 10-11 comedy, Proscenium Players, 8pm, Brewery Arts Center, Carson City, 883-1976

National Country-Western Dance Festival, 10-12, contests, workshops, clogging, western art show, fairgrounds, 322-3355

Sonoma Horse Show, 10-19, fairgrounds, 785-4307

UNR v. Steven F. Austin, 11 football, Mackay Stadium, UNR, 784-4600

Tahoe Rim Trail Party, 11 top name entertainers, cocktail party, dinner, dance, auction, 6pm-2am, Harrah's Tahoe, 916-577-0676

Art Exhibit, 12-17 area painters and sculptors, Gold Hill Bank Gallery, 847-9106

Varmint Rifle Silhouette Match, 12, Palomino Valley Gun Club, 22 miles north of Sparks, 323-3950

"Macbeth Did It," 17-18, comedy, Proscenium Players, 8pm, Brewery Arts Center, Carson City, 883-1976

UNR v. Idaho, 18, football, Mackay Stadium, UNR, 784-4600

Art Show, 25, featuring realist artists, Lake Gallery, Tahoe City, 916-583-1002

UNR v. Eastern Washington, 25, homecoming football game, UNR, 784-4600

"Tosca," 25-26, Nevada Opera Assn., Pioneer Theater 786-4046

Smallbore Rifle Silhouette Match, 26, Palomino Valley Gun Club, 22 miles north of Sparks, 323-3950

Nevada Day Art Show, 27-11/7 Brewery Arts Center, Carson City, 882-6411

Contemporary Christian Music Concert, 28, Sandy Patti, Pioneer Theater, 786-5105

Haunted House, 29-11/1 Mills Park, Carson City, 882-3206

Photo Exhibit, 29-11/30, includes photos by Edward Weston, Ansel Adams, Brett and Cole Weston, Imogen Cunningham, Sierra Nevada Museum of Art, 329-3333

Halloween Party, 30, fairgrounds, 785-4307

Nevada Day Celebration, 31 the 122nd anniversary of Nevada's statehood includes pancake breakfast, parade, bed races, World Championship Single Jack Rock Drilling Contest, '50s and '60s car parade and dance; on 30th is the 1864 Grand Ball at Ormsby House, Carson City, 882-2600

MDA Fright Night, 31 costume party and dance, benefits Muscular Dystrophy Assn., Peppermill, 329-7727

Mexican Dance, 31 fairgrounds, 785-4307

Carson Indian Colony Powwow, 31-11/2, follows the Nevada Day parade and features competitive dancing by groups from western Indian tribes, authentic arts and crafts, Little Princess contest, traditional hand games, tug-of-war, jackrabbit run, horseshoes, and Indian foods, Carson Indian Colony, 2900 S. Curry St., Carson City, 885-9759 or 883-6431

GAMING TOURNAMENTS

Here's a listing of gaming tournaments scheduled this summer in Reno and Lake Tahoe. Call ahead for details.

September

Handicapping, 2-5, Caesars Tahoe, 588-3531

Slots, 5-7 Caesars Tahoe, 588-3531

Keno, 5-7 Caesars Tahoe, 588-3531

Slots, 8, 25, and 29, Comstock Hotel, 329-1880

Keno, 14-15, Comstock Hotel, 329-1880

October

Slots, 6 and 27 Comstock Hotel, 329-1880

Blackjack, 17-18, Comstock Hotel, 329-1880

Poker, 21-24, Caesars Tahoe, 588-3531

Craps, 24-26, Peppermill, 826-2121 ext. 600

Dice, 25-26, Caesars Tahoe, 588-3531

COMING ATTRACTIONS

November

Las Vegas Senior Classic Golf Tournament, 6-9, 733-4488

St. Jude's Ranch for Children Nite of Stars, 21 Las Vegas, 293-3131

Carson City International Pro Rally, 21-23, 883-7442

December

Grand Prix of Poker, 1-19, Las Vegas, 385-7111

National Finals Rodeo, 5-13, Las Vegas, 731 2115

Parade of Lights, 13, Callville Bay Marina, Lake Mead, 293-2034

A Reminder: To confirm dates and times, use the phone numbers listed with each event. For out-of-state callers, the area code is 702 throughout Nevada. □

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The Great Coyote Hunt

Our desert ride was just like an English fox hunt, except that it was done the Nevada way.

