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# NEVADA

Volume 47, Number 1

January/February 1987

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# Letters

## Photography, Signs, and Barnyard Hams

### Showroom Survivalists

I read a great article in your fall issue. As a travel agent I found "Showroom Survival" to be most informative. I would like permission to copy that article and give it to my Las Vegas customers with their travel tickets.

I know first-time visitors to Nevada can almost taste Nevada from your magazine, so now it is on our lobby coffee table. I hate to give it up.

Mike Owens  
Minneapolis, MN.

### How About Them Hogs?

We've been subscribing to *Nevada Magazine* for eight years and were about ready to discontinue. But I opened the latest issue to page 49 this morning and got such a chuckle from the photo of the two pigs that I decided it was worth another year.

Elva Rogers  
Carson City, NV.

My wife and I have been enjoying your great state for the past 12 years and your magazine for five years. We both look forward to each issue, and especially look forward to each annual visit. As



you can see by the photo above, I want everyone to know that "You've Got A Friend In Pennsylvania." Keep up the good work and I will continue to promote you from here.

Robert C. Cirbus  
Warminster, PA.

### Setting the Signs Straight

I regret to report that Rob Powers' story, "Bright City Lights" (Nov/Dec '86) turned up as little more than a thinly-veiled promotional piece for Young Electric Sign Company. We had expected more objectivity from the pages of *Nevada Magazine*.

For those of us who have invested a major part of our lives in the creation of Nevada's electric sign environment, proper crediting of these achievements is of great personal concern, and "City

Lights" misses the mark on several counts.

It is quite evident the story angle was established early on and based almost entirely on input from one source—the Young organization. From a historical perspective, crediting Tom Young, Sr. for his early sign contributions in Nevada is altogether fitting and proper; but the *major body* of true Las Vegas sign "spectaculars" installed over the past 20 years has been created by others (principally Ad Art, Inc. and Heath) and this fact was entirely ignored.

The story's biggest gaff, of course, was in the Stardust sign credits. Designed and installed by Ad Art (not YESCO, as the article states) in 1967-68, the Stardust pylon has for many years been voted, by the residents of Las Vegas, the supreme example of electric sign art. Its porte cochere and light facade were also created by Ad Art as were adjacent "Strip" "spectaculars," the Frontier, MGM, Caesars Palace, and Flamingo (original pylon signs), Vegas World, Maxim, Las Vegas Hilton, Dunes "Oasis," Aladdin (porte cochere), Holiday Casino, El Rancho (pylon and porte cochere) and many downtown signs.

Charles Barnard  
V.P./Executive Art Director  
Ad Art, Inc.  
Stockton, CA.

Thank you for your views and the correction on the Stardust sign. And we regret that you felt Ad Art was slighted in the story. When we first talked to Rob Powers about the story, much of the focus was to be on some of Las Vegas' most prominent signs, and that led largely to YESCO, although in the case of the Stardust, Ad Art certainly should have been given credit. Thanks for setting it straight.—Ed.

### Muench Fan Gives Warning

If you ever quit printing those fabulous David Muench photographs, I will not be responsible for my actions.

James M. McCloud  
Las Vegas, NV

McCloud, we feel the same way. As you'll see in this issue, the center "Gal-

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## Letters

lery" will start featuring various photographers, but rest assured David Muench will be among them. His work hopefully will appear with features, too, as he makes future Nevada photography trips.—Ed.

### Help For New Explorers

Coming from a small town in the Colorado Rockies to the city of Las Vegas was a great change but a nice one. *Nevada Magazine* was our first subscription upon arrival and has helped us learn a great deal about the historic state we adopted as our home. We can hardly wait to get out and experience the things we have read about.

We enjoy the magazine tremendously. Hopefully you'll be able to go monthly soon.

Don and Jenny Bell  
Las Vegas, NV

### The Heart of Creation

We live between Beowawe and Crescent Valley. Year before last, a fire swept through our place so fast that it didn't

even scorch the tires on the horse trailer. Last year a fire came within an easy half mile of us. This year, so far, no fires in our valley, tho' there was one in the next valley, Whirlwind Valley, where the geysers and the new geothermal power plant are located.

For two years in a row the grasshoppers have eaten us bare. This year they were aided by Mormon Crickets. Because of the fires, we are surrounded by miles and miles of cheat grass, and because of the hoppers, the only green thing on the place is a bell pepper plant which I have encased in a screen cage. Oh, yes, and the very top of a struggling red delicious apple tree. They even ate the onions, chives, and garlic. Very discouraging!

Will we move? No way!

We sat our mobile home kitty-cornered to the property to get the best view of "our mountains" and "our valley."

We are not completely isolated—we can see our neighbors' houses, some one-and-a-half miles distant. We can also see

the two TV relay stations—very important, since we point the antenna toward one or the other, according to whether we want to watch channel 2 or channel 8. At the far end of the valley, on the side of the mountain we can see Cortez Gold Mine.

We frequently see coyotes, and for our little friends, the foxes, we keep a tub of water below the fence. Every night, when we turn off the light plant, the foxes come to drink, and our small dog, Rocky, runs out to yell at them. Later, they bark and he goes out to play with them.

We have been told that this is at least the belly-button of creation; however, we prefer to think of it as the heart.

Any place in Northern Nevada would suit us, but we are here, in this remote corner of Eureka County, and although we don't think *Nevada Magazine* gives our part of the country enough coverage or credit, we are satisfied with both our part of the country and with the magazine.

Roy and Pat Garate  
Beowawe, NV.

### Marilyn Remembered

I have always enjoyed your fabulous magazine, but "The Misfits Revisited" in Nov/Dec brought back special memories for me.

I was at the magazine stand in the Holiday Hotel one afternoon when Marilyn Monroe came in from the day's shooting, wearing a sheer white blouse, checkered slacks, and a big straw hat; she lent credence to the rumor that she wore no undergarments! (I'd heard she'd had a disagreement about a mattress, hence the move to the Holiday from the Mapes.) Leaving her entourage for a moment, she paused at the magazine rack. I watched with curiosity to see which one she would pick; she chose *Sunshine and Health*.

Thanks again for great memories of *The Misfits* and of Reno when it was small, smogless, and simply beautiful.

Sandy Marler  
Reno, NV.

I enjoy the magazine—it's very well written. My copies keep disappearing while other good magazines I buy keep accumulating.

Mrs. G. L. Jenkins  
Victoria, TX.

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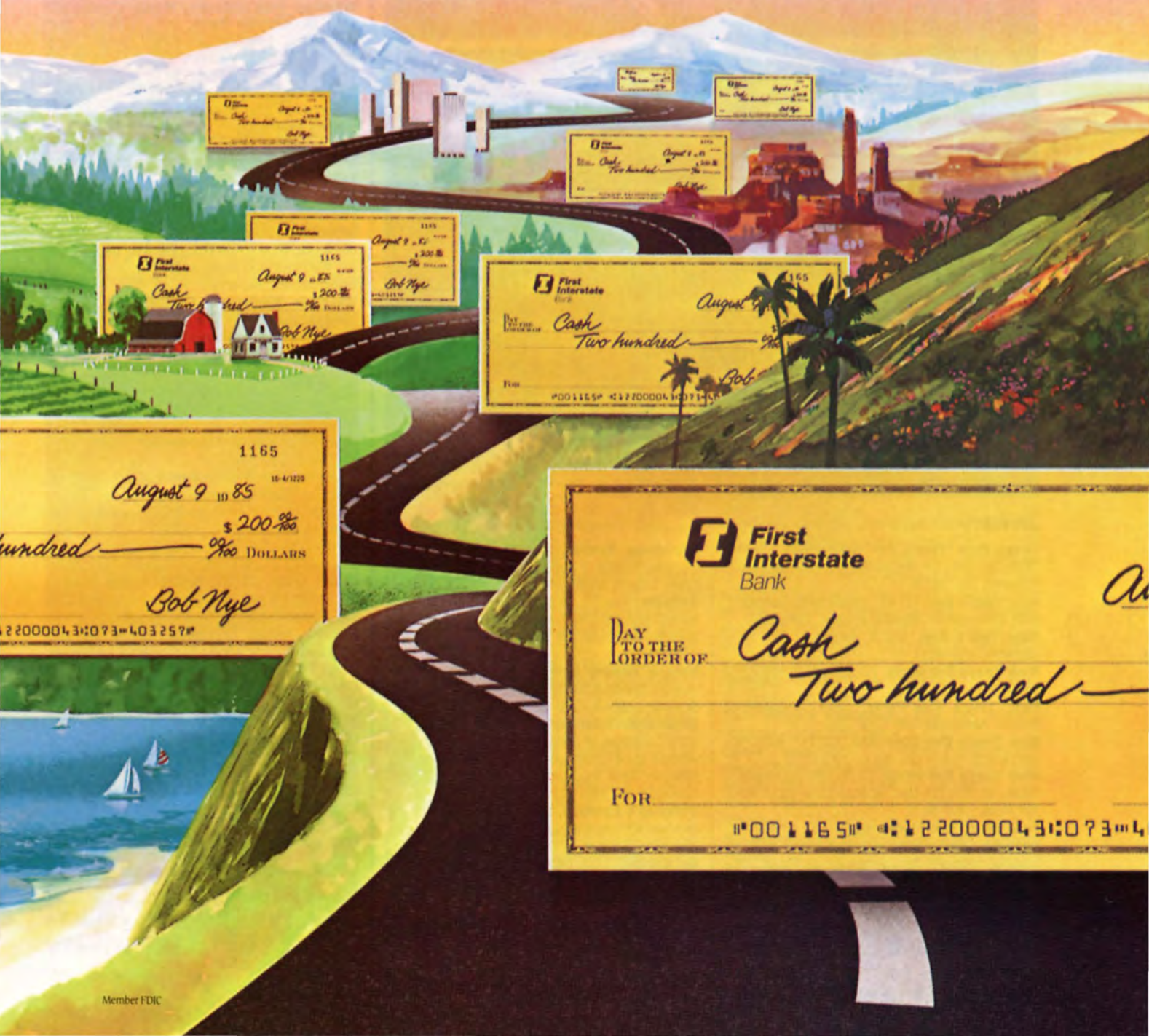
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# The Nevada Calendar



Red Rock's rugged pastels form the backdrop for a two-mile hike Jan. 10. Jacket required.

## January

**Great New Year's Eve Alternative**, 12/31 "Side by Side by Sondheim," Las Vegas Little Theatre, 731-5958

**New Year's Eve**, 12/31 "Legends in Concert," Fifth Dimension, Imperial Palace, 794-3261

**New Year's Eve**, 12/31, Kingston Trio, Four Queens, 385-4011

**New Year's Eve Party**, 12/31 La Mirage, 733-7777

**New Year's Eve Party**, 12/31 Peppermill Resort, Mesquite, 346-5232

**New Year's Eve Gala Ball**, 12/31, Keith Hall Orchestra, Flamingo Hilton, 733-3100

**New Year's Eve Party**, 12/31 Rocky Sennes' "Roaring '20s Revue," Holiday Casino/Holiday Inn Hotel, 369-5222

**New Year's Eve Fireworks**, 12/31 at 8pm will be a 15-minute fireworks show plus a short burst at midnight; 9pm dance, Union Plaza, 386-2319

**New Year's Celebration**, 12/31-1/1, Lady Luck, 384-4680

**Nevada 86**, thru 4, Elko museum's photo show, Valley of Fire State Park, 397-2088

**Christmas Exhibit**, thru 12, for 1920s-'30s Beckley House is decorated in historic fashion, Clark County Museum, Henderson, 565-0907

**Exhibits**, thru 18, on musk oxen, plus contemporary Eskimo prints and documentary photographs, Museum of Natural History, UNLV, 739-3381

**Natural History Exhibit**, thru 10/87 on wild horses, Nevada State Museum and Historical Society, Lorenzi Park, 385-0115

**Silver State Telephone Pioneers Exhibit**, thru 12/87 display of historic telephone equipment with an exhibit that lets you place a phone call, Nevada State Museum and Historical Society, Lorenzi Park, 385-0115

**Children's Exhibits**, thru 11/88, return of the children's museum, Nevada State Museum and Historical Society, Lorenzi Park, 385-0115

**Art Exhibit**, 1-31 petrostones made of baked clay and watercolors of Southwest scenes by Chris Nield, Lost City Museum, Overton, 397-2193

**UNLV v. UC Irvine**, 3, basketball, Thomas and Mack Center, UNLV, 739-3900

**Lost City Exhibit**, 5-2/27 on the prehistoric Pueblo villages near Overton, Clark County Museum, Henderson, 565-0907

**UNLV v. San Jose State**, 8, basketball, Thomas and Mack Center, UNLV, 739-3900

**"Salome,"** 8, Las Vegas Opera Company, 8pm, Ham Hall, UNLV, 739-3420

**Laughlin Dixieland Jazz Festival**, 9-11, bands in all 6 casinos, Laughlin, 298-2214

**"Side By Side By Sondheim,"** 9-11 musical revue of Stephen Sondheim's favorite Broadway tunes by Las Vegas Little Theatre, \$6 adults, discounts for seniors and students, Grant Hall Theatre, UNLV, 731-5958

**Whiskey Pete's/Nissan World Championship Motorcycle Race**, 9-11 \$35,000 cash purse, 150-mile cross-country desert race, 300-350 racers, Whiskey Pete's, 1-15 at the California border, 457-5775

**Grand Opening Celebration**, 9-17 for new showroom and casino sections, Holiday Casino, 369-5000

**Art Show**, 9-2/4, new sculpture by Walter McNamara, opening reception 5-7pm on 9th, Allied Arts Gallery, 731-5419

**UNLV v. Utah State**, 10, basketball, Thomas and Mack Center, UNLV, 739-3900

**Moenkopi Ridge Walk**, 10, easy 2-mile walk starting at BLM's Red Rock Canyon Visitor Center, 9:30am-noon, bring quart of water and wear warm jacket, 363-1921

**Wladimir Kochanski Concert**, 11 pianist, 3pm, Charleston Heights Arts Center, 386-6383

**Planetarium Program Opening**, 15, multimedia presentation about the ability of early Polynesian cultures to navigate the Pacific Ocean in canoes, The Planetarium, Clark County Community College, North Las Vegas, 644-5059

**Traditional Karate Tournament**, 15-18, Frontier Hotel, 734-0385

**"Side By Side By Sondheim,"** 15-18, musical revue of Stephen Sondheim's favorite Broadway songs by Las Vegas Little Theatre, Grant Hall Theatre, UNLV, 731-5958

**Exhibit**, 15-2/27 on winter activities in early Las Vegas, Clark County Museum, 565-0907

**Opera Gala**, 17 the Nevada Opera Theatre Orchestra, guest artists, and chorus, 8pm, \$100, Judy Bayley Theatre, UNLV, 451-6331

**Nevada Special Olympics**, 18, mentally and physically handicapped participants, Landmark Hotel, 733-1420

**Concert**, 18, Kalman Banya on violin, Virko Baley on piano, 2pm, Ham Hall, UNLV, 739-3420

**Modern Dance**, 20, 8pm, Repertory Dance Theatre, Charleston Heights Arts Center, 386-6383

**Concert**, 21 Yuhudi Menuhin with the Warsaw Chamber Ensemble, 8pm, Ham Hall, UNLV, 739-3535

**UNLV v. Cal State Long Beach**, 22, basketball, Thomas and Mack Center, UNLV, 739-3900

**"Hansel and Gretel,"** 23 and 25, 8pm Fri., 2pm Sun., Las Vegas Opera Company, Judy Bayley Theatre, UNLV, 739-3420

(Continued on page 10)



## Nightlife

### SOMERS' SWEET SUCCESS

By Pete Mikla

When Suzanne Somers made her celebrated exit from the popular *Three's Company* TV series after a salary dispute, the actress, famous as a dizzy blonde comedian, began building a nightclub act as a singer-dancer.

She worked in clubs around the country, including Las Vegas showrooms, as an opening act for major stars. Then, three years ago, against the advice of several friends, she agreed to headline the "Moulin Rouge" stage spectacular at the Las Vegas Hilton.

"A lot of people told me not to do it, but I decided to take the chance, and it turned out to be very successful for me," she says. "Las Vegas entertainment directors saw that I could draw a pretty good crowd."

"Moulin Rouge" is gone from the Las Vegas scene, but Somers is still on the Strip—as a headliner. She's appearing in her third engagement at the Desert Inn with the Smothers Brothers—and an opening engagement as a part-time resident.



"I love working in Nevada so much, my husband Alan Hamel and I have built a house in Las Vegas," Somers says. "It's out in the desert away from town, and it's really refreshing to be able to come to work here and not have to stay in a hotel room the whole time. It's great to get up in the morning in a serene, quiet atmosphere and just do whatever I want to do around the house. It's hard to believe that the glitter and bustle of the Strip are only a few miles away."

Although she is still interested in TV, Suzanne's current priority is showroom work. However, despite what some people might think, she isn't simply killing time until a new TV series comes along, she says. "Last summer I turned down an offer to appear in a miniseries because it would require eight weeks of filming. I had more weeks than that booked in show-

rooms and theaters, so I turned it down." And her work has brought recognition; in 1985 she was named female Las Vegas Entertainer of the Year.

Somers' show, which revolves around her likable presence, includes high-stepping numbers with a flying wing of boy and girl dancers, comedy routines, and songs ranging from pop to torch. In one of the show's funniest moments she invites a man from the audience to join her onstage for a duet—and, smiling but red-faced, he gets through it, coaxed by the cheerful star.

When it's time for a change, Somers does the rearranging herself.

"To me, a nightclub act is supposed to be a personal part of you," she explains. "The audience comes to see you, and you have to be yourself. You're not playing a character like on TV or in the movies. Writers can't capture your own personal humor and feelings. There is only one line in my whole show that was written by a professional comedy writer. The rest is me."

Suzanne Somers appears with the Smothers Brothers on Dec. 26-Jan. 14 at the Desert Inn's Crystal Room.

## Showguide

**Bally's Las Vegas**, 739-4567: Ziegfeld Theatre: "Jubilee!" indf., *Celebrity Room*: Wayne Newton, 12/26-1/7: Dom Deluise/Charo, 1/8-14; Dean Martin, 1/15-21; Tom Jones, 2/12-25; Tony Bennett and the Count Basie Orchestra, 2/26-3/4

**Barbary Coast**, 737-7111: Entertainment nightly

**Bourbon Street**, 737-7200: "Here's Entertainment," musical comedy revue, indf., 8pm, 10pm

**Caesars Palace**, 731-7333: George Carlin, 1/1-4; Patti LaBelle/Jay Leno, 1/7-22 (dark 1/13 and 1/20); Bill Cosby/Sammy Davis, Jr., 1/23-29

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

**Desert Inn**, 733-4566: Suzanne Somers/Smothers Brothers, 12/26-1/14; Janie Fricke, 1/15-2/4; Rich Little/Susan Anton, 2/5-25; Ray Stevens/Louise Mandrell, 2/26-3/11

**Dunes**, 737-4110: Lounge entertainment

**Edgewater**, Laughlin, 298-2453: Lounge entertainment nightly

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

**Four Queens**, 385-4011: Dondino, thru 2/7; Kingston Trio, 12/30-1/4; Sun Spots, thru 1/11; Dondino, thru 2/7; Frank Sinatra, Jr., 1/6-18; Van-Dells, 1/20-2/1; Platters, 2/3-15; Monday Night Jazz

**Frontier**, 734-0240: Siegfried & Roy in "Beyond Belief," 12/30-indf. (dark Mon.) with family performances (no nudity) 1/3 and 2/6

**Golden Nugget**, 386-8100: David Brenner, 1/1-4

**Hacienda**, 798-0571: Minsky's Burlesque, indf.

**Holiday**, 369-5222: "Rocky Sennes' Roaring

'20s Revue," indf.

**Imperial Palace**, 794-3261: "Legends in Concert"

**Landmark**, 733-1420: "Academy of Country Music Presents the Best of New Country," Mon.-Tues., indf., continuous entertainment 7:30pm-midnight, no cover, no minimum

**Las Vegas Hilton**, 732-5661: Jeffrey Osborne, 12/26-1/4



Robert Goulet, longtime Nevada showroom star, was named the first Nevada tourism ambassador by Governor Richard Bryan recently. Goulet, who lives in Las Vegas with his wife Vera, received the award in appreciation of his efforts to promote Nevada around the world.

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

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

**Mint**, 387-6468: Angelo Tolentino, thru 1/24; Tom Christi, thru 1/25; Freddy Bell, 1/1-10; Imperials, 1/12-2/28; Naked Combo, 1/19-2/7; Saver 1/26-2/28; Jazzi 1/27-3/1; Tommy Rocker, 2/9-3/7

**Palace Station**, 367-2411: Lounge entertainment nightly 5:30pm-5am

**Peppermill Resort**, Mesquite, 346-5232: Live entertainment nightly

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

**Riverside Resort**, Laughlin, 298-2535

**Riviera**, 734-5301: "Splash!" production show, indf., featuring Barclay Shaw, thru 6/30; "An Evening at La Cage," revue, indf., "An Evening at the Improv," comedians, indf., "Ultimate Burlesque," revue, indf.

**Royal Casino**, 733-4000: Nightly entertainment

**Sahara**, 737-2424: Redd Foxx, 1/1-7 and 1/19-31; Don Rickles, 1/8-18

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

**Sam's Town**, 456-7777: Nightly entertainment

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

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

**Silver Slipper**, 734-1212: "Boylesque," revue

**Stardust**, 732-6325: "Lido de Paris," thru 1/5

**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: Live entertainment





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# Las Vegas

(Continued from page 8)

**UNLV v. New Mexico State**, 24, basketball, Thomas and Mack Center, UNLV, 739-3900

**Nite of St. Pauli**, 24, German-American celebration with '50s costumes, food, drinks, and dancing, Las Vegas Piepen KG of Nevada (a Deutsch-American Society of Southern Nevada club), 4803 S. Mojave Rd., 451-2220

**New Play Workshop**, 25, 2pm, free, NewWest Stage Company, Charleston Heights Arts Center, 876-6972

**UNLV v. Fresno State**, 26, basketball, Thomas and Mack Center, UNLV, 739-3900

**High School Drama Festival**, 26-2/1, Judy Bayley Theatre and Black Box Theatre, UNLV, 739-3353

**Neon Art Exhibit**, 26-2/27 Alta Ham Fine Arts Gallery, UNLV, 739-3893

**"Walls in the Horizon,"** 29-2/1, dramatic ballet by Vassili Sulich, Nevada Dance Theatre, at Judy Bayley Theatre, UNLV, 739-3801

**Amarillo Slim's 9th Annual Super Bowl of Poker**, 29-2/12, 12 poker events open to public, buy-ins of \$25 to \$10,000, more than \$2 million in prizes and purses, Caesars Palace, 731-7777

**"Mass Appeal,"** 30-2/1, comedy, performed by Las Vegas Little Theatre, Grant Hall Theatre, UNLV, 731-5958

**(W)rites of Passage**, 30-2/1, short plays, songs, and poems written by local students, Rainbow Company, Reed Whipple Cultural Center, 386-6553

**"Give 'Em Hell, Harry,"** 31 Kevin McCarthy portrays Harry S Truman, 8pm, Charleston Heights Arts Center, 386-6383

## February

**Indian Crafts Fair**, 1-28, demonstrations on select days, Lost City Museum, Overton, 397-2193

**Wine Tasting**, 1, Union Plaza, 386-2110

**Las Vegas Symphony Orchestra Concert**, 2, 8pm, Ham Hall, UNLV, 739-3420

**Concert**, 4, Paul Sperry, tenor, and Irma Vallecillo, piano, 7pm, Ham Hall, UNLV, 739-3420

**"Dames At Sea,"** 5-8, musical, 8pm Thurs.-Sat., 2pm Sun., Clark County Community College Theatre, North Las Vegas, 644-7529

**Open Dart Tournament**, 5-8, Union Plaza, 386-2100

**(W)rites of Passage**, 6-8, short plays, songs, and poems written by local students, Reed Whipple Cultural Center, 386-6553

**"Painting Churches,"** 6-8, witty, touching play, performed by Las Vegas Little Theatre, Grant Hall Theatre, UNLV, 731-5958

**Art Exhibit**, 6-3/4, mixed media sculpture by Lee Sido, opening reception 5-7pm on 6th, Allied Arts Gallery, 731-5419

**"The Little Prince,"** 7 8pm, L.A. Chamber Ballet, Charleston Heights Arts Center, 386-6383

**Ms. Senior Nevada Pageant**, 8, Sahara Hotel, 1pm, Congo Room, \$5, 825-8498

**UNLV v. Cal State Fullerton**, 12, basketball, Thomas and Mack Center, UNLV, 739-3900

**"Dames At Sea,"** 12-14, musical, 8pm, Clark



# The Nevada Calendar: Las Vegas

County Community College Theatre, North Las Vegas, 644-7529

**"Mass Appeal,"** 12-13, comedy, performed by Las Vegas Little Theatre, Grant Hall Theatre, UNLV, 731-5958

**"Divertissement,"** 12-15, 8pm Thurs.-Sat., 2pm and 7pm Sun., Nevada Dance Theatre, Judy Bayley Theatre, UNLV, 739-3838

**Concert Program,** 13, music of the Middle Ages and the Renaissance, 8pm, San Francisco Consort, Reed Whipple Cultural Center, 386-6211

**UNLV v. UC Santa Barbara,** 14, basketball, Thomas and Mack Center, UNLV, 739-3900

**"Painting Churches,"** 14-15, performed by Las Vegas Little Theatre, Grant Hall Theatre, UNLV, 731-5958

**Concert,** 16, Carol Plantamura, soprano, Juergen Heubscher, lute, Achim Weigel, viola de gamba, Ham Hall, UNLV, 739-3420

**Marcel Marceau,** 17, benefit show by the famous mime, Ham Hall, UNLV, 739-3838

**"Painting Churches,"** 19-20, performed by Las Vegas Little Theatre, Grant Hall Theatre, UNLV, 731-5958

**"The Importance of Being Earnest,"** 20-22, Oscar Wilde's comedy, 8pm Fri.-Sat., 2pm Sun., NewWest Stage Company, Charleston Heights Arts Center, 876-6972

**Rag Mop: Polish and Pizazz,** 21, annual women's barbershop show, Sweet Adelines, Ham Hall, UNLV, 438-3084

**Karneval in Las Vegas,** 21, costumes, pageantry, dancing, food, and prizes, Las Vegas Piepen KG of Nevada (a Deutsch-American Society of Southern Nevada club), Elks Lodge, 451-2220

**"Mass Appeal,"** 21-22, comedy, performed by Las Vegas Little Theatre, Grant Hall Theatre, UNLV, 731-5958

**Las Vegas Chamber Players Concert,** 25, 7pm, Ham Hall, UNLV, 739-3420

**UNLV v. Pacific,** 26, basketball, Thomas and Mack Center, UNLV, 739-3900

**University Chorus/Chamber Chorale Concert,** 26, 7:30pm, Ham Hall, UNLV, 739-3332

**"The Merchant of Venice,"** 27-3/8, Shakespeare's classic comedy, Dept. of Theatre Arts, Ham Hall, UNLV, 739-3353

**"The Importance of Being Earnest,"** 26-28, Oscar Wilde's comedy, 8pm, NewWest Stage Company, Charleston Heights Arts Center, 876-6972

**Preservation Hall Jazz Band,** 28, 8pm, direct from New Orleans, Cashman Field Convention Center, 386-6211

## Tournaments

These Las Vegas gaming tournaments range from casual to high-roller affairs; call ahead for details.

