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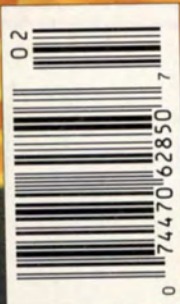
THE MAGAZINE OF THE REAL WEST

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EDITOR'S NOTE

Gaming 1931-93

This issue celebrates the 62nd year of legalized gambling in Nevada, and its main theme, appropriately, is themes.

"These days it seems you have to have a theme to survive in the casino business, especially in Las Vegas," says Mike Weatherford, who writes on the thematic wave in "Where Themes Come True." An entertainment writer for the *Las Vegas Review-Journal*, Mike reviews the themes that have appeared since 1931, when gaming was legalized in the state, as well as upcoming mega-motif resorts such as the MGM, Treasure Island, and Luxor.

Another look behind the themes comes from Michael Sion, the *Reno Gazette-Journal's* "Stepping Out" columnist, who reviews the north's biggest and brightest. Deke Castleman surveys "10 Great Casino Themes" and more than 80 clubs named for nuggets, boats, and precious metals. Deke knows the theme scene. He's the author of the guidebooks *Las Vegas and Nevada Handbook* and is managing editor of the *Las Vegas Advisor* (LVA) newsletter.

We're also honored to have Anthony Curtis, the LVA's publisher, discourse on gambling tips in "Playing the Games." Anthony is well known as an expert on games and casino bargains, which he updates enthusiastically in his LVA column, "Couponomy."

Another expert view comes from William N. Thompson, public-administration professor at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. In "Don't Forget the Motor City," Bill reveals some lessons that the gaming industry in Nevada might learn from the auto industry in Detroit.

This year's "Nevada Hotel Guide" was put together by Associate Editor Carolyn Graham and Danielle Birkin, a Las Vegas writer and University of Nevada, Reno student. The guide covers more than 100 establishments.

While working as public relations manager at Harvey's a few years ago, Liz Watson heard tales about Llewellyn Gross, who co-founded the Tahoe resort with her husband Harvey. Liz says, "People always remarked how strong-willed Llewellyn was," a quality prominent in Liz's story, "The Woman Behind the Wagon Wheel."

Also, Connie Emerson profiles Marshall Fey, a Reno man with slot machines in his soul, and Rob Powers tells how Sean Rowland and Patty Harris of Las Vegas knocked the football-betting world on its ear. Stephen Allen introduces the classic photos of Don English, Jerry Abbott, and other Las Vegas News Bureau lensmen whose shots have been seen 'round the world, making Nevada famous through the photographers' art. —David Moore

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On the Cover:
Zeus at the Fountain of the Gods at the Forum Shops at Caesars. Photo by Franklin B. Way

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LETTERS

Faces of the West

McDermitt elders and detector detectives.

Faces of the Fort

I was most impressed with the Nov/Dec cover photo of Paiute elder Eileen Smart by Linda Dufurrena as well as her compelling photos within. While it may be true that one picture is worth a thousand words, I believe that in the case of Dufurrena and the elders of Fort McDermitt, these pictures speak volumes.



Eileen Smart.

Jana Pendragon
Long Beach, CA

Linda Dufurrena's "Faces of the Fort" was about 20 pages too short.

Jan Martin
Wheatland, IN

Detector Detective

My wife and I are avid coin "shooters" and comply with all good standards of coin recovery by making sure the detected area is left just like we found it, or better.

However, we don't spend our tourist dollars in Nevada anymore because the Nevada Legislature passed stupid laws banning most metal detecting and making it almost unlawful to own a metal detector.

Sam Jewell
Ada, OK

Sam, that's news to us. There are laws against disturbing historical and archaeological sites on state and federal lands. Usually coin hunters must get permission to work private property. Our sources at the legislature couldn't find any draconian anti-metal detector laws in Nevada. (When asked about your letter, one legislative lawyer exclaimed, "Oh, no. We just bought one!")—Ed.

Fan Happy

We want to let you know how much we enjoy the magazine. We especially appreciate the ad for the discount package at the City Center Motel in Carson City. We can't wait to get back.

Thank you for looking after the best interests of your subscribers.

Ron and Norma Kennemer
Santa Rosa, CA

A Las Vegas Story

The brochures were fanned out before us, each more inviting than the other, but one had an aura about it—Las Vegas. We were choosing a retirement retreat, a sanctum away from alarm clocks and "have-to's."

I can't think of another city where being stuck in traffic would bring a smile to my lips. The marquees all lit up—city of lights. I'm glad we decided to cast our anchor in Las Vegas. No longer are we children with our noses pressed against the window. We've taken a giant step into the future.

Yes, it was five years ago that my hubby pointed to the shimmering horizon and said, "My queen, I give you Las Vegas."

Naomi Plisky
Las Vegas

Litter-Bugged Reader

I found the photograph in "10 Great Signs of Christmas" of litter-strewn greenery at Christmas Tree Pass near Laughlin revoltingly disgusting. The habit of throwing litter and refuse at nature is a shameful Silver State pastime. It is a terrible disservice to Nevada's image to glorify this habit.

The litter in Nevada is so bad that, were it not for a sparse population, it would resemble New York City!

Johann Fink
Brooklyn, NY

Johann, we're surprised you didn't like the photo of the tree that passersby have decorated for years. However, the Nevada Department of Transportation has an extensive Adopt a Highway program which has helped to keep Nevada litter-free.—Ed.

Keep on Truckin'

I am an 18-wheeler trucker. I drive I-80 and cover Nevada from Wendover to Verdi every 10 days. During the summer I cover I-15 from Whiskey Pete's to Mesquite, so I see a lot of Nevada. I love every mile of it. Also, I keep a copy of Nevada Magazine in my truck.

Ron Switzer
Bountiful, UT

NEVADA

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Patty Harris (left) and Sean Rowland stretched an Alexander Hamilton to unforeseen limits.

Letting It Ride

How two Las Vegas women parlayed \$10 each into a championship season.

By Rob Powers

Sean Rowland and Patty Harris sure know how to stretch a sawbuck. These days, \$10 will get you a movie ticket and a medium-size bucket of popcorn, or maybe half a tank of gasoline. For that same amount of money each, Rowland and Harris, baccarat dealers at the Las Vegas Hilton, last year purchased the following:

- Twelve weeks of the kind of hype that made Don King's hair stand on end;
- More TV air time and newspaper clippings than Bush, Clinton, and Perot generated during the month of October;
- And, oh, yes, \$103,000 and change.

Did we mention that they didn't keep the money? But wait—we're getting

ahead of ourselves.

Let's back up two Super Bowls. The Giants are playing the Bills. The Giants are beating the Bills. Rowland and Harris are watching the game in the dealers lounge at the Hilton. It seems they're the only ones in the place who bet on the Giants.

Recalls Rowland, "We looked at each other and said, 'We've got to get together next year and do something.'"

So last year, they did.

The two, along with a group of six other dealers—four women and two men—pooled \$10 each. The pack then made a pact: Starting with week number two (they figured the first week's

action would help them size up teams' strengths and weaknesses) they would take their \$80 and bet one game each week. If they won, they would roll their money over to the next week, and on and on, until the 16-week regular season came to a close.

If they proved successful, that \$80 would blossom into the tidy sum of more than \$1 million, or about \$125,000 for each person on a \$10 investment.

Rowland and Harris picked the games for the group. With remarkable prescience, it should be added. Going each week with what Rowland calls "stats and feeling," the two came up with winning games week after week.

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The amazing thing is that no one in the group, which did not include any high rollers, balked at laying down \$103,000 on a football game.

As their money grew, so did their confidence. After the 12th week of the season, with local and national media and what seemed like the entire Las Vegas community waiting with bated breath, Rowland and Harris confidently put \$103,000 down on the Bears against the Dolphins during week 13.

The Bears were giving up 7.5 points, but as Rowland remembers clearly, "It was snowing and 26 degrees in Chicago, and Miami had won only one or two games out of their past 35 when the temperature was 28 degrees or less."

Whew. Did she say they bet on feeling or stats?

Anyway, Miami won straight up, and the \$103,000 went straight to the sports book.

The really remarkable part of this story, of course, is not that a group of people parlayed \$80 into more than \$100,000. No, the really amazing part is that no one in the group, which definitely did not include any high rollers, balked at laying down \$103,000 on a football game.

Rowland explains, "It was \$10. We went in to bet 15 weeks, and the game wasn't over till the 15th week." Besides, she adds, laughing, "they could have taken their original \$10 out any time."

Were the dealers crushed after Miami crushed Chicago?

If they were, they're not letting on.

This season the dealers pooled their money once again to bet on NFL games. The initial pot was somewhat larger because the team had grown from eight to 110 anxious people. They lost during the second week, however, which only reinforced last season's magical aura.

Rowland and Harris, who are philosophical about the group's short '92 season, remain sanguine about their remarkable run last year.

Says Rowland, "It was the best \$10 I ever spent in my life." □

Rob Powers is a Las Vegas writer and public relations man who, at the start of this season, bet on the New England Patriots to go all the way.



Excalibur's turrets and Arthurian aura bring to mind a medieval castle, while The Mirage's tropical volcano is a favorite photo op for tourists.

WHERE THEMES COME TRUE

The boom in hotel themes is bringing new realms of fantasy to Las Vegas.

By Mike Weatherford

"I have dreamed regularly with all the hotel dreamers. . .but never, in our wildest imaginings, did we conjure anything to match the Last Frontier, which opened for business here last night. It can be said without fear of successful contradiction that there is nothing finer in the whole United States."

—A.E. Cahlan

Hotel dreamer and editor A.E. Cahlan of the *Las Vegas Review-Journal* so described his encounter with the future of Las Vegas in October 1942. The Last Frontier, with its cowhorns and other Old West imagery, was a pioneer, the first theme resort in Nevada, and its owners knew what people wanted—fantasy

Hotel dreamers are having another heyday in Las Vegas thanks to the recent wave of theme resorts that is revolutionizing the gaming business. By using themes to compete for the attention of families and new generations of gamblers, hotels are creating fantasy lands whose appeal extends far beyond their gambling halls.

The Mirage has white tigers and a fire-spitting volcano. Caesars Palace has gladiators and all things Roman. Excalibur has a castle and showroom jousts. Circus Circus has acrobats fly-

Island images are indigenous to the Tropicana.

ing high above the slot machines. The Tropicana has an island. Sam's Town looks as if it's Helldorado Rodeo time every day

"Las Vegas has always been different," notes Dick Riddle, a longtime casino designer who shaped the Western theme of Sam's Town for the Boyd Group. "In the old days it was a place you had to go see because nothing else in the country was like it. But today you can go to Omaha and see fine hotels. Today's Las Vegas has to strive to be different."

In the gambling business, a "theme" used to be a loose con-





Diana, goddess of the hunt greets visitors on the indoor piazza at the Forum Shops at Caesars Palace.

cept or type of decor that distinguished one club's slot machines from the others down the street. The term will have evolved even further when the dust clears from the recent surge of construction:

- Circus Circus Enterprises' new Luxor will be a pyramid-shaped hotel complete with a simulator adventure ride, a replica of King Tut's tomb, and a "River Nile" transporting guests from the registration desk to hotel elevators.
- Circus Circus plans a five-acre amusement park called Grand Slam

Canyon for a parking area west of its main casino. The \$75-million attraction will be covered and climate-controlled for year-round enjoyment of its roller coaster and water rides.

- Mirage Resorts' new Treasure Island will include a full-scale pirateship doing round-the-clock battle with a British frigate as well as other storytelling attractions.
- The MGM Grand Hotel and Theme Park will bring attractions such as a Grand Canyon raft ride and a haunted-mine roller coaster to the 112-acre for-

mer Tropicana golf course on the Strip. Visitors will enter between the paws of a 65-foot MGM lion, step into the Emerald City from *The Wizard of Oz*, and partake of a "backlot" boat tour of scenes from movies like *Apocalypse Now*.

- Plans have been discussed publicly for a number of other projects, such as a theme park at the Primadonna on Interstate 15 at Stateline and a Hard Rock Hotel in Las Vegas. Steve Wynn, who led the way with The Mirage in 1989, has hinted about adding theme park attractions at the Dunes, which

○

"The entertainment value of Las Vegas has only begun to be exploited and understood," says design consultant Jon Jerde.

Mirage Resorts is acquiring.

• The Reno area will see a major theme development taking place at the Reno Hilton. Hilton officials recently announced plans to refurbish the former Bally's resort in a Western theme. Design will be by Henry Conversano and Associates, the Oakland firm responsible for inventive design work at The Mirage and Harrah's Reno and Lake Tahoe.

Last summer, the continuation of the latest theme wave was marked by the opening of the Forum Shops at Caesars. No mere shopping mall, this 240,000-square-foot addition takes Caesars' ancient Roman theme to new heights: A painted sky changes from day to night every four hours over the sculpted streetscape, and Roman gods come to life in the form of "animatronic" robots in the centerpiece fountain.

Project designer Terry Dougall points out, "In Las Vegas, you have to compete against volcanoes, white tigers, and soon-to-be pyramids and theme parks. You don't compete by creating a shopping center. You do that by creating an attraction that can compete in every area."

The gaming industry's embrace of



The Tropicana's island theme extends to waterfalls and pools.

fantasy themes appears to have two catalysts: The need for Las Vegas to keep topping itself and the continued growth of the family market.

Themes are "the marketing device of the present and foreseeable future," says Charles Silverman, president of Yates-Silverman Inc., a Los Angeles-based firm that has designed and furnished

casinos for 31 years. Silverman outfitted Circus Circus' medieval-themed Excalibur and now is working on Luxor.

"The entertainment value of Las Vegas has only begun to be exploited and understood," says Jon Jerde, design consultant for Treasure Island. Resort developers "are finally getting the message that Las Vegas is very fun for people

THEME SCENES

The best hotel themes will transport the visitor to another place or time, a process in which exotic images help overcome concerns about the stock market, world peace, or the loot you just surrendered to the house advantage. Here are some thematic high points around the state.

Castle: At Excalibur, knights joust nightly in King Arthur's Tournament, a dinner show where you have to eat

with your fingers. Later you can have your photo taken in medieval costume.

Trop Pics: The Tropicana's "Island of Las Vegas" image is apparent in the palms and waterfalls on the hotel grounds. The only thing missing is sand, but the "island" boasts something the ocean can't: swim-up gambling and cocktails.

Romans: Ancient Rome lives again at Caesars Palace, where gladiators



White tigers relax at The Mirage.

greet guests. An attraction is the Forum Shops, the mall-in-disguise next door. With a slowly changing sky overhead, it's just like strolling through a piazza in Rome, with shops, fountains, and eateries.

South Seas: The Mirage has tigers inside, dolphins out back, and a volcano on the front lawn, but the best



Circus Circus presents circus acts and the mother of all midways in Las Vegas and Reno.

who don't particularly care about gambling," he says. "The hard-core gambler doesn't care about the message, but the regular tourist really cares."

Even properties that typically cater to the hard-core gambler are getting the message. Fearful of the new projects on the Strip, downtown Las Vegas casino owners last spring hired Jerde to prepare a plan for redeveloping the Fremont Street area.

He proposed placing a giant canopy over Fremont, 100 feet tall at its apex, under which parade floats and showgirls would be suspended from a cable system similar to a chairlift on a ski slope. The Las Vegas City Council approved a feasibility study for the \$52-million project, dubbed the Fremont Street Experience.

part is the indoor rain forest. There, you can stroll among exotic flora or pause for a cocktail in the jungle. It's straight out of the tropics.

Vegas Circus: Life's a carnival at Circus Circus. The aroma of popcorn and hot dogs drifts



Knights joust and guests eat with their fingers at Excalibur

through the air. The mother of all midways offers a plethora of carnival

Other hotels that for years relied only on their good names—hotels such as the Las Vegas Hilton, the Riviera, and Bally's—are considering themes, too. Bally's officials acknowledge they have considered using a Planet Hollywood restaurant as the gateway to a redesigned casino.

"What makes a guy go out of his way to see you?" says CinemaScore president Ed Mintz, whose Las Vegas firm did a name-recognition survey for Bally's. "It can't be gambling anymore. Gambling is everywhere."

After gambling was legalized in Nevada in 1931, clubs with themes tended to use variations of the Old West motif. They often took on the "red carpet" Victorian bordello look of the Barbary Coast-Gold Rush days.

The Last Frontier was apparently the first club to take its theme wholesale, offering "The Early West in Modern Splendor" when it opened in 1942. Builders R.E. Griffith and William J. Moore furnished the interior with pioneer artifacts and named a bar for actor Leo Carillo. They squired guests to and from the airport in a horse-drawn stagecoach. Later they added the Last Frontier Village of Old West shops and exhibits, a popular attraction. As with today's new theme hotels, the idea was to immerse customers in an other-world experience.

Then in 1946 a new era in hotel-casino design began with the opening of the Flamingo Hotel. The Flamingo's notorious founder, Benjamin "Bugsy" Siegel, deserves credit for changing the image of Las Vegas, says Eugene Moehring, a University of Nevada, Las Vegas history professor and author of the book *Resort City in the Sunbelt*.

"The Flamingo was The Mirage of its

games, where hundreds of stuffed animals await adoption.

Thematics: From a distance, the exterior of Harrah's Las Vegas looks like a paddlewheeler that just docked. Same for the Showboat. Sam's Town has a swinging Western dance hall and retail emporium on the Boulder Highway

Caesars Palace and Circus Circus are credited as being the first Nevada resorts to fully realize their themes.

day," Moehring points out. The Flamingo changed design trends from Western themes to plush "carpet joints" like those Siegel and his high-roller gangster pals frequented in Miami Beach and Havana. The Desert Inn, Sahara, and Sands all were built on the model, and the Riviera and Tropicana were built by Miami investors. The result: resorts with a posh, country-club feel.

Throughout the '50s, casinos reached farther into fantasy to distinguish themselves on the outside while remaining carpet joints on the inside. The Dunes placed a 30-foot sultan over its entry. The Stardust's facade featured a pop-out planet Earth with stars bursting forth. The Showboat suggested a Mississippi riverboat stranded in the desert.

"You started to get these names that pre-determined a look," says Dougall, whose Dougall Designs also created the visual concepts for the Rio Suite Hotel and theme restaurants inside the Stardust and Fremont. The theme was always there, he says. "The only thing that's changed today is that they're spending more money to accomplish it. It's becoming grander."

Caesars Palace and Circus Circus are

Laughlin: You can walk the deck of the Colorado Belle, the giant riverboat on the edge of the river. The Ramada Express has a miniature train to haul visitors to and from the parking lot.

Reno Circus: Like its Las Vegas counterpart, Circus Circus in Reno is a non-stop carnival. Upstairs in the midway, check out the camel races.

Wild West: The Western theme, a favorite of old-time Nevada clubs, makes a comeback at the Reno Hilton as the giant resort completes its transformation from Bally's.



Three big new theme resorts are going up in Las Vegas. Luxor (left) will be a pyramid-shaped hotel named for a city on the Nile. Treasure Island (center) will have a Caribbean pirate theme. The lion-fronted MGM Grand (right) will have a giant theme park.

credited as being the first resorts to fully realize their themes. Caesars sprawled across 34 acres and raised the standards for design and entertainment when it opened with a three-day party in August 1966. As touted in press releases at the time, the \$25-million resort conceived by Jay Sarno with Nathan Jacobson attempted "to recreate the mood of the great 'Golden Age of Rome.'"

Two years later, Sarno followed it with the \$15-million Circus Circus and the "big top" theme that continues today. Although the hotel's central pavilion remains unchanged, its marketing approach differs greatly. Most people assume the hotel courted the family market from the first, but Circus Circus newspaper ads of the time indicate otherwise. One ad says: "Hit the target and knock a nude girl out of bed and make her dance!" (The same ad promises a "Green Felt Disneyland," perhaps a family-market omen.)

In the 1980s, themes seemed to shift from fantasy to real-life tropical worlds. The refurbished Golden Nugget and Tropicana paved the way for the Rio and Mirage, collectively proving, Jerde noted, that "by cranking the taste level up a notch or two, you could do more than just bright lights and tinsel."

Now fantasy themes seem to be back in a big way.

"When you cross the city limits into Las Vegas, you can leave reality behind. It opens the door to some wonderful concepts of fantasy," Jerde says.

