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NEVADA

THE MAGAZINE OF THE REAL WEST

AUGUST 1987 ■ \$2.25

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Cover photo: Larry Prossor

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LETTERS

Kitty Kudos and Other Regal Ravings

May/June '87 Reviews

Until I read Mary Rose Loney's article on dining out at Jarbidge I was just a plain ol' deer hunter whose idea of camp cooking was fresh liver on the grill (not that there's anything wrong with liver and onions).

But after reading about filet mignon, scampi, French wines, and liquor in little edible chocolate cups, well, sign me up for the good life. Adios, .308, hello antipasto vinaigrette!

Ray A. March
Pacific Grove, CA.

With delight I came upon the picture of my mother, Fern "Mac" McEwen (whose name was incorrect) in the Kangaroo Hoosegow, circa 1952-1953, in the story on Las Vegas' Helldorado celebration.

Mac and Billie M. Grace were executive housekeepers at the Thunderbird Hotel when Helldorado was the biggest event of the year in Las Vegas. Townspeople were very supportive and parades were awesome, featuring live elephants and camels.

Thanks for bringing back a rush of fond memories.

Ladean Waltz
Las Vegas

Carol Vogel's article about the "Literary Cats" of the Minden Library is just priceless. We are leaving for Reno in early June, and I am going to run down to Minden just to pat those darling Scottish Folds.

Harold B. Schneider
Seattle, WA.

Jack Fleming's article on Ely was terrific. However, one little correction.

The Northern Hotel in Ely was owned by Winfield Scott Elliott, better known as Ole. He, Kid Highly, and Tex Rickard owned the Great Northern Saloon in Fairbanks, Alaska, then the Great Northern in Goldfield, Nevada. They split up and Ole built the Northern in Ely. It had gambling in addition to a hotel.

I was born in Ely in July of 1907. I also worked for Ole as a clerk and later as manager of the Kimberly Club at Kimberly, Nevada, about 10 miles from Ely.

I appreciate your magazine. Keep up the good work, especially articles on Ely.

Theodore Leyden
Fresno, CA.

In the Reno-Tahoe Calendar on page 17 there is a calf roping photo by Vern Howell. This has to be the best rodeo action shot I have ever seen. Thanks—love your magazine. Your new format is excellent.

Robert Rothwell
Rosamond, CA.

David Lowe's "Putting Down Routes" mentioned that the Nevada Department of Transportation has named U.S. 93 the Great Basin Highway. U.S. 93 was once known as the International Four State Highway because it passed through four states on its route from Canada to Mexico.

In fact, a number of Nevada's U.S. routes were named. For example, U.S. 40 from New York City to Los Angeles was known as the Victory—part of a transcontinental route that had been designated from New York City to Los Angeles following World War I. Similarly, U.S. 6 was the Roosevelt Highway (part of the National Roosevelt Midland Trail, a route from Washington, D.C. and Newport News, Virginia, to Los Angeles; the name was changed from the Midland Trail following Theodore Roosevelt's death).

U.S. 50 may be the "Loneliest Road in America" today but it once was part of the transcontinental Lincoln Highway. Stretching from Times Square in New York City to Lincoln Park in San Francisco, the Lincoln Highway was the most famous highway of its day (approximately 1913-1930). In the mid-1920s, the U.S. numbered system replaced the nation's hundreds of named trails, including the Lincoln Highway. Sixty years later, Nevada communities that once could promote themselves as being on the nation's premier highway are today promoting themselves as being on the loneliest.

Richard F. Weingroff
Washington, D.C.

The proof reader let Renee Thompson down in her story, "Bawdy Bird Watcher." The line, "It's his goal to teach our children and I..." is incorrect. It should have been "our children and me."

I am no stranger to Nevada. Many years ago, I went to the University of Nevada in Reno for three delightful years. Later, my husband and I and three children lived for a year at Camp Raleigh, 25 miles from Beowawe. He was superintendent of a gold dredge in 1939. The historians love me, as I grew up at Tahoe. My father and uncle leased from Lucky Baldwin the old Tallac Hotel. Before that, his father, G.L.M. Comstock, leased the Baldwin property—the Tallac House, where I was born.

Tell Renee not to be offended. I enjoyed her article. I love the wonderful swamps of Stillwater and my husband and I belonged to a duck club there for a few years.

Velma Comstock Eden
Sacramento, CA.

Apologies to both Velma and Renee, as the mistake was made by a bleary-eyed editor in the heat of deadline.—Ed.

Our copy of *Nevada* arrived yesterday and it is wonderful! A real cover to cover winner. Admittedly, the last two issues made my husband and me a little nervous. Happily, I never mailed my earlier letter.

If the May/June issue is an example of what's to come, you can't miss. Super packaging, too. There was nary a blemish on my copy.

Diane Sims
Albany, OR.

Thanks for your kind comments, Diane. The last few issues have been a growth process that has enabled us to now bring you more pages, more color and more articles.—Ed.

Home Means Nevada

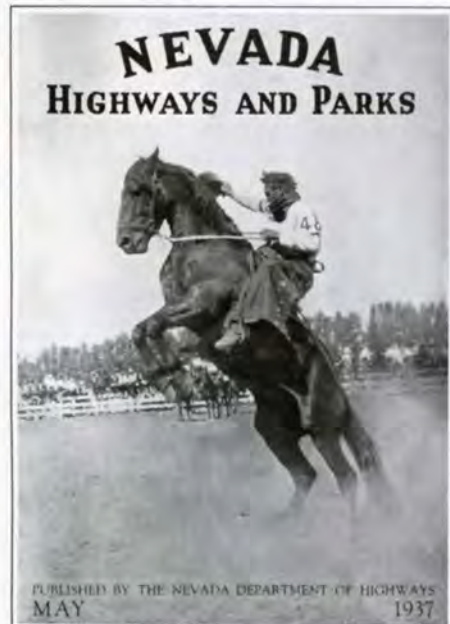
I love *Nevada* and if I knew the words I would be singing "Home Means Nevada" all the way to solitary confinement. I am finishing the last few months of a long prison term.

I have been searching for a small community in which to relocate upon my release. I have received information from the Elko Chamber of Commerce, the Nevada Commission on Tourism, and many others. Unfortunately, inmates may not have excessive accumulations of papers, books, or other materials in their cells for more than 14 days. But I won't give up my back-issues of *Nevada Magazine* and I will not stop reading my *Elko Independents*. Next, they'll outlaw my Historic Nevada Calendar!

Clarence Jay Faulkner
Huntsville, TX.

Who Was That Masked Man?

I am interested in any information you can give me on the photo which appears on



page 8 of the March/April '87 issue. It is a *Nevada Highways and Parks* cover from 1937

My dad cowboied in Nevada around that time and was a saddle bronc rider.

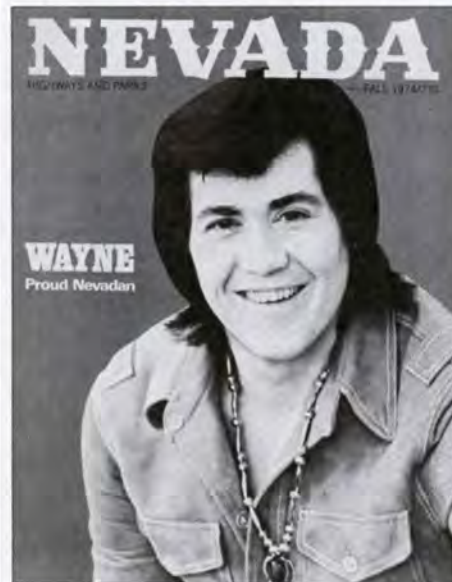
Even if that is not him I would be interested in the story behind that picture.

Barbara P. Carpenter
Monte Vista, CO.

Unfortunately, that issue didn't have any information on the photo. Any readers know anything about it?—Ed.

Roses For Wayne

After going to Las Vegas last week, I am more in love with the state than ever. I put 500 miles on a rental car in three days, and saw Wayne Newton's show each night. He was everything I expected, and so much more. I'm saving for my next trip to see him



and those wonderful mountains again. Please rush the back magazines—especially the one with Wayne on the cover.

Renee Carter
Port Arthur, TX.

Merle Koch, 1914-1987

As saddened as I was to learn of the recent death of my long time friend Merle Koch—owner/operator of Virginia City's Silver Stope and nationally renowned jazz pianist—I was almost equally surprised and disappointed to find no appropriate mention of his passing in your magazine.

May I suggest you contact Guy Shieler in your city, or David Toll in Gold Hill, and ask one of them to do the honors.

Mike Payette
Cottage Grove, CA.

We also were saddened to learn of Koch's death. Fortunately, he's remembered in the Guy Shieler article that appeared in Nevada in Sept/Oct '83.—Ed.

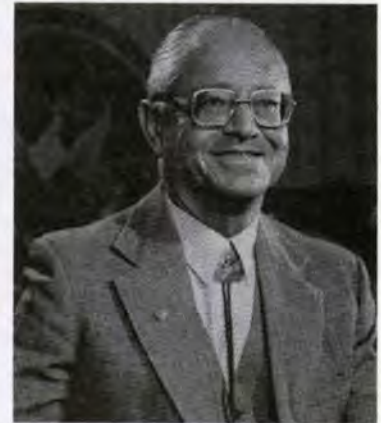
The Wild Side

Tony Diebold's "How to Photograph Wildlife" in March/April '87 is the kind of story I like. The porky pine is super!

I've taken a good many quills out of the dogs when I lived on my ranch in Diamond Valley. I grew up in Gerlach where those pictures were taken.

Jewelle Parman
Eureka □

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INNOCENCE ABROAD

Two adventuresome teenagers discover the frontier hospitality of a Winnemucca 'rooming house.'

By Marian Hodgkinson

It was 1918 and I was 18 years old, a freshman at the University of Wyoming in Laramie. My cousin, who was my age, and I decided to drive our Essex Roadster all the way to San Francisco during school vacation. Our parents were less than enthusiastic about the idea but consented when we promised to send them a telegram via Western Union every night and to pack canteens of water and spare tires. We also promised not to talk to strangers.

We decorated our small green car with pennants from our college as well as some from friends who attended other schools. Pennants were the thing to have in those days.

Our first days on the road were easy. But on the fifth day out we had two flat tires and an encounter with a rattlesnake while changing flats. It was rapidly growing dark when we approached the town of Winnemucca, Nevada. We were tired and a bit frightened as we drove into town looking for a hotel. We knew we must stay the night somewhere, as the next town on our map was some distance and driving at night was unheard of.

Finally we saw a sign that said, "Rooms for Rent," a welcome sight. We climbed a flight of wide stairs and were greeted by a

tall, handsome, black-haired woman. She looked a bit puzzled when we asked if we could have a room for the night. She said her name was Mrs. Brown. We explained that we were driving our car to San Francisco, that we were college girls on vacation, then waited hopefully for her to say that we could spend the night, have baths and supper. She questioned us, asking if our parents knew where we were. We assured her that they did and that we sent them a telegram each night.

In looking around where we stood, it appeared pretty luxurious to us, with red plush upholstered chairs and velvet curtains. Not what our homes looked like, but then we had not had much experience with parlors away from home.

After eyeing our dirty faces and dusty clothes, she said, "Yes, you can have a room for one night. The bathroom is just down the hall." She paused. "I'll have your dinner sent to your room in a little while."

"Oh, that won't be necessary," we said. "We can come to the dining room after we are cleaned up."

Her voice was firm. "No, girls, there is a private party going on in the dining room. Ben will bring your dinner shortly."

Soon a white-coated man knocked at the door with dinner trays for us.

The food was excellent and ample. We were tired, and even though we heard music and laughter below we were soon ready for bed.

When the waiter picked up our empty dinner trays, he said, "Mrs. Brown said for me to lock your door so you won't be disturbed."

"What if we want to go to the bathroom?" we protested.

With a shy smile he pointed to a tall, white pot decorated with big roses and said, "Young ladies can use that."

He hesitated. "If anyone knocks on your door, don't answer. Probably someone who has the wrong room." Then he was gone.

That night we slept undisturbed, and after breakfast we said goodbye to Mrs. Brown and were on our way.

Again we were on that dratted narrow road and again slipped off into the ditch when we tried to squeeze past an oncoming pickup truck. "Can I help you girls?" said the driver of the truck. "These narrow roads are the devil."

He helped us get our car back on the road and put on our last spare tire. "Where did you girls come from?" he asked, grunting while he worked. "Don't see many automobiles on this road."

We told him about our trip and our previous night's stay in Winnemucca.

"Where in Winnemucca?" he persisted.

"With Mrs. Brown at her rooming house. She was ever so nice to us, gave us dinner and breakfast," we babbled on.

The man pushed his wide-brimmed hat back from his sweating brow and said, "Where did you say you stayed last night?"

"At Mrs. Brown's rooming house. Why?"

Suddenly, the sun-wrinkled face relaxed and the man roared with laughter. "That Mrs. Brown, as you call her, is Black Bess. She owns and operates the most notorious..." he hesitated, "...house of prostitution in the state of Nevada."

My cousin and I blinked. After all, we were college girls and we knew what a whore house was, no matter what fancy name he called it. We were indignant.

"We don't believe you," we sniffed. "Mrs. Brown was a lady and spoke like one. She was wonderful to us and locked our bedroom door last night so we wouldn't be disturbed."

An amused light shone in the man's eyes.

"Oh, all right, girls. Just be careful where you stay from now on. By the way, where are you staying in San Francisco?"

"With our aunt," we replied. "A lovely lady like Mrs. Brown."

We are mature women now with children and grandchildren. The story of our one night in a "house of ill fame" is not one we tell our grandchildren. □

Marian Hodgkinson of Laguna Hills, California, says that although she has since stayed at hotels all over the world, Mrs. Brown's was one of the most memorable.

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HOT LINES

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Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority: 733-2323

Las Vegas Stars: triple-A pro baseball, 7/15 vs. Portland Beavers; 7/24-27 vs. Calgary Cannons; 7/29-31 vs. Edmonton Trappers, Cashman Field, 386-7200

Nevada Commission on Tourism: 885-3636 or 800-237-0774 (outside Nevada)

Nevada Division of State Parks: hikes, tours, stargazing, campfire programs at 21 parks

around the state, District VI, Las Vegas, 385-0264

Reed Whipple Cultural Center, concerts, film festivals, melodramas, 386-6211

E V E N T S

July

Tierra Incognita Exhibit, thru 7/19, Spanish maps of the Southwest from 1540-1803, Nevada State Museum and Historical Society, 385-0115

Mr. Country Music America Contest, thru 7/29, Holiday Casino, 369-5112

Wild Horses in Nevada Exhibit, thru 8/31, Nevada

State Museum and Historical Society, 385-0115
Knights of the Round Table Poker Tournament and Golf Spectacular, 7/12-27, golf tournament with estimated purse of \$40,000 and championship poker including a \$10,000 Knights of the Round Table Championship Texas Hold 'em, Tropicana Hotel, 739-2697

Baseball Card Expo, 7/15, Sahara Hotel, 737-2715

"Museum," 7/15-19 and 7/23-26, satirical comedy, Department of Theatre Arts, Judy Bayley Theatre, UNLV, 739-3353

American Indian Arts and Crafts Show, 7/17 Sahara Hotel, 737-2715

Ms. Galaxy International, 7/19-25, Sahara Hotel, 737-2715

"Sweet Charity," 7/23-25, 7/30-8/1, 8/6-7 and 8/9, musical, Gary Catsules Panic Productions, gates open at 6pm and close at 8pm, \$3 adults and \$1 students and seniors Thurs., \$4 adults and \$2 students and seniors Fri.-Sat., children 6 and under always free, Spring Mountain Ranch State Park, 15 miles west of Las Vegas, 875-PLAY

U.S. BASS Open, 7/24-8/1, more than \$300,000 in prizes, with \$50,000 for the winner, 3pm weigh-in each day, Callville Bay Marina, Lake Mead, 565-8957 or 602-834-5045

Laughlin River Days, 7/28-8/2, annual town party, parade, jazz festival, chili cook-off, luau, tube races, amateur talent contest, fireworks, Laughlin, 298-2214

Exhibit, 7/29-8/30, Jim Santini's Native American basket collection, Nevada State Museum and Historical Society, 385-0115

Greater Las Vegas Coin and Stamp Show, 7/30-8/3, Sahara Hotel, 737-2715

August

Exhibit, 8/5-9/13, "Desert Mirage: Casino Gam-



Considered one of the most prestigious professional bass-fishing tournaments, the U.S. BASS Open nets fishermen more than \$300,000 in awards, including \$50,000 cash for the winner. The spot to watch the contest, July 24-August 1, is Callville Bay Marina on Lake Mead.

ing and the Image of Nevada," Nevada State Museum and Historical Society, 385-0115

North American Open Dart Tournament, 8/12-17, Sahara Hotel, 737-2715

Military Arms and Collectors Show, 8/23-9/5, Sahara Hotel, 737-2715

"The Fantasticks", 8/20-22 and 8/27-29, comedy-drama, Las Vegas Little Theatre, gates open at 6pm and close at 8pm, \$3 adults and \$1 students and seniors Thurs., \$4 adults and \$2 students and seniors Fri.-Sat., children 6 and under free, Spring Mountain Ranch State Park, 15 miles west of Las Vegas, 875-PLAY

Dance Concert, 9/5, performers from Fern Adair Conservatory of the Arts, Ham Hall, UNLV, 458-7575

COMING EVENTS

U.S. Team Open 8-Ball Pool Tournament, 9/10-12, Imperial Palace, 731-3311

Clark County Basque Festival, 9/12-13, Las Vegas, 385-2662

Las Vegas Silver Cup Unlimited Hydroplane Races, 9/25-27 Lake Mead, 731-2115

Las Vegas Jaycees State Fair, 10/6-11, 732-3247

Henderson Expo, 10/16-18, 565-8951

Imperial Palace Antique Auto Run, 10/23-25, 731-3311

Fairshow, 10/23-25, North Las Vegas, 642-1944

National Finals Rodeo, 12/4-12, Las Vegas, 731-2115

NIGHTLIFE

Sam and Jerry

By Pete Mikla

One of the hottest shows on the Strip this summer has resulted from the pairing of two show-business legends—Sammy Davis, Jr. and Jerry Lewis—at Bally's Las Vegas.

This dream booking for their fans is also a dream come true for the two stars, who like to brag to their audiences, "We're 122 years old."



"We talked about doing a show like this for probably 40 years," says the 61-year-old Davis. "I don't think we ever thought we'd get the chance to actually do it, but it finally happened."

"It took almost a year just to clear our schedules so we would be free at the same time," explains the 61-year-old Lewis.

It was just over a year ago that Davis came back to Las Vegas following a long recovery from hip surgery. After he got out of the hospital, he wasn't sure if he would ever dance again. When he was able to walk, he checked with his doctor about the possibility of dancing.

"He simply told me, 'Try it. Go for it. If you find you can't dance, don't force it. He reminded me that I have the kind of act in which I can do many things. I don't have to rely solely on dancing.'" When Davis found he could dance without pain, he returned to the showroom stage.

Some longtime fans have noticed that he no longer jumps in the air and clicks his heels during "Mr. Bojangles" but the change isn't new. "That's not entirely due to the hip operation," says Davis, laughing. "I actually quit doing that before I went into the hospital because I decided that jumping into the air and clicking my heels is something a 61-year-old man shouldn't be doing every night."

Lewis adds that even without clicking his heels, Davis exudes "sheer energy" on stage.

"One thing he doesn't need more of is energy," says Lewis. "Sometimes I come to the hotel and I think to myself, 'Now I have to take this 61-year-old body out there and jump around like a crazy idiot. Then a voice inside me says, 'Take it easy tonight. Ease off a bit. No one will notice. Then Sam goes out there looking like a runner in the Boston Marathon and my energy level goes right up there with his. He's really powerful that way.'"

After he and Davis finish their engagement at Bally's, Lewis will immerse himself in the final preparations for his annual Labor Day telethon to fight muscular dystrophy. The broadcast originates from Caesars Palace.

Although his many years of fundraising and the billions of hours of research still have not unlocked the mystery of the killer disease, Lewis says he is more optimistic than ever. "When I started this thing, I believed we could find a cure, but I really wasn't sure if it would come in my lifetime," he admits. "Now I really do believe that we'll find it soon—definitely within my lifetime."

Sammy Davis, Jr. and Jerry Lewis perform together July 23-August 5 in the Celebrity Room at Bally's Las Vegas.

SHOWGUIDE

Aladdin, 736-0240: "Oba Oba," stage revue, indf., dark Tues.

Bally's, 739-4567: Ziegfeld Theatre: "Jubilee!" indf.

Barbary Coast, 737-7111: Irish Showband, indf., Dan Nelson Band, thru 7/1

Bourbon Street, 737-7200: "Bourbon Street Folies," starring Melinda, The First Lady of Magic, indf.

Caesars Palace, 731-7110: Oak Ridge Boys/Forester Sisters, 7/15-20; David Copperfield/Petula Clark, 7/22-27 and 7/29-8/3; Beach Boys, 8/5-10; Pointer Sisters, 8/12-17; Julio Iglesias, 8/19-24; Rodney Dangerfield, 8/26-9/1; Kool and the Gang, 9/2-7

Circus Circus, 734-0410: Free circus acts, 11am-midnight

California Hotel, 385-1222: Steve Long, 7/13-19; John Amore, 7/6-19; Far East, 7/20-26

Colorado Belle, Laughlin, 298-4000: Entertainment TBA



During Laughlin River Days, July 28-August 2, residents will celebrate with a parade, fireworks, and a town-wide party.

Desert Inn, 733-4566: Sylvia/T.G. Sheppard, 7/16-18; Rich Little, 7/23-25, 7/30-8/1, and 8/6-8; Ray Stevens, 8/13-15; Rosanne Barr/Louie Anderson, 8/20-22 and 8/27-29; Rich Little/Fifth Dimension, 9/3-23

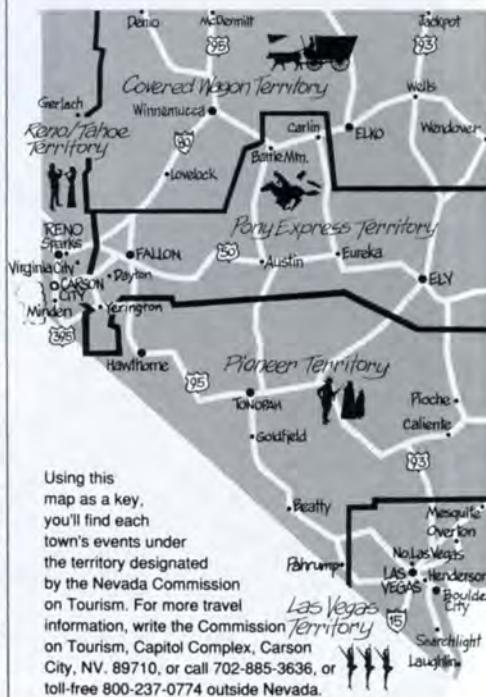
Dunes, 737-4100: Comedy Store, indf., continuous entertainment in Casino and Oasis lounges

Edgewater, Laughlin, 298-2453: Lounge entertainment nightly

Flamingo Hilton, 733-3333: "City Lites," stage spectacular

Four Queens, 385-4011: Woody Herman, 7/14-18; Van Dells, 7/21-8/2; Billy Eckstine, 8/4-23

Frontier, 734-0240: Siegfried and Roy in "Beyond Belief," indf., dark Mon., family shows (no nudity)



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7/16, 7/30, 8/13, and 8/27

Gold Coast, 367-7111 King Henry V, 7/7-19; Irish Express, 7/21-8/2; Buddy Wilde, 8/4-30

Golden Nugget, 386-8100: 7/16-28; Lou Rawls, 7/30-8/4; Kenny Rogers, 8/6-8; Don Rickles, 8/13-18; David Brenner, 8/20-9/1 Paul Anka, 9/3-15

Hacienda, 739-5911 "Minsky's Burlesque," indf.; Mailia Lani's Polynesian Fantasy, indf.

Holiday, 369-5222: "Rocky Sennes' Roaring '20s Revue," indf. (dark Sun.)

Imperial Palace, 794-3261 "Legends in Concert," indf.

Landmark, 733-1110: "Academy of Country Music Presents the Best of New Country," continuous entertainment, Mon.-Sat., indf.

Las Vegas Hilton, 732-5755: Mac Davis/Smothers Brothers, 7/14-19; Donna Summer/Marty Cohen, 7/21-26; Gladys Knight and the Pips, 7/28-8/9; Wayne Newton, 8/11-16; Dionne Warwick, 8/18-23; Englebert Humperdinck, 8/24-30

Marina, 739-1500: "Babes Ahoy," starring Jackie Vernon, indf.

Maxim, 731-4300: "Playboy's Girls of Rock and Roll," indf., dark Tues.

Mint, 387-6468: Linda Kristy, 7/1-8/16; Freddie Bell, 7/6-8/1 Atlantis, 7/6-8/8; Angelo Tolentino, 7/13-8/22

Palace Station, 367-2411 In the Mood/Heros, 7/13-19; Jonathan/Rave, 7/20-8/9; Jonathan/Presure Point, 8/10-30

Peppermill Resort, Mesquite: 346-5232: Craig Harrison, 7/6-19; Ira Allen, 7/13-8/2; Randy Copas, 8/3-16; Southern Reign, 8/17-30

Regency, Laughlin, 298-2439: Piano bar

Riverside Resort, Laughlin, 298-2535: Tanya Tucker, 7/17-18, and 7/24-25; Righteous Brothers, 7/31-8/1; Waylon Jennings, 8/7-8; Jerry Reed, 8/14-15; Slim Whitman, 8/21-22 and 8/28-29

Riviera, 734-5301 "Splash!" production show, indf., "An Evening at La Cage," revue, indf., "A.M.—A Blast from the Past," indf.; "An Evening at the Improv," comedians, indf.

Royal Casino, 733-4000: Nightly entertainment

Sahara, 737-2424: Entertainment TBA

Sam Boyd's California, 385-1222: Live entertainment, noon-6am

Sam's Town, 456-7777: Nightly entertainment

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

Sands, 733-5000: "Star Shop," production show, thru 9/24, dark Mon.

Silver Slipper, "Boylesque," revue, indf.

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

Sundance, 382-6111: Kathy Dahl/Richard Yusco

Tropicana, 739-2411 "Folies Bergere," indf., dark Thurs.

Union Plaza, 386-2444: "Never Too Late," Broadway comedy

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

OUTINGS

In the Cool of the Evening

A delightful way to escape the heat of the Las Vegas Valley this summer is by attending an evening musical performance at Spring Mountain Ranch State Park. The park is located in Red Rock Canyon 15 miles west of Las Vegas. There you can stretch out on the grass under the stars with a picnic supper and enjoy a variety of programs put on by the State Parks Cultural Arts Board. The shows continue through August on most Thursday, Friday, and Saturday nights and include the Russ Gary Big Band Express (early July), Sweet Charity (July and August), and the Fantasticks (late August). On the "Super Summer '87" evenings, the park closes at 5 p.m. and

reopens at 6 p.m. on a first-serve basis. The gates close again at 8 p.m. when the productions start, or when capacity is reached—whichever comes first.

Sweaters are advised, as temperatures are generally five to 10 degrees lower than in the valley. The family pet should stay at home, but hot dogs are OK, and barbecue pits are available for cooking. For further information and scheduling, call 702-875-PLAY and see this issue's Events listing.

Great Discovery for Kids

A visit to Discovery, The Children's Museum in Green Valley will challenge your mind and overwhelm your senses. The exhibit, which has been on the move until a permanent building is completed in downtown Las Vegas, is fun for children of all ages. The exciting displays of scientific principles and creative art invite visitors to produce moving cartoons, draw pictures in the air, and leave shadows on fluorescent walls. Write your name backwards, grow a third hand, or trace a mirrored star—these adventures explore intriguing mysteries of the mind. This summer Discovery is offering children's workshops on bubblemaking, growing crystals, marblizing paper, and other activities designed for children six and over. A Summer Fun Kit, providing free museum admissions and a Summer Super-shades Make 'n' Take Kit, can be purchased for \$3. Discovery, The Children's Museum is located in the Green Valley Shopping Plaza in Henderson and is open from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. weekdays; 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sat., and from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. Sun. The cost is 50 cents for children 2 and over; free to children under 2. Adults make a donation. A small gift shop is on the premises. For more information call 702-458-7996.

Big Game in Mesquite

In Mesquite, the Peppermill Resort's Exotic Big Game Hunt packages are high adventures with split personalities. By day, you ride the desert outback by horse or four-wheel drive chasing antelope, buffalo, deer, ram, and other large game animals on guided hunts across the 1,000-acre Arvada Game Ranch. At the end of the day, you're hunting jackpots in the casino. The two-day hunt deals range from \$134 to \$154 per person and include room, some meals, guided hunts, and all transportation. Fees for bagged and wounded animals, taxidermy, and other services are extra. Bird hunting packages are available October through March. For more information call 800-621-0187 toll-free or 702-346-5288.

—Kate Butler

MUSEUMS

Henderson

Clark County Museum, 8-5 Mon.-Fri., 9-5 Sat.-Sun., 1830 S. Boulder Hwy., Henderson, 565-0907

Discovery, The Children's Museum, 10-6 Mon.-Wed. and Fri., 10-8 Thurs., 10-5 Sat., 1-5 Sun., 2744 N. Green Valley Pkwy., Henderson, 382-3445

Las Vegas

American Museum of Historical Documents, 10-7 Mon.-Sat., 11-6 Sun., 3200 Las Vegas Blvd. S., Las Vegas, privately owned, 731-0785

Imperial Palace Auto Collection, 9:30am-11:30pm daily, Las Vegas, 794-3174

Las Vegas Art Museum, 10-3 Tues.-Sat., noon-3 Sun., Lorenzi Park, 3333 W. Washington



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Ave., Las Vegas, 647-4300

Las Vegas Museum of Natural History, 9-9 daily, 3700 Las Vegas Blvd. S., Las Vegas, 798-7757

Liberace Museum, 10-5 Mon.-Sat., 1-5 Sun., 1775 E. Tropicana, Las Vegas, 798-5595

Nevada State Museum and Historical Society, 11:30-4:30 Mon.-Tues, 8:30-4:30 Wed.-Sat., Lorenzi Park, Las Vegas, 385-0115

Olde Tyme Gambling Museum, 9am-1am daily, Stardust Hotel, Las Vegas, 732-6111

Ripley's Believe It or Not!, 9am-midnight Sun.-Thurs., 9am-1am Fri.-Sat., Four Queens Hotel, Las Vegas, 385-4011

UNLV Museum of Natural History, 9-5 Mon.-Fri., 10-5 Sat., UNLV, Las Vegas, 739-3381

Overton

Lost City Museum, 8:30-4:30 daily, ancient Pueblo culture, Overton, 397-2193

ART GALLERIES

The following Las Vegas area galleries offer original works. If you're calling from out of state, Nevada's area code is 702.

AA Gallery—1812 Las Vegas Blvd. S., 10-6 Mon.-Fri., Sat.-Sun. by appointment, commissioned portraits, 386-2787

Allied Arts Gallery—3207-1/2 Las Vegas Blvd. S., 9-5 Mon.-Fri., contemporary work by Nevada artists, 731-5419

Alta Ham Fine Arts Gallery—UNLV, 4505 S. Maryland Pkwy., 8-5 Mon.-Fri., nationally known artists, 739-3893

American Museum of Historical Documents—3200 Las Vegas Blvd. S., 10-6 Mon.-Wed., 10-9 Thurs.-Fri., 10-6 Sat., 12-5 Sun., historical documents framed as art, 731-0785

Art Exchange—444 Hotel Plaza, Boulder City, 10-5 Mon.-Sat., 12-5 Sun., iron sculpture, photography, and original prints, 293-0172

Art Lover's Gallery—953 E. Sahara Ave., 10-6 Tues.-Fri., 10-5 Sat., posters, prints, and limited edition lithographs, 734-2822

Boulder City Art Guild and Gallery—1495 Nevada Hwy., Boulder City, 1-5 Sun.-Sat., oils and watercolors by local artists, 294-9982

Brent Thompson Art and Framing—1672 Nevada Hwy., Boulder City, 10-5 Tues.-Fri., 10-4 Sat., contemporary Southwest, 293-4652

Burk Gal'ry—1229 Arizona, Boulder City, 10-5 Mon.-Fri., 10-4 Sat., western themes and polage, 293-3958

Canterbury Arts—1566 Western, 8:30-5 Mon.-Fri., weekends and evenings by appointment, original graphics and limited edition prints, 384-9640

Charleston Heights Arts Center—800 S. Brush St., 1-8 Mon.-Thurs., 1-5 Fri.-Sun., students' work, 386-6383

Circle Gallery Ltd.—Bally's Hotel Shopping Arcade, 10-10 Sun.-Sat., lithographs and serigraphs, 734-0000

Clark County Library District—1401 E. Flamingo Rd., 9-9 Mon.-Thurs., 9-5 Fri.-Sat., 1-5 Sun., local photography, 733-7810

Downtown Art and Gift Gallery—321 Las Vegas Blvd. S., 11-2 Mon.-Fri., weekends and evenings by appointment, oils, acrylics, and sculpture, 384-3884

Emperor Galleries—3000 Paradise Rd., 9-10 Sun.-Thurs., 9-12 Fri.-Sat., portraits and Violet Parkhurst seascapes, 731-0456

Habitat—4300 Meadows Ln., 10-9 Mon.-Fri., 10-6 Sat., 11-6 Sun., Southwestern prints, watercolors, 878-2434

Herigstad's Gallery—2290 E. Flamingo Rd., 10-6 Mon.-Sat., Peggy Hopper Hawaiian land-

scapes, Neiman and Dali signed lithographs, 733-7366

Las Vegas Art Museum—3333 W. Washington Ave., 10-3 Tues.-Sat., 12-3 Sun., youth, Nevada, and guest artist displays, 647-4300

Las Vegas Artists Cooperative—4300 Meadows Ln., 10-9 Mon.-Fri., 10-6 Sat.-Sun., 200 local artists, 877-0761

Markus Galleries—3200 Las Vegas Blvd. S., Suite 309, 10-6 Mon.-Wed. and Sat., 10-9 Thurs.-Fri., 12-5 Sun., contemporary art by area artists, Austine Wood polages, 737-7307

Mary Lou's—5079 Arville, 9-6 Mon.-Fri., 9-1 Sat., Southwest Indian art, baskets, and pottery, 367-6465

Minotaur Fine Arts Ltd.—3200 Las Vegas Blvd. S., 10-6 Mon.-Fri., 10-9 Thurs.-Fri., 10-6 Sat., 12-5 Sun., oils, etchings, and lithographic drawings, 737-1400

Nevada Frames and Gallery—3061 Sheridan, 10-5 Mon.-Sat., floral and animal paintings, 876-6734

Newsom's Art Gallery—1141 S. Maryland Pkwy., 10-5 Tues.-Sat. and by appointment, western paintings, bronzes, and woodcarving, 384-9865

Portfolio Ink—2350 S. Jones Blvd., 2-7 Tues.-Fri., 11-6 Sat., limited edition serigraphs and lithographs, 876-3587

Raphael Galleries, Ltd.—3200 Las Vegas Blvd. S., 10-6 Mon.-Wed. and Sat., 10-9 Thurs.-Fri., 12-5 Sun., oils, lithographs, porcelain figurines, and plates, 732-9523

Reed Whipple Center Gallery—821 Las Vegas Blvd. N., 2:30-8 Mon. and Thurs., 10-8 Tues., Wed., and Fri., 9-5 Sat., 12-5 Sun., local artists, 386-6383

Ryan Galleries—3661 S. Maryland Pkwy., 10-5 Mon.-Fri., serigraphs and oils, 734-0650

Sandor Art Studio/Gallery—3390 Oneida Way, 9-6 daily, western and Indian subjects, 732-4808

Studio West—2708 N. Green Valley Pkwy., Henderson, 10-6 Mon.-Sat., paintings, etchings, and limited edition prints, 458-2535

Studio Workshop and Gallery—608 E. Sahara Ave., 10-5 Mon.-Fri., 10-4 Sat., local artists, 734-8962

Sturman Fine Arts—101 Convention Center Dr., private collection open for viewing to major collectors, private dealers, and universities by appointment only, 734-2787

Torres Gallery and Frame Shop—2470 E. Tropicana Ave., 9-6 Mon.-Sat., original and limited edition prints, 454-6622

Touch of the West Gallery—Dunes Hotel, 10-8 Sun.-Thurs., 10-10 Fri.-Sat., Charles Smith paintings, western art, serigraphs, 731-1315

Winged Horse Gallery—6380 Eastern Ave., 10-5 Mon.-Sat., contemporary ceramic, wood and bronze sculpture, paintings, 798-0778

CASINO NOTES

•Harrah's has entered the gaming scene in Laughlin this summer as it begins construction of a \$65 million hotel-casino. It will be built on 49 acres at the south end of Laughlin's casino row and will include a 15-story hotel and 120,000-square-foot public facility that will include a casino, four restaurants, and entertainment lounge. The resort will open for business in late 1988. There currently are seven major gaming resorts in Laughlin, with the latest addition, the **Colorado Belle**, celebrating its grand opening in early July. The community straddles the Colorado River about 95 miles south of Las Vegas.

•Las Vegas ranks as one of the least expensive destinations in the United States, according to a recent survey by *Corporate Travel Magazine*.

The survey determined that out of 100 communities studied only 11 were less expensive for the business traveler than Las Vegas. The average cost nationally of a downtown hotel room, rental car, and three meals was \$155.50. Las Vegas' average cost was \$131.77

•The game of baccarat has earned itself an elegant reputation, but you can learn its relatively simple rules at the **Sahara Hotel**, which offers free lessons. Afterwards each participant gets 10 non-negotiable chips to play in a live game.