By Don Hossack

One weekend last winter I received an offer to go on the Nevada version of a fox hunt. It was that mid-time of year in the Sierra when the horses are off to pasture and there isn't enough snow for skiing, so riding of any kind sounded good. I loaded up some English gear, which I had from a brief fling with jumping horses, and headed out to the desert.

As I had been told, the outfit known as the Red Rock Hounds was located 40 miles north of Reno. The trip down out of the snow and into the desert was beautiful and peaceful. In no way did it prepare me for what I saw as I turned into Thoroughbred Crossing.

About 25 people were waiting in the driveway. The few guys there, like me, were between 40 and 60, but the majority of the riders were some of the prettiest women I've ever seen. All were dressed up as if they were going to a fashion ball. They wore red coats and black coats with tails over white pants. They had fancy hair all piled up with pretty pins and top hats. They drank demurely from little silver cups. The horses, standing nearby, were big thoroughbreds with ribbons and wrapped feet and elegant little saddles. I'm a good ol' quarter horse man, but those monster 17-hand thoroughbreds were enough to shake anybody up. And the idea of those pretty ladies getting up on them, let alone riding them, just seemed impossible.

A tall, slender, gorgeous thing came

over and said, "Would you like a stirrup cup?" She handed me a little silver goblet full of straight booze. Just then Lynn Lloyd, who runs the Red Rock Hounds outfit, waltzed out with James, a horse that looked about 20 feet tall. "James is an old thoroughbred open jumper. You should like him just fine for your first hunt." James just looked down his nose at me.

Soon the ground was covered with a brown and white moving carpet as 40 hounds barked and jumped around. When a woman with a red coat and horn rode slowly off, the dogs moved with her like a huge skirt. Then a lady in a top hat and tails rode up beside me on a monster gray horse. "Lynn says I'm to help you get through your first hunt," she said. Well, if I was going to get help, this was the way to get it.

She explained the rules of the hunt. "Rule one," she said, "is that you never pass the Hunt Master. It will cost you a bottle of Jack Daniels, but the main reason is the dogs. She works right behind the dogs and if you pass her, you will be in them. No fun stepping on dogs. Also, there are two Out Riders or Whips. They work with the Hunt Master to keep everything together. We follow the Hunt Master and the hounds, not the Out Riders."

I asked her if she thought there was much chance we would raise a coyote, which out here replaces the English fox. She gave me a half grin and said that the coyotes had been barking down at the kennels just before I got there. "You see, this is really a game for the coyotes. The dogs just don't know it."

When the dogs started to bray, I sat on James, enjoying the beautiful sound. Then all hell broke loose. The 17 mounts moved like the start of an English horse race—all together at full speed. The only difference was that we weren't riding on a beautiful manicured lawn. Reality was good old Nevada desert, the kind you wander through on Sunday afternoon with your favorite dog and a cold beer, going around the sagebrush and rocks and then back for some more cold beer. It should have been nice easy riding, but this time it was 30 mph, side by side, with no place else to go.

I might have been ready for jumping over the fences. I was not, however, ready for jumping sagebrush. In the first 100 yards we had been averaging a jump per stride, and the strides were coming faster. Every time James jumped, he was planning on where he was going to land. He didn't do this before he jumped; he did it in midair.

I've spent years in the saddle, but never in my wildest dreams had I ridden like this. I figured the whole kit and caboodle would come to a screeching halt in about a minute because no one, man or beast, could keep this up for very long. But it didn't.

Somehow the sheer fear began to work off, and everybody was absorbed in the chase. Yelling, barking, the sound of many hooves all in one gigantic race across the desert at speeds I didn't believe—the sensation was a lot like flying an airplane at low altitude. Your mind goes into slow motion. Bits and pieces are flailing around, but the whole mass moved as one. We banked to the left. Mountains moved across my horizon as rocks passed below me. I yelled at the lady who had taken me under her wing. She was alongside me. There were tears coming out of her eyes from the cold, and mascara was running across the side of her face, but she was grinning. "How long can the coyote keep going?" I yelled. She laughed and kept grinning.

Through gasps and crashes as we landed from each jump, I managed to make out that this was the third coyote. The coyote and dogs were running in a large circle. When they would run by a den, the coyote would duck in and another would take off. The dogs would follow whatever was moving, and it appeared we were doomed to an endless circle, trapped on a merry-go-round. Finally, no more coyote. We suddenly were in a huge group with dogs underfoot and horses charging in from all directions.

The Hunt Master yelled, "Good go!" or some such nonsense, and we managed to tramp off further into the desert. Up came another coyote and off again went the whole circus. The rest of the day continued like that. There was no way the horses could keep up—but they did.