Following a trend that began with Disneyland's opening in 1955, the theme boom has brought a new set of players to the casino industry.

The Forum Shops' animated foun-

tain was spearheaded by Laser Media, designers of special-effects lighting for musical acts like Pink Floyd and Michael Jackson. The MGM theme park's consultant is the Duell Corporation, ride developers for Six Flags amusement parks. Luxor will have three attractions designed by Douglas Trumbull, the special-effects whiz responsible for the *Back to the Future* ride at Universal Studios Florida in Orlando.

Such elaborate attractions are creating new rules of thumb for casino owners. For instance, themes have proved to be such magnets that they seem to be breaking down the notion that elaborate design might interfere with the business of gambling.

When the Excalibur opened in 1990, the medieval theme was more heavily emphasized in the second-floor restaurants and basement arcade, while the main-level casino was basically unfettered. Since then, more theme elements such as trees and dramatic lighting have been introduced in the casino. Silverman says, "We have made it more exciting, more of an adventure."



The Last Frontier the Strip's second hotel, set theme standards in the 40s with its ultra-Western motif.

Themes not only help Las Vegas compete with growing pockets of legalized gambling in other parts of the country. They also help hotels to be competitive in their own town.

At the Excalibur, the castle-hotel itself is the attraction, says Silverman. "When someone checks into whatever hotel or motel they're in, they're going to say, 'We must go look at The Mirage, or the Excalibur,'" he says. "The whole idea is to get them to move over and go into another hotel."

CinemaScore's Mintz says, "I don't think [a theme] should be seen as a gimmick. I think it's almost mandatory."

He seems to draw little argument these days, even from the few properties trying to preserve the last traces of the vintage, pre-family era of Las Vegas.

The Desert Inn last year reached back into the city's history and announced the hotel's new theme—a classic Vegas atmosphere harking back to the Rat Pack days. The atmosphere would be built around a traditional star policy anchored by Frank Sinatra, Shirley MacLaine, and other entertainers. To emphasize the transformation, the DI even changed its name to the Stars' Desert Inn.

"The whole idea is to bring back what we think really created Las Vegas," president Burton Cohen said at the time, referring to the glittering image that Sinatra and others gave Vegas in the '50s and '60s. "We don't have volcanoes, pure white tigers, Roman gladiators, or movie theme rides."

Soon, that may be as unusual as the Last Frontier was in 1942. □

Mike Weatherford covers the entertainment beat for the Las Vegas Review-Journal.

CASINO PERSONAS

Most Reno-Tahoe hotels resort to personality rather than themes.

By Michael Sion

Although hotels in the Reno-Tahoe area haven't embraced themes to the extent their Las Vegas counterparts have, over the years some have mastered the art of the motif.

Harolds Club had a Western theme for years. In 1978 the Circus Circus big top arrived in Reno and the MGM Grand (which later became Bally's and recently the Reno Hilton) opened with two movie theaters, a lion, and giant portraits of film stars. A short-lived but unusual theme spot in the 1980s was Eddie's Fabulous 50's, a Virginia Street club with classic cars and singing waitresses.

Now another hotel is adopting the theme scheme—the **Reno Hilton**. Along with Harrah's, the Flamingo Hilton, Eldorado, John Ascuaga's Nugget, and the Peppermill, the Reno Hilton vies for the area's high-end guests. The Reno Hilton is B-I-G. It dominates the Truckee Meadows' skyline. From Bally's it inherited 2,001 rooms, an enormous casino, an arcade with 50 shops, 50 bowling lanes, two movie theaters, an RV park, and the Ziegfeld Theatre, which has the largest stage in the world.

The Hilton recently announced



The Reno Hilton goes Western as it is transformed from Bally's.



The Peppermill is known for its high-tech sign and sexy image.

plans for a \$72-million facelift and a new theme: a tribute to the West. As visitors stroll through the casino and lobby areas, they will encounter the mountains, trees, and birds of the Pacific Northwest; the sweeping canyons, red sandstone, and saguaro cacti of the desert Southwest; and the Old West, complete with cowboys, chuck wagons, and the Pony Express. The makeover is scheduled for the next two years.

Circus Circus, Reno's longest-running theme hotel, is one of the area's most successful establishments. Thanks to a bargain-priced buffet and low room rates, it enjoys nearly 100 percent occupancy year-round. Acrobats, circus dogs, and tightrope walkers perform daily from 11 a.m. to midnight. The upstairs midway symbolizes the hotel's family appeal.

Generally, though, northern hotels haven't employed themes. Instead, the clubs are known for their distinct

personalities—casino personas recognized by veteran visitors and locals.

The **Clarion** sits three miles south of Reno's downtown casino core, and its marketing plan is twofold: provide rooms for conventioners attending the nearby Reno-Sparks Convention Center, and gaming for discriminating locals. Locals also like the upscale pizzeria. Unlike most casinos, the Clarion's interior has bright hues, from magenta to teal, as well as a tropical theme of thatched huts and a waterfall. The ceiling is tall, the lighting is up. It doesn't feel like perpetual evening.

The **Club Cal-Neva** opened downtown in 1962, when the now-closed Mapes and the Riverside were the big boys on the block. Long-time customers keep returning, whether they are locals craving the 99-cent ham-and-egg breakfast (30 cents more than in '62) or Californians who like

(Continued on page 74)



Harvey and Llewellyn Gross.

⊙ THE WOMAN ⊙ BEHIND THE WAGON WHEEL

In another time, Harvey's Resort might have been called Llewellyn's.

By Liz Watson

As workers put the finishing touches on Lake Tahoe's first high-rise hotel, owners Llewellyn and Harvey Gross were still arguing about how to crown the 11-story tower. Harvey wanted something safe, time-tested. Llewellyn, on the other hand, wanted a restaurant straight out of the South Pacific. Dancers

would sway beneath palm trees. Guests would sit in bamboo fan chairs, soothed by a lava-rock waterfall while benign Tiki gods kept watch overhead. The views of the lake would be unrivaled.

Finally Harvey threw up his hands, his cautious reserve worn down by Llewellyn's exhortations and pillow talk. In 1963 the hotel opened the Top

of the Wheel, a penthouse Polynesian restaurant and lounge. From the moment its doors first swung open, the Top of the Wheel was an indisputable success.

As usual Llewellyn had gotten her way, which was a good thing for Harvey's Resort. Of the pair, she was the one with the vision and flamboy-



Llewellyn's wagon-wheel motif was a trademark by the '50s (left). Since the '40s Harvey's has gone from rustic (top) to resort.

ance that gave the club its personality. For that reason, some old-timers say that Harvey's rightfully should have been named Llewellyn's.

Llewellyn Barkley Gross, a dynamo blessed with beauty and brains, has long been an enigma in her husband's considerable shadow. It was his name on the marquee, and in their club's early days—the 1940s and '50s—a wife was expected to take a back seat to her husband in business matters.

But Llewellyn and Harvey were partners from the first. In 1944 they mounted an old wheel on the eave of a cabin and opened for business at the state line on Tahoe's south shore. The two took equal responsibility for running the Wagon Wheel, and Llewellyn often had the last say. It was her idea to give the club a Western theme with its trademark wagon wheel and longhorn's skull. The Sage Room, the club's bustling hub, was her idea, too.

"In their gaming escapades, she was definitely the driving force behind the whole thing," says Gardnerville casino owner Milos "Sharkey" Begovich, who knew the pair from the '50s. He adds, "There was never a greater love affair in the history of the world than Harvey and Llewellyn."

"They were decidedly partners," says the couple's nephew, Howard "Howdy" Herz of Carson Valley. "There is a tendency to underrate Llewellyn's and overrate Harvey's importance because in that time, and in that society, women were not, you might say, assertive. Harvey and Llewellyn had a reputation

for being a team, and that was very important."

Bill Ledbetter, who married Beverlee Gross, the couple's only child, today is Harvey's president and CEO. "They complemented each other," he says of his in-laws. "She could criticize him or he could criticize her as long as no one else did. She could be as angry as possible over something, but if somebody else started picking on Harvey, well, they'd better be prepared to do battle."

They were an intriguing couple. While Llewellyn was vivacious, Harvey was quiet. She expressed her opinions loud and clear. He kept his thoughts close to his vest. She could be critical, while he was slow to judge. Llewellyn was a woman of action, while Harvey's plodding business nature drove her and other company insiders to distraction.

Like his wife, though, Harvey was a prankster. One of his favorite jokes was to send a greenhorn guest to the men's room next to the casino bar. Harvey,

Llewellyn, and friends would sit straight-faced at the bar as the man opened the door, only to encounter the cutout of a woman sitting on the toilet. The shocked patron's reaction would be a source of knee-slapping hilarity for the crowd at the bar.


Llewellyn and Harvey "bounced off each other," says her younger sister, Julia Mackedon of Fallon. "She would make him laugh. He would be angry over something, and she would come back with a retort, and he just couldn't keep a straight face."

"She was a strong woman," Herz says. "She was the leader of her own—the Barkley—family, and she was probably the only kind of person who could live and survive with a man like Harvey."

At times their different styles created friction. Tempers, lubricated by jealousy and martinis, fueled the flames. After the fireworks, however, there were no visible scars; rather, it was like a Frank Capra comedy.

"One night," Herz recalls, "she and Harvey got into a fight that closed the Sage Room for three days. They literally picked up chairs when the fight started. The Sage Room was damaged to the point they couldn't get the bar back together for three days. They had to replace all the booze, all the glasses, some of the chairs."

"I've heard things like that," Sharkey Begovich says. "It was not uncommon for her to pick up a steak and throw it at him, and he would duck the steak, and it would splatter all over someone or something. It wasn't unusual for her


"She was a strong woman. She was probably the only kind of person who could live and survive with a man like Harvey."



The Pavilion of Stars showroom was a hot spot for entertainers like the Ink Spots (above with the Grosses), and Wayne Newton.

to swing at him and him to duck and her to hit somebody else."

Llewellyn's passing fury was not always directed at her husband. Herz recalls a night in the Sage Room when Llewellyn, as was her custom after a long, hard day, reached over the bar and poured herself a drink. A new security guard was watching. Unaware of who she was, he told her she shouldn't be helping herself to the bar. "She decked him then and there," says Herz, laughing in amazement after all these years.

"She was more fearless than Harvey," Sharkey says. "She was very strong. I always admired her. I thought she was a beautiful woman, mentally, physically, any way you wanted to put it."

Llewellyn had a heart-shaped face, pouty lips, a dazzling smile, and direct, hazel eyes. She was buxom, an attribute accentuated by her choice of clothes. She had long legs, made longer by high heels, and her commanding presence allowed intimates to remember her as taller than five-feet-four. As matriarch of the Barkley-Gross clan, she was benevolent and bossy. When she spoke, everyone listened. Yet, Llewellyn was as natural hunting ducks in dungarees and a flannel shirt as she was at JFK's inaugural ball, dancing the night away in an evening gown.

"She was an exciting aunt to have," says niece Michelle Dondero of Fallon. "She gave me a shotgun on my 16th birthday. An Ithaca, which I still have and I've always used. With that Ithaca, we used to go lie in the ditches in the mud and shoot ducks."


Llewellyn had known a lifetime of struggle by the time she saw prosperity at the Wagon Wheel. She was born Llewellyn Fanny Barkley on December 18, 1905, in Spokane, Washington, to James Hickman Barkley, a confirmed (and very poor) Socialist, and his second wife, Viola Fenn. Llewellyn was the fourth of 12 children and the first of Barkley's second mar-

riage. After their mother's death in 1920, the children were farmed out to family from Fallon to Sacramento. On the one occasion when they were together in a house in Sacramento, they called it Camp 16 because all the Barkleys and a few in-laws—16 people in all—lived under the same roof. The state of the clan, Herz says, had a lasting effect on Llewellyn, contributing to her intense interest in family and self-preservation.

Llewellyn and Harvey met in Sacramento in the '20s. For a time, Harvey would ride his motorcycle on more than 200 miles of dirt roads to court Llewellyn, who was living in Fallon. During those trans-Sierra sojourns he also fell in love with Lake Tahoe.

Llewellyn and Harvey married in 1926, and he found modest fortune as a butcher. In 1935 he bought the Sacramento Meat Company but went bankrupt two years later.

Broke, the Grosses decided to take refuge at Lake Tahoe, where Harvey had established a route. Harvey, Llewellyn, and Beverlee moved to the lake with nothing more than a car and what they could pack into it. For the first year, they and Llewellyn's brother Fenn lived in an A-frame over a meat locker at the "Y" where Highways 50 and 89 meet at South Shore. They cooked out



Llewellyn and Harvey met in Sacramento. For a time, he would ride his motorcycle on more than 200 miles of dirt roads to court Llewellyn.

back in an open fire pit. They ran a summer market and in 1943-44 expanded to Hawthorne, where the Navy munitions plant was booming.

In 1944 luck and Harvey's knack for horse trading turned their fortunes. The Grosses were intrigued by the legal gambling going on at the Nevada Club, located at the state line where Harrah's Lake Tahoe now stands. When 10 acres across the road came on the market for swap, they scrambled to acquire the parcel, which was serving as an Episcopal Church retreat. Harvey found a comparable site for sale near Glenbrook. With state Senator Ken Johnson as a partner, they bought the site and immediately swapped with the Episcopalians. Thus the church gained what now is Camp Galilee near Glenbrook, and Harvey and Llewellyn had their spot on the state line. Everyone was happy.

The state-line property had some gas pumps and a congregation hall set 200 feet off the highway. They opened a cafe and service station—food and gas being rare commodities at the lake in those days—and Llewellyn's barbecued roast-beef sandwiches enjoyed local fame. At night she would go home to the family compound at the Y, six miles away, and cook up roasts and other dishes to serve the next day.

Llewellyn was a storied cook. Niece Barbara "Cousey" Moffett recalls one day when her father, Jim Barkley, was in the kitchen at the "big house" the Grosses built in the '50s behind the Wagon Wheel. "Llewellyn was upstairs. She had a pot of stew cooking, and my father took some out and was sitting there eating. 'This is fantastic,' he said. Llewellyn came down and said, 'For Christ's sake, Jim, that's the dogs' food.'" Moffett adds, "My father always said nobody could cook like his sister."

The Wagon Wheel hit paydirt after Harvey and Llewellyn added blackjack tables and slots in 1946. The summer workdays were backbreaking, though. Llewellyn worked on the books into the early morning hours. At mid-morning she drove Harvey to Carson City to deposit the day's receipts. The three-to-four-hour round-trip was the only time Harvey slept. The long winter months were another story. Then the family and a couple of year-round employees would pass the time popping popcorn, waiting for cars to stop for gas.

Harvey and Llewellyn were comfortable with the restaurant business, which to them was an extension of the butcher trade. But neither knew much about gambling. Howdy Herz says,



The Sage Room was the idea of Llewellyn (right, with Harvey at the bar).

"Harvey and Llewellyn could deal craps, 21, whatever, and so they learned the business in a very naive way. People would come up here and cheat on keno tickets, rip them off on nearly every gaming scam you can think of."

"Harvey wasn't what you'd call a capable gambler, and he knew it," Begovich says. "Probably everybody [in this business] got robbed numerous times. They keep it to themselves. I'm sure it happened to him. In other words, if you're going to be a sucker, be a quiet one."

However, on the right night, Llewellyn had the wit and savvy to hold her own at the tables. Herz recalls the time she made Lions Club members an unusual proposition when they asked for the club's usual donation. She declared, "I'm going to go out on craps, and I'm going to play. I'll start off with \$100, and you can take the wins, and I'll take the losses." Llewellyn won the Lions about \$2,500 that night.

Concerned about the lack of doctors on the south shore, Llewellyn person-

ally recruited the area's first general practitioner, Dr. Jim Whitely, and then she helped him set up a clinic.

As fame sidled up to the Grosses, both remained unpretentious. Their wide circle of friends included many people they had known before Harvey's became a success. Herz says, "Both Llewellyn and Harvey feared a loss of perspective as they gained wealth, and they were very careful about that."

They bought the James Canyon Ranch near Genoa in 1962. Herz recalls an incident there that reflected Llewellyn's upbringing:

"A friend of hers came down to the ranch, and Llewellyn was scrubbing the floor in the kitchen. This friend said, 'Out of 700 employees, there must be somebody at the club capable of doing this.' Llewellyn's reply was, 'It's never your house until you scrub the kitchen floor.'"

After the Top of the Wheel opened in their new high-rise in 1963, Llewellyn and Harvey could survey their domain from its windows. They had come a long way from those winter nights when they sat up making popcorn in their rustic roadhouse. Forever partners, Llewellyn and Harvey were on top of the world.

Then a freak event ended their partnership.

On November 23, 1964, Llewellyn went to Reno for a doctor's appointment to check on her chronic sinus problems. While in town she also visited her niece Michelle. Later Llewellyn apparently left for home, the James Canyon Ranch, where she was to meet her sister Julia at 5 p.m. Her punctuality was legendary, so when she didn't show, Julia grew concerned and began calling around.

That evening Llewellyn was found slumped in the driver's seat of her Cadillac, parked on the side of U.S. 395 in Washoe Valley, halfway between Reno and the ranch. The coroner's report, as well as those of state authorities and independent investigators hired by Harvey, determined that she had died of accidental carbon-monoxide poisoning.

They believed she began feeling woozy from a carbon-monoxide leak, pulled over, and then succumbed to fumes from a faulty exhaust. Despite the ruling, rumors and speculation about her death at age 59 abounded. One tale had Llewellyn the victim of mobsters. Another pointed to suicide, although her relatives and friends were unanimous and vocal in saying she would

A friend of hers came to the ranch, and Llewellyn was scrubbing the floor. She explained, 'It's never your house until you scrub the kitchen floor.'"

never have taken her own life.

Harvey was in Italy on a tourism-promotion trip with Governor Grant Sawyer and other Nevada leaders when Llewellyn died. It was Sawyer who broke the news to him, and it laid Harvey low. For a year he sought refuge at the James Canyon Ranch. Concerned, the family asked Harvey's friend and employee Jack Morgan to live at the ranch with the boss.

"It wasn't easy for Harvey," Morgan says. "He was very depressed. He had been very much in love with his wife. She was his right hand—they were so close."

"He was heartbroken," their friend Ella Mae Brink recalls.

"I think there was a time when he wondered if he could make it without her," Herz says. "There may have been a time when he doubted his own abilities without her partnership. It was hard for her family because of her leadership."

Harvey remarried several years later, and he maintained control over the Wagon Wheel's corporation virtually until his death at age 78 on November 2, 1983. During those two decades Harvey directed the expansion of the club and the building of Harvey's Inn



Llewellyn and Harvey shared a unique partnership in business and marriage.

(now the Lakeside Inn). He survived the painstaking rebuilding of his club after a 1980 extortion bombing left much of the casino in ruins. Today, Harvey's remains privately controlled by a board of directors that includes his daughter, grandson, granddaughter, two sons-in-law, and his second wife, Vera.

Inside Harvey's, a visitor can find few reminders of Llewellyn. Portraits of Llewellyn and Harvey hang in the lobby, and the hotel's elegant 19th-floor restaurant is named Llewellyn's. In the Sage

Room, in shadows near the original knotty-pine beams, are portraits of Llewellyn, Harvey, and Beverlee.

To friends and family, Llewellyn's greatest legacy was not her drive or even the hotel, but her vivacious spirit. They recall one evening when she and Harvey went to a cocktail party hosted by their friends Dick and Ella Mae Brink. It was a convivial gathering with about 75 guests. Harvey was his usual quiet self, smoking his ever-present pipe and chatting about hunting and fishing with friends.

Llewellyn, naturally, was center-stage. At one point during the party she pushed Dick Brink into his own swimming pool. An hour later, Brink, knowing she had forgotten the teasing nudge, returned the favor. Llewellyn emerged dripping wet. Her diamond watch was an immediate relic, her dress and shoes in ruins.

But she laughed and laughed while Ella Mae and Harvey, chuckling as he puffed on his pipe, tried to help her change clothes. For Llewellyn the prank confirmed her own code: If you dish it out, you have to be able to take it. Llewellyn could, and she did. ▢

Liz Watson is a Lake Tahoe writer and former Harvey's public relations manager

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Don't Forget the Motor City

Why Nevada can learn from the lessons of Detroit.