### January

**Blackjack,** 5-26, every Mon., La Mirage, 733-7777

**Poker,** 4-28, every Sun. and Wed., Tropicana, 739-2612

**Gin,** 18-21, Union Plaza, 386-2110

**Superbowl Craps,** 23-25, Imperial Palace, 731-3311

**Slots,** 25-28, Union Plaza, 386-2110

**Slots,** 26-29, Holiday Casino, 369-5000

**Super Bowl of Poker,** 29-2/12, Caesars Palace, 731-7777

### February

**Slots,** 1-3, Bourbon Street, 737-7200

**Pan,** 1-4, Union Plaza, 386-2110

**Poker,** 1-25, every Sun. and Wed., Tropicana, 739-2612

**Blackjack,** 2-23, every Mon., La Mirage, 733-7777

**Slots,** 8-11, Frontier, 734-0385

### Coming Attractions

**Henderson Industrial Days,** 4/4-12, 565-8951

**Sugar Ray Leonard v. Marvelous Marvin Hagler,** 4/6, Caesars Palace, 731-7110

**Panasonic Las Vegas Invitational,** 4/29-5/3, PGA golf tournament, 382-6616

**Boulder City Jamboree,** 5/1-2, 293-2034

**Elks Helldorado,** 5/3-10 (tentative), Las Vegas, 385-1221

**Mint 400,** 5/9, Mint Hotel, 385-7440



## JAN. 9-11 150 MILES TO GO

More than 300 top racers will be roaring along Mojave Desert trails when they compete in the Whiskey Pete's/Nissan World Championship Motorcycle Race this Jan. 9-11. The \$35,000 purse for the fourth annual 150-mile chase will provide incentive for racers like Johnny Harschman, above, seen bulldogging his bike on the course near the Nevada-California border.

**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. For hotels' toll-free phone numbers, call 800-555-1212.

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## Outings

### Snow Fun in the Desert

Where else but Las Vegas? One moment you're basking poolside in the desert sun, and less than an hour later you're skiing or sledding in the winter wonderland of Mount Charleston's Lee Canyon. At about 8,500 feet, Ski Lee's three

double chairs carry skiers to 40 acres of groomed slopes. There's a ski school, rentals, coffee shop, cocktail lounge, and ski shop. Marcel's Ski School gives lessons every day, and the "Let's Go Skiing America" program for beginners (up to 200 skiers daily from Jan. 9 to Feb. 9) offers lift tickets, rentals, and class lessons for a bargain price of \$15. Public areas also attract cross-country skiers and tobogganists. Snow conditions vary on the mountain, and although chains are not usually required,



LAS VEGAS NEWS BUREAU

check first by calling the 24-hour snow report at 702-646-3805. For more information call Ski Lee at 702-872-5462.

### A Day on the Town

For about \$20, you can spend a day exploring Las Vegas by van or bus and previewing places you might want to revisit on your own. Beginning with a morning pickup at your hotel, ride with a bus driver-guide past homes of entertainment greats. First stop is the Ethel M Chocolate Factory in Henderson, where you can watch the candy being made, sample the caloric delectables, and tour the public cactus gardens. Next stop is the Liberace Museum, where Mr. Showmanship shows off such glittering artifacts as a pair of sequined red tennis shoes and a 1962 Rolls-Royce with Nevada plates "88 KEYS." The group lunches at the Riviera, journeys through downtown Las Vegas for a shopping spree at the Meadows Mall, and then returns about 5 p.m. Special tours and reduced rates are available for groups. Contact Ray and Ross Sales (above example; 702-646-4661) or other tour operators (see *Nevada*, March/April '86).

### Heritage in Henderson

Take a stroll through Southern Nevada as it used to be at the Clark County Museum on the Boulder Highway in Henderson. Begin at the Depot Exhibit Hall—the old Boulder City Depot—which has displays on the area's history and a revolving gallery. Move outside to the museum's ghost town, a gathering of old buildings and artifacts collected from deserted Nevada mining towns, and a replica Paiute camp. Walk down Heritage Street, where you can wander through three of the buildings—the 1900-era Don Reynolds Print Shop, the 1912 Beckley House, and the recently-opened Henderson Townsite House from the '40s. The museum is open daily except major holidays from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission is \$1 for adults, 50 cents for seniors and children. For more information call the Clark County Museum at 702-565-0907.

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# The Nevada Calendar: Las Vegas

## This You Auto See

Like family keepsakes of a bygone era, more than 200 automobiles have been displayed for viewing and remembering at the Imperial



Palace Auto Collection. Assembled by Ralph Engelstad, the hotel's owner, the collection includes a 1928 Delage limousine custom-built for the King of Siam, Lord Rama VII; a bullet-proof Mercedes-Benz in which Hitler and Mussolini rode together in 1940; and a 1905 nine-passenger Rapid bus, one of only two known to exist today. The large gift shop has more than 300 titles on automobile-related subjects. The collection is open daily from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 p.m. Admission is \$3.75 for adults, \$2 for seniors and children 5 to 11, and free for under age 5. —Kate Butler

## Casino Notes

• Work is underway for **Circus Circus'** newest property, the **Colorado Belle** in Laughlin. Located on the banks of the Colorado River, the 1,215-room theme resort will feature a replica of a three-deck paddlewheeler, housing a 64,000-square-foot casino, five restaurants, and 200 rooms. An adjoining 600-room hotel with the look of old New Orleans should be ready in early 1987. A second high-rise with 415 rooms has been added to the original plans. Both the high-rise and the riverboat are scheduled for completion in July.

• In a switch on the "men's poker night," women get together to hold 'em or fold 'em during the **Edgewater's** N.F.L. Widows Poker Tournaments Monday nights last fall at the Laughlin resort.

• Walt Disney Television Productions filmed a Disney Sunday Movie titled *You Ruined My Life* at **Caesars Palace** in Las Vegas last November. The film's star is Soleil Moon Frye, best known as TV's "Punky Brewster." The comedy involves a feisty youngster who terrorizes hotel personnel and an M.I.T. math professor; it will be aired on ABC.

• The Bacchanal restaurant at **Caesars Palace** was one of 70 restaurants in the U.S. voted the "Four-star Award" for 1986 in a survey of frequent business travelers on America's top air-

lines by the East/West Network, publisher of in-flight magazines.

• The **Lady Luck Casino's** new \$16-million tower opened in December. The tower has 308 rooms and suites, bringing the hotel's total to 420 rooms. The structure's exterior is sheathed in reflective glass and designed to mirror the Sheep Range from its east windows.

• Rich Little made a lasting "impression" on the **Desert Inn** by selling out every performance for the week of October 9-15, the most stellar busi-

ness for the DI since their Star Policy was born. This feat was noted in a full-page *Hollywood Reporter* ad.

• As renovation plans for the **Stardust** and **Fremont** proceed, the Boyd Group is remodeling the Stardust convention center to showcase an antique gaming museum, the Gaming Hall of Fame. At the Fremont improvements will include a new race and sports book, buffet, lounge, keno, poker, and renovated casino area.

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##### ELKO

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##### CARSON CITY

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##### LAS VEGAS

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Fremont Hotel & Casino  
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Landmark Hotel & Casino  
Sam's Town Hotel, Gambling Hall and  
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Stardust Hotel & Casino  
Tropicana The Island of Las Vegas

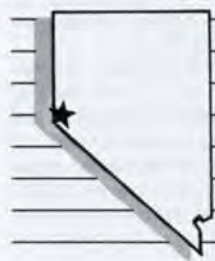
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## Reno-Tahoe

### January

**Pre-New Year's Eve Celebration**, 12/30, Western Village, Sparks, 331-1069

**New Year's Eve Celebration**, 12/30-1/1, Eldorado, 786-5700

**New Year's Eve Bash**, 12/31 Western Village, Sparks, 331-1069

**New Year's Eve**, 12/31, Lelands, Peppermill, 826-2121

**New Year's Eve Show**, 12/31 Donna Fargo, Ron Legg Orchestra, John Ascuaga's Nugget, Sparks, 356-3300

**New Year's Eve Party**, 12/31, Carson Valley Inn, Minden, 782-9711

**New Year's Eve Celebrations**, 12/31 big band orchestra, rock 'n roll show, Bally's Reno, 789-2285

**New Year's Eve**, 12/31 Carson City Nugget, 882-1626

**New Year's Eve**, 12/31 Johnnie Walker's dance band, Paul Revere and the Raiders, Reno Hilton, 785-7100

**New Year's Eve**, 12/31 Ormsby House, Carson City, 882-1890

**New Year's Eve**, 12/31 Caesars Tahoe, Stateline, 588-3515

**New Year's Eve**, 12/31 Dolly Parton, Harrah's Tahoe, Stateline, 588-6611

**New Year's Eve**, 12/31 Hyatt Tahoe, Incline Village, 831-1111

**New Year's Party**, 12/31, dancing, Reno Livestock/Events Center, 827-2102

**Mexican Dance**, 12/31, Reno Livestock/Events Center, 329-3658

**"Barnwood Is Beautiful,"** thru 12/31 Mitchel I. Pomerantz's works are highlighted by framing with materials salvaged from local barns; also works by local artists and photographers, Nevada Gallery in Reno Gazette-Journal building, 329-6106

**Art Show**, thru 3, paintings by Jeff Nicholson, Nevada Artists Assn. Gallery, Brewery Arts Center, Carson City, 882-6411

**Planetarium Program**, thru 4, on weekdays, "Voyage to a Million Moons" and "Beautiful Nevada," on weekends "Voyage to a Million Moons" and "The Space Shuttle: an American Adventure," Fleischmann Planetarium, UNR, 784-4812

**Art Show**, thru 18, paintings of the American Southwest, Sierra Nevada Museum of Art, 329-3333

**Brewed in Nevada**, thru 9/1/87 exhibit, history of Nevada's beers and breweries, Nevada State Museum, Carson City, 885-4810



### JAN.-MARCH TAHOE SNOW FESTIVALS

**O**ld Man Winter will have to fortify his snowcone with something more invigorating than cherry syrup if he hopes to keep pace with the blizzard of events that will make the mountain communities surrounding Reno and Lake Tahoe glisten like a dew-drenched meadow. Such familiar alpine attractions as ski and snowmobile racing, torchlight parades, and tobogganing will share the billing with the likes of a pizza-dough throwing contest, a crazy hat day, and the award of prizes to the best-dressed dogs.

The South Lake Tahoe Winter Carnival, Jan. 27-30 at the Sierra Ski Ranch, challenges you to conquer the slippery slopes and ingest bowls of chili and gobs of ice cream—but not necessarily all at once.

The 10-day Snowfest at North Lake Tahoe and Truckee, Feb. 27 through March 8, will have as its centerpiece a 30-kilometer Great Race across some spectacular mountain terrain.

John Denver's Celebrity Ski Classic, Feb. 20-22 at Heavenly Valley, in South Lake Tahoe, will see famous athletes and entertainers compete in a special dual slalom. —Lee Adler

**Art Exhibit**, 1-2/28, paintings by Buckeye Blake, Jeff Nicholson, Betty Larson, and Millicent Thompson, 9am-6pm Mon.-Sat., Great Basin Gallery and Frame, Carson City, 882-8505

**Mexican Festival**, 1 Reno Livestock/Events Center, 329-3658

**Outdoorsman New Year's Race**, 1, 10-km. cross-country ski race, Royal Gorge, 916-426-3871

**Absolute Vodka/Skilling Magazine Bartenders Race**, 3, Squaw Valley USA, 916-583-6985  
**Cross-Country Skiing Introduction**, 4, equip-

ment and skiing techniques, 2-mile practice walk, meet 10am at Donner Memorial State Park Museum, 3 miles west of Truckee, 916-525-7232

**Art Exhibit**, 6-2/14, selected works by world-famous sculptor Benny Bufano, Brewery Arts Center, Carson City, 883-1976

**Super Stars Of Poker Tournament**, 7-18, buy-ins from \$200 to \$5,000; also, dice tournament and a pro-celebrity billiards tournament, Caesars Tahoe, 588-3515

**Granite Chief Ski Race**, 8, Squaw Valley USA, 916-583-6985

**Pacific Rim Telemark Race**, 10, Ski Incline, 832-1177

**Donner Camp History Tour**, 10, snowshoes or cross-country skis needed, meet 10am at Donner Memorial State Park Museum, 3 miles west of Truckee, 916-525-7232

**Kirkwood Klassic**, 11 this Salomon 15-km. race is the second in a series of three, Kirkwood Cross-Country Ski Area, 209-258-6000

**Donner Party Survival**, 11, learn about the famous pioneers, snowshoes or cross-country skis needed, meet 10am at Donner Memorial State Park Museum, 3 miles west of Truckee, 916-525-7232

**Anniversary Week**, 12-16, '50s prices, Donner Ski Ranch, Norden, 916-426-3635

**Reno Philharmonic Concert**, 13, 7:30pm, Pioneer Theater, 329-8866

**Recreational Ski Race Clinic**, 15-17 intermediates and above, Northstar, 916-562-1010

**Ms. Senior Washoe County Pageant**, 15, Washoe County Senior Citizen Center, noon, free, 825-8498

**Free Full Moon Tour**, 15, cross-country skiing, hot cider, 6:30pm, Spooner Lake, Lake Tahoe, 749-5349

**"The Heiress,"** 16-18, drama, Reno Little Theater, 329-0661

**UNR v. Northern Arizona**, 17, basketball, Lawlor Events Center, UNR, 784-4500

**Survival and Introduction to Cross-Country Skiing**, 18, snowshoes or cross-country skis needed, meet 10am, Sugar Pine Point State Park, 10 miles south of Tahoe City, 916-525-7232

**Fischer Women's Race**, 19, 5-km. cross-country, Royal Gorge, 916-426-3871

**Cross-Country Ski Tour**, 20, led by Calif. State Parks rangers, meet 10am at Red Lakes parking area off Hwy. 88, 916-525-7232

**UNR v. Weber State**, 22, basketball, Lawlor Events Center, UNR, 784-4500

**"The Heiress,"** 22-24, drama, Reno Little Theater, 329-0661

**Flips International Invitational**, 23-24, gymnastics, clubs from the U.S. and Canada, Bally's Reno, 331-2200

**Sierra Nevada Rabbit Club Show**, 24, Reno Livestock/Events Center, 827-7600

**UNR v. Idaho State**, 24, basketball, Lawlor Events Center, 784-4500

**Spooner Women's Race**, 24, 5-km. ski race, Spooner Lake, Lake Tahoe, 749-5349

**Equitable Family Ski Race Challenge**, 24, Northstar, 916-562-1010

**Ski Tour**, 24, to Meiss Lake north of Carson



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Pass, led by Calif. State Parks rangers, meet 10am at parking lot just west of Carson Pass on Hwy. 88, 916-525-7232

**Nevada Festival Ballet**, 24-25, jazz and modern ballet followed by classical ballet "Firebird," Pioneer Theater, 329-2552

**Celebrity Show**, 24-25, kick-off to the South Lake Tahoe Winter Carnival on 1/27-30, up to 35 major stars compete, location to be announced, 916-659-7519

**Tahoe Nordic Championships**, 25, 15-km. FWSA/USSA cross-country ski race for all skiers, Tahoe Nordic, Tahoe City, 916-583-0484

**San Francisco Special Olympics**, 26-30, Boreal Ski Area, 916-426-3666

**South Lake Tahoe Winter Carnival**, 27-30, events include ski races, Snowshoe Thompson Race, barrel stave race, chili cook-off, beer slalom, costumes, obstacle race, handicap ski demonstration, ice cream eating contest, hosted by Sierra Ski Ranch; on 1/24-25 a kick-off to the carnival will include 35 celebrities competing in similar events, 916-659-7519

**Chinese New Year**, 29, celebration thru 2/5, Eldorado Hotel, 786-5700

## February

**Telemark Ski Race**, 1 open to all, Northstar, 916-562-1010

**Reno Chamber Orchestra Concert**, 1 3pm, Trinity Episcopal Church, 826-8742

**Kirkwood Classic**, 1, Fischer 30-km. race, Kirkwood Cross-Country, 209-258-6000

**Nevada Winter Special Olympics**, 3-6, Ski Incline, 832-1177

**UNR v. Montana State**, 5, basketball, Lawlor Events Center, UNR, 784-4500

**Cross-Country Hike**, 7 bring cross-country skis, meet 10am at Donner Memorial State Park Museum, 3 miles west of Truckee, 916-525-7232

**Ski Incline Celebrity Ski Classic**, 7-8, Ski Incline, 832-1177

**Equitable Family Ski Race Challenge**, 7 Northstar, 916-587-0280

**UNR v. Montana**, 7 basketball, Lawlor Events Center, UNR, 784-4500

**Alpine Canine Connection**, 7-8, sled dog races, Hope Valley on Hwy. 88, 916-694-2475

**Fischer/Royal Gorge Cup**, 8, 15-km. cross-country ski race, Royal Gorge, 916-426-3871

**National Learn to Ski Day**, 9, discounts and programs for first-time skiers, various resorts around Lake Tahoe, 1-800-238-2300

**Nugget Invitational Hereford Sale**, 12, auction of Hereford bulls and heifers from the stage in the Celebrity Showroom, 2pm, open to the public, John Ascuaga's Nugget, Sparks, 356-3300

**Full Moon Tour**, 13, cross-country skiing, hot cider, 6:30pm, Spooner Lake, Lake Tahoe, 749-5349

**"The Medium" and "Cavalleria Rusticana,"** 13-14, one-act operas, 8pm, Nevada Opera Assn., Pioneer Theater, 786-4046

**One-Act Festival**, 13-15, plays performed and directed by area residents, Reno Little Theater, 329-0661

**Valentine's Day Couples Race**, 14, Northstar, 916-587-0280

**Torchlight Parade**, 14, Tahoe Donner Ski Area, 916-587-9400

**Park Program**, 14, hot dog roast around a campfire, hike on snowshoes or cross-country skis, dip in the hot springs pool, meet 5:30pm at Grover Hot Springs State Park, 4 miles west of Markleeville, 916-525-7232

**Mexican Dance**, 14, Reno Livestock/Events Center, 329-3658

**Sierra Sweepstakes Sled Dog Races**, 14-15, \$5,000 purse, 3-dog, 6-dog, 8-dog, and freight teams race, plus weight pulling and peewee racing, breakfast, lunch, refreshments, donation of \$5 per car, 9:30am, Truckee-Tahoe Airport, 916-587-4277

**Rossignol Senior Benefit Race**, 16, 15-km. cross-country race, BBQ, Spooner Lake, Lake Tahoe, 749-5349

**"California Suite,"** 20-21, Neil Simon comedy,

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# The Nevada Calendar: Reno/Tahoe

8pm, Carson Valley Theatre Company, CVIC Hall, Minden, 782-9841

**John Denver Celebrity Ski Classic**, 20-22, big name celebrities and former Olympic stars compete, Heavenly Valley, South Lake Tahoe, 916-541-1330

**Bicycle Motocross Racing**, 22, Reno Live-stock/Events Center, 827-2813

**Cross-Country Ski Hike**, 22, explore the site of the Donner Family tent camp as you follow the Emigrant Trail, meet 10am at Donner Memorial State Park Museum, 3 miles west of Truckee, 916-525-7232

**Reno Philharmonic Concert**, 24, 8:15pm, Pioneer Theater, 329-8866

**Doctors' Wives Rummage Sale**, 26-28, Reno Livestock/Events Center, 825-5028

**UNR v. Boise State**, 26, basketball, Lawlor Events Center, UNR, 784-4500

**Snowfest Winter Carnival**, 27-3/8, North Lake Tahoe-Truckee's annual winter carnival with parades, fireworks, contests, concerts, gourmet delights; opening ceremonies on the 27th include the torchlight parade, crowning of the Snowfest Queen, dance, fireworks, and laser show at Squaw Valley; other events are at Squaw and various locations in the Tahoe area, 916-583-7625

**"California Suite,"** 27-28, Neil Simon comedy, 8pm, Carson Valley Theatre Company, CVIC Hall, Minden, 782-9841

**UNR v. Idaho**, 28, basketball, Lawlor Events Center, UNR, 784-4500

## Tournaments

These gaming tournaments are scheduled for Reno and Lake Tahoe. Call ahead for details.

### January

**Super Stars of Poker**, 7-18, Caesars Tahoe, 588-3515

**Slots**, 16-19, Caesars Tahoe, 588-3515

### February

**Slots**, 22-24, Eldorado, Reno, 786-5700

### Coming Attractions

**Peppermill Cup Senior Hockey Tournament**, 3/26-29, Reno, 826-2121

**AACT/Fest 87**, 3/27-29, one-act play festival, Reno, 882-5763

**Harrah's Reno Wine Adventure**, 4/23-26, 788-3232

**Cinco de Mayo Chili Cook-Off and Celebration**, 5/2, Virginia City, 847-0500

**Virginia City Grand Prix Race**, 5/9-10, 789-4892

**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. For hotels' toll-free phone numbers, call 800-555-1212.

## Nightlife

### BOTTOMS UP FOREVER

By Guy Richardson

**B**ack when the hot political slogan was "I Like Ike" and Richard Nixon was an obscure vice president whose biggest problem was 5 o'clock shadow, a young fellow with a brash smile and experience as a University of Texas cheerleader started a modest little revue at the Adolphus Hotel in Dallas.

The revue opened July 3, 1958, and with it Breck Wall found a home, a family, a career, a life. And a place for the world's highest-candlepower grin.

"We rehearsed that first show for three months," Wall says. "We followed Sophie Tucker, and we had a two-week contract with options." He recalls he put \$1,200 into the show, and the cast members wrote the skits.



Breck Wall (far right) with fellow troupers.

The show's format followed Olsen & Johnson's "Hellzapoppin'" a traveling comedy show and forerunner of "Laugh In." (In the La Traviata department, Ole Olsen's daughter Moya married Bill Lear, who also wound up in Northern Nevada.) And the format worked—the show ran for two years at the Dallas hotel.