TOURNAMENTS

July

Video Poker, thru 8/25, every Tues., Caesars Palace, 731-7324

Pan, 7/12-16, Union Plaza, 386-2110

Slots, 7/28, California Hotel, 385-1222

World Cup of Thoroughbred Handicapping, 7/22-25, Caesars Palace, 731-

7324

Blackjack, 7/26-29, Flamingo Hilton, 733-3117

August

Blackjack, 8/4 and 8/18, California Hotel, 385-1222

Slots, 8/11 and 9/1 California Hotel, 385-1222

Gin, 8/16-20, Union Plaza, 386-2110

Poker, 8/17-30, Frontier, 734-0385

Slots, 8/18-20, Del Webb's Nevada Club, Laughlin, 298-2512

Bridge, 8/20-23, Union Plaza, 386-2110

Slots, 8/21-25, Aladdin, 736-0219

Pan, 8/30-9/3, Union Plaza, 386-2110

Reminder: To confirm dates and times, use the phone number 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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HOT LINES

Lake Tahoe Visitors Authority: 916-544-5057 or 800-822-5922 in U.S.

Nevada Commission on Tourism: 885-3636, or 800-237-0774 outside Nevada

Nevada Division of State Parks: District II, 885-4379

Palomino Valley Gun Club: 323-3950

Piper's Opera House: jazz concerts, every Sun., musicals, subscription series with guest artists, Virginia City, 847-0433

Reno Padres: class-A pro baseball, 6/29-7/1 vs. Salinas Spurs; 7/2-6 vs. Modesto Athletics; 7/13-15 vs. Stockton Ports; 7/17-19 vs. Salinas Spurs; 7/30-31 vs. Bakersfield Dodgers; 8/1-3 vs. San Jose Bees; 8/10-13 vs. Visalia Oaks; 8/14-16 vs. Fresno Giants; 8/24-27 vs. Palm Springs Angels; 8/28-30 vs. San Bernardino, Moana Stadium, Reno, 825-0678

Reno-Sparks Convention and Visitors Authority: 827-7600 or 800-FOR-RENO outside Nevada

EVENTS

July

Festival Reno, thru 7/26, six theme weekends (Cajun, Caribbean, Country and Western, All American, and Mexican Fiesta) with entertainment, food festivals, and gaming tournaments in downtown Reno, 827-RENO

Pyramid Lake Photo Contest, thru 7/30, winners will be shown at Nevada State Fair 8/11-16 in Reno, 826-4441

Juried Photography Show, thru 8/31 Nevada Artists Assn. Gallery, Brewery Arts Center, Carson City, 882-6411

Jazz Concerts, 7/1-29, every Mon., Music Performance Trust Funds and Reno Musicians Union, Sierra Nevada Museum of Art, 323-2116

Nevada 87, 7/1-8/5, traveling photo show, Nevada State Museum, Carson City, 885-4810

Archives Exhibit, 7/6-31, "Nevada: Territorial Beginnings to Shaper of the Nation's Constitution," Nevada State Archives, Carson City, 885-5210

THE NEVADA CALENDAR



Lake Tahoe Summer Music Festival, 7/10-18, classical music by the San Francisco Chamber Orchestra, at locations around North Lake Tahoe including Chambers Landing, Topol Pavilion, and Squaw Valley, 916-583-7625

"Side by Side by Sondheim," 7/10-25, play, \$10, \$8 students and seniors, The Actors' Project, Reno Little Theatre, 329-1324

Comstock Arabian Horse Show, 7/13-19, Reno Livestock/Events Center, 972-4482

Arabian Horse Sale, 7/15, Reno Livestock/Events Center, 853-2173

Brown Bag Concerts, 7/15 and 8/19, noon, Music Performance Trust Funds and Reno Musicians Union, Washoe County Library, 323-2116

Music at Sand Harbor, 7/16-19, performances are at the outdoor lakeside amphitheatre, on Thurs. Zasu Pitts Memorial Orchestra/Way Out West; on Fri. KBC Band/The Edge; on Sat.

Nicolette Larson; on Sun. Peter Rowan and the Free Mexican Airforce, gates open at 6pm, performances at 8pm, dress warm, bring a picnic, tickets \$13, Sand Harbor, Lake Tahoe State Park, 916-583-9048

Truckee River Raft Race, 7/17-18, Easter Seal benefit, meet at Mayberry Park, 359-2880

"Oliver!" 7/17-19 and 7/23-26, musical, Carson City Community Center, 883-1976

Elders of the Tribe Exhibit, 7/17-8/16, works by contemporary American artists born before 1916, Sierra Nevada Museum of Art, 329-3333

Carson Valley Heritage Day, 7/18, chili cook-off, arts and crafts booths, food booths, Minden Park, Minden, 782-8144

Comstock Firemen's Muster, 7/18-19, parade, antique fire apparatus competition with teams from around the West, steam and hand pumped engines, bucket brigades, hose cart races, barbecue, dance, Virginia City, 847-0503



Reno's Hot August Nights is a '50s and '60s nostalgia party with prom night, drag races, rock 'n roll groups, toga party, and more August 1-8.

Photo: Jim Crandall, right



There are fairs galore each summer in Nevada (see Calendar listings), but the granddaddy of them all is the Nevada State Fair, August 11-16, in Reno.

California Dressage Society Show, 7/18-19, Reno Livestock/Events Center, 916-541-2144

R.S.V.P. Capital City Fair, 7/23-26, county fair, junior rodeo, carnival, 4-H exhibits, sled pull, chili cook-off, helicopter rides, Air Force Band, Air Force trainer plane display, food, Fuji Park, Carson City, 885-4680

Donner Lake Triathlon, 7/25, half-mile swim, 6.89-mile run, and 13-mile bike ride, meet 7am at Donner Lake's west end, 916-587-2754

Reno Towne Faire, 7/25, arts and crafts, food, carnival, booths, band, 10am-5pm, Wingfield Island and West Street Plaza, 785-2262

Martina Navratilova vs. Chris Evert, 7/25, exhibition tennis match, pre-match celebrity game includes Sugar Ray Leonard, \$100, \$50, and \$25 tickets, Caesars Tahoe, 588-3515

Barbershop Harmony Show, 7/25, Reno Chapter of the Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of Barber Shop Quartet Singing

in America, Pioneer Theater, 358-3349

Mountain Bike Race, 7/26, Donner Ski Ranch, 916-581-2072

Cutting Horse Show, 7/26-31, Reno Livestock/Events Center, 916-929-4144

Western Jazz Barbecue, 7/31, 7pm, Ponderosa Ranch, Incline Village, 831-4440

Douglas County Fair, 7/31-8/2, junior rodeo, 4x4 pull, fairgrounds, Gardnerville, 782-5944

August

Reno Basque Festival, 8/1, 10:30am Mass, noon games including weight carrying contest, tug-of-war, wood chopping, and Basque yell, traditional dancers and sheep dog exhibition, dance, Reno Livestock/Events Center, 747-6343

Railroad Steam-Up, 8/1-2, restored Virginia and Truckee Railroad locomotive No. 25 will be in service hauling two open-air excursion cars on the mile-long track, Nevada State Railroad Museum, Carson City, 885-4810



Joel Brandon whistled the theme to "2001" at last year's Whistle Off in Carson City. This year's blowout will be held August 22-23 at Mills Park.



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Dixieland at Tahoe, 8/1-2, Dixieland jazz at the Village Green in the afternoon and at the Tahoe Biltmore and Crystal Bay Club in the evening, 831-4440

Hot August Nights, 8/1-8, on Sat. 5:30pm street concert downtown Reno; on Sun. 10am burn-off contest at John Ascuaga's Nugget in Sparks; on Mon.-Tues. casino entertainment; on Wed. "A Cavalcade of Stars" at 7:30pm with live bands at Bally's Reno parking lot; on Thurs. 8pm prom night at Reno-Sparks Convention Center, street dance hosted by Ormsby House in Carson City; on Fri. swap meet at Rancho San Rafael Park, poker run at Reno-Sparks Convention Center, "An Evening Under the Stars" at 8pm with live bands at Reno Livestock/Events Center; on Sat. 7am swap meet, car parade, 1pm beach party, 827-RENO

Tahoe Wooden Boat Week, 8/7-15, includes Tahoe Yacht Club's Concours d'Elegance, Antique and Classic Boat Society Show, and Wooden Boat Show, various locations around Lake Tahoe, 916-581-4700

Pro Boxing, 8/8, Caesars Tahoe, 588-3515
Antique Beer Can and Advertising Swap Meet, 8/8, Dayton State Park, 246-0142

Squaw Valley Festival of Fine Arts and Crafts, 8/8-9, 583-6985

Jackpot of Gems '87, 8/8-9, rocks, gems, minerals, and jewelry show, Reno-Sparks Convention Center, 356-9864

Nevada State Fair, 8/11-16, carnival, farmer's market, home arts and cooking contests, art show, horseshoe championships, livestock competitions, commercial exhibits, petting zoo, destruction derby, and motorcycle racing, 4-11pm Tues.-Fri., 10am-11pm Sat., 10am-10pm Sun., fairgrounds, Reno, 322-4424

Shakespeare at Sand Harbor, 8/11-16 and 8/18-23, alternating performances of Shakespeare's "As You Like It" and "The Tempest" plus Brandon Thomas' "Charlie's Aunt," by the Valley Institute of Theatre Arts of Saratoga, CA.; bring picnic, gates open 6pm, showtime is

8pm, \$8 general admission, \$6 for seniors over 60, children 12-4, and North Tahoe Fine Arts Council members, Sand Harbor, Lake Tahoe State Park, Lake Tahoe, 916-583-9048

Nevada 87, 8/11-24, traveling photo show, Courthouse Museum, Genoa, 782-8487

Coors Bicycle Classic, 8/12-13, major event on the international bicycling tour; race starts 8/5 in Hawaii and ends in Colorado 8/23, coming through Lake Tahoe area on 8/12 and into Carson City and Reno on 8/13 for the Reno Twilight Criterium at 6:30pm, 827-RENO

Carson City Antiques Show and Sale, 8/14-16, noon-8pm Fri.-Sat., noon-5pm Sun., Carson City Community Center, 415-771-3492

Storey County Jeep Posse Barbecue, 8/15, Ice House, Virginia City, 847-0592

Railroad Steam-Up, 8/15-16, restored Virginia and Truckee Railroad locomotive No. 25 will be in service hauling two open-air excursion cars on the mile-long track, Nevada State Railroad Museum, Carson City, 885-4810

Arts and Crafts Fair, 8/15-16, Village Green, Incline Village, 916-583-9048

Genoa Courthouse Museum Annual Picnic, 8/16, noon, Mormon Station Historic Monument, Genoa, 782-8487

KROI/K-PLAY Reno Tennis Classic, 8/21-23, marathon tennis rally, Easter Seal benefit, Plumas Tennis Center, 359-2880

World's 10th International Whistle-Off, 8/22-23, melodic whistling competition with four categories: solo classical music, solo popular music, novelty whistling, and dual competition, 9am-5pm Sat., 9am-4pm Sun., Mills Park, Carson City, 882-1565

Pony Bob Junior Rodeo, 8/22-23, for contestants 18 and under, free, Gandolfo Arena, Sparks, 852-3291

Nevada State Horseman's Assn. Show, 8/22-23, Reno Livestock/Events Center, 852-3011

Jazz Concert and Dance, 8/22, Woody Herman and His Thundering Herd, Piper's Opera House, Virginia City, 847-0433

Arts and Crafts Fair, 8/22-23, Commons Beach, Tahoe City, 916-583-9048

Peruvian Paso Horse Show, 8/22-23, Reno Livestock/Events Center, 463-3088

Friends of Pyramid Lake Triathlon, 8/23, .6-mile swim, 6-mile run, and 18-mile bike, meet in Sutcliffe, 331-1647

Carson Valley Fine Arts and Crafts Street Celebration, 8/23-24, free, Minden, 782-8144

California Paint Horse Show, 8/28-30, Reno Livestock/Events Center, 916-989-4820

Mountain Bike Race, 8/29-30, Donner Ski Ranch, 916-265-3339

Carson Valley Photography Show, 9/1-10/1 Courthouse Museum, Genoa, 265-2850

Labor Day Weekend

Numaga Indian Days, 9/4-6, powwow featuring competitive and social Indian dancing, Native American arts and crafts, food booths, Indian games and gambling, free, Reno-Sparks Indian Colony, 329-2936

Splendor of the Sierra Fine Arts Show, 9/5-6, live jazz, wine tasting, Northstar, North Lake Tahoe, 916-562-1010

Railroad Steam-Up, 9/5-6, restored Virginia and Truckee Railroad locomotive No. 25 will be in service hauling two open-air excursion cars on the mile-long track, Nevada State Railroad Museum, Carson City, 885-4810

COMING EVENTS

Great Reno Balloon Race, 9/11-13, Rancho San Rafael Park, 786-1131



Pumped-up bikers will be roaring through Reno on August 13 during the Coors Classic, which is the American equivalent of the Tour de France.

Virginia City Camel Races, 9/12-13, 847-0311

Reno Air Races, 9/17-20, Stead Airport, 10 miles north of Reno, 826-7500

Bowers Mansion Festival, 9/19, Washoe Valley, 849-0276

Country-Western Dance Festival, 9/25-27 Reno-Sparks Convention Center, 322-3355

NIGHTLIFE Poetic Justice

By Guy Richardson

In the early '60s, successful country singers wore godawful spangled costumes, drove big Cadillacs with cow horns on the hood, kept their hair short, revered Motherhood, Americanism, and old-time religion.

Most of what they sang was utter trash, of course. But now and then, while pop music was busy chasing teen-age do-wop bucks down the drain of pubescent taste, Nashville popped up with a real chunk of poetry. With such lyrics as "This night life, it ain't no good life, but it's my life," "Hello walls," and "Crazy for tryin' and crazy for dyin'" Willie Nelson appeared to be shaking up Nashville.

In fact, in a nine-month period in 1961, four of Willie Nelson's tunes—poetry, really—hit the country charts. Even his official Columbia Records bio calls him "an almost instant success."

Unfortunately, the guys who write showbiz bios are kept locked in dark little rooms and never allowed contact with the outside world, lest it affect their sense of reality. See, Nelson sold "Night Life" for \$150. "Family Bible" (which wasn't poetry but was a money-maker) went for \$50. He sold the songs outright. No royalties.

Willie Nelson was just a bass player for Ray Price, and the Nashville establishment remained happily ignorant of his talent.

That kind of surprised Willie. He still thinks of himself as a pretty good salesman, having sold encyclopedias door-to-door, and his mix of jazz

and country was just fine in Texas roadhouses.

"It wasn't unusual to play four hours in a Texas beer joint and do 'Stardust,' then 'San Antonio Rose,' then 'Moonlight in Vermont,'" Nelson says. "Those were the songs that were requested."

Not in Nashville.

Oh, there was an underground of sorts, the incipient Waylon, Willie, and the boys. Waylon Jennings was another that had Nashville puzzled, or unconcerned, depending upon your point of view. "We were out on the streets trying to make it against these people who were all in offices," Nelson says. "They'd stay in their offices expecting people to call and tell 'em what was going on—you can't do that. You've got to go out into the streets and find out what people are into."

Nelson's modern equivalent of going into the streets is giving his annual Fourth of July picnic, hanging around with good ol' boys, and—in Nevada—stopping at Sharkey's Nugget in Gardnerville for a beer.

Of all the performers I've ever met, Nelson is the most approachable. But you do need to know about Snake.

Snake is part of Nelson's traveling bunch of buddies, a group filled with mono-named types like Poodle and Beast. I don't know Snake's background. I don't want to know.

Hack fictioneers perpetrate characters whose smiles never reach their eyes. I didn't think that was possible until I met Snake. If you get pushy around Willie, you may have to deal with Snake. My advice is not to try it.

But we were talking of Willie's days pounding the Nashville pave. Nobody knew how to record him. He sings ahead and behind the beat, a musical device called rubato used by Sinatra and others, but Ol' Blue Eyes didn't record in Nashville. Burned out, Nelson quit touring in '64.

Nelson made 20 albums during his Nashville years, and they all flopped. Live he was remarkable, if unknown. In the studio, his voice surrounded by lush strings, he sounded like Eddy Arnold with a cold and singing flat.

Then in 1969 his house burned down, and he moved back to Texas, and hit the road again. "It was hard not to get discouraged at times," Nelson says. And then he met rock record producer Jerry





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Wexler at a party in 1971. Wexler had heard the name, but he never heard him sing.

Nelson sang. Wexler signed.

Nelson got his first hit album, "Shotgun Willie." Then in 1975 came "Blue Eyes Cryin' in the Rain."

Nelson since has worked the White House and big Nevada casinos. I've seen him sing for thousands, and I've seen him sing at a small Gardnerville funeral.

But I think the thing that most shows the naturalness and easy wit of Willie is when, after he'd gone to the Carter White House, I asked him if he'd like to sing for the Queen of England. "Well, I don't know her," Willie said. "I guess it would be OK."

"Maybe if we went out together a couple of nights, I could sing to her on the third night."

Willie Nelson regularly appears at Caesars Tahoe and Caesars Palace in Las Vegas.

SHOWGUIDE

Bally's Reno, 789-2016: *Ziegfeld Theatre*: "Hello Hollywood, Hello!" thru 10/20; *Lion's Den*: Joe Savage/Coast to Coast, 7/15-8/11 The Right Touch/Gary and Sandy, 8/12-9/8

Caesars Tahoe, 588-3515: *Cascade Showroom*: Pointer Sisters/Ellen DeGeneres, 7/13-19; Kenny Loggins, 7/21-26; Kool and the Gang, 7/28-8/2; Emmet Kelly, Jr. Circus, 8/4-9; Julio Iglesias, 8/11-16; Beach Boys 8/17-20; Gallagher, 8/25-30; Joan Rivers, 8/31-9/6

Carson City Nugget, 883-3854: *Motifs*, 8/4-9/13

Carson Valley Inn, Minden, 782-9711 T.C. Trixx, 7/20-8/1 Reta and the Whiz Kidz, 8/3-8; Whiskey Ridge, 8/17-22; Perfect Circle, 8/24-9/12

Circus Circus, Reno, 329-0711 Free circus acts, 11am-midnight

Crystal Bay Club, North Tahoe, 831-0512: Seven Oh Two, 7/7-19; Yours Truly, 7/21-8/2; Summit, 8/4-16; Impulse, 8/18-9/1

Del Webb's High Sierra, Tahoe, 588-6211 Bottoms Up '87, revue, ind., Frankie Fanelli, 7/14-26; Ronnie Schell, 7/28-8/9; Danny Marona, 8/11-30

Eldorado, Reno, 786-5700: Cornell Gunter and the Coasters/Sun Spots, 7/13-19; Cornell Gunter and the Coasters/Dae Han Sisters, 7/20-26; Dae Han Sisters/Entertainment Committee, 7/27-8/16; Sam Butera, 8/25-30

Harolds Club, Reno, 329-0881 Entertainment TBA

Harrah's Reno, 329-4422: *Headliner Room*: Eddy Arnold/Mills Brothers, 7/9-22; Debbie Reynolds, 7/23-29; John Davidson/John Byner, 7/30-8/5; Dionne Warwick, 8/6-12; Mickey Gilley, 8/13-26; Roger Whittaker, 8/27-9/2; *Casino Cabaret*: Network, thru 7/19; Leno and Co., 7/15-27; Tony Tillman, 7/29-8/3; Rain: A Tribute to the Beatles, 8/25-9/6

Harrah's Tahoe, 588-6611 *South Shore Room*: Crystal Gayle/Jim Stafford, 7/3-16; Johnny Cash, 7/17-23; Tony Orlando/Smother's Brothers, 7/24-30; Don Rickles/Lynda Carter, 7/31-8/6; The Magic of David Copperfield, 8/7-20; John Davidson, 8/21-22; Sammy Davis, Jr. 8/23-9/3; *Steteline Cabaret*; Frederic Apar's "Fast Company," revue, ind., Rain: A Tribute to the Beatles, 7/7-19; Williams and Ree, 7/21-26; Bus Boys, 7/28-8/9; Rob Hanna salutes Rod Stewart, 8/11-16; Pride and Joy, 8/18-23; Platters, 8/25-9/6

Harvey's, Stateline, 588-2411 Ron Rose Sound, ind., Rage, revue, ind., SinSational, revue, ind., Pressure Point, 7/13-19; David Proud, 7/13-8/2; Right Touch, 7/20-8/9; Krush, 8/3-16; Franco and Mary Jane, 8/10-9/6; Vince

Cardell, 8/17-9/6

Hyatt Lake Tahoe, 831-1111 Dae Han Sisters, thru 7/19; Jay Ramsey Band, 7/21-8/9; Starfire, 8/25-9/13

John Ascuaga's Nugget, Sparks, 356-3300: *Celebrity Showroom*: Dottie West, 7/6-22; T.G. Sheppard, 7/23-8/6; B.J. Thomas, 8/7-19; Legends in Concert II, 8/20-10/14; *Casino Lounge*: Eleventh Hour/Kenny and the Cruisers, 7/14-8/2; Links/Starfire, 8/4-23

Ormsby House, Carson City, 882-1890: Silk, 7/14-26; Ricky and Bobby, 7/14-8/2; Whiskey Ridge, 7/28-8/2; Spice, 8/3-16; Kenny and the Cruisers, 8/4-9; McKenzie River Band, 8/11-23; Larry and Bobbie, 8/24-9/6; Kenny and the Cruisers, 8/25-30

Peppermill, Reno, 826-2121: Tommy Bell, 7/13-26; St. Romain, 7/20-26; Dare, 7/27-8/2; Metro, 7/27-8/16; Steve and Grace, 8/10-16; Network, 8/17-23; Larry Raspberry, 8/17-23; Gary Joe, 8/24-30; Stan Parnes, 8/24-9/6

Reno Hilton, 322-1111 The Guess Who, 7/13-26; War, 7/28-8/2; Wayland and Madame, 8/4-23; Chad and Jeremy, 8/25-9/13; Paul Revere and the Raiders, 9/4-6

Reno Ramada, 788-2000: TBA

Sharkey's Nugget, Gardnerville, 782-3133

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

Topaz Lodge, Topaz Lake, 266-3339

Western Village, Sparks, 331-1069: Wrays, thru 7/19; Gary Wade and the Bump, 7/13-8/2 and 8/24-9/13; Midnight Affair, 8/3-9; David Proud, 8/3-16; Laura St. Romain, 8/10-23; Le-lands, 8/17-30; Tommy Bell, 8/31-9/13

OUTINGS

Reno's Museum of Art

Located in a historic neighborhood in downtown Reno, the Hawkins House makes a serene setting for the Sierra Nevada Museum of Art. Several galleries on two floors house a series of exhibitions, most of which are in residence for one month. In the first-floor gift shop you'll find a variety of art-related gift items including books on art, the American West, and cooking. Children's selections also are for sale. The museum sponsors lectures, workshops, and a multitude of art classes. Admission to the museum is \$1.50 for adults and 50 cents for children six to 12. Friday is free. Hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tues., Thurs., and Fri., 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Wed., noon to 4 p.m. Sat. and Sun. Closed Mon. Sierra Nevada Museum of Art, 549 Court Street, Reno, 702-329-3333.

Leave the Hot Air to Us

For a unique perspective of Reno, Carson Valley, Lake Tahoe, or Alpine County, try going up, up, and away in a balloon. Guests can help the crew inflate the balloon and then take off at sunrise for an hour's flight. A champagne celebration, commemorative pin, or flight certificate await you when you land. "It's a full morning's activity," says John Cressaty, a partner with Sierra Sunrise Balloon Company, which coordinates September's Great Reno Balloon Race.

The following companies offer rides and champagne ceremonies. Rates are per person for a one-hour flight; reservations are required. Three companies offer flights from Reno: Mountain Magic Balloon Company, \$85, 702-786-5814; Sagebrush Flying Service, \$95, 702-747-4144; Zephyr Balloons, \$115, 702-329-1700. Two flights originate from the Carson Valley: Hot Air Express Balloon Company, \$100, 702-782-3729; Sierra Sunrise Balloon Company, \$110, 702-782-2217 Two flights originate from Tahoe



Future fire chiefs parade down C Street in Virginia City's Comstock Firemen's Muster.

City: Mountain High Balloons, 916-583-6292, and High Sierra Balloon Adventures, 916-583-0573, approximately \$100; call for current rates and schedules.

Rent a Horse

To see Reno and Tahoe closer to the ground, try horseback riding. Several outfits in the area offer either desert or mountain vistas and hourly, half-day, or full-day rides.

Closest to downtown Reno is Rancho San Rafael Riding Stables, where you can explore the county park and other public lands for \$10 per hour. (Rancho San Rafael Riding Stables, 2995 North Virginia St., Reno, 702-329-7433.) Western Riding Stables is located several miles east of Sparks. The hourly rate is \$8, and reservations are recommended for weekends and holidays. (Western Riding Stables, Exit 32 on Interstate 80, 702-343-0104.)

For a view of Lake Tahoe and its green, fragrant forests, try Ponderosa Stables. The hourly rate here is \$15 with no reservations. (Ponderosa Stables, Highway 28 at Ponderosa Ranch, Incline Village, 702-831-2154.) South Lake Tahoe has four stables that offer trail rides through forests, some with views of glacier-carved lakes: Stateline Stables, \$12 per hour, Park Ave. and U.S. 50, South Lake Tahoe, 916-541-0962; Sunset Ranch, \$15 per hour, U.S. 50 (south of the airport), South Lake Tahoe, 916-541-9001, Cascade Stables, \$12 per hour, Highway 89, 916-541-2055; and Camp Richardson's Corral, \$12.50 per hour, Emerald Bay road at Camp Richardson, 916-541-3113.

—Deborah A. Mawhar

MUSEUMS

Carson City

Nevada State Archives, 8-5 Mon.-Fri., 101 S. Fall St., 885-5210

Nevada State Museum, 8:30-4:30 daily, 600 N. Carson St., 885-4810

Nevada State Railroad Museum, 8:30-4:30 Fri.-Sun. and holidays from Memorial Day thru Nov. 1 S. Carson St. at Fairview Dr., 885-5168
Warren Engine Co. No. 1 Museum, 1-5 Mon.-Fri., 111 N. Curry St., 887-2200

Genoa

Genoa Courthouse Museum, 10-4:30 daily, May-Oct., 782-2940

Reno

Harolds Club Gun Collection and Museum, 10-10 daily, 329-0881

Mackay School of Mines Minerals Museum, 8-5 Mon.-Fri., UNR, 784-6988

Nevada Historical Society, 10-5 Wed.-Sun., 1650 N. Virginia St., 789-0190

Sierra Nevada Museum of Art, 10-4 Tues. and Thurs.-Fri., 10-8 Wed., 12-4 Sat.-Sun., 549 Court St., 329-3333

UNR Anthropology Dept. Research Museum, 9-1, Mon.-Fri. Sept.-May, open all year by appt., UNR, 784-4686

Wilbur D. May Museum, 10-5 Wed.-Sun., 1502 Washington (Rancho San Rafael Park), 785-5961

Sparks

William F. Harrah Automobile Museum, 9:30-5:30 daily, 970 Glendale Ave., 355-3500

Virginia City

Comstock Firemen's Museum, 10-4 daily, May-Oct., 847-0717

Julia C. Bulette Red Light Museum, 7:30-9 daily, 847-9991

Museum of Memories, 9:30-5 daily, 847-0454

The Way It Was Museum, 9:30-5 daily, 847-0766

Wild West Museum, 9-5 daily, 847-0400

ART GALLERIES

Abell House—1114 Curry St., Carson City, 10-5:30 Mon.-Fri., 10-4 Sat., monthly shows by local artists, 883-5300

Addi Galleries—Bally's Reno, 9-11 Sun.-Sat, Red Skelton clown paintings, 323-1920

Artist's Co-op Gallery—627 Mill St., 10-5 Tues.-Sat., 1-4:30 Sun., 20 local artists' work, 322-8896

Austin Arts—1505 N. Carson St., Carson City, 9-5:30 Mon.-Fri., 9-1 Sat., visiting and local artists, 883-5531

Barnwood Is Beautiful—135 N. Sierra, 12-5 Mon.-Sat., antique Nevada photos lacquered onto barnwood, 329-6106

Casazza Art Gallery and Studio—2200 Thornwood, by appointment, watercolors, winterscapes, abstracts and florals, 322-0233

Custom Framing by Clark—135 W. Liberty, 10-4:30 Mon.-Thurs., 10-4 Fri., oils and watercolors, 329-1177

DeCurtis Art Gallery—Round Hill Mall, Zephyr Cove, 10-5 Mon.-Sat., Sun. by appointment, oils, watercolors, 588-7310

Donna's Gallery—1307 S. Carson St., Carson City, 11-5:30 Tues.-Sat., handcrafted gifts by local artists, 883-9132

Earth Window: American Indian Art—2001 E. Second St., 10-5:30 Sun.-Sat., American Indian art in oil, acrylic, sandpainting, and beadwork, 786-5999

Fallen Leaf Gallery and Framery—907 W. Moana Ln., 10-6 Tues.-Fri., 10-4 Sat., Frank McCarthy western prints, 826-7477

Feats of Clay—20 C Hillcrest Dr., 10-5 Mon.-Sat., 60 western potters' works, 826-1131

Frame Shop—3366 Lakeside Dr., 9:30-5 Mon., 10-6 Tues.-Fri., 9:30-5 Sat., duck stamps and limited edition prints, 825-7117

Frame-Up—145 W. Plumb Ln., 10-6 Mon.-Fri., 10-3 Sat., Lyle Ball western paintings, Mary Chadwell miniatures, 329-7557

Great Basin Gallery and Frame—110 S. Curry St., Carson City, 9-6 Mon.-Sat., early Nevada hand-colored photos, oils, watercolors, bronze, ceramics, 882-8505

Hagar's Gallery—4056 Kietzke Ln., 9:30-5:30

eld'er,

n. an older person with some authority or dignity in a tribe or community.

tribe,

n. any group of people having the same occupation, habits, ideas, etc.

*Webster's New Universal Unabridged Dictionary
Deluxe Second Edition
Simon & Schuster, N.Y., 1983*

elders of the tribe,

an art exhibition at the Sierra Nevada Museum of Art, 549 Court Street, Reno (329-3333) from July 14 thru August 16, 1987, featuring paintings, prints, and sculpture by 44 contemporary artists born prior to 1916. Open Tues.-Sun.

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Tues.-Sat., Phillippe Noyer, Luongo, Jerry Schurr, 826-0323

Hermitage Gallery—245 California Ave., 10-6 Mon.-Fri., 10-4 Sat., George Foster oils, graphics, limited editions, 786-6880

High Sierra Gallery—Del Webb's High Sierra, Stateline, 9-5 Mon.-Fri., 9-9 Sat.-Sun., oils and photos, Tahoe themes, 588-6707

Kate Hanlon Weaving Studio and Craft Gallery—45 Lockwood Rd., Sparks, call ahead, hand-woven clothing, custom chess sets, 342-0196

Lake Gallery—Boatworks Mall, Tahoe City, 10-10 Sun.-Sat., contemporary sculpture, prints, and limited editions, 916-583-1002

Lone Tree Frame Co. and Gallery—1592 Esmeralda, Minden, 10-5:30 Tues.-Fri., 10-2 Sat., Mimi Jobe acrylics, 782-2522

Manville Gallery—School of Medicine, UNR, Reno, 8-5 Mon.-Fri., contemporary paintings and sculpture, 784-6063

Nevada Artists Association Gallery—449 W. King St., Carson City, 10-4 Mon.-Sat., primarily Nevada themes, 882-6411

Norris-Allovio Gallery—3430 Lakeside Dr., 10-5:30 Mon.-Sat., lithographs and fine art, 825-5000

Potlatch—324 Ski Way, Incline Village, 10-5:30 Sun.-Sat., Anthony Sinclair western oils, 831-2485

Powers Frameworks—2317 Kietzke Ln., 10-6 Mon.-Fri., 10-5 Sat., Roy Powers prints, Steve Davis photography, 825-8060

Riata Gallery—88 South C St., Virginia City, 10-5 Tues.-Sun., Olag Wieghorst lithographs and western prints, 847-0502

Royal Art Gallery—Round Hill Mall, Zephyr Cove, 10-8 daily, limited edition prints, oils, and sculptures, 588-2461

Sheppard Art Gallery—UNR, Reno, 9-4 Mon.-Fri., contemporary western art, 784-6658

Sierra Galleries—Caesars Tahoe, Stateline, 8:30-9:30 Sun.-Thurs., 8:30-11 Fri.-Sat., western and Tahoe paintings, 588-8500

Sierra Nevada Museum of Art—549 Court St., 10-4 Tues. and Thurs.-Fri., 10-8 Wed., 12-4 Sat.-Sun., visiting and Great Basin artists' works, 329-3333

Stremmel Galleries—1460 S. Virginia St., 8-5:30 Mon.-Fri., Sat. by appointment, leading American artists, 786-0558

Valle Art Gallery and Studio—213 E. Plumb Ln., 12-6 Mon.-Sat., watercolors by Esteban Valle, pottery by Kelsie Harder, 323-1887

Wildlife Galleries—565 California Ave., 9-5 Mon.-Fri., Nevada issue duck and trout stamps, 322-0323

XS Gallery—Western Nevada Community College, 2201 W. Nye Ln., Carson City, 8-10 Mon.-Thurs., 8-5 Fri., contemporary fine art, 887-3000

CASINO NOTES

•**Eddie's Fabulous 50's Casino**, which opened in June in downtown Reno, takes visitors back to the drive-in theaters, bubblegum-chewing waitresses, and soda-fountain jerks of 30 years ago. Ramada, Inc. has leased the building that used to house the Money Tree Casino. Eddie's is like "American Graffiti," says Paul Rubeli, president of Ramada's gaming group. Employees are called cast members, uniforms are costumes, and training is known as rehearsal. Show consultants have written scripts for employees, as is done at Hard Rock Cafes in Los Angeles, San Francisco, and other cities.

•One of the largest and longest-running attractions on Lake Tahoe's south shore ended a 24-year run in May. The four-ton wagon wheel



The Thunderbird will be featured during Wooden Boat Week, August 8-15, at Tahoe.

and cattle skull neon sign that had stood above **Harvey's** for nearly a quarter century was taken down and replaced with a modern sign. The old sign's roots go back more than 40 years, to when Harvey Gross nailed a wagon wheel to the top of a wooden cabin he called Harvey's Wagon Wheel Saloon and Gambling Hall. The new main sign is part of Harvey's master-plan expansion program says Roger Derby, Harvey's vice president of marketing.

•In the **Reno Ramada Hotel**, surrounded by banks of the latest in modern electronic gaming devices, you'll find a historic card game. It's called faro, and it was probably the most popular card game in the frontier West. "We believe ours is the only live faro game in the world today," says Robert Vannucci, president and general manager.

•The **Reno Hilton** offers free daily instruction in craps and blackjack, with tips on money management, odds, systems, and strategies. Craps lessons start at 10:15 a.m., and blackjack follows at 11:15 a.m. every day except Tuesday.

•Nonsmoking rooms and room service have been designated in the **Peppermill's** new 15-story hotel tower. The nonsmoking rooms include the sixth floor of the tower, the second floor of the standard section, and several of the motor units. The 24-hour room service has "everything from hamburgers to caviar," says Larry Lewin, director of hotel operations.

•Harrah's is celebrating the newest addition to its family of casinos with the opening of **Bill's**. The property, located next door to Harrah's Tahoe, was formerly Barney's Casino, which closed last December.

TOURNAMENTS

July

Festival Reno Blackjack, 7/16-18, 788-2767; 7/17-19, 826-2121, Reno/Sparks area casinos, 788-2767

Keno, 7/18-19, Harrah's Reno, 788-2715

Slots, 7/24-26, Reno Ramada, 788-2000

Blackjack, 7/28 and 8/25, Carson Valley Inn, Minden, 782-9711

Slots, 7/31, Club Cal-Neva, 323-1046

Slots and Video Poker, 7/31-8/2, Peppermill, 826-2121

August

Craps, 8/7-9, Peppermill, 826-2121

Slots, 8/7-9, Reno Ramada, 788-2000

Keno, 8/9-11, Eldorado, 786-5700

Slots, 8/23-25, Eldorado, 786-5700

Blackjack, 8/28-30, Peppermill, 826-2121

Reminder: Confirm dates and times by using phone numbers listed with events. For out-of-state callers, Nevada's area code is 702. For hotels' toll-free phone numbers, call 800-555-1212.

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1987 WINNEMUCCA EVENTS

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North American

Basque Festival June 13&14

IFCA-World Champion

Team Roping July 20-24

Winnemucca Parimutuel

Horse Races September 12&13

World Championship

Mule Show and

Parimutuel Races September 18,19&20

Western Art Roundup

Nevada Rodeo

Tri-County Fair



Featuring original works by invited artists from throughout the USA and Canada. Artists' demonstrations, wine tasting, quickdraw and auction.