By William N. Thompson

In the 1990s, Nevada is facing national and world competition in casino gaming for the first time. An earlier scare—Atlantic City—was overcome in the early 1980s, but today's competition is not confined to a single location 3,000 miles away.

Nevada's loss of its casino monopoly recalls Detroit's status as a car-making capital. It used to be that when people thought of cars, they thought of the Motor City. In 1970 Detroit carmakers produced three-fourths of the world's cars. Only seven percent of the cars in the United States were imports. Now the Japanese make one-third of the cars sold in the U.S.

For more than 50 years, people have thought of Nevada when they think of casino gambling. Will this continue, or is Nevada doomed to become another Detroit? The answer may be suggested by the factors that led to the Motor City's downfall.

Group Think: Early automakers exchanged ideas within their closed circle, and for years this synergy was a reason for Detroit's success. However, in time they fell into a trap described by Irving Janis in his book *Group Think*. When outsiders suggested that cars should be smaller, more fuel efficient, and safer, the automakers said, "No, we know best. The public wants big cars."

If Nevada is to maintain a dominant market position, we must accept new ideas whatever their source. We need to learn from what is happening on riverboats, in South Dakota, and on Indian reservations, where, in fact, many of the operators are Nevadans. Fortunately, Nevada gamers are reaching out, and our industry leadership is much larger and more fluid than was Detroit's.

The Customer Knows Best: Detroit would not listen to the customer. The Big Three—General Motors, Ford, and Chrysler—kept making big cars. They were the last to hear the cry for quality. Any problems with cars were dealt with as engineering problems, not as customer problems.



Tom Mix's '37 Cord, now displayed at the Imperial Palace in Las Vegas, recalls Detroit's glory years—although the Cord was made in Auburn, Indiana.

More and more, visitors want a total product—more than just the opportunity to gamble. This is Nevada's strength. Nevada has a unique advantage in that the state offers both tourism attractions and gaming. Casinos should work closely with those marketing the state's outdoor recreation, scenery, history, and

In foreign countries, casinos often cannot advertise, provide comps, or offer credit play. Some even have dress codes and entrance fees.

other attractions to assure the customer base remains strong.

Industrial Expertise: Japanese carmakers quickly learned the American market. The same cannot be said for many non-Nevada gaming operators, especially in foreign countries, where casinos often cannot advertise, provide comps, or offer credit play. Some even have dress codes and entrance fees.

Nevadans clearly do gaming best. It is not an easy industry to learn. The experts are in Nevada.

Taxation: Federal and state taxation has raised the cost of auto production in Detroit, providing a major incentive

for plants to move.

It's unlikely that Nevada gaming operations would move outside Nevada for tax reasons. Nevada's gross gaming tax of 6.25 percent is the lowest of any jurisdiction. New Jersey has a gross win tax of 8 percent and Iowa 20 percent. Most European casinos have win taxes in excess of 50 percent. There are slot taxes and other fees in Nevada, but, still, taxation is a positive factor for the state.

Government Policy: Because defense experts believed Detroit was a vulnerable military target, the federal government encouraged automakers to disperse their plants. Meanwhile, federal housing projects took up land the automakers needed for modernization.

There are no such pressures on Nevada's gaming industry aside from local zoning rules against casinos in residential areas. In fact, federal policy on gaming, minimal as it is, encourages the concentration of casinos in remote areas such as Nevada.

Whither Nevada Today? There are possible benefits from the competition our state faces. Gaming in other states and countries can stimulate demand for Nevada gaming, and Nevada can become a training center for gaming operatives throughout the world.

The Nevada gaming experience is built upon an infrastructure of variety, entertainment, inexpensive hotel rooms and meals, special events, and an ambiance of good weather. It will not be easily duplicated.

Still, we must be prepared. For instance, gaming industry leaders should continue to work with tourism officials to trumpet the state's non-gaming attractions.

The challenges of competition can be met, and if they are, Nevada clearly will not become another Detroit. □

William N. Thompson is professor of public administration at the College of Business and Economics at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas.



Marshall Fey poses with two Reno-made classics: a cocktail waitress (1956) saved from the 1962 Golden Hotel fire, and a miner (c. 1952) carved by sculptor Frank Polk.

A Reel Collector

For Marshall Fey, antique slots provide a link with his family's past.

By Connie Emerson

On a summer day in Reno, Marshall Fey is showing a visitor through his workshop at the Liberty Belle Saloon and Restaurant on South Virginia Street. The room is crammed with double-shelved rows of antique slot machines, mounds of machine parts, slot reels, paint cans, and books.

It's hot, but Marsh Fey is unwilted. Looking trim in immaculately pressed slacks, a sport shirt, and a bolo tie with a slot-machine slide, he's a veritable jackpot of information. His encyclopedic book, *Slot Machines: The First 100 Years*, is in its third edition and has sold more than 18,000 copies (an Italian version was recently printed as well). He has written brochures on various aspects of gaming machines and receives inquiries—as well as industry guests—from around the world.

Although considered a leading authority on antique slot machines,

Marshall Fey is remarkably down to earth—the kind of man you instinctively feel comfortable with. And while getting him to talk about himself is almost as difficult as lining up all sevens on a four-reel slot machine, it's a different story when he starts telling you about the more than 200 coin-operated machines that he and his brother, Frank, have collected over the years. The most complete collection of antique slots ever assembled, it includes examples of almost every type of slot built since the early 1890s.

"We picked up one machine we wanted very badly a few years ago," Fey says. "It was our grandfather's first slot, a non-payment lottery machine from 1895. We bought it from a woman whose family had owned it for three generations. She wanted \$70,000 for it. When I asked her why, she showed me an article with a photo of a Louis XIV chair that someone had bought for \$70,000. I guess she

thought all antiques were the same price. We ended up paying \$10,000."

As he talks about the collection, it becomes obvious that Marsh Fey doesn't collect simply to acquire possessions. The love of slot machines—from their history and design to their inner workings—is in his blood.

And well it should be. Fey was born on February 2, 1928, the birthday of his grandfather, Charles Fey, inventor of the first slot machine, the Liberty Bell. Charlie Fey invented many other games, including the first draw-poker machine, and was active in the slot business until his death at age 82 in 1944.

Marsh's father, Edmund Fey, was no slouch when it came to inventing either, holding 21 patents for arcade games. Along with their older brother Edmund, Jr., Marsh and Frank grew up in San Francisco, where their family operated a penny arcade in Playland-at-the-Beach, an amusement park near the Cliff House.

"As I was growing up," Marsh says, "I worked on practically everything you could put a coin in."

Not surprisingly, slot machines were in part responsible for Marsh and Frank's move to Nevada. "From 1950 to 1976, it was illegal to own slot machines in California," Marsh says. "In the mid-'50s, a friend of ours who owned four had his machines confiscated. He had to pay a \$500 fine for each one, too. At that time, Frank and I owned one slot machine, a 1928 Jennings, which I immediately tore down."

While the Fey brothers were contemplating new business ventures, an aunt gave them the original Liberty Bell machine. Marsh says, "We always liked Nevada, and since we had the first slot machine, we thought it was logical to come to Reno."

In 1958, the brothers bought the restaurant-bar they own today and named it after their grandfather's machine, adding an "e" to "Bell" in old-timesaloon tradition. They originally planned to operate the bar and contract out the restaurant, but the arrangement didn't work, so they soon found themselves in the food business.

They also began collecting furnishings, including old slot machines, in earnest. "You didn't have to pay much for the machines in those days, and the restaurant is what has allowed us to collect them," Fey says. Although the value of the slots has escalated tremendously, he dismisses the phenomenon with a modest "that was just a nice thing that happened. When we started, slot machine appreciation wasn't very good."

The public also has benefited from the Feys' penchant for collecting because the Liberty Belle has become a museum in its own right. The handsome Brunswick back bar came from the old Pastime Club in downtown Reno. Original Tiffany-style ceiling lamps provide lighting. Early-day photos, memorabilia, and more than 50 slots and arcade machines line the walls. And on weekends, when he's not traveling the country to peruse new gaming operations, you'll find Marsh Fey himself tending bar, and just maybe talking about slot machines. □

Connie Emerson is a Reno writer. Her newest book is *The 30-Minute Writer* (Writer's Digest Books). For information on Marshall Fey's book *Slot Machines: The First 100 Years* (\$29.95) write Liberty Belle Books, 4250 S. Virginia St., Reno, NV 89502. Or stop by the restaurant at the same address.

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All Shook Up.

The nation's newspaper readers did a double-take in 1956 when they saw Liberace rocking out on guitar and Elvis playing the piano at the Riviera. The switch was Liberace's idea, according to Las Vegas News Bureau photographer Jerry Abbott, who snapped the photo. The two stars also switched jackets for the historic moment.

The Publicity Game

The Las Vegas News Bureau's wily photographers reached new heights of puffery as they made Vegas famous.

By Stephen Allen

The town of Las Vegas, it has been said, was built on publicity. Located in the middle of the desert 300 miles from the nearest city of any size, Las Vegas was a place where tourists had to be *made* to want to come.

And so they were. Today, Las Vegas draws more than 20 million visitors a year, and a great deal of the credit must be given to the city's early public-relations

practitioners, many of whom could have taught P T Barnum a trick or two.

The publicity gurus found help for their wacky schemes at the fledgling Desert Sea News Bureau, which later became the Las Vegas News Bureau. Today the News Bureau, which is affiliated with the Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority, continues to spread the word about Las Vegas to the world. In its early days



Atomic Bombshell.

Atomic testing in the Eisenhower era led to PR creations like Miss Atomic Bomb of 1957. The bomb-inspired publicity let Americans know they could have a blast in Las Vegas.

Mushroom Scoop.

News Bureau photographer Don English took this 1951 shot of an A-bomb cloud over the Nevada Test Site, 80 miles north of the city. English climbed onto the roof of a downtown drugstore before the test and was able to frame Vegas Vic, the Pioneer Club's neon cowboy, with the blast. *Life* ran the photo as its picture of the week.





Making of a President.

Ronald and Nancy Reagan motored through Vegas long before their White House engagement. In 1954 the future president starred in a variety show at the Last Frontier. During their stay Ron and Nancy posed for publicity photos on the hotel grounds.

the News Bureau's photographers—Don English, Jerry Abbott, Milt Palmer, and others—flashed images of classic cheesecake, casino happenings, and serious news around the globe. Their photos of the growing metropolis appeared in *Life*, *Look*, and the *Saturday Evening Post*.

The comical mingled with the serious during the '50s, when Las Vegas proudly played host to the nuclear tests being conducted at the Nevada Test Site. In those days the News Bureau used photos of atomic clouds to promote the city. Such promotions would elicit a different response today.

'Spinning the Magic'

The inspired PR photography that made Las Vegas famous is the subject of the show "Spinning the Magic: The Las Vegas News Bureau Story, 1948-1992" at the Nevada State Museum and Historical Society in Las Vegas. The show runs through mid-July at the museum, located in Lorenzi Park at 700 Twin Lakes Drive. Call the museum at 702-486-5205 for more information.

A bonanza of publicity came in the early '60s with the emergence of the Rat Pack, as Frank Sinatra, Sammy Davis, Jr., Dean Martin, Peter Lawford, and Joey Bishop entertained crowds at the Sands. Newspapers and magazines ran stories and photos showing America that for a really wild time, Las Vegas was the place to be.

Lest anyone think such stunts are a thing of the past, let us consider Charlotte Richards. She owns a half dozen wedding chapels in Las Vegas and has married celebrity couples like Bruce Willis and Demi Moore. Two years ago Richards opened the world's first drive-in wedding chapel at her Little White Chapel on the Strip. Consequently, couples can pull up and get married without ever leaving their car. Pictures of the drive-in window have run in newspapers and magazines all over the world.

An English journalist suggested to Richards that the whole thing was merely "a publicity stunt." In response, Richards exclaimed, "A publicity stunt? Why, I never even thought of that."

The old-time PR gurus would have approved. □

Stephen Allen is a Las Vegas writer and author of Fodor's Fun in Las Vegas.



Jack Pot.

Jack Benny found a penny slot machine at the Sahara Hotel in 1958. The renowned penny-pincher was one of many television and radio stars whom vacationers could see in person in Las Vegas.

Fun in the Sun.

This famous photo of a floating crap game was staged in the summer of 1953 by Al Freeman, the legendary PR man who worked at the Sands in the '50s and early '60s. Naturally, the hotel's marquee was positioned carefully in the background.



1993 Nevada Hotel Guide

Where to sleep in and cash out around the state.

By Danielle Birkin and Carolyn Graham

The following is a traveler's guide to Nevada's hotel-casinos as well as a few non-gaming resorts (most with 150 rooms or more) and non-hotel casinos. The listing shows each hotel's number of rooms and suites, room rates, and whether non-smoking rooms (NS), airport pickup (AP), and valet parking (VP) are available. Unless otherwise noted, all toll-free 800 numbers are good in Nevada and the continental U.S. (Please note that rates are subject to change.)

BAKER

Border Inn, Hwy. 50 at Nevada-Utah border; 702-234-7300. 29 rooms, \$27 to \$37

BATTLE MOUNTAIN

Colt Service Center, 702-635-5424. 72 rooms (12 suites), \$33. AP.

Nevada Hotel, 702-635-2453. 25 rooms (1 suite), \$25 to \$35. AP.

Owl Club, 702-635-2444. Owl Motel: 8 E. Front St.; 702-635-5155. 18 rooms, \$32 to \$42.

BEATTY

Burro Inn, 702-553-2445 (casino), 702-553-2225 (motel). 63 rooms (1 suite), \$29 to \$40.

Exchange Club, 702-553-2368 (casino), 702-553-2333 (motel). 44 rooms (2 suites), \$35 to \$48.

Stagecoach, 702-553-2419, 800-4BIGWIN. 32 rooms (4 suites), 18 more rooms scheduled to be completed by fall 1993, \$30 to \$40. NS.

BOULDER CITY

Gold Strike Inn, Hwy. 93; 702-293-5000, 800-245-6380. 155 rooms (12 suites), \$19 to \$29. NS.



There's splendor in the gas in Las Vegas' neon-lit Glitter Gulch.

CARSON CITY

Cactus Jack's, 420 N. Carson St.; 702-882-8770.

Carson City Nugget, 507 N. Carson St.; 702-882-1626, 800-426-5239 (Western U.S. outside Nevada). Accommodations available at City Center Motel, 800 N. Carson St., Carson City; 702-882-5535, 800-338-7760 (Western U.S. outside Nevada). 80 rooms, \$36 to \$48. NS.

Carson Station, 900 S. Carson St.; 702-883-0900. 90 rooms (2 suites), \$35 to \$65. NS, VP.

Ormsby House, 600 S. Carson St.; 702-882-1890, 800-648-0920. 196 rooms (16 suites), \$40 to \$50. VP.

ELKO

Commercial Hotel, 702-738-3181. 38 rooms, \$23 to \$28. AP (12 to 6 pm).

Red Lion Inn, 702-738-2111; 800-545-0044. 223 rooms (5 suites), \$59 to \$89. NS, AP.

Red Lion Motor Inn/Best Western, 2050 Idaho St.; 702-738-8421, 800-621-1332. 151 rooms (12 suites), \$49 to \$79. NS, AP.

Stockmen's Hotel, 702-738-5141, 800-648-2345 (Western U.S. outside Nevada). 141 suites, \$45 to \$56. AP.

ELY

Copper Queen, 702-289-4884. 64 rooms, \$46 to \$57. NS, AP.

Hotel Nevada, 702-289-6665. 63 rooms (1 suite), \$21 to \$35. AP.

Jailhouse Motel, 702-289-3033. 47 rooms, \$39 to \$50. AP.

FALLON

Bonanza Inn/Best Western, 702-423-6031, 800-528-1234. 75 rooms (2 suites), \$40 to \$45. NS, AP.

Fallon Nugget, 702-423-3111. Rooms at the Bonanza Inn (702-423-6031).

FERNLEY

Truck Inn, 702-351-1000, 800-635-8785. 55 rooms, \$14.50 to \$30.

GARDNERVILLE

Sharkey's Nugget, 702-782-3133.

GERLACH

Bruno's Country Club, 702-557-2220. 42 rooms, \$30 to \$35.

HAWTHORNE

El Capitan, 702-945-3321. 103 rooms, \$35 to \$40.

HENDERSON

Eldorado, 140 S. Water St., 702-564-1811.
Railroad Pass, U.S. 95; 702-294-5000, 800-654-0877. 120 rooms (22 suites), \$19 to \$58. NS.

INDIAN SPRINGS

Indian Springs Hotel, 702-879-3700. 45 suites, \$35 to \$37. NS.

JACKPOT

Barton's Club 93, 702-755-2341. 60 rooms, \$20 to \$45. AP.

Cactus Pete's, 702-755-2321, 800-821-1103. 298 rooms (22 suites), \$35 to \$125. NS.

Four Jacks Motel, 702-755-2491. 60 rooms, \$25 to \$50. NS.

Horseshu, 702-755-7777 800-432-0051. 120 rooms (10 suites), \$25 to \$55.

JEAN

Gold Strike, 702-477-5000, 800-634-1359. 800 rooms, \$18 to \$31. NS.

Nevada Landing, 702-387-5000, 800-628-6682. 300 rooms (20 suites), \$18 to \$31. NS.

LAKE TAHOE, NORTH SHORE

Cal-Neva Lodge, Crystal Bay; 702-832-4000,



The Eldorado is one of Reno's bright spots.

800-225-6382. 186 rooms (18 suites), \$79 to \$249. NS, VP.

Crystal Bay Club, 702-831-0512, 800-458-2528.

Hyatt Regency Lake Tahoe, Incline Village; 702-831-1111, 800-233-1234. 458 rooms (48 suites), \$89 to \$875. NS, VP.

Tahoe Biltmore, Crystal Bay; 702-831-0660, 800-245-8667. 87 rooms, \$27 to \$90.

LAKE TAHOE, SOUTH SHORE

Bill's, Stateline; 702-588-BILL.

Caesars Tahoe, Stateline; 702-588-3515, 800-648-3353. 440 rooms (40 suites), \$105 to \$650. NS, AP, VP.

Embassy Suites, South Lake Tahoe, 916-544-5400, 800-EMBASSY. Non-gaming. 400 rooms (all suites), \$119 to \$189. NS, VP.

Harrah's Lake Tahoe, Stateline; 702-588-6606, 800-648-3773. 535 rooms (81 suites), \$100 to \$160. NS, AP, VP.

Harvey's, Stateline; 702-588-2411, 800-648-3361. 740 rooms (36 suites), \$85-\$450. NS, AP, VP.

Horizon, Stateline; 702-588-6211, 800-648-3322. 539 rooms (20 suites), \$82 to \$120. NS, VP.

Lakeside Inn, Stateline; 702-588-7777, 800-624-7980. 123 rooms, \$69 to \$89. NS.

LAS VEGAS

Aladdin Hotel, 3667 Las Vegas Blvd. S.; 702-736-0111, 800-634-3424. 1,100 rooms (42 suites), \$45 to \$95. NS, VP.

Alexis Park, 375 E. Harmon Ave.; 702-796-3300, 800-582-2228. Non-gaming. 500 rooms (all suites), \$85 to \$175. NS, VP.

Algiers Motel, 2845 LV Blvd. S.; 702-735-3311, 800-732-3361. 105 rooms (1 suite), \$35 to \$55.

Arizona Charlie's, 740 S. Decatur; 702-258-5200, 800-342-2695. 100 rooms, \$28 to \$40. NS.

Bally's Las Vegas, 3645 Las Vegas Blvd. S.; 702-739-4111, 800-634-3434. 2,828 rooms (265 suites), \$84 to \$129. NS, VP.

Barbary Coast, 3595 Las Vegas Blvd. S.; 702-737-7111, 800-634-6755. 200 rooms (12 suites), \$50 to \$95. VP.

Binion's Horseshoe, 128 Fremont St.; 702-382-1600, 800-237-6537. 354 rooms, \$35 to \$75. VP.

Blair House Hotel, 344 E. Desert Inn Rd.; 702-792-2222, 800-553-9111. Non-gaming. 244 rooms (all suites), \$45 to \$75. NS.

Boardwalk Hotel, 3750 Las Vegas Blvd. S.; 702-735-1167. 800-635-4581 (includes Canada). 201 rooms (1 suite), \$32 to \$120. NS.