Today, 28 years after it began, Wall's "Bottoms Up" is still going strong in its current version at Harrah's Tahoe. Over the years the zany revue has kept the same format, which Wall describes as "an adult *Saturday Night Live*—except our show has been around a lot longer." And with several shows playing around the country, "Bottoms Up" is now a multi-million-dollar business.

Even though the money's better—Wall made a weekly salary of \$90 at the Adolphus—he still thinks of the cast as his family. "This show is my life," he says. "The kids are my family, and I'm

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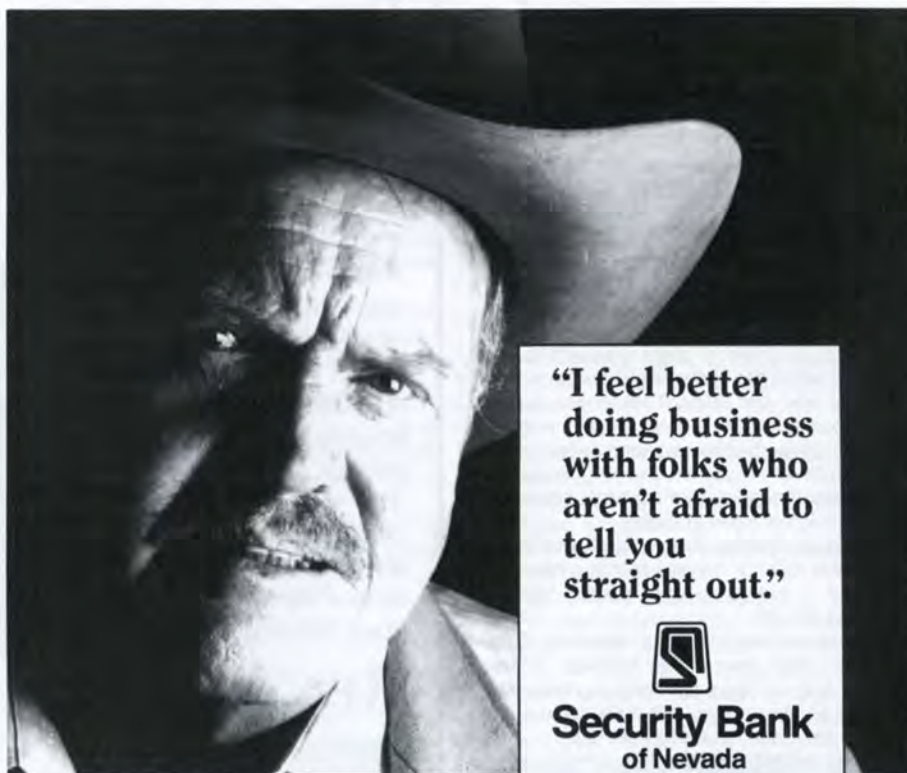
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lucky I've been able to do something I love for so long."

On days off, cast parties are common. Wall, who is unmarried, says, "We spend a lot of time together offstage. Many of the kids live together—I think the feeling and camaraderie shows when we're onstage."

It does. Each night, variations from the script are common as cast members try to crack each other up. "That first show was about as American and as apple pie as you can get," Wall says. "God, how that's changed!"

In 1964, Wall and his talented loonies hit Vegas. In '74, they moved into Northern Nevada. "We've played about every major hotel," Wall says.

The 22-year-old is now 52. "I've stayed young by surrounding myself with young, talented people," Wall says. "Every night is like a party."

Wall, flashing a smile that looks like truck headlights on a night highway, says, "I think I'll be doing this show when I'm 80. It's my life."

"Other people drink, smoke or do drugs. I do 'Bottoms Up.'"

Breck Wall's "Bottoms Up '87" plays through Jan. 12 (except Tuesdays) in the Stateline Cabaret at Harrah's Tahoe.

## Showguide

**Bally's-Reno**, 789-2285: *Ziegfeld Theatre*: "Hello Hollywood, Hello!" indf. nightly; *Lion's Den*: Joe Savage, 12/26-1/20; Santa Fe, 1/7-2/3; Danny Marona, 1/21-2/17; *Diamonds*, 2/18-3/24; Danny Marona, 3/25-4/21; *Leo's Lair*: Garfin Gathering, 12/10-1/6; Bruce Zarka, 12/26-31 and 1/7-2/3; *Cub Lounge*: Nightly entertainment, 12/26-31

**Caesars Tahoe**, 588-3515: *Cascade Showroom*: Pointer Sisters, 12/26-1/4; *Crystal Cabaret*: Ritz Fashion Auction, indf., High Steppin' 12/23-1/5; Elvis the King starring Johnny Baron, 1/1-11

**Carson City Nugget**, 883-3854: *Motifs*, 12/23-1/25

**Carson Valley Inn**, Minden, 782-9711: *Passion*, 1/1-11; Speedy Garfin, 1/12-2/1; St. Romain, 2/2-15; *Motifs*, 2/16-28

**Circus Circus**, Reno, 329-0711: *Circus acts* **Crystal Bay Club**, North Tahoe, 831-0512: Nightly top 40 rock, dancing

**Del Webb's High Sierra**, Tahoe, 588-6211: Frank Sinatra, Jr., thru 1/4; Maria Muldaur, 1/6-18

**Eldorado**, Reno, 786-5700: Sun Spots, 1/19-2/8; Sonny Turner, 1/20-2/8; Chordettes, 2/10-22

**Harolds Club**, Reno, 329-0881: *Pride and Joy*, thru 1/18; Hall and January, thru 2/1; Cameron, 1/19-2/15; *Twilight Zone*, 2/16-3/15; Lin Maureen and Dennis, 2/16-3/15

**Harrah's Lake Tahoe**, 588-6611: *South Shore Room*: Andy Williams Christmas Show, 12/26-12/30 and 1/1-3; Dolly Parton, 12/31 "Concert On Ice" starring Dorothy Hamill, Scott



## The Nevada Calendar: Reno/Tahoe

Hamilton, Tai and Randy, 1/9-29; Oak Ridge Boys, 1/30-2/5; Don Rickles, 2/6-12; John Denver, 2/13-20; Donna Summer, 2/20-23; Loretta Lynn, 2/24-3/2; *Stateline Cabaret*: Bottoms Up '87 revue, thru 1/12 (dark Tues.); Big Bang Beat, 1/13-18; "After Dark," revue, 1/14-3/9; Platters, 1/20-31, Larry Wilson, 2/3-8; Atlanta, 2/10-15; Etta James, 2/17-22

**Harrah's Reno**, 329-4422: *Headliner Room*: Crystal Gayle, 12/31-1/2; Sammy Davis, Jr., 1/3-8; Judds, 1/9-15; Jim Nabors/Kay Starr, 1/16-22; Rich Little, 1/23-2/4; Ronnie Milsap, 2/5-11; Jay Leno, 2/12-18; Andy Williams Show, 2/19-25; Mac Davis, 2/26-3/11; *Casino Cabaret*: "New Attitude," revue, thru 1/4; *Sutro* (Cabaret late-night), indf.; *Rain: A Tribute to the Beatles*, thru 1/4; *Flamingos* (Cabaret matinee), thru 1/26; Platters, 1/6-18; Boots Randolph, 1/20-2/1; Atlanta, 2/3-8

**Harveys**, South Tahoe, 588-2411 *Top of the Wheel*: Ron Rose, indf. (except Sun.); *Top 40 bands*, indf., (except Mon.); *Sixth Avenue*, thru 1/4; *Casino Theatre Lounge*: "Broadway Varieties," revue, indf., "20th Century Foxes," revue, indf., Entertainment Committee, thru 1/4; Sonny Turner, thru 1/18

**Hyatt Lake Tahoe**, 831-1111 *Starfire*, 12/30-1/4 and 1/27-2/8; Skiles and Henderson, 12/31, Leno and Company, 1/6-25; Jay Ramsey Band, 2/10-3/1



The transition continues as MGM literally becomes Bally's. Here a 14-foot, 6-inch letter makes its 300-foot descent in Reno.

**John Ascuaga's Nugget**, Sparks, 356-3300: *Celebrity Showroom*: Dottie West, 1/8-21, Box Car Willie, 1/22-2/4, Sha Na Na, 2/5-18; *Casino Lounge*: Maurice Moore Four, thru 1/4; Vince Cardell, thru 1/4; Ken Rasner and the Entertainers, 1/5-25; Whitfield Ward, 1/6-25; Gresham, 1/26-2/15; Command Performance, 1/27-2/15; Four Tunes Plus One, 2/16-3/8; Zella Lehr, 2/17-3/8

**Mother Lode**, Carson City, 883-0900: Spice, thru 1/4

**Ormsby House**, Carson City, 882-1890: Tamra Steele, thru 1/4

**Peppermill**, Reno, 826-2121 Cameron, indf., Lelands, thru 1/11; Tommy Bell, thru 1/4; The Coz, 1/5-18; Tommy Bell, 1/12-2/1; St. Romain, 1/19-2/1, The Wrays, 2/2-8; Network, 2/2-15; Dare, 2/9-15; MacNasty, 2/16-22; Gary Joe Wade, 2/16-22; David Proud, 2/23-3/1 Connection, 2/23-3/1

**Reno Hilton**, 785-7100: Gary Puckett, 12/26-1/5; Grass Roots, 1/16-28; Rare Earth, 1/30-2/11 Paul Revere and the Raiders, 2/13-15

**Reno Ramada**, 788-2000: Live entertainment **Sharkey's Nugget**, Gardnerville, 782-3133

**Tahoe Biltmore**, 831-0660: Entertainment and dancing nightly, 10pm-4am

**Topaz Lodge**, Topaz Lake, 266-3339

**Western Village**, Sparks, 331-1069: Gary Joe Wade and the Bump, thru 1/4

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## Outings

### Ski Shuttle and Boogie

You can take a ski-day cruise on Lake Tahoe that offers both a scenic ride and a lift to the slopes. The stern-wheeler *Tahoe Queen* departs for Tahoe City from South Lake Tahoe's

Ski Run Marina at 8 a.m. Tuesday through Friday. On board you can have brunch or a light continental breakfast while enjoying the view. After the ship docks at Tahoe City, a skier's bus takes you to Squaw Valley, Alpine Meadows, or Northstar. On the return cruise, which leaves at 5:15 p.m., you can dance to a live band, have a drink at the bar, or relax over dinner until the *Tahoe Queen* docks at 8 p.m. Cost is \$16.50 for the round-trip cruise and bus transportation to

ski areas. Lift tickets, food, and drinks are extra. For reservations call 916-541-3364.

### Tribute to Indian Nevada

Because of sculptor Peter Wolf Toth's dream—that he will carve the likeness of an Indian in each of the 50 states—Reno's Idlewild



EUGENE JACK

Park is home to "Wa-Pai-Shone." The 28-foot-tall sculpture, carved from a Douglas fir log, is a tribute to the three principal Indian tribes of the state: the Washoe, Paiute, and Shoshone. Toth completed the statue last summer; it stands next to the Reno Municipal Rose Garden.

### Matters of State

To see government in action visit the legislature, which is holding its biennial gathering in Carson City. The senate and assembly convene on January 19, and the session probably will last through May.



### Top Guns at Harolds

How was the West won? With Colts, Remingtons, and Winchesters like the ones encased at Harolds Club Gun Collection museum. With more than 500 weapons, the museum showcases rarities such as 16th-century Chinese cannons. Kentucky rifles, dueling pistols, and custom-made guns are represented, dating through the first World War. Enlivening the atmosphere are several restored nickelodeons (ask the museum host to play them), a phonograph display (you can listen to "I'm On My Way To Reno," a 1910 recording about divorce

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# The Nevada Calendar: Reno/Tahoe

Reno-style), and other turn-of-the-century memorabilia. The museum is on the downtown club's third floor. Children are welcome. Hours are 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. daily; admission is \$1.

## A Trip to the Tropics

Leave winter behind and emerge in a South Pacific paradise when you go Polynesian in either of two tropical hotel settings. At John Ascuaga's Nugget, Trader Dick's lets you eat your way through a belt-loosening variety of island cuisine and sip on a chi-chi, scorpion, or pino frito. There's entertainment nightly in the adjoining bar. Meanwhile, at the Peppermill's new Polynesian buffet the tropical plants and fish provide a forget-it's-snowing atmosphere. The cuisine is continental and the drinks are exotic at this South Virginia Street resort.

## Fun Train From the Bay

The Reno Fun Train is a party all the way from the Bay Area to Reno, says Becky Curtis, president of the Reno Tahoe Company. "There's a double decker car with a dance floor, bar, and live music. You leave the Bay Area on Friday, and we pour you back on the train on Sunday for the trip home." RTC charters the special Amtrak trains and offers package deals that include train fare, lodging, and a coupon book worth \$150. The packages cost from \$169 to \$195, depending on lodging, per person based on double occupancy. The Fun Train begins the winter season on January 16 and runs through April 3 every weekend except January 23. It leaves Oakland on Fridays at 5:45 p.m. and stops in Richmond, Martinez, and Sacramento before arriving in Reno after midnight. The trains leave Reno on Sundays at noon for spectacular daylight excursions over the Sierra. For information contact Reno Tahoe Company at 348-7788. —Deborah A. Mawhar

## Casino Notes

• **Megabucks**, the computerized progressive jackpot system that links up slot machines around the state, is living up to its name. Last November the progressive jackpot clicked to \$4 million. And every time a handle is pulled on one of the dollar slots at the Megabucks carousels in Las Vegas, Reno, Sparks, Lake Tahoe, or Laughlin, the pot continues to climb. Unless, of course, it's someone's lucky day. The jackpot is at a world-record level, having surpassed the \$3,041,864 record won at **Harrah's Tahoe** last June.

• The **Peppermill** has been building a "tower of power" that will add more hotel rooms, casino space, a dinner house, uni-sex hair salon, Nautilus health facility, a 1,600 square foot video arcade, and a casino bar. The tower has been opening in stages. Phase one, a 15-story addition, opened last October. Two more towers are in the works.

• The fashions of Paris, Athens, Milan, New York, and San Francisco are on parade at **Caesars Tahoe** when the Ritz Fashion Auction spins through the Crystal Cabaret every week.

The high-energy song and dance production allows onlookers to bid on elegant, sporty, and dressy fashions, which can be purchased right off the models' backs. "Every show we do, fashions worth up to \$500 by Christian Dior, Monica Richards, and other top designers, sell for as little as \$35," says Tommy Varzos, producer of the Ritz Fashion Auction. The show takes place each week on Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays at 3 p.m., Mondays at 9 p.m., and Fridays during happy hour from 4:45 p.m. to 6:15 p.m.

• Some **Reno Hilton** customers go looking for the Hilton Good Times Jazz Band as soon as they walk in the door. The Dixie-style band adds warmth and fun to the otherwise serious mood of gambling. "People even say we made it easier when they were losing at the table," says Johnnie McCormick of the band, which plays for patrons at the machines and tables, going up the elevator, waiting for dinner and just milling around. The band plays anywhere in the casino from 1:30-4:30 p.m. and 8-11 p.m. every day except Monday.

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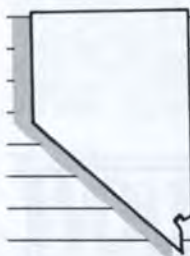
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# The Nevada Calendar



## Rural Areas



It may be all talk, but that's the glory of Elko's Cowboy Poetry Gathering, the annual event that brings together cowboy poets and balladeers like Bill Sheridan, above, Jan. 29-31. Also, an art show on buckaroo life opens that weekend at the Northeastern Nevada Museum.

### Covered Wagon Territory

#### January

**New Year's Eve Dance**, 12/31, 1950s-'60s theme, Pershing County Community Center, Lovelock, 273-2687

**BPW New Year's Eve Party**, 12/31, sponsored by Business and Professional Women, no-host bar, 7:30pm-2am, Elko Convention Center, 738-5815

**New Year's Eve**, 12/31 celebrations at midnight Utah (Mountain) time and again at midnight Nevada (Pacific) time at the Red Garter Casino (664-2221); celebrations also at Nevada Crossing (664-4000), Peppermill (664-2255), Silver Smith (664-2231), and State Line (664-2221), in Wendover

**New Year's Eve Celebration**, 12/31 Cactus Pete's and Horseshu casinos, Jackpot, 755-2321

**Art Exhibit**, thru 1/19, watercolors and pen and ink by Wendy Ispisua; photographs by the Elko Camera Club, Northeastern Nevada Museum, Elko, 738-3418

**Cowboy Poetry Gathering**, 29-31, performances by well-known reciters and poets, cowboy music, tales, western movie classics, video documentaries, and slide shows, Elko Convention Center, 738-7135

**Cowboy Life Exhibit**, 30-2/28, drawings, paintings, sculptures, and photographs depicting buckarooing and ranch life; opening reception on 30th from 7-9pm, Northeastern Nevada Museum, Elko, 738-7508

#### February

**Mardi Gras**, 28, theme is "Around the World," 6:30pm cocktails, 7:30pm dinner, costumes encouraged, tickets \$30, Northern Nevada Community College, Elko, 738-8493

#### Coming Attractions

**Pony Express Race**, 5/16, Wells, 752-3355

### Pioneer Territory

#### January

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

**El Capitan Cutthroat Derby**, thru 4/25, Hawthorne, 945-3321

#### February

**Nevada 86**, 2-18, Elko museum's photo show, Lincoln County Courthouse, Pioche, 726-3333

#### Coming Attractions

**Armed Forces Days**, 5/13-17 Hawthorne, 945-5896

**Jim Butler Days**, 5/28-31, Tonopah, 482-3859

### Pony Express Territory

#### January

**105th Annual New Year's Eve Dance**, 12/31, firemen's benefit, dancing from 9pm-2am, live music, refreshments, families welcome, Austin Volunteer Fire Department, 964-2301

**Firemen's New Year's Eve Ball**, 12/31, live music and dancing from 9pm-2am, midnight buffet, Smith Valley Community Hall, Wellington, 465-2516

**Art Show**, thru 2/28, Lahontan Valley Artists Assn., Jeff's Office Supply, Fallon, 423-6078

**Nevada 86**, 13-29, Elko museum's photo show, White Pine County Library, Ely, 289-3737

**Hidden Cave Tours**, 10 and 24, meet 9:30am, County Museum, Fallon, 882-1631 or 423-3677

**Cribbage Tournament**, 11 noon, Hazen Bar, on U.S. 50-A, Hazen, 867-3066

**Bristlecone Birkebeiner**, 31, 5-km. and 10-km. cross-country ski races, followed by awards ceremony and race party, race course is at Murray Summit, 6 miles southwest of Ely, White Pine Ski Club, 289-8877

**Sentimental Journey Number 7**, 30-2/2, take Amtrak from Hazen to Elko and attend some of the Cowboy Poetry Gathering events; meet at Hazen Bar at 5:30pm Fri., reservations and \$285 per couple required by 12/31, Hazen Preservation Society, 867-3066

#### February

**String Beings**, 8, benefit concert with classical and humorous music, Hazen Bar, on U.S. 50-A, Hazen, 867-3066

**Hidden Cave Tours**, 14 and 28, meet 9:30am, County Museum, Fallon, 882-1631 or 423-3677

**Bristlecone Chariot Race**, 3/7-8, annual March futurity, derby, and invitational, fairgrounds, Ely, 289-8877



## Coming Attractions

**Eureka High School Rodeo**, 5/23-24, 237-5361

**Fallon's Wild Bunch Stampede**, 5/23-25, 423-6006

**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. For hotels' toll-free phone numbers, call 800-555-1212.

## Showguide

### Pioneer Territory

**Pahrump:** Saddle West Casino, 727-5953

**Tonopah:** Station House, 482-9777; Loco Pony Band, 1/4; Lovin' Country, 1/20-2/1

### Pony Express Territory

**Battle Mountain:** Owl Club, 635-5155

**Fallon:** Fallon Nugget, 423-3111

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

### Covered Wagon Territory

**Elko:** Commercial Hotel, 738-3181; Red Lion, 738-2111; Montana Band, 1/27-2/1; Stockmen's Hotel, 738-5141

**Jackpot:** Cactus Pete's, 755-2321; Horseshu, 755-2331

**Wendover:** Nevada Crossing, 664-4000; Live entertainment Tues.-Sun., Peppermill, 664-2255; Red Garter, 664-2111; Silver Smith, 664-2231; State Line, 664-2221

**Winnemucca:** Winners Hotel-Casino, 623-2511



## Outings

### Copter Skiing in the Rubies

Tired of lift lines? Looking for virgin snow? Like to really fly when you ski? If so, Ruby Mountain Heli-Ski is the answer to your dreams. The Lamoille-based outfit offers packages that include meals, lodging, local transportation, on-hill guide service, and helicopter trips to 500 square miles of untracked peaks and bowls in the Ruby Mountains.

The three-day/three-night package costs \$1,000, and the six-day/six-night package is \$1,800. Prices are per person, based on double occupancy. You can choose between lodging at the Red Lion Inn in Elko or the charming Breitenstein House in Lamoille, which is the base of operations. Write Ruby Mountain Heli-Ski, Box 1192, Lamoille, NV, 89828, or phone 702-753-6867

### Fallon: The Facts on Artifacts

Housed in a defunct Safeway store on South Maine Street in Fallon, the Churchill County Museum is a supermarket of Nevada antiquity. Such items as cowboy gear, antique bottles, Nevada minerals, antique dolls, a 1906 Oldsmo-

bile, and a 1917 Brockway fire engine are tastefully displayed. A recreated pioneer kitchen, bedroom, and parlor, all stuffed with antiques, tell of frontier life at the turn of the century.

The museum's most important collection is that of Hidden Cave. The cave, which was used for storage by ancient Nevada Indians, was a major discovery in the 1930s. Over the years the cave has been carefully excavated, and the museum features both artifacts and information on the excavation itself. What's more, the museum and the Bureau of Land Management conduct guided tours of the cave on the second and fourth Saturdays of each month. Meet at the museum at 9:30 a.m. Churchill County Museum, 1050 South Maine, Fallon, NV, 89406; phone 702-423-3677

### Fishing on Thick Ice

A sunny day on the lake, a piece of bait at the end of the line, a tasty trout ready to bite—that's the life even in the middle of winter, as any avid ice fisherman will tell you. When the ice is a foot or more thick, anglers with ice drills will be out there at places like Spring Valley State Park near Pioche, where lurking trout may be tempted by corn or salmon eggs when Eagle Valley Reservoir freezes over. Other hot spots include Wild Horse and Wilson reservoirs north of Elko, Cave Lake near Ely, and Cummins Lake near McGill.

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# HAPPY NEW YEAR!

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**By Roger Smith**

This is the story of the year.

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None of us escapes or fully comprehends this yearly rite, but in Nevada some of the world's foremost party planners know exactly what to do about it. The result is a fantastic array of effervescent celebrations, and you're invited to assist in the birthing of 1987 Nevada style.

Here is a preview.

## ***Madding Crowd, Explosions, and Monsters***

It's early in the evening, December 31, and people begin filling Fremont Street in downtown Las Vegas, moving with one impulse toward the looming monolith of the Union Plaza. As 8 p.m. approaches, they lift their faces toward the 26th-story roof. Fazoom! Rays of fire vesuviate upward. The sky sparkles and cracks with streaming colors, and the crowd raises exultations. For 15 minutes the hoozah continues. Happy New Year!

Eight o'clock? Come again?

Patience. The Union Plaza New Year's fireworks display, famous throughout the U.S. and Southern California, is a tradition, but casino managers don't want it to

keep people from dances and other traditional festivities. So they shoot their spectacle early, and the pyrotechnicalized crowd disperses for the big band music of the Johnny Haig Orchestra at the Union Plaza's Triple Crown Ballroom, or a champagne splash at the Flamingo and Las Vegas Hiltons, or the "Roaring '20s" revue at the Holiday Casino, or—well, see the listing below for the various rites of passage.

About the monsters. Flanking Fremont Street during the fireworks are two neon giants, 45-foot-tall Vegas Vic, beckoning folks into the Pioneer Club, and Vegas Vickie, who perches atop a mound o' lights above the Glitter Gulch. Neither is considered dangerous.

## ***Earthquakes and Astral Music***

San Francisco quakes and burns as 100 dancers and singers at Bally's in Reno put on the largest show, "Hello Hollywood, Hello," on the world's largest stage. The quakes and fires have been vamping audiences nightly for eight years now, but on New Year's Eve the cast members like to match the audience's party favors with a special show of their own. Everything that will happen does, including a pre-show rendition of "Auld Lang Syne." Goodbye, San Francisco, goodbye, goodbye, goodbye.

Meanwhile, country recording star Donna Fargo will headline John Ascuaga's Nugget, after which you can shake a leg to

the music of the Ron Legg Orchestra, and the Peppermill, Reno Hilton, and other Reno area casinos will have stellar entertainment to boot. Those who are too young for casinos but too old to stay home can attend a dance party at the Reno Livestock/Events Center.