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Winnemucca, NV 89445
(702) 623-5071

THE NEVADA CALENDAR



Rural Areas

RURAL HOT LINES

Nevada Commission on Tourism: 885-3636 or 800-237-0774 outside Nevada
Nevada Division of State Parks: District IV office in Elko County: Northfork 6493; District III office in Fallon: 867-3001 District V office in Panaca: 728-4467
Winnemucca Gun Club, 8/2, shooting matches, 623-4117

COVERED WAGON TERRITORY

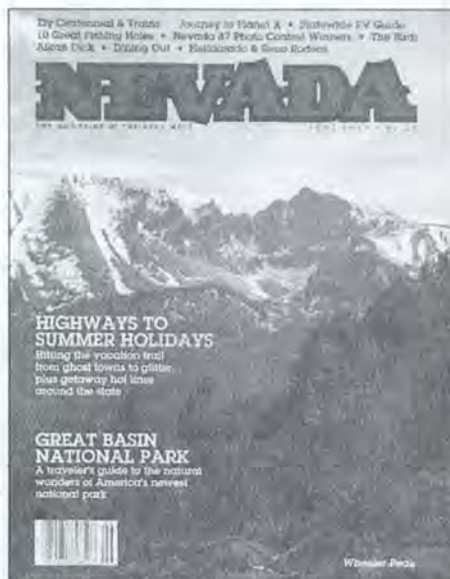
EVENTS

July

Elko Safety Olympiad, 7/17-18, surface mine rescue competition, extrication and fire demonstrations, free, Elko Convention and Visitors Authority, 738-4091
Archery Shoot, 7/18-19, open to public, Carlin and Elko Archery Clubs, Spring Creek Camp, 754-6240
International Feed Lot Ropers World Championship, 7/20-24, team roping, awards, fairgrounds, Winnemucca, 623-6355
Western Barbecue, 7/25, food, dancing, fundraiser for senior citizens, Senior Citizens Center, Winnemucca, 623-6211

August

FFA Show and Sale, 8/1 fairgrounds, Elko, 738-7135
Lovelock Frontier Days, 8/1-2, parade, flea markets, games, barbecue, 273-2135
Tom Duncan Junior Rodeo, 8/8-9, Lovelock, 273-2268
Chapman Golf Tournament, 8/8-9, mixed, open to public, Wells Golf Course, 752-3928
4-H Show, 8/14-15, fairgrounds, Elko, 738-7135
Wells Pro-Senior Golf Tournament, 8/15-16, open to men over 50, Wells Golf Course, 752-3928



A poster of Nevada Magazine's May/June 1987 cover featuring Wheeler Peak is available through the Nevada Commission on Tourism. The poster honors Great Basin National Park's dedication on August 15.

Speed Week, 8/22-29, Speed Trails, Bonneville Salt Flats, Wendover, 664-2231

Labor Day Weekend

Labor Day Rodeo and Tri-County Fair, 9/5-6, parade Sat., PRCA rodeo Sat.-Sun., fair Sat.-Sun., includes 4-H livestock show, auction, crafts, home arts, barbecue, street dance, county fairgrounds, Winnemucca, 623-6304
Western Art Round-Up, 9/4-6, on Fri. banquet, on Sat.-Sun. show featuring more than 200 pieces of original works, wine tasting, and Quick Draw, Convention Center, Winnemucca, 623-5071
Elko County Fair and Livestock Show, 9/4-7 parimutuel racing, fairgrounds, Elko, 738-3616

COMING EVENTS

Festival of Planes, 9/12, Elko, 738-3346
Winnemucca Parimutuel Horse Races, 9/12-13, 623-5071
World Championship Mule Show and Parimutuel Races, 9/18-20, Winnemucca, 623-5071
Elko Fest, 10/2, 738-4091

PONY EXPRESS TERRITORY

EVENTS

July

Nevada International Invitational Rodeo, 7/9-12, featuring champion athletes from 34 states and Canada, fairgrounds, Fallon, 423-4674
Hidden Cave Tours, 7/11 and 25, meet 9:30am, County Museum, Fallon, 882-1631 or 423-3677
All-Indian Stampede and Pioneer Days, 7/17-19, powwow, arts and crafts show, parade, rodeo, Western dance, and Indian stick games, fairgrounds, Fallon, 423-3968
White Pine Basque Festival, 7/18-19, dance, picnic, Ely, 289-8586
Amateur Golf Tournament, 7/18-19, open to public, White Pine Golf Course, Ely, 289-4095
VFW Rodeo, 7/18-19, Eureka, 237-5484
Ely Centennial Celebration, 7/31-8/2, celebration of Ely's founding in 1887 with parade, arts in the park, ethnic food fair, wine stomping contest, bands, street dance, Nevada Northern Railway Museum open house, steam-up, train rides, fireworks, hose cart races, Ely, 289-3368

August

Community Garage Sale, 8/1-2, 12th annual, 8-5 Sat., 9-1 Sun., Smith Valley Community Hall, Wellington, 465-2304
Churchill County Fair, 8/7-9, tractor pulls, ATV races, 4-H exhibits, dance, kids' activities, watermelon eating contest, fairgrounds, Fallon, 423-5121
Evening Canoe Trip, 8/8, park rangers guide the 5-mile trip down the Lower Carson River, trip begins at campground below Lahontan Dam and ends at Diversion Dam, bring canoe and lifejacket, Lahontan State Recreation Area, 867-3500
Hidden Cave Tours, 8/8 and 22, meet 9:30am, County Museum, Fallon, 882-1631 or 423-3677
Santa Maria Day, 8/15, 10am concessions open, 11am flag raising, noon blessing of the town followed by parade, 2pm continuous local entertainment begins, 3pm bed races, Dayton, 246-3435
Great Basin National Park Dedication, 8/15-16, on Sat. 10am dedication ceremonies at the visitors center followed by barbecue at Lehman Creek Campground in park; on Sat. and Sun. western art festival, street dances, cowboy poetry, street fair, stagecoach rides, and western skits in Ely and Baker, 289-4653
Square Dance Hoedown, 8/21-22, Ely, 289-6656
Eureka County Fair and Horse Show, 8/21-23, Eureka, 237-5484
White Pine County Fair and Pony Express Days, fair on 8/22-23 and 8/29-30, Pony Express horse racing events on 8/29-30, fairgrounds, Ely, 289-4904
Austin Lion's Club Annual Barbecue, 8/22,



Dancing is a highlight of the White Pine Basque Festival in Ely July 18-19. Reno's Basque celebration is August 1 followed by Clark County's Basque Festival September 12-13.

horseshoe pitching contest, barbecue, refreshments, fishing, Big Creek Campground, 10 miles south of Austin, 964-2413 or 964-2441

White Pine Cowbells Annual Barbecue, 8/28, Ely, 289-8877

Nevada 87, 9/1-15, traveling photo show, Fallon Community Center, 423-2544

Labor Day Weekend

Fallon Lion's Club Rodeo and Parade, 9/4-7 junior rodeo, adult and teen dance, fairgrounds, Fallon, 423-2171

Steam-Up, 9/5-7, steam-up of locomotive No. 40 and Ghost Train of Old Ely, Nevada Northern Railway Depot, East Ely, 289-2085

Hearts Of Gold Cantaloupe Festival 87, 9/5-7 parade, farmer's market, cantaloupe eating contests, stock car races, softball, junior rodeo, pancake breakfast, beer garden, Naval Air Station Open House, street dances, mud bog, square dancing, barbecues, ice cream socials, community theatre, Fallon, 423-2544

COMING EVENTS

81st Anniversary of Nevada Northern Railway, 9/26-27, East Ely, 289-2085

Oktoberfest, 10/3, Ely, 289-2742

Harvest Auction and Sale, 10/18, Wellington, 465-2304

Nevada Day and Halloween Parade, 10/31 Austin, 964-2440

PIONEER TERRITORY

EVENTS

July

Pioneer Days Celebration, 7/18, Panaca, 962-5207

Men's Softball Tournament, 7/18-19, Pioche, 962-5544

Pioche Heritage Days, 7/29-8/1, three plays and one melodrama on historic events in Pioche's history, arts and crafts show, Million Dollar Courthouse, Pioche, 962-5303

August

Goldfield Treasure Days, 8/8-9, parade, auction, street dance, 10-km. run, world championship bar stool sitting, goofy golf, International Chili Society sanctioned chili cook-off, miner's breakfast, Pioneer Territory Silver Trails Trivia contest drawing, Goldfield, 485-6365

Lincoln County Fair and Rodeo, 8/13-16, parade, 4-H livestock and horse show, BMX racing, barbecue, gymkhana, prison rodeo, foot race, exhibits, fairgrounds, Panaca, 962-5185

Nevada 250, 8/22, 250-mile off-road race, starts and ends in Pioche, 459-0317

Labor Day Weekend

Labor Day Celebration, 8/28-9/1, parade, mining events, horseshoes, dancing, horse race, dinners, games, swimming, fireworks, cake walk, crafts fair, play, Pioche, 962-5544

The Big Picture, 9/6, photograph of past and present residents of Lincoln County posing to form the shape of the state of Nevada, fundraiser for Lincoln County Center for the Arts, festival 10am-4pm, shooting at noon, Lincoln County High School, Panaca, 962-5408

COMING EVENTS

Harvest Festival and PRCA Rodeo, 9/18-



Ely's Centennial Celebration, July 31-August 2, honors the town's founding in 1887.



5th ANNUAL

GOLDFIELD TREASURE DAYS

AUGUST 8TH AND 9TH (SATURDAY & SUNDAY)

**\$1000 PRIZE (drawing)
(Silver Trails Trivia Contest)**

- Parade, Street Dance, Auction
- 10K Run, Chili Cookoff, I.C.S. Sanctioned
- Bar Stool Sitting Contest
(World Championship)
- Goofy Golf

Goldfield Historical Society
Box 225, Goldfield, NV 89013
(702) 485-6365 or 485-9957

20, Pahump, 727-5800
Meadow Valley Days, 9/18-21 Caliente,
962-5207

SHOWGUIDE

Covered Wagon Territory

Elko: Commercial Hotel, 738-3181, Red Lion, 738-2111 Stockmen's Hotel, 738-5141
Jackpot: Cactus Pete's, 755-2321 Horseshu Casino, 755-2331
Wendover: Nevada Crossing, 664-4000: Scouts, 7/7-26; Big Tiny Little, 7/28-8/9; Pandora, 8/11-30; Peppermill, 664-2255; Red Garter, 664-2111, Silver Smith, 664-2231, State Line, 664-2221 Live entertainment nightly
Winnemucca: Winners Hotel-Casino, 623-2511

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 week-ends

Pioneer Territory

Pahump: Saddle West Casino, 727-5953
Tonopah: Station House, 482-9777 7th Heaven, 7/14-26; McKenzie River, 7/28-8/9; Long Riders, 8/18-30

OUTINGS

Picture Yourself in Panaca

In a call to present, past, and native residents of Lincoln County, Erik Lauritzen is looking for people to pose for a group picture. Not just an ordinary group picture, though—he'll be organizing the expected 4,000-plus residents to stand together and form the shape of the state of Nevada. The project, called The Big Picture, is a celebration of county-wide solidarity; the culture, heritage, and pride of all Lincoln County residents; the bicentennial celebration of the United States Constitution; and the formation of an arts center to be based in Pioche, the county seat of Lincoln County. The picture will be made into an exhibition quality, limited edition poster. The proceeds from the sale of it will benefit the arts center's programs.

Residents interested in the September 6 gathering at Panaca can contact Lauritzen for more information at 702-962-5408.

Hard-Rock Drawings

Follow U.S. Highway 50 east of Fallon for 10 miles to Grimes Point, one of Northern Nevada's largest petroglyph sites. On the hillside above the road are about 150 basalt boulders marked with carvings. The pictures and markings—or petroglyphs—are believed to be the result of a tribal leader's ritual to insure the success of a large hunt. Usually petroglyphs are found along ancient animal migration paths, at places where hunters could wait for their prey. Evidence on the ridge above this site suggests that there was a drift fence for driving antelope or deer. Experts believe that the Grimes Point carvings probably date between 5,000 BC and 1,500 AD.

Shangri-Lamoille

Your search for the most beautiful spot in Nevada will probably end with a visit to Lamoille

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Peppermill's Western Village Inn & Casino • Sparks
Located on I-80, 1 mile East of Reno. 300 rooms, casino, 24 hour coffee shop, Pancho & Willie's Mexican Restaurant, Gourmet Steak House, nightly entertainment, swimming pool, dancing, free valet parking. (702) 331-1069 (800) 648-1170.



Canyon, a glacier-carved granite crescent located in the rugged Ruby Mountains. Its walls are massive, sheer, spectacular. Its valleys are filled with aspen, pine, scrub oak, mahogany, and wild berries. It is the kind of place that distracts drivers and makes passengers crane their necks to get a better look. Once you see it, you'll want to stop the car and get out to take a picture, or pictures, and go exploring.

To get there follow Nevada State Highway 227 south of Elko for about 20 miles, then follow the signs. From there you'll begin a gentle ascent that quickly grows more dramatic as the road winds below steep cliffs. Look for Lamoille Creek in the valley to your right.

There are two free picnic areas in Lamoille Canyon: Powerhouse Picnic Area greets visitors at the canyon's mouth; and Terraces Picnic Area, which can be reserved for groups, rests at the road's end at approximately the 9,000-foot level. At 7,600 feet, about midway up the canyon, is Thomas Canyon Campground. With 42 spaces, water, barbecues, and vault-style toilets, it is an ideal place for a base camp. Spaces there cost \$4 per night.

The Canyon has numerous foot trails, but two favorites are the Changing Canyon Interpretive Trail, a half-mile nature walk that begins near the campground, and the three-mile, 1,000-foot climb to Island Lake, which begins at the canyon road's end.

Lamoille Canyon is most popular during the spring and summer, but those in the know claim September as an ideal month to make the trip. Then, the area is less populated, and there is a better chance of getting a weekend space in the first-come, first-serve campground. For more information contact the Ruby Mountain Ranger District in Wells at 702-752-3357.

MUSEUMS

Covered Wagon Territory

Humboldt Museum, 10-4 Mon.-Fri., 1-4 Sat., Winnemucca, 623-2912

Marzen House Museum, 8-4 Mon.-Fri., 1:30-4 Sat.-Sun., Lovelock, 273-2053

Northeastern Nevada Museum, 9-5 Mon.-Sat., 1-5 Sun., 1515 Idaho St., Elko, 738-3418

Pony Express Territory

Churchill County Museum and Hidden Cave, 10-4 Mon.-Wed. and Fri.-Sat., noon-4 Sun., 1050 S. Maine St., Fallon, 423-3677. Regarding Hidden Cave tours call Carson City BLM, 882-1631

Eureka Sentinel Museum, noon-5 Mon.-Fri., 10-3 Sat.-Sun., May 23-Sept. 7 Eureka

Lyon County Museum, 10-4 Sat., 1-4 Sun., Yerington

Nevada Northern Railway Museum, 8:30-5 daily, May 18-Oct. 4, Ely, 289-2085

White Pine Public Museum, 9-4 Mon.-Fri., 10-3 Sat., 2000 Aultman St., Ely, 289-4710

Pioneer Territory

Central Nevada Museum, 12-5 Tues.-Sat., May-Sept., Logan Field Road, Tonopah, 482-9676

Lincoln County Museum, 9-5 Mon.-Sat., 10-5 Sun. (closes from 12:30-1:30 for lunch), Pioche, 962-5207

Mineral County Museum, 2-4:30 Mon.-Fri., Hawthorne, 945-3185



Lincoln County residents will form the shape of Nevada just as Iowa soldiers (above) once created the Statue of Liberty (see Outings).

ART GALLERIES

Gallery—2051 North St., Ely, 10-5 Mon.-Fri., Sat. and Sun. by appointment, pastels, watercolors, and oils by local artists, 289-4750

Northeastern Nevada Museum—1515 Idaho St., Elko, 9-5 Mon.-Sat., 1-5 Sun., photos, pen and ink, sculpture, and oils on Nevada themes, 738-3418

The Office Gallery—178 S. Maine St., Fallon, 8-5:30 Mon.-Fri., 8:30-5 Sat., original artwork of all kinds, 423-6078

Planet X Pottery—Box 4, State Highway 81-447, outside Gerlach, hours vary, call ahead; original pottery, 557-2500

CALLING ALL ARTISTS

The search is underway for an artist to paint the official portrait of Governor Richard H. Bryan. The commission for the portrait will be \$5,000 including framing and shipping. For further information and application guidelines, contact Kirk Robergson, Visual Arts Coordinator, Nevada State Council on the Arts, 329 Flint St., Reno, NV. 89501, or call 702-789-0225. The application deadline is August 24, 1987.

Send your tourism-related events to Nevada Magazine, Capitol Complex, Carson City, NV. 89710-0005. Acceptance of events is subject to format and availability of space.

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THE GHOST TRAIN of OLD ELY



The "Ghost Train" of old Ely will make five runs on only the following dates in 1987:

May 23-24-25, July 4-5, Aug. 1-2, Sept. 5-6-7 and 26-27

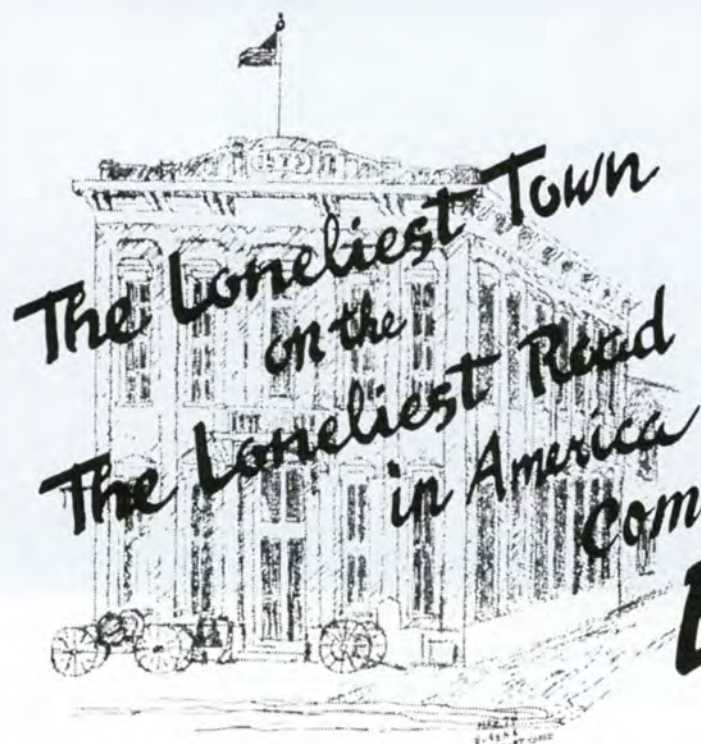
Call or write for informative flyer and train reservations. All groups accommodated by advance arrangement.

NEVADA NORTHERN RAILWAY MUSEUM

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Museum tours offered daily May 18 thru October 4. Exhibits include general office and depot from 1907, roundhouse, machine and blacksmith shops and historic rolling stock of steam, diesel and electric locomotives, passenger and freight cars and antique work equipment.



Join us for great times on:

May 23 & 24 High School Rodeo

June 20 & 21 Horse Show

July 4 Old Fashioned Fourth & Barbecue

July 18 & 19 VFW Rodeo

August 21 & 23 County Fair & Horse Show

Visitors: This ad is your free pass to these events.

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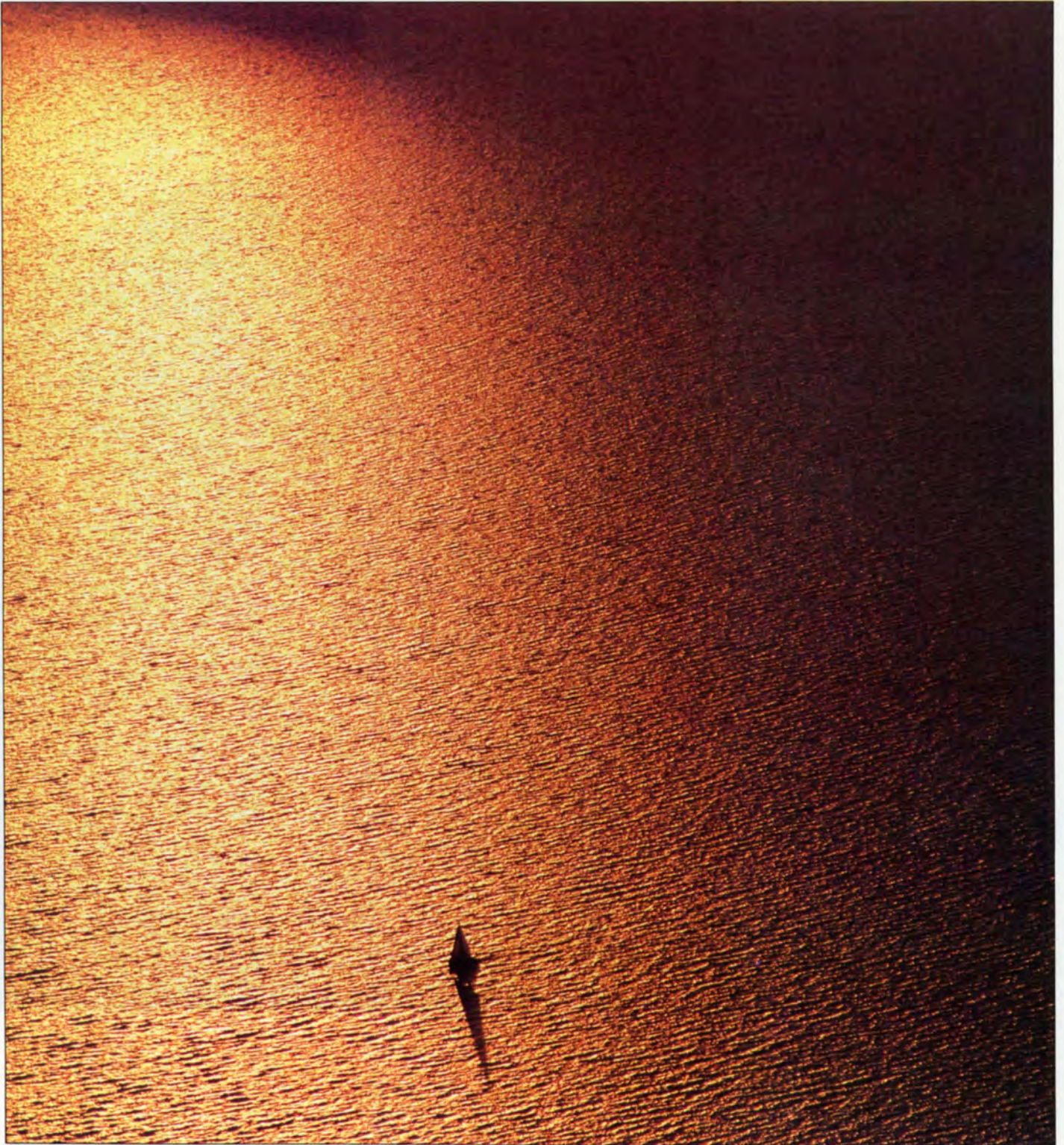
R E C R E A T I O N

MIDDAY AT THE OASIS: NEVADA'S WATER WONDERLANDS

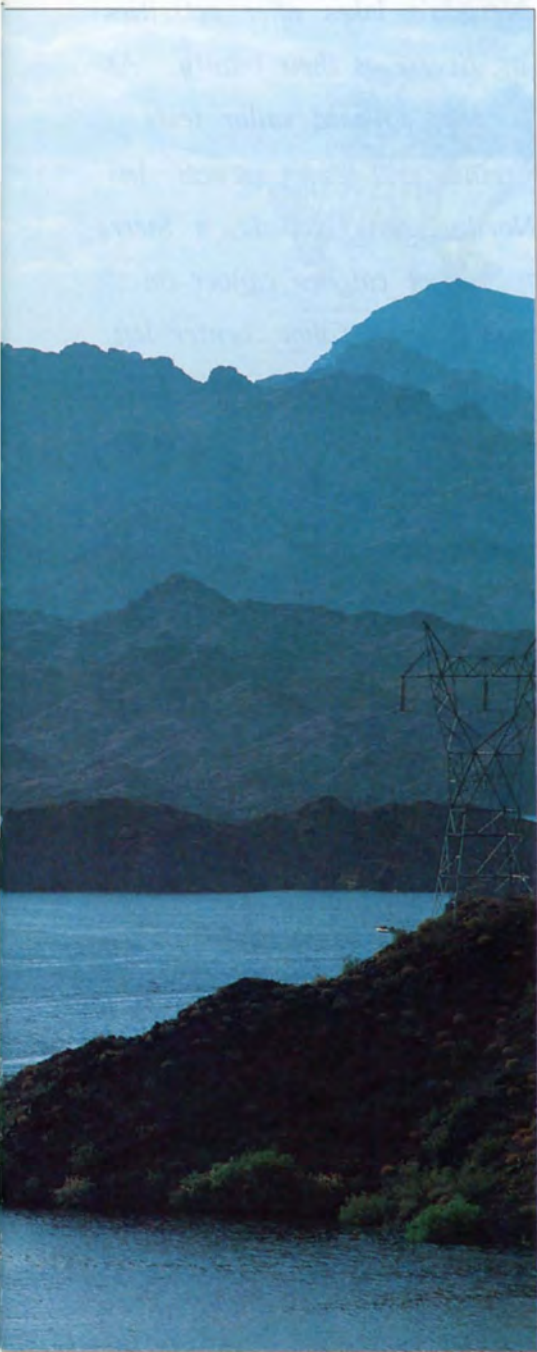
Hmmm...I seem to remember a job, and I vaguely recollect a place where I had responsibilities... and I remember that it was dim..." And so your mind drifts as you bob lazily on the shimmering surface of Lake Mead or melt into the warm, white sands of Lake Tahoe.

In fact, it's the way you might find yourself thinking at any of Nevada's lakes, whether they be nestled high in the mountains like world-famous Lake Tahoe (right), or sprawled out across the desert.

As the following pages show, Nevada's lakes are more than little puddles of paradise. They are alluring oases for anglers, bathers, boarders, boaters, and sun worshippers.







Lake Mohave (left) is a haven for water lovers. With spring, summer, and fall water temperatures averaging 78 degrees Fahrenheit, and a healthy stock of bass, trout, bluegill, and crappie, this desert lake makes it easy to forget the scorching wilderness that surrounds it.

Above, Lake Tahoe's clean beaches and cyan waters inspire comparisons to tropical shores



Nevada's lakes offer activities as diverse as their beauty. At top, a board sailor tests winds and warm waves. In Northwestern Nevada, a Sierra sunset catches canoer on alpine Lake Tahoe, center left. At center right, Pyramid Lake, 33 miles north of Reno, is a home for world-record trout and a quiet place to think and fish. Below, Mead's mirror-smooth waters and a peaceful desert sunset



ELY NEVADA

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Big Name Entertainment - Parade - Arts in the Park - Wine Stomping Contest - Kids Games
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Fireworks - Morning Church Service in the City Park - Lions Breakfast - Horse Cart Races
Horse Endurance Races - Ball Games - Open House at NNR: Railroad Displays - Train Rides
Velocipede Races - Safecracking Contest - Spike Driving Contests



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The 10th Annual Photo Contest

It's time to send in your entries to *Nevada Magazine's* 10th annual photo contest, the Great Nevada Picture Hunt.

The chances for rewards are many. If you are a top finisher, you'll qualify for great cash prizes and see your work appear in the magazine. If you dazzle the judges and win a special category, the loot includes an authentic Nevada T-shirt or pair of suspenders. Even if you don't win such prizes, one of your photos might catch the attention of an editor and appear later in the magazine, bringing you not only glory but also a photographer's fee.

The contest is open to all photographers.

And remember, the judges will be looking for photos that say "Nevada."

Special Categories

This is a new source of prizes—and, we hope, of a wide variety of Nevada

Announcing *Nevada Magazine's* 1987

Great Nevada Picture Hunt

Deadline: August 21, 1987

images. There are 10 special categories in honor of this 10th annual competition:

Events
Ghost Towns
Historic Landmarks
Outdoor Recreation
People, Rural
People, Urban
Rural Nevada
Urban Nevada
Water
Wildlife

You don't have to officially enter the categories. Instead, the judges simply will select the most notable images in each.

The Prizes

This year, to celebrate the 10th annual contest, cash prizes will be

awarded to the top 10 winners. Prizes include \$200 for first place, \$75 for second, \$50 for third, and \$20 for fourth through 10th.

The winners of special categories and merit awards will receive Nevada T-shirts or suspenders—their choice.

Contest Rules

Be sure to follow the rules; they are designed to make judging and identifying the photographs as smooth as possible. Entries that don't follow the rules will be disqualified.

Photos: All photos must be unpublished and taken in Nevada.

Entry Form: The entry form below must be filled

out and included with the photos. All entries must be mailed in. Deadline is August 21, 1987.

How Many Photos:

You can enter up to five black-and-white prints and up to five color slides or prints, for a maximum total of 10.

Labeling: Your name and address must be on the back of each print or slide, along with the title, location, or description.

Color: Slides must be 35 mm. or larger transparencies. If possible, present slides in a plastic sleeve (available at most camera stores). Do not use metal or glass holders. Color prints must be 8x10" to 11x14", glossy or matte, and unmounted.

Black and White: Prints must be 8x10" to 11x14", glossy or matte, and unmounted.

For Return: When mailing in your entries, you must enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope to ensure your photos' safe return. Be sure to use cardboard packing, but don't include checks or loose stamps. No pickups at the office.

Packaging: The smaller and simpler the package, the better. Most photos will fit in a 9x12" or smaller envelope; maximum envelope size should be 12x16"

One Per: One photographer per package.

Entry Form

10th Annual Great Nevada Picture Hunt

Deadline: August 21, 1987

Number of photos entered:

Color prints or slides _____ (up to 5)

Black and white prints _____ (up to 5)

Total _____ (up to 10)

Signature _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State & Zip _____

Day Phone _____

Send with entries to: Nevada Magazine, Great Nevada Picture Hunt,
Capitol Complex, Carson City, NV 89710

The Judges

Linda Dufurrena of Winnemucca is a well-known contributor to *Nevada* and a successful freelance photographer.

Kirk Whisler of Carson City is publisher-editor of *Nevada Magazine*. He is a longtime observer of fine photography.

Dale Smith of Incline Village, Nevada's art director, had one of his photos used in a recent Bob Dylan album.

HISTORY

Whistlin' '60 for the M.S. Dixie

The famous Lake Tahoe Sternwheeler
enters her golden age.

By Phil Weidinger



This year, as Lake Tahoe's *M.S. Dixie* paddlewheeler celebrates its 60th anniversary, lake-ographers marvel at the riverboat's roots. Instead of being pampered and polished since birth, the now-famous Zephyr Cove cruise ship led the life of a shiftless drifter.

Her story begins, as all worthwhile riverboat stories should begin, on the Mississippi River in 1927. But instead of hosting glamorous, late-night poker games, she was fashioned as a humble barge, and spent four years hauling cotton. In 1931, she moved west to the Red River in Wichita Falls, where she was partially changed into a riverboat. Her history is as muddy as the old Mississippi for the next 16 years but it's known that she was dry-docked and equipped with a paddlewheel.

It was a retired Mississippi riverboat captain from Reno with an eye for opportu-

nity who brought the steamer to Lake Tahoe in 1947. Jim Moss thought that what the mountain lake needed was a floating casino. Moss found her in Texas, purchased her, named her *Dixie* after his daughter, and had her towed to a railhead on the Red River. She was cut into four pieces, shipped to Reno by rail, and then trucked to Cave Rock on the southeastern shore of Lake Tahoe to be reassembled.

Unfortunately, Moss's gaming license was denied, and the *M.S. Dixie* (*M.S.* stands for motor ship), then an enclosed, single-deck vessel with a pilot house, sat unused. Moss eventually lost his beloved riverboat in litigation to other stockholders, but rather than give her up, he scuttled her, along with his dreams, on the sandy bottom of Lake Tahoe near Cave Rock in 1949. Legal ownership of the sunken vessel went to the attorneys.

But the *Dixie* didn't stay down for long.

In December, 1949, Ken and Margaret Amundson, owners of the posh White Hill Ski Resort at the top of Spooner Summit, were hired by the attorneys to raise the riverboat. Once free of the lake bottom, the *Dixie* was taken to Logan Shoals Harbor near Glenbrook and kept in storage for three years. A year later the Amundsons bought her for \$4,500 plus storage and docking fees. For the next five years the *Dixie* was used for warehouse and office space.

Later she was converted into a private pleasure vessel, cruising weekends for family and friends. A Buick engine drove her paddlewheel.

In 1970, the Amundsons formed the *M.S. Dixie* Corporation and began a 14-month renovation of the ship. She was dry-docked at the Surf and Sand Marina, now Timber Cove Marina, where a second enclosed deck with large windows and a new pilot

house were added. The Amundsons also installed twin propellers to increase the ship's speed and maneuverability.

The *Dixie* embarked on her maiden voyage from Zephyr Cove Marina as a commercial Tahoe cruise vessel on Memorial Day Weekend, 1972.

She operated from Zephyr Cove for one year before moving to Timber Cove Marina on the California side of Tahoe. The *Dixie* moved back to Zephyr Cove in 1977, when low lake levels made access to the California pier impossible, and she's been a Nevadan ever since.

Travel Systems, Ltd. purchased the *Dixie* from the Amundsons in 1979, and has continued improving her over the years.

One look at the red and white *Dixie* today shows she has come a long way from her cotton-hauling days. Extensive refurbishing, frequent upgrades, and such antique fittings as a nearly 200-year-old Norwegian Black Oak steering wheel, salvaged from a sunken schooner and added during Moss's time, have made her one of the prettiest boats on the lake. She also is one of the biggest, with enough room for 360 people.

Additional modifications also have been made. The crew used to cook the steaks for the dinner cruise in makeshift 50-gallon drum barbecues on the deck until the aft section of the ship was enclosed and made into a galley. And a new and larger paddlewheel was installed in 1986, in preparation for the annual Great Lake Tahoe Sternwheeler Race on Memorial Day Weekend against the *Tahoe Queen*, the lake's only other paddlewheeler. In just four years, the race has become a traditional kick-off to the summer season at the lake. The *Dixie* won the most recent race, and is the proud keeper of a silver cup. The loser's trophy a bedpan, has been entrusted to the *Tahoe Queen*. The series now stands even at two victories apiece, and riverboat fans are looking forward to next year's tie-breaker.

In recent years, the *Dixie* has welcomed hundreds of celebrities and dignitaries onto her decks—entertainers, politicians, sports figures, even American astronauts and Russian cosmonauts. She's even become a celebrity of sorts herself, appearing on national television with Ben, Hoss, and Little Joe in *Bonanza*. She also appeared in *State Trooper*.

Today, the *Dixie* offers a historic Glenbrook breakfast cruise, a champagne brunch cruise, an Emerald Bay cruise past Vikingsholm Castle, and a sunset dinner-dance cruise. The *Dixie* offers her senior passengers discounts on all cruises, including a \$4 discount on her south shore cruise with dinner. She's also available for private charters, parties, weddings, conventions, or meetings. For information or reservations call 702-588-3508. □

Phil Weidinger is betting on the *Dixie* in next year's race with the *Tahoe Queen*.



Hail to the Queen

The newest of Tahoe's big wheels will treat you royally.

The *Dixie's* counterpart on the California side of Lake Tahoe is the *Tahoe Queen*. Since the *Queen* is just four years old, her claim to fame isn't in her past. It is in the fact that she is the biggest cruise ship on the lake. What's more, she's an exquisite reproduction of an authentic Mississippi riverboat.

Lake Tahoe Cruises, the company that runs the *Tahoe Queen*, requested the 144-foot long, 33-foot wide, 500 passenger ship from the La Crosse Riverboat Company in La Crosse, Wisconsin, in the early 1980s. She was to be the biggest ship built by the company to date. Her hull, superstructure, and stacks were made there, and she was brought across country in a nine-truck caravan. Her parts were then unloaded, repositioned, and welded at the Tahoe Keys Marina. The interior of the boat, as well as the woodwork and fittings, were installed by company employees and local craftsmen.

The *Queen* is fitted with twin paddlewheels, which are its only means of propulsion. It has an open upper deck and two enclosed lower decks, each with large windows and plenty of room to romantically stroll around with someone and enjoy the scenery.

The inside is appointed with oak floors,

brass fixtures, and a glass-bottomed viewing compartment. All interior compartments, including the linen-bedecked dining room and polished oak bar, are climate controlled. Three exotic birds—two macaws, Rosie and Bubba, and a double-yellow-headed Amazon named Louie—add color to the surroundings. But undoubtedly, the most unusual feature on the ship is in the oak-paneled buffet room to the stern, where vertical windows are backwashed by the churning red paddlewheels outside.

Sightseers also enjoy cuisine prepared in the *Queen's* galley. During the day, passengers may choose anything from hot dogs to salad at the cocktail and luncheon bar. At night, dinner-dancers feast on prime rib or halibut steak, with all the trimmings.

The *Tahoe Queen* casts off from Ski Run Marina at South Shore year round. During the summer, visitors can choose one of three daytime cruises or the sunset dinner-dance cruise with live music. All cruises follow the same route to Emerald Bay. Daytime cruises take slightly more than two hours, and the evening cruise runs about an hour longer.

To make reservations call the *Queen* at 916-541-3364. That's also the number for times, prices, and group or wedding cruises.—Scott Shelley

Houseboat Holiday



Adventure lay ahead on the vast waters of Lake Mead, so we made sure to pack lots of survival gear—steaks, and Rolling Stones tapes.

By Mike Fitzgerald



Captain Fitzgerald, left, cruises along Lake Mead in a houseboat. Above, houseboaters relax on a beach.

Delisa McManus, an instructor for Seven Crown Resorts, rattled off an extensive list of instructions for our 46-foot rental houseboat. The five of us tried to pay attention, but concentration was difficult. From the time we first arrived at the marina, our thoughts had been on the coming two days of relaxation. We were eager to get away from the dock and out onto Lake Mead, and to leave ringing telephones, deadlines, and other daily concerns high and dry.