Bourbon Street, 120 E. Flamingo Rd.; 702-737-7200, 800-634-6956. 166 rooms (4 suites). \$25 to \$85. NS, AP, VP.

Caesars Palace, 3570 Las Vegas Blvd. S.; 702-731-7110, 800-634-6661. 1,518 rooms (194 suites), \$95 to \$175. AP, VP.

California Hotel, 12 Ogden; 702-385-1222, 800-634-6255. 650 rooms (50 suites), \$40 to \$60. VP.

Center Strip Inn, 3688 Las Vegas Blvd. S.; 702-739-6066, 800-777-7737 (U.S., Canada). Non-gaming. 150 rooms (46 suites), \$29.95 to \$49.95. NS.

Circus Circus, 2880 Las Vegas Blvd. S.; 702-734-0410, 800-634-3450 (outside Nevada/Canada). 2,800 rooms (124 suites), \$19 to \$48. NS, VP.

Continental, 4300 Paradise; 702-737-5555, 800-634-6641. 398 rooms (2 suites), \$25 to \$95. AP, VP.

Crest Budget Inn, 207 N. Sixth St.; 702-382-5642, 800-777-1817. Non-gaming. 154 rooms (48 suites), \$24.95 to \$34.95. NS.

Days Inn Downtown, 707 E. Fremont St.; 702-388-1400, 800-325-2344. 146 rooms (7 suites), \$40 to \$60. NS.

Downtowner, 129 N. 8th St.; 702-384-1441, 800-777-2566 (U.S., Canada). Slots. 200 rooms (70 kitchenettes), \$24.95 to \$34.95. NS.

Dunes (closing Jan. 26), 3650 Las Vegas Blvd. S.; 702-737-4110, 800-243-8637. 1,200 rooms (95 suites), \$29 to \$59. VP.

El Cortez, 600 E. Fremont St.; 702-385-5200,

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800-634-6703. 300 rooms, \$23 to \$40.

El Morocco, 2975 Las Vegas Blvd. S.; 702-735-7145. Non-gaming. 252 rooms (2 suites), \$36 to \$55.

Excalibur, 3850 Las Vegas Blvd. S.; 702-597-7777. 800-937-7777 (outside Nevada; Canada). 4,032 rooms, \$45 to \$110. NS, VP.

Fergusons, 1028 Fremont St.; 702-382-3500, 800-933-7829. 68 rooms (8 suites), \$27 to \$100. NS.

Fitzgerald's, 301 E. Fremont St.; 702-388-2100, 800-274-5825 (including Hawaii, Canada). 650 rooms, \$20 to \$24. NS, VP.

Flamingo Hilton Las Vegas, 3555 Las Vegas Blvd. S.; 702-733-3111, 800-732-2111. 3,530 rooms (209 suites), \$59 to \$480. NS, VP.

Four Queens, 202 E. Fremont St.; 702-385-4011, 800-634-6045. 720 rooms (38 suites), \$47 to \$57. NP, VP.

Frontier Hotel, 3120 Las Vegas Blvd. S.; 702-794-8200, 800-634-6966. 986 rooms (446 suites), \$25 to \$85. NS (suites only), AP, VP.

Gold Coast, 4000 W. Flamingo Rd.; 702-367-7111, 800-331-5334 (outside Nevada; Canada). 750 rooms (34 suites), \$35 to \$50. NS, VP.

Gold Spike, 400 E. Ogden Ave.; 702-384-8444, 800-634-6703. 110 rooms (7 suites), \$20 to \$30.

Golden Gate Hotel, 111 S. Main St.; 702-382-3510, 800-426-0521. 106 rooms, \$25 to \$50. NS.

Golden Nugget, 129 E. Fremont St.; 702-385-7111, 800-634-3454. 1,907 rooms, \$58 to \$120. NS, VP.

Hacienda Hotel, 3950 Las Vegas Blvd. S.; 702-739-8911, 800-634-6713. 1,140 rooms (20 suites), \$35 to \$85. VP.

Harrah's Las Vegas, 3475 Las Vegas Blvd. S.; 702-369-5000, 800-634-6765. 1,725 rooms, \$99 to \$225. NS, VP.

Holiday Inn, 325 E. Flamingo Rd.; 702-732-9100, 800-732-7889. Non-gaming. 150 rooms (18 suites), \$69 to \$99. NS, AP.

Hotel Nevada, 235 S. Main St.; 702-385-7311, 800-637-5777 (outside Nevada). 160 rooms (16 suites), \$19.95 to \$49.95. NS.

Howard Johnson Lodge, 3111 W. Tropicana Ave.; 702-798-1111. 150 rooms (1 suite), \$49 to \$150. NS, AP.

Imperial Palace, 3535 Las Vegas Blvd. S.; 702-731-3311, 800-634-6441. 2,700 rooms (98 suites), \$45 to \$100. NS, VP.

Jackie Gaughan's Plaza, 1 Main St.; 702-386-

2110, 800-634-6575 (outside Nevada). 1,037 rooms, \$40 to \$50. NS, AP, VP.

King 8 Hotel, 3330 W. Tropicana Ave.; 702-736-8988, 800-634-3488. 300 rooms (8 suites), \$28 to \$55. AP.

Klondike Inn, 5191 Las Vegas Blvd. S.; 702-739-9351. 150 rooms (4 suites), \$29 to \$49.

Lady Luck, Third and Ogden; 702-477-3000, 800-523-9582. 792 rooms (162 suites), \$39 to \$500. NS, VP.

Las Vegas Club, 18 E. Fremont St.; 702-385-1664, 800-634-6532. 222 rooms (2 suites), \$32 to \$125. VP.

Las Vegas Hilton, 3000 Paradise Rd.; 702-732-5111, 800-732-7117. 3,174 rooms (291 suites), \$80 to \$170. NS, VP.

Las Vegas Inn, 1501 W. Sahara Ave.; 702-733-0001, 800-554-4092. 223 rooms (6 suites), \$35 to \$100. NS.

Luxor (opening Oct. 1993), 3900 Las Vegas Blvd. S.; 2,533 rooms (14 suites), \$58 to \$85.

Mardi Gras Inn/Best Western, 3500 Paradise Rd.; 702-731-2020, 800-634-6501. 314 rooms (211 mini-suites), \$42 to \$62. AP.

Maxim, 160 E. Flamingo Rd.; 702-731-4300, 800-634-6987. 795 rooms (38 suites), \$40 to \$225. NS, VP.

MGM Grand Hotel-Casino and Theme Park (opening in 1994), 3799 Las Vegas Blvd. S.; 702-891-1111, 800-929-1111 (now accepting reservations). 5,009 rooms (744 suites), \$69 to \$89. NS, AP, VP.

The Mirage, 3400 Las Vegas Blvd. S.; 702-791-7111, 800-627-6667. 3,049 rooms (240 suites), \$79 to \$239. NS, VP.

Moulin Rouge, 900 W. Bonanza; 702-648-5054. 111 rooms (3 suites), \$32.40. NS, VP.

Nevada Palace, 5255 Boulder Hwy.; 702-458-8810, 800-634-6283. 220 rooms (6 suites), \$29 to \$45. NS, VP.

Paddlewheel (closed for change of ownership), 305 Convention Center Dr.; 193 rooms (12 suites).

Palace Station, 2411 W. Sahara Ave.; 702-367-2411, 800-634-3101. 1,000 rooms (28 suites), \$35 to \$750. NS, AP, VP.

Pioneer Club, 25 E. Fremont St.; 702-386-5000.

Quality Inn/Anthony's Casino, 377 E. Flamingo Rd.; 702-733-7777, 800-634-6617. 320 mini-

suites (wet bar, fridge, sink), \$35 to \$150. NS.

Queen of Hearts, 19 E. Lewis St.; 702-382-8878, 800-835-6005. 85 rooms, \$29.50 to \$49.50.

Rainbow Vegas Hotel, 401 S. Casino Center Dr.; 702-384-4460, 800-634-6635. 280 rooms (18 suites), \$30 to \$45.

Ramada Hotel San Remo, 115 E. Tropicana Ave.; 702-739-9000, 800-522-7366 (outside Nevada), 800-343-5521 (Canada). 711 rooms (36 suites), \$45 to \$120. NS, VP.

Residence Inn by Marriott, 3225 Paradise Rd.; 702-796-9300, 800-331-3131. 192 rooms, \$90 to \$165. NS, AP.

Rio Suite Hotel, 3700 W. Flamingo Rd.; 702-252-7777, 800-888-1800. 430 rooms (all suites), \$81 to \$850. NS, VP.

Riviera Hotel, 2901 Las Vegas Blvd. S.; 702-734-5110, 800-634-6753. 2,000 rooms (187 suites), \$59 to \$95. NS, VP.

Royal Las Vegas/Best Western, 99 Convention Center Dr.; 702-735-6117. 800-634-6118. 236 rooms, \$39 to \$165.

Sahara Hotel, 2535 Las Vegas Blvd. S.; 702-737-2111, 800-634-6666. 2,035 rooms (80 suites), \$35 to \$110. VP.

Sam Boyd's Fremont Hotel, 200 E. Fremont St.; 702-385-3232, 800-634-6182. 452 rooms (24 suites), \$36 to \$60. NS, VP.

Sam's Town, 5111 Boulder Hwy.; 702-456-7777, 800-634-6371. 197 rooms (6 suites), \$40 to \$45. NS, VP.

Sands Hotel, 3355 Las Vegas Blvd. S.; 702-733-5000, 800-634-6901. 722 rooms (36 suites), \$65 to \$310. NS, VP.

Santa Fe Hotel, 4949 North Rancho and Hwy. 95; 702-658-4900, 800-872-6823. 200 rooms, \$36 to \$45. NS, VP.

Sheffield Inn, 3970 S. Paradise Rd.; 702-796-9000, 800-632-4040. Non-gaming. 228 rooms (51 suites), \$54 to \$200. NS, AP.

Showboat Hotel, 2800 Fremont St.; 702-385-9123, 800-634-3484. 482 rooms (6 suites), \$36 to \$85. NS, AP, VP.

Silver City Casino, 3001 Las Vegas Blvd. S.; 702-732-4152. Rooms available at Circus Circus, 800-634-3450.

Sportsman Manor, 5660 Boulder Hwy.; 702-458-7071. 196 suites, \$39.76 to \$50.56.

St. Tropez Suite Hotel, 455 E. Harmon; 702-369-5400, 800-666-5400. Non-gaming. 149 rooms (all suites), \$85 to \$400. NS, AP.

Stardust, 3000 Las Vegas Blvd. S.; 702-732-



The Colorado Belle docks in Laughlin.

Playing the Games

Knowing the odds may give you a sporting chance.

By Anthony Curtis

In 1992 Nevada casinos earned an estimated \$5.5 billion, which translates to about \$200 every second. From whom do the casinos win more than \$10,000 per minute? From millions of gamblers willing to bet on casino games that pay winning wagers at unfavorable odds.

The difference between correct odds and what casinos actually pay constitutes the house edge—an efficient, invisible billing system that rakes a penny or two from every dollar wagered.

You can enhance your chances of winning by playing the games with the lowest casino advantage. Here are a few things to remember. (The casino advantage is in parentheses.)

KENO (30%)

For every dollar wagered, your expected loss is a whopping 30 cents, and no combination of lucky numbers or voodoo charms can alter this. Keno's saving grace is the slow pace at which it's played. If you stick with the lowest-priced tickets, you should be able to recoup most of your expected loss with a couple of free drinks.

ROULETTE (5.25%)

Every bet on the layout (except one) carries the same high casino advantage. That goes for single-number bets that pay 35-1 as well as even-money wagers on red or black. If you've reasoned that you can bet red and black simultaneously, break even, and enjoy free cocktails all night, think again. Either the green 0 or 00 will appear, on average, every 19th spin. When this happens, you lose both.

SLOTS (3 to 25%)

Casinos earn more money from slot machines than from all table games combined. The casino advantage varies widely from machine to machine. Slots that accept larger-coin denominations pay back at a higher percentage. Slots are far from your best gambling option, but if you're going to play, here are a few tips:

- Always play the maximum num-



Roulette has a European spin.

ber of coins that a machine will accept or you won't be eligible to win its largest jackpot.

- Machines do not become "due." Don't waste hours staking out a machine till you think it's "ready"

- Join casino slot clubs. They're free and reward you with discounts.

- Machines with lower jackpots pay back small amounts more frequently, which means you tend to get more play for your money.

VIDEO POKER (0 to 5%)

Unlike standard slots, video-poker machines can be handicapped by comparing posted pay schedules. Look for "jacks or better" draw-poker machines that pay nine coins for a full house and six coins for a flush with one coin played.

CRAPS (1.4%+)

The low 1.4% house advantage corresponds to the line bets—pass, don't pass, come, and don't come. All other bets on the layout take such a large bite out of your gambling allocation that you should ignore them.

If you know nothing about the rules of craps, you have a three options:

- Attend a free gambling lecture, now popular at many major casinos.

- Read a book. Try the Gambler's Book Club in Las Vegas or the

Gambler's Bookstore in Reno.

- Ask a dealer at an uncrowded table how to place a pass-line bet.

BACCARAT (1.17%)

The casino edge in baccarat is even lower than craps. Unfortunately, the minimum bet is often \$20 or more. You can get around this by playing mini-baccarat. Most major casinos offer at least one mini-baccarat game with minimums from \$2 to \$5. Baccarat offers three betting options: bank, player, and tie. The casino advantage on bank is 1.17%. It rises to 1.36% on player and to 14% on tie.

BLACKJACK (0 to 3%)

Skill, study, and practice can improve your bottom-line payout. Luckily, a little knowledge goes a long way here. By adhering to the rules below, you can reduce the house edge to less than 1%. These rules are not subject to debate. Every time you deviate you cost yourself money. The third and fourth rules are the most critical.

- Always split eights and aces.
- Double down on 10 and 11 against dealer's up-cards 2-9.
- You hold 12-16; dealer's up-card is 2-6 stand.
- You hold 12-16; dealer's up-card is 7, 8, 9, 10, and ace hit.
- Stand on 17-21.
- Never take insurance.

COUPONS (30-50% for the player)

That's right. Those coupons that are handed out in the casinos will overcome the mighty house advantage. Play them at every opportunity.

MONEY CHANGERS (0%)

If you can't stand losing, try a casino money changer. Insert one dollar. Get one dollar's worth of change. There's no gain, but there's no pain, either.

Anthony Curtis is a gaming expert and publisher of the Las Vegas Advisor, a monthly newsletter about dining, entertainment, and saving money. He is at work on a book, The Casino Advisor.

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6111, 800-824-6033. 2,340 rooms (160 suites), \$35 to \$150. NS, AP VP.

Stars' Desert Inn, 3145 Las Vegas Blvd. S.; 702-733-4444, 800-634-6906. 821 rooms (95 suites), \$90 to \$135. NS, VP.

Sunrise Fountain Suites, 4575 E. Boulder Hwy.; 702-434-0848, 800-362-4040. 300 rooms (211 suites). NS, AP.

Super 8 Motel, 4250 Koval Lane; 702-794-0888, 800-800-8000. 300 rooms (12 suites), \$40 to \$75. NS, AP.

Super 8 Motel and Longhorn Casino, 5288 Boulder Hwy.; 702-435-8888, 800-825-0880. 150 rooms, \$25 to \$46. NS.

Town Hall Casino-Hotel, 4155 Koval Lane; 702-731-2111, 800-634-6541. 360 rooms (3 suites), \$29 to \$38. NS.

Treasure Island (opening fall 1993), 3300 Las Vegas Blvd. S.; 3,000 rooms.

Tropicana Hotel, 3801 Las Vegas Blvd. S.; 702-739-2222, 800-634-4000. 1,908 rooms, \$55 to \$110. NS, VP.

Vacation Village, 6711 Las Vegas Blvd. S.; 702-897-1700, 800-658-5000. 344 rooms (15 suites), \$20 to \$45. AP.

Vegas World, 2000 Las Vegas Blvd. S.; 702-382-2000, 800-634-6277. 1,000 rooms (60 suites), \$35 to \$80. NS, VP.

Westward Ho, 2900 Las Vegas Blvd. S.; 702-731-2900, 800-634-6803. 800 rooms (40 suites), \$20 to \$50. AP.

LAUGHLIN

Bay Shore Inn, 1955 W. Casino Dr.; 702-299-9010, 800-677-6172. 105 rooms, \$22 to \$65. NS, AP.

Colorado Belle, 2100 S. Casino Dr.; 702-298-4000, 800-458-9500. 1,238 rooms (13 suites), \$25 to \$49. NS, AP, VP.

Edgewater Hotel, 2020 S. Casino Dr.; 702-298-2453, 800-67RIVER (including Canada). 1,450 rooms (6 suites), \$22 to \$120. NS, AP VP.

Flamingo Hilton Laughlin, 1900 S. Casino Dr.; 702-298-5111, 800-FLAMINGO (reservations), 800-626-2365 (ticket information). 2,000 rooms (30 suites), \$25 to \$200. NS, AP VP.

Gold River, 2700 S. Casino Dr.; 702-298-2242, 800-835-7903 (outside Nevada; Canada). 1,003 rooms (22 suites), \$22 to \$50. NS, AP VP.

Golden Nugget Laughlin, 2300 S. Casino Dr.; 702-298-7111, 800-950-7700 (outside Nevada). Hotel opened in December 1992. 300 rooms (4 suites), \$21 to \$250. NS, VP.

Harrah's Laughlin, 2900 S. Casino Dr.; 702-298-4600, 800-447-8700. 1,659 rooms, \$21 to \$90. NS, AP VP.

Pioneer Hotel, 2200 S. Casino Dr., Laughlin; 702-298-2442, 800-634-3469 (outside Nevada). 412 rooms (6 suites), \$28 to \$75. NS, AP VP.

Ramada Express, 2121 S. Casino Dr.; 702-298-4200, 800-2RAMADA. 406 rooms (3 suites), \$25 to \$59. NS, AP VP.

Regency Casino, 1950 S. Casino Dr.; 702-298-2439, 800-551-1950 (outside Nevada).

Riverside Resort, 1650 S. Casino Dr.; 702-298-2535, 602-763-7070, 800-227-3849. 660 rooms (28 suites), \$19 to \$91. NS, AP, VP.

LOVELOCK

Sturgeon's/Best Western, 702-273-2971. 74 rooms (1 suite), \$45 to \$63. NS, AP.

McDERMITT

McDermitt Service and Motel, Hwy. 95; 702-532-8588. 23 rooms, \$35 to \$37. AP (on request).

MESQUITE

Peppermill Resort, 702-346-5232, 800-621-0187. 700 rooms (10 suites), \$36 to \$72. NS, AP, VP.

Virgin River, 702-346-7777, 800-346-7721. 379 rooms, non-smoking available, \$20 to \$50. AP.

MINDEN

Carson Valley Inn, 702-782-9711, 800-321-6983.

160 rooms (7 suites), \$49 to \$69. NS.

MOUNT CHARLESTON

Mount Charleston Hotel, 2 Kyle Canyon Rd.; 702-872-5500. 63 rooms (3 suites), \$49 to \$150. NS.

NORTH LAS VEGAS

Barcelona, 5011 E. Craig Rd.; 702-644-6300, 800-223-6330. 179 rooms, \$30 to \$55. NS.

Mahoney's Silver Nugget, 2140 Las Vegas Blvd. N., North Las Vegas; 702-399-1111.

PAHRUMP

Saddle West Casino, 702-727-5953, 800-522-5953. 60 rooms (10 suites), \$29 to \$89. NS.

RENO

Airport Plaza/Best Western, 1981 Terminal Way; 702-348-6370, 800-648-3525. 270 rooms (21 suites), \$60 to \$90. NS, AP.

Bonanza, 4720 N. Virginia St.; 702-323-2724, 702-322-4464 (motel). 14 rooms, \$22 to \$37.

Boomtown, I-80 at Garson Rd. Exit near Verdi; 702-345-6000, 800-648-3790. 121 rooms (4 suites), \$35 to \$75. NS.

Cheers, 567 W. Fourth St.; 702-322-8181. 112 rooms, \$30 to \$75. NS.

Circus Circus, 500 N. Sierra; 702-329-0711, 800-648-5010. 1,625 rooms (72 suites), \$18 to \$46. NS, AP, VP.