When the lead riders finally called off the hunt, there was a devilish race back to the ranch. All horses seem to find energy from some unknown source when it's time to go home, and James was no exception. The return trip involved jumping fence poles placed between granite boulders.

I learned another important rule that day: You have to buy the Hunt Master a bottle not only if you pass the leader but also if you fall. I wasn't surprised at all to see one of the finest stocked bars in Nevada when we arrived back at the ranch. Just ahead of us a caterer had laid out a beautiful spread.

While I was making a pig of myself at the buffet, Dr. Fritz introduced himself. He had been one of the Out Riders that day, and he told me it wouldn't take long for me to get in shape. "Two or more hunts ought to do it," he said. Dr. Fritz looked immaculate in his scarlet coat and top hat. "How long did it take you?" I asked. "You're drinking my liquor," he said with a grin. Most of the bottles in the Hunt Master's bar turned out to be his. □

Don Hossack lives, writes, and rides in Truckee, California.

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Kirk Whisler

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 Yes—only the past year
 No

4. Do you use the Calendar of Events section to help plan your activities?
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 B. _____

7. What are the names of your two favorite comedians?
 A. _____
 B. _____

8. What are the names of your two favorite actors?
 A. _____
 B. _____

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 Nevada people
 Original artwork
 Rural scenic views
 Urban places

10. Which of the following would improve this publication? (check as many as you wish)
 Improving the quality of the writing
 Publishing more frequently
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 Improvement of the quality of paper or printing
 Coverage of more controversial issues
 More travel information
 Longer stories
 Shorter stories
 Improving the quality of graphics/art work
 Other _____

11. What are the subjects you would like to see more of in the magazine? (check 5)
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 Calendar of Events
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 History
 Hotel-Casinos
 Interviews with stars
 Lake Tahoe
 Las Vegas
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 Recreation guides
 Reno
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 Travel tips

12. Please rate Nevada Magazine as your source of information about the Silver State's events, people, history, recreation, and entertainment. (check one)
 Only source of information
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13. Do you usually make your travel arrangements through a travel agent?
 Yes
 No

14. If yes, does the travel agent influence your choice of lodging?
 Yes
 No

15. In 1986, how many trips of over 100 miles will you, or another household member, take?

	1	2	3	4	5	6 or more
For Business	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
For Pleasure	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

16. Listed below are departments that appear in Nevada Magazine. Please indicate how interested you are in each.

	Very Interested	Interested	Not Interested
Current Affairs	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hotel-Casinos	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Places (cities, towns)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Outdoor Recreation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Photo Features	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
History	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Calendar of Events	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
People	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Gaming	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Show Business	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Art and Artists	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
What to Do in Town	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Books	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
David Muench's Gallery	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Back Page	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Showguide	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Southern Nevada Show Notes	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Northern Nevada Show Notes	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Editorial	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Letters	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Nevada Notes	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Roadside Attractions	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

17. How many HOURS a week do you spend: (check answers)

	0	1	2-3	4-6	7-9	10-14	15-19	20+
Reading newspapers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Reading magazines	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Reading books	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Listening to the radio	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Watching TV	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Listening to tapes/records	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

18. Check all the locations that you or another household member will travel to in 1986:

- Las Vegas
- Reno
- Lake Tahoe
- Rural Nevada
- Atlantic City
- California
- The Southwest
- Hawaii
- Elsewhere in the United States
- Canada
- Mexico
- Caribbean
- South America
- Europe
- Other: _____

19. What percent of your travel is spent in Nevada? _____ %

20. When you travel overnight away from home, do you stay in hotels or motels? (check one)
 All of the time
 Most of the time
 Rarely
 Never

21. How many times per month do you or members of your household eat in restaurants? (check one)
 Less than 5 times
 5-9 times
 10-19 times
 20-29 times
 Never dine out

22. What means of transportation have you or other members of your household used in the past year? (check as many as apply)

- Bus (charter)
- Bus (commercial)
- Camper/RV
- Commercial airline
- Cruise ship
- Leased car
- Private airplane
- Private boat
- Rented car
- Train
- Van
- Off-road vehicle
- Motorcycle

23. In 1986, how much do you estimate that members of your household combined will spend on business and pleasure travel? (i.e., hotels, air fare, meals and gifts purchased away from home, etc.) (check one)