At Lake Tahoe, welcoming the new year has become a blockbuster party at Stateline. Harrah's Tahoe is bringing in Dolly Parton for a one night stand. She'll dazzle the casino's faithful at a private party in the South Shore Room from 10 p.m. to the midnight countdown. The general public then can catch her act at the 1:30 a.m. cocktail show. The Pointer Sisters will likewise shimmy for a private party at Caesars, while Frank Sinatra, Jr. and John Ritter will croon and comedize respectively across the street at Del Webb's High Sierra. Next door, Harveys' lounges will shake, rattle, and roll with bands amid the splendor of the casino's new high-rise addition that dwarfs the original digs.

## ***The Witching Hour and Border Conflicts***

Wendover straddles the Utah-Nevada border and two time zones, which often meant trouble for New Year's in years past. If Utahans, who live on Mountain Time, wanted to celebrate with their neighbors, they arrived an hour early; if Nevadans, who live on Pacific Time, went to Utah parties, they got there an hour late. Which time was right? Everyone was









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bewitched. Then the Red Garter found a solution. The casino decided to offer two parties, one for each time zone, and peace reigned. So did champagne, dancing, and music. The bipartisan affair is now traditional, and everyone is invited to either or both. The rest of the Wendover casinos—Peppermill, Nevada Crossing, Silver Smith, and the State Line—will jangle in the New Year in tune with Nevada time.

#### ***Balls of Fire and Flaming Parades***

Nevada casinos don't host all the New Year's Eve blowouts. Parties can be found in towns throughout the state. For instance, both the Austin and Smith Valley volunteer fire departments are holding New Year's Eve balls. The dancing and music will be hot and handy, and no one will be put out by it. The hospitality is life saving.

The celebration runs downhill at the Tahoe Donner Ski Area near Truckee. Ski instructors plan to schuss the slopes while holding torches, and you can watch the parade in comfort and safety from the day lodge. Nearby, Boreal on Donner Summit will extravaganzagate with a fireworks display, night skiing, music, and dancing, and they need your help if they're to get it all done on time.

#### ***Wringing Out the Old Year***

The perceptive reader may recognize that this story does not concern just parties. More serious issues are involved here, the kind that change our lives irresolutely, and in order to adjust with easy pain, you must participate in a Nevada New Year's rite.

Consider what's at stake when we lose 1986 to 1987. We must learn to sign checks 1987. We must learn to live without federal elections for a year. We can no longer refer to 1985 as "last year, when I turned 39"; that distinction now properly belongs to 1986. We must buy 1987 stickers for our license plates or learn to drive backwards. We have to stop smoking again. It is now 30 years since the accidental death of Winston, Queen Elizabeth's horse, and the 200th anniversary of New Jersey's admission to the Union. We have to prepare a new page in our *Scott's Album of United States Stamps*. That's a lot to remember to stay in the present.

Here's where Nevada New Year's celebrations help: as pneumatic devices. It is why I go to them. The parties, champagne, food, fireworks, more champagne, stars, music, and dancing are unforgettable, especially on the crucial morning after, when 1987 begins in earnest. The New Year will then touch your mind so profoundly that you will require another Nevada New Year's Eve to efface it.

We'll talk more about that next year.

For now, here are the places and shindigs that will forever remind you of 1987's





To insure a harmonious welcome to 1987 Nevada stages will be ablaze with timely entertainment. Above, *Legends in Concert* will ring in the new with golden oldies at the Imperial Palace in Las Vegas while Harrah's Tahoe is bringing in all of Dolly Parton for a special New Year's party in the South Shore Room.



beginning. Prices are noted where available, and be sure to call ahead for details and reservation information. Keep in mind that it's far better to attend a pneumatic shindig than to risk a dig in the shin for getting the date wrong.

#### Las Vegas Parties

Flamingo Hilton, gala ball in the new Silver State Ballroom beginning at 8 p.m., gourmet dining, big band music of the Keith Hall Orchestra, champagne, party favors, \$75, 733-3100.

Four Queens, Kingston Trio, 9 p.m., \$10 includes two drinks, 385-4011.

Holiday Casino, party begins at 9 p.m. with free drinks, party favors, "Rocky Sennes' Roaring '20s" revue followed by a buffet breakfast at the Galley Restaurant, \$34.95, 369-5222.

Imperial Palace, "Legends in Concert," 7 and 10:30 p.m., The Fifth Dimension, 2 a.m., Imperial Theatre, 794-3261.

Lady Luck, special late night buffet in the new Brasserie Restaurant, free champagne, party favors, live music, 384-4680.

La Mirage, noise makers, cocktails, and hors d'oeuvres, 733-7777

Las Vegas Little Theatre, The Great New Year's Eve Alternative, champagne, hors d'oeuvres, and a special performance of *Side by Side by Sondheim*, 731-5958.

Peppermill Resort, Mesquite (70 miles northeast on I-15), party favors, champagne at midnight, 346-5232.

Union Plaza, annual fireworks at 8 p.m., dancing to the big band music of the Johnny Haig Orchestra in the Triple Crown Ballroom at 9 p.m., \$17.50 includes dance and champagne, 386-2319.

#### Reno/Sparks/Carson City Parties

Bally's-Reno, formal to free-form dancing in the Grand Ballroom as the big band

sounds of the Joe Rossi Orchestra alternate with contemporary music from 8:30 p.m. to 1:30 a.m.; Golden Memories Rock 'n Roll in the Goldwyn Ballroom, 789-2285.

Carson City Nugget, annual New Year's Eve bash costs \$20 and begins at 8 p.m. with a dinner buffet in the Comstock Room, dance band in the convention center, and a bottle of champagne at 11 p.m. for the countdown, 882-1626.

Eldorado, Reno, casino celebration with hats and special menu bargains in restaurants; package deals (reservations required) include two nights double occupancy, gourmet dinner for two, live entertainment, champagne, party favors, New Year's Day brunch, \$290. Celebration without room, \$140.20 for two, 786-5700.

Reno Hilton, celebration in the Opera House Theatre costs \$60 and begins at 8 p.m. with dancing to Johnnie Walker's dance band followed at 10:30 p.m. by Paul Revere and the Raiders, price includes dinner, two drinks, and a bottle of bubbly, 785-7100.

John Ascuaga's Nugget, Sparks, Donna Fargo sings in the New Year in the Celebrity Room, \$35 dinner show, \$17.50 cocktail show, while the Ron Legg Orchestra performs at a dinner dance in the convention center, \$32.50, 356-3300.

Minden, Carson Valley Inn's party costs \$24.95 and begins at 8 p.m., featuring a seafood and prime rib buffet, champagne, party favors, and dancing to the Tom Delaney Orchestra, 782-9711.

Ormsby House, Carson City, casino celebration begins at 8 p.m., free champagne, party favors, and the Tamra Steele show in the Mark Twain Bar, 882-1890.

Peppermill, Reno, gala celebration, music by the Lelands, buffet, drinks, 826-2121.

Reno Livestock/Events Center, T Bar Z New Year's Eve party and dance for 18-24 year olds, 827-2102.

Western Village, Sparks, pre-New Year's Eve celebration on December 30th, Bob Barnes and his dance band playing hits from the '40s; on New Year's Eve, Gary Wade and the Bump will swap sets with the Wrays, free hors d'oeuvres, 331-1069.

#### Lake Tahoe Parties

Caesars Tahoe, Stateline, "High-Steppin'" revue and Laff Trax comedy in the Crystal Cabaret, two drink minimum, 588-3515.

Harrah's Tahoe, Stateline, special New Year's Eve performance by Dolly Parton in the South Shore Room, 10 p.m. show private, 1:30 a.m. cocktail show open to public, 588-6611.

Hyatt Tahoe, Incline Village, Skiles and Henderson music and comedy, 831-1111.

#### Rural Territories Parties

Austin, volunteer fire department's 105th Annual New Year's Eve Dance, live music, refreshments, 9 p.m. to 2 a.m., 964-2301.

Elko, Business and Professional Women's New Year's Eve Party, \$10, 7:30 p.m. to 2 a.m., Convention Center, 738-4091.

Lovelock, '50s-'60s theme dance, Community Center, 273-2687.

Wendover, hats, party favors, and hoopla in all the bordertown casinos. The Red Garter (664-2111) hosts a bi-state celebration that counts down the New Year in two time zones. But by that time, who's counting? ▀

Roger Smith of Reno is a freelance writer and former associate editor of Nevada.





JAY ALDRICH

## THE LEGISLATURE 100 Years of Roughing It

When Nevada's lawmakers met in the cramped and casual quarters of the Capitol in Carson City, they were often driven to distraction—or even out the window.

By Guy Shipler



Its 19th century designers clearly wanted to make Nevada's Capitol Building a work of art. Outside they used ornamental balustrades and Ionic pillars to offset the thick walls of prison sandstone. Inside, marble panels lined the hallways, and twin staircases swept up to the second floor. Eighteen-foot ceilings and gas-lit chandeliers attracted the visitor's eye and invited the proper amount of awe and respect.

From the first, the Capitol's stately contours provided an impressive backdrop for the governors, secretaries of state, and other officials whose offices were located there. But the legislators, who met in the building for two months every two years,

discovered that their second-floor chambers had high ceilings and tall windows—but little working space beyond their desk tops.

The result: For a full 100 years, from the first session held in the Capitol in 1871 until they got a building of their own in 1971, the legislators labored in a unique intimacy. They could hardly tell the difference in the crowded hallways between their colleagues and hangers-on, witnesses, and lobbyists. This atmosphere didn't lend itself to the kind of dignity associated with legislatures elsewhere. Indeed, Nevada's lawmakers became noted for at least a casual and more often a kind of raucous behavior—in and out of the theo-

retically hallowed halls.

Some extra space was provided when the legislature in 1913 authorized the addition of two wings to the Capitol, in part to create new chambers for the senate and assembly. Located at opposite ends of the second-floor hallway, the two new meeting rooms reflected the decor and sweep of the rest of the building.

Unfortunately, the new construction ignored the fact that 90 percent of the legislature's work must be done in committee. Thus, despite the spaciousness of the chambers, committees had to meet in cubbyholes whose odd shapes and sizes conformed to the lines of the building rather than the needs of the lawmakers.





LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL BUREAU PHOTOS



LISA J. TOLDA

Since they had no office space, members of the assembly developed close working relationships by necessity in the Capitol. In the less-crowded senate (top right) Lt. Governor Rex Bell presided in the '50s; Secretary Leola Armstrong is at left, and reporters are in the foreground. The new Legislative Building (lower right) opened in 1971.

By 1947 things had gotten really jammed up. That was the year William Swackhamer, now the retiring secretary of state, arrived in Carson City as a freshman assemblyman from Battle Mountain.

"About the only committee which had its own room was Ways and Means," he recalls. "But it was long and narrow—and I mean narrow. It had space for a table and about seven chairs on each side. That left just enough room for anyone who wanted to testify, and damn little room for anyone who wanted to see what was going on."

What did the other committees do for meetings? Usually they met in any free corner they could find. The lucky ones met in the most spacious area around—the

press table in the assembly chamber. But that depended on the reflexes of the committee chairman.

"After adjournment," Swackhamer recalls, "the press didn't use the table. So whatever committee chairman got on his feet first to announce a meeting got it. Even though that was better than anything else available, working at the press table could be terribly distracting, because there were always people still milling around in the chamber. You couldn't tell who was testifying and who was just talking."

Cramped quarters didn't matter as much in those days, however. Even as recently as 30 years ago legislative life was

relatively calm and uncomplicated.

"There was a lot of card-playing when I first came down," recalls Swackhamer, who served longer in the assembly than anyone before or since (Governor Mike O'Callaghan appointed him secretary of state in 1973). "At that time the state lived entirely off the property tax, so the legislators would get together and appropriate a little bit of money here and a little bit there. They'd pass a few laws, then play cards for a while. Finally they'd go back and make some more appropriations and go home in 60 days."

That casual attitude expressed itself in other ways. "Naturally the legislators didn't have any offices," Swackhamer



says. "We didn't even have any staff to speak of at first. We didn't take any minutes in committee meetings, because we didn't have any secretaries to take them anyway. So whenever a question came up later as to legislative intent on any action we took, we'd get 40 or 50 different answers."

It took quite a while for things to improve. James I. Gibson of Henderson, now Nevada's most senior legislator, remembers his first session as an assemblyman in 1959 with a sense of wonder. It was still like camping out:

"The main thing I recall is that there were no facilities for anything. The committee rooms were very inadequate, and there weren't enough of them. We had very little staff support. In fact, I was the first committee chairman ever to get a secretary to take minutes, and I had to arrange for that myself.

"Also, in those early days, the legislature would allow lobbyists to come right onto the floor when we were in session to push their interests with individual legislators. I remember one time when we had a bill up to do away with the right-to-work law. When it came up for a vote, the labor lobbyists came in and sat down right next to their doubtful or questionable representatives." George Harmon, a Clark County assemblyman, had two lobbyists sitting next to him. "He had promised both sides that he would vote in their favor, so he had one 'pro' lobbyist sitting on one side of him and an 'anti' lobbyist on the other side. I don't recall how it worked out, but it couldn't have been very pleasant for him."

Nor was it pleasant for others who over the years managed to get themselves into similar traps. Usually the only way out was to be absent when the bill came up for a vote. That takes some doing, especially when there is a "call of the house," which is a procedural mechanism requiring all members to be present.

The most celebrated case of that kind took place in the 1969 session. Governor Richard Bryan, then a freshman assemblyman from Clark County, remembers what he calls "one of the more memorable legislative events of my tenure in the lower house.

"A highly controversial bill was up for a vote, and there had been a call of the house, and to make sure that all members would stay in the chamber, the sergeant at arms had even fastened a chain across the entrance.

"But when the roll call began, a legislator from Mesquite suddenly leaped out of his chair—it was literally like the Christmas fairy tale—and ran to the window which was only a few feet from his desk. The window flew open and he jumped out and climbed down the fire escape on that very snowy day. Howard McKissick, who was speaker that year, shouted, 'Come

back! Come back! You can't do that!' The reluctant legislator, who immediately came to be known in the press as 'The Mesquite Mosquito, had no choice. He did come back and he had to vote.'

There were other examples of the free-wheeling character of the legislature, such as Bob Bennyhoff, the United Press International reporter who took advantage of voice votes in the assembly by shouting his own "Yes" or "No" from the press table. There were the legendary (but quite real) bats living in the capitol dome, naturally leading to the cliché that they had a lot of competition from the human bats on the floor below.

And there was Melody Lane. A small bar just south of the Capitol, it attracted lawmakers and newsmen, who would retreat there at the end of each legislative day to trade gossip and talk politics.

"The legislature was much more informal in the Capitol Building than it is

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today," Bryan says. "And I don't think there was as much partisanship then as now. I'm a Democrat, but Republicans like Howard McKissick, then the speaker, and Lawrence Jacobsen couldn't have been more accommodating.

"Naturally we had to deal with partisan issues often. But we didn't seem to have to try from Day One to build a record to defeat so-and-so, or plot how to maintain our control, or strive to create a political issue that would work to our advantage."

Leola Armstrong, who spent 32 years working for the legislature as a secretary, minute clerk, assistant secretary of the senate, and finally its secretary, says, "It was the best job I ever had." She takes pride in having helped design, with Jeff Springmeyer, "the whole present form—the checks, the balances and so on—that have made it possible for people to have copies of documents like the histories and journals. Before that they had to read all that out of one big book."

Armstrong took that process with her when the legislature moved to its own

building in 1971. And even though she worked there for 10 years, she looks back with a special fondness on the carefree days in the Capitol—and especially on the lawmakers themselves. "In spite of all the political operations that went on," she says, "those people were honorable. They weren't self-serving, and I had great admiration for them. They worked hard and they played hard."

Mouryne Landing, chief clerk of the assembly, who started work in that body in 1965, says that even though things are much more efficient in the new building, she also feels a touch of nostalgia. "I remember that the chambers were situated so I could stand at the front desk in the assembly and look down the hall and I could see whether the senate was in session. I miss that."

Some people also miss the Old West atmosphere, which has not carried over to the new building. The chambers are on the first floor now, but it would be impossible for anyone to escape through a window. As in most modern buildings, the windows resist all attempts to open them. And since the windows in the chambers are made of stained glass, it might be hard even for some new Mesquite Mosquito to break out.

But there are important practical aspects of the newer quarters. The building has 96,000 usable square feet, as opposed to about 5,000 square feet in the old chambers. There is space not only for each committee, but also a 300-seat meeting room for joint hearings, public hearings, and other gatherings. The building has private lounges, a communications center—and, believe it or not, an office for each of the 63 legislators. The Legislative Counsel Bureau, which had been a closet stepchild in the Capitol, now has several thousand square feet for its 100 full-time employees and some 60 part-timers who work during the biennial sessions.

Nostalgia? Senator Gibson, who has been a leader in the legislature for 30 years, says yes, there may be a little. But like others in that body, he says that the changes in Nevada and its government have been so drastic that "I don't think the legislature could function today under the strictures we had in the Capitol Building. I certainly wouldn't want to return to what it was like."

But the old senate and assembly chambers still exist—quietly now except for an occasional meeting. The state has seen to it that they will continue to exist, and as special places, because of the part they played in those loud and crowded days when the lawmakers molded so much of Nevada's character and personality with their legislation. ■

*Guy Shipler, Time/Life correspondent, used to cover the legislature from the Capitol press tables.*



# THE OLD WEST HISTORY



History and the old west are waiting for you in Carson City, Nevada. Carson City is the perfect stop on your vacation. Located near the center of the historic Comstock Lode, Carson City offers you the Nevada State Museum, the V&T Railroad Museum, the Stewart Indian Museum and Trading Post, also numerous historic mansions. Nearby are old Fort Churchill,

Virginia City and beautiful Lake Tahoe. Carson City's hospitality will please you and your family with beautiful countryside, great family accommodations and of course, gaming in the true Nevada tradition. Call toll free or write for information on Historic Carson City, Nevada.

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A  
DAY IN  
THE  
LIFE OF



FRANÇOIS ROBERT

# NEVADA

When top photographers set out to document America,  
Nevadans struck memorable poses.





DANA FINEMAN PHOTOS

Last May 2, which was a warm spring day in Nevada, 202 photographers from around the world took part in a huge project—to chronicle America at almost every minute of that particular day. From their headquarters in Denver the lensmen and women were sent out to every state to snap their unusual assignment.

The result was *A Day in the Life of America*, a book that is weighty not only in its coffee-table-sized dimensions but also in the visual impact of its 280-odd photographs.

The Silver State is well represented, with seven images by two photographers, one who worked the Las Vegas area and another who explored Reno. Nevada's showing was all the more impressive considering that some states weren't represented at all.

Three of the photographers' Nevada photos are shown on these pages. The book used Swiss photographer Francois Robert's photo of Las Vegas illusionists Siegfried and Roy per-



Nevada photos included, from above left, a Las Vegas performer Reno square dancers, and cat lover Ginger Cantacessi.

forming in their tigers' pool and one of a floating blackjack table. The photo of a Las Vegas show performer (above left) was submitted but not published.

Photographer Dana Fineman of New York spent the day in and around Reno. One of Fineman's published photos was a group portrait of square dancers at the Lake Mansion (above right). Another contribution was a full-page treatment of cat lover Ginger Cantacessi of Golden Valley north of Reno (bottom right). Other subjects included pro-life crusader Andy Anderson and showgirls appearing in "Hello Hollywood, Hello" at Bally's Reno.

*A Day in the Life* can be found or ordered at most bookstores at \$39.95 retail. The book is published by Collins Publishers, 373 Park Avenue South, New York, NY 10016. □

The photographs on these pages are used with the permission of the publisher.



VANCE FOX



# Snow Country Trails

Nordic skiers and snow campers will find that these are great places to kick and glide.

By Julie Quinn

From snowy flats to forest trails, cross-country skiers in Nevada and the Sierra can find the kinds of terrain that bring out the pioneer spirit in snow-country enthusiasts. Here are presented a number of those areas that are suited to skiers who like weekend adventure but have varied skill levels. Of course, there are many other places that become excellent skiing sites after a good snowfall for a week or two anyway. Keep in mind that these Nordic areas cater to many levels of skill.

For novices, **Incline Nordic**, located on Incline Village's executive golf course, offers rolling hills, flat runs, and a beautiful view of Lake Tahoe. Other more advanced trails veer off from the beginner's routes. Ski Incline is half a mile away.

Nearby, at the top of Mount Rose Highway 25 miles south of Reno, **Tahoe Meadows** is a large area that is perfect for beginners. Intermediates can ski through the meadow and then try their feet at skiing down through trees, enjoying a splendid view of the valley below. There also is telemarking



DEACON CHAPIN

*Some areas in the Sierra make skiers smile by providing groomed trails.*



on the plentiful hills around the meadow and across the highway.

On the lake's east side at **Spooner Lake**, beginners will find serene beauty and flat terrain with some hilly areas. At the edge of the woods you can discover a log cabin complete with firewood—a haven in the event of a sudden storm.

**Squaw Valley** is one of Tahoe's best known areas for beginners. The foothills are also good for intermediates, and the lake can be seen from the higher slopes. Close by are the alpine resort's restaurants and shops.

In Southern Nevada, 45 miles northwest of Las Vegas—and 6,000 feet higher—is the snow-sports center of **Lee Canyon**. A good tour can be had by following the unplowed road into the canyon, breaking trail (or having Las Vegas cross-country experts Bill Bradley or Bob Schaumburg do it for you), and enjoying beautiful views of Mount Charleston and its forests. Or camp out at Bradley's primitive cabin to take moonlight tours, learn how to survive, and live for a couple of days in the beauty of Nevada's backcountry. In Las Vegas, Bradley works out of Edelweiss Ski Geschäft, and Bob Schaumburg is at Highland Outfitting (see chart).

## INTERMEDIATES

Opening with a couple of new trails this year, including wide lanes for those who "skate" with their skis, **Kirkwood** is about 40 miles southwest of Gardnerville on Highway 88. The cross-country area is 1.5 miles from Kirkwood's alpine resort. You can see nature's beauty on new Coyote Pass Trail along the Sierra Crest. Kirkwood will offer avalanche seminars in December and January.

Located on Highway 89 on the way to Kirkwood, **Sorensen's** has just opened 10 kilometers of trails. About five miles from Grover Hot Springs and the mountain town of Markleeville, Sorensen's features vacation packages that include rustic wood cabins with kitchens and saunas.

At **Northstar** you can take an overnight ski tour to a remote mountain cabin or any number of other special excursions. A new gondola will help you practice cross-country downhill techniques, and Northstar's alpine resort is close by.

Behind **Tahoe Nordic** near Tahoe City, old logging trails high above Lake Tahoe offer splendid views of the lake. This is one of the few ski areas with all one-way trails. It also offers child care by reservation.

With the colorful ski outfits, the large lodge, and endless snow, you might think **Royal Gorge** is an alpine ski resort. But this, the largest cross-country resort in the U.S., caters to Nordic skiers only. Royal Gorge, off I-80, offers vacation packages that include rustic lodging, French cuisine, hot tubs, lessons, yoga, and sleighrides.

# 1987 Nevada Cross-Country Skier's Guide

Name	Phone	Groomed Trail (km)	Trail Fee Adult/Child	Rentals Adult/Child	Lessons Adult/Child	Day Lodge
<b>Tahoe Basin</b>						
<b>Big Chief Guides</b>	916-583-7331	**		\$8/\$6.50	\$9	✓
<b>Incline</b>	702-832-1150	10	\$4/\$2	\$9/\$6	\$10	✓
<b>Kirkwood</b>	209-258-8864	75	\$10/\$5.50	\$10/\$6	\$19/\$14	✓
<b>Northstar</b>	916-562-1010	40	\$7/\$4	\$11/\$9	\$14/\$8	✓
<b>Royal Gorge</b>	916-426-3871	255	\$11.50/\$6.50	\$11/\$8	\$12	✓
<b>Sorensen's</b>	916-694-2203	10	no	no	at Kirkwood	✓
<b>Spooner Lake</b>	702-831-0494	40	\$5/\$3	\$14.50/\$11	\$15	
<b>Squaw Valley</b>	916-583-8951	30	\$5/\$3	\$7/\$6	\$7/\$4	✓
<b>Sugar Pine Point</b>	916-525-7232	**	\$2/car	no	no	
<b>Tahoe Donner</b>	916-587-9400	50	\$9/\$5	\$10/\$6	\$25	✓
<b>Tahoe Nordic</b>	916-583-9858	55	\$6/\$3	\$10.50/\$5.25	\$16/\$12	✓
<b>Telemark Country Sports</b>	916-577-6811	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	
<b>Around the State</b>						
<b>Lee Canyon (Las Vegas)</b>	702-871-7999 702-382-5093	Edelweiss Ski Geschäft rents x-c skis for Lee Canyon. Highland Outfitting does, too.				
<b>Ruby Mountains (Elko)</b>	702-753-6867	Ruby Mt. Heli-Ski in Lamoille offers helicopter rides and tours.				
<b>Spring Valley (Eureka)</b>	702-237-5280	Ron Canyon at the Owl Club provides ride and map free.				
<b>White Pine (Ely)</b>	702-289-8877	Chamber has maps for skiing at three local areas.				