Clarion, 3800 S. Virginia St.; 702-825-4700, 800-723-6500. 303 rooms (11 suites), \$49 to \$250. NS, AP, VP.

Club Cal-Neva, 38 E. Second; 702-323-1046.

Colonial Inn, 250 N. Arlington Ave.; 702-322-3838, 800-336-7366 (Cal., Wash., Utah, Ore.). 168 rooms, \$46 to \$112.

Comstock Hotel, 200 W. Second St.; 702-329-1880, 800-648-4866. 310 rooms (8 suites), \$28 to \$300. NS, AP, VP.

Continental Lodge/Best Western, 1885 S. Virginia St.; 702-329-1001, 800-626-1900 (U.S. and Canada). 103 rooms, \$46 to \$95. NG, NS.

El Cortez, 239 W. Second St.; 702-322-9161. 116 rooms (1 suite), \$16 to \$25. AP.

Eldorado Hotel, Fourth and Virginia; 702-786-5700, 800-777-5325 (outside Nevada), 800-648-3024 (Canada). 785 rooms (92 suites), \$35 to \$750. NS, AP, VP.

Fitzgerald's, 255 N. Virginia St.; 702-785-3300, 800-648-5022. 350 rooms (includes 7 suites), \$18 to \$140. VP.

Flamingo Hilton Reno, 255 N. Sierra St.; 702-322-1111, 800-648-4882. 604 rooms (60 suites), \$59 to \$219. NS, AP, VP.

Gold Dust West, Fourth and Vine; 702-323-2211, 800-438-9378. 106 rooms (92 suites), \$35 to \$95.

Harolds Club, 250 N. Virginia; 702-785-3390.

Harrah's Reno, 219 N. Center St.; 702-786-3232, 800-648-3773. 565 rooms (67 suites), \$69 to \$375. NS, AP, VP.

Holiday Hotel, Mill and Center; 702-329-0411, 800-648-5431. 195 rooms (2 suites), \$29 to \$95. VP.



Old No. 7, The Gambler, makes tracks at the Ramada Express in Laughlin.



Tahoe's Big Four at South Shore (from left): Caesars, Harrah's, Harvey's, and the Horizon.

Holiday Inn-Convention Center, 5851 S. Virginia St.; 702-825-2940, 800-HOLIDAY. Non-gaming. 153 rooms, \$39 to \$49. NS.

Holiday Inn-Downtown, 1000 E. Sixth St.; 702-786-5151, 800-648-4877 (outside Nevada/Canada). 286 rooms (6 suites), \$52 to \$85. NS, AP.

Nevada Club, 224 N. Virginia; 702-329-1721.

Peppermill Reno, 2707 S. Virginia St.; 702-826-2121, 800-648-6992. 633 rooms (34 suites), \$45 to \$400. NS, AP, VP.

Pioneer Inn, 221 S. Virginia St.; 702-324-7777 800-648-5468. 252 rooms (10 suites), \$38 to \$65.

Reno Hilton (formerly Bally's), 2500 E. Second St.; 702-789-2000, 800-648-5080. 2,001 rooms (400 suites), \$69 to \$544. NS, AP, VP.

Reno Ramada, Sixth and Lake; 702-788-2000, 800-648-3600, 800-225-4398 (Canada). 233 rooms (10 suites), \$25 to \$120. NS, AP, VP.

Riverboat Hotel, 34 W. Second St.; 702-323-8877 800-888-5525, 800-321-4711 (Canada). 297 rooms (16 suites), \$25 to \$75. VP.

Sands Regency, 345 N. Arlington Ave.; 702-348-2200, 800-648-3553. 1,000 rooms (22 suites), \$49 to \$350. NS, AP.

Sundowner Hotel, 450 N. Arlington Ave.; 702-786-7050, 800-648-5490 (Western U.S. outside Nevada). 600 rooms, \$20 to \$70. NS.

Virginian Hotel, 140 N. Virginia St.; 702-329-4664, 800-874-5558 (Western U.S. including Nevada). 120 rooms (6 suites), \$30 to \$75.

SEARCHLIGHT

Searchlight Nugget and El Rey Hotel, 702-297-1201, 702-297-1144. 21 rooms, \$19 to \$57

SPARKS

John Ascuaga's Nugget, 1100 Nugget Ave., Sparks; 702-356-3300, 800-648-1177 (outside Nevada, Western Canada). 1,000 rooms (40 suites), \$25 to \$105. NS, AP, VP.

McCarran House/Best Western, 55 E. Nugget Ave.; 702-358-6900, 800-548-5798. 220 rooms (7 suites), \$39 to \$49. NS, AP.

Silver Club, 1040 Victorian Ave.; 702-358-4771, 800-648-1137. 207 rooms (2 suites), \$32 to \$90. AP.

Western Village, 815 Nichols Blvd.; 702-331-1069, 800-648-1170. 278 rooms (5 suites), \$23 to \$41. AP, VP.

STATELINE, I-15 SOUTH

Primadonna Resort, 702-382-1212, 800-367-7383. 700 rooms (4 suites), \$18 to \$194. NS, VP.

Whiskey Pete's, 702-382-4388, 800-367-7383. 258 rooms (8 mini-suites, 2 regular suites), \$18 to \$194. NS.

TONOPAH

Mizpah Hotel, 702-482-6202. 54 rooms (4 suites), \$29.96 to \$37.45.

Station House, 702-482-9777. 78 rooms (3 suites), \$35. AP (on request).

TOPAZ LAKE

Topaz Lodge and Casino, 702-266-3338, 800-962-0732. 59 rooms, \$39 to \$45.

VIRGINIA CITY

Numerous saloon-casinos include the Delta, Bucket of Blood, Bonanza, Ponderosa, Red Garter, and Silver Queen, and there are several motels for lodging. A good bet for gaming buffs is the Nevada Gambling Museum a few doors south of the Delta.

WELLS

Ranch House Inn, 702-752-3384. 60 rooms, \$30 to \$45. NS, AP.

WENDOVER

Nevada Crossing, 702-664-2900, 800-537-0207. 137 rooms (5 kitchenettes), \$31 to \$48. NS.

Peppermill Wendover, 702-664-2255, 800-648-9660. 90 rooms (2 suites), \$33 to \$55. AP.

Red Garter, 702-664-2111, 800-982-2111 (outside Nevada).

Silver Smith, 702-664-2231, 800-648-9668 (Western U.S. outside Nevada). 250 rooms (15 suites), \$43 to \$87. NS, AP.

State Line, 702-664-2221, 800-648-9668 (Western U.S. outside Nevada). 248 rooms (11 suites), \$41 to \$88. NS, AP.

WINNEMUCCA

Model T Casino Motel, 702-623-0222, 800-645-5658. 75 rooms (2 suites), \$50. NS, AP.

Red Lion Inn, 702-623-2565, 800-633-6435. 107 rooms (6 suites), \$55 to \$75. NS, AP.

Winners Hotel, 702-623-2511, 800-648-4770. 83 rooms (2 suites), \$35 to \$72. AP.

YERINGTON

Casino West, 702-463-2481, 800-227-4661. 46 rooms (1 suite).

Dini's Lucky Club, 702-463-2868. □

Danielle Birkin of Las Vegas is a University of Nevada, Reno student. Carolyn Graham is Nevada Magazine's associate editor.

CASINO PERSONAS

(Continued from page 15)

dealers who remember their names. The Cal-Neva has a train theme, with 175 signs for the Great Northern, Virginia and Truckee, and other lines adorning the casino.

The **Eldorado** is challenging Harrah's throne as the classy leader in Reno. It's doing it partly by offering high-quality sleeping rooms and by pleasing the palate with restaurants ranging from the international flavor of Tivoli Gardens

(menu a half-inch thick) to the Vintage's continental fare. The local Carano clan owns the Eldorado and maintains a wine cellar for their bottles produced at the Ferrari-Carano Wineries in Napa.

Fitzgerald's makes you see green—green in the door attendants' dress, green all over the casino. The Lucky Forest upstairs is a shrine with luck-related items such as stones from Blarney Castle, Secretariat's horseshoe, and an echoing wishing well. Located next to the Reno Arch, the Fitz lures repeat slot customers.

"Flamingo" was added to "Hilton" three years ago during a multi-million-

At the Nevada Club locals love Kilroy's Diner, a hidden breakfast spot.

dollar face change, and today pink is the dominant hue at the **Flamingo Hilton Reno**. There's an extra-large pit offering games of special appeal to Asians, including pai gow and pai gow poker. The Top of the Hilton is the only rooftop restaurant-lounge in town.

Raymond I. "Pappy" Smith opened **Harolds Club** with sons Harold and Raymond A. in 1935 and used innovations like billboard advertising and women dealers to give gaming an image of good, clean fun. Around 1962, the seven-story building lost its title as biggest casino in the world, and during the early-'70s energy crunch it gave up its rooftop spotlights. But Harolds Club still has its antique gun collection, plus the casino in two buildings.

The visionary William F. Harrah had just a little game room back in the '30s, but by 1969 a 24-story **Harrah's** stood in the heart of downtown. Harrah's has traditionally beckoned the creme de la creme clientele, and service is its motto. Reno's traditional top gaming establishment is also branching out to lure the more mid-range gambler. Harrah's offers premium restaurants (the Steakhouse is a beacon), a large sports book, and Sammy's Showroom (named for Sammy Davis, Jr.).

John Ascuaga bought the Sparks **Nugget** in 1960 from Dick Graves, for whom he'd worked as food and beverage manager. Ascuaga moved the hotel, casino, and Trader Dick's restaurant across the street and brought along the Nugget's mascot, Bertha the elephant. She's proven a good-luck charm. In 1984 the **John Ascuaga's Nugget** tower went up—it dominates the Sparks skyline—and three years later the hotel got its own exit on I-80. Last fall its enormous sign went up. The Nugget goes after high-end customers with attractions like a health and pool complex, but it also courts average gamblers as well as locals who like its food and specials.

The **Nevada Club** relies on mid-range slot players, but locals love Kilroy's Diner on the second floor, a hidden breakfast spot. The club looks somewhat as it did when it opened in 1946,

REDISCOVER HISTORIC NEVADA BEATTY GATEWAY TO DEATH VALLEY





John Ascuaga's Nugget towers over Sparks and traffic on Interstate 80.

with World War II trappings on the second floor, mechanical slot machines, and a first-floor classic-car theme.

The **Peppermill** dominates mid-town with its tower and giant fiber-optic sign that continuously changes hues like shades of Kool-Aid filling a glass. The main color inside is red, and lots of neon gives it a flashy feel. Like the Clarion, the Peppermill was designed by Reno architect Peter Wilday. It's a sexy, new-breed property attracting a yuppie clientele as well as locals who love the sprawling coffee shop with its black booths. They also retreat to the dark Fireside Lounge, where rendezvousers can slip



An eagle eye and nerves of steel will take you far at Circus Circus.

in and out unrecognized.

The most overtly themed exterior in Reno is the **Riverboat's**, with its gangway and boat shape. Inside, the Slots Ahoy Club gives patrons discounts on meals and rooms, and players can accrue points toward a rank of four-star admiral. The formula has been successful. After taking over the nearby Onslow, the Riverboat now has 297 rooms.

Pete Cladianos Sr. emigrated from Greece in 1913 and opened a cigar stand and food market. In 1932 he broke into gaming with five slot machines. Now the **Sands Regency's** three towers define the western end of the casino core. The Sands courts the senior market, convention business, and tournament enthusiasts. It now hosts tourneys for cribbage, darts, nine-ball (big-time sharks like Earl Strickland and Buddy Hall show up), chess, and Scrabble.

The **Sundowner** opened in 1975 on the site of the old Reno High School. The Sundowner emphasizes discounted room rates and bus packages through tour operators. Northern Californians can arrive by bus in the morning, gamble for six hours, and return home by nightfall.

At Lake Tahoe, the **Cal-Neva Lodge** sits so close to California that a black line marks the border as it runs through the swimming pool. Frank Sinatra was an owner in the early '60s before he got on the wrong side of state officials by hosting a reputed mobster. Today, three wedding chapels are busy with some 2,800 weddings a year. Honeymoon

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**At Caesars Tahoe,
a statue of
Caesar Augustus
greet guests in the
Pompeii Lounge.**

packages are a marketing emphasis at
the Cal-Neva Lodge, which dates back to
the 1920s.

The **Hyatt Regency** is the high-end
destination on the north shore, with
upscale shops, tennis and health clubs,
proximity to golf, skiing, and a private
beach. It's a four-star Mobil and four-
diamond AAA resort. Hugo's restaur-
ant is known for its steak and duck.
Ciao Mein offers Italian and Chinese.

Caesars Tahoe is a high-end resort at
the south end of the lake. The theme is
Rome at its most decadent. A statue of
Caesar Augustus greets guests in the
Pompeii Lounge, declaring (via stereo
system), "I, Caesar, welcome you to my
empire." The waitresses wear tunics.
The dance club is called Nero's 2000.

Harrah's Lake Tahoe consistently
commands the largest market on the
south shore, with its four-star Mobil and
four-diamond AAA ratings. The South
Shore Room brings in Broadway revues
(recently Juliet Prowse in "Mame") and
headliners such as Bill Cosby and Johnny
Mathis. The cabaret's entertainment is
better than most showrooms': Righteous
Brother Bill Medley and Beatles imper-
sonators Rain are familiar faces.

At **Harvey's** on the other side of U.S.
50, Harvey and Llewellyn Gross
launched their Wagon Wheel casino in
the mid-'40s with a few slots, a cafe, and
a gas station (see page 16). Now the
south shore's oldest club has two black
towers with stylish glass exteriors, a
19th-floor restaurant offering stunning
views, and more than 2,300 slots—the
most in Northern Nevada.

Of the Big Four properties on the south
shore, the **Lake Tahoe Horizon** caters
most to the mid-range customer. Del
Webb built the hotel as the Sahara Tahoe
in 1965. It became the High Sierra in
1984 and the Horizon three years ago.
Its Grand Lake Theater brings in groups
such as the Fabulous Thunderbirds, and
its fall chili cook-off is a hot affair. □

*Michael Sion is a reporter and nightclub
critic for the Reno Gazette-Journal.*

10 GREAT CASINO THEMES

(Continued from page 78)

the Paddlewheel (which is currently closed) churns down the street from the Las Vegas Convention Center, and Nevada Landing floats in a sea of sand at Jean. Reno's Riverboat rests a block north of the Truckee River. Amazingly, the Colorado Belle in Laughlin is a riverboat-theme casino that's next to a river.

7 Desert: The desert theme gripped Las Vegas in the early 1950s. It was inaugurated by the Desert Inn, and the Sahara, Sands, and Dunes followed close behind. Today there's the Sands Regency in Reno. Cactus Jack's in Carson City is characteristic of the motif, as is Cactus Pete's in Jackpot. Neither are to be confused with Whiskey Pete's on I-15 southwest of Las Vegas, where Kactus Kate's also happens to be. But it took until 1989 for the desert theme to be rounded out by a Mirage.

8 Horseshoes: Nevada has its share of these lucky charms: Binion's venerable Horseshoe in downtown Las Vegas, the Horseshu in Jackpot, the Horseshoe in Carson City, and Bob Cashell's Horseshoe Club in Reno.

9 Palaces: Where one finds gold and silver, there are bound to be palaces. Las Vegas claims all three of these: Caesars Palace, Nevada Palace, and Imperial Palace, Nevada's only Asian-themed casino.

10 Circus: Possibly the most successful casino theme is the circus. Circus Circus presents its big-top action in Las Vegas and Reno. The Excalibur is a Renaissance carnival. But the Primadonna at Stateline, with its Ferris wheel and carnies decor, is perhaps Nevada's ultimate amusement-park casino—so far.

11 There is, finally, one casino in Nevada with a theme all its own. Inside, astronauts space-walk in low orbit near the Stupak Skylab, and comets rotate above the front desk. The wheel of fortune is the size of the *Starship Enterprise*. Outside, a space needle is shooting into the heavens. The name says it all: Vegas World. □

Deke Castleman is the author of two recent guidebooks on the state, Nevada Handbook and Las Vegas, and is managing editor of Las Vegas Advisor.



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FN1001

Casino Themes

These club names are real nuggets, as good as gold, and lined with silver.

By Deke Castleman

The names and themes bestowed on Nevada casinos have always reflected the prevailing local currents. The tracing of these themes can serve as a looking glass into the state's unique heritage. Here are some of the most common and curious motifs.

1 Gold: Since gold fever originally brought prospectors and stampedeers to Nevada, it is appropriate that gold reigns supreme among casino themes. The Gold Strike Hotel in Jean guards the L.A. approach to Las Vegas, and the Gold Strike Inn watches the Boulder City corridor. Don't confuse them with the Gold Spike in downtown Las Vegas, where the Golden Goose and Golden Gate also are located. Ironically, the Gold Coast near the Strip is 250 miles from any ocean. The Gold River in Laughlin is actually on the "Red" (Colorado) River, and Reno's Gold Dust West is decidedly east of the Mother Lode. The Gold Club is in Sparks, and so is the Mint, which, not surprisingly, coins money. What is surprising is that the only contemporary casino with "money" in its name was the Mapes Money Tree in Reno, closed for 10 years.

2 Nuggets: Thematically, gold is so strong that it has a partner—nuggets. Steve Wynn's Golden Nugget in Las Vegas boasts a display of the largest gold nuggets in the world. The Carson City Nugget's nugget display is a close second. Not to be outdone, John Ascuaga's Nugget in Sparks displays a solid-gold rooster, and the collection of memorabilia at Sharkey's Nugget in Gardnerville includes just about everything but gold. There's another Wynn-owned Golden Nugget in Laughlin. Jim Kelley's Tahoe Nugget at Crystal Bay



Theme City: A wealth of motifs has found berths on the Strip.

could be the only brick casino in Nevada. While there are Nuggets, presumably gold, in downtown Reno, Fallon, and Searchlight, Mahoney's Silver Nugget in North Las Vegas is an oddity of metallurgy.

3 Silver: It was silver, after all, that gave Nevada its original theme. The Silver City gives Las Vegas its only connection to the coin of the realm, except for the Silver Spur, which is more of a saloon. Appropriately, the Silver Smith in Wendover belongs to the Smith family, whose State Line casino license dates back to 1931, the year gambling was legalized. Queen Victoria would feel at home at the Silver Club in Sparks with its Victorian decor, but she might feel underdressed at Virginia City's Silver Queen, named for its mural of a woman dressed in 3,261 silver dollars.

4 The West: The Pioneer casinos in Las Vegas and Laughlin reflect a prevalent theme in the state's history. The Frontier stands appropriately near

the Westward Ho on the Las Vegas Strip, while Nevada Crossing in Wendover localizes the setting. Casinos such as the Mizpah in Tonopah, the Eldorados in Reno and Henderson, the Bonanzas in Reno and Fallon, and the Comstock in Reno also commemorate Nevada's emergence in the vast Far West. The Burro Inn and Stagecoach in Beatty, the Saddle West in Pahrump, Casino West in Yerington, the unusual Jailhouse in Ely, and the Red Garters of Wendover and Virginia City capture the slapdash side of the scene. But the 19th-century Silver State spirit is perfectly embodied by Boomtown on Interstate 80 west of Reno.

5 Railroading: The railroad played an integral part in shaping the state—and draping casinos. Railroad Pass Casino is just above Las Vegas Valley on the original right-of-way to Hoover Dam. A small-scale choo-choo tools around the Ramada Express in Laughlin. Palace Station in Las Vegas is fronted by Disney diesels, and Tonopah has its Station House. Carson Station is just down the road from the Nevada State Railroad Museum, and Main Street Station in Las Vegas has already come and gone. In Vegas, Jackie Gaughan's Plaza (formerly the Union Plaza) has the Amtrak depot and Union Pacific yards.