- None
- Less than \$200
- \$200 \$499
- \$500 \$749
- \$750 \$999
- \$1,000 \$2,499
- \$2,500 \$5,000
- Over \$5,000

OVER PLEASE

24. In 1986, how much will the combined members of your household spend on gambling? (check one)

- None
- \$1 \$99
- \$100 \$299
- \$300 \$499
- \$500 \$999
- \$1,000 \$2,499
- \$2,500 \$5,000
- Over \$5,000

25. When gambling, what percentage of your time do you allocate to each game?

- ____ % Slots
- ____ % Blackjack
- ____ % Craps
- ____ % Electronic games
- ____ % Keno
- ____ % Baccarat
- ____ % Other _____
- ____ Never gamble

26. How many of each of these shows did you see in the past year?

- ____ Big name stars
- ____ Revues
- ____ Broadway shows
- ____ Lounge shows

27. Of the following items, which do you: (check as many as apply)

	Presently Own	Also intend to purchase in the next 12 months?
Art valued over \$100	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Automobile	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Boat	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Camera equipment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Camping equipment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Color television set	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Fishing equipment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Furniture	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Home appliances	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Home computer	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Major home remodeling	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
RV	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Stereo components	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Truck	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Video tape recorder	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Western clothing	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

28. Do you or other household members have: (check as many as apply):

- American Express card
- Checking account
- Department store charge card
- Gasoline credit card
- Mastercard/VISA
- Savings account
- Any car rental card

29. Have you made a mail order purchase in the past year from information obtained from:

- (check as many as apply)
- Magazines
- Catalog
- Information mailed to you
- Newspapers
- Television
- Haven't made any such purchases

30. How many cigarette smokers are there in your household?

	0	1	2
Male smokers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Female smokers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

31. Which of the following magazines do you subscribe to or buy regularly (that is, 3 out of every 4 issues)? (check as many as apply)

- City Review
- Fortune or other business magazine
- Gambling Times
- International Star
- Las Vegas
- LV
- Nevada Business
- People
- Sunset
- Territorial Enterprise
- Time or other newsweekly
- Travel & Leisure or other travel magazine
- TV Guide

32. Check the amount of education you have received: (check one)

- Non High School Grad
- High School graduate
- Some College
- College graduate or more

33. What is your occupation? (check one)

- Manager/Proprietor
- Military
- Professional/Technical
- Sales
- Service worker
- Assembler
- Clerical
- Craftsman/Foreman
- Laborer
- Unemployed
- Homemaker
- Retired
- Student

34. Within the next two years will any household member be looking for a job or making a career change?

- Yes
- No
- Don't know

35. In which of the following activities have you or other members of your household participated during the past year? (please check all that apply)

- Antique or art shopping
- Bicycling
- Boating
- Camping or backpacking
- Collecting (coins, etc.)
- Cross-country skiing
- Downhill skiing
- Fishing
- Gambling
- Going to show or concert
- Golf
- Hiking
- Hunting
- Horseback riding
- Photography
- Snowmobiling
- Tennis
- Water skiing

36. How old are you? _____

37. What is your sex? _____

38. How many people live in your household including yourself? _____

39. How many of those people, including yourself, are 18 or over? _____

40. In regards to home ownership, do you: (check as many as apply)

- Own a house in Nevada
- Own property in Nevada
- Own a house outside Nevada
- Rent

46. I give Nevada Magazine gift subscriptions because: (check as applies)

- It helps friends and family with travel plans
- They enjoy the history
- They quit stealing my issues
- I like to brag about Nevada
- They thank me all year long
- It's a unique gift that is always welcomed
- I haven't given Nevada Magazine as a gift

48. What would you like to say to the staff of Nevada Magazine?

41. Do you plan to purchase a house or property in Nevada within the next two years?

- Yes
- No

42. What was your total household income in 1986? (check one)

- Less than \$10,000
- \$10,000 14,999
- \$15,000 19,999
- \$20,000 24,999
- \$25,000 34,999
- \$35,000 49,999
- \$50,000 74,999
- \$75,000 or more

43. What is your zip code?

44. What was your favorite feature in this issue? (check only two)

- None
- Underground Sea
- Showroom Survival
- Cowboy Classics
- Pioche Gunfighters
- Molly Knudtsen
- Las Vegas Jazz
- Pine Nuts
- All of them, I read the entire issue!

45. Which two Nevada events did you enjoy the most this year?

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- (3) Boozy Burros go bar hopping in Las Vegas;
- (4) Lonely Prospector;

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