\*Donations \*\*Marked trails For downhill resorts, see last issue, Nov/Dec '86.

## EXPERTS

The trek from **Spooner Lake** to **Marlette Lake**—which is 1,000 feet up and five miles each way—is one of Tahoe's most scenic, with views of the lake from the top of the trail. Hopefully the road will be groomed daily, according to Max Jones, who with his wife Patti manages the ski program at this state park area.

At **Big Chief Guides** near Squaw Valley, experts can climb and ski 8,424-foot Silver Peak while enjoying spectacular Tahoe scenery. Snow-camping trips and photography workshops can be scheduled, too. Generally children are not advised to try this area because of the hilly terrain.

At **Tahoe Donner** near Truckee, you can follow trails back into Euer Valley, where, except for a couple of ranches, it's still untouched by civilization.

Starting on the Tahoe Paradise Golf Course at South Tahoe, the skier can choose from a variety of tours at **Telemark Country Sports**. There are day tours, overnight cabin tours, snow camping, survival courses, and moonlight tours.

## OFF THE BEATEN TRACK

At **Cave Lake State Park**, 15 miles south of Ely, beginners and experts can enjoy the scenic vistas and deep winter silence that White Pine County has to offer. Roads through aspen and mountain mahogany groves lead to Cooper and Success summits, and although muddy roads can be a problem, residents and visitors say that there is nothing like this part of the Humboldt National Forest.

North of Elko, **Gold Creek** is an ideal spot for beginners. This is open, wild coun-

try, complete with rolling hills for the intermediate to advanced skier. In the **Ruby Mountains** south of Elko, experts can take a helicopter ride up Lamoille Canyon with Ruby Mountain Heli-Ski (702-753-6867) and really sink their teeth into telemarking.

**Kingston Canyon** in the Toiyabe Range near Austin is known for its ruggedness and desolate beauty. Experts can make a great trek through this area. You're on your own when making trails, which can be very difficult at times, but for someone with experience, good conditioning, and a yearning to see spectacular Nevada winter beauty, it's well worth the work.

## BE PREPARED

Experienced cross-country skiers always bring along some essentials and extras in a day pack. Count on clothes changes. No matter where you go, it's best to layer your clothing. That way, if the sun is beating hard, you can strip down to a T-shirt. If a Tahoe blizzard crops up, you'll be equally prepared with warm clothing.

Be familiar with the weather and snow conditions where you're going, and know what to do in an emergency. It's best to know first-aid and wilderness survival.

So take a cross-country ski lesson at Royal Gorge, Kirkwood, Tahoe Donner, or any of the numerous other areas around Nevada. Or find those out-of-the-way places that offer solitude, virgin snow, and striking views seen only by a few.

*Julie Quinn is a freelance writer, cross-country skier, and student of opera looking for an untracked place to sing.*





Gary Cooper and his wife Rocky were Tavern regulars.

# Tavern in the Sky

Back in the 40s, skiing was in its infancy, and stars were on the slopes.

By Marge Knorr

**A** glamorous moment in skiing history took place just outside Reno on the snowy slopes of Slide Mountain. The site was Sky Tavern, which is largely forgotten as a resort by skiers today.

But when it opened for business in the fall of 1945, Sky Tavern was heralded by the *Nevada State Journal* as a second Sun Valley, Idaho, with an "elaborate T-bar lift" and three rope tows. The downhill runs were one to three miles long, and lift tickets were \$2.50. Among the first destination ski resorts in the West, Sky Tavern had hotel rooms, restaurants, a bar, and an added Nevada attraction—a casino operated by Bill Harrah.

Movie stars and other celebrities were beginning to take up skiing, and Sky Tavern was their destination for a few exciting years. It was a small, intimate area, and Reno skiers rubbed shoulders with the likes of Rita Hayworth, Joe DiMaggio, Robert Stack, and Gary Cooper.

While the Tavern hosted the rich and famous, it also became the training ground for the young and ambitious in Reno's Junior Ski Program, which has turned out three generations of champions.

Sky Tavern was the creation of a Reno couple, Keston and Carlisle Ramsey, who wanted to promote the fledgling sport of skiing. With partner George Tett of San Francisco, Kes Ramsey, a contractor, bought 800 acres of mountainside known as Mount Rose Bowl. It included a rope

tow and warming hut that had been installed by Wayne Poulsen, a Reno skier who went on to found Squaw Valley.

When Ramsey finished building Sky Tavern in time for the 1945-46 ski season, the four-story lodge looked like a huge western-styled family home. The outside was covered with cedar shingles. Large windows and a deck offered views of the pines and mountains. The interior was finished in knotty pine. Large rock fireplaces in the dining room and bar offered crackling comfort to weary skiers. There were 21 guest rooms to accommodate 52 people.

For kids, Ramsey built a teen center with a juke box and snack bar downstairs near the ski shop and ski patrol room. For adults, Ramsey and Tett allowed Bill Harrah to install a mini-casino in the lounge with a 21 table, craps table, roulette wheel, and six slot machines. The Ramseys and their two sons Bob and Allan settled into an apartment on the first floor.

The timing was perfect. The only other Tahoe-area ski resort with lodging was Sugar Bowl, which had been built in 1938 on Donner Pass. But it had closed during the war years, leaving Sky Tavern with a monopoly on skiing in the region.

"We had all the big shots that first year," Ramsey recalls. "Levi Straus, Ingrid Bergman, Norma Shearer, Rita Hayworth, Robert Stack, John Hodiak, and others. Lowell Thomas skied here several times and made one of his famous radio broadcasts from Sky Tavern."

Keeping the elite in relative comfort was a big job for the Ramseys. The Tavern and its lifts were powered by generators, since no electrical lines scaled the mountain. Supplies were short because of the war, and what there was had to be hauled from Reno. But the guests didn't seem to mind the inconveniences.

Sometimes they even helped out. Gary Cooper and his wife Rocky were expected one weekend when Carlisle suddenly realized that the Tavern was almost out of toilet paper. So she got on their 10-party crank phone and called down to the nearest neighbor, Frank Leonard, at the Galena Creek Ranger Station.

"Frank," she asked, "do you have any extra john paper? Gary Cooper and his wife are coming up tonight and we don't have any paper for their room." So Frank took two rolls of the precious stuff out to the highway and flagged down the first car headed up the hill. "Here. Would you take this up to the Tavern? They're expecting the Gary Coopers and they're out of john paper. Would you mind?"

A short time later a tall, lanky man walked up to the lodge's registration desk. Placing two rolls of toilet paper on the register, he drawled, "I hear y'all need this." It was Gary Cooper.

**I**f the living was somewhat rustic, so was the skiing. Kes and Carlisle had been skiing the hills around Reno for years, often with sealskins strapped to the bottoms of their skis to help in climbing.





PHOTOS: RAMSEY FAMILY COLLECTION

*In the late '40s and early '50s, Sky Tavern was considered a chic mountain getaway by movie stars and other celebrities. The ski hill had three rope tows and a T-bar, and the lodge had cozy rooms, a restaurant, bar, and casino. Inset: The place was the creation of George Tett (left) and Keston Ramsey, who just wanted to build a quiet, family-oriented ski resort on the slopes of Slide Mountain.*

They remember the agony of the first rope tows. "You could wear out a pair of gloves in one day," Carlisle says. "Those things shot up the hill at 40 miles an hour. There were no safety devices, and you had to be sure to let go when you got close to the wheel at the end of the rope or you were in trouble."

Technique and form had not yet become major concerns in that corner of the Sierra. Skiers just pointed their boards downhill and went like hell. To stop they did a heel skid, or simply sat down and used their bodies for brakes.

In 1946 Kes lured instructor Hal Codding away from Sun Valley to form a ski school. Codding, who had studied with Austrian and French masters, brought new techniques to Sky Tavern. "Bend ze knees" rang out on the slopes along with terms like "wedeln, christy, vorlage, and ruade," and skiing progressed from the snowplow to parallel turns. As Carlisle points out, "it seemed as if we were doing something different every week."

With a hill of their own and Codding as an instructor, sons Bob and Allan became avid skiers. Ramsey watched with interest as his sons' skills developed, and he took things a step further. In 1949 he was approached by Renoites Marcie Herz, Clarence Jones, and Milt Zimmerman, who wanted to form a junior ski program.

Ramsey offered reduced lift rates, and Codding gave free instruction.

One reason for the success of the ski program was the quality of the snow. At 7,600 feet the Tavern was lower in base elevation than many of today's resorts, but its location on the shady, wind-protected eastern slope of the Sierra made for an abundance of snow—sometimes

“

**'Skiers are nuttier than baseball fans,' said DiMaggio. 'There were skiers right behind those snowplows trying to reach the slopes!'**

”

too much snow. The winter of '52 was the worst. "That was the biggest storm we'd had in the last 50 years," Ramsey says. "We were snowed in for six weeks, and the guests were skiing off the roof of the Tavern."

Among the stranded guests were Joe DiMaggio and his ex-wife Dorothy Arnold, an actress and nightclub singer.

The baseball star was seeking privacy to discuss a reconciliation with Arnold, but this was too much. It took four days to dig them out. When the snowplows finally arrived, DiMaggio said, "Skiers are nuttier than baseball fans. There were skiers right behind those snowplows trying to reach the slopes!" DiMaggio and Arnold never did retie the knot.

Indeed, skiing was becoming so popular that developers began eyeing other prospective slopes. About a mile up from the Tavern was a natural bowl—the present site of Slide Mountain Ski Area—that looked perfect for skiing. The only trouble was access. Snow plows could barely keep the road open to the Tavern in winter, and the big bowl was about a half mile west of the main highway with no access road.

But the developers worked out a deal with Ramsey and Tett to build a mile-long ski lift from the Tavern to the base of the bowl, purely for access. They built the lift and then added another 3,600-foot chairlift on the bowl itself.

Although the area was locally known as Slide Mountain, the developers, fearing the name would scare off skiers, renamed it Reno Ski Bowl. The new lifts were dedicated on Thanksgiving Day 1953, and Governor Charles Russell, county commissioners, celebrities, and dignitaries

*(Continued on page 76)*



# The Las Vegas Expressssssss

Travelers from Los Angeles may be in for the ride of their lives.



*Super Train boosters favor this 250-mph German model that runs on electromagnetic energy.*

**F**aster than a speeding rabbit; more powerful than a locomotive; able to leap two states in a single bound. It's Super Train!

Travelers between Las Vegas and Los Angeles may be making similar exclamations in 1995. That's the projected completion date of the Super Speed Train, a high-speed transporter that would link Las Vegas with Ontario, California. The train would be either an upgraded version of the French TLV or a train that's currently on the drawing boards in Germany and Japan. That train, called a Maglev (for magnetic levitation) would be powered by electromagnetic energy and zoom along on an air cushion above a single track at

speeds up to 250 mph. A one-way, 250-mile trip would take 75 minutes, and a round-trip ticket would cost just \$65.

The controversial project is the brainchild of Las Vegas officials who believe the train would not only provide efficient transportation but also attract a whole new crowd of visitors who will go along for the ride. The officials have been working with the Federal Railroad Administration on the project since 1981. The 1986 Final Report concludes that the project is feasible and would make money to boot, both for California and Nevada.

The City of Las Vegas now hopes to form a bi-state agency to work out the final details.

## First National Park of Nevada

When President Reagan signed the bill creating the Great Basin National Park last fall, he turned 76,000 acres of U.S. Forest Service land near Ely into Nevada's first national park.

He also ended a 63-year dispute. Many ranchers, hunters, and miners have long opposed the park, while tourism boosters have been all for it. As a compromise, the final acreage is about two thirds of the size originally proposed. Pro-parkers say the area is a perfect example of Great Basin topography, including the limestone caverns of Lehman Caves, mountain lakes, stands of ancient bristlecone pine, and 13,063-foot Wheeler Peak.

## A New Arch for Reno

The famed Reno arch on North Virginia Street is finally coming down. But only temporarily. The city is planning to install a brand-new arch as part of a downtown rejuvenation project.

In hopes of coming up with a new design for the arch, the city offered a \$2,500 prize, and as soon as the competition hit the news, a flood of phone calls and letters from would-be arch designers poured into the city manager's office. Now Reno officials are sorting through the entries.

Reno boosters hope to have the new arch blazing by next summer.

## Bars Closed in Virginia City

After 110 years of restraint, the Virginia City jail is closed for business. Storey County Sheriff Bob Del Carlo locked the door for good because insurance inspectors found it unsafe for human occupation. "The jail is now a museum as far as I'm concerned," Del Carlo said.

If it doesn't become a museum, it could be a fitting sitting room for someone like the Marquis de Sade. Taking up about one fourth of the first floor of the courthouse, the jail features none of the building's Victorian charm. A door made of flat steel straps opens into a room that is half the size of a basketball court. The cold concrete and brick walls are reinforced with steel plating, installed after William "Red Mike" Gangan, a convicted murderer, chiseled his way to freedom in 1897.

Nowadays Del Carlo is shipping lawbreakers to the Carson City jail. In the meantime he's trying to find a new jail, perhaps even better than the last one.

## Posh Portal for People Movers

While some Southern Nevada planners are dreaming of futuristic high-speed trains, others are busy right now enshrining the past with a turn-of-the-century-styled transportation terminal in downtown Las Vegas. With a copper roof and clock tower, the 10,000-square-foot station is scheduled for completion this spring. Designed to make waiting for a ride more of a pleasant interlude than a chore, the station will feature comfortable lounge areas, a newsstand, a restaurant, and security guards.

The station will service a fleet of theme shuttles that will whisk people from casino to casino. The shuttles are designed to look like San Francisco cable cars, except they'll have rubber tires and flashing lights. The terminal also will be a stop for Las Vegas Transit buses. Plans also call for people movers similar to the monorail at Disneyland to shuttle conventioners from downtown north to the Cashman Field Center. The Downtown Transportation Center and the fleet of theme shuttles should be on line by April. Planners hope the people mover will be whooshing along by 1988. ■



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PI2

# NEVADA

NEVADA'S GOT IT





## Gallery

**W**ild horses  
pause on the slopes  
of Mustang  
Mountain, with  
Boundary Peak,  
Nevada's highest at  
13,140 feet,  
looming in the  
background.

Photographer  
Stephen Nelson of  
Tucson captured  
this scene 70 miles  
west of Tonopah  
while taking a  
January hike. After  
spotting the  
animals, Nelson  
made an hour-and-  
a-half detour to get  
into position for  
this photograph.  
The horses—a rare  
sight at 10,000 feet  
in the snow—  
ran off.







# MIDDLE MANAGEMENT.



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\* Figures are for a composite cut of cooked beef, separable fat removed.  
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SIERRA FOOTHILLS/JAY ALDRICH

# The Great Nevada Land Rush

New residents and businesses have made Nevada the third fastest growing state in the U.S. Why the rush? Three reasons: Location, location, and location.

**By Nancy Peek**

**A**fter finding the solitude of the desert comforting and the air-plane schedules to Europe easy from Las Vegas, an opera singer decides to call Boulder City home.

After living in an island paradise for six years, two young women in Honolulu decide to expand their successful business to the mainland. The place they choose to base their operations is Reno.

Although he is able to hike, fish, and ski in the Cascade Mountains, a partner in a prestigious Seattle law firm packs up his family, takes a huge cut in income, and starts all over in Elko.

Large, successful corporations such as Porsche Cars of North America, Citicorp Credit Services, Xebec, and Ford Aerospace and Communications Corporation decide to base operations in Nevada.

From 1980 to 1985 Nevada was the third fastest growing state in the nation, exceeded only by Alaska and Arizona. In 1986 Nevada's population officially hit one million.

When many families and businesses can settle anywhere they choose, why do so many of them come to the Silver State?

An old saying in the real estate business is that the three most important things about a piece of property are location, location, and location. In Nevada that adage can be translated into three major attractions—beautiful settings, accessibility to transportation, and state laws that give both home owners and businesses some major breaks.

Indeed, the range of settings—from the alpine shoreline of Lake Tahoe, to the uncluttered vistas of rural Nevada, to the

posh digs of Las Vegas—offer a diversity of life styles and perspectives that people just can't find anywhere else.

What's more, both Las Vegas and Reno have international airports and sit on interstate freeways.

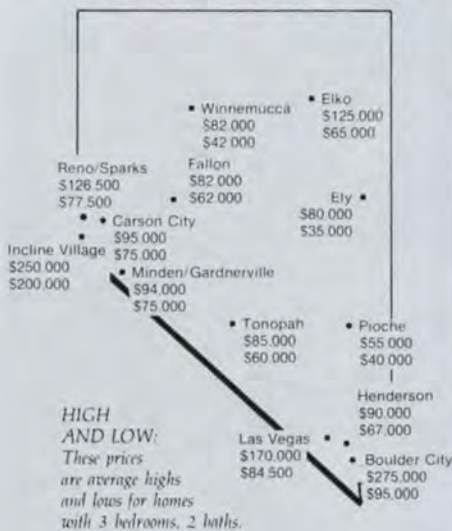
Residents enjoy tax breaks, including the absence of inheritance, gift, estate, admissions (for theaters and such), and personal property taxes. Businesses take advantage of the fact there are no corporate income or franchise taxes and that Nevada is a freeport state, which allows inventories to be stored in the state tax-free.

The material benefits are many, but often not the only reasons people move to the Silver State. Indeed, the reasons people give for their allegiance to Nevada are as diverse as the attractions themselves.



# Real Estate

## REAL ESTATE PRICES AROUND THE STATE



**NEVADA REALTORS:** These are the organizations to contact for further information about real estate in their areas:

**Nevada Association of Realtors**—1135 Terminal Way, Box 7338, Reno, NV 89510. Phone 702-329-6648

**Las Vegas Board of Realtors**—1820 E. Sahara Ave., Las Vegas, NV 89104. Phone 702-732-8177

**Reno Board of Realtors**—1100 Keitzke Lane, Reno, 89515. Phone 702-786-6020.

**Carson-Douglas-Tahoe Board of Realtors**, serving Carson City, Minden, Gardnerville, and Stateline—1937 N. Carson St., Carson City, NV 89701. Phone 883-6686.

**Incline Village Board of Realtors**—Box 7147 Incline Village, NV 89450. Phone 702-831-8777

**Elko Board of Realtors**, c/o Bert Gurr Real Estate—Box 1446, Elko, NV 89801. Phone 702-738-4773.

**Fallon Board of Realtors**—70 W. Center St., Fallon, NV 89406. Phone 702-423-4515.

**Winnemucca Board of Realtors**—Box 1009, Winnemucca, NV 89445. Phone 702-623-5045.

**WHO LIVES WHERE:** In the Las Vegas metropolitan area, a house is home for more than 125,000, or nearly 60 percent of the metropolitan area's 212,000 households. There are 18,900 households in condos and townhouses, 2,100 in duplexes, 44,400 in apartments, and 20,900 with mobile homes.

**SOLD:** Home resales in the Reno area hit an all-time high last September when 242 units were sold, according to the Reno Board of Realtors.



JAY ALDRICH



California transplant Gary Cook says it's the water that brought him to Gardnerville. Opera singer Nancy Shade says she moved to Boulder City because the place has spirit.

Take, for instance, Gary Cook. A recent transplant from Southern California, Cook settled his family in Gardnerville a couple years ago. But although he worked for a year and a half as executive director of the Northern Nevada Development Authority and now for a land developer in Dayton, he doesn't talk much about tax incentives when he talks about his love of Nevada. He talks about Lake Tahoe.

"It is Lake Tahoe that gives property around here value," Cook says. "It's the number-one edge over competition throughout the United States. People go crazy when they find the opportunity to have their business 30 minutes away from it. They find it irresistible."

On a personal note he adds, "I love it here, the mountains and fresh air. My wife and kids ski and I get to go out on that lake fishing nearly every weekend. It's great."

Conversely, Nancy Shade chose to move to Nevada because of her inner life. The professional opera singer, who was raised in Illinois, would have been a lot closer to her work if she lived in Los Angeles or New York, but instead she chose Boulder City.

She came to study classes at the New Life Foundation in Boulder City in 1979 and liked the instruction and the area so well that she stayed. Although the dry air gives her "Las Vegas throat" from time to time, she says a few vaporizers take care of it. Her work takes her all over the world, so convenient transportation is important. "Here I'm close to Los Angeles and San Francisco, and it's just a plane flight to New York and Germany," she says.

At the same time, she is only a few steps from the freedom to walk in the Nevada desert. "I love to explore the West, it's so beautiful here. Everything's available, but

there is a separateness and a small-town atmosphere. Very little crime and craziness."

The same attractions that bring first-timers to the state are bringing transplanted Nevadans home, too. Eric Easterly grew up in Elko and graduated from high school in 1965. After a stint in the Air Force that took him to Okinawa he attended college in New Hampshire and law school in Berkeley, California. He settled in Seattle and became a junior partner in a 45-man law firm.

Then in 1985, with two young children, he and his wife gave up their jobs and a beautiful home to move back to Elko.

Easterly, now 38, says they knew their move would be a big financial sacrifice. He had to take the bar exam in Nevada and start all over again. "We have friends in Seattle who are still scratching their heads, wondering why we did it," he laughs.

Although he fishes, hikes, and skis, Easterly says he didn't necessarily move back to Nevada for outdoor recreation. "We could have done all that stuff in the Cascades," he says. "It's the overall style of life here. To get the same quality of education we would probably have had to put our kids in private schools."

"We love the geography, the climate, the people, and the pace here. We'll stay. We're delighted with Elko."

Las Vegas is a hot spot for retirees looking for a place in the sun. Jud and Esther Rhodes had considered spending their golden years in Arizona. "It's a pretty place, nice and warm and the cost of living isn't too high," Jud says. "But I wanted a little more excitement to fill my days."

So five years ago they loaded up their 17-foot trailer, moved down from Port-

(Continued on page 51)



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**SIEGFRIED AND ROY  
OUT OF AFRICA,  
IN LAS VEGAS**

# Dream Homes

When highly creative people decide to build or remodel in Nevada, the results can be out of this world.

**By Jim Crandall**

**A**nybody with a few million in the bank can buy a home in Beverly Hills or build one on a cliff-top in Monterey. It takes imagination to build a mansion in Nevada.

Appropriately, imagination won out with the three Nevada homes presented here. The Las Vegas home of master illusionists Siegfried and Roy is a magical zoo. The Captain and Tennille's log cabin at Lake Tahoe has five levels and an elevator. And Rollan and Marilyn Melton's Tudor home in Reno has a surprise in every room. Reflecting the dynamic personalities of the owners and the lay of the land, each house is, in its turnings and turrets, fashioned with the stuff that dream homes are made of.

Perhaps the wildest home in Nevada belongs to Siegfried and Roy. Stars of the Frontier Hotel's sellout production "Beyond Belief," the dynamic duo are renowned for magic acts involving lions, tigers, and elephants. So when they decided to build a home, they made room for their entire cast of creatures.

The result is a \$10-million compound that blends Spanish architecture with African landscaping. "Some people call it a jungle palace," Roy says, "but we just call it home."

The white facade of the main house is appointed with gargoyles, and 10-foot walls surround the grounds. The resident animals—which range from Bengal tigers to Japanese silk chickens—have their own island habitats with cooling waterfalls and even an animals-only swimming pool.

As lions and colorful birds lounge outside, reminders of the wilds can be found inside the house, too. The four posts of Roy's black velvet bed are elephant tusks, and the bed sits against a mural of a mammoth. Siegfried's room is slightly tamer; the 360-degree muraled walls depict Merlin the Magician in the jungle with his apprentice, Siegfried, who holds a crystal ball in one hand and the leashes of a pair of jungle cats in the other.

The rest of the house is no less richly done. Mexican tiles are splashed with Oriental rugs. There's a one-ton hand-carved redwood Buddha in the library. The cappuccino bar has a hand-painted ceiling, and the marble hot tub has solid gold fixtures. Other rare collectibles include a 450-pound jade bull, precious stones, and golden figurines.

For fun, the illusionists have built secret passageways and strategically-placed mirrors, so you can never tell if they're coming, going, or really there at all.





*Siegfried (left) and Roy's \$10-million palace is filled with treasures, and their yard with lions and tigers.*



## THE CAPTAIN AND TENNILLE'S CABIN IN THE SKY

Toni Tennille inserts a tape in the portable cassette player that sits on her kitchen counter and presses "play." Her recorded voice booms out with a lusty version of "Come On to My House," an old Rosemary Clooney tune that the Captain and Tennille hope will be their next hit. "I could hear that on the radio," she says, and smiles that perfect smile. The Captain, Daryl Dragon, complete with skipper's cap, flashes his cherubic grin.