6 Boats: Riverboat gambling was never common hereabouts, but its legend is strong enough that a handful of clubs are drydocked in the desert. This has been a popular theme in Nevada since 1954, when the Showboat was christened in Las Vegas, nearly floating away, in fact, during a flash flood on opening day. Since then, Harrah's Las Vegas has launched its Ship on the Strip,

(Continued on page 77)

Nevada Gift Shop

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Draw Poker

Table Games (C)

Draw Poker banks with a pewter finish have automatic score keeping and are available for one or two players. Single player, 11-1/4" tall (#SDPB), \$79.95; two players, 13-3/4" tall (#DDPB), \$109.95

Hand-held Games (D)

You can play Draw Poker alone or with others. Games have automatic score keeping, and a 52-card deck is shuffled 80 times between hands. Pocket Draw Poker for one (#HHVP1), \$29.95; hand-held Draw Poker for two (#HHVP2), \$49.95

Blackjack

Table Games (E)

You can play Blackjack alone or with others. Realistic games have automatic score keeping, a 52-card deck, double down, insurance, and a pewter finish. Single player, 11-1/4" tall (#SEBM), \$79.95; two players, 13-3/4" tall (#DBJM), \$109.95

Hand-held Games (F)

Hand-held Blackjack games have the same characteristics as the table models. Play alone or with others. Pocket Blackjack game for one (#HHBJ1), \$29.95; hand-held Blackjack game for two (#HHBJ2), \$49.95



Table Layouts (G)

Be the host or hostess with the mostest. Layouts are 36" x 72" screens printed on green billiard cloth. Craps layout (#CRAPL), \$29.95; Blackjack layout (#BJL), \$29.95; Roulette layout (#ROUL), \$29.95; Baccarat layout (#BACL), \$29.95; Combination craps and blackjack (one on each side) (#CBJL), \$39.95

Deluxe Clay Poker Chip Set (H)

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Clocks (K)

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Videos*

The following videos with instructions on gambling are by John Patrick, professional gambler. The price for each video is \$39.95: Video Poker, 60 minutes (#VPV); Blackjack, 60 minutes (#BJV); Baccarat, 60 minutes (#BACV); Craps, 60 minutes (#CRAPV); Roulette, 50 minutes (#ROUV)

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NEVADA *Events*

A Traveler's Guide

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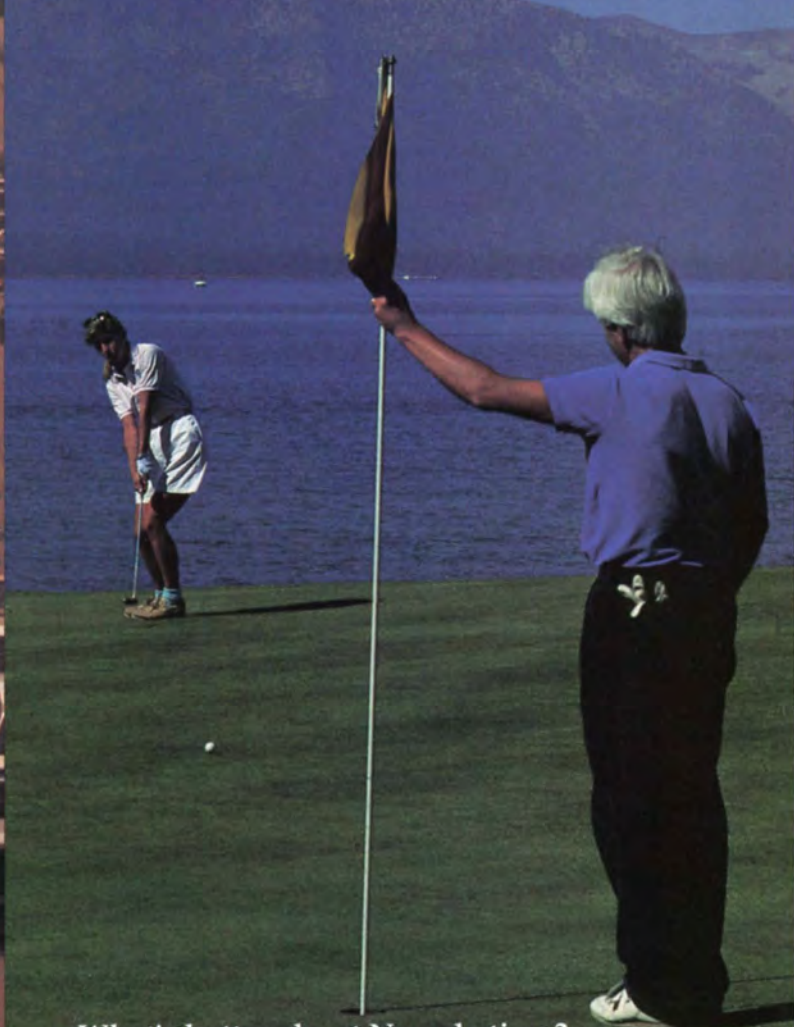
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NEVADA Events

A Supplement to Nevada Magazine
January/February/March 1993

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Under the watchful eye of a Heavenly ski school instructor, a student learns the ups and downs of the sport. Photo by Larry Prosor

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Vacation Hot Lines

Where to call or write for travel tips.

When planning your Nevada trip or vacation, be sure to write or phone these one-stop sources for information.

If you plan to stop by a chamber of commerce (C of C) office, chances are it will be open in the daytime Monday through Friday.

The area code is 702 throughout Nevada. All 800 numbers are toll-free.

Statewide Information

Nevada Commission on Tourism:
Capitol Complex, Carson City,
NV 89710; 687-3636 or 800-NE-
VADA-8 anywhere in U.S. and
Canada

Toll-Free Hot Lines

Carson City Convention and Visitor's Bureau: 800-NEVADA-1 anywhere in U.S.

Carson Valley C of C and Visitors Authority: 800-727-7677 anywhere in U.S.

Elko Convention and Visitors Authority: 800-248-ELKO outside Nevada

Fallon Convention and Tourism Authority: 800-874-0903 anywhere in U.S.

Incline Village/Crystal Bay Visitor and Convention Bureau: 800-GO-TAHOE anywhere in U.S.

Jackpot Visitor Information: 800-821-1103 anywhere in U.S.

Lake Tahoe Visitors Authority: 800-AT-TAHOE anywhere in U.S.

Laughlin C of C: 800-227-5245 outside Nevada

Reno-Sparks Convention and Visitors Authority: 800-FOR-RENO anywhere in U.S.

Tahoe North Visitors and Convention Bureau: 800-824-6348 anywhere in U.S.

Las Vegas Territory

Boulder City C of C: 1497 Nevada Hwy., Boulder City, NV 89005; 293-2034

Boulder City Visitor Center: 100 Nevada Hwy., Boulder City, NV 89005; 294-1220

Henderson C of C: 100 E. Lake Mead Dr., Henderson, NV 89015; 565-8951

Henderson Convention Center: 200 Water St., Henderson, NV 89015; 565-2171

Jean Visitor Center: Interstate 15 Rest Area (8 mi. south of Jean), Jean, NV 89019; 874-1566

Las Vegas C of C: 711 E. Desert Inn Road, Las Vegas, NV 89109; 735-1616

Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority: 3150 Paradise Rd., Las Vegas, NV 89109; 892-0711

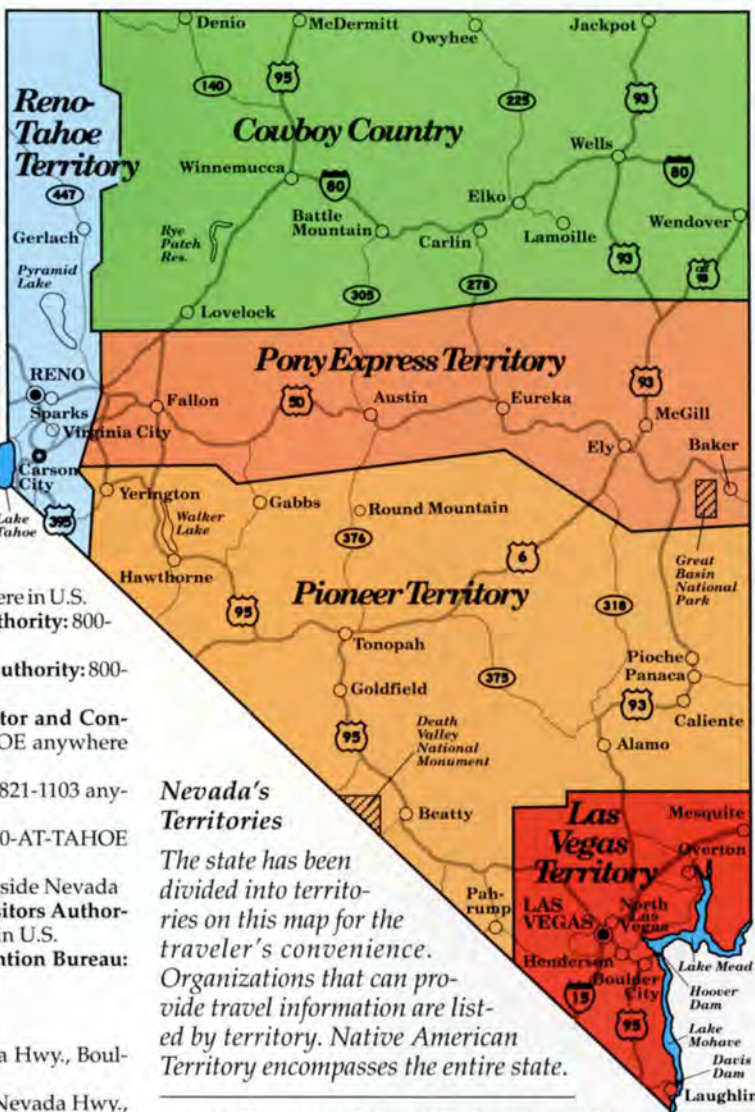
Latin C of C: 829 S. Sixth St., Las Vegas, NV 89101; 385-7367

Laughlin C of C: Box 2280, Laughlin, NV 89029; 298-2214, or 800-227-5245 outside Nevada

Laughlin Visitor Center: 1555 S. Casino Dr., Laughlin, NV 89029; 298-3321

Mesquite Visitor Center: Interstate 15 Exit 122, Mesquite, NV 89024; 346-2702

Moapa Valley C of C: Box 361, Overton, NV 89040; 397-2193 (Lost City Museum)



Nevada's Territories

The state has been divided into territories on this map for the traveler's convenience. Organizations that can provide travel information are listed by territory. Native American Territory encompasses the entire state.

Nevada Black C of C: Box 4850, Las Vegas, NV 89106; 648-6222

North Las Vegas C of C: 1023 E. Lake Mead Blvd., North Las Vegas, NV 89030; 642-9595

Southern Nevada Arts Hot Line: Local arts and cultural events; on touch-tone phone call 385-4444 and enter code 2172

Virgin Valley Area C of C: 250 W. Mesquite Blvd., Box 785, Mesquite, NV 89024; 346-2902

Reno-Tahoe Territory

Carson City C of C: 1900 S. Carson St., Suite 100, Carson City, NV 89701; 882-1565

Carson City Convention and Visitors Bureau: 1900 S. Carson St., Suite 200, Carson City, NV 89701; 687-7410, or 800-NEVADA-1 anywhere in U.S.

Carson Valley C of C and Visitors Authority: 1524 Hwy. 395, No. 1, Gardnerville, NV 89410-7814; 782-8144, or 800-727-7677 in U.S.

Greater Reno C of C: 133 N. Sierra St., Reno, NV 89503; 329-3558

Incline Village/Crystal Bay C of C: 969 Tahoe Blvd., Incline Village, NV 89451; 831-4440

Incline Village/Crystal Bay Visitor and Convention Bureau: 969 Tahoe Blvd., Incline Village, NV 89451; 832-1606, or 800-GO-TAHOE anywhere in U.S.

Lake Tahoe Visitors Authority: Box 16299, South Lake Tahoe, CA 96151; 916-544-5050, 800-AT-TAHOE in U.S., or for updated visitor info. 900-776-5050 (\$1/min. charge)

North Lake Tahoe C of C: Box 884, Tahoe City, CA 95730; 916-583-2371

Reno-Sparks Convention and Visitors Authority: 4590 S. Virginia St., Reno, NV 89502; 827-7600, 827-RENO, or 800-FOR-RENO anywhere in U.S.

Reno-Sparks Indian Colony Tribal Council: 98 Colony Rd., Reno, NV 89502; 329-2936

Sierra Ski Marketing Council: Box 9137 Incline Village, NV 89450; 916-581-1174; Ask for their free skier's guide

Sparks C of C: 831 Victorian Ave., Sparks, NV 89431; 358-1976

Tahoe-Douglas C of C: Box 7139, Stateline, NV 89449; 588-4591

Tahoe North Visitors and Convention Bureau: Box 5578, Tahoe City, CA 95730; 916-583-3494, or 800-824-6348 anywhere in U.S.

Virginia City C of C: V&T Railroad Car, C St., Virginia City, NV 89440; 847-0311

Cowboy Country

Battle Mountain C of C: Box 333, Battle Mountain, NV 89820; 635-8245

Elko C of C: 1601 Idaho St., Elko, NV 89801; 738-7135

Elko Convention and Visitors Authority: 700 Moren Way, Elko, NV 89801; 738-4091, or 800-248-ELKO outside Nevada

Jackpot Visitors Information: Box 508, Jackpot, NV 89825; 755-2321, 800-821-3935 in Nevada, 800-821-1103 anywhere in U.S.

Jarbridge Community Assn.: c/o Trading Post, Box 260072, Jarbridge, NV 89826; 488-2315

Lovelock C of C: Box 821, Lovelock, NV 89419; 273-7213

McDermitt Information: Box 278, McDermitt, NV 89421

Wells C of C: Box 615, Wells, NV 89835; 752-3540

Wendover USA Visitors/Convention Bureau: Box 2468, Wendover, NV 89883; 664-3414

Winnemucca C of C: 48 W. Winnemucca Blvd., Winnemucca, NV 89445; 623-2225

Winnemucca Convention and Visitors Bureau: 50 West Winnemucca Boulevard, Winnemucca, NV 89445; 623-5071

Pony Express Territory

Austin C of C: Box 212, Austin, NV 89310; 964-2200

Churchill County C of C: 100 Campus Way, Fallon, NV 89406; 423-2544

Dayton C of C: Box 408, Dayton, NV 89403; 246-7909 (open Thurs.-Sun.)

EDASS (Econ. Development of Silver Springs): Box 269, Silver Springs, NV 89429; 577-2008

Ely's Bristlecone Convention Center: Box 958, Ely, NV 89301; 289-3720

Eureka County C of C: Box 14, Eureka, NV 89316; 237-5484

Fallon Convention and Tourism Authority: 100 Campus Way, Fallon, NV 89406; 423-4556, or 800-874-0903 anywhere in U.S.

Fernley C of C: Box 1606, Fernley, NV 89408; 575-4459

Great Basin C of C: Baker, NV 89311; 234-7302

White Pine C of C: 636 Aultman, Ely, NV 89301; 289-8877

Pioneer Territory

Amargosa C of C: HCR 69-2 Box 401W, Amargosa, NV 89020; 372-5459

Beatty C of C: Box 946, Beatty, NV 89003; 553-2424

Caliente C of C: Box 553, Caliente, NV 89008; 726-3129

Gabbs, City of: Box 86, Gabbs, NV 89409; 285-2671

Goldfield C of C: Box 225, Goldfield, NV 89013; 485-9957

Goldfield Historical Society: Box 178, Goldfield, NV 89013; 485-6365

Greater Smoky Valley C of C: Box 2020, State Route 376 at Carver's Station, Round Mountain, NV 89045; 377-2490

Lincoln County C of C: Box 553, Caliente, NV 89008; 726-3129

Mason Valley C of C: 227 S. Main St., Yerington, NV 89447-2536; 463-3721

Mineral County C of C: Box 1635, Hawthorne, NV 89415; 945-5896

Pahrump Valley C of C: Box 42, Pahrump, NV 89041; 727-5800

Pioche C of C: Box 51, Pioche, NV 89043; 962-5544 (office hours: 11am-3pm Mon.-Sat.)

Tonopah C of C: Box 869, Tonopah, NV 89049; 482-3859

Tonopah Convention Center: Box 408, Tonopah, NV 89049; 482-2558

State and National Parks

Death Valley National Monument: Death Valley, CA 92328; 619-786-2331

Great Basin National Park: Baker, NV 89311; 234-7331

Lake Mead National Recreation Area: 601 Nevada Hwy., Boulder City, NV 89005; 293-8907

Nevada Division of State Parks: Capitol Complex, Carson City, NV 89710; 687-4387

Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area: Box 26569, Las Vegas, NV 89126; 363-1921

More Camping, Hiking, and Fishing

Bureau of Land Management: Main: Box 12000, Reno, NV 89520; 785-6402

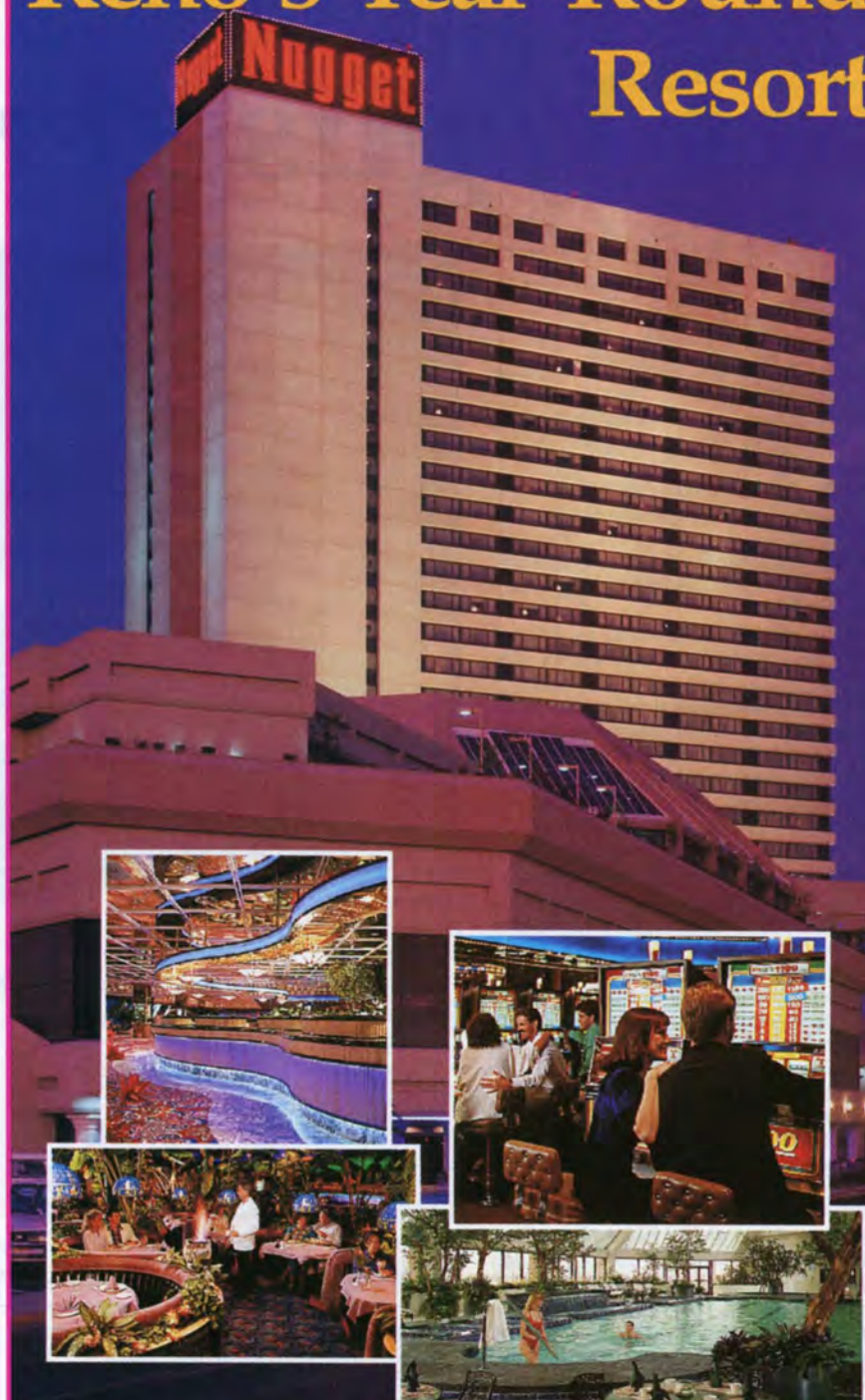
Humboldt National Forest: 976 Mountain City Hwy., Elko, NV 89801; 738-5171