The houseboat had so many features it was overwhelming, but the checklist was soon completed. We loaded our provisions and were ready to cast off from Echo Bay by mid-morning. With some hesitation, I started the engine, sounded the horn three times to signal backing up, and tugged the throttle into reverse. The boat, really more of a barge, reacted as slowly as Delisa said it would. Once clear of the dock, I pushed the stick to forward and we headed toward the open water of the Overton Arm.

The boat was fully equipped—bunks to sleep 10, a full kitchen, butane barbecue on the open front deck, deck chairs, a bathroom with a shower, and a fenced-in rear deck. There also was air conditioning and heating, and all of the regulation safety devices and life jackets.

Fresh air gushed in through the sliding

glass doors as we gained speed, and I tipped the captain's hat—one to a boat, of course—to shield my eyes. My companions made themselves comfortable on the front deck as the overhead sun warmed.

We set a course to pick up five more passengers at Callville Bay, a four-hour, 28-mile cruise, and took in the beauty of the colorful jagged cliffs, sandy shorelines, and the sprinkling of islands that dotted the route. We shared the waters with patient fishermen who were angling for the lake's monstrous striped bass and waterskiers who waved as they swooshed past. A few other houseboats bobbed by, and the passengers smiled blissful smiles and waved each time.

The boat had a top speed of five miles an hour, so we just sat back and enjoyed the slow passage through the expansive waters of the Overton Arm and into the Virgin Basin. It wasn't long before we sighted Boulder Wash, a signal that we were about to enter the rocky strait that would get us to our rendezvous at Callville Bay.

The trip through the cliffs offered a fascinating display of rock formations, birds, and colors. The water was deep, clear, and smooth—ideal conditions for the giant lake, which boasts of more than 550 miles of shoreline.

After almost passing up the somewhat

undistinguished entrance to Callville Wash, we met our waiting party at the picturesque new marina and then putted over to a sandy beach we had spotted on our way in.

We approached the beach according to our instructor's orders, making sure there was at least three feet of water for the propeller in back before hitting the gas to get the front of the boat securely on shore. We then pounded some iron stakes into the beach and tied off the boat for extra security.

The midday sun was hot and we pulled out the air mattresses and beach towels. There was a ladder to the roof and a few of us scrambled to the top to sunbathe. Someone plugged a Rolling Stones cassette in the ship's stereo, and we spent the next few hours lounging and making plenty of trips to the boat's big cooler for liquid refreshments, fruit, and cold sandwiches.

Hours later, under the late-afternoon sun, Lake Mead sparkled as if filled with diamonds. Skiers towed by shiny motorboats sent white jets into the air, and fishermen chugged through the open water en route to a promising cove or rocky shoreline.

The sandy shore turned a bright orange from the sinking sun, and a light breeze dried our swimsuits as we prepared to



*One of the unique attractions of Lake Mead
are the sheer cliffs that
rise above this desert lake.*

untie the stakes that held the blue and white houseboat to the beach near Callville Bay. It was nearing the end of our first day and time to decide where we would dock our floating residence for the night.

Just as we discussed a destination to chug toward, the wind blew across our faces, and the clouds that had only recently appeared out of the west grew darker. Thunder rumbled in the distance. Adventure was imminent.

We decided to head toward the 12-mile, rocky strait that connects the Boulder Basin with the Virgin Basin. The land bore such mysterious names as Beacon Island, Bearing Point, and Wishing Well Cove.

The wind increased steadily as we untied the stakes and backed away from shore. All loose articles were tucked inside the enclosed cabin as the sun dimmed behind the advancing storm-cloud formations.

The waves picked up as well, and whitecaps appeared ahead as we headed toward the strait. Suddenly, a bolt of lightning crashed off the cliffs to the west, and ominous, gray sheets of rain appeared just a few miles ahead. I shoved the throttle forward and the engine moaned as we pushed toward the safety of a cove in order to escape the three- to four-foot swells that began rocking the steel pontoons beneath us.

Darkness was closing in as we entered the narrow strait. Cliffs towered above us.

Houseboat Rentals

If you want to explore Lakes Mead and Mohave in style, rent a houseboat. Most boats include a cassette stereo or radio, barbecue, sundeck, linens, pots and pans, wetbar, refrigerator, and microwave oven. All you need to bring along are personal items and food.

Two outfits, Forever Resorts and Seven Crown Resorts, rent houseboats at marinas on Mead and Mohave—Callville Bay and Echo Bay on Mead, and Mohave Resort, Cottonwood Cove, and Willow Beach on Mohave.

Houseboat rentals can be expensive, so many vacationers split the cost between six to 12 people. In the summer during peak season, prices range from about \$650 for three nights on a six-sleeper to as much as \$1,895 for seven nights on a 14-sleeper.

In the off seasons, prices are reduced tremendously. For instance, Callville's small boat rents for \$330 on a Supersaver Weekend—about half the price of a peak season rental. Consult the Marina Chart on page 47 for addresses and phone numbers, and call ahead for season dates and prices.—JQ

The waves continued to bounce off the squared-off bow of the boat, while smaller craft scurried toward shore.

The cliff walls took on eerie formations as we looked for shelter in the windy night. We pushed on, searching for a warm, cozy spot away from the wind and waves. Another bolt of lightning flashed in the distance and thunder rumbled, but we kept moving.

Houseboats aren't allowed to run in the dark, and after peeking into the raging waves in the mouth of the strait of the Virgin Basin, we decided to pull into a rocky cove to our port side.

It was tough to see off the bow so several of us took positions along the front railing. With a big jolt and a slide along the gravel beach, we landed. It wasn't perfect, but we had evaded the wind and waves, and a few of us climbed up the rocky shore to secure the ropes to a pair of boulders.

We turned the stereo on, lit the butane grill, and then cracked open a few bottles of champagne to celebrate the successful landing. It wasn't a nice open beach with calm conditions, but we were more than satisfied. We were sure the storm was intense enough to force smaller boats from the lake.

As the storm passed, we feasted on steak, hamburgers, and chicken. Later, a few fishing poles appeared at the back rail as the cove grew completely calm and a slice of moon appeared overhead.

A fat carp was the only catch of the night, but it didn't really matter. The atmosphere was peaceful and the sky above the stone walls turned into a black backdrop full of glittering stars. Then there was little sound as everyone found a bunk or spot on the deck and soon drifted off to sleep.

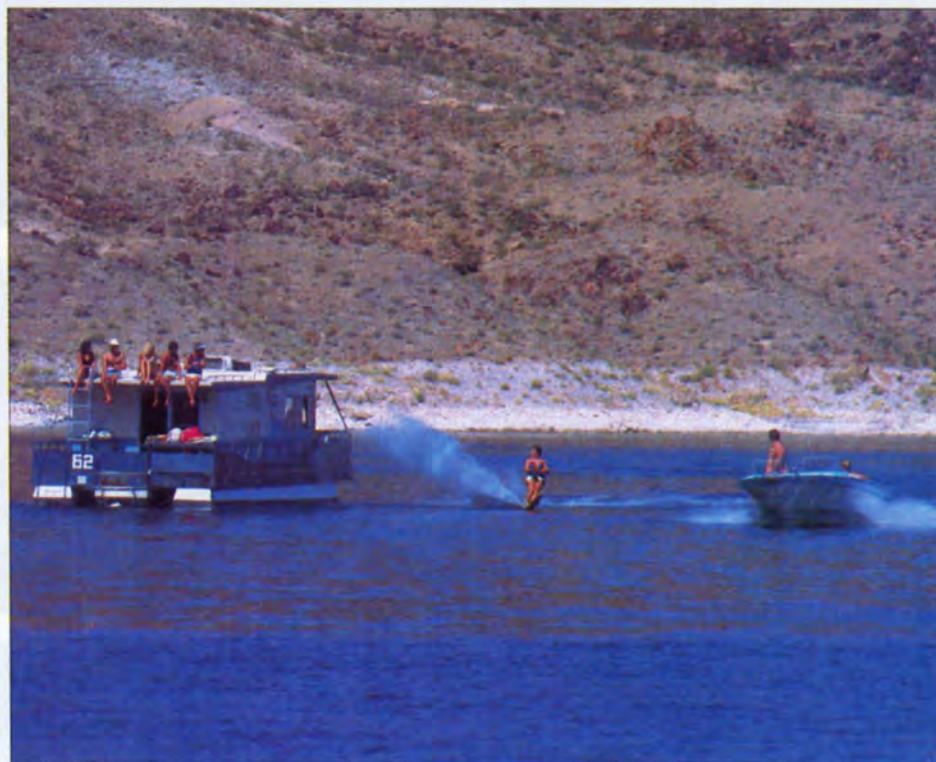
The following morning the sun greeted our early awakening. We backed out of the cove and headed into the open water of the Virgin Basin once again, seeing that the fury of the night had given way to a lake of glass and an azure sky.

We trolled a few lures behind the boat as we headed back to Echo Bay but the fish ignored us. Those on other boats noticed us, however, and we exchanged greetings along the way.

A deserted beach caught our eyes so we spent a lazy afternoon on the yellow sand in temperatures that climbed into the upper 90s. We laughed about the perils of the night before—which grew more exaggerated as the day went on. And talk of our heroic travels continued as we weighed anchor and motored back to the dock at Echo Bay, each of us vowing to return to the open waters and quiet coves soon.

We all had discovered that relaxation and adventure make up a houseboating trip—and we had had our share of both on this colorful spring weekend. And the combination had been just right. □

Mike Fitzgerald is the sports editor for the Las Vegas Sun and a fearless houseboat captain.



*The tranquil glass-like beauty
of Mead (above)
is perfect for water skiing (below).*

Many hours of work and a whole lot of money have gone into restoring the Thunderbird to pristine condition. Fortunate visitors to Tahoe may glimpse it roaring across the water.



Crossing Lake Tahoe at 65 mph in a two-foot chop, standing up straight with a drink in one hand and the whine from the superchargers in both ears, I wondered how the *Thunderbird* could fairly be described as the Grand Old Lady of the Lake, especially since the engines were only turning over at about 2,400 rpm and had at least another 1,000 rpm to go before they even started breathing deep.

Clearly the *Thunderbird*, once described as a 70 mph cocktail lounge, is no ordinary lady. She is the biggest, fastest, most elegant, and most expensive wood boat on Lake Tahoe, that millionaire's pond, and is now once again a gentleman's fine toy.

Buzz Gibb, who with his wife Joan winters in Oakland, California, spends his summers pushing the boat around Lake Tahoe. Gibb has a real estate operation that owns large chunks of Jack London Square in Oakland, including a marina. The company is *Thunderbird Properties*. So when the yacht *Thunderbird* quietly went on the market at Tahoe, Gibb was interested first by her name.

Gibb owns other boats, several of them, and buildings, properties, and scattered holdings. But the *Thunderbird* is his favorite toy. And the Gibbs don't mind spending \$10,000 a month for gas and salaries for the boat's full-time crew of four to keep the toy in top shape.

Part of the story of this boat is power. The other part is elegance: the quiet, austere kind you go after when you're all done trying to impress people.

The boat was commissioned in 1939 by Lake Tahoe real estate legend George Whittell, who hired marine architect John Hacker to design the ultimate yacht for his favorite lake. She was built at the Huskin Boat Works in Bay City, Michigan, and shipped to Tahoe by rail.

The original design called for twin Karmath 500-horsepower V-12 gas engines, and those stayed aboard until gaming magnate Bill Harrah bought her from the Whittell estate in 1961.

Harrah loved fine machines. He already had the world's best collection of antique automobiles. He also loved speed, and occasionally he and his bodyguard raced up the winding Mount Rose Highway in matched Ferraris. The first thing Harrah did when he bought the boat was yank out the original engines and replace them with

twin supercharged Allison V-12s. Those engines, once used in World War II P-38 fighter planes, were rated at 1,250 horsepower each on aviation fuel. Reworked to run on regular gas, they put out 1,000 horses each at 4,500 rpm—twice what the original design specified. The work was done at Tahoe Boat Works in Tahoe City.

Thanks to Harrah, the *Thunderbird* at age 45 can carry passengers at 80 mph in superb comfort. And, barely above idle, she can cruise at 40-45 mph, drinking about 40 gallons of gas an hour. That makes her faster, and more economical by half, than a new fiberglass half-million-dollar Magnum.

Aside from doubling her power, Harrah extended the stainless steel deckhouse roof, and removed a roof to the rear to create a big, open afterdeck. Below the cockpit is a very posh cocktail lounge. Harrah, who rarely took the boat out himself, used the yacht to amuse headlining stars at his casino like Frank Sinatra, Sammy Davis, Jr., and Bill Cosby. To this end there are no sleeping accommodations aboard, and the galley was used mainly for a bar, just as it is today. The main salon downstairs is lined with S-shaped suede sofas. Above the sofas, cut-crystal mirrors rise to the ceiling. The powder room is art-deco with cut-crystal mirrors and black-and-white tiling.

The cockpit features a beautifully-crafted brass post with the transmission levers, flanked to starboard by the twin throttles and to port by the twin mixture controls, a reminder of the boat's aerodynamic engines. Added to the usual cluster of gauges are indicators for air-fuel mixture and supercharger boost. There are no LEDs, no computer screens, no printouts to handle her 2,000 horsepower.

Because the engines spent their early years up in the sky, and since at 6,200 feet Lake Tahoe isn't exactly sea level, they still require a little aircraft-pilot-like handling. To light them, this is the procedure:

Switch on Master Voltage.

Switch on Ignition.

Switch on Boost Pump to prime engine.

Hit Starter Button. (How will you know if it started? It's a thousand horsepower. You'll know.)

Standing on the dock behind *Thunderbird* with both Allison's lit is an odd experience. You're seeing mahogany and brass, but you're hearing a fuel-burning dragster.

The boat's flat bottom was designed so that the bow would rise slightly out of the

The Lady of the Lake

Built and bolstered by legendary Nevadans, the *Thunderbird* is considered the finest wood yacht on Lake Tahoe.

By Dean Vallas



MARK TWAIN SLEPT HERE... Ate here, drank here too!

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On a cool, overcast afternoon
the pilot eases the boat
onto the lake, accelerating
very slowly, not to save the
boat but to keep the
passengers aboard.

water at high speed—an early example of planing in a yacht so large. But she really doesn't heave her bulk free of the water well, even at 65 mph. She's 55 feet overall, and built in the classical style of wood boats: white oak ribs, sheathed first with red cedar and then, fore and aft, with Honduran mahogany. Each of the thousands of bungs, or little wood plugs, that cover the bronze rivets which fasten the planking, is numbered, and was cut from the original planking so the grain would match. Harrah had sistered about 20,000 of those bronze rivets in 1961, so something like half the boat is double-fastened.

Harrah kept the *Thunderbird* in a special alcove at the car collection each winter. But, according to Joan and Buzz Gibb, the boat went to seed a bit during Harrah's last years and after his death.

The first thing the Gibbs did when they took over was to cure a sneaking dry-rot problem. They replaced both layers of hull planking on the rear half of the boat, taking pains to select matching mahogany for the outer layer. They also tore out some cheap louan mahogany that had been used to patch the afterdeck paneling, and replaced it with Honduran mahogany. Gibb also rewired the entire ship, updating all electrical components to modern standards.

Jack Cochrane is the master craftsman behind the boat's renaissance. Cochrane had replaced Harrah's original Allison engines with new ones in 1981, and has since stayed on to handle maintenance. The Lake Tahoe denizen, aside from owning what he says is the largest collection of Rolls-Royce parts in the country, has things like PT-boat transmissions lying around his back yard. Cochrane is a specialist in Rolls-Royce and other aircraft engines. Through his aviation connections he says he has no trouble coming up with parts for the Allisons. With Gibb on checkbook and Cochrane on crafts, they've spent about \$200,000 restoring the *Thunderbird* to her former glory, over and above her \$80,000 purchase price.

On a cool, overcast afternoon the pilot eases the boat out onto the lake, accelerating very slowly, not to save the boat but to keep the passengers aboard. Quickly she's going 50 mph, then 60, and still accelerating, but there's no pounding, no screaming from the engines, no sudden lurches off the

chop, just a smooth, steady rumble from beneath your feet and the high-pitched whine from the superchargers. The superchargers take over at about 1,500 rpm (45 mph), bringing the intake manifolds from vacuum into positive boost. Final compression ratio using regular gas is about 8.5 to 1. PT-boat transmissions (from Cochrane's back yard) link the engine to twin propellers, each fully two feet in diameter.

If you need to experience the speed directly, about the only way to do it without waterskiing behind her is to stand way aft on deck. There, the wind and the spray converge to a point, like a ducktail, and threaten to carry you overboard. Elsewhere on the yacht passengers are standing quietly, drink in hand, chatting, unaware of the violence of their speed as the *Thunderbird* carves a frothy swath through Tahoe's ink-blue waters.

It's hard to imagine the Grand Old Lady gracing any other body of water. The Gibbs did move the boat to San Francisco Bay for two years. But that didn't feel right. After all, Tahoe was where George Whittell conceived of her, and where Harrah tested her mettle with airplane engines. The Gibbs say simply that the *Thunderbird* is happiest, and at home, on Lake Tahoe. And that is where she will stay. □

Dean Vallas grew up in Connecticut and developed his sea legs on Long Island Sound.

Runabout Rally

Boat buffs can see the *Thunderbird* and a fleet of other classic crafts during Wooden Boat Week August 8-15 at Lake Tahoe. The 15th annual event features two shows, the Tahoe Yacht Club's Concours d'Elegance and the Antique & Classic Boat Society Show.

The Yacht Club's annual event will feature a judging and show August 8-9 at the Tahoe Boat Works in Tahoe City. According to Yacht Club Commodore Steven Lapkin, nearly 100 runabouts were on hand last year. "And the *Thunderbird* is always the focal point," he says, "especially this year since the theme is on the influence of John L. Hacker and Hacker runabouts." *Thunderbird* was a commuter, the largest boat Hacker designed and a prime example of his work.

Lapkin says the Antique & Classic Boat Society Show will be held Sunday, August 15, at Tahoe Keys Marina on the south shore. That show is usually more casual, since it isn't judged, and captains can spend more time talking ship. For information, see the Nevada Calendar, or call the Wooden Boat Week Committee at 916-581-4700.

Where the Buoys Are

A guide to marinas around Nevada.

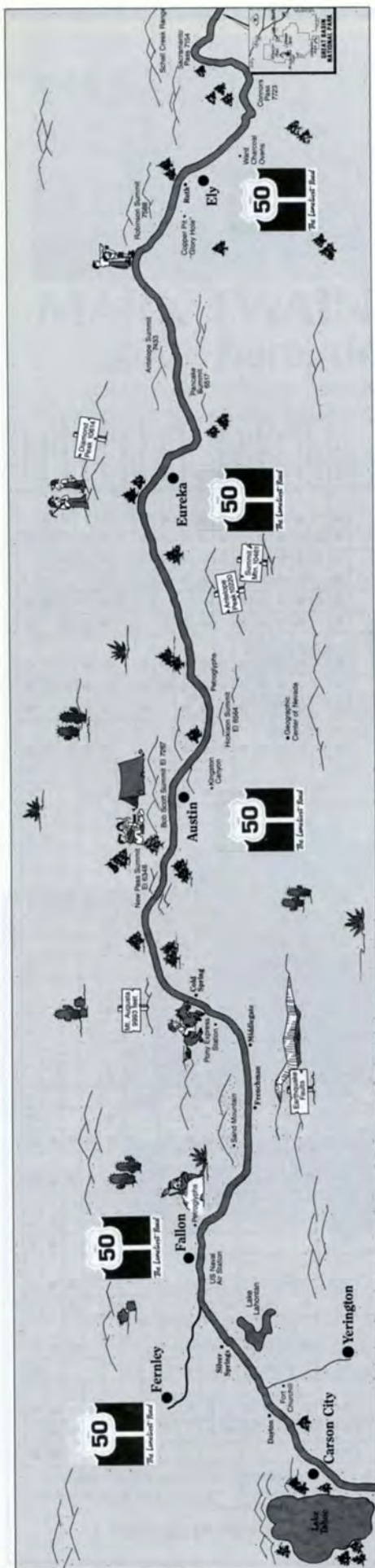


Name	Phone	Launch Fees*	Slips, Buoys	ramps	hoists	dry storage	gas & oil	bait & tackle	groceries	snack bar	restaurant	ski boats	houseboats	saliboats	fishing boats	lodging	RV hookups	camping	swimming
LAKE MEAD																			
Callville Bay Resort	702-565-8958	free	700	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Echo Bay Resort	702-394-4000	free	326	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Lake Mead Marina	702-293-3484	free	668	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Las Vegas Boat Harbor	702-565-9111	free	600	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Overton Beach Resort	702-394-4040	free	40	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Temple Bar Resort	602-767-3400	free	74	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
LAKE MOHAVE																			
Cottonwood Cove	702-297-1005	free	177	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Lake Mohave Resort	602-754-3245	free	811	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Willow Beach Resort	602-767-3311	free	154	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
LAKE TAHOE																			
Camp Richardson	916-541-1777	\$12	128	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Cave Rock	702-831-0494	\$5		•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Homewood High & Dry	916-525-5966	\$1.75/ft.	50	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Kings Beach Rec. Area	916-546-7248	free		•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Lake Forest Ramp	916-583-5544	\$5		•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Lakeside Marina	916-541-6626	\$10	90	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Logan Shoals Harbor	702-749-5249	no launch	50	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Meek's Bay Resort	916-525-7242	\$10	120	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
North Tahoe Marina	916-546-8248	\$30	67	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Obexer's	916-525-7962	\$5	65	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Sand Harbor	702-831-0494	\$5		•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Sierra Boat Co.	916-546-2552	\$15+		•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Ski Run Marina	916-544-0200	\$20		•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Sunnyside Resort	916-583-7200	free	80	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Tahoe Boat Co.	916-583-5567	free	205	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Tahoe Keys Marina	916-541-2155	\$15	280	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Tahoe Vista Marina	916-546-3185	no launch	21	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Timber Cove Marina	916-544-2942	\$10	87	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Zephyr Cove Resort	702-588-3833	\$6	65	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
PYRAMID LAKE**																			
Pelican Point	702-574-0140	\$6	2	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
LAHONTAN STATE REC. AREA																			
North Shore Marina	702-867-3500	\$4		•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Silver Springs Beach	702-557-2226	\$4		•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
TOPAZ LAKE																			
County Park	702-266-3343	\$2.50		•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Topaz Lake Marina	702-266-3550	\$2	56	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
WALKER LAKE																			
Cliff House	702-945-5253	free		•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
State Park	702-867-3001	free		•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
WILD HORSE RESERVOIR																			
Ranch & Resort	702-N Fork 6472	no launch		•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Sho-Pai Marina	702-757-3161	free		•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
State Park	702-N Fork 6493	\$3		•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•

State parks charge \$4 to launch at **Washoe Lake** (702-885-4319) and **Rye Patch** (702-887-3001). Also **Echo Canyon** and **Spring Valley** are \$4, and **Cave Lake** is \$2 (all 702-728-4467). Cave Lake has no water-skiing. Launching is free at **Ruby Lake National Wildlife Refuge** (702-779-2225), but fishing licenses aren't available there.

*Fees are for in-and-out

**Pyramid anglers need a tribal fishing permit (\$6/day or \$25/year)



The Road Less Traveled By

Highway 50 through Nevada may be the last road to reality.

By Richard Moreno

My car slows to a crawl. Ahead in the road, a brown cow with a white face in the shape of the state of Texas looks at me and chews. I press the horn and she (or is it a he?) shakes her head and ambles off. Welcome to Highway 50, the road to the heart of Nevada.

Highway 50 leads from the emerald beauty of Lake Tahoe across more than 300 miles of sage-dappled deserts and mountains to the majesty of the new Great Basin National Park near Ely. Along the way, historic mining and farming towns perch like forgotten outposts on mountainsides and in green valleys. Jackrabbits and cottontails dash between sagebrush, avoiding barnstorming hawks. The sun-browned skeletons of miners' shacks offer shelter only to the wind. While the American West slowly vanishes, Highway 50 through

Nevada promises travelers that it will never be entirely lost.

Some truckers and other destination-hungry travelers prefer Interstate 80, because they can legally drive 65 mph on some stretches. If you get caught driving that fast on Highway 50, you'll be cited for "wasting a natural resource" (gas), rather than speeding, usually a \$5 fine.

But most Highway 50 travelers are more concerned with the journey than the destination. There's something about ambling along the two-lane track that relaxes the muscles in your right foot and encourages lazy introspection. Maybe it's all that space: skies that stretch out forever, valleys not easily hedged by mountains, miles of open range where cattle have priority over cars. The hypnotic yellow road markings don't have a beginning or end. The night air is so clear that a radio can intercept signals from

*Not-too-lonely Highway 50
winds and twists its way across
Nevada. Stops for the weary
traveler include Austin, Eu-
reka, Fallon and Carson City,
the state capital.*



other states, countries—and probably worlds.

Sometimes there is no other traffic as far as you can see and you begin to understand the feelings of solitude experienced by the range cowboy hunting a stray calf or a Pony Express rider galloping through the darkness. About half the route parallels the original Pony Express Trail, and you can still find the stone remains of some of the stations along the route.

Last year *Life Magazine* called Highway 50 across Nevada "The Loneliest Road in America." While some people might get angry about such a claim, the folks on Highway 50 were so proud they developed Highway 50 Survival Kits for travelers and successfully petitioned the 1987 State Legislature to erect signs along the route carrying that designation.

But it's not *that* lonely. From Stateline on

the south shore of Lake Tahoe, Highway 50, along with its alternate offshoots, passes through Carson City, Dayton, Silver Springs, Hazen, Fernley, Fallon, Austin, Eureka, and Ely. Each town is as unique as the road it straddles.

Carson City, east of Lake Tahoe, is the state capital and home of the state museum and state railroad museum. Mark Twain once covered the legislature here as a newsman for the *Territorial Enterprise*, and his brother's house still stands in the historic district.

Ten miles farther east is Dayton, one of the state's oldest communities. The tiny town was the site of the gold strike that led to the discovery of the fabulous Comstock Lode up the canyon in Virginia City. Situated on the banks of the Carson River, Dayton survived the rush as a farming town. When director John Huston needed

a spot to film *The Misfits*, Dayton filled the bill. Hence the town's second claim to fame came when Clark Gable, Marilyn Monroe, Montgomery Clift, and Thelma Ritter parked their dressing rooms there.

Tiny Hazen was the site of the state's last lynching, while Fernley and Silver Springs are, respectively, the gateways to Pyramid Lake and the Lahontan Reservoir.

The cowtown of Fallon produces world famous Heart O' Gold cantaloupes and was the beneficiary of the nation's first federal water reclamation project. The Naval Air Station in Fallon is one of the country's top military pilot training schools and site for some of the filming of *Top Gun*.

Eureka and Austin in the middle of Highway 50's sojourn across Nevada are arguably the state's best uncorrupted turn-of-the-century mining camps. Austin has three splendid 19th-century churches,



The Loneliest Road is a storehouse of history. Fort Churchill harks back to its former glory days, when it was a Civil War stronghold. Below, the fort's museum gives visitors a glimpse of the past. Above, railroad tracks near Fallon.



and Eureka also has an amazing array of historic buildings. In both towns, it's easy to imagine life a century ago as you walk the dusty, unpaved side streets.

Conversely, Ely has a Norman Rockwell ambiance. There's a white bandstand in the city park, a corner drugstore that serves shakes, and a J.C. Penney's with wooden floors. The school plays are sell-outs.

Copper mining in the area ceased in the early part of this decade, but the scars remain. Outside of Ely, near Ruth, is a man-made mountain of tailings scraped from a massive open pit mine.

Ely also is home of the Nevada Northern Railway, one of the finest preserved short-line railroads in the country. Built by the copper companies, the Nevada Northern once linked the Ruth mine with Ely and the smelter at McGill.

An hour from Ely, just south of Highway

50, is the new Great Basin National Park. The park contains limestone caverns, bristlecone pines, and many other features representative of the Great Basin, a geologic region that includes much of Nevada, Utah, Southern Oregon, and Northern California. Thousands of years ago, the Great Basin was a giant inland sea. Today it is a series of unique wide valleys and mountain ranges—many of which are best explored from Highway 50.

Of course, Highway 50 also is characterized by the people who live along the way. To survive in such relative remoteness they are an independent lot. Television signals are too far away to pick up with conventional antennas, so satellite dishes—jokingly called the real Nevada State Flower—are everywhere.

Highway 50 is their lifeline. Food, mail, and big-city newspapers arrive via High-

way 50, not to mention curious tourists on their way to the big cities.

Mining and ranching remain mainstays of many of the towns' economies. At nights the bars and cafes fill with miners fresh from their digs, and cowboys with dusty boots and sweat stains on their Stetsons.

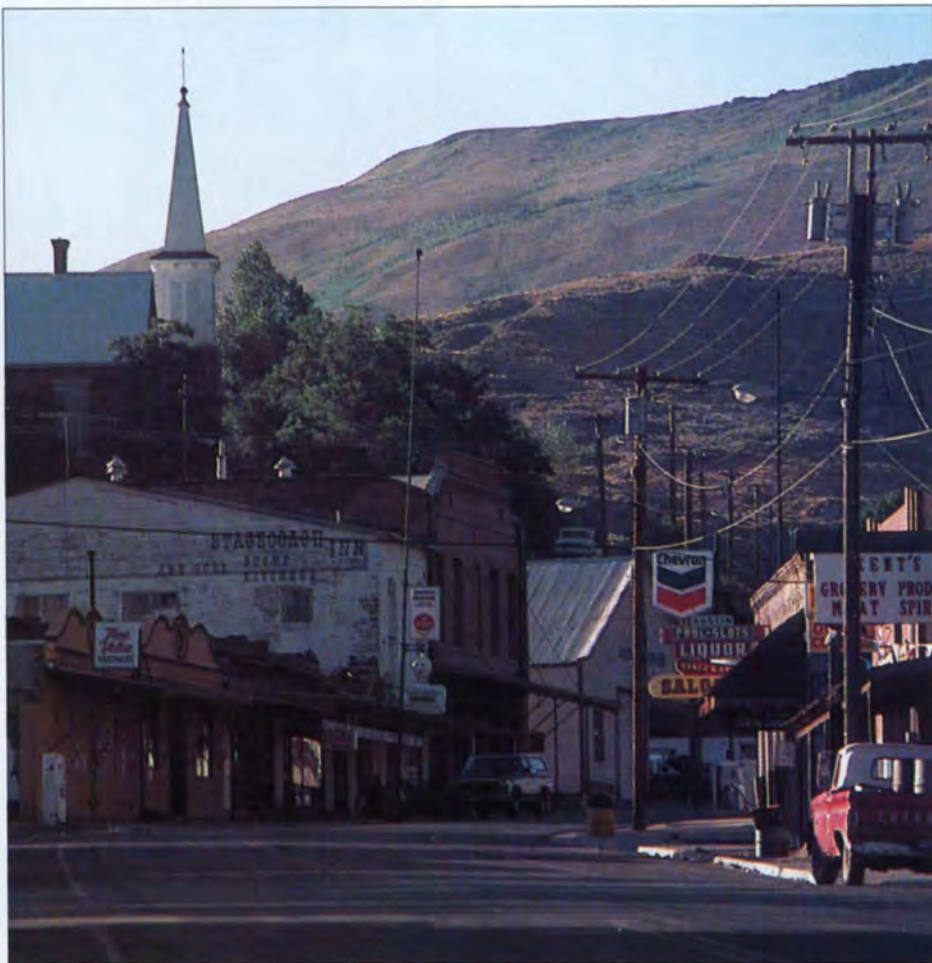
Traveling Highway 50, you see it's something more than just a road between Utah and California. It's the fragrant smell of the sagebrush and juniper. It is the warm feeling of stripping off your clothes and sliding into a desert hot spring near the road. It is the sight of a cowboy guiding a herd of cattle across the high desert.

In the end, Highway 50 is just far enough away from civilization to be civilized. □

Richard Moreno frequently travels Highway 50 on missions for the Nevada Commission on Tourism.



Two towns along Highway 50 are Eureka, above, and Austin, at right. Waitress Monica Heckelthorn, below, exhibits the road's distinction with a Hwy 50 T-shirt while standing in front of an emphatic sign.



The Real Loneliest Road: Highway 93

You think Highway 50 is lonely? Well, you haven't seen lonely until you've traveled the 109-mile stretch of U.S. Highway 93 from Ely to Pioche.

Andy Mathiesen of the Nevada Department of Transportation says that Highway 93 is the least traveled primary highway in the state, averaging 550 to 700 cars a day.

Records show that the 63-mile span from Major's Place (east of Ely) to Pioche averages 205 cars a day and in some spots drops as low as 195 vehicles a day.

Mathiesen said part of the reason for the low traffic counts on Highway 93 is that much of the truck traffic heading south from Ely takes State Route 318—the Sunnyside Cutoff—because it's 35 miles shorter.

Other lightly traveled highways in the state include Highway 6 from Ely to Tonopah. The average daily count on Highway 6 is 225 to 335 cars, and people in the area swear most of those are trucks carrying crude from the oil wells in the Railroad Valley.

However, if you're looking at all primary and secondary roads in the state, the truly loneliest stretch of road would most likely be State Route 375 from Hiko to Warm Springs in the southeastern part of the state. Only 80 cars travel the 98-mile span each day and the number one activity for many motorists—besides dodging cows—is searching the skies for a glimpse of a Stealth bomber.—RM



Becoming a champion doesn't just happen. Greg LeMond, shown at top in 1977 with Jack Hartman, another Nevada cycling great, developed his skills riding the back roads of Reno. The Coors Classic visits Tahoe's east shore, above, and downtown Reno this August during its 1,374-mile run.

BICYCLING IN NEVADA

With stars like Greg LeMond, Inga Thompson Benedict, and Jack Hartman zooming through the streets, Nevada is becoming a world-famous cycling mecca.
By Buddy Frank



A list of differences between Northwestern France and Northwestern Nevada would be as long as the trip from the Britany seacoast to the high Sierra. In fact, the regions seem to have just one peculiar similarity: champion cyclists.

Understanding the French connection is easy. Bikes outnumber Fiats and Renaults by a wide margin there, and the Tour de France bicycle race is their Superbowl.

But who can explain what's happening in Nevada? Until recently, most Americans considered cycling something you did on a Harley or a Honda. Bicycles were ridden by kids, not athletes, and the Tour de France sounded like something you arranged through a travel agent.

Those attitudes are changing, and it's largely due to some Nevadans who have cranked cycling into the national spotlight. In the last few years the Reno area has spawned riders responsible for more than a dozen national championships, including three Olympic team members; a first, second, and third in the Tour de France; and a handful of gold, silver, and bronze medals at the World Championships.

For most Americans today, Reno's Greg LeMond symbolizes bike racing. His dramatic victory in last season's Tour de France made headlines and prime times worldwide. For the sport, it was a turning

point, much like the boost Jean Claude Killy gave to skiing or the attention to gymnastics created by Olga Korbut's gold medals.

LeMond's hometown became even more newsworthy when another Reno rider, 22-year-old Inga Thompson Benedict, took a third place in the women's division of the same event. Inga first drew attention when she was named to the U.S. Olympic cycling team just months after she took up the sport in 1984. Now she had become the second American ever to place in the Tour de France.

The French are wondering what's going on in the Nevada desert, a question that has been puzzling U.S. cycling officials for years.

In addition to LeMond and Benedict, Reno's Jack Hartman has won the U.S. National Sprint title in each and every age division since he first was declared junior champion when he was 16. Kim and Judy Layton of Reno recently won national titles in the 25-mile Individual Time Trials. And Max Jones of Incline Village is now rated in the top 10 in the new sport of mountain bike racing.

There is definitely something special about cycling in the Silver State.

LeMond is quick to credit the terrain around his family's Washoe Valley home for his rise to the top. "I'd have to say that Reno and the area were vital to my success. Nowhere except maybe Colorado can you have such training."

Few locals will forget the impressive

sight during the late 1970s of young LeMond charging up Geiger Grade on the way to Virginia City or sprinting down Spooner Summit from Lake Tahoe with only his father Bob able to keep the pace. Today, no one in the world can keep the pace, and the champ credits those early rides. "This is the best area to grow up in America [for a cyclist] with the altitude and the mountains."

However, LeMond is the first to admit that there are some serious shortcomings to cycling in the Sierra. Since turning pro he does much of his domestic training near his new home in the Sacramento foothills. "In the winter, it's impossible to train the amount of hours I do in 35-degree weather."

Jack Hartman, who was one of LeMond's early role models, also has some mixed feelings about the area. "Too many of the secondary roads are unpaved, and the winter weather is a real deterrent." But the 1960 Olympic team member is also full of praise. "For a developing cyclist, the mountains here are magnificent. They are challenging and accessible. If you train in Los Angeles or New York, you'll simply never experience the pain of climbing Monitor Pass or know what it takes to descend on a bike at 60 miles per hour."

The veteran competitor who seemingly wins a national title every time he competes thinks it is more than a matter of geography that makes Nevada cyclists successful. "Obviously the open terrain helps, but the

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open, independent attitude of Nevada has a lot more to do with it. People here do something because they want to do it, not because someone else wants them to do it. That's the kind of orneriness that makes a champion."

He feels that many potential LeMonds are destroyed by an American sports system that exerts undue pressure on young athletes. "Here they don't care what the rest of the world thinks, they just let people do their own thing. Where else can a 50-year-old like myself pedal around in skin tights and have no one give a damn?"

He credits this attitude for producing such diverse Nevada champions as the drag racing Yuill Brothers, alpine skier Eva Twardokens, off-road racer Rod Hall, golfer Patty Sheehan, speed skier Steve McKinney, and bowler Pam Buckner.