The song has a special meaning for the couple. It was inspired by their new house, a 7,400-square-foot log mansion they call Brookbear Lodge, which sits on the edge of a mountain meadow near the eastern shoreline of Lake Tahoe. Even if the song doesn't make the charts, the house fulfilled a longtime ambition—to live in Nevada.

"In 1970 I just wanted to get away from L.A.," Dragon recalls. "So I went up to Winnemucca, lived in my little Datsun camper, slept out in the open, and played at the Winners Inn. And I never had more fun. I just like the open spaces. I went out looking at gold mines and ghost towns, and I said to myself, 'Someday I'm going to move here.'"

"That was before we met," Tennille adds. They got together later when both were on tour with the Beach Boys, with whom Dragon worked for several years. In fact, the Beach Boys were the ones who called him "Captain Keyboard," which led to his famous nickname.

The two began playing Reno and Lake Tahoe casinos in 1977. "Any time of the year, we loved it," Tennille says. "Daryl's a high-desert person, and I'm a mountain person. So when we found these three acres here, it was perfect."

Daryl favored building a stone house, but Toni liked logs, so Carson City architect-builder Art Hannafin applied both concepts to his design. The resulting five-level home blends fireplaces and walls of native granite with the main structure's 12-inch-thick cedar and larch-log framework.

"This is what Art calls the great room," Tennille says, referring to a vast expanse that includes the living room, dining room, and kitchen. Two log trusses support the twin-gambrel roof while adding to the illusion of separation in the rooms below.

The great room opens onto a deck, where fat squirrels and blue jays feed on tidbits provided by Tennille. She chases the squirrels away when she lets her dogs out. Tennille loves the animals that come to feed on her deck and frolic in the meadow. She also loves her dogs, Peaches the bulldog and Spooner the shepherd-wolf. So much so that they have a room of their own, complete with shower, just off the attached guest house, which itself has a living room, bedroom, mini-kitchen, full bath, and laundry.

The main house has five bathrooms, including a shower with two portholes for the Captain, two bedrooms, a sound studio, laundry room, pantry, family room, and what Tennille calls "my pride and joy—my backpacking room. See, it's got all my gear, backpacks, my Tina Turner wig, everything I need."

Another Brookbear essential is the dumbwaiter. "It stops at all the levels in the house," Tennille says. "It's big enough so that when we get old, we can ride it instead of climbing the stairs."

They plan to live at Brookbear for a long, long time.







*A portion of the great room in Brookbear Lodge, the Captain and Tennille's Tahoe home. At right, the living-room fireplace, one of three, is of local granite. At left, Daryl Dragon and Cathryn Antoinette Tennille bask at their home in the pines.*

*Interior photos are reprinted from American Log Homes, ©1986 by Arthur Thiede and Cindy Teipner (\$24.95, Rodale Press, Book Division, 33 E. Minor St., Emmaus, PA. 18049). The hardbound book documents log construction with historic and current photographs.*



## Dream Homes

### ROLLAN AND MARILYN MELTON THE HOSTS OF RENO



When artist Marilyn Melton decided she wanted to add an art studio and remodel her Tudor mansion on Mount Rose Street in Reno, her husband Rollan said fine. "All I want is a sound system," he said. "And a flagpole."

"I can work with that," Marilyn replied. So she started a remodeling project that lasted two years, added 2,000 square feet to the original 4,200-square-foot home, and left nothing—absolutely nothing—unchanged inside.

Working with Reno architect Gail Richie, Marilyn applied her artist's eye to every detail. She insisted on using top Nevada craftspeople as well as the finest materials. So while the marble for the living room fireplace came from Italy, the Reno marble worker came from Tonopah. The iron sculptor lived in Incline Village, and the cabinet maker was from Truckee.

Just as the remodel was performed by locals, most of the museum's worth of paintings and sculptures that adorn the house are by area artists. Craig Sheppard's powerful western paintings are featured in special places, as is a series of Gus Bundy nudes.

The Meltons' concern for Nevada's art and heritage comes naturally. Marilyn was born in Reno; her mother was born in Goldfield, her grandmother in Virginia City. Although Rollan spent his youth in Idaho, he moved to Fallon when he was 15. He later was a reporter, editor, and pub-



The top photo, taken from the art studio, shows the trussed ceiling, balcony library, and living room. Above, the master bath is sheathed in marble and appointed with a goddess. At left, Rollan and Marilyn Melton in front of their Reno home.

lisher with the Reno newspapers, now owned by Gannett. Today he's a major stockholder, and although he's on the board of directors, he still writes a popular column.

The Meltons delight in showing Nevada off, something they do quite well. When Rosalynn Carter, who serves on the Gannett board, came to Reno to speak to the Nevada Women's Fund as a favor for Marilyn, she stayed the night at the Meltons'. And when Vice President George Bush was in town last fall, Republican senatorial candidate Jim Santini asked the Meltons if they would host a dinner party.

Marilyn says the party went pretty well except when the fire department arrived.

"We had the party on the back patio, and it was a little chilly, so we set up a tent and some heaters," Marilyn says. "We had asked the fire department to check the heaters and make sure they were safe. The firemen told us we couldn't use more than two heaters. I guess they didn't want us to fry the vice president."

She had Bush, along with a throng of secret servicemen, sign her new register. There are only a few names in the book now, but it's sure to grow into Volume One, Number One of a Who's Who in Nevada—and possibly Washington, D.C. ▀

Jim Crandall is Nevada's managing editor.



# Real Estate

(Continued from page 44)

land, and bought a condo in Las Vegas.

The Rhodes, who often visited Nevada for vacations, like golf and love to travel. Now they get to do all the things they like to do and stay warm all the time. "The most fun I have," Jud says, "is to get to spend a whole day down at the clubs. It doesn't cost me much because I use the free coupons and eat at the buffets. We can have a good time and never even leave town.

"Then if we do want to get away, all we do is hook up the trailer and off we go."

As hard as it may be to believe, even tropical islanders look to Nevada for business and pleasure. Dana Hall and Trinidad Hunt operated a successful training company in Honolulu. Their business, Time-masters, controlled 24 percent of the market in that city, having trained more than 6,500 corporate executives, sales persons, high ranking military officers, and young people. But in order to expand they had to come to the mainland.

How do you follow an act like living in an island paradise?

"We saw Lake Tahoe and that was it," Hunt laughs.

For Hunt, who travels to speaking engagements most of the year, being close to major cities is important. "Traveling is expensive in both time and money," she says. "Trying to speak all over the place from Hawaii left me very little time in my office. Now I'm close to San Francisco, Seattle, and Arizona, but still removed. It's a balance between people and solitude. I love it."

And so it is that Nevada, the state founded on gold and silver booms, is today finding dirt to be its most precious mineral. Ironically, compared to the cost of living and owning homes in neighboring states, Nevada real estate is still, relatively speaking, dirt cheap. ■

*Nancy Peek of Reno is a real estate writer.*

## Reno on the Rise

The biggest little city in the world is getting even bigger.

By Terry Shores

**W**hat is known today as the Biggest Little City in the World was merely a wide spot on the Humboldt Trail in the early 1800s. The trail later widened to a busy crossroads called Lake's Crossing in the 1860s when miners and speculators veered off the beaten path

in search of gold and silver in Virginia City.

Reno's first housing boom followed by a month the arrival of the Central Pacific Railroad on May 6, 1868. A land auction by the railroad led to the building of 100 homes and the beginning of a city that would become the Washoe County seat just three years later.

By the turn of the century Reno had developed a character of its own. One of its neighborhoods, the Newlands District, continues to draw visitors because of its period architecture and inherent charm. Here, above the banks of the Truckee River, U.S. Senator Francis G. Newlands built his home in 1890. Other prominent

citizens built homes in the 12-block district, and most of them are still standing, displaying such architectural touches as Victorian corner turrets, Queen Anne peaks and bays, and classical Doric columns. It was this neighborhood that inspired author Sherwood Anderson to write in 1924, "Reno is the center, the metropolis of Nevada, and Nevada is something, and perhaps always will be something special."

Today, Reno and Sparks and the Truckee Meadows that surrounds them are collectively considered one of the fastest growing areas in the country. Water is still the primary inhibitor to growth, but low inflation and interest rates and an envi-

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## Real Estate



While some people build in Reno, others make their homesteads in the hills. This owner-built Mount Rose home came from Real Log Homes, a local manufacturer.

able "quality of life" make the Truckee Meadows bloom with new construction. Recent estimates place Washoe County's population at 231,450, with about 116,000 people in Reno and about 50,000 in neighboring Sparks. By 1990, the county's population is expected to exceed 293,000.

Fifty years ago, experts observed that the area would virtually cease to grow when homes and industry consumed the

flat parcels within the circular valley. Today, expensive homes and multi-story condominium complexes dot nearly every hillside, and winding asphalt roadways work their way over the ridges and into small valleys in every direction.

Indeed, growth is the single most controversial topic in the Reno area. Locals and city planners fret over sewage capacity and water tables. This wasn't a concern

until a housing boom began in the early '70s. It was during this time that demand—and housing prices—began to soar. By the mid-'70s the market was in a complete turmoil. Hank Garell, a real estate agent and member of the Regional Planning Commission during that time, recalls, "A shortage of sewage treatment capacity made headlines nearly every day. Hotels and casinos entered the competition for sewer permits, and they became harder and harder to obtain. On top of it all, double-digit inflation spilled over from California. People were jumping out of cars with checks in their hand ready to buy anything."

Reno's Biggest Little City slogan took on new meaning, and politicians rallied behind the cry, "Smaller is better." Aided by a sharp turnaround in the national economy, high interest rates, and a drought that led to mandatory water rationing, the pressures creating the housing crunch began to subside. By 1980 home sales had dropped by a third, and the obsession with investment and speculation disappeared.

Despite this shift to a buyer's market, prices remained relatively stable in the early 1980s. The popularity of relatively low-cost FHA-insured financing stabilized the demand and the prices for low and moderate priced existing homes. Homes at the higher end of the scale, however,

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started to experience a softening in prices.

The return to single-digit mortgage interest rates in past months has led to another housing boom. This time, however, housing prices do not seem to be as volatile. Today, the median sales price of a "resale" home in the Truckee Meadows is about \$90,000. One year ago, it was \$88,000 and in 1984 it was \$84,000. As in most communities, prices differ depending on the area in which the home is located. In southwest Reno, for example, a three-bedroom home costs an average of \$126,500. In northeast Reno, three-bedroom homes average \$77,500.

When it comes to housing, Washoe County is on a roll. Resales in September set an all-time record of 224, as reported by the area's Multiple Listing Service. Subdivision sales were not far behind with 173 units sold in September and 194 sold in August.

All of this roller-coaster housing activity leads to one common conclusion: Washoe County, with the state's second largest metropolitan center, will continue to live up to its heritage. ▀

*Terry Shores, a former reporter, newspaper editor, and freelance magazine writer, is currently executive vice president of the Reno Board of Realtors.*

## **Tahoe:**

### **The Price of Paradise**

The Lake Tahoe Basin is vast, beautiful, and pricey.

**By John Packer**

**T**he unparalleled beauty of Lake Tahoe has long held a powerful attraction for people looking to put down 20 percent and pick up a piece of paradise. But that simple dream has been complicated in recent years by a procession of problems that have made Tahoe real estate one of the most volatile markets in Nevada.

Some people blame the complications on the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency. Created by Congress in 1969 to protect Lake Tahoe's sensitive environment, the TRPA was given sweeping authority over future development. But the bi-state agency began by making vague and seemingly arbitrary rulings. Right out of the gate, the TRPA managed to alienate environmentalists and developers alike, and real estate prices began an upward spiral that's still headed for the stratosphere.

Frank Durham of Bowser Realty in Roundhill, Nevada has lived at the lake for 25 years and been active in the real estate scene. He's seen a lot of changes, most of them directly related to the TRPA. "Tahoe real estate just plugged along until about the early or mid-'70s," Durham says. "Then it went crazy. In 1970 you could

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## Real Estate

buy a lake-front lot (in one of the residential subdivisions on Tahoe's southeast shore) for \$15,000 to \$17,000. Now it's \$600,000."

Buyers tend to have the advantage, although there are a lot of buyers out there. The population of the basin alone is about 60,000, about two-thirds of whom live on the California side. Many of them are renters just waiting to pounce on "For Sale" signs. That doesn't take into account the hordes of out-of-staters hoping to get their foot in the door of a Tahoe home. When a well-kept home comes on the market, it sells immediately. Below-market-value houses go in a snap. Selling prices depend on location. A beach house might go for \$1 million, while just down the block, but off the lake, the same kind of house sells for around \$200,000.

While prices fluctuate wildly between lake shore and inland homes, they also vary greatly from border to border. A house that sells for \$88,000 on the California side is apt to fetch \$225,000 on the Nevada side. This phenomenon can be traced to the land barons and county



*The most expensive real estate in two states is on Tahoe's shimmering shore.*

planners of old. While some owners subdivided on the California side, big Nevada land owners like George Whittel held on to their property. The Whittel estate, along with U.S. Forest Service and State Parks land, kept the Nevada side relatively pristine, and therefore priceless.

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Today, 18 years after it was formed, the TRPA is finishing a master plan for the Tahoe Basin. Like it or not, real estate professionals agree that the hefty document known as the Tahoe Regional Plan will provide a clear-cut direction to the marketplace.

In terms of 1987 real estate values, that direction is likely to be up. The TRPA's new plan, along with approved bond issues designed to buy up environmentally-sensitive lots, tax laws favorable to owners of second homes, and low interest rates, should drive up values. By late spring of 1987 the scales are likely to begin tipping in favor of the seller.

"Downslope lots will not be built on," Durham says. "They will eventually be purchased by some government entity. They (state and federal agencies) are going to end up with 85 percent of the basin. What you're going to have is a big park with casinos."

Durham says that under the current restrictions only 200 to 300 more single family homes will be built. Commercial development will be minimal, and condominium construction will come to a complete halt after current permits are exhausted.

When new construction slows to a trickle, the price for existing structures will climb. Right now, a small, uninsulated summer cabin on the lake sells for anywhere from \$500,000 to nearly \$1 million, depending on the size of the lot. Thus, in the next decade, the bywords on Tahoe real estate will be *remodel* and *resell*.

"What you're going to see is a tremendous upgrading of the houses that are here right now," Durham predicts. "In other words, remodel. Vast remodel. There are many people coming up here now to buy a second home who don't want to live in a shack or a poorly built home."

Ah, the price of paradise. ▀

*John Packer of Zephyr Heights is a publicist for Harrah's Tahoe and longtime lake resident.*

## Rural Nevada: Don't Fence Me In

So say the people who prefer life in Nevada's uncluttered outback.

By Lin Anderson

*Give me land, lots of land  
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## Real Estate



Rural Nevada offers beautiful vistas, affordable acreage, and elbowroom.

types like James Stewart and Joel McCrae, came to rural Nevada in the 1940s to escape the hurly-burly of Hollywood, check out a little wide sky, and do a little ranching. Crosby was the king of the expatriate movie industry landowners, at one time owning eight Elko County ranches.

The unhurried life style that attracted crooners and movie cowboys to rural Nevada is still a selling point for real estate agents. According to Marilyn Koschella of

the Carson-Douglas-Tahoe Board of Realtors, "They want to get out there on an acre where they can breathe good air and raise a family," adding that at least 50 percent of out-of-state inquiries come from Californians eager to escape high-density city life.

Many of those people buy homes in rural Nevada and undergo total life-style overhauls. Some don't succeed, finding that the starry skies and serene vistas of Nevada can exact a price of their own;

there isn't a 7-Eleven on every corner, and sometimes there aren't even any corners.

Eager to strike a happy medium, developers have come up with planned communities of "summer cabins" in rural Nevada. One example is RJB Development's Rye Patch Estates, located near Rye Patch Reservoir east of Lovelock on I-80 and aimed at "people who can't afford Tahoe," according to Jack Jablon of RJB. He says the reaction from the rural areas "has been defying logic," with many potential buyers coming from towns such as Lovelock and Winnemucca.

That interest on the part of locals may be reflective of a trend, according to Dale Worline of Fred Worline Real Estate in Elko, which is developing its own planned community, Hi Rita.

"It's just like any city," Worline says. "People are moving out of downtown." What used to be wide-open just isn't anymore, and residents of growing towns like Elko and Winnemucca are joining their big-city cousins in making the trek from city to country.

That is especially true in Elko, where a booming gold mining industry has turned this once-placid city into a construction worker's haven. New subdivisions (some bankrolled in part by the mines themselves), apartment complexes, and trailer parks spring up almost monthly, and this urban catharsis has a lot of hemmed-in

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Elkoans wishing for something they never thought they'd need: a place in the country.

But the "country" is getting farther and farther away.

South of Elko lies Spring Creek, a planned community that was founded in the 1970s by the McCullough Corporation. The Elko population explosion has driven so many residents to Spring Creek that the county is planning to build a new grade school there. And now some "fenced in" Spring Creekers are themselves seeking new homes on a less-crowded range.

But for all the apartment complexes, condo-conversions, and ranch land being sold, the backbone of rural real estate is the single-family home, according to Tony Fabor of Humboldt Realty in Winnemucca, who has seen an upswing in the number of homes sold there recently. Bert Gurr of Elko's Gurr and Associates agrees with Fabor. "The majority (of sales)," Gurr says, "has got to be single-family houses."

Rural realtors agree that home deals are wildly variable, depending largely on each area's economic health. The average cost of a home in Elko is in the \$85-\$90,000 degree range, Gurr says, which makes Elko's prices "pretty comparable to Reno, and right in the ballpark with Vegas." Gurr notes that homes in areas such as Ely are selling for considerably less. For that reason, he adds, speculation in the Ely market has been running high.

The state's rural marketplace is dependent in large part on the boom-and-bust mentality that has always attended Nevada's wide open spaces. The future, as the ghosts of Tuscarora and Austin will tell you, is up for grabs.

But for the harried yuppie, the sportsman, the retiree, or anyone seeking a place to go to escape the confines of the city, rural Nevada offers what it has always offered: land, lots of land. The price of that land may vary considerably, but the starry skies above it are always free. □

Lin Anderson is the editor of the Elko Independent.

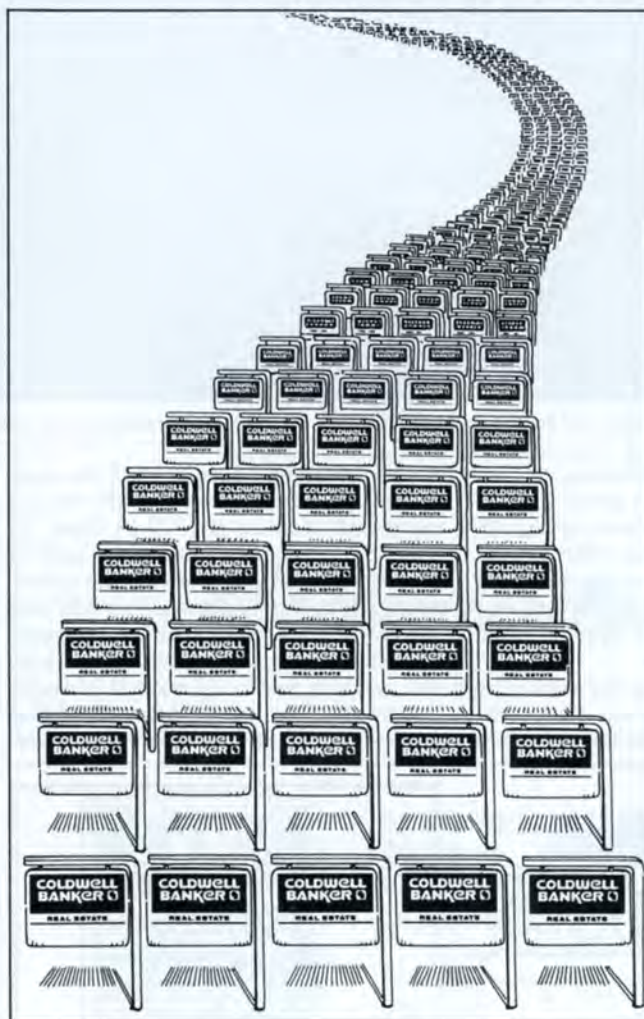
## Las Vegas: A Place in the Sun

Escapees from other cities appreciate the Southern Nevada sunshine and the built-in benefits of living in a resort city.

By Julie Penn

In 1905 the Union Pacific Railroad, perhaps the craftiest real estate company of all time, offered \$22 round-trip tickets from Los Angeles to its division point in Southern Nevada in hopes of auctioning off desert lots. It was a pretty far-fetched idea, so the railroad enticed

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# Real Estate

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Newcomers find Sun Belt optimism and freedom in Las Vegas while businesses and corporations find favorable tax laws and room to grow.

would-be buyers with a bonus: if they made a down payment on one of the \$25 lots, they got their train ticket reimbursed. If this wasn't the beginning of the concept of validated parking it was at least the first gambler's special. It also was the first real development of what the Spanish called the Meadows: Las Vegas.

Today realtors don't have to work quite so hard to entice people to move to Southern Nevada. Interstate 15 is filled with Los

Angeles escapees eager to swell the residential and business ranks of the world-renowned pleasure city. They come to enjoy the sunshine, clean air, and built-in benefits of living in a world-class resort city—golf courses, fantastic nightlife, and 99-cent breakfast specials. Businesses move to Las Vegas for all that plus Nevada's carefully fashioned tax and business incentives. Of course, attractions like nearby Hoover Dam, Lake Mead, and

Mount Charleston only add to the allure.

Indeed, growth has been steady since those first residents were railroaded into town. In 1980 the census showed a staggering population jump during the prior decade, from 273,288 in 1970 to 463,087. July of 1986 showed the population riding at 600,000, and projections estimate the year 2000 will dawn on nearly 900,000 people in the Las Vegas Valley.

And so the city grows—pushing against



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the high mountains to the west, climbing Sunrise Mountain to the east, and steadily expanding southward.

One phenomenon that makes buying a home in Las Vegas advantageous right now is that although interest rates have dropped, causing a surge in home sales, home prices have not yet begun to climb. In fact, Ron Ruthe, president of the Las Vegas Board of Realtors, says home prices in some areas of Clark County have dropped 10 to 15 percent while in 1978 and 1979 home prices rose about \$10,000 a year.

"Because so many new homes are now coming on the market, builders have exceeded the demand with an abundance of supply," says Dave Axelson, Coldwell Banker's vice president and chief operating officer for residential real estate, giving another reason why prices are remaining stable. "And there's a tremendous amount of competition in the resale market."

According to the Coldwell Banker Home Price Comparison Index, the same home currently costing \$110,000 in Las Vegas was \$115,000 last year and \$120,000 in 1984. According to the index, Las Vegas is one of the few places where home prices have deflated in recent years.

The index said that the same home (a 2,000-square-foot home with three bedrooms and two baths) purchased for \$110,000 in Las Vegas this year would cost \$119,500 in Reno, \$73,000 in Colorado Springs, \$180,000 in Boston and \$375,000 in San Francisco.

Low interest rates and low home prices are not the only reasons residential developers expect to see a flood of home buyers on the market this year and next. According to Irene Porter, executive director of the Southern Nevada Home Builders Association, the new federal tax law leaves the family home property tax and mortgage interest as one of the few major deductions one can make.

Will the bullish market in residential real estate continue?

"I don't think it's going to get better," Larry Canarelli, president of American West Development, Inc., says. "I think the interest rates might improve a little bit more, but it's very close to the lowest interest rates we're going to see."

"We'll continue to see a normal to strong market over the next two to three years," Canarelli says. "On a more long-term basis, it depends on the overall growth in Clark County. Right now, projections look very positive. The tax law should be an impetus. It's going to be more and more desirable to own a home."

Julie Penn is a reporter for the Las Vegas Review-Journal.

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# Famous Homes From Nevada's Past

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KATE BUTLER



CARY ELAM

The Beckley House (above) was built in downtown Las Vegas in 1912 for \$2,500. An example of the period's prevailing style, the house can now be seen at the Clark County Museum in Henderson.

The Castle (left) in Virginia City also can be seen by tour. The towering house was built in 1863 by a Comstock mine superintendent; his model was a Normandy castle.