Nevada Dept. of Wildlife: Main: Box 10678, Reno, NV 89520; 688-1500

Pyramid Lake: Pyramid Lake Fisheries: Star Route, Sutcliffe, NV 89510; 673-6335

Toiyabe National Forest: Main: 1200 Franklin Way, Sparks, NV 89431; 331-6444

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Las Vegas Territory

EVENTS

January

Art Educators Art Exhibit, thru Jan. 2, West Las Vegas Library, 647-2118

Art Exhibit, thru Jan. 5, Renaissance theme in icon format by Gregory Barnaby, Sunrise Library, 453-1104

Art Show, thru Jan. 18, mixed media by Dennis and Catherine Angel, Charleston Heights Art Center, 229-6383

Nevada Watercolor Society Fall Show, thru Jan. 18, reception Dec. 8 from 5-7pm, Spring Valley Library, 368-4411

Neon Exhibit, thru Jan. 24, works by Willem Volkersz, Reed Whipple Cultural Center, 229-6211

Heritage Toyland 1900-1959, thru Jan. 30, exhibit of toys, many on loan from the Detroit Antique Toy Museum, Clark County Heritage Museum, Henderson, 455-7955

Peña Exhibit, thru Feb. 1, recent works in various media by Amador M. Peña, Jr., a highly regarded artist of Mexican-Yacquis heritage, Nevada State Museum and Historical Society, 486-5205

Spinning the Magic: The Las Vegas News Bureau Story, thru July 31, an exhibition showing how the photographers of the Las Vegas News Bureau used celebrity, cheesecake, and scenic photographs to create the idea of Las Vegas as a resort destination, Nevada State Museum and Historical Society, 486-5205

African-American Art Exhibit, Jan. 2-31, works by Bill Pajaud from Las Vegas and Al Porter from California, reception Jan. 10 from noon-3pm, Las Vegas Art Museum, Lorenzi Park, 647-4300

Art Exhibit, Jan. 2-31, embossings and watercolors by Ann Aune of Las Vegas, Lost City Museum, Overton, 397-2193

Wild, Wild West at Ramada Express, Jan. 6-9, gold-panning, chuck wagon barbecue, country music, Clint Eastwood look-alike, Western art show and sale, Ramada Express, Laughlin, 298-4200

North American Indians and Their Faith Spirits, Jan. 7-Feb. 7, contemporary paintings by Joyce Murdy, Sunrise Library, 453-1104

Home Remodeling Show, Jan. 8-10, Cashman Field, 434-4444

Martin Luther King Memorial Run, Jan. 9, location TBA, Las Vegas, 452-8729

"Time Flies When You're Alive," Jan. 9, 8pm, presented by Broadway! Las Vegas!, Las Vegas High School Theatre, 732-2500

Mazer and Smith Trio, Jan. 10, music of Susan Mazer and Dallas Smith features electro-acoustic concert grand harp and electronic wind synthesizer, 2pm, Reed Whipple Cultural Center, 229-6211

Senior Theatre USA Festival, Jan. 11-14, "Geritol Frolics," "New Wrinkles of 1992," "I Was Young—Now I'm Wonderful," "Goldenaires,"



Contestants race in homemade carts of paper cardboard, glue, and tape in the Snowbox Derby, January 30, at Lee Canyon Ski Area on Mount Charleston.

and "Senior Suite," Judy Bayley Theatre at UNLV and Jackie Gaughan's Plaza, 895-3801 or 597-4039

Fall Student Recital Series, Jan. 11-16, open to public, free, Nevada School of the Arts, Ham Hall, UNLV 739-3502

Architectural Exhibit, Jan. 11-Feb. 7 Craig Hodgetts and Hsing Ming Fung present concepts for post-modern living, Donna Beam Fine Art Gallery, UNLV 895-3893

Art Show, Jan. 12-March 1, collage of photographs by Rudy Gonzales and Barbara Stocking Gonzales, Mesquite Library, Mesquite, 346-5224

Art Show, Jan. 15-March 3, large-format, black-and-white still lifes by Kathleen Nathan, opening of new library on Jan. 15, West Charleston Library, 733-3601

Yesterday's Games: A Historic "Field Day," Jan. 16, a day of playing the games of yesteryear including jacks, tops, can stilts, and more, di-

agrams for making historic toys will be available, 1-3:30pm, Clark County Heritage Museum, Henderson, 455-7955

Southwest Weapons Collectors Gun and Knife Show, Jan. 16-17 Henderson Convention Center, 565-2171 or 602-855-8095

"Meet Me in St. Louis," Jan. 17 presented by Broadway! Las Vegas!, 2 and 8pm, Cashman Theatre, 732-2500

Championship Boxing, Jan. 20, Riviera Hotel, 734-5110

Nevada State Backgammon Championship, Jan. 20-24, 10th annual, Sands Hotel, 826-1984

African Voices, Jan. 20-March 7 exhibit of color photographs by Las Vegas artist Loretta Adams captures faces of the Samburu and Masai tribes of Kenya and portrays aspects of the tribes' culture and customs, reception Jan. 20 from 5-7pm, Spring Valley Library, 368-4411

Shakespearean Cavalcade, Jan. 21, display of 50 costumes used in the Utah Shakespearean



Festival, traces fashion from King Lear in the Dark Ages to Queen Elizabeth's 300-pound coronation gown, 7:30pm, Virgin Valley High School Auditorium, Mesquite, 346-5295

Jeannie and Jimmy Cheatham and the Sweet Baby Blues Band, Jan. 22, band plays in the Kansas City blues and jazz tradition, 8pm, \$8 adults, \$6 students, seniors and persons with disabilities, Reed Whipple Cultural Center, 229-6211

Las Vegas Antiquarian and Used Book Fair, Jan. 22-24, authors, speakers, guests, and celebrities, open to public, Sahara Hotel, 384-5838

Nevada Sports, Recreation, and Travel Show, Jan. 22-24, Sands Expo and Convention Center, 736-5958

Gun and Knife Show, Jan. 23-24, Cashman Field, 386-7100

Stephanie Skalisky Drawings Exhibit, Jan. 24-March 3, Skalisky's drawings are seen frequently in *The New Yorker* magazine, reception Jan. 24 from 2-4pm, Charleston Heights Arts Center, 229-6383

"La Boheme," Jan. 25, 8pm, San Francisco Opera,

Ham Hall, 737-6373 or 895-3801
Ballet Metropolitan, Jan. 28, 8pm, Ham Hall, UNLV 895-3801

Chili Supper, Jan. 28, Mirabelli Community Center, 229-6359

"A Few Good Men," Jan. 29-31 and Feb. 3-7, drama, New West Theatre, Charleston Heights Arts Center, 656-5000

"The Octette Bridge Club," Jan. 29-31, Feb. 4-7 and Feb. 11-14, sentimental comedy, Las Vegas Little Theatre, Spring Valley Library Theatre, 383-0021

Cast in Clay: Industrial Folk Pottery Exhibit, Jan. 29-Feb. 28, Winchester Gallery, 455-8242

Snowbox Derby, Jan. 30, fourth annual, contestants build carts out of paper, cardboard, glue, and tape for a race down slopes, benefit for the Las Vegas Youth Outreach Program, Lee Canyon Ski Area, Mount Charleston, 877-9622

Las Vegas Chapter Sweet Adelines, Jan. 30, barbershop music, 2 and 8pm shows, Cimarron Memorial High School, 898-9820

Super Bowl Sunday Fun Run (Super Sole), Jan. 31, 10K, two-mile, and kids' foot race, meet at Green Valley Athletic Club, 870-8269 or 454-6000

February

Black Memorabilia Collection Exhibit, Feb. 1-28, collection of artifacts dating from the late 1800s to present, includes dolls, prints, trade cards, books, figurines, sheet music, albums, tapes, videos, and more, items will be displayed at five Las Vegas area libraries: Rainbow, Sunrise, Sahara West, Las Vegas, Green Valley, for schedule call 593-3305

Art Exhibit, Feb. 1-28, paintings by Sally VanErt of Overton, Lost City Museum, Overton, 397-2193

Art Exhibit, Feb. 1-28, pottery and wall hangings by Larry Brosi, reception Feb. 7 from noon-3pm, Las Vegas Art Museum, Lorenzi Park, 647-4300

Great Nevada Picture Hunt Winners Show, Feb. 1-March 15, exhibit of *Nevada Magazine's* 15th annual photo contest winners, Nevada State Museum and Historical Society, Lorenzi Park, 486-5205

"A Few Good Men," Feb. 3-7, drama, New West Theatre, Charleston Heights Arts Center, 656-5000

Art Show, Feb. 5-March 6, recent paintings by Las Vegas artists Phillip Argent, Jane Callister, and Michael Wine, Barrick Museum, UNLV 739-3381

1993 Las Vegas International Marathon and Half-

TERRITORY MAP



Marathon, Feb. 6, 27th annual, 26.2- and 13.1-mile foot races, \$78,000 total prize money, marathon starts 3.5 miles west of Jean on State Route 161 toward Goodsprings, half-marathon begins 3.5 miles south of Sloan on the old Los Angeles Highway (State Route 604), Las Vegas, 876-3870

A New Music Extravaganza: California E.A.R. Unit, Feb. 6, nine-member ensemble, 7:30pm, Judy Bayley Theatre, UNLV, 895-3801

Bridal Spectacular, Feb. 6-7, Cashman Field, 876-6076

Nevada Camera Club Heritage Competition, Feb. 6-March 20, photographs by members in southern Lincoln County, Clark County Heritage Museum, 455-7955

"Steel Magnolias," Feb. 8, presented by Broadway! Las Vegas!, 8pm, Cashman Theatre, 732-2500

Desert Quilters' Exhibit, Feb. 9-March 23, community organization dedicated to the art of quilt work from traditional to contemporary designs, reception Feb. 9 from 5-7pm, Sunrise Library, 453-1104

Mardi Gras Party, Feb. 10, featuring Beausoleil and ReBirth Brass Band, 8pm, Charleston Heights Arts Center, 229-6383

Boat Show, Feb. 11-14, Cashman Field, 565-9111

HOT LINES

Charleston Heights Arts Center: films, art exhibits, chamber music, 386-6383

Fern Adair Conservatory of the Arts: ballet, musicals, theater, 458-7575

Las Vegas Aces: semi-pro hockey club: Jan. 8-9 v. San Jose, Jan. 15-16 v. Fresno Falcons, Jan. 22-23 v. Iceoplex Jets, Jan. 29-30 v. Fresno Falcons, Feb. 5-6 v. Orange County Outlaws, Feb. 12-13 v. California Hawks, Feb. 19-20 v. Greensboro, Feb. 26-27 v. Iceoplex Jets, March 5-6 v. Orange County Outlaws, Sante Fe Hotel, 658-4991

Nevada Division of State Parks: hikes, tours, stargazing, campfire programs at 21 parks around the state, District VI, Las Vegas, 486-5126

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

UNLV Concerts: music and dance, 739-3101

UNLV Basketball: Jan. 2 v. Cal State Fullerton, Jan. 11 v. Missouri, Jan. 14 v. Pacific, Jan. 16 v. San Jose State, Jan. 19 v. Texas A&M, Jan. 21 v. UC Irvine, Jan. 23 v. Georgetown, Feb. 6 v. UC Santa Barbara, Feb. 8 v. Long Beach State, Feb. 14 v. Louisville, Feb. 20 v. New Mexico State, Feb. 25 v. Nevada, Feb. 27 v. Utah State, Thomas and Mack Center, UNLV 739-3900

For chamber of commerce and convention center phone numbers, see page E-4

NIGHTLIFE

Let It Rain

BY MIKE WEATHERFORD

You know the music of John Lennon and Paul McCartney has become classic if a Beatles tribute band can find work in Nevada casino lounges and seniors-oriented cruise ships.

Rain: A Tribute to the Beatles is a Reno-based outfit of Fab Four impersonators that has been a mainstay with audiences of all ages at Harrah's in Reno and Lake Tahoe for 12 years. In the past two years the group has been playing the Four Queens in Las Vegas.

Joe Bithorn (who plays George Harrison), Joey Curatolo (Paul McCartney), and Mark Lewis, the off-stage keyboardist and leader of Rain, all live in the Reno area. Jim Riddle (John Lennon) lives in Nevada City, California, and Ralph Castelli (Ringo Starr) lives in Victorville, California. The current lineup has been together nine years. All four members were once in different companies of the musical "Beatlemania."

Lewis formed Rain in the mid-1970s. Originally spelled Reign, the group began as a conventional club band covering a few Beatles tunes. Those songs went over so well that club owners suggested they try a full-scale tribute. Their name was already close enough to a Beatles' song title that the conversion required only a convenient change of spelling.

The band got a shot of credibility when it was chosen to provide the sound track for the 1979 TV movie *Birth of the Beatles*. Rain substituted the original Beatles' songs for both legal and cinematic reasons; some tunes had to sound like rehearsals and recording sessions.



Ralph Castelli (Ringo Starr), Jim Riddle (John Lennon), Joey Curatolo (Paul McCartney), and Joe Bithorn (George Harrison) of Rain: A Tribute to the Beatles.

The current Rain show is a full production of three Beatle eras. The first set begins with the early Beatlemania days, with the four decked out in gray suits, skinny ties, and mop-top wigs, cranking out the band's early favorites such as "I Want to Hold Your Hand" and "Eight Days a Week."

Midway through the set, the four re-emerge in psychedelic get-ups from the "Sgt. Pepper" album cover, with Lewis adding synthesized orchestrations to "Penny Lane" and "A Day in the Life."

The second set takes a bit more license. Since the Beatles quit performing live in 1966, Rain performs what Bithorn calls "a concert they could have played if they had stayed together," with tunes from "Abbey Road," "Let It Be," and the untitled white album.

The four speak with British accents on-stage but call each other by their real names. "It's a tribute act, not a strict impersonation," Bithorn says. "We create the show within the mystique of the music."

Still, even Beatles fanatics are impressed by the show's level of detail.

"The band is very picky about seriously dissecting the music," Lewis says. "We don't look much like the Beatles, but after the first song they're listening instead of comparing you."

The group keeps itself and fans interested by digging deep into the Beatles' catalogue for seldom-performed tunes like "Dear Prudence" and "Glass Onion." They once recreated the entire *Let It Be* concert film on a Seattle rooftop. "Even the stuff that seems a bit obscure is a favorite to somebody out there," Lewis says.

The band also uses vintage instruments to add as much authenticity as possible. "We do treat it the way a classical musician would," Bithorn says. "If you play Mozart, you're not gonna improvise."

Rain: A Tribute to the Beatles performs frequently at the Four Queens in Las Vegas and has played Harrah's Lake Tahoe and Harrah's Reno for the last 12 years. The group may be appearing at other casinos in the Reno-Tahoe area this year.

Mike Weatherford is an entertainment reporter for the Las Vegas Review-Journal.

Art Show, Feb. 11-March 28, large format paintings by Andrew Whitlock, Green Valley Library, Henderson, 435-1840

Clarence Fountain and the Blind Boys of Alabama, Feb. 13, gospel music concert honoring Black History Month, 8pm, Las Vegas High School Auditorium, 455-8200

"Buddy: The Buddy Holly Story," Feb. 14, pre-

sented by Broadway! Las Vegas!, 2 and 8pm, Cashman Theatre, 732-2500

Chestnut Brass Company, Feb. 14, music of the Renaissance and 19th century, 2pm, Charleston Heights Arts Center, 229-6383

Valentine's Day Pops, Feb. 14, Nevada Symphony Orchestra, 7:30pm, Ham Hall, UNLV 895-3801

Going to Pieces: Puzzle Contest, Feb. 16-20, preliminary competitions held at local community centers, finals on Feb. 20, location TBA, 455-8200

St. Louis Symphony Orchestra, Feb. 17 8pm, Ham Hall, UNLV, 895-3801

American College Theater Regional Festival, Feb. 17-20, colleges and universities from



The 27th Las Vegas International Marathon and Half-Marathon takes place February 6. Above are last year's winners, Gail Kingma of Washington and Artemio Navarro of Mexico.

Nevada, Arizona, California, Hawaii, and Utah present their best productions, Judy Bayley Theatre and Black Box Theatre, UNLV 895-3801

American College Festival Costume Designs Exhibit, Feb. 17-20, Donna Beam Fine Art Gallery, UNLV 895-3801

Table Tennis Tournament, Feb. 18, Mirabelli Community Center, 229-6359

An Evening With the UNLV Choral Ensembles, Feb. 19, 7:30pm, Christ Lutheran Church, 895-3801

Black History Celebration, Feb. 19-20, amateur and professional black entertainers take part in this annual cultural event, Talent Night on Fri., Gospel Night on Sat., Doolittle Community Center, 229-6374

Auto Show, Feb. 19-21, Cashman Field, 253-6400

Full Moon Duathlon Race, Feb. 20, foot and bicycle races, meet at 8am at Bridgeport Village Shopping Center, 368-2464

An Afternoon in Old Vienna, Feb. 21, dance and listen to the waltzes and polkas of Johann Strauss played by the Las Vegas Civic Symphony, 2pm, Zelzah Shrine Temple, 229-6211

Dance Classes, Feb. 23-25, Daniel Nagrin, modern dance pioneer and Southwest Gas Distinguished Artist for Spring 1993, will present Master Classes, open to the public, Ham Fine Arts Dance Studio One, UNLV, 895-3827

"Les Miserables," Feb. 23-28, the Marius Company and Nevada Opera Theatre, Cashman Field, 895-3801

Championship Boxing, Feb. 24, Riviera Hotel, 734-5110

UNLV Jazz Ensemble, Feb. 25, 7:30pm, Virgin Valley High School, Mesquite, 346-5295

Nevada Symphony Orchestra Concert, Feb. 25, 8pm, Ham Hall, UNLV 895-3801

Collectibles Show, Feb. 26-28, Las Vegas Antique Bottles and Collectibles Club, Jackie Gaughan's Plaza, 452-1263

City of Hope Mall-Walk, Feb. 28, meet at 7:30am at the Meadows Mall, benefits the City of Hope, 893-3367

University Musical Society Orchestra Concert, Feb. 28, 2pm, Ham Hall, UNLV 895-3801

March

New York Photographers of the '80s, March 1-28, Donna Beam Fine Art Gallery, UNLV, 895-3893

Annual Juried Student Show, March 1-28, Donna Beam Fine Art Gallery, UNLV 895-3801

Art Exhibit, March 1-30, paintings by blind artist Jerry Mitchler of Overton, Lost City Museum, Overton, 397-2193

Nevada Watercolor Society's Spring Show, March 1-31, Las Vegas Art Museum, Lorenzi Park, 647-4300

Art Exhibit, March 1-May 31, pen and ink draw-

ings of children by Linda Trenhom, Mesquite Library, Mesquite, 346-5224

University Wind Ensemble Concert, March 2, 8pm, Ham Hall, UNLV 895-3801

The Classics and More, March 5, Nevada Fine Arts Trio concert, 7:30pm, Black Box Theatre, UNLV 895-3801

Brooks String Quartet, March 5, classical music and zany humor, 8pm, Charleston Heights Arts Center, 229-6383

Hoover Dam Square Dance Festival, March 5-6, on Fri. square and round dance at Elton Garrett Jr. High School from 7-10:30pm, on Sat. dance from 9-10am at Hoover Dam followed by workshop, dance, and grand march in the evening at Elton Garrett Jr. High School,

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Boulder City, 293-4918

Silver State Art Exhibition and Auction, March 5-7, three-day show includes two quick draws and receptions, quick draw and juried art auctions, juried art display, awards ceremony, and a seminar and demonstration by bronze sculptor Richard A. Meyers, benefit for St. Jude's Ranch for Children, Plaza Suite Hotel, 293-3131

Home Remodeling Show, March 5-7 Cashman Field, 736-5958

Boxes and Chests Gallery Exhibit, March 5-April 24, Winchester Center Gallery, 455-8242

Cyber Vegas Show, March 5-May 2, recent collages generated through digital imaging technology by artist Anthony Bondi, West

Charleston Library, 733-3601

Friends of St. Jude's Ranch for Children Annual Fashion Show, March 6, Desert Inn, 451-4981
Senior Fishing Derby, March 6, seniors age 50 and older compete for prizes and get tips from the pros, participants need license, bait, and tackle, Sunset Park Lake, 455-8200

Kite Karnival, March 6, homemade kite competition with amateur and professional categories, stunt kites, kite-making workshop, and the Kite Flite, Freedom Park, 229-6729

Nevada Camera Club '92, March 9-April 25, photography show of the best of the Nevada Camera Club in 1992, Spring Valley Library, 368-4411

Flutist James Galway and Guitarist Kazuhito



Art lovers can buy original artwork and help a good cause at the Silver State Art Exhibition and Auction on March 5-7 at the Plaza Suite Hotel in Las Vegas. Proceeds will benefit St. Jude's Ranch for Children in Boulder City. Above, a teacher at the ranch helps a budding artist who may one day have artwork for an exhibition of his own.