Other cyclists agree. Reno bike shop owner Jeff Sanchez, who markets Team LeMond cycling products worldwide, says, "The active and independent lifestyle in Northern Nevada is as responsible as the mountains. Greg took up cycling to stay in shape for skiing, and Inga was a top road runner looking to rehabilitate after an injury. Cycling is growing so rapidly in the area because there are so many active skiers, runners, and tri-athletes."

Whatever the reasons that originally motivated LeMond and Benedict, they themselves are now the motivators. Two years ago, LeMond was influential in getting the

Coors Classic bicycle race routed through Reno. Now 20,000 spectators each year have an opportunity to see the world's best cyclists spin through the area. When those racers hit the streets of The Biggest Little City, sales of racing gear skyrocket.

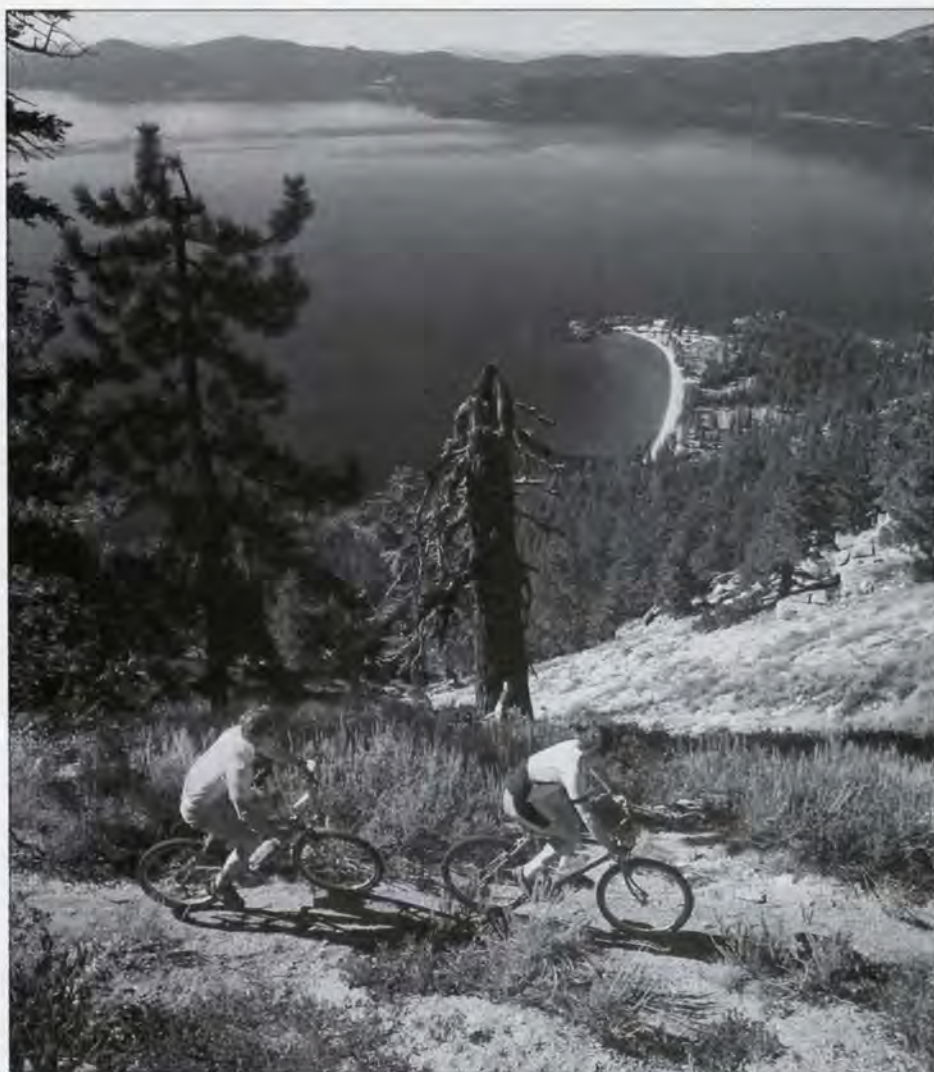
LeMond's 1986 Tour de France victory demonstrated to young athletes that cycling was just as good a way as football or baseball to earn a White House reception and prime-time TV exposure.

As a spinoff, three Reno bike shops now specialize in performance and racing bikes. Together, they sponsor a Tuesday and Thursday evening racing series that each week attracts hundreds of riders, from national class racers to novice pedalers.

While a freak hunting-accident injury sidetracked LeMond's 1987 racing plans, the cycling seed that he and Inga Thompson Benedict planted in Northern Nevada continues to grow.

Given the proper nurturing on the nearby Sierra, the French could soon see a whole new wave of Nevadans with their sights set on the Tour de France. □

Reno freelancer Buddy Frank took up bike racing in Northern Nevada in 1975, the same year as Greg LeMond. He says he soon saw that the only way he'd make any money from cycling was to write about it.



Mountain Biking

Blazing trails through the boonies on a bike.

If you aren't up to the rigors of the Tour de France or the perils of dodging cars, a mountain bike could be for you. During the last two years, this bike has taken Nevada by storm. Shops in Las Vegas, Reno, and Tahoe say sales of mountain bikes are well ahead of those for lightweight racing bikes, and the margin is growing every season.

The reason is simple. Mountain bikes are perfect for Nevada. With wide tires, upright handlebars, and beefed-up frames, they are the cycling equivalent of a Jeep. Dirt roads are a Nevada specialty, and these rutted and sandy tracks are ideal for mountain bikes.

The first mountain bikes appeared in the mid-'70s when some California hippies bolted high-performance gear changers from racing bikes onto the old fat-tired commuter bikes of the 1960s. The combination was perfect for back-country transpor-

tation. The fad soon caught the attention of custom frame builders who started turning out mountain bikes from scratch.

In 1984, mass manufacturers jumped on the bandwagon and mountain bike sales began to soar. Beginning riders particularly appreciate their durability and ease of riding. The mountain bike has introduced hundreds of riders to the sport of cycling who would never have submitted to the uncomfortable low crouch of the racing bike or its asphalt restrictions.

Even some road racers are becoming fans. Greg LeMond trains on a mountain bike, and so does nearly every other cyclist who lives where there's a problem with winter weather. Since these machines are equally at home in mud and snow, racers can abandon their boring indoor stationary bikes and take to the hills.

Whether you're a competitor or beginner, these new bikes offer a good alternative to traditional cycling. Basic mountain bikes begin at under \$300, while custom jobs can quickly exceed \$3,000.—BF

THE HIP-O RANCH



B Y C H E T M E Y E R

THE HIP-O-RANCH LIES MIGHTY BIG,
AND SPREADS TO THE EAST OF OLD TONOPAH.
THE CATTLE ARE BRANDED WITH THE BIG "O" ON THE HIP.
THERE'S THE MOUNTAINS AND DESERTS, THE HEAT AND THE COLD.
IF YOU'RE NOT FREEZING TO DEATH, YOU'RE DYING OF THIRST.
IT SEEMS THERE'S NOTHING JUST RIGHT ON THE OLD HIP-O.

FROM SITTING UP HIGH HERE ON THE DIVIDE
I CAN SEE THE LIGHTS OF OLD TONOPAH.
THE BOYS ARE DOWN THERE A WHOOPING IT UP
FOR TODAY WAS PAYDAY AND THEY HEADED FOR TOWN.
I'D SURE LIKE TO BE WITH THEM AND JOIN THEIR FUN
BUT WHEN YOU'RE BOSS THERE'S ALWAYS WORK TO BE DONE.
IT SEEMS THERE'S NOTHING JUST RIGHT ON THE OLD HIP-O.

I CAN ALMOST VISUALIZE WHAT IS HAPPENING.
THEY'VE HAD TIME TO REACH TOWN AND HAVE A FEW DRINKS.
CURLY BILL AFTER A DRINK WILL CHALLENGE THE BAR,
AND IF THERE'S NO TAKERS HE'LL CHALLENGE THE TOWN
TILL SOMEONE CLOBBERS HIM AND PUTS HIM TO SLEEP.

LITTLE SHORTY'S A GOOD BUCKAROO, HE'LL DANCE
WITH THE GIRLS TILL HIS MONEY'S ALL GONE.
SLIM GEORGE AFTER A BEER HE'LL START TO CRY.
THE MORE HE DRINKS THE MORE HE'LL CRY.
SOMETHING IN HIS PAST MUST OF SURELY GONE WRONG.
THEY'LL SPEND THEIR MONEY LIKE IT'S GOING OUT OF STYLE.
IF THE GAMBLING DON'T BREAK THEM, THE GIRLS SURELY WILL.
IT SEEMS THERE'S NOTHING JUST RIGHT ON THE OLD HIP-O.

AT SUNUP THEY'LL HEAD HOME ALL BROKE, SICK, AND SORRY
SAYING TO EACH OTHER THAT IS THE LAST TIME—NEVER AGAIN.
THEY WILL WORK BEFORE SUNUP AND AFTER SUNDOWN
AND TELL OF OTHER WAYS TO MAKE A GOOD LIVING.
BUT WHEN PAYDAY COMES AROUND THEY'LL HEAD FOR TOWN.
IT'S THEIR WAY OF LIFE, THEY NEVER WILL CHANGE.
IT SEEMS THERE'S NOTHING JUST RIGHT ON THE OLD HIP-O.

CHET MEYER OF GOLDFIELD SPENT 20 YEARS WORKING ON RANCHES
AND HEADING FOR TOWN ON PAYDAY.

Illustration: John Bardwell

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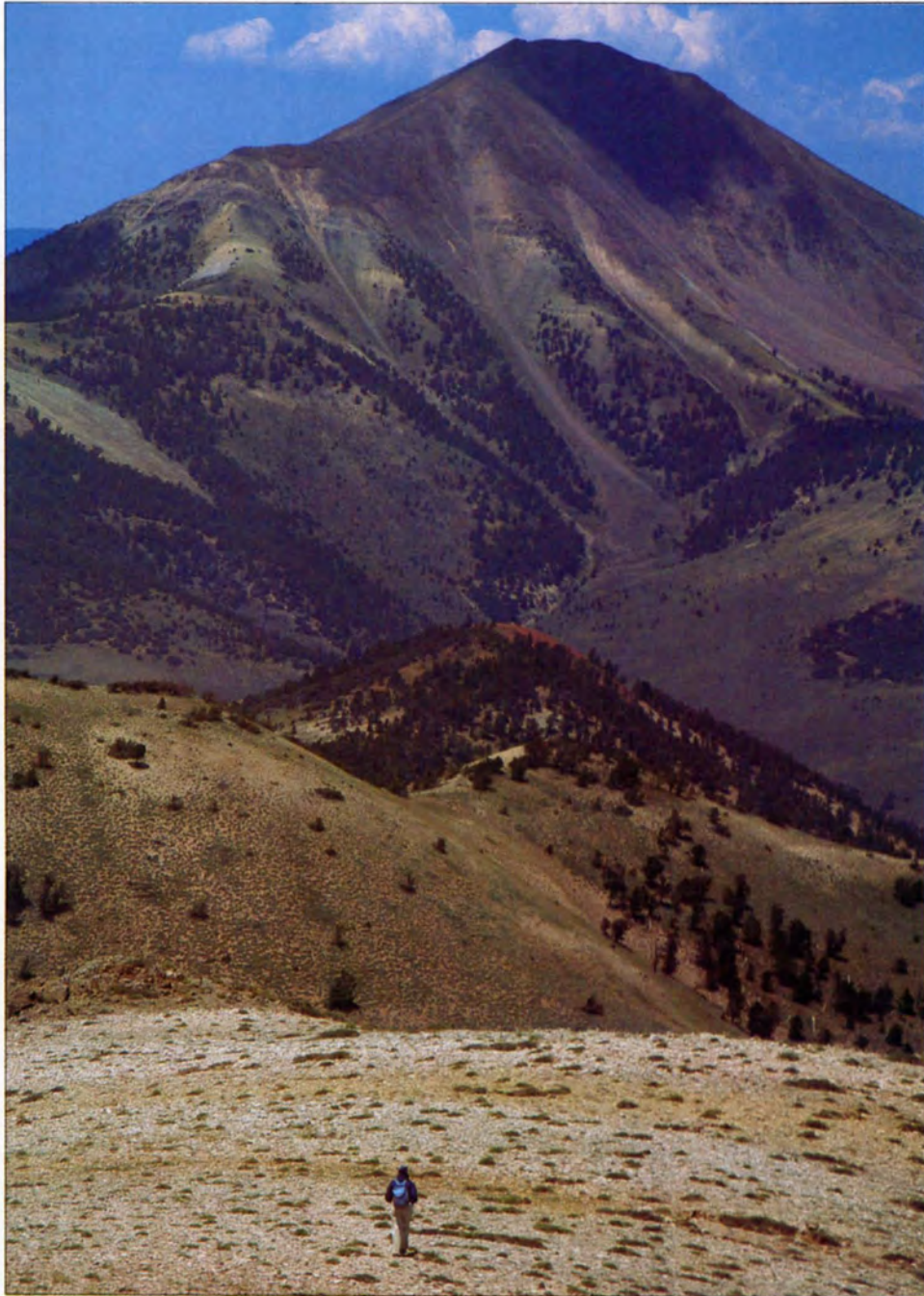
McCarran 2000



GALLERY



A lone canoe floats lazily on Lake Tahoe while dawn colors the waters. At this hour, the lake shows a tranquil, secluded side of its beauty. Truckee photographer Larry Prosor captured this scene from a friend's house on the shoreline.



Trek To Toiyabe Dome

A midsummer hike in the peaceful mountains of Central Nevada.
By Rose Strickland

The familiar outlines of Arc Dome, the highest point in the Toiyabe Range, came into view at the end of an easy hike up the south fork of the South Twin River. Although my husband, Dennis, and I had climbed the popular 11,718-foot peak many times, we had a different goal in mind for this high summer trip—Toiyabe Dome, a little visited peak in the remote southeastern corner of the range.

For us, any hike in the Toiyabe Range is worthwhile. The solitude, beauty, and adventure we had found on previous trips more than made up for the long drive from Reno. We chose Toiyabe Dome, which is midway between Austin and Tonopah, because we were hungry for an easygoing, enjoyable climb in the wilderness. Also, because the dome is earmarked for inclusion in a book I'm writing on hiking in Nevada.

This hike began at the trailhead just inside the boundary of the

Once we startled a band of bucks lying in a thicket of mountain mahogany. They jumped up and ran, and we chased them, hoping for a closer look, but they were much too fast for us.

Toiyabe National Forest. We were tempted to stop after seeing trout in shady pools along the rushing creek. But instead of dropping a line, we ambled up the trail. Our route took us through miles of cottonwoods, willows, and wildflowers along the sinuous curves of the gentle canyon.

When we arrived at our base camp at the headwaters of the South Twin River, Dennis began searching for fresh drinking water in a green area on the opposite slope. Although there were creeks below camp, we had noticed a few cattle upstream. We have learned over the years to seek pure water from springs.

I spent my time setting up camp and basking in the late afternoon sun. The fragrant smell of sage, wet from recurring showers, and a concert of birdsongs lulled me into a half-doze. But I snapped awake at the barnyard sounds of a clucking sage grouse. A male sage grouse about the size of a chicken took flight while his covey flocked to a thicket of willows. After a few minutes the male ended his aerial inspection of the strange intruder and rejoined his covey near the creek.

Settling down again, I was struck anew by the beauty of the little valley nestled at the foot of the towering peaks. Far enough away from the rain shadow of the Sierra, this verdant range draws enough rain and snow to beget sizable streams. The abundant native trout, deer, bighorn sheep, and pinenuts attracted the Shoshone, whose word *toyap* (mountain) became Toiyabe.

The spectacular views and abundant wildlife did not long delay explorers such as John Fremont, who passed through Big Smoky Valley in 1845. Prospectors and miners followed the explorers. Many canyons soon rang with the clamor of picks, shovels, and dynamite as men excavated millions of dollars worth of gold and silver from the hills. Ranchers and farmers moved in to supply the boom camps. Their descendants still run cattle in the Toiyabes, sharing the peaceful mountains only with hunters, fishermen, and hikers.

Dennis soon returned with fresh water,

and we began preparing a dinner of beef stroganoff, with apple cobbler for dessert. After dinner we had to retreat to our tent to avoid a rain squall.

The next morning, after a quick breakfast of hot cereal and fruit, we were off before 7 a.m., hoping to reach the summit before the afternoon thunderstorms could catch us. Although this approach to Toiyabe Dome was one of the easiest, and the route up to the low pass on the slope opposite our camp was short, the going was very steep. Still, we reached the main ridge in an hour. We moseyed along, enjoying the amazingly clear, cool, bright day, keeping a watchful eye on the few puffy clouds. We walked easily down to saddles and puffed up the ridges, lingering in park-like meadows and tall groves of limber pine. Once, we startled a band of bucks who had been lying in snug beds in a small mahogany thicket. They jumped up and ran, and we chased them, hoping for a closer look, but they were much too fast for us.

The view to the east into Belcher Canyon was spectacular. Lush and well-watered, the canyon shimmered as its tall grasses danced in the wind. We were glad we had chosen the roundabout approach to Toiyabe Dome instead of the more direct route up Belcher Canyon. From our vantage point, we could see that Belcher was a twisting, almost impenetrable canyon dropping 4,000 feet into Big Smoky Valley.

We soon left the treeline, passing the last of the struggling limber pine. Less than a mile from Toiyabe Dome we encountered a steep, talus-covered peak with the accurate if uninteresting name of Peak 11,144. Negotiating the unstable rock fragments would have been difficult if we had not stumbled onto a good trail that skirted the east side of the peak. We soon found the bedding sites and fresh signs of the high-mountain trailblazers—bighorn sheep.

It was nearing noon as we reached the summit of Toiyabe Dome, well in advance of the thunderstorm. The radiant skies, piercing air, and dizzying drop to the valleys below filled our hearts with joy. Stunning views stretched out in all directions. East, past Big Smoky Valley, Mount Jefferson crowned the Toiyama Range and Table Mountain rose from the Monitors. Beyond that, ranges faded into ranges. South, the ridge on which we stood reared into several steep horns before descending toward Tonopah. West was the densely-wooded Shoshone Range, and beyond that the faint outline of the Sierra.

To celebrate, Dennis set out a lunch of apples and cheese, and I recorded our names in a notebook, which we left in the summit cairn as a mountain register. Then we blew up two balloons to mark our July birthdays and tied them to the cairn.

But soon the sky became more cloudy than sunny, and thunder began to roll across the mountains and echo off the cliffs. We cut short our celebration and quickly retraced our route down the mountain, spurred on by cracks of lightning in the

distance. The route in reverse was just as enjoyable and much easier, since it was mostly downhill. Unexpectedly, we discovered an alternate trail that gently traversed the slope through cool groves of mountain mahogany. It eventually became indistinct on a rocky, brush-covered slope, about a half mile from our camp.

Later, after a chicken cacciatore dinner and a few more thundershowers, we watched a brilliant sunset. The peaks around us, framed by black clouds, glowed golden in the sun's last rays. As we listened to the evening songs of birds, frogs, and insects, we agreed that we'd rather be in the Toiyabes than in any other place in the world. □

Reno writer Rose Strickland's guidebook to climbing Nevada peaks will feature nearly three dozen ascents.

Trails in the Toiyabes



To get to the Toiyabe Dome trailhead from Las Vegas, go north 207 miles on Highway 95 to Tonopah, east five miles on Highway 6, north 63 miles on Highway 376, and west five miles when you reach the sign marked "South Twin River."

From Reno, go east about 182 miles on Highway 50, south 37 miles on Highway 376, and west again at the South Twin River sign.

Here's a sample of the equipment you'll need for a three-day summer basecamp trip: backpack, tent, hiking boots, sleeping bag and pad, daypack, rain gear, warm clothes, food, camp stove and fuel, pots, cup, eating utensils, suntan lotion, moleskin, a hat, and iodine tablets. Optional: change of clothes, camera, binoculars. You should also get the following maps: Arc Dome, Nev, 7.5 minute map, 1980, and Carvers, Nev, 7.5 minute map, 1971.

Other moderate backpacking trips in the Toiyabe National Forest include Arc Dome, Mount Jefferson, and Table Mountain.

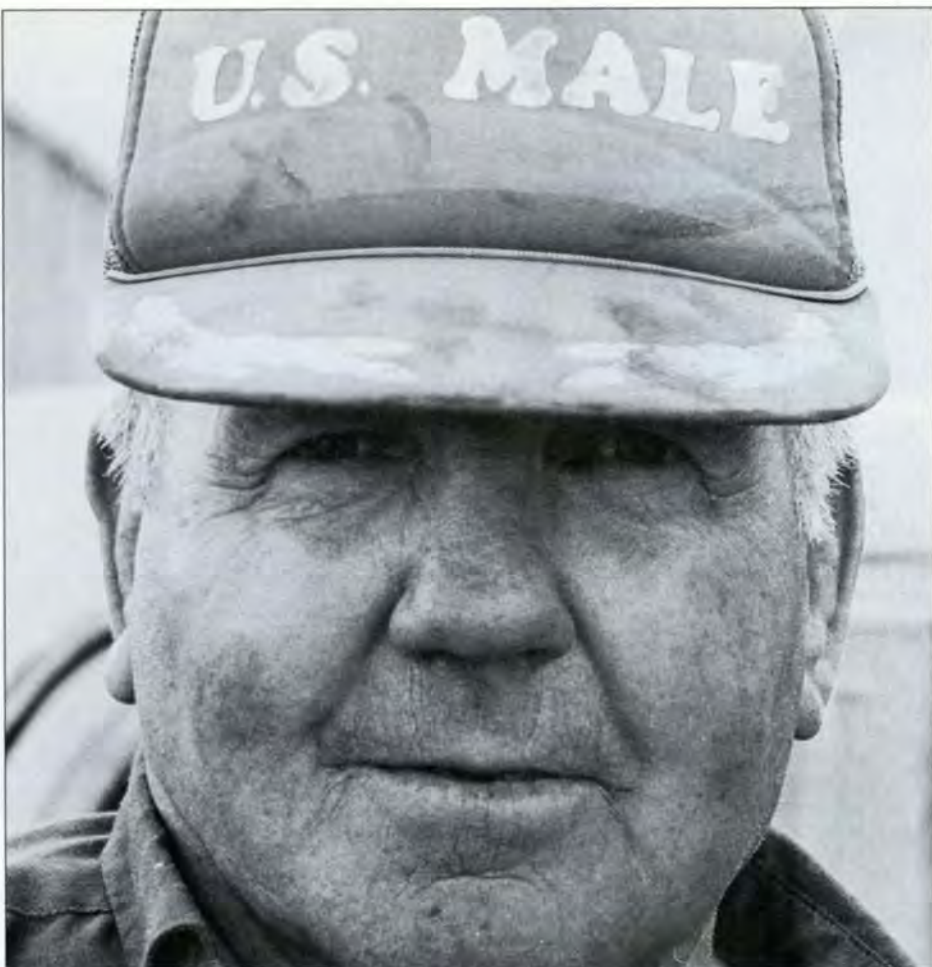
For Arc Dome, try the loop trip up the North Twin River trail to the peak and hike out on the South Twin River trail. A good route to the three 12,000-foot peaks of Mount Jefferson is to follow the Pine Creek trail out of Monitor Valley. And 10-mile-long, 10,000-foot-high Table Mountain in the Monitor Range is accessible from the Mosquito Creek trail, also out of Monitor Valley.

Write: Toiyabe National Forest, 1200 Franklin Way, Sparks, NV 89431, or call 702-784-5331.—RS

Junior Plumb and the Winnemucca Mail Stage

When you live in the Nevada outback, getting the mail can be the social event of the week.

By Carolyn Dufurrena



N

oon. The heat shimmers on the highway. You are 85 miles north of Winnemucca, standing on the shoulder of the two-lane asphalt ribbon

known as State Route 140, kicking stones. In the wavering distance, a white spot appears and disappears in the heat waves. Finally, the mirage grows into a battered white van that comes blasting down the road, spraying gravel as it pulls off near the tipped-over 55-gallon drum that is your mailbox.

Roostertails of mud cling in a dingy arc to the bashed-in side doors. A peek through the hazy windows reveals three spare tires, 20 gallons of gasoline, several water jugs, ropes, an impressive collection of tools, and some big canvas bags. Numerous crate-sized boxes scrawled with the names of different ranches hold bottles of Clorox and bunches of bananas. There's duct tape on the seats and a U.S. Mail sticker in the corner of the windshield.

"Well, here's your letters. These your swather blades? Okay, okay," says Junior Plumb as he picks through the piles. "Here's the harrowbed spring, case of air filters, and I think you've got groceries, too. Yep, here they are. No, the lollipop's not for you, it's for your kid. Bye now." And he's off in a cloud of dust and gravel.

Junior has been driving what locals call "the stage" between Winnemucca and Denio, a distance of roughly 220 miles round-trip, since 1962. He started out driving on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays. But last year service was extended to six days a week. "I cover a good 12,000 miles a month on this route," he says. "I've carried stuff out here for Craig Moore [a local farmer] that I couldn't even pick up. We had to get a forklift to unload it. Had this old van so full of stuff you couldn't stick a broomstick in it." He beams with pride.

Delivering the mail out here has its own set of occupational hazards. In May of 1984, a high-water year, the playa lake bed in Desert Valley filled up—and stayed full all summer. The road was still drivable part of the time, but it was under water for three miles across the middle of the valley. Junior and everybody else who needed to get

through dodged nesting ducks and killdeer that were swimming through the waterlogged sagebrush. As long as you kept your eye on the yellow line six inches under the water, and went only five miles per hour, you could get through most of the time.

It's drier today, and Junior is carrying mostly mail and groceries. Notes are stuck to the dashboard, the steering wheel, the window: "Stop at bakery." "Get 11/16ths bolts for T."

"This is a regular freight business," he says, pushing his cap, which reads "U.S. Male," back on his shiny head. "I have a contract with the post office to deliver the mail, but the freight customers each pick up their own costs. I bill you or you can pay when you get the stuff. Suit yourself." Junior will even bring movies out from the local video palace for a buck a shot. Great for those long winter evenings on the range.

Junior bought the freight contract for \$2,500 from John Thompson, the last stage driver. Thompson even sold him the ton-and-a-half pickup then known as the "stagecoach."

"It carried everything: food, wood, soda pop in cases for the bar. It used to carry coal and oil, too, until the ranches went to



The cab may not be the most organized place in the world and the van itself seems on the road to a destruction derby, but Junior Plumb knows what it takes to get the mail to the far reaches of Humboldt County.

propane in '63 or '64," Junior recalls.

Before the highway went through in 1949 the road from Winnemucca to Denio was a two-rut track through alkali flats and granite-sand washes. In those days the stage made two deliveries a week, but each round trip took two days.

On such a road accidents were inevitable with the old open truck. One rancher recalls occasionally finding packages in the desert, miles from the nearest ranch house. "One time we really made a find," he grins. "It was a brand-new dining room set. The box broke open in the fall from the truck." Although this find was delivered to its rightful owner, a shipment of hard candy intended for the Denio mercantile "never did get there," according to the then pint-sized treasure hunter who happened on that bonanza.

Calamity in the wilderness was sometimes unavoidable. It struck the old open-

bed stagecoach one day when one of Junior's predecessors flipped a cigarette out the window. The wind blew the hot butt back onto his federally-insured cargo, which, in turn, burned to a crisp. Although the pickup-stagecoach survived the incident, Junior figured it was safer to deliver the mail in a van. And the old truck? "I turned it into a boom truck. I load hay with it out in Paradise Valley," Junior says.

For the ranchers, prospectors, and desert rats that inhabit this remote part of the state, meeting the stage can be a social event. They line up in Denio after lunch to pick up letters, packages, and special items like naval jelly (Junior picks it up, you give him the \$2.89 when he gets there). Everyone exchanges gossip and coupons for toothpaste in pumps, to find out about cow prices and what's happening down the line. The ladies gather at the only public spot open for business in Denio, the Diamond Inn bar

across the street from the post office. These women may live as far as 50 miles from Denio, and sometimes this is their only opportunity to talk to other women.

Junior usually pays his respects to the ladies after he unloads the northbound mail. "I only stay long enough to get 'em stirred up," he says, "never long enough to really get in trouble." Then he's off again with the southbound canvas bags, which will be relayed to Reno for sorting and then returned to Winnemucca for delivery. Sometimes it takes a week to get a letter to a neighbor, unless of course you send it with Junior as freight. Sounds a little round-about, but the citizens of Denio, which straddles the Oregon border, had to send their Winnemucca-bound mail through Harney County, Oregon, until 1951. That's when the post office at Denio was established, and it's still one of the most isolated mail drops in the U.S.

While Denioites enjoy the luxury of P.O. boxes, local ranchers still watch the highway through field glasses on mail day as the last letters are sealed and the last bills are stamped. You can tell when to leave for the mailbox, which may be a mile or more from the house, when you see that white spot wavering on the horizon. Then you fly down the gravel road to the mailbox, especially if you've ordered groceries. (You can't imagine what happens to a crate of bananas after soaking up an hour of roadside sunshine.) If the white spot turns out to be some RV from British Columbia instead of the stage, you sit on the roadside waiting. You curse when it's late. You curse when it's early and you miss the drop.

And Junior curses, too. "There's nothin' that makes me madder than seein' these guys with all this heavy equipment who can't take the time to level their mailbox turnarounds," he says. (Junior has a land-leveling business in Paradise Valley when he's not driving the mail.) Still, Junior says, it all works out in the end. "After one minor incident," he recalls, "I found a little treat in a mailbox down the road. Attached to it was a note that read 'Here's a Peace of cake for you.'" He grins.

Fringe benefits notwithstanding, the people in these remote valleys depend on the stage today the same way they did a century ago. The schedules and the cargos may be somewhat different, but the service is just as important.

Junior, who's been known to blow his own horn once or twice, has said that ranchers and farmers "just couldn't survive without me."

Still, he has to agree with the guy behind the counter at Victory Supply, the parts store in Winnemucca, who pays some freight of his own. "Yeah, but Junior," he says, "you couldn't survive without them either." Impervious, Junior just cackles that tenor laugh, climbs aboard his van, and spins off down the road. □

Carolyn Dufurrena has picked up a lot of mail and groceries from Junior Plumb.

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LURED BY WIDE OPEN SPACES, A DRY CLIMATE, AND SENIOR SERVICES, MORE OLDER AMERICANS ARE FINDING THE GOOD LIFE IN NEVADA.

BY JOHN S. MILLER

It is clear that, as a place to retire, Nevada has been discovered. For one thing, Nevadans of retirement age represent the fastest-growing segment of the state's population. Furthermore, older Americans are flocking to Nevada faster than to any other state except Alaska.

Consider that between 1980 and 1985, Nevada's 65-and-over population increased 41 percent. Alaska was first in this particular demographic derby with 47 percent, and Hawaii was a slow third at 30 percent. Washington, D.C., and New York were last and next to last with growth rates under 5 percent.

It is easy to understand why someone would not want to grow older in New York or D.C. However, the enthusiasm for Nevada does give momentary pause.

Experts say that a mild climate and ready access to water recreation are key factors when senior citizens chose a place to retire. Of course, if those were the only criteria, everyone over age 65 would be living in San Diego. But San Diego is a big city, far bigger than Las Vegas or Reno, and at retirement time many people opt for space, not crowds. And space is Nevada's most plentiful resource.

Nevada's landscape has long fascinated travelers from other parts of America. The interminable distances and the seeming emptiness of the land take hold of the senses. During the great rush to California 140 years ago, Nevada's deserts and mountains were considered dangerous, even deadly obstacles.

This perception of the state has changed little in the minds of many Americans. After driving for an hour or so without seeing another human being, a newcomer discovers his mind is starting to warp while con-

templating the vastness of it all.

However, Nevadans take satisfaction in the back-handed compliments about their isolation. After all, isolation is one of the reasons they are here. It seems that no matter how successfully people fight the career wars in New York or Los Angeles, they have a hankering—and probably always did—for clean air, a fenced backyard, a grocery store where the clerks know their name, and an unspoiled beach not far away.

Despite its population growth, Nevada continues to be one of the nation's most sparsely populated states. (It should be noted that more people migrate to California on a busy afternoon than move to Nevada in a year.) As the seventh largest state at 110,540 square miles, Nevada has a population of about 1 million, which means fewer than 10 persons to every square mile. That works out to almost 70 acres of elbow-room for each of us.

The small-town friendliness that embraces newcomers as neighbors still exists in Nevada. The fact is, four out of five people living in Nevada came from somewhere else.

Climate and Liveability

When demographic experts at Rand McNally rated 107 cities in the U.S. on their merits as retirement communities in 1984, Las Vegas and Reno earned good scores. The ratings were based on the quality of leisure living, including golf courses, museums, parks, movie houses, performing arts, public transportation, and access to water recreation. Las Vegas came in 24th and Reno 62nd.

Regarding health care facilities, Reno rated 12th and Las Vegas 39th. Nevada communities rate high because of an unusually large ratio of available hospital





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beds and other facilities. Medical costs in Nevada are among the highest in the nation for the same reason, postulated the report.

In 1985 another Rand McNally survey rated the nation's top 12 dining meccas. Reno was first and Las Vegas fourth; legendary San Francisco placed sixth.

The lack of taxes is an additional attraction for seniors. Taxes commonly assessed in other states but not in Nevada include franchise, corporate income, personal income, inventory, inheritance, estate, and gift taxes.

Housing can be expensive in a growth-oriented economy, and Nevada is no exception. A one-bedroom apartment in Reno can cost \$400 or more a month, but vacancies are not hard to find. However, although subsidized senior housing is available in the metropolitan areas, the waiting lists are quite long, and it can take years to move in.

Apartment rentals in Las Vegas are less expensive than in Reno, and so is the average price of a single-family home.

Climate is another consideration. In Nevada, residents can have cacti and date palms in their front yards, or they can live where there is snow on the ground six months a year and the cop on the beat drives a Jeep. One can have four seasons or skip winter entirely.

In Las Vegas, which is much lower in elevation than northern towns and also is several hundred miles closer to the equator, winter is kind to gardeners. The growing season in Southern Nevada is officially pegged at 250 days. Tomatoes actually have time to grow large and turn red. Melons ripen on the vine. In fact, raising garden vegetables was a primary industry in Las Vegas before casino gaming was invented.

In most of Northern Nevada, the growing season is a brief four months, meaning about 120 days between spring's last freeze and the first freezing night of fall. After the first autumn frost has risen to smite all the tomato and squash plants, Indian summer usually returns, and residents can expect weeks of sunny, warm days and clear, cool nights.

Town and Country Attractions

Many outlanders presume that Nevadans are steady customers of the state's casinos. The gaming industry does send out countless winners, but over the long haul the house always wins. That's how it stays in business and pays its state taxes.

There is, however, a warm relationship between Nevada casinos and older Americans. Most casinos court senior customers, recruiting them from all over the country with perks like travel packages, meal discounts, and money-saving coupons for food, drink, and special events.

Hotel-casinos offer top names in show business, and locals routinely take advantage of this phenomenon, whether they gamble or not.

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Fred Boyce is the first Nevada artist ever to win a Nevada Wildlife stamp art contest. His design, shown here, was selected from 52 national entrants. The painting depicts a Brook Trout going for an artificial fly — some of the most popular fly patterns used to catch trout are also in the painting.

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Fred was commissioned by the Nevada Wildlife Record Book Committee to paint each of the record book animals taken in Nevada. The committee plans to reproduce the paintings in the next edition of the Record Book. This painting is the first in the planned series of eight paintings, and depicts the Record Desert Ram taken in December 1982. The next paintings will be of the Mule Deer, Antelope, Mountain Lion, Elk, Mountain Goat, California Big Horn Sheep and Non-typical Deer.

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Nevadans are used to the desert's wide, untrampled expanse. Some think nothing of driving 200 miles round-trip to go to a high school ballgame or to dinner.

If one has ever hankered to own a horse or run a few head of cattle, Nevada is the place. Hunting, fishing, four-wheeling, hiking, and rockhounding also are easy to pursue.

Rural towns such as Fallon, Yerington, Winnemucca, Elko, and Ely have urban conveniences like drug stores, restaurants, and movie theaters. For residents interested in country living, such towns also have feed stores, veterinarians who handle animals larger than poodles, and county

agricultural agents.

All Nevada communities seem to have an insatiable need for volunteers. Political parties need precinct workers and convention-goers. Youth athletics need coaches and umpires. Hobby clubs abound. For example, in Carson City, population 35,000, there are 300 clubs, churches, and service organizations.

For all of its cowboy-on-the-range image, Nevada offers tremendous cultural diversity. The Las Vegas Symphony, Nevada Dance Theatre of Las Vegas, Nevada Opera Association of Reno, the Reno Philharmonic, North Lake Tahoe Symphony Association, and UNLV and UNR groups

regularly feature top local and world-class performers. Tiny Virginia City boasts Piper's Opera House and its summer weekends of music. Every August, Sand Harbor at Lake Tahoe hosts a Shakespearean festival on the beach.

At large events centers in Las Vegas and Reno, one can hear Luciano Pavarotti one night and Waylon Jennings on another. Popular events range from ballet to monster-truck mud races.

Within the state's university system is a network of community colleges reaching out to rural Nevadans. One can study arts, crafts, and computers or get started on a degree—and seniors get tuition discounts.

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Services to Seniors

Each state has an agency involved in developing support services for seniors. In Nevada, that responsibility falls to the State Division for Aging Services. It administers programs concerning health, nutrition, education, legal assistance, and political and social advocacy for seniors.