GARY ELAM



*The Savage Mansion, which dates from 1861, served as the home and office of the Savage Mine's superintendent. U.S. Grant was a guest in 1879. The Savage is open for tours and overnight stays.*



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*Bowers Mansion (above) was the 1860s dream home of Comstock millionaires Sandy and Eilley Bowers. Located between Reno and Carson City, the mansion is now part of a Washoe County park.*

*This Six Companies home (left) was one of many built for Boulder City's dam workers in the early '30s. The last to keep its original configuration, the house has been donated to a local museum, and Virginia "Teddy" Fenton (pictured) heads its restoration.*



## Real Estate



An 1882 oil painting shows Myron Lake and Chief Winnemucca in the 1860s at Lake's Crossing, the current site of Reno's Riverside Hotel and the famous Virginia Street Bridge.

# Legendary Deals

These tycoons' transactions have become part of Nevada lore.

By Julie Quinn

**W**hen a young man named Abram Curry rode his horse from Utah to Genoa in the 1850s to buy some land, he was turned away. Instead he bought almost all the land that now comprises Carson City. More than a century later, Howard Hughes rode into town by train and limousine and proceeded to buy some of Las Vegas' prime real estate.

Other Nevadans wheeled and dealt with similar success and like Curry and Hughes used their vision and cunning to become part of the history and lore of Nevada.

Abe Curry, described in the 1881 *History of Nevada* as "a man of enterprise, ability and energy," had ridden into Mormon-town (Genoa) hoping to find a place to build a general store. After discussing a price of \$1,000 with one landowner, Curry asked for a reduction. His partner almost begged him to sell, but the owner stood firm. Curry said, "Well, then, I will build a city of my own."

He rode 15 miles north to the next valley. There he met the owner of the Eagle Ranch, which encompassed the warm springs and the present State Prison grounds, and west to a point near present-day Minnesota Street. They agreed to a price of \$1,000, and the purchase was settled with \$500 in coin and some mus-

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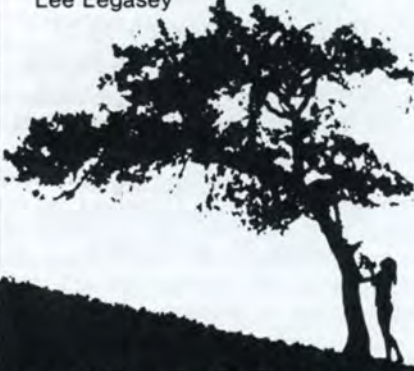
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## Real Estate

tangs. In 1858 Curry laid out the town site that became Carson City, holding true to his promise to the Genoa landowner.

Three years later the future site of downtown Reno came into the hands of Myron Lake, another landed pioneer. In 1861 he traded some California land for C.W. Fuller's property on the Truckee River. With it Lake got a bridge and a hotel. Taking advantage of Fuller's toll permit for the bridge, Lake charged freighters bound for Virginia City one dollar for each horse-drawn wagon, an exorbitant amount in those days. Comstock miners were among the highest paid workers in the world at \$4 a day, but Lake was far more wealthy, taking in an estimated \$100,000 a year.

While Lake was extracting duty from Reno travelers, a former carpenter and miner named George Lovelock was establishing a ranch at Rocky Canyon in Humboldt County. He later paid \$2,250 for 320 acres on which the town of Lovelock now stands. Lovelock's name was given to the town because he donated to it 85 acres, right-of-way for the Central Pacific Railroad, and a depot. How soon the railroad forgot, however. He was promised a block in town but instead had to pay \$500 for a half-block, on which he built a hotel.

In the early '30s Norman Biltz was a young real estate promoter with some hard-to-sell Lake Tahoe lots on his hands. But Biltz devised a strategy that eventually made him one of the State's most powerful citizens. He compiled a list of 200 wealthy Americans and then invited them to take advantage of Nevada's generous tax laws. He attracted such notables as Max C. Fleischmann and E.L. Cord, offering something just as important as land: a Nevada residency. An ally of U.S. Senator Pat McCarran, Biltz became a leading rancher and ranch broker. He developed the Cal-Neva Lodge, Reno's Holiday Hotel, and a controlled-growth approach that is still felt in Northern Nevada.

The concepts of control and growth were both appreciated by Howard Hughes. In 1966 he took up residence on the top floor of the Desert Inn in Las Vegas. Then he went on a real-estate buying binge. Soon the man of mystery had purchased an airport, a TV station, 2,700 Nevada mining claims, and \$100-million worth of casinos, including the DI, Sands, Castaways, Frontier, Landmark, and Silver Slipper besides leasing Harolds Club in Reno. That made him the state's largest employer with 8,000 people on the payroll and helped introduce corporate ownership to the hotel-casino scene. ▀

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A solitary soaker eases into one of the steamy pools at Walley's Hot Springs near Genoa in the Carson Valley.

# Desert Hot Springs

A steamy guide to Nevada's soothing mineral pools.

By Jacki Ierien

**T**hin crusts are good for many things like pizzas, pies, and hot springs. Nevada's thin crust means that the hot core of the earth is relatively close to the surface at many places around the state. So, for those who live and play here, that means more hot springs in Nevada than just about any other state.

There are more than 100 hot springs in the state, most of which are isolated and fairly anonymous. Some waters have been heated too much, and when an unfortunate adventurer steps into one of these pools, burned feet—or worse injuries—are the result. Fortunately, there are many small pools where the temperature is perfect. They are usually in the middle of nowhere and are undeveloped—no barbecues, campgrounds, or cement bottoms here. For those who don't want to leave civilization behind, hot springs with camp-

grounds, RV parks, and motels are also to be found.

Following are a few of Nevada's hot springs, going from south to north. The information is subject to change, so phone numbers have been included. The area code is 702 throughout the state.

**Rogers Spring**—Lake Mead National Recreation Area, 15 miles south of Overton on the North Shore Road. Rogers is in the middle of the desert, but large tamarisk trees shade this smooth-bottomed pool. The day-use area has picnic tables, but overnight camping is not allowed. Weekends tend to be crowded.

**Warm Springs Resort**—Near Moapa; from Las Vegas drive 49 miles on I-15 to Glendale, then nine miles west on Nevada 168. Phone 865-2780. Two pools with 90-degree water are shaded by large groves of palms. Warm Springs also has a 101-

degree spa. The resort is private, but a limited number of non-members can use the facilities. Hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. The Camp Coast to Coast campground (members only) has room for 50 RVs, and reservations are suggested.

**Hunt's Ash Springs**—Seven miles north of Alamo on U.S. 93. Phone 725-3382. A tree-lined creek leads into public pools ranging from 92 to 94 degrees. A campground with 30 spaces and an RV park with 40 spaces is available. Fees for the campground are \$3 and the RV park is \$7.50. If the campground is full, an open area for campers is available. For swimming only, fees are \$1.50 for those over six years old. Ash Springs has a cafe, store, and gas station.

**Caliente Hot Springs Motel**—Caliente, off U.S. 93 on North Spring Street. Phone 726-3777. Rooms in the 12-unit motel



begin at \$22 a night, which includes use of the mineral baths. Bathers are charged by the half hour for the three 104-degree mineral baths; singles are \$2 and couples are \$3.

**Bailey's Hot Springs Ranch**—Six miles north of Beatty on U.S. 95. Phone 553-2395. The three pools range from 102 to 106 degrees. Bathing fees are \$2 per person, \$1 for those under 12. Bailey's has a small campground with a fee of \$7.50 and an RV park of 24 spaces, each of which goes for \$9.50. The fees include swimming. Bailey's has a bar and dinner house.

**Grover Hot Springs**—30 miles south of Gardnerville in the Sierra forest; take Cali-

fornia Route 89 to Markleeville, then west to Grover Hot Springs State Park. Phone 916-694-2248. The two pools, one hot (102-105 degrees) and one cool (80 degrees), are both large. Fees are \$2 for adults and \$1 for children 18 and under. The springs are open daily from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Weekends are crowded as skiers take the plunge; the capacity is 75 persons, so sometimes you have to wait to get in.

**Walley's Hot Springs**—Two miles south of Genoa on Nevada 206 in the Carson Valley. Phone 782-8155. Walley's is a high-class hot springs with a history as deep as its geothermal seams. It was originally built in 1862 as a posh retreat for

Comstock mining barons and San Francisco financiers. In the last few years it has been rebuilt. The Zephyr restaurant offers gourmet dining, banquet facilities, and a popular buffet-style Sunday brunch. There are guest cabins, two tennis courts, and a fitness center with exercise equipment, saunas, steam bath, and massage. All this is ganged around six hot pools and the fresh water swimming pool. The daily use fee is \$7 which includes use of all the spa facilities (children under 12 not allowed) except tennis. For overnight lodging, Walley's has mid-week bed and breakfast specials beginning at \$70 per person, double occupancy. Memberships are available, and the restaurant is open to the public.

**Carson Hot Springs**—1500 Hot Springs Road in Carson City. Phone 882-9863. Carson Hot Springs is a relaxed public spa with open pool, eight private baths, licensed massage, RV parking (no hook-ups), restaurant, and bar. The pool is normally 98 to 102 degrees, and the baths run from 104 to 110 degrees. Passes can be purchased at \$30 for 10 visits to the main pool. Without the passes, adults pay \$4 while kids 12 and under pay \$2. Baths are \$1 more. Senior citizens are charged half price. Hours are 7 a.m. to 11 p.m. daily. Rooms are available at the 18-unit motel next door. They cost about \$25 per night, which includes use of the springs.

**Steamboat Hot Springs**—Steamboat is 11 miles south of downtown Reno on U.S. 395. Phone 853-6600. A strong sulfur smell and steam from the springs on both sides of the highway make everyone aware there is a hot spring close by. This large group of springs was popular back in the 1860s when Mark Twain wrote to a friend that "one can hear constant rumbling and surging, somewhat resembling the noises peculiar to a steamboat in motion—hence the name." Today Steamboat is a therapy-oriented spa. A full treatment takes about two and a half hours; it includes a trip to the mineral tub and steam room followed by a blanket wrap and massage for \$45. The tub alone (one person only) is \$8. Hours are 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday.

**Kyle Hot Springs**—About 10 miles southeast of Unionville, 61 miles north of Lovelock, and 55 miles south of Winnemucca via I-80. On the Spring Valley Road (Nevada 400), follow signs past Unionville and turn east on a dirt road for about 11 miles. The stream is small and the sulfur smell is strong. It is remote and peaceful in a sagebrush valley at the western foot of the East Range. Few people come here, so the possibility of a solitary soak is high. There is a bed and breakfast inn in Unionville. ▀

*Jacki Ierlen of Reno is a freelance writer.*

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# The Search for Shangri-Spa

The directions were vague, but the trail soon got warm.

By Christopher Kary

When you're road-dusted, unshaven, with lank, greasy hair hanging in your face like the pardoner in Chaucer's *Canterbury Tales*, the idea of a steamy bath in a natural hot spring in the desert takes on mystical proportions. It becomes *The Search for Shangri-Spa*.

Helen and I had awoke that fall morning at Lehman Caves National Monument near Ely, and it was cold. Our down bags were frosty and stiff, and when I washed with the icy water in the campground bathroom, I was afraid to wipe my hands on my jeans because my fingers would have snapped off.

So instead of icy ablutions, we jumped in the van, got the engine warmed up, and made a run for lower elevations with the heater on high. After driving 60 or 70 miles west we stopped at a roadside diner for coffee and some sausage and eggs sandwiched between pancakes—your basic low-fat, low-sugar breakfast. Afterwards, with hearts pounding from the caloric boost, we drove down the highway talking about everything while glancing out at the sage and pinyon and the occasional red-tailed hawk. We didn't have much to go on. All I knew was what a friend had told me: "There's a great hot springs 14 miles outside of the town."

We arrived at the general location, in the center of the state, about midday. There was one combination gas station and cafe at the junction of two highways, and it was closed. But working on the roof was a soft-spoken cowboy who knew where the hot springs was.

"See that cloud out there?" he said, pointing to a plume of dust thrown up by a vehicle on a dirt road about three miles away. "About there you take a left and work yourself down about a mile and a half until you come to a shack. That's where it is."

When he saw my disappointment—the "shack" had thrown me; I was expecting something more natural—he replied,

"There's a tub in there big enough for four people, and it's real nice."

After we had driven down the dirt road and found no turnoff, we got out the binoculars and scanned the sage and sand, looking for a likely structure. Nothing. So we backtracked and looked more carefully. This was the desert, not a city. There were no signposts—that was the beauty of it—and it was up to us to find the springs.

And we did. The turn-off to the left was three times further down the road than he had indicated, but eventually we came to a tin shack and a few other buildings. There was nobody for miles.

At least I didn't think so.

"Hello in there," I called, knocking on the door. There was no reply. The structure wasn't grand; it had a tin roof and the boards had a borrowed, scavenged look about them. Nor was the inside imposing: an old mattress on the floor, graffiti covering the walls.

But in the corner of the room, flowing through a concrete trough into a concrete tub, was the water. When I ran my knuckles across its surface, I knew we had found our desert paradise. The temperature was just right for a long, restorative soak, and the water was soft and sweet smelling—no sulfur. Before we began the relaxing ritual of washing and soaking, we lingered over the graffiti. There was a lot of it, and since we weren't reading it in any particular order, it took us awhile to put together the story of the delightful place. We discovered that there was a group of considerate people who took care of it; they went by the acronym SPENCER.

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They told those who, like us, happened on this spot, how to take care of it. How did they do that? Simple. They wrote on

the walls.

"No soap in the water.

"Please bathe and rinse with

"The bucket before entering tub.

"No clothes in tub.

"Please leave this cleaning bucket."

Other grateful travelers extended their own hospitality:

"This towel is a gift, please keep it clean."

"This candle is a gift from Redox Lodge."

It's almost impossible not to relax and have a good time in a hot springs. That relaxation inspired hedonism:

"How you gonna get up if you don't get down? Let's party now!"

And personal ads:

"Single Ladies. I want to meet a lady who loves hot springs and travel. Let's hot spring it across the U.S. and Canada. Ron from Colorado, tall outdoorsman type, age, 31."

Someone had taken the water's temperature:

"110 degrees."

Others passed on wisdom:

"Be bound to nothing. Seek harmony with all. Then you will be free."

And:

"May bad luck follow you everywhere and never catch up with you."

Political science:

"Peace is not the absence of conflict, but the ability to cope with it."

Sage advise:

"If a man does not keep pace with his companions, perhaps it is because he hears a different drummer. Let him step to the music which he hears, however measured or far way.—Thoreau."

And one of the most important messages, at least for the future of the spa:

"Tell your friends about these hot springs, but keep it a secret."

As we washed and shampooed our hair in a bucket away from the hot springs and then soaked again in the tub, we had nutritious food for thought. Helen sketched the concrete tub in the corner, a design she would use in a crochet contest, and I took photos and thought about how I would tell the story of this find. We agreed to obey the request for secrecy, as should you if you find this place or another like it. It's the only way to keep it from commercialism and overuse.

As we drove away in the late afternoon with all our pores gloriously open and singing the praises of relaxation and special water, we were in accord with the cosmos and the one-line graffiti:

"Thank you SPENCER for a wonderful place." ▀

Christopher Kary, a San Francisco writer and photographer, is a hot springs devotee.



## Dining

# On The Town

Our critics offer food for thought.

One of the most enjoyable aspects of Nevada nightlife—and midday life when it's the lunch hour—is the extraordinary number of fine restaurants in Las Vegas, Reno, Tahoe, and the rural areas. To remind us of that, and to help inaugurate our new Dining Out section, two of the state's leading restaurant reviewers offer some of their own favorites.

Other great eateries are included in this issue's Dining Guide, which also is a new

department, and many establishments will be featured in the next issue's special section on Nevada dining.

Here is a selection of the critics' choices:

□

### Las Vegas by Elliot S. Krane

**Andre's**—An Old World country house with a gourmet French menu to match. Expensive. 401 S. Sixth, 385-5016.

**Aristocrat**—Founded by a captain at Caesars Palace's Palace Court and then

purchased by a kitchen pro from the Las Vegas Hilton, this restaurant includes many of the fine touches of both hotels. Very busy and reservations are a must for both lunch and dinner. 820 S. Rancho, 870-1977.

**Bootlegger**—This is a third-generation Italian family restaurant with Mama Maria supervising the kitchen. Her motto is, "If they clean their plate, we didn't serve enough." Seafood diablo, pastas, and veal dishes. 5025 S. Eastern, 736-4939.

**Cafe Michelle**—With both indoor and outdoor dining, this eatery serves continental cuisine to the in crowd off the Strip. 1350 E. Flamingo, 735-8686.

**Chin's**—The definitive Chinese restaurant in Las Vegas features many innovative dishes. Expensive. Located on the Strip in the Fashion Show Mall, 733-8899.

**Michael's**—At this elegant hotel restaurant in the Times Square of Las Vegas, the little touches, like double-dipped sliced fruit in white and dark chocolate, are delightful. The menu is continental. Expensive. Barbary Coast Hotel, 737-7111.

**Palace Court**—A striking room with a stained-glass dome, a profusion of plants, and sparkling crystal and Vermeil flatware set on lace tablecloths. Try the steak Diane and flaming coffee. Expensive. Caesars Palace, 731-7110.

**Pegasus**—The gourmet room of the Alexis Park Hotel features flaming dishes, an extensive wine list, and imaginative desserts. Expensive. 375 E. Harmon, 796-3300.

**State Street**—With live entertainment, well-prepared Italian food, and a 5 a.m. closing time, this is a favorite of show-room entertainers after the last curtain. 2570 State St., 733-0225.

**The Steak House**—Behind the glitter of the Circus Circus midway is one of the best steak houses in town. A refrigerated case displays a ton or so of aged steaks, prime rib, and chops, which are charcoaled in full view on an open broiler. Circus Circus, 734-0410.

**Swiss Cafe**—A charming gourmet restaurant with 40 seats and a French-Swiss menu. 1431 E. Charleston, 382-6444.

**Venetian**—Owner Lou Ruvo greets the guests and makes dinner suggestions in this home-style restaurant, now in its 30th year. The only Italian restaurant in town that offers both neck bones and greens. 3713 W. Sahara, 876-4190.

### Reno/Tahoe by Andrea Michelsen

**Board of Trade**—The Valley Bank Building is a fitting home for this oak-decorated English pub *cum* dining house in downtown Reno. The bar is lively. In the surprisingly quiet restaurant in back try the mixed grill, fresh seafood selection, or onion soup. 425 S. Virginia, 322-7183.

**Cafe 32**—Another gathering place for



The Palace Court at Caesars Palace is known for its tasteful ambiance.



the upwardly mobile, this restaurant is popular for its art-deco decor, a lively bar scene, and entrees such as veal selvaggio and seafood tacos. The "32" refers to the jersey number made famous by O.J. Simpson and other athletes whose photos are displayed. 8195 S. Virginia, 853-3200.

**Glory Hole**—A ride west on old U.S. 40 brings you to this friendly, rustic steak house. The owners custom cut their beef, and the top quality is apparent in every piece that comes off the charcoal grill. 4201 W. Fourth, Reno. 786-1323.

**John's Oyster Bar**—Tucked into a corner of John Ascuaga's Nugget in Sparks, this is the place to come to satisfy a craving for a huge crab or shrimp Louis, authentic Louisiana gumbo, or steamy oyster stew. Solitary diners are welcome at the oyster bar itself, or slide your family into a spacious booth. Downtown Sparks, 358-2233. 11-10 daily.

**La Strada**—The Eldorado Hotel's answer for anyone craving homemade pasta in a bustling bistro atmosphere. The menu offers a variety of veal, chicken, and seafood to balance the richly-sauced pasta dishes. The wine list includes selections from owners Don and Rhonda Carano's winery in the Napa Valley. Downtown Reno, 786-5700.

**La Table Francaise**—Those who appreciate traditional Gallic cuisine can look for specials as well as succulent preparations like duck with orange sauce. Expensive. 3065 W. Fourth, Reno, 323-3200.

**Louis' Basque Corner**—This Basque eatery welcomes first-timers as warmly as regulars. Family-style dining may mean sharing the soup tureen with strangers, but passing ample portions of beef, homemade beans, and salad is a sure-fire ice-breaker. 301 E. Fourth, Reno, 323-7203.

**Mama's Steak House and Cantina**—Here nachos are elevated to new heights of haute cuisine, the margaritas are close to addictive, and the enchiladas—fantastico! 1553 S. Virginia, Reno, 323-1520.

**Steven**—Located on the road to Ski Incline, Steven has a devoted following of regulars who like the casually posh atmosphere and steak, seafood, and items like mesquite-grilled lamb. The bar and outside deck are popular, too. 341 Ski Way Blvd., 832-0222.

**Summit**—The top floor of Harrah's Tahoe is the home of this elegant continental restaurant. Expect to be treated well and eat magnificently. Enjoy the view of Lake Tahoe and end with something spectacular like Bananas Foster, an encore item with Summit regulars. Expensive. Stateline, 588-6611.

**Top of the Wheel**—This place is perched on top of Tahoe's largest hotel-casino, Harvey's, with Polynesian decor, continental cuisine, and great views of the lake. Stateline, 588-2411. ▀

## Dining Guide

This dining guide includes many of Nevada's finest restaurants and is based on the membership of the Nevada Restaurant Association (3017 W. Charleston, Suite 50, Las Vegas, NV. 89102-1927; call 702-878-2313). Each restaurant's listing shows a sample of main dishes; whether breakfast, lunch, or dinner are served; relative prices; and accepted credit cards. "Major" means that all major credit cards are accepted, and "res" means reservations are recommended or required. If you're calling from out of state, the area code is 702 throughout Nevada. For more information on this guide, write Nevada Magazine Dining Guide, Capitol Complex, Carson City, NV. 89710, or call 702-885-5416.

### LAS VEGAS American

**Alias Smith and Jones**—541 E. Twain, 732-7401. Beef stroganoff, catch of the day, total blackout cake.

L, D, \$, AE, MC, V, res.

**Ellis Island**—4178 Koval Lane, 734-8638. Steamed clams, seafood, large and varied lamb selection. 24 hours. \$\$, AE, CB, V.

**Ferdinand's**—5006 S. Maryland Parkway, 798-6962. Complimentary shrimp, fresh fish, prime rib, steak, seafood. D. \$\$, major, res.

**Holiday Casino/Claudine's**—3475 Las Vegas Blvd. S., 369-5000. Steaks and seafood, open kitchen, piano bar nearby, excellent wine list. D. \$\$, major, res.

**Mount Charleston Lodge**—Kyle Canyon, 30 miles NW of Las Vegas, 368-6899. Escargot omelet, duck with black bean sauce. B, L, D. \$\$\$, AE, MC, V, res.

**Union Plaza/Center Stage**—1 Main St., 386-2110. Black bean soup, prime rib, bouillabaisse. D. \$\$\$, major, res.

### German

**Bavarian Chalet**—3430 E. Tropicana, 451-7501. Jagerschnitzel, apple strudel. L, D, closed Sun. \$\$\$, major except DC, res.

**Steven**  
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## Gourmet

**Alexis Park Hotel/Pegasus**—375 E. Harmon, 796-3300. Roast duckling flambe, escargot. D. \$\$\$\$ AE, MC, V, res.

**Andre's**—401 S. 6th St., 385-5016. Dover sole veronique, souffles. L, D. \$\$\$, major, res.

**Aristocrat**—850 S. 6th St., 870-1977. Caesar salad, classique osso bucco. L, D. \$\$\$, major, res.

**Botany's**—1700 E. Flamingo Rd., 737-6662. Chicken Frangelico with pine nuts, Kentucky chip pie with sabayon. D. \$\$\$, major, res.

**Caesars Palace/Bacchanal**—3570 Las Vegas Blvd. S., 731-7110. Seven-course Roman banquet. D, closed Tues.-Wed. \$\$\$\$ major, res.

**Caesars Palace/Palace Court**—3570 Las Vegas Blvd. S., 731-7110. Langoustines, flambe, steak Diane. D. \$\$\$\$ major, res.

**Four Queens/Hugo's Cellar**—202 E. Fremont, 385-4011. Veal Dijonaise, rotisserie duckling flambe anise, filet DeBoeuf/Atlantis. D. \$-\$\$\$ major, res.

**Frontier Hotel/Diamond Jim's**—3120 Las Vegas Blvd. S., 734-0110. Roast prime rib with Yorkshire pudding, veal francaise. D, closed Mon.-Tues. \$\$\$\$ major, res.

**Golden Nugget/Elaine's**—129 E. Fremont, 386-8100. Veal chop, brace of quail. D. \$\$\$\$ major, res.

**Las Vegas Hilton/Le Montrechet**—3000 Paradise Rd., 732-5111. Newly opened, extensive wine list. D. \$\$\$\$ major, res.

**Pamplemousse**—400 E. Sahara Ave., 733-2066. Waiter recites the day's special dishes, no menu. D, except Mon. \$\$\$ major, res.