The division's director, Myla C. Florence, says she is not surprised that Nevada is growing as a retirement mecca. "People are looking to escape the crowds and the big city pressures of the East," she observes. "They appreciate Nevada's tax base, and the way Nevadans live appeals to an individual's streak of independence."

Florence predicts major changes for Nevada as the state's population continues to age. "There will be adaptive changes. Housing will be constructed to benefit older Americans; there will be an increased interest in geriatrics in the medical profession simply because that's where the customer growth will be.

"There will be more community involvement from older Americans. Seniors with time to give will volunteer more and become more active in society and in politics. We won't see older Nevadans going for the high-intensity jobs like governor or U.S. senator, but we'll begin seeing them more on advisory boards, councils, and working on political projects and campaigns. These people want to get involved in public service where they can use a lifetime of accumulated career expertise," she says.

The influx of seniors will be most pronounced in the Las Vegas and Reno areas, she says, but once seniors get to Nevada, they will look at the rural areas and begin gravitating to them.

Continuing health care and protection from catastrophic illnesses are the older American's principal concerns, Florence says. "There will be a tremendous crunch in health care in Nevada. The response will be special clinics for seniors and increased attention to keeping well and keeping fit."

And we'll be seeing those results as more and more seniors discover Nevada.

John S. Miller is a freelance writer living in Carson City. He says he's been feeling much older lately and is glad he's already living in his retirement community.

Las Vegas

A perfect climate all around.

By Julie Penn

When we think of retreating to a place with lots of sun and fresh air, we might be tempted by the siren song of a tropical island lush with palm trees, sandy beaches, and cool, salty breezes.

But there is another kind of siren song, the kind that sings of striking red cliffs, open spaces, and an unmarred, deep-blue sky. It is the song of the desert, with the freedom of its expanse, that brings many people to Southern Nevada.

Senior citizens have long flocked to the Southwest to retire, and for them Las Vegas has become an increasingly attractive spot to settle. It is so attractive, in fact, that Las Vegas now has perhaps the fastest-growing senior citizen population in the country.

Since 1980, the population of the Las Vegas metropolitan area has jumped from 453,087 to nearly 600,000. Statistics show that an average of 2,400 adults move into the city every month.

The senior citizen population has been growing at an even faster pace. In 1980, there were 77,674 senior citizens aged 55 and older in Las Vegas, and they made up 16.8 percent of the population. Last year, there were 104,100 seniors in the area, representing 18 percent of the total and 25 percent of the adult population.

Some seniors get to Las Vegas by plan, others by chance.

"I was on my way to Los Angeles to see some friends and stopped off here and stayed," says Frederick Conte, who has lived in Las Vegas since 1963. "The climate is part of it and also the fact that it's a small town compared to New York or Los Angeles or Dallas. And living here is not quite as expensive as other places."

The dry climate, mild winters, inexpensive living, and the size of the senior community in Las Vegas are reasons often cited by seniors who have moved to America's most famous gaming mecca. And although many retirees are not particularly interested in gambling, they find the clubs offer a number of attractive by-products, such as low-cost meals and late hours.

"A lot of seniors don't sleep at night and like the idea of a 24-hour town," says Sydel Pearson, chief of senior center programming for the City of Las Vegas.

During the daytime, the three city-run senior centers have activities ranging from Brazilian embroidery to tap dancing. The Senior Trippers program offers travel at discount rates. There also are various free and low-cost services. One is the free weatherizing of senior citizens' homes. Thanks to a \$50,000 yearly grant by Southwest Gas, nearly 1,000 homes and mobile homes a year are provided with hot-water heater

blankets, caulking around doors and windows, and advice on energy conservation. Although seniors must have an annual income between \$7,872 and \$24,000 to qualify for the free service, those who do not are referred to other helpful agencies.

The city also has attorneys working full time with senior citizens on legal questions. At the Senior Citizens Law Project, the lawyers do not handle divorces, malpractice cases, or criminal matters, but they do give free assistance with wills, social security problems, landlord-tenant disputes, and general legal questions.

For situations not covered by the city, seniors can get advice from Help of South-

ern Nevada, a nonprofit organization. "We're a kind of clearinghouse of information for Southern Nevada," says Jacque Matthews, director of administration. "We answer questions from how to get transportation across town to how to cook a Butterball turkey. We get a lot of medical questions and questions on senior housing." And when the people at Help can't help, they refer the caller to an agency that can.

Seniors who move to Las Vegas for reasons other than retirement may want to reestablish themselves in the job market. That doesn't seem to be as difficult as it is in other cities. "Most places, if they see a gray hair, they turn you down because they

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think you're too old," says white-haired Gertrude Tubbs. Last year she moved to Las Vegas to be with her son and is now a receptionist at the Las Vegas Senior Citizens Center. "But you can find employment here," she says.

Finding part-time, minimum-wage jobs with nonprofit agencies is the job of the Senior Community Services Employment Program, which helps senior citizens who are at least 55 years old with incomes of less than \$5,500 a year or \$7,400 a year for a two-member household.

And there are countless ways to play as well as work in the area. Outdoor lovers can enjoy fishing and boating on Lakes Mead and Mohave, explore parklands like Valley of Fire and Red Rock Canyon, and play golf and tennis on the area's courses and courts.

With the many services and attractions that make life easier for seniors in Southern Nevada, odds are the area's over-55 population will grow even faster. As Gertrude Tubbs says, "This is the only place I've been that really takes care of its seniors."

Julie Penn writes for the Las Vegas Review-Journal.

Senior Sources

If you're thinking about retiring in Nevada, here's where to get more information on the Silver State.

The 1986 Nevada Statistical Abstract: This book includes demographics and statistics on health, safety, employment, taxation, and geography. It costs \$14, but it has 439 pages of useful information. Write or call: Governor's Office of Community Services, 1100 E. William St., Suite 117 Carson City, NV 89710; 702-885-4420.

Senior Services: Get information on senior centers, health care, volunteer projects, housing, and nursing homes: Division for Aging Services, 505 E. King St., Room 101, Carson City, NV 89710; 702-885-4210.

Local Newspapers: A subscription is a great way to get to know prospective neighbors: Nevada State Press Association, Box 137, Carson City, NV 89702; 702-882-8772.

Historical and Natural Attractions: You can obtain a state map, guides to camping and historical sites, park information, a calendar of events, and brochures: Nevada Commission on Tourism, Capitol Complex, Carson City, NV 89710; 702-885-3636, or toll-free 800-237-0774 outside Nevada.

Fishing and Hunting: For regulations and information: Nevada Department of Wildlife, Main Office, Box 10678, Reno, NV 89520; 702-789-0500; or Southern Nevada Office, State Mail Complex, Las Vegas, NV 89158; 702-385-0285.

Real Estate: Ask for the names of agents in the community of your choice: Nevada Association of Realtors, 1135 Terminal Way, Reno, NV 89512; 702-329-6648. —JM

Reno/Tahoe

Where the retirement formula mixes opera and outboards.

By Nancy F. Peek

It has been said that people should retire "to," not "from," something. Followers of that advice seem to find many good reasons to retire "to" the Reno-Tahoe area—affordable cultural activities and entertainment, dry mountain air, unlimited recreation, special events, and convenient transportation.

Recently in Washoe and Douglas counties, where Reno and much of Lake Tahoe lie, the population is graying ever faster. The Washoe over-55 population, for example, grew from 36,000 in 1980 to 52,000 in 1987.

Western Nevada's relatively mild climate is a prime consideration for seniors moving into the Sierra rain shadow. Many locals complain about harsh winters and hot summers, but our weather looks wonderful to folks used to high humidity or sub-zero winters with dangerous wind chill factors. Even our seemingly high cost of housing looks good to those who have checked out condominiums in other Sunbelt areas.

Sixty-nine-year-old Dr. Joseph D. Howland, part-time professor at the University of Nevada-Reno, and his wife Mary Ann, 63, settled here in 1978. He had been offered positions at universities in Washington, D.C., and Southern California, but the Howlands chose Reno.

"It's beautiful here—high-desert air on top of a 5,000-foot mountain," says Howland, a horticulturist. "It's a great place for gardens. The highest incident of sunlight in America is just south of Yerington, about 70 miles from here." He and his wife are avid gardeners. In their Reno home they have three greenhouses where they raise rare plants such as tea ceremony flowers from Japan.

But he admits, "If not for the airlines to Reno, it would be hopeless for me." Howland, who has worked as a businessman and editor for several national magazines, until recently had to travel to Chicago once a week. Since he still has marketing clients in several countries, he says living on a main airline route is imperative.

Foster "Bud" Briggs, 72, retired to Reno from California because doctors told him a drier climate would be good for his advanced rheumatoid arthritis. He and his wife, Francine, 68, spend most of their time doing volunteer work.

"It's easy to meet and make friends in this area," she says. "We are busy all day, every day, just as if we still had eight-to-five jobs."

"We enjoy so much beauty here. We love the big sky and the clouds. There's beauty in the dryness and the desert and, of course, the mountains."

The Briggs, who say they found housing costs moderate compared to California, purchased a condo on the Truckee River near a park. "I love it here," Francine says. "We have two little patios, and we just move to follow the sun around the house." Although they have found medical care expensive, they say care has been good and accessible.

Both Briggs were avid golfers before back problems sidelined Francine. Bud still plays three times a week, and they enjoy reduced senior rates at parks, movies, and events. They spend most Saturday mornings playing bingo or betting on the horses at local casinos. "After we play in the morning, we go out to lunch at the clubs," Francine says.

Besides offering inexpensive meals, some clubs give gaming discounts to seniors and organize special games.

Other establishments—from supermarkets and restaurants to bowling alleys, museums, and the city bus system—offer discounts to seniors.

In Reno, the University of Nevada campus and Truckee Meadows Community College offer free classes or reduced tuitions to seniors. The city's opera and philharmonic associations offer bargain tickets, and there are many free concerts and events during the summer.

Like many other retirees, the Briggs began their social involvement through the Senior Citizens Service Center of Washoe County. They joined card-playing groups and became active in the Retired Senior Volunteer Program.

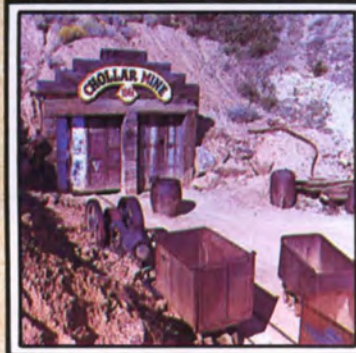
Reno's senior center has 11 satellites in the area as well as numerous homebound and support programs. "Washoe County really cares about its senior citizens," director Karen Mabry says. "Programs here rival any in the country." The senior center, open five days a week, serves meals, gives preventative medical and legal help, and sponsors support groups. The full calendar includes arts, crafts, dances, and seminars.

Seniors who are independent enough to live on their own but want help with shopping or cooking can choose from several private retirement homes, where rates include three meals a day plus laundry and housekeeping.

Active sportsmen and women can fish or ski at Lake Tahoe, or go casting at Pyramid, Topaz, Lahontan, and other popular lakes and reservoirs. History, as in pioneer towns like Virginia City and Genoa, is always close by. Coupled with jobs, volunteer work, and self-help programs, the Reno-Tahoe area has the kinds of activities that seniors can retire "to." □

Nancy F. Peek of Reno is a freelance writer.

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Jim Christison

Renderings of Nevada Basques.



The Burlap Fence
18x24" pastel

At first I painted scenes from my ranching background, the things I knew best. More recently, I've become interested in Basque culture. The colorful costumes and strong ethnic features are fascinating to me. Such great artists as Sargent, Zorn, and Joaquin Sorolla have inspired my Basque painting. Sorolla, especially, honored the noble spirit of the Spanish peasants and serves as an ideal in my art.

The foundation of my art lies in classic realism. I use strong patterns of light and shadow and emulate figure painters of the

early 1900s. My work has been described as serene and elegant, but I draw it quickly and freely. Representational art depends on strong abstract design, and all the rendering in the world won't help a weak design. You must understand how each color relates to another and paint only the significant form of the subject. Put in every color and detail and the work becomes diluted. Art should represent what the artist feels from the subject.

Putting down paint or pastel is a physical process. Creating is a mental process. The transaction between the two becomes emo-

tional. I believe that art begins where words fail.—Jim Christison ◻

Christison paints at his home, on the family ranch near Golconda, Nevada. He is represented by four galleries: the Great Basin Gallery in Carson City; Gallery 56 in Salt Lake City, Utah; Kneeland Gallery in Sun Valley, Idaho; and Fowhall Gallery in Washington, D.C.

Kindred Spirits
10x12" pastel



Basque Couple
20x24" pastel



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Virginia City Huckster

Back in the '30s, Paul Smith pioneered the Comstock's second bonanza by selling sagebrush, fool's gold, and fanciful tales to the tourists.

By William J Henley, Jr

The tourist bonanza on the Comstock Lode is generally thought to have originated with Lucius Beebe and Chuck Clegg. Beebe—author, columnist, railroad buff, gourmet—and his photographer friend did inspire tourism with their revival of the *Territorial Enterprise* in the 1940s, but they didn't discover the tourists. Paul Smith did.

When Paul set up his Museum of Memories on C Street, Virginia City's main thoroughfare, during the mid-1930s, he set the tone for the Comstock's next bonanza—not in silver bullion, but in silver coins jangling

in the pockets and handbags of tourists.

It was an era of low-grade underground mining, and Virginia City was doing relatively well by Depression standards. Five dollars a day was a miner's wage and four dollars a mucker's, and it bought what was needed for comfortable Comstock living.

Nobody was running a tourist attraction, per se. The Crystal Bar turned a modest visitor's dollar on the strength of its ornate chandelier, registry book, photographs, and other echoes of the Lode's fabulous past. No other businesses were even minimally tourism oriented. Com-

merce was done by and for the few hundred locals.

And then came Paul Smith, a man who set the tone which has kept Virginia City luring tourists ever since.

Paul sent the kids of the town scurrying for relics in dumps, attics, and neglected cemeteries. He paid the top dollar and the bottom dollar: the only dollar. One kid found a battered top hat in a dump. It went into the Museum's showcase window as "Sandy Bowers' High Hat." Paul turned down a hundred dollars, good money then, for the hat that Bowers, a prospector-

turned-tycoon, doubtless never saw. It was worth more to Paul as bait in the window.

Some of Paul's stock was authentic, such as assay crucibles and Comstock quartz specimens. There was authenticity, too, in small sacks of sagebrush, but they were over-priced at any cost, since the stuff grows wild all over town. But, of course, the buyers didn't know that, and the local weeds were a novelty back home. Paul also gilded copper rock to sell as gold, and he had his share of volume-wholesaled curio knickknacks.

Where he learned his huckster craft is unknown. Paul was not given to conversation about his background and much of it was obscure on the Lode. Stray facts surfaced incidentally in casual conversations. He was of English ancestry and from New York. He had been in the hotel business.

He was short, round-bellied, gray, with puffy fold-over eyelids, and an unforgettable nose. That nose was as distinctive as W.C. Fields', but not kindred, neither nose nor man, save that they were both in forms of show business. One difference was that Paul was a nonsmoker, nondrinker, and health food faddist. The difference in the nose was between W.C.'s big, liquor-tempered honker and Paul's smaller, upturned, buttonlike proboscis. There was a show-business likeness to W.C. in Paul's habitual cardboard derby hat and the continual smile underneath: a smile perhaps fueled by inner laughter at offers of a hundred dollars for a bogus hat.

Paul really was never understood in the Virginia City of the 1930s. The selling and promotion of tourism was a foreign element in the workaday and social life of the Comstock. Paul's casual disregard of historical authenticity bothered dedicated buffs and historians, but he didn't really care. He was in merchandising. The museum in Museum of Memories didn't really mean museum.

Socially Paul was pretty much an outsider by choice. He was a fussy bachelor, and it seemed inconceivable that he was ever anything else, though a persistent rumor had him once married. He lived in

the rear of his business on South C Street, across from the Virginia Fire Department, which is now the Comstock Firemen's Museum. In his apartment he prepared most of his meals and spent most of his time. He shared very little in the diversions of the Comstock.

Virginia City's communal pursuits were basketball, Saturday night dances, semi-pro baseball, movies, and such occasional events as a touring carnival or one-ring circus and a boxing card. Basketball and dances were schooltime, cold-weather activities and out of season for Paul, who was

There were half a dozen at a time in Virginia City, working in the mines and sometimes promoting and boxing in fight cards. Paul only infrequently went to the matches: that cost the price of a ticket and he was ever close with a nickel. But he did find something in common with the boxers, whom he might talk with on the street or at a lunch counter. The saloon conviviality which most of them enjoyed was, of course, not in his make-up.

Paul finally broke off pretty much with the small boxing circle. The cause was a one-time trial horse middleweight gone to

booze and blimp. The ex-fighter lived largely as a pimp on the then-legal red-light district on D Street, although once in a while he tried on the gloves until his lack of conditioning got to him in an early round. His visits uptown were nearly always liquid. On one of them he paid a friendly call on the Museum and waltzed Paul around in an amiable bear hug, more like sumo wrestling than his former profession, considering the girth of both men. Paul quickly disengaged himself from the boxer and the boxer from the Museum. Paul had a distaste for such intimacy and it was undignified for business.

Paul was neat in plain dress, a plaid shirt usually his only splash of color. The derby hat was worn on appropriate occasions, for a large crowd or a special promotion or both, as the pitchman's gimmick; otherwise he was quietly fastidious. The boxer, in his way, intruded on this. So did a Sacramento newspaper artist with a playful streak. He sat Paul

down and posed him for a sketch at the front door of the Museum. He moved Paul's head about, this way, that way, with the chalk-talker's spiel and flourish. The watching crowd on the sidewalk laughed louder and louder. Paul joined in the merriment, attributing the hilarity to the sketch. It wasn't until much later that a timorous employee bade him look into the mirror. The newspaper artist had been making a Bozo the Clown out of his face by smearing paint over it. Paul yelped and let out a few "Why that lousy no good..." as he washed up. It is doubtful that their friendly relation-



only a spring and summer resident. Not that it mattered. He had little interest in sports generally and none in movies, and no need to patronize the smaller copies of Ringling Brothers.

Paul was a boxing fan. Maybe he grew up in a boxing environment in New York, or maybe he adapted to the sport on the road. He had, as a youth, worn out three pairs of his employer's shoes walking across the country as a shoe salesman, one of those vagrant facts he dropped in conversation. It is logical that he met up with itinerant boxers, who were then numerous.

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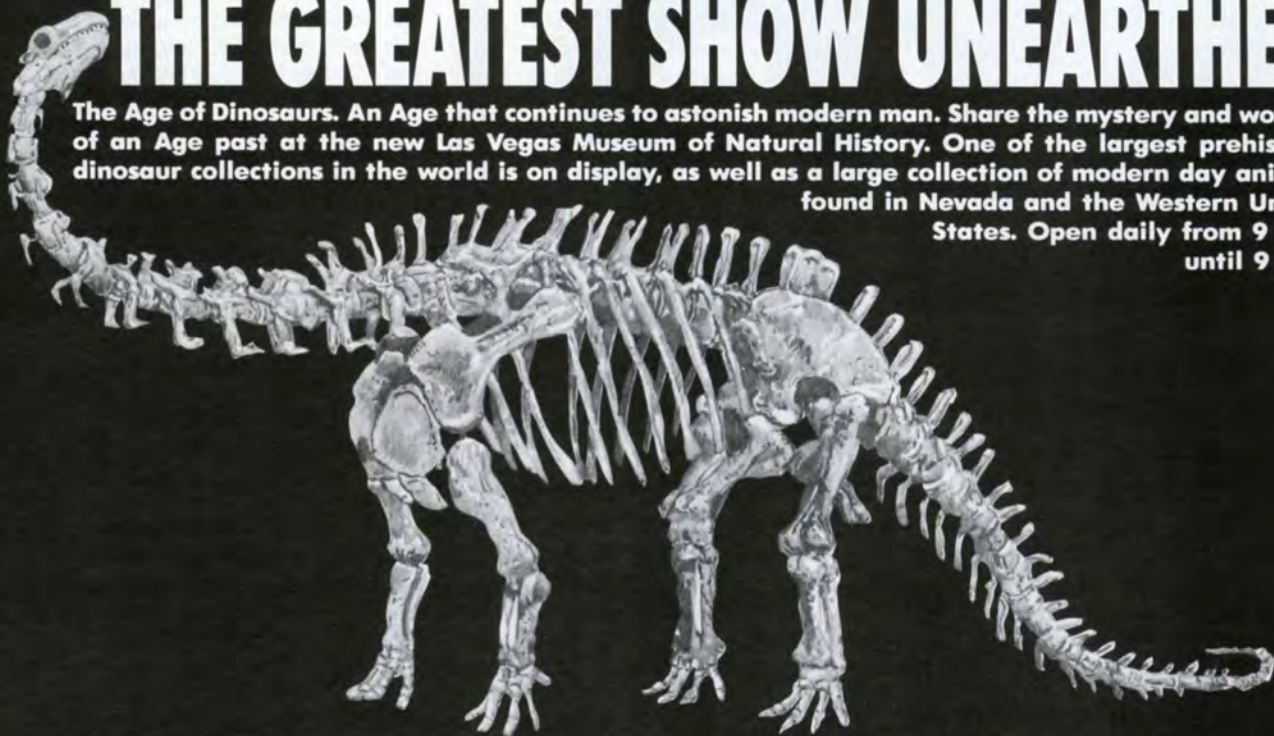
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ship was never quite the same after that.

Not all bachelors on the Lode matched Paul's habits of neat appearance and abstinence from alcohol. One who didn't was the librarian, who held forth in the one-room, WPA funded library in the National Guard building cater-corner to the Museum.

Denny the librarian was tall, gaunt, and white-haired, with a stubble on his chin and a brown splatter of tobacco on his mustache. It was possible, with a little imagination, to look at Denny and see the Mark Twain of the book dust jackets. He was a prospector by trade, as Mark Twain had been, and he was an author.

Denny had written and privately printed a tourist guide of the Comstock Lode. It was largely anecdotal, with profuse praise of certain past and present Comstock mining and political figures. It was highly moral. It took some infamous western badmen right up to the gallows, which, as Denny made clear, they richly deserved. And it delivered a strong message on the virtue of women being virtuous. A quibbler might find some deficiencies in its value as a tourist guide.

Denny employed an elderly friend to hawk his guide on the sidewalk in front of the Museum, which instantly outraged Paul. He considered the intrusion into his territory malicious, which it was. Once on friendly terms, the two men had fallen out, probably more from conflicting egos than anything else.

And there were other reasons for rage. Denny's work was THE guide book, his vendor declaimed. That was rather preposterous gall, when Paul had more cogent information in a newspaper-format brochure he sold, and when he carried the standard works on the Lode from such authors as Dan De Quille, Swift Paine, George Lyman, Wells Drury C.B. Glasscock, and others. Paul felt, correctly so, that the street book hustle was an attempt to denigrate not only his literature but his whole operation. He set his employees to running off the book-seller, which

they did, with reluctance. Both Denny and his salesman were well-liked, long-standing Comstockers.

The embroglio wound up in the Storey County District Attorney's office. Paul contended encroachment and harassment. Denny said that Paul didn't own the sidewalk. In that simpler time there was no involved litigation. The Lady holding the scales of justice at the Storey courthouse on B Street is, uniquely, not blindfolded, and the DA showed why. He saw the malice in Denny and told him to get his man the hell away from Paul's Museum.



Paul's own advertising device was economical and effective. Each item of merchandise carried a Museum of Memories sticker: "The Place That Makes You Laugh and Feel Glad." Those stickers traveled to the four corners of the land. Paul's cost was the equivalent of rolls of Scotch tape.

Paul disliked the nonbuying browser, and he had his way of dealing with people he regarded as freeloaders. He issued a small paper, detailing points of interest on the Comstock and touching on history in typical Paul Smith hyperbole: If more people on the Lode than there had actually

been sounded better to him, then more there were. Its price was 15 cents, but the visitor leaving the Museum empty-handed got one free. No one was going to leave "The Place That Makes You Laugh and Feel Glad" without a reminder of that joyous occasion. Paul would say, loudly, often into his loud-speaker system, "We wouldn't want you to leave here without having something to show the folks back home." He took particular relish in making a cheap-skate out of a coin jangler. The coin jangler sauntered along the aisles, hands in pockets, metal clinking, often with disparaging

remarks about the merchandise. Paul turned up his PA system full blast and emphasized penny-pinching when he handed the coin jangler his free paper.

Sometimes, when business was slow Paul would chirp the Cricket. The Cricket was that toy which, when pressed in the back, made a clacking sound. Paul would palm it, and when it chirped, the tourist would look around for the source. He or she would never find that, of course, and it was Paul's hope they would find something else they would buy.

Paul had three employees—the Artist, the Helper, and the Stagecoach Driver.

The Artist was a skinny kid who had been the grade school valedictorian. He had considerable skills

in sketching and painting. He did Paul's finework. He lettered display signs and determined window layouts, along with his boss. He gilded the copper rocks to sell in small bags as gold specimens.

The Helper was a classmate of the Artist. He moved the stock and the furniture and swept the floor and gathered and sacked the sagebrush, and sacked the gilded gold. He wasn't too adept: for one thing, he had trouble with The Tour.

One of the Museum's featured attractions was a two-block trek to Piper's Opera House—The Tour. En route on C Street was

the building which had housed the *Territorial Enterprise*, Mark Twain's place of employment in Virginia City. The trouble with it, as far as the Helper was concerned, was that it never housed Mark Twain. That *Enterprise* building had been up on A Street, and it had burned in the Great Fire of 1875. A plaque on the C Street edifice did not make that clear. For Paul's purpose there was no need to make it clear, but the Helper did, anyway, to the tourists on every trek, whether asked or not. This slavish devotion to fact, at the expense of a small illusion, always rankled Paul when he heard of it. Among other things it might kill the sale of a Mark Twain book. The Artist, if put to the question, would parry it with a reference to woodcuts in a volume on Tom Sawyer on sale at the Museum. It was one of various reasons, including his graphic art ability, why he was paid a dollar and a half a day and the Helper six bits. The Stagecoach Driver conducted The Tour, too, but he could scarcely be understood and so the point was moot.

The Stagecoach Driver was a sometime miner, sometime drayage company driver. He was gaunt, stooped, black-haired in his 40s. He talked little, and had to be listened to carefully for any comprehension. He was accepted and liked for what he was, as were most Comstockers. What he was not, however, was a Stagecoach Driver, and this made his a late-blooming novelty in his familiar haunts. Paul's promotional vision elevated him from his occasional pursuit, handling the reins of horse-and-wagon movement of baggage from the railroad station, to a role alongside the legendary Hank Monks of the Old West. "See the world-famous Piper's Opera House!" Paul would pitch, over his PA. "Our next tour is coming right up! The next show is just about ready to start. Your guide will be the last of the stagecoach drivers, who blazed the trail to the Pacific!" The idea that he blazed anything came as a shock on the Lode. And there was a problem in arithmetic. The Stagecoach Driver, a native, had served from Virginia City in World War I, and the stagecoach period was mostly in the 1800s and earlier. By that reckoning he should have been somewhere between 80 to 100 years old. He would also have been an unlikely 60-year-old doughboy in the trenches in France.

His reign with the reins was safe enough from the prying of any curious tourist. When asked questions on The Tour he spoke as he always did—guttural, under his breath, unintelligible. Thus his role in the Old West was in the mind of the listener, and for Paul that was very much as it should be. Paul was not, though, an uncritical observer of the Stagecoach Driver. Most of his work for the Museum was in pounding copper rocks with a hammer for the Artist to gild and the Helper to sack. It was done in back of the building, out of sight of trade, of course, and it was done as fragmentally as the rocks themselves were split. The Stagecoach Driver frequently slipped

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out and slaked his thirst at the Old 62 Saloon next door. Paul bent an ear to the rear while the Stagecoach Driver was bending his elbow. When Paul heard the silence he complained peevishly "That hammer hasn't dropped for half an hour."

The Stagecoach Driver was believed to have been paid somewhere between the six bits a day of the Helper and the dollar and a half of the Artist. The wages were supplemented, but unpredictably, by tips on the Tour. Perhaps a quarter to a third of the parties tipped the guides, and Paul was more successful on some days in selling sojourns to Piper's Opera House than he was on others. But the money was not really of great moment. It kept the Stagecoach Driver going at the Old 62 Saloon and its many contemporaries on the Comstock.

And the Artist and the Helper were getting work experience. It was a day when meager wages could buy much for a boy. A milkshake made mostly from ice cream went for 15 cents. A Mister Goodbar, which cost a nickel, was an all-day snack, even for the corpulent Helper. There was spending money left over. The Helper once husbanded a chunk of his salary for a cartoonist's mail-order course. He thought he might overtake the skill of the Artist, with the added element of humor. He turned out, however, to be no challenge to Maggie and Jiggs and the Katzenjammer Kids.

The Tour, in a passive sense, revived the renowned but then run-down (since restored) Piper's Opera House. Long removed, as was the Comstock itself, from the

Most of the tourists, even some who refused to enter Piper's after a look at the exterior, took the Tour in a holiday mood.

bonanza glory days, Piper's had opened its doors sporadically for varied events such as boxing matches, roller skating, silent movies, and vagabond dramatic troupes. The revenues hadn't justified the upkeep in the harsh Comstock winters, and the building fell into disuse.

Paul leased Piper's and plastered the walls near the stage with vintage theater posters trumpeting appearances by Lillian Russell, Lily Langtry, Lotta Crabtree, Edwin Booth, and Buffalo Bill. As ever with Paul, accuracy was an incidental. Some of his illustrious cast had trod the boards there, others performed at prior Piper's Opera House buildings destroyed by fire, others appeared on other Virginia City stages, such as the earlier Maguire's Opera House on D Street; and it is doubtful if still others made it to the Lode at all.

Paul relieved the bleakness of empty box seats with a large block-lettered placard crafted by the Artist: "This Box Reserved for John Mackay." That was close enough. Mackay, the mining magnate and patron saint of the Mackay School of Mines in Reno, was a regular patron, whether or not in the specific box.

The footsteps of the past did echo in Piper's Opera House for those who could hear them, and many could. Those visitors included Jeanette McDonald, the operetta and musical comedy star; Veree Teasdale, the actress wife of the suave actor Adolph Menjou; Frank Morgan, venerable character actor; and May Robson, then a grand old lady of stage and screen who had actually appeared at Piper's in her youth. And there was a group of 15 collegians from the University of California at Davis. One of them had an exceptional tenor voice. He insisted on mounting the stage for an impromptu performance. The Artist was the guide in charge of The Tour that time. He was both appalled and enthralled. He welcomed the diversion but he feared the setting. The stage was warped and nearly unnavigable. Additionally it was built back end to by modern standards, the floor slanting upward from the footlights, the footing thus unnatural. And the whole building, from top to bottom, was structurally suspect. The boards might collapse on the stage, the singer might fall, or the resonance might literally bring down the roof. Fortunately none of it happened, and a rousing rendition was enjoyed by all.

Most of the tourists, even some who refused to enter Piper's after a wary look at the exterior, took the Tour in a holiday mood. It was obvious that this was not to be the case with the Two Ladies in the



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Brougham touring car.

The Brougham, gun-metal blue with somber gray drapery at the windows, commanded a parking space near the Museum. The driver alighted with heavy purposefulness. A stocky hard-case type, she was instantly recognized as a woman to be avoided. But she was a challenge which appealed to Paul. He sounded the clarion call: "See the world-famous Piper's Opera House. Our next tour is coming right up! Just in time, ladies, the next show is about to begin!"

The three guides conducted the tour on a loose, rotating basis. When the ladies appeared, the Artist suddenly discovered a serious grouping problem in a window display. The Stagecoach Driver took one look and made haste for the Old 62. The Helper could only hope they wouldn't buy the pitch. But buy it they did.

Guests on The Tour had the choice of the historical walk or taking their cars, and the Two Ladies went up in the Brougham. It was a silent ride punctuated by a hostile mood. The hostility increased when they saw no evidence of a theater crowd, or "the next show," as Paul had suggested. And it exploded when they got inside and saw what there was to see. The driver demanded an accounting of the show. The Helper suggested, with a nervous chuckle, that Paul must have been referring to the pictures on the posters.

The Brougham seemed to snort in anger as the women roared down the hill and stomped to a stop in front of the Museum. The driver got out and slammed her door in rage. (The Helper had been left in the wings, so to speak, at Piper's.)

Paul met her just outside his entrance. His hand was outstretched.

"Your money back, ladies, and a little more," said Paul. "Just a friendly token of your visit to the Comstock Lode. No questions asked. And may the good Lord speed you on your journey."

Contrary to the hallmarks of a huckster, Paul was capable of kindness and small courtesies. He tried to help the Helper through his adolescence, in his way; and he had a fondness for the Artist and the Stagecoach Driver, though, indeed, the price was right.

Paul even presided over a mid-afternoon break for his employees that consisted of watermelon and ice cream. (The Stagecoach Driver was not much of a watermelon and ice cream man.) This was Paul's version of health food. And he didn't stint on the portions. A quarter of a melon was cut for each.

When he died in Southern California, Paul rated only a couple of paragraphs in the *Territorial Enterprise*. He deserved more than that. He deserved at least a good slice of watermelon, if not a quarter. For he was the first. □

William J. Henley, Jr., a former newspaperman, lives in Reno and grew up in Virginia City. He was the Helper.

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Danny (left) and Don Hellwinkel with their 1913 Buick.

Classic Times at the C.O.D.

The Hellwinkel brothers carry on family and town traditions at their historic Minden garage.

By Roberta McConnell

Time seems to have stopped in certain parts of the C.O.D. Garage, the Minden landmark where Carson Valley residents once bought Model Ts. Inside the old brick buildings can be found an intriguing mix of automobilia ranging from ancient auto parts, hand-forged tools, and other dusty accumulations to state-of-the-art computers and digital terminals.

You'll also find the Hellwinkel brothers, Don and Danny. They'll sell you a car, find you a part, and perhaps tell you a bit about the place. Both of them grew up working in the garage for their father, Fred Hellwinkel. They know the legends of the venerable C.O.D., which is said to be the oldest continuously operating auto dealer in Nevada.

C.O.D. stands not for "cash on delivery" but for Clarence O. Dangberg, who started the business about 1910. Although a member of the prominent Dangberg ranching clan in Carson Valley, Clarence wasn't much interested in ranching. Nor was he evidently much of a mechanic—but he knew how to hire one.

It was 1911 when Clarence hired Fred Hellwinkel as the C.O.D.'s first bonafide mechanic. And although C.O.D. would always stand for the garage's founder,



The C.O.D. gang in 1911, above, included Clarence Dangberg, center in white shirt, and Brick Hellwinkel, second from left. At right is Brick in the late '30s.

Hellwinkel would become the one most closely associated with the business.

His sons remember that Hellwinkel, whom they called "The Boss" and everyone else called "Brick," was "crazy about motors and motorcycles" and had a heart as big as a barn. He was the kind of man who would work all day fixing cars at the C.O.D. and then spend his spare time fixing friends' refrigerators, vacuums, furnaces,





In the garage's former rear longtime employee Bob Carlson drinks from the always-running faucet above Clarence's old bucket.

and whatnot, often without charge.

Brick found that his duties also included looking out for his boss, who enjoyed sealing business deals with a few drinks of moonshine that he kept hidden in a pickle barrel in the garage.

But the business prospered. It originally opened as a Model T dealer, competing with the horses and buggies that rumbled outside on Esmeralda Street. In 1916, the same year the C.O.D. became a franchise dealer for Goodyear tires, the Minden Inn was built nearby. Known as "The Little St. Francis" because of its elevator and posh furnishings, the Inn became a fashionable retreat, and customers inevitably parked their cars at the C.O.D.

Hellwinkel and Dangberg promptly added a parking garage to the original building, and this featured an early semi-automatic car wash called a "car shampoo." It consisted of a slotted wooden rack in the floor as a drain, with soap and water nearby. That same year, 1919, they gave up the Model T franchise to sell Buicks and Chevrolets.

The Minden Inn had other benefits. Don says that as a kid he often went over to the garage when his dad worked late at night, knowing the hotel's cooks would send over apple pie and homemade ice cream for the hard-working Brick.

Since elevators, fine food, and automobiles were in vogue, the Minden Inn and the

C.O.D. joined forces in advertising campaigns. These amounted to yellow tin fence-post signs placed along major roads.

Brick cared for the cars of celebrities like Mary Pickford and Clark Gable who were hiding out from Hollywood, and those of cattle barons who gathered at the Inn to cinch deals. Don remembers how Gable would pull in and ask him to wash and wax his big black LaSalle, sometimes twice a day. "Gable was a great man," Don recalls. "He was big and husky, and I didn't know he was a movie star. He was just another guy to me, but a real gentleman."

The garage addition never closed, in case an Inn guest wanted to leave his car. In the 1920s and '30s, night man "Yip" Wennhold, a Carson Valley old-timer, had a room upstairs over the steepest wood steps this side of a Berkeley hillside. Yip was there to park the cars of the rich and famous and to ensure the vehicles would be repaired, washed, and polished by morning.

By the '20s the C.O.D. had grown from a



One of many signs of auto history.

single building to encompass the entire block between Esmeralda Street and Highway 395. Hellwinkel and Dangberg added an AAA towing service, the only one for miles around. Brick often would drive as far north as Truckee and as far south as Bishop to tow in disabled autos.

Later the C.O.D. acquired the Pioneer Garage a block away. The huge wooden structure looked like a barn and in fact had been a livery stable for Virginia & Truckee Railroad passengers. It housed horses and buggies for people spending a day in the outlands of Carson Valley.

Although the business did well, Dangberg apparently spent money a bit too freely, and when he couldn't pay his young associate, Brick waived his wages in favor of an interest in the business. By the end of the Depression Brick had become full owner, but he retained the C.O.D. name out of his respect for Dangberg and his deep feeling for the tradition of Minden, which had been founded in 1905 by the Dangberg family and the railroad.

In those days cash money was scarce in Carson Valley, so Brick was known to accept pigs and sheep for down payments on new cars. He also put his sons to work. When the V&T delivered autos to the Minden depot for the C.O.D., it was Don's job to spruce up the new cars for sale. Before and after World War II, the Curry Company used the C.O.D. as headquarters for bus

tours between Yosemite and Tahoe City. As one bus left, another would be pulling off dusty Highway 395, needing service and a good wash. Don recalls he might have earned a dollar a week for cleaning the Curry buses.

During the war years, Brick's wife Josephine used to help pump gas, and Don says the family "always had a spare gas-ration stamp or tow truck available for servicemen home on leave."

Both Don and Danny attended the University of Nevada in Reno, and Don went on to graduate from the U.S. Naval Academy in 1946. But, he says, "Navy life was too fast-paced for me," and he soon returned to the good ship C.O.D.

Danny says his love was always for the garage: "I never thought of anything else." During the '50s things settled down to business as usual for Brick and the boys.

Then, on a May day in 1964, Brick had a heart attack and died in the arms of his son Don.

"He killed himself working," Don says. "He was too busy to go to the doctor. He was devoted to keeping people on the road, even before his own health."

Today, touring the C.O.D. Garage, especially in the original building, is like entering a time warp. The service office has stand-up desks with high stools, and an antique sign advertises United States Tires, forerunner of Uniroyal. The front office on Esmeralda Street has its original brass doorknob and is noticeably less dusty than the rest of the building. The Cary Company safes, which are similar to others in old Minden businesses, most likely were sold by an enthusiastic salesman in the '20s. A sign boasts about Excide Batteries, the "giants that live in a box."

The machine shop where Brick fashioned parts still stands, although the forge is gone. Near the "car shampoo" is a big claw-foot bathtub used to test tire tubes and occasionally to wash dogs. Under the faucet is an old wooden bucket—the pickle barrel in which Clarence Dangberg kept his moonshine. Brick's wooden toolbox still sits on a shelf, holding the tools as he left them.

As the C.O.D. approaches its ninth decade, the Hellwinkels say the garage is the oldest family-franchise Buick and Chevrolet dealer in the U.S. Depending on how you figure it, the C.O.D. also is the second oldest family franchise for Goodyear tires in the country and the oldest AAA towing service in Nevada. Today the C.O.D. may be the only garage around still selling two brands of gasoline, Union and Shell. At one time, Danny says, they also sold Standard Oil products at the Pioneer Garage.

But while history is important, the Hellwinkel brothers don't live exclusively in the past. The brick building that houses their Pioneer Motor Parts business may be historic, but there are computers for ordering parts and diagnosing modern car

ailments. Because of the C.O.D.'s reputation and a national parts hot line, many of the old parts have been sold. Don says, "People call from all over the country, ordering a part, a car, or maybe something long since unavailable elsewhere." The Hellwinkels also have talked about adding a brand-new showroom.

Don is active in civic groups, and both men are volunteers in the Douglas Engine Company, of which Danny has been chief, he says, "more years than I can remember." Of course, the garage is their center of activity. There, Don's wife Marlena often helps out working the office computers and running parts. Don says he hopes their 24-year-old son Robb, who graduated this spring from Cal Poly at San Luis Obispo, will carry

on the business with the help of their daughter Donna Jo, 31, a Reno dentist.

Even as computers and other modern tools appear in the C.O.D., the garage's smoke-stained walls, the old ads and pictures, all give evidence of the two sons' love for their father. One such antique is the pendulum clock on the office wall. It is a reminder of the day Brick died. After he died, the trusty old clock wound down and stopped. The brothers set the hands at one minute before 10 o'clock, the approximate time of their father's death, and left it.

"Dad was the only one who could keep that clock running," Don says.

Roberta McConnell is a freelance writer and Genoa resident.

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FALLINI TANKS: A TRUCKIN' ROUNDUP

There are only two kinds of cowboys on the Twin Springs Ranch near Tonopah—buckaroos and truckaroos.

By J Joose LaVergne

Joe Fallini is the Rommel of Nevada's desert. Each year he rumbles over a thousand square miles of range, his tire tracks weaving through sagebrush and occasionally blotting out the hoofprints of his mounted troops. Day after day he scours the arid basin lands for his quarry. His crew calls him Boss. His mission is roundup. And his "tank" is an old pickup truck.

Most cattle ranches do things a little differently at their yearly roundups. Some use propane burners to heat their branding irons. Others may use cattle dogs to catch strays. Most still swear by a good horse. But at Fallini's Twin Springs Ranch east of Tonopah it's the pair of junker pickups that makes his roundups different from the rest. Neighboring ranchers confide with side-long grins, "Never seen anything like it. They use trucks to roundup cattle, and have for years. We call 'em the Fallini Tanks."



Joe uses the pickups to help his buckaroos on horseback gather the cattle. He slams through the desert at bone-jarring speeds to overtake any cow trying to escape his mounted crew. At the roar of Joe's engine, the buckaroos slack off and stay clear as the pickup fantails through sand and crackles over sage and greasewood to bend the bolting critter back into the bunch. And when one of those critters is "on the hoof" there's no more welcome sight to a harried rider than a Fallini Tank coming to the rescue.

Preparation for roundup at the Fallini place begins in May. While Sue, his wife and partner, hires a crew to work horseback, Fallini, known as "Little Joe" when his father was alive, spends his time in the shop. He fits new slats into stock truck beds, overhauls engines, patches flat tires, and blows the Nevada dust out of everything. Of all the vehicles needing attention, the

two needing the most are the roundup pickups: the one Joe's mother Helen affectionately calls her "Green Horse," and the gunmetal gray Chevy that Fallini's father, Big Joe, used to drive.

These pickups aren't shiny new redneck 4x4s. No oversized All-Terrain tires grace the rusty lug nuts. No roll bars fitted with KC lights loom over the pockmarked cabs. And any chrome that once sparkled on the chassis has long since rusted away.

These pickups are the workhorses of a Fallini roundup. Their bodies have oxidized to a dull memory of their original color and are now flecked with the rusted brown of bare metal scars. Their balding tires have been patched and repatched many times. In fact, Joe goes through tires so fast he carries three spares in the back. On one pickup the hood is missing, a direct result of meeting the wild range cows in their own territory. The headlights also were forfeit in the call of duty, so Joe installed one on the driver's side of his cab for those times when there's just not enough daylight to finish a job. He has welded about 50 pounds of welding rod onto each frame to help the trucks handle the stress. He's built steel cattle guards and welded them to the front bumpers. Joe uses only Chevy pickups for his roundups because that's the way Big Joe did it.

For the Fallinis, following family tradition is almost hereditary. In the old days, G.B. Fallini had a spread in Little Fish Lake Valley north of Tonopah. He did try to give up the cattle business once, however. He thought it would be easier to support his six children by operating a store at the Reveille Mill. But one of the kids filled a kerosene lamp with gasoline, and the resulting explosion and fire put him back in the ranching business. That's when he started buying pieces of the failing United Cattle Company east of Tonopah, thereby starting the 663,000-acre spread now known as Twin Springs Ranch.

The Fallinis have spent three generations developing herds of horned Herefords on their range. Running wild, the cattle have developed a natural aggressiveness which, with their sharp horns, have made them well suited for survival among range predators. The only contact these cattle ever have with humans is during the annual roundup. And all it amounts to is a fast rope, a hot iron, and a sharp knife.

In order to get the job done, the Fallini family and Twin Springs buckaroos follow a circuit through nearly 1,500 square miles of range. They move from one well to the next down Reveille Valley, up Railroad Valley, and over to Warm Springs in Hot Creek Valley to mark every long-ear they can catch. For a month they live the migrant life of the cowboy of American folklore: meals from a fire-blackened bean pot and bedrolls under starshot skies.

In the pre-pickup era, buckaroos had to have horses that were tougher than the cattle. But even with good horses chances were still slim-to-none for making a clean

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gather. And chances were that either the horse or the rider would be injured during roundup. In fact, it was an injury that brought Fallini Tanks into being in the days of G.B. Fallini.

Willy, one of G.B.'s three sons, was thrown from his horse into a herd and left "ruptured." From then on Willy couldn't ride a horse much, but he could drive a pickup. So, on the next roundup, Willy showed up in his old Chevy truck, ready to ride herd.

Since then, the pickup has been a part of every Fallini roundup. Willy's brother Big

Joe even started using one on his part of the ranch. He found he could ill-afford to be horseback when there were 14 different places he needed to be at once. Besides, the days of the United Cattle Company and the professional buckaroo were gone. Although the second generation buckaroos were competent, they often lacked the necessary hardening of range experience. With a pickup, Big Joe could keep an eye on things and help out before the cows could obey the dictates of Murphy's Law.

Unfortunately that law applies to trucks, too. For instance, there was the time

when Little Joe learned to fly the hard way. He was riding in the back of Big Joe's pickup with some yearlings they'd roped and tied. A big ditch blocked the way, so Big Joe turned and throttled the pickup.

"What're ya doin' Papa?" Little Joe yelled into the wind.

"I'm building up speed!" came the reply.

When Big Joe had enough running room, he aimed the pickup straight at the ditch and floored it. "No...NO...NOO...NOOOOOOO...!" came the screams from the wide-eyed boy in back as the pickup sailed over the ditch. When it came crashing back to land, Little Joe and the calves flipped like flapjacks on a griddle, his face white as dough and his bottom dark with bruises.

Another time Little Joe, perched in the back of the truck, had just roped a fleeing cow and was trying to dally up around the spare tire mounted behind the cab when Big Joe braked hard. The truck stopped, but the cow kept going, dragging Little Joe over the cab and across the hood before he could let go of the rope. The cow left nothing but dust and hoofprints as it sped away, dragging Joe's only good rope off into the desert.

Big Joe's wife Helen also is a seasoned ranch hand. In fact, "Tootsie," as Big Joe called her, not only cooked for the large crew, she also slid behind the wheel and helped work the cows, something she still does. Big Joe expected no less, and she always tried to be there whenever he needed her.

But as will happen with husbands and wives, sometimes they got their wires crossed. One time Tootsie drove into the corral behind Big Joe's pickup thinking he was headed for the branding fire like she was. Instead he was cutting out a few steers. When one of the yearlings cut back, he slammed on his brakes, shifted into reverse, and threw a quick glance over his shoulder just in time to stop a hair's breadth from Tootsie's grill. A man of little patience and a slice of his papa's Italian accent when frustrated, he hollered out the window, "Damn it, Tootsie! When I'm a-workin' cows, get outta my way!" But through it all they were a team. The two of them spent every June roundup riding the range in their pickups.

Things haven't changed much now that Little Joe's running the ranch. When a rider's horse is about to give out and an ornery, wild cow thinks she's escaped the gather, Fallini Tanks take over, speeding ahead to maneuver the runaway back to the herd. Occasionally, however, a breakaway cow will outsmart a cowboy year after year. She's so set on heading towards the safety of the rugged Reveille Range or the jagged Quinn Mountains where even the pickups can't turn her. That's when Little Joe, bouncing along in hot pursuit, sights down the barrel of his pellet gun and fires. The pellet carries a payload of blue paint that explodes on impact with the critter's mangy hide. That "blue-dot special" means a one-way ticket to the sales yard.



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But once the pellet has marked the animal, Joe still has to bring her in. With the finesse of a roller-derby blocker, he gives her a nudge with the side of the truck. That either turns her or knocks her arse-over-teakettle. That kind of a jolt usually adds a new word to a cow's vocabulary—"cooperation." With a shake of the head, the critter usually rolls to its feet and heads in the right direction at a gentle trot.

Sometimes Joe meets wild ones so red-eyed they'd just as soon run right through the pickup. Joe's had 'em eyeball to eyeball in the driver's seat before they changed course. The ones with the big horns can play havoc with a pickup's interior. Those are the ones that have to be roped and tied down, to be picked up later. Joe carries a 50-foot coil of rope for this reason. By guiding the pickup beside a fleeing cow he can throw a loop over the horns and take his dally around the steering wheel. If he jerks the cow just right, she'll stay down long enough for him to get out and hobble her.

While Joe is off working the perimeters of the gather, his mother Helen, now 66 years old, is in the other truck. She's been behind the wheel of her "Green Horse" or one like it since Little Joe was a baby, and she's covered a fair share of rough country. Nowadays she uses her truck to escort stragglers back into the herd. Once they're bunched, she relentlessly patrols them to keep breakaways to a minimum. Then when everything has quieted down, she



brings the water jug to the parched and dusty riders. Refreshed, the crew begins the long, slow drive to push a reluctant herd into the nearest corral, usually miles away.

Once the corral gate has been safely barricaded, Joe returns to the range with some of his crew to pick up the animals that have been tied down. Another driver brings a

four-wheel drive with a gooseneck trailer. Once again, Joe uses his pickup as buckaroos use a horse. He takes a rope which has been looped over the renegade's horns and keeps the rope taut with his truck while the crew shoves the critter into the trailer. It's the cow's choice whether it enters with its head or its heels up.



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Willy Fallini didn't know
he'd begin a new era
in buckarooing techniques
when he climbed aboard
his old Chevy pickup to help
out on a roundup.

Eventually the buckaroos converge at the corral for branding, where the pickups serve as field headquarters. While the fire heats the irons, Helen's pickup becomes a lunch wagon. The battered tailgate supports the lunch box while the hungry crew swarms to make sandwiches and grab cookies.

The cab shelters Grandma Helen from the harsh sun as she takes the tally. Vaccine needles rest on the shadiest dash. Two five-gallon water jugs balance on the hood. One is used to rinse bloodied hands, knives, and emasculators. Thirst can be quenched from the other. The bucket containing the day's collection of Rocky Mountain Oysters perches within easy reach, as calves are dragged near the fire as bulls and scramble away as steers. Newborn calves avoid the trampling feet of the hundreds of milling cows by sleeping near the shelter-belt of pickups and goosenecks.

When branding is done, Joe sends the pickups home before dark while shippers are separated from the herd and loaded onto stock trucks. Young steers, cripples, cancer-eyes, and blue-dot specials all go to market. Loading them should be a relatively simple process, but a few stubborn animals slow up the works.

By the time the crew pulls into the ranch, well after dark most days, the battle-weary Fallini Tanks have been parked, awaiting the challenge of the next morning, and the next, until all the cattle have been gathered, branded, and marked. Another Fallini roundup is done, another winter mothballed until May.

It's a pretty sure bet that Willy Fallini didn't know he'd begin a new era in the family's buckarooing techniques when he climbed aboard his old Chevy pickup to help out on a roundup. And maybe as things go, the use of the pickup isn't too jarring to those steeped in cowboy tradition. Those battered trucks may take their place in Nevada cowboy history alongside spade bits and roping horns. And perhaps when the Twin Springs Ranch passes into the care of Joe's girls, we'll still see those dauntless pickups rattle and roar across the desert with a boss-in-braids behind the wheel. □

J. Joose LaVergne of Lovelock is a writer and artist who once taught at the Fallini ranch's one-room school. She occasionally helps out at roundup time.

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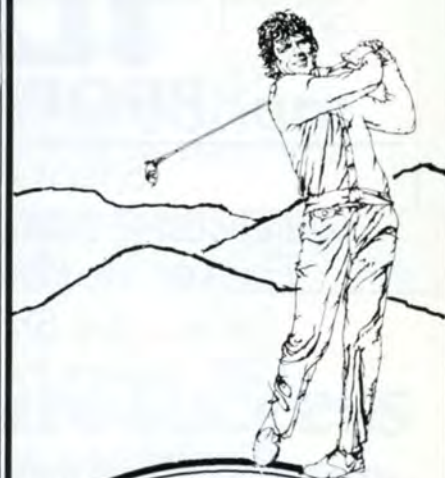
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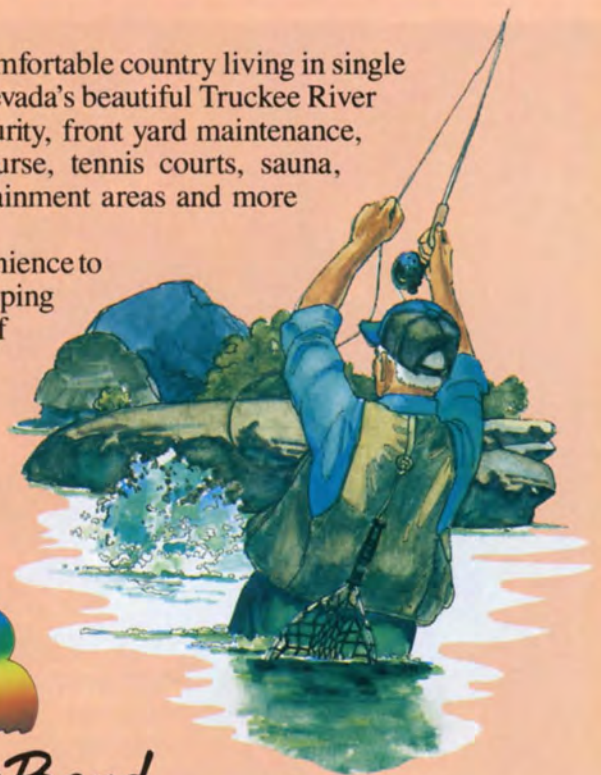
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DINING OUT

Table at Sunset

At Botany's, you also can dance all night.

By Elliot S. Krane

When a restaurant opens its doors on East Flamingo Road, a street that is lined with perhaps 20 eateries and is known as Las Vegas' Restaurant Row, the owners know the competition will be keen. They also will want to be serving meals for as many hours as possible, especially, as in the case of Botany's, when an estimated \$3 million has been invested in the establishment.

After Botany's opened two years ago, its owners, Aaron Nino and Carl Thomas, Jr., discovered that their evening dinner business and late-night social crowds were excellent, but lunches didn't come up to expectations. "People wanted to get in and out in an hour or so," says chef George Flatt, a Culinary Institute graduate. "We just weren't set up for that kind of turnover." Still hoping to extend their hours, Nino and Thomas came up with a novel solution. They dropped lunch and began offering what they call a Sunset Menu from 5 to 7 p.m. each day.

The exotic, low-priced Sunset fare helps fill the dining room before the regular dinner hour. Appetizers include spinach tortellini, soft-shell crab almondine, and cappellini pasta with garlic butter and artichoke hearts (\$3.50-\$4.25). Popular entrees (\$7.75-\$8.50) are chicken Frangelico, Cajun orange roughy, filet tips, and prime rib.

When the evening dinner crowd filters into the art-deco, booth-lined dining room, the full menu is presented. Diners may start by ordering oysters poached in champagne cream or barbecued shrimp wrapped in bacon (\$5.95 each), or perhaps strawberry and melon champagne soup (\$2.50). Among the entrees are chicken and shrimp stir-fried with Taiwan black bean sauce (\$12.50). Canadian sea scallops are prepared in a Dijonnaise sauce (\$14.25), and the filet mignon is prepared over a mesquite grill (\$15.50). The orange roughy may be flamed in Pernod, sauteed in Cajun seasonings, or mesquite-grilled with basil and lemon (\$11.75-\$12.50).

As you arrive for dinner, you pass the adjoining social room, where at 4 p.m. flashing lights and taped music launch a nightly happy hour buffet that continues until 9 p.m. Each evening has a theme, such as the Big Band Bash and American, Mexican, Cajun, and Italian nights, and the action lasts until 6 a.m. weekdays and 8 a.m. weekends.

Botany's, located at 1700 East Flamingo,

The Famous and Never to Be Forgotten Original Caffe Vesuvio showers sparkles from floor to ceiling.

is available for groups of up to 1,000 people. More modest-sized dinner parties are advised to make reservations; call 737-6662. Major credit cards are accepted, and guests are invited to dance the night away. □

Elliot S. Krane is restaurant editor for the Las Vegas Review-Journal.

Italian Flourish

Pavarotti arias and art deco add to Leonardo's allure.

By Connie Emerson

The first thing you notice as you enter Leonardo's is a gallery of autographed photo-testimonials from stars like Tom Jones and Suzanne Somers. It doesn't take long to understand why the Reno restaurant is popular with the show-biz crowd. The food is good, and it is served with lots of special effects.

The pink-and-black art-deco menu dazzles. Pavarotti arias and '40s hits play in the background. There is the dramatic contrast of white linen tablecloths and wine-colored napkins, with individual lighting and stereo speakers at each booth.

When you order fettuccine Alfredo, the noodles, cream, parmesan *et al* are tossed with a flourish before your eyes. Steak Diane, tortellini Alfredo, and the Caesar salad are prepared tableside as well.

Operating partner Jan Sanders, who greets you at the door, says his decision to open an Italian restaurant was based on the economics of preparation. He says the cost of preparing Italian dishes varies—unlike French dishes, which almost always are expensive to make—so it is possible to create an Italian menu with a wide price range. "Two people can eat here theoretically for \$12," Sanders says.

Of course, dinner for two can cost a great deal more if you pull out all the gastronomic stops. Appetizer choices run from melone con prosciutto (melon with Italian ham) to melanzane alla parmigiana (eggplant with tomato sauce and mozzarella cheese), which are \$6.50 each.

A standout among the more than four dozen entrees is scampi alla ventuno—large prawns sauced to perfection in a melange of garlic butter, shallots, and wine (\$17.50). The 13 pasta dishes include spaghetti alla Pavarotti, made with garlic tomato sauce, sherry, green peppers, onions, and chicken livers (\$10.50).

Chosen four years in a row by *Wine Spectator* as having one of the top 100 wine lists in the country, Leonardo's is the first restaurant in Nevada to offer premium

wines by the glass. Try the St. Jean Chardonnay with the scampi.

The desserts include such irresistibles as bananas Foster and crepes DeVinci (filled with fresh berries), but don't overlook the ice cream. Sanders makes it in such flavors as Chocolate Espresso Grand Marnier, spumoni, and fresh strawberry.

The most spectacular special effect comes at the end of the meal if you order The Famous and Never to Be Forgotten Original Caffe Vesuvio. This Sanders creation of coffee, brandy, cream, lime juice, sugar, and cinnamon produces flames and a shower of sparkles from floor to ceiling when it is being prepared.

Leonardo's, located near Park Lane Mall at 2450 South Virginia Street, is open daily for dinner from 5:30 to 11 p.m. Reservations (827-6200) are recommended, and major credit cards are accepted. A delightful art-deco banquet room is available for parties of up to 50 people. □

Connie Emerson is a Reno writer

DINING GUIDE

The following Nevada dining directory includes restaurants that responded to recent surveys and also advertisers. Each listing gives sample dishes; whether breakfast, lunch, or dinner (B, L, D) are served; accepted credit cards; and if reservations are required or recommended. Price ranges refer to typical entree price per person: up to \$10 (\$), \$11 to \$20 (\$\$), \$21 to \$30 (\$\$\$), and more than \$30 (\$\$\$\$). To phone from out of state, the area code is 702 throughout Nevada.

LAS VEGAS

AMERICAN

Circus Circus/Skyrise—734-0410. Prime rib, steak and shrimp. B, L, D. \$, major.

Flamingo Hilton/Lindy's Deli—733-3111. Grilled Rueben, New York steak, marble cheesecake. B, L, D. \$, major.

Flamingo Hilton/Flamingo Room—733-3111. Seafood salad bar, fresh fish of the day, veal cutlet Viennoise. B, L, D. \$-\$\$, major.

Imperial Palace/Teahouse—731-3311. Full coffee shop selections. B, L, D. \$, major.

Mint/Food Promenade—387-MINT. Eight different food outlets including steak, pizza, Chinese, and salad bar. B, L, D. \$-\$\$, major.

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.

Sands/Garden Room—733-5000. Spring chicken, salmon steak. B, L, D. \$\$, major.

Union Plaza/Center Stage—386-2110. Prime rib, bouillabaisse. D. \$\$\$, major, res.

FRENCH/CONTINENTAL

Alexis Park/Pegasus—375 E. Harmon Ave., 796-3300. Roast duckling, escargot. D. \$\$\$, AE, MC, V, res.

Bally's/Gigi—739-4651. French, foie de veau saute Gigi, cote de veau nouveau Prince Orloff. D. \$\$\$, major, res.

Barbary Coast/Michael's—737-7111. Spring lamb chops with mint jelly, imported Dover sole, chateaubriand for two. D. \$\$\$, major.

Botany's—1700 E. Flamingo Rd., 737-6662. Shrimp with black bean sauce, Canadian sea scallops, Kentucky chip pie. D. \$-\$\$, major, res.



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Caesars Palace/Bacchanal—731-7110. Seven-course Roman banquet. D (closed Tues.-Wed.). \$\$\$\$ major, res.

Caesars Palace/Palace Court—731-7110. Langoustines, steak Diane. D. \$\$\$\$ major, res.

Four Queens/Hugo's Cellar—385-4011. Veal Dijonnaise, rotisserie duckling flambe anise, filet DeBoeuf Atlantis. D. \$-\$\$\$ major, res.

Frontier/Diamond Jim's—734-0110. Roast prime rib with Yorkshire pudding, veal Francaise. D (closed Mon.-Tues.) \$\$\$\$ major, res.

Golden Nugget/Elaine's—735-7111. Veal chop, brace of quail. D. \$\$\$\$ major, res.

Lady Luck/Burgundy Room—384-4680. Coquille St. Jacques provencale, tournedos Rossini. D. \$ major, res.

Las Vegas Hilton/Le Montrachet—732-5111. Dover sole, medallions of veal, extensive wine list. D. \$\$\$\$ major, res.

Marina/Captain's Cabin—739-1500. Veal chop with bourbon sauce, scampi a la maison, chateaubriand. D. \$\$\$ major.

Riviera/Delmonico's—734-5110. Moules Dijonnaise, bouillabaisse. D. \$\$\$\$ major, res.

Sahara/House of Lords—737-2111. Steak Diane, roast rack of lamb flouerise, Long Island duckling lingonberry. D. \$\$\$ major.

Sands/Regency Room—733-5000. Scampi provencale, beef Wellington, quails poele a la dodine. D. \$-\$\$\$ major.

Tropicana/Rhapsody—739-2222. Dover sole, clams casino. D. \$\$\$\$ major, res.

GERMAN

Alpine Village Inn—3003 Paradise Rd., 734-6888. Roast chicken, St. Moritz schnitzel, sing-a-longs nightly. D. \$ major, res.

Bavarian Chalet—3430 E. Tropicana, 451-7501. Jagerschnitzel, apple strudel. L, D (closed Sun.). \$\$\$ major except DC, res.

Waldemar's—2202 W. Charleston, 386-1995. Veal roulade, chicken la mar. L, D. \$-\$\$\$ major.

ITALIAN

Bally's/Caruso's—739-4656. Saltimbocca alla Romana, novello alla Vesuvio. D. \$\$\$ major, res.

The Bootlegger—5025 S. Eastern, 736-4939. Veal Lor-

raine, veal in cream and wine sauce, seafood diabolio with linguine, angel hair pasta. L, D (closed Mon.). \$-\$\$\$ major.

Fortunato's—3430 E. Tropicana Ave., 458-3333. Shrimp Italiano, chicken angelo. L, D. \$ major.

Golden Nugget/Stefano's—385-7111. Unique pastas, cioppino. L (except Sun.). D. \$\$\$\$ major, res.

Manfredi's Limelight—2340 E. Tropicana, 739-1410. Veal marsala, linguini tutto mare, scampi diavolo. D. \$ major, res.

Palace Station/Pasta Palace—Off I-15, 367-2411. Spaghetti, linguine. D. \$, MC, V.

Tropicana/Rhapsody—739-2222. Scampi and smoked salmon, northern Italian cuisine, sauteed veal, French cuisine also. D. \$\$\$\$ major, res.

Two Guys from Italy—1280 S. Decatur, 870-5192. Cioppino, fettucine specialties, eastern milked veal. L, D. \$ major.

MEXICAN

Hacienda Hotel/La Cocina—739-8911. Taco salad, seafood stir-fry. B, L, D. \$ major.

Sam's Town/Willie and Jose's—5111 Boulder Hwy., 456-7777. Enchiladas, rellenos de Cangrejo. D. \$, AE, MC, V.

Taqueria Mexico—1612 Civic Center Dr., North Las Vegas, 649-7000. Posole, menudo. L, D (closed Tues.). \$ major.

ORIENTAL

Bally's/Tracy's—739-4930. Kung pao gai, mongonow. D. \$\$\$ major.

Eli and Wong's—4110 S. Maryland Pkwy., 737-3400. More than 600 Italian and Chinese items. B, L, D. \$ major.

Flamingo Hilton/Peking Market—733-3111. Nine-course family dinner, lemon chicken and lobster Cantonese. D. \$ major.

Imperial Palace/Ming Terrace—731-3311. Shrimp egg foo young, almond duck. L, D. \$\$\$ major, res.

Las Vegas Hilton/Benihana Village—732-5111. Four restaurants: tempura, robata, sukiyaki, hibachi; animated show. D. \$\$\$ major, res.

Riviera/Rik'shaw—734-5110. Fine Cantonese cuisine. D. \$ major, res.

Sahara/Don the Beachcomber—737-2111. Specializing in Polynesian dishes. Shrimp Hong Kong,

bahala na combo. D. \$, AE, MC, V.

Tokyo Japanese—953 E. Sahara, 735-7070. Sushi hibachi tempura. L (Mon.-Fri.). D. \$ major.

Tropicana/Mizuno's Teppan Dining—739-2222. Tempura, hibachi. D. \$\$\$ major, res.

SURF AND TURF

Bally's/Barrymore's—739-4661. Roast rack of lamb, prime rib, steaks, assorted seafoods on ice. D. \$\$\$ major, res.

Bourbon Street/French Market—120 E. Flamingo, 737-7200. Cajun food, chicken, seafood. B, L, D. \$ major.

Circus Circus/Steak House—734-0410. Steak, prime rib, lobster, seafood appetizers flown in fresh daily. D. \$ major, res.

Flamingo Hilton/Beef Barron—733-3111. Prime rib special, chateaubriand, crisp roast duck. D. \$-\$\$\$ major.

Gold Strike Inn/Bill's Steak House—Between Boulder City and Hoover Dam, 293-5000. Steaks, lobster. B, L, D. \$ major.

Golden Corral Family Steak House—4711 Spring Mountain Rd., 367-6703. Sirloin, ribeye, filet mignon, shrimp. L, D. \$ major.

Golden Steer—308 W. Sahara, 384-4470. Pepper steak, quail, game dishes. D. \$\$\$, AE, DC, MC, V, res.

Hacienda Hotel/Charcoal Room—739-8911. Veal chop, queen and king filet mignon, mesquite-broiled seafood. D. \$\$\$ major.

Holiday Casino/Claudine's—369-5000. Steaks and seafood, open kitchen, piano bar nearby, excellent wine list. D. \$ major, res.

Landmark/Sunset Room—733-1110. Choice seafood, prime rib and steak. D. \$\$\$ major.

Marina/Port of Call—739-1500. Shrimp and seafood Veniseo, Alaska king crab legs, prime rib. D. \$ major.

Starboard Tack—2601 Atlantic, 457-8794. Seafood, salad bar. L, D. \$ major.

Stardust/Moby Dick—3000 Las Vegas Blvd. S., 732-6111. Roast prime rib, chicken angelo, shrimp scampi. D. \$ major.

The Tillerman—2245 E. Flamingo Rd., 731-4036. Sole, bay scallops in cream sauce, Cajun swordfish. D. \$ major.

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Del Webb's Nevada Club/Wheelhouse Coffee Shop—298-2512. Breakfasts, steak and lobster. B, L, D, \$, MC, V.
Edgewater/The Embers—298-2453. Steak, seafood, prime rib, stockyard midwestern beef. D, \$, major, res.
Riverside/Gourmet Room—298-2535. Chateaubriand, Cajun dishes, steak and quail, rack of lamb. D, \$, major, res.
Sam's Town Gold River/Sutter's Mill—298-2242. Mesquite-broiled steaks. Brunch Sat.-Sun. D, \$, AE, MC, V.

RENO-CARSON AREA

AMERICAN

Bailywick's—124 Wonder St., 786-7154. Gourmet hamburgers and fries, sundae. L, D, \$, major.
Boomtown—I-80 at Verdi, 345-6000. Changing buffet, regular menu. B, L, D, \$, major.
Cafe 32—8195 S. Virginia St., 853-3200. Capellini duck salad, London broil, smoked chicken. L, D, \$, major.
Carson Valley Inn/Katie's—Minden, 782-9711. Four-course prime rib dinner, steak and lobster, half-pound burgers. B, L, D, \$, major.
Comstock Hotel/Miner's Cafe—200 W. 2nd St., 329-1880. One-pound New York steak dinner. 24 hours. \$, major.
Delta Restaurant—Virginia City, 847-0353. Hamburgers, sandwiches, breakfasts. B, L, D, \$.
Doc and Eddy's—515 Nichols, Sparks, 355-8636. Seafood burger, nachos. B, L, D, \$, major.
Eggception—Gardnerville, 782-8690. Quiche, Tarra-gon snapper, lemon garlic chicken. B, L, \$, no CC.
Eldorado/Mardi Gras—786-5700. English sole, shrimp salad croissant sandwich, won ton soup. B, L, D, \$, major.
Harolds Club/Nickelodeon—329-0881. Chinese menu, prime rib, hamburgers, custom omelets. B, L, D, \$, major.
Harrah's/Garden Room—786-3232. Eggs Benedict, avocado clubhouse, triple dragon. B, L, D, \$, major.
Harrah's/Skyway Buffet—786-3232. Buffets, Friday

seafood, Sunday brunch. B, L, D, \$, major.
Holiday Inn/Greenhouse—5851 S. Virginia St., 825-2940. Sandwiches, burgers, dinners. B, L, D, \$, major.
John Ascuaga's Nugget/General Store—Sparks, 356-3300. Prime rib, giant apple pancake, seafood Louis. B, L, D, \$, major.
John Ascuaga's Nugget/Rotisserie—356-3300. Buffet with menu that includes rack of lamb and scampi, Sunday brunch. L, D, \$-\$\$, major.
Julia C. Bulette Saloon and Cafe—Virginia City, 847-9991. Variety of omelets, sandwiches, pizza from scratch. B, L, D, \$, no CC.
Ormsby House/Comstock—Carson City, 882-1890. Juicy burgers, prime rib, all-day breakfast menu. B, L, D, \$, major.
Peppermill/Coffee Shop—2701 S. Virginia St., 826-2121. Fruit salads, vegetarian lasagna, gourmet omelets. B, L, D, \$, major.
Sharkey's Nugget—Gardnerville, 782-3133. Prime rib is house specialty. B, L, D, \$, no CC.
Walley's Hot Springs Resort—South of Genoa on Foothill Rd., 883-6556 or 782-8155. Prime rib, lobster tail, chicken Chardonnay. L, D, \$, AE, MC, V, res.

BASQUE

Carson Valley Country Club—U.S. 395 two miles south of Gardnerville, 265-3715. Beef tongue stew, crab sandwich, cabbage soup. L (except Sun.), D, \$-\$\$, no CC.
J&T Bar—Gardnerville, 782-2074. Top sirloin steak, oxtail, tongue stew, chicken and rice. L, D (closed Sun.). \$, no CC.
Louis' Basque Corner—301 E. 4th St., Reno, 323-7203. Sweetbreads, tripe, paella, other seafood dishes. L, D, \$, major, res.
Overland Hotel—Gardnerville, 782-2138. Lamb chops, steak, chicken, homemade French fries. L, D (closed Mon.). \$, MC, V.
Santa Fe Hotel—235 Lake St., Reno, 323-1891. Chops, chicken, stew, Basque card games. L, D, \$, no CC.
FRENCH/CONTINENTAL
Adele's—1112 N. Carson St., Carson City, 882-3353. Continental San Francisco style, 75 dinner entrees, fresh seafood, announced specials, 400 wines. L, D, \$-\$\$\$ MC, V, res.
Bally's/Cafe Gigi—789-2266. French, cracked crab,

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snails, lobster bisque. D. \$\$\$, major, res.
Eldorado/The Vintage—786-5700. Fresh Sonoma duckling, chateaubriand, prawns amaretto. D (closed Mon.-Tues.). \$, major, res.
Harrah's/Steak House—786-3232. Steak Diane, fresh fish daily, roast rack of lamb. L (Mon.-Fri.), D. \$\$\$, major, res.
La Table Francaise—3065 W. 4th St., 323-3200. French, Mobil 4-star restaurant. D (closed Sun.-Mon.). \$\$\$, major, res.
OG's Classic Cuisine—442 Flint, 329-1173. Pheasant, trout, flaming dishes served tableside, set in Victorian home. L, D. \$\$\$, major, res.
Ormsby House/Woody's—Carson City, 882-1890. Rack of lamb persillade, veal Cordon Bleu. L (Tues.-Fri.), D (Tues.-Sat.). \$-\$\$\$ major.
Reno Hilton/Top of the Hilton—322-1111. Continental, steak Diane, veal Oscar, bouillabaisse. D. \$\$\$, major, res.

ITALIAN

Bally's/Caruso's—789-2267. Fresh oysters, cannelloni, calamari. D. \$\$\$, major, res.
Eldorado/La Strada—786-5700. Saltimbocca, gnocchi al pesto, ravioli verdi con spinaci. D (closed Wed.-Thurs.). \$, major, res.
Leonardo's—2450 S. Virginia St., 827-6200. Northern Italian, veal, steak, seafood, pasta. Nightly 4-course special. D. \$-\$\$\$ major, res.
Marrone's—2729 N. Carson St., Carson City, 883-7044. Design your own dish from selection of pastas and sauces. L, D. \$-\$\$, major.