**Riviera Hotel/Delmonico**—2801 Las Vegas Blvd. S., 734-5110. Newly opened, continental menu. D. \$\$\$\$ major, res.

**Tropicana/Rhapsody**—3801 Las Vegas Blvd. S., 739-2222. Dover sole, clams casino. D. \$\$\$\$ major, res.

## Italian

**Battista's Hole in the Wall**—4041 Audrie, 732-1424. Tortellini, veal picante. D. \$\$, major, res.

**Di Martino's**—2797 Maryland Parkway, 732-1817. Lasagna, seafood. D. \$\$, major, res.

**Golden Nugget/Stefano's**—129 E. Fremont, 386-8100. Cioppino, unique pastas. L, D. \$\$\$\$ major, res.

**Napoli**—4180 S. Jones Blvd., 876-0080. Steamed clams, seafood primavera. D, except Sun. \$\$, V.

**Olive Garden**—1545 E. Flamingo Rd., 735-0082. Venetian grilled chicken, pizza. L, D. \$, AE, DC, V.

**Palace Station/Pasta Palace**—Off I-15, 367-2411. Spaghetti, linguine. D. \$, MC, V.

**Piero's**—900 Karen Ave., 369-2305. Italian-style veal, seafood, chicken. D. \$\$\$\$ major, res.

**Poppa Gar's**—1624 W. Oakey, 384-4513. Giant breakfasts, quail, unusual soups. B, L, D, closed Sun. \$, no credit cards.

**That's Italian**—4601 W. Sahara Ave., 873-8055. Veal milanaise, linguine Napolitano. D. \$\$, AE, MC, V, res.

**The Vineyard**—3630 S. Maryland Parkway, 731-1606. Bountiful salad bar, fresh-baked bread and pizza. L, D. \$, AE, MC, V.

## Mexican

**Ricardo's**—2380 E. Tropicana, 798-4515, and 4300 Meadows Lane, 870-1088. Steak picado, carne asada. L, D. \$\$, AE, DC, MC, V, res.

**Viva Zapata's**—3540 W. Sahara Ave., 873-7228. Flauta camerones, pollo ala Zapata. L, D. \$, AE, MC, V, res.

## Oriental

**Chinese Garden**—5485 W. Sahara Ave., 876-5432. Oyster foo young, sweet and sour duck. L, D. \$\$, major.

**Chin's**—Fashion Show Mall, 3200 Las Vegas Blvd. S. Shark fin soup, Chin's beef, gourmet Chinese. L, D. \$\$\$, major, res.

**Imperial Palace/Ming Terrace**—3535 Las Vegas Blvd. S., 731-3311. Shrimp egg foo young, almond duck. L, D. \$\$\$, major, res.

**Las Vegas Hilton/Benihana Village**—3000 Paradise Rd., 732-5111. Four restaurants: tempura; robata, sukiyaki, hibachi; animated show. D. \$\$\$, major, res.



**Silver Dragon**—1510 E. Flamingo Rd., 737-1234. Chinese fish steak, sizzling rice soup. L, D, \$\$, major.  
**Tropicana/Mizuno's Teppan Dining**—3801 Las Vegas Blvd. S., 739-2222. Tempura, hibachi combo. D, \$\$\$, major, res.

## Steak and Seafood

**Circus Circus/The Steak House**—2880 Las Vegas Blvd. S., 734-0410. Steak, prime rib, lobster, seafood appetizers flown in fresh daily. D, \$\$, major, res.

**The Flame**—1 E. Desert Inn Rd., 735-4431. Filet mignon, porterhouse. 24 hours. \$\$\$, major.

**Golden Steer**—308 W. Sahara Ave., 384-4470. Pepper steak, quail, game dishes. D, \$\$\$, AE, DC, MC, V, res.

**Jeremiah's**—171 E. Tropicana Ave., 736-3044. Steaks, salads, desserts. D, \$\$, major.

**Miller's Family Steak House**—1401 N. Decatur, 646-3354. Steaks, chops. L, D, AE, MC, V.

**Port Tack**—3190 W. Sahara Ave., 873-3345. Seafood appetizers, steaks, lobster. 24 hours. \$\$, major, res.

**Red Lobster**—2325 E. Flamingo, 731-0119. Fisherman's platter, steak and lobster. L, D, \$\$, major.

**Starboard Tack**—2601 Atlantic, 457-8794. Seafood, salad bar. L, D, \$\$, major.

**The Tillerman**—2245 E. Flamingo Rd., 731-4036. Lobster, shrimp, fresh catch. D, \$\$\$, major.



THE SUMMIT/HARRAH'S TAHOE

## RENO/SPARKS/CARSON

### American

**Ballywick's**—124 Wonder St., 786-7154. Gourmet hamburgers, ribs, nachos, sundae. L, D, \$, major.

**Boomtown**—I-80 at Verdi, 345-6000. Changing buffet, regular menu. Separate trucker's restaurant. B, L, D, \$, major.

**Cafe 32**—8195 S. Virginia St., 853-3200. Capellini duck salad, London broil, smoked chicken. L, D, \$\$, major.

**Harolds Club/The Presidential Car**—250 N. Virginia St., 329-0881. Steak, lobster, shrimp, veal Oscar. D, \$\$, AE, MC, V, res.

**Harrah's/Skyway**—2nd and Center, 786-3232. Buffets, Sunday brunch. B, L, D, \$, major.

**Marie Callendar's**—3255 S. Virginia St., 826-1065. Chicken pot pie, pasta dishes, pies. L, D, \$, MC, V.

**Peppermill/Coffee Shop**—2701 S. Virginia St., 826-2121. Fruit salads, vegetarian lasagna, gourmet omelets. B, L, D, \$, major.

**Scotty's Family Restaurant**—1380 N. Carson St., Carson City, 882-2982. Make your own omelet, daily specials. B, L, D, \$, no credit cards.

**Walley's Hot Springs Resort**—S. of Genoa on Foothill Rd., 883-6556 or 782-8155. Prime rib, lobster tail, chicken Chardonnay. L, D, \$\$, AM, MC, V.

### Gourmet

**Adele's**—1112 N. Carson St., Carson City, 882-3353. Moroccan, Spanish dishes, Cajun food, fresh seafood, extensive wine list. L, D, \$\$-\$\$\$; MC, V, res.

**Bally's/Cafe Gigi**—2500 E. 2nd St., 789-2266. Cracked crab, snails, lobster bisque, chateaubriand, veal Oscar. D, \$\$\$, major, res.

**Chez Bernard**—432 E. 4th St., 323-6262. French continental cuisine. D, \$\$\$, major, res.

**Galena Forest Inn**—17025 Mt. Rose Hwy., 849-2100. Swiss continental, Rahmschnitzel, scampi. D except Mon.-Tues. \$\$\$, AE, MC, V, res.

### Italian

**Bally's/Caruso's**—2500 E. 2nd St., 789-2267. Fresh oysters, cannelloni, calamari, eggplant parmigiana. D, \$\$\$, major, res.

**Cicero's**—1695 S. Virginia St., 329-2581. Continental, fresh seafood, lobster on a bed of pasta. L (M-F), D, \$\$\$, major, res.

**Eldorado/La Strada**—345 N. Virginia St., 786-5700. Saltimbocca, gnocchi al pesto, ravioli verdi con spinaci. D, closed Wed.-Thurs. \$\$, major, res.

**Leonardo's**—2450 S. Virginia St., 827-6200. Veal, steak, seafood, pasta. Nightly 4-course special. D, \$\$\$, major, res.

**Marrone's**—2729 N. Carson St., Carson City, 883-7044. Design your own with selection of pastas and sauces. L, D, \$-\$\$, major.

**Regghetti's**—6431 S. Virginia St., 851-0300. Italian seafood and pasta, provimi veal dishes, portofino, the Roman Orgy. L, D, \$\$, major, res.

**Spaugh's**—1573 S. Virginia St., 323-5339. Scampi, spinach fettucini. D, \$\$, major, res.

### Oriental

**Asian Garden**—1945 S. Virginia St., 825-5510. Mandarin and Szechwan menu. L, D, \$\$, major, res.

**Bally's/China Seas**—2500 E. 2nd St., 789-2268. Exotic Oriental dishes. D, \$\$, major, res.

**Golden Chopsticks**—3335 Kietzke, 827-1515. Cantonese and Szechwan. B, L, D, \$, major.

**Great Wall**—1717 S. Wells, 322-1002. Szechuan, sizzling lobster platter, moo shu pork. L, D, \$, major.

**Ichiban Japanese**—635 N. Sierra St., 323-5550. Chef cooks lobster, chicken, steak, vegetables at your table. Seating family style. L, D, \$\$\$, major.

### Steak and Seafood

**Cattleman's**—555 Hwy. 395 N., Washoe Valley, 849-1500. Sirloin, filet mignon, lobster, Alaska king crab. D, \$\$, AE, MC, V.

**Circus Circus/Hickory Pit**—500 N. Sierra St., 329-0711. One-pound prime rib, New York steak. D, \$\$, major.

**Eldorado/The Vintage**—250 N. Virginia St., 329-0881. Fresh Sonoma duckling, chateaubriand, prawns amaretto. D, closed Mon.-Tues. \$\$, major, res.

**Harrah's/Seafare**—2nd and Center, 786-3232. Fresh fish specials, calamari, lobster tail, veal parmigiana, eggplant Romano. L, D, \$\$\$, major, res.

**Harrah's/Steak House**—2nd and Center, 786-3232. Fine continental cuisine. D, \$\$\$-\$\$\$\$, major, res.

**Hungry Tiger**—3127 S. Virginia St., 827-4111. Live Maine lobster, chicken teriyaki, stuffed trout. L, D, \$-\$\$\$; AE, MC, V, res.

**Jeremiah's**—880 E. Plumb, 827-2080. Baby back pork ribs, filet Oscar, fresh seafood. L, D, \$-\$\$\$; major, res.

**Nugget/Oyster Bar**—1125 B St., Sparks, 356-3300. Lazyman's cioppino, seafood stews. L, D, \$, major.

**Nugget/Steak House**—1125 B St., Sparks, 356-3300. Prime rib, steak and lobster, snapper, shrimp Louis. L, D, \$, major.

**Rapscaillon**—1555 S. Wells, 323-1211. About 30 selections of fresh fish daily. L, D, \$\$\$; AE, MC, V, res.

**Reno Hilton/Top of the Hilton**—255 N. Sierra St., 322-1111. Steaks, seafood, view. D, \$\$\$, major, res.

**The 19th Hole**—1200 Razorback Rd. at Lakeridge Golf Course, 825-1250. Steaks, scampi. L, D, \$\$\$, major, res.

### Mexican, Basque

**El Charro Avila**—4389 S. Carson St., Carson City, 883-6261. Flauta, chimichanga, combinations, mar-

(Continued on page 74)

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## Art & Artist

### "Three Shoshone Girls"

Oil, 24x30"

"I saw these three kids in the back of a pickup in the parade during the Fallon All-Indian Rodeo. The children's faces seem to show the beauty and strength of their heritage."



# Vicki Gallagher

For this Fallon artist,  
western realism comes with the territory.



*"Getting Ready For Winter Range"*

Oil, 18x24"

*"I was on my way to an art show in Oregon when I saw these cowboys branding cattle beside the highway north of Gerlach. I stopped and took some photos, and when I got home I did the painting."*



Vicki Gallagher doesn't just dabble in western art—she's usually in it up to her boot tops. She and her husband, Tim, own

and manage Gallagher Livestock in Fallon, the state's only cattle auction yard. At auction time each Wednesday, while Vicki helps sort the cattle, she finds an amazing assortment of subjects among the cowboys, ranchers, and prime livestock that come to the yard from all over the West.

But she doesn't have to wait until Wednesday. Fallon is a pure western town, and the life style fascinates her. "Nevadans still

enjoy the simple pleasures of life—being with their families, taking care of one another, and just talking over a cup of coffee," Gallagher says. "It's nice just to drift into the little cafe at the sales yard and talk with old rodeo cowboys, cattle buyers, cowboy and cowgirl poets, and chuck wagon drivers."

Fallon is a world away from her childhood in Southern California. Gallagher, who was born in San Diego, entered her first art contest with a crayon impression at the age of seven. Although she didn't win the grand prize—a puppy—she went on to study art at Cal Poly in San Luis Obispo and later apprenticed with seasoned artists.

She always favored western art, and

moved to Fallon in 1977. There she met and married Tim and began painting Nevada cowboys, Indians, and wildlife. Although Gallagher favors oils and acrylics, she is adept in all media. At the 1986 Western Art Roundup in Winnemucca she took a gold medal for an oil, a bronze for a pen-and-ink, and won honorable mentions for a pencil sketch and a mixed media. She was particularly pleased with the awards because the judge was Jack Swanson, a member of the prestigious Cowboy Artists of America.

Gallagher's work can be seen at the Gallagher Livestock Yard's sales office at 1025 Allen Road in Fallon. ■



# Dining Guide

(Continued from page 71)

garitas. L (M-F), D. \$\$, AE, MC, V.  
**Hacienda Del Sol**—2935 S. Virginia St., 825-7144. Giant burritos, chimichangas, margaritas. L, D. \$\$, MC, V, res. for 8 or more.  
**Louis' Basque Corner**—301 E. 4th St., 323-7203. Basque food served family style. L, D. \$\$, major, res.  
**Mama's Mexican**—1553 S. Virginia St., 323-1520. Mama's original nachos, margaritas. L, D. \$\$, MC, V.  
**Miguel's Mexican**—1415 S. Virginia St., 323-2722. Menudo, carne asada, sopapillas. L, D. \$\$, major.  
**Pipeline Inn**—1681 Hwy. 395, Minden, 782-7408. Mexican food with variety of combinations, fried ice cream. L, D. \$, major.  
**Western Village/Pancho and Willie's**—Off I-80, Sparks, 331-1069. Fajitas, chili verde. L (res.), D. \$\$, major.

## LAKE TAHOE

### American

**Harrah's/Sierra**—Stateline, 588-6611. Daily specials, Chinese entrees. B, L, D. \$\$, major.  
**Harvey's/Top of the Wheel**—Stateline, 588-2411. Polynesian decor, continental cuisine. D. \$\$\$, major, res.  
**Steven**—341 Ski Way Blvd., Incline, 832-0222. Homemade pasta, fresh seafood, mesquite-grilled lamb, outside deck. L, D. \$\$, major, res.

### Gourmet

**Christy Hill Inn**—1650 Squaw Valley Rd., Olympic Valley, CA., 916-583-8551. B, L, D. \$\$\$, major, res.

### Italian

**Caesars Tahoe/The Primavera**—Stateline, 588-3515. Seafood frittata, Primavera extravaganza pizza, Italian crepe. B, L, D. \$\$, major, res.

### Oriental

**Caesars Tahoe/Empress Court**—Stateline, 588-3515. Szechwan, Mandarin, Cantonese, lobster. D. \$\$, major, res.

### Steak and Seafood

**Caesars Tahoe/Broiler Room**—Stateline, 588-3515. Steak, fresh fish. D. \$\$\$, major, res. for large parties.  
**Harrah's/Friday's Station**—Stateline, 588-6611. Fresh fish daily, steaks. L, D. \$\$\$, major, res.  
**Harvey's/Seafood Grotto**—Stateline, 588-2411. Wide seafood selection. L, D. \$\$\$, major.

## AROUND THE STATE

**Benny's**—1349 Idaho St., Elko, 738-6745. Chicken, gourmet hamburgers. B, L, D. \$, major.  
**Burro Inn**—Beatty, 553-2445. Homemade stews and soups, steak, seafood. B, L, D. \$-\$\$, major.  
**Cactus Pete's**—Jackpot, 755-2321. Extensive menu. B, L, D. \$-\$\$, major.  
**Edgewater/The Embers**—Laughlin, 298-2453. Steak, seafood, prime rib, stockyard midwestern beef. D. \$\$, major, res.  
**Evah's Copper Queen**—701 Avenue I, Ely, 289-4271.  
**Fallon Nugget**—S. Maine, 423-3111. Buffets, specials. B, L, D. \$-\$\$, major.  
**Martin Hotel**—Winnemucca, 623-3197. Basque dining, steak, oxtail, tongue, prime rib. L, D. \$\$, MC, V.  
**Riverside/Gourmet Room**—Laughlin, 298-2535. Chateaubriand, cajun dishes, steak and quail, rack of lamb. D. \$\$, major, res.  
**Sharon House**—Virginia City, 847-0133. Chinese food in a historic 19th century building. L, D. \$\$, major.  
**Silver Smith/White Swan**—Wendover, 664-2231. BBQ ribs, crab legs, filet mignon. D. \$\$, major.  
**Station House/Whistle Stop**—Tonopah, 482-9777. Hamburgers, steak, seafood. B, L, D. \$, AE, MC, V.  
**Winners/Grandma's House**—Winnemucca, 623-2511. Steak, prime rib, lobster. D. \$-\$\$, major.

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# Yesterday

(Continued from page 37)

came to celebrate the first chairlifts in Nevada.

After the speeches, the governor threw the switch to start the lifts, providing everyone with free rides. All went well until people started riding back down the mountain at the end of the day. The upper lift was overloaded, and the braking mechanism failed. Soon starlets and politicians were hanging on in terror as the chairs whizzed down the hill.

Reno ski promoter Warren Hart, who was operating the upper lift, grabbed a timber and shoved it into the main drive wheel. That stopped the chairs with a jerk, and everyone held on for life as the chairs bobbed and swung on the steel cable. Luckily no one was hurt. The celebrants had to be lowered by ropes, and the hike down the snowy mountain proved ungainly for men in dress shoes and women in skirts and high heels.

As new resorts opened around Tahoe, providing skiers with higher mountains and longer runs, the novelty of Sky Tavern began to fade. Wayne Poulsen's Squaw Valley, which he founded in 1949, was getting a lot of publicity. An upstart on the south shore was Heavenly Valley, which opened one chair in 1955.

While the stars sought more glamorous mountains, the junior ski program began to take over Sky Tavern. Founder Marcie Herz and instructor Hal Codding raised money from Reno civic groups, bought buses, and hauled more and more budding ski racers to the Tavern. There were so many kids on the slopes each weekend that the adults began to complain.

In the late '50s the Ramseys decided to get out of the ski business. The glory days were over, and maintaining an 800-acre resort was hard work. In 1964 they sold it to a corporation that in turn leased Sky Tavern to the Reno Junior Ski Program. Three years later the City of Reno bought Sky Tavern solely for the program, which had become a part of the city's parks and recreation department. The city replaced the T-bar, rope tow, and poma lift with new equipment. Ramsey, in his role as contractor, remodeled the lodge.

Today, if you drive up the Mount Rose Highway toward the slopes of Mount Rose, Slide Mountain, and Ski Incline, you'll pass a wide spot in the road. If you look just beyond the Stockhorse Inn, you'll see part of Sky Tavern as it stands today, a hidden monument to a time when skiing was in its infancy, and stars were on the slopes. ■

Marge Knorr of Reno is a skier and freelance writer.

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NOTE: If ads not camera-ready, magazine will set type at cost.



# Scenic Drives

These underappreciated routes will take road connoisseurs to amazing places both on and off the blacktop.

By Roger Smith

**T**he recent hoopla over U.S. Highway 50, which started when *Life* called it the loneliest road in America, has brought out an important quality of Nevada roads. Lonely or not, they can be an adventure to drive.

Here are what I consider to be 10 great sections of Nevada's road network, the underappreciated short hauls that span the most scenic or historic countryside. You can drive most of these roads in less than three hours and rubberneck without traffic anxiety, but be wise. Start with a full tank of gas and extra water, have good tires for the unpaved sections, and in early spring and late fall inquire about road conditions before you head out.

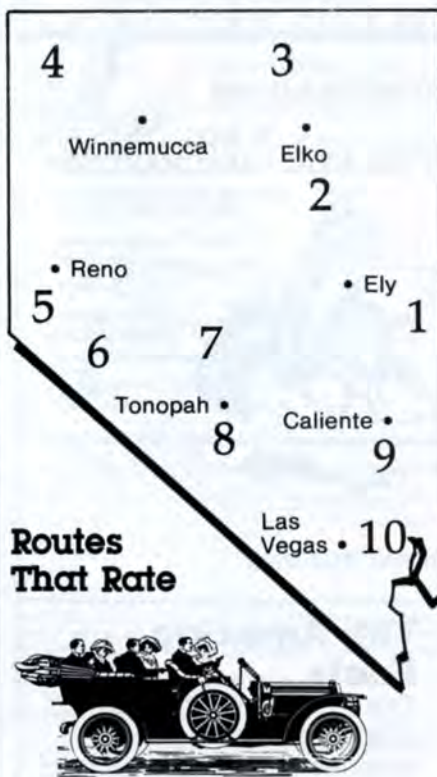
1. It seems only right to begin with U.S. Highway 50. It is Nevada's most beautiful long drive, as the road bisects the state east to west, but its best section lies between Ely and the Utah border. Here you pass through territory that will soon be Nevada's first national park. You rise to 7,723-foot Connors Pass, one of the state's highest. To the south Wheeler Peak towers at 13,063 feet. The pines of the Humboldt National Forest carpet the slopes. Lehman Caves and Cave Lake can be reached by short detours.

2. Nevada Highway 28 from the Ruby Marshes cutoff to Lamoille skirts the sub-alpine western slopes of the Ruby Mountains, a long defile of giants that wear white wizard's caps most of the year. The icy clear water that runs into the western plains feed the green fields of the ranches there and in the spring can nourish a torrent of flowers.

3. Nevada 225 from Elko to Owyhee parallels the Independence Mountains, and the surrounding wilderness has been called Nevada's most beautiful. There are ghost towns a short drive from the road, and the area has deer, elk, antelope, coyotes, and mountain lions.

4. The seldom-used stretch between

Denio and Cedarville, California, Nevada 140 to 34A to 8A is not an easy road to drive—dirt much of the way—but it is my favorite. The road rolls through hillside and draw, there is seldom a sign of man or a discouraging word, and antelope browsing on the hillsides politely stare as you drive by. The first time I drove there, I came upon a rabbit and rattlesnake in the middle



Routes That Rate

of the road. The rattler had the rabbit transfixed, but now it has a treadmark across its back, and the rabbit is looking for another predator.

5. Nevada 431 is also known as the Mount Rose Highway, because it climbs dramatically from Steamboat, 12 miles

south of Reno on U.S. 395, up to Lake Tahoe and the Sierra. The road winds tortuously between Slide Mountain and Mount Rose (and their ski resorts), over an 8,933-foot summit, and then down to Nevada Highway 28, which follows the picturesque east side of sapphire-blue Tahoe.

6. Nevada 208 connects Mason Valley and Smith Valley, two of Nevada's lushest agricultural areas. Joining them is Wilson Canyon, a narrow, colorful gorge hundreds of feet deep that the West Walker River tumbles and bubbles through. The road hugs the cottonwood-lined banks for dear life, just as you'll hold on to your steering wheel.

7. U.S. 95 between Schurz and Hawthorne is also a rather exacting drive through a landscape that sometimes is barren as the moon. But the road skirts ancient Walker Lake under the shadow of 11,245-foot Mount Grant, with scenery of the sort that exercises your neck as you look constantly back and forth between the twisting road and the captivating view.

8. Further down U.S. 95, between Tonopah and Goldfield, the highway moves out of the Great Basin and into the Mojave Desert, and the passage is a study of historical and ecological contrast. Tonopah and Goldfield were the last two great mining boomtowns, and reminders of turn-of-the-century opulence dot their streets. Driving north, you go from the Mojave, with its creosote and Joshua trees, into sagebrush country.

9. From Pioche to Moapa is a long C-curve if you go by highway but almost a straight line by U.S. 93 and Nevada 317. The highway goes from the mountainside mining town of Pioche, by the green fields of Panaca, past Cathedral Gorge, into the railroad town of Caliente, and through the red and white sandstone cliffs of Rainbow Canyon to Elgin. Then it is a gravel and dirt road, following the Union Pacific tracks in the Meadow Valley Wash to the Muddy River; inquire in advance about conditions.

10. Lake Mead's North Shore Road from Henderson to Overton is another study in desert terrain. As it curves up from Hoover Dam, it passes white gypsum formations, red-rock country, and dry washes. There are grand views of the long blue arms of Mead and easy access to marinas and beaches, in case the stretch seems too isolated.

These may be among the state's best short drives, but in Nevada the road goes ever on, and you can come upon unexpected wonders wherever the roads reach across the wilds. ■

Formerly of Hawthorne, Carlin, Yerington, and Carson City and now of Reno, Roger Smith has never yet run off a road from gawking, but he says it has been a near thing at times.



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**New Year's Eve Celebration**  
December 31  
Countdown is on pages 8 & 14.



**Snow Festivals!**  
January and February  
For a full forecast, see page 14



**Elko Cowboy Poetry**  
January 29-31  
See page 22

### ALSO IN THIS ISSUE:

Real Estate • Famous Homes in Las Vegas, Reno, and Tahoe • Cross-Country Skiing  
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