MEXICAN

El Charro Avitia—4389 S. Carson St., Carson City, 883-6261. Flauta, chimichanga, combinations, margaritas. L (Mon.-Fri.), D. \$, AE, MC, V.
Pipeline Inn—1681 Hwy. 395, Minden, 782-7408. Shrimp and crabmeat tostadas, quesadillas, Spanish omelets, 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.

ORIENTAL

Bally's/China Seas—789-2268. Mandarin shrimp, Mongolian beef, cashew chicken. D (closed Mon.-

Tues.). \$, major, res.

John Ascuaga's Nugget/Trader Dick's—Sparks, 356-3300. Cashew chicken, Szechwan specialties, flaming dagger brochette. L, D. \$, major.
Mandarin—5089 S. McCarran Blvd., 827-0222. Seafood sizzling plate, strawberry chicken. L, D. \$, major.
Miramar House—202 Fairview Dr., Carson City, 882-0262. Pu pu platter, Thai. L, D. \$, major.
Panda Kitchen—2416 Hwy. 50 E., Carson City, 882-8128. Mandarin and Szechwan. L, D. \$, MC, V.

SURF AND TURF

Bally's/Bounty—789-2000. Steamed clams, cracked half crab, oysters. L, D. \$, major.
Bally's/Steak House—789-2270. Broiled T-bone steak, Columbia River salmon. L (except Sat.-Sun.), D (except Sun.-Mon.). \$, major.
Carson Nugget/Steak House—882-1626. Steaks and seafood. D. \$, major.
Cattlemen's—555 Hwy. 395 S. in Washoe Valley, 849-1500. Sirloin, filet mignon, lobster, Alaska king crab. D. \$, AE, MC, V.
Circus Circus/Hickory Pit—329-0711. One-pound prime rib, New York steak. D. \$, major.
Harolds Club/The Presidential Car—329-0881. Steak, lobster, shrimp, veal Oscar. D. \$, AE, MC, V, res.
Harrah's/Seafare—786-3232. Fresh fish specials, calamari, lobster tail, veal parmigiana, eggplant Romano. L, D. \$\$\$, major, res.
Heiss's—107 E. Telegraph St., Carson City, 882-9012. Petite filet, Alaska king crab. L, D. \$, major.
Inn Cognito—Genoa, 782-8898. Calamari, scallops Suzanne. D (closed Tues.). \$, major.
John Ascuaga's Nugget/John's Oyster Bar—Sparks, 356-3300. Lazyman's cioppino, seafood stews. L, D. \$, major.
John Ascuaga's Nugget/Steak House—Sparks, 356-3300. Prime rib, steak and lobster, snapper, shrimp Louis. L, D. \$, major.
Liberty Belle—4250 S. Virginia St., 825-1776. Prime rib, famous spinach salad. L, D. \$, major.
MacKay's—336 Mill St., 348-6222. Marinated lamb chops, fresh seafood, sandwiches, scotch bar. L (Mon.-Fri.), D. \$, AE, MC, V, res.

Western Village/Steakhouse—Off I-80, Sparks, 331-1069. Prime rib, Australian lobster, veal scallopini, steak Diane. D. \$, major.

LAKE TAHOE

AMERICAN

Caesars Tahoe/Cafe Roma—Stateline, 588-3515. Lamb chops, prime rib. B, L, D. \$-\$\$\$ major.
Fire Sign Cafe—Tahoe City, CA., 916-583-0871. Huevos rancheros, crepes. B, L. \$, major.
Harrah's Tahoe/Forest—Stateline, 588-6611. Honey-dipped fried chicken, veal stew madeira, mahi mahi. B, L, D. \$\$\$, major.
Harrah's Tahoe/Sierra—Stateline, 588-6611. Daily specials, Chinese entrees. B, L, D. \$, major.
Harvey's/Cafe Metro—Stateline, 588-2411. European sweet shop, coffees. B, L, D. \$, major.
High Sierra/Sugar Pine Bistro—Stateline, 588-6211. Croissants, quiche, special coffees. B, L, D. \$, major.
High Sierra/Chicken and Rib Barn—Stateline, 588-6211. Baby back ribs, chicken, steak. D. \$, major.
High Sierra/Four Seasons—Stateline, 588-6211. Coffee shop, steaks. B, L, D. \$, major.
Hyatt/Alpine Jack's—Incline, 831-1111. Fajitas, pizza, sandwiches. B, L, D. \$, major.
Steven—341 Ski Way Blvd., Incline, 832-0222. Home-made pasta, fresh seafood, mesquite-grilled lamb, outside deck. L, D. \$, major, res.
Tahoe Queen—S. Lake Tahoe, CA., 916-541-3364. Evening dinner-dance cruise, prime rib or halibut. D. \$\$\$, major.

FRENCH/CONTINENTAL

Christy Hill Inn—Olympic Valley, CA., 916-583-8551. B, L, D. \$\$\$, major, res.
Harrah's Tahoe/The Summit—Stateline, 588-6611. Cajun blackened redfish, filet mignon, bananas Foster. D. \$\$\$, major, res.
Harvey's/Sage Room—Stateline, 588-2411. Rack of lamb persille, prime dry aged cuts of beef, beef Wellington. D. \$\$\$, major.
Harvey's/Top of the Wheel—Stateline, 588-2411. Continental cuisine, mahi mahi with macadamia bourbon. D. \$\$\$, major, res.



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High Sierra/Stetson's—Stateline, 588-6211. Rack of lamb, chateaubriand. D. \$\$\$, major.

Hyatt/Hugo's—Incline, 831-1111. Five-star duckling, fresh seafood, lamb. D. \$\$\$, major.

ITALIAN

Caesars Tahoe/Primavera—Stateline, 588-3515. Seafood frittata, Italian crepe. B, L, D. \$\$, major, res.

MEXICAN

Hacienda de la Sierra—931 Tahoe Blvd., Incline, 831-8300. Fajitas, chimichangas, combination plates. D. \$, AE, MC, V.

Harvey's/El Vaquero—Stateline, 588-2411. Camerones Veracruz, caritas. L, D. \$\$, major.

ORIENTAL

Caesars Tahoe/Empress Court—Stateline, 588-3515. Szechwan, Mandarin. D. \$\$, major, res.

SURF AND TURF

Caesars Tahoe/Broiler Room—Stateline, 588-3515. D. \$\$\$, major, res. for large parties.

Fresh Ketch—Tahoe Keys Marina, South Lake Tahoe, CA. 916-541-5683. Live Maine lobster, fresh fish, rack of lamb. L, D. \$-\$\$, AE, MC, V, res.

Harrah's Tahoe/Friday's Station—Stateline, 588-6611. Fresh fish, steaks. L, D. \$\$\$, major, res.

Harvey's/Seafood Grotto—Stateline, 588-2411. Wide seafood selection. L, D. \$\$\$, major.

Hyatt/Pines—Incline, 831-1111. Seafood fettucine, steak au poivre, prime rib. D. \$\$, major.

ELKO

AMERICAN

Commerical Hotel—738-3181. Breakfasts, specials, dining room. B, L, D. \$, major.

Red Lion Inn—738-2111. Coffee shop and gourmet restaurant. B, L, D. \$-\$\$, major.

Stockmen's Motor Hotel—738-5141. Casino coffee shop, evening dinner house. B, L, D. \$-\$\$, major.

BASQUE

Biltoki—405 Silver St., 738-9691. Tongue, prime rib, clams, squid. D (closed Wed.). \$, MC, V.

Nevada Dinner House—351 Silver St., 738-8485. Spaghetti, lamb. D. \$\$, AE, MC, V.

Star Hotel—246 Silver St., 738-9925. Chicken, steaks, chops. D (except Sun.). \$, MC, V.

AROUND THE STATE

Bruno's Country Club—Gerlach, 557-2220. Home-made ravioli and sauce, rib steak, home-grown pork chops. B, L, D. \$, AE, MC, V.

Cactus Pete's/Plateau Room—Jackpot, 800-821-3935 in Nev., 800-321-1103 outside Nev. Shrimp flambe, steaks. D. \$\$, major.

Carol's Country Kitchen and Tea Room—Austin, 964-2493. Beef stew, fried chicken, steaks. B, L, D. \$, major.

Ely Hotel—765 Aultman St., Ely, 289-9900. Basque, steaks, lamb, pork. D (closed Sun.). \$\$, no CC.

Evah's Copper Queen—Ely, 289-4271. Prime rib, prawns, Mexican dishes. B, L, D. \$-\$\$, major.

Fallon Nugget—Fallon, 423-3111. Buffets, specials. B, L, D. \$-\$\$, major.

Jailhouse/Cell Block Dining Hall—Ely, 289-3033. Prime rib, scampi, ribs. D. \$\$, major.

Lee's Restaurant/Old Foggy's Bar—Dayton, 246-3435. Green chili burrito, steak. B, L, D (closed Tues.). \$-\$\$, major.

Martin Hotel—Winnemucca, 623-3197. Basque, liver and onions, steak, tongue. L, D. \$\$, MC, V.

Ormachea's—Winnemucca, 623-3455. Basque, steak, chicken, oxtail soup. D (closed Sun.-Mon.). \$, MC, V.

Peppermill—Mesquite, 346-5232. Specials, Sunday champagne brunch. B, L, D. \$\$, major.

Searchlight Nugget—Searchlight, 297-1201. Specials, 10-cent coffee. B, L, D. \$, MC, V.

Silver Smith/White Swan—Wendover, 664-2231. Crab legs, filet mignon. D. \$\$, major.

Station House/Whistle Stop—Tonopah, 482-9777. Hamburgers, steak, seafood. B, L, D. \$, AE, MC, V.

Stockman's/Nevada Room—Reno Hwy., Fallon, 423-2117. Steak and lobster, prime rib, hot and cold specials. B (weekends), L, D. \$-\$\$, major, res.

Whiskey Pete's/Bushwacker Steakhouse—I-15 near Nev.-Calif. border, 382-4388. Porterhouse, prime rib, trout almonidine. D. \$-\$\$, major.

Winnemucca Hotel—95 Bridge St., Winnemucca, 623-2908. Basque, steak, lamb. L, D. \$, MC, V, DC.

Winners/Grandma's House—Winnemucca, 623-2511. Steak, prime rib, lobster. D. \$-\$\$, major. □

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A New Arch for Reno

While boosters fit Virginia Street with a brand-new standard, a Nevada historian looks at how Reno became the Biggest Little City in the World.

By Phillip I. Earl



The new arch, the third to grace North Virginia Street, is more modernistic and glamorous than its predecessors.

Late this summer, visitors to Reno will be greeted by a new arch, the third framework and the sixth configuration of lights and neon to grace North Virginia Street since the first one went up six decades ago.

But although the new arch will feature the world-famous words, "Reno: The Biggest Little City in the World," the arch didn't always have that slogan. The first arch was erected in the summer of 1926 by the Nevada Transcontinental Highway Exposition in celebration of the new Lincoln and Victory highways. Similar to arches in California cities in the '20s, the Reno arch

was designed by Norman W. Prince and erected by the J.L. Stuart Company of San Francisco at a cost of \$5,500. Among the notables on hand for the dedication on October 23, 1926, were Governor James Scrugham, Reno Mayor E.E. Roberts, San Francisco Mayor James Rolph, and 1,500 members of the San Francisco Islamic Temple (including their 400-man marching squad and 80-piece band). Reno's citizenry jammed the downtown streets to watch the Shriners' parade that night and Scrugham push the button which lit up the night sky with the legend "Reno Transcontinental Highway Exposition, June 25 to August 1."

After the Exposition, the city council decided to keep the arch. Mayor Roberts asked the citizens of Reno to suggest a permanent slogan, and his office was deluged with letters and phone calls. Most emphasized the pleasures of life in Reno: "Reno: A City Unrestrained In Its Enjoyment of Natural Rights;" "Reno: A City of Sunshine With Warm Welcomes for All;" "Reno: The Gateway to Prosperity and Happiness;" "Reno: Nevada's Silver Lilly;" "Reno: The Busiest Little City in the West;" "Reno: Where Life's Worth Living."

Some touted the divorce trade: "Reno: The Home of Nevada's Divorce Colony,"

one contestant proposed. "Reno: If You Are In a Rush, We Will Get you a Divorce in Three Months," another put forward. Some hopeful Renoites even waxed poetic: "Reno: Here In Nevada Where The Sagebrush Grows, Nature Has Forgotten To Record Its Woes," and "Reno: Golden West Where Hearts Are At Rest."

Roberts and the members of the city council gave careful consideration to the entries, but found none acceptable. A year later the Sierra Street Improvement Club and the chamber of commerce convinced city fathers to put up \$100 in prize money for another slogan contest.

As before, entries came in a flood. Among the suggestions were "Reno: The Best Out West;" "Reno: The West's Best Assay;" "East or West, Reno Serves Best;" and "In Progressive Reno, Loiter, Linger, Locate." One entry from Santa Rosa, California, proposed "Reno: Biggest Little Town on Earth."

On March 14, 1929, an announcement came from city hall that "Reno: The Biggest Little City in the World," a slogan which had been used in previous booster campaigns, would be the arch's official moniker. It remains a mystery why G.A. Burns of Sacramento was the winner, since many had suggested the same slogan. The city council acknowledged the slogan "is by no means original," but said it "better described the city in a few words."

The lettering on the arch, in lights, went up a few weeks later and Governor Balzar

flipped the switch at a ceremony on June 25. Many Renoites who disliked the slogan came to accept it as it gained national notoriety. When hard times hit Reno in the early '30s, however, the expense for electricity—\$30 a month—and the cost of maintaining the 944 lightbulbs strained the city's budget, so the lights went off in November, 1932.

Rose Morgan, a hotel owner, believed the advertising value of the arch outweighed the savings and complained to the city council in January, 1933. She was told that the arch would be lit again if the business community footed part of the bill. She got support from the chamber of commerce and "Reno: The Biggest Little City in the World" blazed forth again in April.

A year later a drive to redo the slogan in neon unearthed a controversy. Many citizens said slogans were passe' and some city councilmen said Reno's was "obsolete." Chamber manager Edward Walker, a 1928 backer of the slogan concept, now considered it "small townish" and "too boastful." Reno's merchants agreed the display "reflected no credit on the city."

So in February, 1934, the city accepted a bid of \$33.38 a month by the Electrical Products Company to install and maintain a sign featuring only "Reno" in green neon.

Nobody liked it.

A year and a half later, "Reno: The Biggest Little City in the World" again lit up North Virginia Street, this time in neon.

The arch stood unaltered for the next 28

years, but some Renoites still thought that the community could do better. In 1956, Mayor Len Harris proposed the slogan be changed to "Reno: The Friendliest Little City In The World." He even had his pet slogan printed on city paychecks, but to no avail. "The newspapers really tore my head off," he later said, "really busted me out."

In 1963, Harolds Club publicist Roy Powers spearheaded a campaign to raise \$100,000 to replace the arch for Nevada's 1914 centennial. Ad/Art got the contract, and the new 70-foot-high arch was completed before Christmas. On New Years Eve Mayor Roy Quilici pulled the handle of a special slot machine at 10 p.m. to turn on the power. In the clubs that evening, bartenders served drinks in cups bearing a picture of the new arch and carrying the inscription, "On The Eve of Nevada's 100th Birthday, 1864-1964."

The old arch was set up at the entrance to Idlewild Park, but was relocated to Paradise Park when Idlewild Drive was widened. The structure remains there to this day, a reminder of Reno's past as well as a roost for the park's pigeons.

The new arch was pretty well accepted, although the slogan still wasn't safe from potshots. In May 1971, Ron Smith of the Greater Reno Chamber of Commerce told the city council that the slogan "could be dropped without much trouble." A deluge of critical letters, phone calls, and editorials followed. He made amends by spelling out

(Continued on page 111)

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The Real Electric Cowboy

With apologies to Robert Redford, Vegas Vic has been a star in Glitter Gulch for nearly four decades.

By Rob Powers

The most famous cowboy in Las Vegas owns neither rodeo titles nor casinos. In his 36 years, he's never ridden a horse, never stuck a plug of tobacco between his cheek and gum, and never once jumped into a barroom brawl.

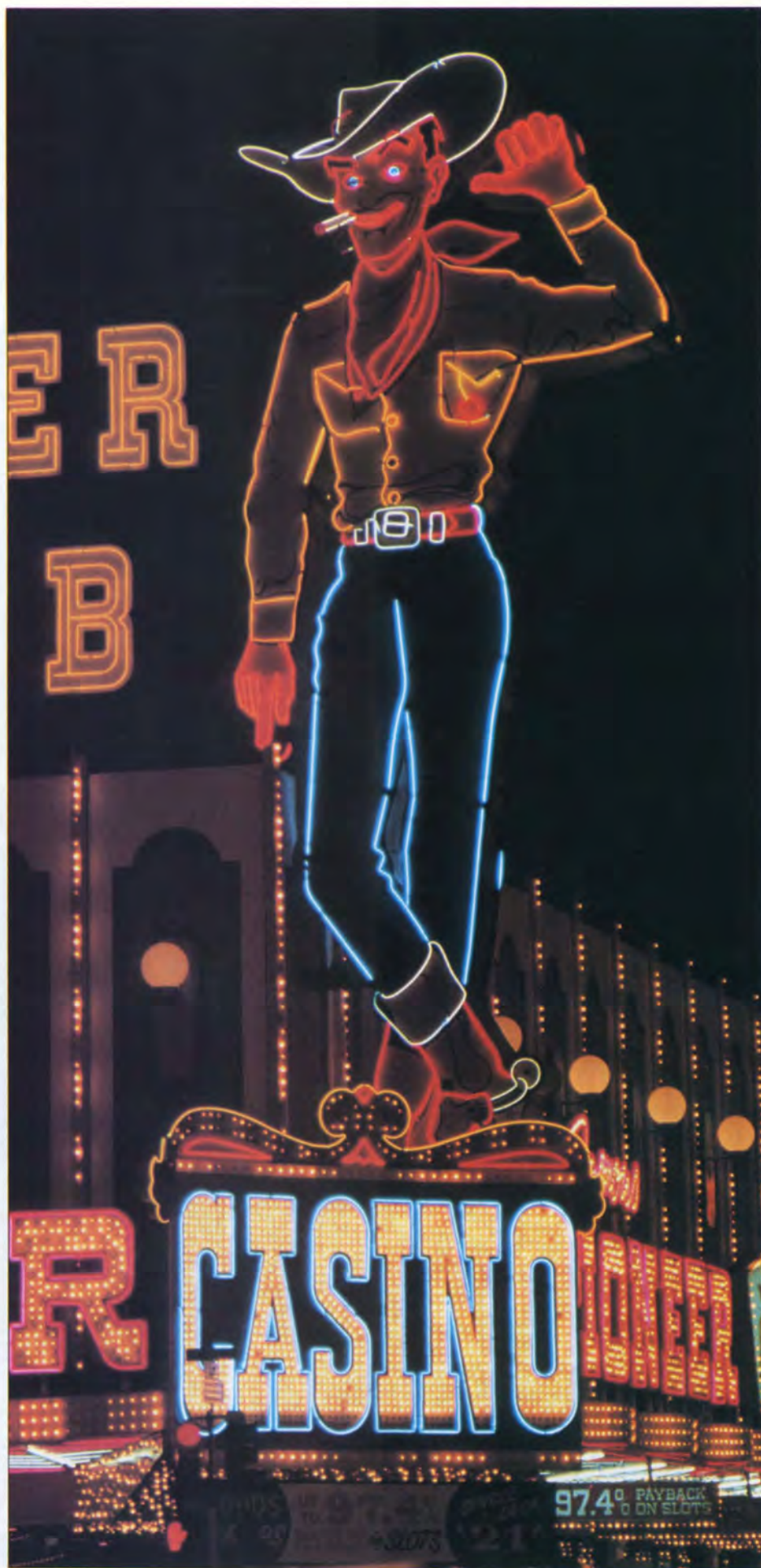
Ah, you say, the tall, strong, silent type. Yes and no.

Tall? His lanky frame towers nearly 50 feet. Silent? He's anything but. He greets tourists to Glitter Gulch with a friendly, "Howdy, podner, welcome to downtown Las Vegas." Punctual as a Swiss watch, though less delicate, he gives his spiel every 15 minutes, from morning till evening, rain or shine, through blistering summers and chilly winters.

Meet Vegas Vic, the real electric cowboy, a winking, blinking, cigarette-puffing Nevadan whose smile has appeared in more TV shows and movies about Las Vegas than any other landmark—and who may mean Las Vegas to more people than all the showgirls, slot machines, and stars rolled into one.

Though Vic and his "Howdy podner" message seem hopelessly anachronistic in the '80s, he endures. A little bit of Vegas kitsch, to be sure, but there's something about the guy: a certain familiarity, the Old West flavor—yes, even with neon. Vic has Vegas written all over him.

"It's a landmark; it's different. A lot of people still take pictures of it. If you look down Fremont now, there's only a few [signs] that have any character. They're mostly modern now," says Ray Larsen, president of Larsen Electric Sign Company. Not exactly the person you'd expect to pay



homage to Vic, since the electric cowboy was built and is maintained by Larsen's competitor, Young Electric Sign Company. But during the '50s Larsen worked for YESCO, and was one of the team of about 10 men who bolted Vic to the Pioneer Club. "It was quite a thing for the local people," says Larsen, adding that it took about three days to put the six-ton Vic in place. "In those days it was a big job."

Vegas Vic's character was first created by the J. Walter Thompson Advertising Agency for the Las Vegas Chamber of Commerce as part of the chamber's "Live Wire" campaign. Around 1951 Tutor Scherer, then owner of the Pioneer Club, asked Thomas Young, Sr. of YESCO to construct a sign based on the cowboy character. Built in Utah, Vegas Vic went up at the Pioneer Club that same year, at a cost of about \$28,000.

"It was the real attraction getter on Fremont Street for the next 15 years," says Dub Norman, who went to work for YESCO in 1946 and is now the division manager.

Vegas Vic stood out not only because of his sheer size—the top of his hat is 75 feet above street level—but also because he moved his arms and talked (his recorded voice belonged to a man named Bud Weil). To a city always looking for tourist magnets, he was perfect. With his broad-brimmed hat, bandana, spurs, and dangling cigarette, all in neon, Vic was the ideal marriage of Old West and New Vegas. The union remains a happy one.

Not that everyone has a soft spot in his heart for the big guy. Vic fell silent in 1966; legend has it that his voice box was the victim of arrows shot by actor Lee Marvin and crew members of the movie *The Professionals*, which was filmed at Valley of Fire. According to lore, Marvin and his cohorts were bugged by Vic's incessant howdy podnering, and decided to silence him for good.

Norman dismisses the tale as apocryphal, saying city ordinances limiting the use of sound amplification devices, and not Marvin's arrows, were the reason Vic decided to give downtown the silent treatment. Whatever the case, Vic did not talk again until 1980, when, with much hoopla, Pioneer Club officials gave him his voice back.

That came as a welcome development for just about everyone, even people like Diana Conn, director of advertising and public relations at the Pioneer Club. Her office is located on the second floor of the three-story building, well within earshot of the neon cowboy. But does Vic's booming voice drive her crazy?

"No," Conn says, "I'm very used to it. If he doesn't speak, if something goes wrong with the recorder, I'll tell someone about it. He's part of my routine."

Not to mention an integral part of downtown Las Vegas. □

Rob Powers is editor of the Living section of the Las Vegas Review Journal.



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Reno Arch (Continued from page 107)

"Welcome To The Biggest Little City In The World" on the Chamber's marquee and signing it "Ron Smith."

In 1973 retired Reno newsman Paul Leonard was quoted as saying the slogan was "sort of corny for a city of Reno's size." County Commissioner Gerry Grow agreed. On March 23, he suggested that something be added: "The Biggest Little City In The World and Flower Of The West," or "Tourist Mecca Of The West." Roy Powers of Harolds was still a supporter, however. "They'll have to cut me down before they take down that arch," he said. Gene Evans, Mapes Hotel publicist, agreed. "The slogan is world famous," said Evans. "People think we're a nice, friendly, little town—and Reno is a small town."

When the Reno City Council decided the town needed a new arch last year, there was no question that the famed old slogan would be used. Instead of a name-that-arch contest, the town sponsored a design-that-arch contest, with a grand prize of \$2,500. The purse drew entries ranging from amateur sketches to sophisticated renderings. Six judges, three from the chamber and three from the council, selected the winner—a modern affair by Chuck Barnard, an Ad/Art designer. Ad/Art donated the money to the UNR art department.

But although Ad/Art won the contest, it lost the bid to engineer and build the arch. That honor went to Young Electric Sign Company, one of Ad/Art's biggest competitors. "YESCO's bid was designed to win," says Rich Iori, Executive Director of the Downtown Renovation Association. "There was \$250,000 allocated for the arch, but YESCO bid only \$99,000. That barely covers the cost of materials. It was a very generous contribution to the city of Reno—and it saved us a lot of money."

The new arch's dedication is scheduled for August 8, the same day that more than 1,000 classic cars will arrive in town for Hot August Nights, a celebration of the '50s and '60s. When the lead car passes under the arch at about 9 a.m., the arch will be considered officially christened. There will be downtown activities throughout the day with a street dance in the early evening. When the sun goes down, about 9 p.m., the lights on Virginia Street will be turned off for the official Lighting of the Arch. Then, "Reno: The Biggest Little City in the World" will blaze forth once again, perhaps for another half-century, no matter what the critics say. □

Reno writer Phillip I. Earl is Curator of Exhibits for the Nevada Historical Society.

The pigeons at Paradise Park may lose their grip on the original Reno Arch if local boosters get their way. There is a drive to donate the revered relic to the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C., where it may rest in peace forever.

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Bike Rides

A cyclist's guide to the ups and downs
of Northern Nevada.

By Buddy Frank

Northern Nevada is one of the world's best places to ride a bike. The terrain offers deserts and mountains, forests and flatlands—all within pedaling distance of one another. My list of the top 10 routes in the area is designed to provide recreational cyclists with enjoyable exercise and spectacular scenery. Yet these same courses helped hone the cycling skills of Tour de France competitors Greg LeMond and Inga Thompson Benedict.

I'll begin with a favorite of beginners, the "Franktown Loop" in Washoe Valley. Starting at Bowers Mansion, head south along old U.S. 395 for about three miles, and turn right on Franktown Road. The road rolls past ranches and custom homes for about seven miles before rejoining the old highway, where you head back to Bowers. If you increase the tempo, you'll appreciate why this course also is a favorite with local racers.

Another great short ride is from Reno to Verdi via U.S. 40. Heading west from town, the route parallels the Truckee River. For about a quarter of a mile, you're forced onto Interstate 80, but soon you're back on pure country roads. Upon entering Verdi, turn right on the Old Bridge Road for a sprint across the Truckee on a wood-planked iron

bridge and a tour past a 1940s-style dude ranch. The round trip is about 20 miles, perfect for after-work workouts.

A ride from Genoa to anywhere qualifies high on any list. One of the best options is to head south on SR 206-207 and Highway 88. The road gently rolls through classic Nevada sheepland before turning distinctly alpine near Woodfords. After a water stop in town, go east on Diamond Valley Road for some short but steep climbing before heading north to Genoa. This 40-mile loop is best completed with a cold beer from the state's oldest bar in the center of town.

All serious cyclists like mountains, and Geiger Grade (SR 431) between Reno and Virginia City is one of the best climbs anywhere. It's moderately steep but only seven miles long. If the going gets too difficult, rest at the Geiger Lookout about halfway up. Fit riders continue over the summit through Virginia City, Gold Hill, and Silver City to Highway 50, turning right to Carson City. The return to Reno via Washoe Valley on U.S. 395 makes a 60-mile loop. While Geiger is narrow, most motorists drive at sensible speeds and seem tolerant of slower uphill bike riders.

That's not the case on the Mount Rose Highway (SR 431) that leads from Reno to the north shore of Lake Tahoe. Cresting a

summit near 10,000 feet, the road offers unmatched views of the lake. Unfortunately, because of traffic problems, it is ranked at the bottom of the 10 Greatest.

But if you yearn for a safer view of Tahoe, you'll find it on top of Spooner Summit. It's a solid climb of about nine miles from Carson City on Highway 50 and features wide, paved shoulders. Be careful coming back down. If you're not up to high speeds, you'll find your brakes smoking.

If these three climbs don't satisfy your appetite for altitude, try Monitor Pass. Beginning at Minden, cycle south on U.S. 395 to Topaz Lake. At the south end of the lake, turn west on SR 89 for a steep and challenging climb over the 8,314-foot pass. To make a day of your ride, continue west through Markleeville, north to Woodfords and return to Minden. It's about 70 miles, but well worth the strong effort required.

If your climbing time is limited, try Sun Valley's summits north of Reno. Turn west off Sun Valley Drive at 7th Avenue and enjoy the short, steep climb over delightful O'Brien Pass to Golden Valley. If you can handle this one easily, another option is to try the shorter, but much steeper, hill on Dandini Boulevard that crests at the university's Desert Research Institute. These are both good training climbs that can be completed from Reno in well under an hour.

One of the most satisfying rides in the Northern Nevada area actually is in California. The route begins in Sierraville north of Truckee. Using nearly-deserted Highway 89, you'll quickly climb out of the ranching valley into heavy timber. While difficult, there is great scenery along the way as you make for 6,701-foot Yuba Pass. On the backside, you encounter a breathtaking, Yosemite-like view of the majestic Sierra Buttes. After a winding descent, turn your bike north on Gold Lake Road and begin climbing again past several alpine lakes that make great watering holes. You'll reach the summit at Long Lake and then enjoy a quick descent to the picturesque community of Graeagle. The ride back to Sierraville is largely flat along the edge of the idyllic valley. The memories of this magnificent 50-mile ride can best be savored while soaking in nearby Campbell Hot Springs.

The final entry on the list of the 10 Greatest Bike Rides is one for riders at any level. It's not for speed, but for the soul. Starting from the south end of Tahoe City on the lake's north shore, a four-mile Bike Path has been cut into the north bank of the Truckee River. The trail runs to River Ranch near the entrance to Alpine Meadows ski resort. It is a scenic tourist ride designed for slow cruising. In mid-summer, you'll parallel a fleet of sunbathing rafters drifting on the river. This ride is the perfect ending for a lazy afternoon—and this list. □

Reno freelancer Buddy Frank is a regular Nevada contributor and a firm believer in bipedal power

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The entire Nevada Magazine staff is interested in what you like or don't like about the magazine -- and ways that we can better serve you. Because your input is so very important to us we will be giving 18" x 23" posters of the May/June cover of Wheeler Peak to the first 250 readers who respond with completed questionnaires. All your answers will be strictly confidential and will not be released in any individual form.

Thank you,

Kirk Whisler

Kirk Whisler
Publisher/Editor

A. What were your favorite features in this issue? (check only three)

1. ☐ Nevada's Water Wonderlands
2. ☐ Tour de Nevada
3. ☐ Trek to Toiyabe Dome
4. ☐ Golden Years in the Silver State
5. ☐ Virginia City Huckster
6. ☐ Nevada Art & Artists
7. ☐ Fallini Tanks, a Truckin' Roundup
8. ☐ Reno Arch and Vegas Vic
9. ☐ Dining
10. ☐ I read the entire issue
11. ☐ None of them

B. What types of restaurants do you enjoy? (check as many as apply)

1. ☐ American
2. ☐ Basque
3. ☐ Buffets
4. ☐ Fast Food
5. ☐ French
6. ☐ German
7. ☐ Gourmet
8. ☐ Italian
9. ☐ Mexican
10. ☐ Oriental
11. ☐ Seafood
12. ☐ Steak
13. ☐ All types

C. When you read, are you looking for: (check as many as apply)

1. ☐ New places to go for vacation
2. ☐ New restaurants in which to eat
3. ☐ New places to stay
4. ☐ Different kinds of wine, liquor, and beer to serve
5. ☐ New stores to shop
6. ☐ I read for pure enjoyment

D. How many trips to a foreign country have you made in the past three years?

E. In the past year, which of the following have you stayed at? (check all that apply)

1. ☐ Hotel
2. ☐ Motel
3. ☐ Campground
4. ☐ 2nd home
5. ☐ Rented home
6. ☐ B & B

F. What is your favorite? (by name)

Hotel _____
Airline _____
Casino _____
NV restaurant _____

G. In 1987, how many days will you or another household member spend in the following areas?

	1 day	2 days	3-5 days	6-10 days	11+ days	0 days
1. Las Vegas	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
2. Laughlin	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
3. Reno	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
4. Lake Tahoe	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
5. Ely/Great Basin National Park	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
6. Elko/Jackpot/Wendover	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
6. Elsewhere/rural NV	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

H. How many art galleries have you visited in the past year? _____

I. What vehicles do you own? Please list make and manufacturer:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

J. How many people live in your household including yourself? _____

K. What is your total household income in 1987? (check one)

1. ☐ Less than \$15,000
2. ☐ \$15,000-\$24,999
3. ☐ \$25,000-\$34,999
4. ☐ \$35,000-\$49,999
5. ☐ \$50,000-\$74,999
6. ☐ \$75,000-\$99,999
7. ☐ \$100,000 or more

L. What is the net worth of all the members of your household? (check one)

1. ☐ Under \$50,000
2. ☐ \$50,000-\$99,999
3. ☐ \$100,000-\$249,999
4. ☐ \$250,000-\$499,999
5. ☐ \$500,000-\$999,999
6. ☐ \$1,000,000 plus

M. Are you in a management/ownership position with a company in Nevada, or one that might move to Nevada?

1. ☐ Yes
2. ☐ No

N. What would you like to say to the staff of Nevada Magazine?

FREE INFORMATION ON NEVADA

TOURISM AGENCIES

- 101 ☐ Carson Tourist Info
- 102 ☐ Boulder City Chamber of Com.
- 103 ☐ Eureka Co. Chamber of Com.
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- 105 ☐ Nevada Tourism
- 106 ☐ Reno Convention Authority
- 107 ☐ Lake Tahoe Vis. Auth.
- 108 ☐ Winnemucca Conv. Bureau

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- 203 ☐ Colorado Belle/Laughlin
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- 205 ☐ Circus Circus/Reno/LV
- 206 ☐ Edgewater/Laughlin
- 207 ☐ Eldorado/Reno
- 208 ☐ Four Queens/LV
- 209 ☐ Hilton Hotels/LV/Reno
- 210 ☐ Holiday Casino/LV
- 211 ☐ Ormsby House/Carson City
- 212 ☐ Peppermill Country
- 213 ☐ Peppermill Hotel/Reno
- 214 ☐ Riverside Resort/Laughlin
- 215 ☐ Sam's Town/Gold River
- 216 ☐ Topaz Lodge/Topaz Lake

- 217 ☐ Truckee River Lodging
- 218 ☐ Vegas World
- 219 ☐ Whiskey Pete's/near LV

ATTRACTIONS

- 301 ☐ A-1 Casino Collectables/LV
- 302 ☐ Cantaloupe Fest/Fallon
- 303 ☐ Carson City Whistle Off
- 304 ☐ Ethel M. Chocolate/LV
- 305 ☐ Ely Centennial
- 306 ☐ Ghost Train of Old Ely
- 307 ☐ High Sierra Helicopters
- 308 ☐ Mt. Charleston Lodge/near LV
- 309 ☐ Nevada Outfitters & Guide/Wells
- 310 ☐ Ponderosa Ranch/Lake Tahoe

TRANSPORTATION

- 401 ☐ Lloyd's Int. Rent-A-Car/Reno
- 402 ☐ McCarran Int'l Airport/LV
- 403 ☐ Nevada Carriage/Reno
- 404 ☐ Sierra Nevada Stage Lines/Reno

FINANCIAL DATA

- 501 ☐ First Interstate Bank
- 502 ☐ Nevada First Thrift Bank
- 503 ☐ Security Bank of Nevada
- 504 ☐ The Vault
- 505 ☐ Ticor Title

REAL ESTATE

- 601 ☐ Bowser Realty/Tahoe
- 602 ☐ Century 21/Clark Properties/LV
- 603 ☐ Circle Realty/LV
- 604 ☐ Foster Realty/Carson City
- 605 ☐ Itoldo/Coldwell Banker/Carson Valley
- 606 ☐ Link Realty/Tahoe
- 607 ☐ Bob Nelson Real Estate/Pahrump
- 608 ☐ Nev Ida Properties/Reno
- 609 ☐ Nevada Properties/LV
- 610 ☐ Plummer Canepa Realty/Reno
- 611 ☐ Rainbow Bend/Reno
- 612 ☐ Real Log Homes/Carson City

GALLERIES/MUSEUMS

- 701 ☐ Boyce Art Images/Reno
- 702 ☐ Julia Bulette's Saloon/Virginia City
- 703 ☐ Harolds Club/Reno
- 704 ☐ Las Vegas Museum of Nat. Hist.

DINING

- 801 ☐ O G's Classic Cuisine/Reno

RETAIL OUTLETS

- 901 ☐ American Boot Company/Reno

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- 000 ☐ Montara Meadows/LV
- 001 ☐ Westwood/Sparks

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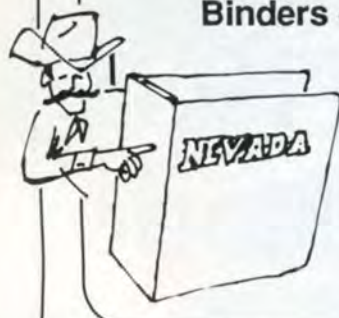
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