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Yamashita, March 11, 8pm, Ham Hall, UNLV 895-3801

"Three Sisters," March 11-14 and March 17-21, UNLV Dept. of Theatre Arts, Judy Bayley Theatre, UNLV 895-3801

Nissan 400, March 11-14, 400-mile race in desert outside Las Vegas, High Desert Racing Assn., 361-5404

"Letters From a Student Revolutionary," March 12, 8pm, Pan Asian Repertory Theatre, Charleston Heights Arts Center, 229-6383

Craft Festival, March 12-14, Cashman Field, 386-7100

A Concert for Cal, March 13, music and humor, benefit for the Cal McKinley Scholarship Fund, 7:30pm, Ham Hall, UNLV 895-3801

Silent Movie with the Nevada Symphony Orchestra, March 13, "Battleship Potemkin," 6:30pm, \$15 general admission, \$10 seniors and military, 739-3420

Theater Fantastique, March 14, Ham Hall, UNLV 455-8200

Zelzah Shrine Circus, March 16, Cashman Field, 382-5554

"Bye, Bye, Birdie," March 16, presented by Broadway! Las Vegas!, 3 and 8pm, Cashman Theatre, 732-2500

Championship Boxing, March 17, Riviera Hotel, 734-5110

St. Patrick's Day Parade, March 17 sponsored by Sons of Erin, Las Vegas, 363-7178

Rudy Perez Performance Ensemble, March 18-20, UNLV 895-3827

"Accomplice," March 19-21, March 25-28, and April 1-4, mystery comedy, Spring Valley Library Theatre, 383-0021

Ballet, March 20, performance by The Theatre Ballet/The Dancer's Company, Las Vegas High School Theatre, 732-2500

Flying Colors Kite Expo, March 20, learn to make kites, receive professional kite flying instruction, Silver Bowl Park, 455-8200

PREVIEW



The Five Blind Boys of Alabama featuring Clarence Fountain perform in Las Vegas in February.

Black History Month

"We demand for ourselves and for our posterity only liberty, which is our God-given inalienable right." These words were spoken not in the 1950s but in 1864 by Thomas R. Street, a black settler in Nevada.

Street and other Nevadans are portrayed in a Nevada Humanities Committee traveling exhibit entitled "Black Nevadans: Yesterday and Today." The exhibit highlights the little-known historical roles that Nevada's black citizens have played in the state's social, cultural, political, and economic development.

February is national Black History Month, and in Nevada this winter there will be several exhibits, lectures, and celebrations honoring African-Americans' contributions to the Silver State and the country.

Following is a sampling of events. Please call ahead to confirm dates and locations. The University of Nevada, Reno's Black Student Organization (702-784-6154 or 702-323-0930) also will be hosting events.

LAS VEGAS

African-American Art Exhibit, Jan. 2-31, works by Bill Pajaud and Al Porter, Las Vegas Art

Museum, Lorenzi Park, 702-647-4300
African Voices, Jan. 20-March 7 photographs of the Samburu and Masai tribes of Kenya, Spring Valley Library, 702-368-4411

Jeannie and Jimmy Cheatham and the Sweet Baby Blues Band, Jan. 22, Reed Whipple Cultural Center, 702-229-6211

Unity in the Community: We Can Make a Difference, month of February, Afro-centricity as a lifestyle forum and discussion, works of art, fashion, and ethnic foods, keynote lecture and reception, Community College of Southern Nevada, 702-643-6060 ext. 338

Black Memorabilia Collection Exhibit, Feb. 1-28, artifacts dating from the late 1800s to present, displayed at the Las Vegas, Rainbow, Sunrise, Sahara West, and Green Valley libraries, for schedule call 702-593-3305

Clarence Fountain and the Five Blind Boys of Alabama, Feb. 13, gospel music concert, Las Vegas High School Auditorium, 702-455-8200

Black History Celebration, Feb. 19-20, amateur and professional black entertainers, Talent Night on Fri., Gospel Night on Sat., Doolittle Community Center, 702-229-6374

Moulin Rouge and the Struggle for Civil Rights in the 1950s, March 26, public lecture on civil rights issues of the 1950s in Las Vegas (see exhibit March 27-Dec. 31), Moulin Rouge Hotel, 702-486-5205

"Trying to Get Home," March 27, one-man musical traces the history of African-American music, Reed Whipple Cultural Center, 702-229-6211

Moulin Rouge Civil Rights Exhibit, March 27-Dec. 31, photographs and artifacts recall hotel-casino's pivotal role in breaking down racial barriers in Southern Nevada (see lecture on March 26), Nevada State Museum and Historical Society, 702-486-5205

Black Nevadans: Yesterday and Today Exhibit, June 1-30, Lied Discovery Children's Museum, 702-784-6587 or 702-382-5437

RENO AREA

Sing the Dream, Jan. 15-18. First annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. birthday celebration. Information is available from the Reno-Sparks Convention and Visitors Authority, 800-FOR-RENO or Northern Nevada Black Cultural Awareness Society, 702-329-8990. Events include:

Tower of Power Concert, Jan. 15, Pioneer Center for the Performing Arts;

Heavyweight Boxing, Jan. 16, featuring separate bouts: George Foreman vs. Pierre Coetzer and Tommy "The Duke" Morrison vs. Carl "The Truth" Williams, tickets \$25-\$250, 6pm, Reno-Sparks Convention Center;

Gospel Concert, Jan. 17, starring the Hawkins Family, \$12 children and seniors, \$15 general admission, Pioneer Center for the Performing Arts;

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday Celebration Parade and Banquet, Jan. 18, parade and march in downtown Reno at noon, banquet at 7pm at John Ascuaga's Nugget in Sparks, tickets \$50.

Black Nevadans: Yesterday and Today, Feb. 1-28, Douglas County High School Library, Minden, 702-784-6587

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LAS VEGAS

WalkAmerica 1993, March 20, participants walk an 8.6-mile route to raise money for March of Dimes, Sahara Hotel, 459-9255

Nevada Symphony Orchestra Concert, March 25, 8pm, Ham Hall, UNLV, 895-3801

Balanchine and NDT, March 25-28, Nevada Dance Theatre presents George Balanchine's "Allegro Brillante," plus internationally acclaimed choreographers, Judy Bayley Theatre, UNLV 895-3801

Moulin Rouge and the Struggle for Civil Rights in the 1950s, March 26, 8-10pm, public lecture on civil rights issues of the 1950s in Las Vegas (see exhibit March 27-Dec. 31), Moulin Rouge Hotel, 486-5205

BYU Theatre Ballet and Dancers Company, March 27, 7:30pm, Virgin Valley High School, Mesquite, 346-5295

"Trying to Get Home," March 27 one-man musical, starring Kerrigan Black, traces the history of African-American music, 8pm, Reed Whipple Cultural Center, 229-6211

Angel Planes Airfest '93, March 27-28, eighth annual parachute and aerobatic performances, 10am, Boulder City Airport, 434-4122

Children's Art on the Reservation, March 27-May 22, artwork by Native American elementary and secondary students shows reservation life from the children's perspective, Clark County Heritage Museum, 455-7955

Moulin Rouge Civil Rights Exhibit, March 27-Dec. 31, photographs and artifacts recall hotel-casino's pivotal role in breaking down racial barriers in Southern Nevada (see lecture on March 26), Nevada State Museum and Historical Society, 486-5205

Art-A-Fair and Festival of the Arts, March 30-May 18, Green Valley Library, Henderson, 435-1840

COMING EVENTS

Clark County Fair, April 15-18, Logandale, 398-FAIR

Henderson Industrial Days, April 16-25, 565-8951

Boulder City Spring Jamboree, April 23-25, 456-6695

Las Vegas Helldorado Days, May 21-30, Las Vegas, 870-1221

International Food Festival, May 30, Las Vegas, 362-3742

Las Vegas Square Dance Jubilee, July 29-31, 733-2323

Fiber Celebrated '93, July 29-Aug. 1, Las Vegas, 796-3300 or 486-5205

Las Vegas Jaycees State Fair, Oct. 1-10, 457-8832

SHOWGUIDE

Las Vegas

Aladdin, 736-0240: "Country Tonite," revue, indf.
Arizona Charlie's: 258-5200: "Saddle Tramps," revue, indf. (dark Mon.)

Bally's, 739-4567 or 800-237-SHOW: *Celebrity Room*: Billy Ray Cyrus, Jan. 1-2; Penn and Teller, Jan. 14-20; Tom Jones, Jan. 21-Feb. 3; George Carlin, Feb. 4-17; Engelbert Humperdinck, Feb. 18-24; Barbara Mandrell, Feb. 25-March 3; Anne Murray, March 4-10; Righteous Brothers, March 11-24; George Carlin, March 25-April 7; *Ziegfeld Theatre*: "Jubilee!" indf. (dark Fri.); *Catch a Rising Star*: comedy/variety club, indf.

Barbary Coast, 737-7200: Entertainment TBA

Bourbon Street, 737-7200: Lounge entertainment nightly

Caesars Palace, 731-7333 or 800-445-4544: Sheena Easton, Jan. 1-3; George Burns/Florence Henderson, Jan. 15-17; Robert Palmer, Jan. 29-31; David Copperfield, Feb. 2-15; Chicago, Feb. 18-21 and Feb. 25-28; Julio Iglesias, March 3-8; Ann-Margret, March 17-21; The Moody Blues, March 25-28; David Copperfield, March 30-April 12

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

Continental, 737-5555 or 800-777-4844: Entertainment TBA

Excalibur, 597-7600: "King Arthur's Tournament," indf.; "The Wonderful World of Horses," starring the Royal Lippizaner Stallions, indf., (dark Fri.)

Fitzgeralds, 382-6111: Nightly entertainment

Flamingo Hilton, 733-3333 or 800-732-5111: *Flamingo Showroom*: "City Lites," stage show, indf. (dark Sun.); *Bugsy's Celebrity Theatre*: "American Superstars," indf. (dark Mon.)

Four Queens, 385-4011 ext. 3277 or 800-634-6045: Victory, thru Jan. 3; Monday Night Jazz, indf.

Gold Coast, 367-7111: Sorta Dixie Jazz Band, indf.; Gary Hohman, thru Jan. 4; Randy Anderson, Dec. 25-Jan. 4

Gold Strike Inn, Boulder City, 293-5000: Entertainment TBA

Golden Nugget, 386-8100: Don Rickles, Jan. 14-19

Hacienda, 739-8911: Lance Burton: World Champion Magician, indf. (dark Tues.)

Harrah's Las Vegas, 369-5222 or 800-634-6765: "Spellbound, A Concert of Illusion," indf. (dark Sun.); *Court of Two Gators Lounge*: Ghalib Ghallab, jazz, indf.

Imperial Palace, 794-3261: "Legends in Concert," indf. (dark Sun.)

Jackie Gaughan's Plaza, 386-2444 or 800-634-6575 (U.S. outside Nevada): "High Pressure," revue, indf. (dark Wed.)

Lady Luck, 477-3000 or 800-523-9582: Melinda, the First Lady of Magic, indf. (dark Mon.); Lady Luck Luau, Polynesian dance revue and authentic luau buffet, every Thurs.

Las Vegas Hilton, 732-5755 or 800-222-5361: Beach Boys, Dec. 30-Jan. 2; *Casino Lounge*: Sonny Charles/Carleen Terrano, thru Jan. 4; Kristine and the Sting, thru Jan. 11

Maxim, 731-4300 or 800-634-6987: "Comedy Cabaret," revue, indf. (dark Sun.)

The Mirage, 792-7777: Cirque du Soleil, indf. (dark Mon.); Siegfried and Roy, magic spectacular, performances three out of four weeks every month, call for dates and times

O'Sheas, 733-3111: Entertainment TBA

Palace Station, 367-2411 or 800-634-3101: Entertainment TBA

Ramada Hotel San Remo, 597-6028 or 800-522-REMO (U.S.), 800-343-5521 (Canada): "Hanky Panky Revue," indf. (dark Mon.)

Rio Suite Hotel, 252-7776 or 800-888-0400 (continental U.S. outside Nevada): "Brazilia," revue, indf. (dark Mon.)



Christopher Taylor's photo "Tropicana Statues" (above) won first place in the urban category of Nevada Magazine's Great Nevada Picture Hunt. A traveling exhibit of the winning photos appears at the State Museum in Las Vegas February 1-March 15.

Riviera, 794-9301 or 794-9300: Jeff Kutash's "Splash," production show, indf.; "An Evening at La Cage," revue, indf. (dark Tues.); "Crazy Girls: Fantasie de Paris," revue, indf.; "An Evening at the Improv," comedians, indf.

Sahara, 737-2515: "Boy Lesque," starring Kenny Kerr, indf. (dark Wed.); The Rich Little Show, indf. (dark Thurs.)

Sam's Town, 456-7777: Live entertainment every night

Sands, 733-5453 or 800-446-4678: "Bare Essence," indf. (dark Thurs.); "Viva Las Vegas!" indf. (dark Sat.-Sun.)

Santa Fe, 658-4900: Dummkopfs, Tues. nights

Showboat, 385-9123 or 800-634-3484 (U.S. outside Nevada): Gigolo, thru Jan. 3

Stardust, 732-6111 or 800-824-6033 (U.S. and Mexico): "Enter the Night," revue, indf. (dark Tues.)

Stars' Desert Inn, 733-4566 or 800-634-6909 (U.S. outside Nevada): Liza Minnelli, Dec. 30-Jan. 3

Tropicana, 739-2411: "Folies Bergere," indf. (dark Thurs.); "The Comedy Stop," comedians, indf.

Vacation Village, 897-1700 or 800-658-5000: Lounge entertainment nightly

Vegas World, 383-5264: Marty Allen and Steve Rossi, indf. (dark Thurs.); "So Big Burlesque," indf. (dark Thurs.); "Memories of Elvis," indf. (Thurs.)

Westward Ho, 731-2900: Paul Delicato/Liz Damon, indf. (dark Sun.)

Laughlin

Colorado Belle, 298-4000 or 800-458-9500: Entertainment TBA

Edgewater, 298-2453: Entertainment TBA

Flamingo Hilton Laughlin, 298-5028 or 800-435-8469: "American Superstars," tribute by celebri-

ty look-alikes, indf. (dark Thurs.); "Love Over 40," revue, indf. (dark Fri.-Sat.)

Gold River, 298-2242 or 800-835-7904: "Hollywood Serenade," musical revue, indf. (dark Mon.); Passion, indf.; Sandy Hackett's Comedy Club, indf. (dark Sun.-Tues.)

Golden Nugget Laughlin, 298-7111 or 800-950-7700: Panama/Tommy and Louina, Dec. 26-Jan. 3 and Jan. 5-10

Harrah's Laughlin, 298-4600 or 800-447-8700: Entertainment TBA

Ramada Express, 298-4200: Karaoke Night every Mon. from 7pm-midnight

Regency, 298-2439: Piano bar

Riverside Resort, 298-2535 or 800-227-3849 ext. 616 (U.S. outside Nevada): Debbie Reynolds, Dec. 29-Jan. 2; T.G. Sheppard, Jan. 7-10; Phyllis Diller, Jan. 14-17; Charlie Prose, Jan. 24-Feb. 2; Eddy Arnold, Feb. 9-14; Johnny Cash, Feb. 18-20; Roy Clark, Feb. 24-28; Smothers Brothers, March 17-21

Mesquite

Peppermill Resort, 346-5232: Entertainment TBA

Virgin River, 346-7777: Entertainment Tues.-Sun.

Stateline/Jean

Gold Strike Hotel, Jean, 477-5000: Entertainment TBA

Nevada Landing, Jean, 387-5000: Entertainment TBA

Primadonna, Stateline, 382-1212 or 800-367-7383: Country music entertainers, dancing (dark Mon.-Wed.)

Whiskey Pete's, Stateline, 382-1212 or 800-367-7383: Live entertainment nightly

GAMING TOURNAMENTS

January

Keno, Jan. 5-7, Sam Boyd's Fremont, 800-874-8711

Queens Poker Classic, Jan. 5-23, Four Queens, 385-4011 ext. 3336

Slots, Jan. 6-9, Ramada Express, Laughlin, 298-4200

Slots, Jan. 11-13, Sam Boyd's Fremont, 800-874-8711

Slots, Jan. 11-14, Stardust, 732-6111

Video Poker, Jan. 19-21, Ramada Express, Laughlin, 298-4200

Slots, Jan. 19-22, Harrah's Las Vegas, 369-5088 or 800-392-9002

Slots, Jan. 22-26, Riviera, 794-9371 or 800-637-5687

Slots, Jan. 26-29, Hacienda, 739-8911 or 800-843-2637

February

Slots, Feb. 7-10, Caesars Palace, 731-7485 or 800-262-2502

Slots, Feb. 9-11, Ramada Express, Laughlin, 298-4200

Blackjack, Feb. 15-18, Stardust, 732-6111



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CASINO NOTES



Five white tigers have joined Siegfried and Roy in their show at The Mirage.

Babes in Arms

• *Fires of Kuwait* is playing at the Omnimax Theater at **Caesars Palace**.

The film depicts how firefighters battled more than 600 sabotaged oil well fires in the aftermath of the Persian Gulf War.

• Visitors to Las Vegas can make reservations or buy tickets for just about any show in the city at **Circus Circus**. No service charge is added for show tickets bought at any one of the resort's four ticket booths.

• The **Continental Hotel** has introduced a new, fast-action card game to Las Vegas. Yin Yang Yo-22 combines the counting style of blackjack with a wagering system similar to baccarat's in which three main wagering spots pay 2 to 1. Players bet whether the Yin hand or the Yang hand will first reach 22 without busting. Players can also wager that the two hands will tie.

• The **Excalibur** in Las Vegas recently added a seventh film, *Desert Duel*, to its series of high-speed adventure flicks shown daily in the resort's Merlin's Magic Motion Ride Theaters. *Desert Duel* puts viewers in the driver's seat of a truck during a

dangerous desert race, complete with dust storms and gaping chasms.

• The **Golden Nugget Laughlin** recently added a \$9-million, 300-room hotel and swimming pool adjacent to its newly renovated casino. The hotel's decor is modeled after The Mirage, the company's flagship property in Las Vegas, with a tropical theme.

• Le Montrachet, the **Las Vegas Hilton's** gourmet French restaurant, was honored with the "Best of" Award of Excellence by *The Wine Spectator* magazine. The award goes to wine lists with several hundred selections, deep vintages, and regional specialties. Award criteria include quality of wines, pricing, and readability of the wine list.

• Recycling paper has become a daily habit for the staff of the **Sands**. More than a ton of copy and computer paper is being recycled weekly. "Did you know that if we stacked the copy paper we use each year, it would surpass the height of the Sands tower?" says Joseph Gallagher, the hotel's financial controller and innovator of the recycling program.

Keno, Feb. 26-28, Harrah's Las Vegas, 369-5088 or 800-392-9002
Slots, Feb. 28-March 2, Imperial Palace, 794-3160

MUSEUMS

Boulder City

Boulder City/Hoover Dam Museum: 9-5 daily, 444 Hotel Plaza, 294-1988

Henderson

Clark County Heritage Museum: 8-5 Mon.-Fri., 9-5 Sat.-Sun., 1830 S. Boulder Hwy., 455-7955

Las Vegas

American Museum of Historical Documents: 10-6 Mon.-Wed., 10-9 Thurs.-Fri., 10-6 Sat., 12-5 Sun., 3200 Las Vegas Blvd. S., privately owned, 731-0785

Bethany's Celebrity Doll Museum: 10-10 Sun.-Thurs., 10-midnight Fri.-Sat., 3765 Las Vegas Blvd. S., 798-3036

Guinness World of Records Museum: open daily, 2780 Las Vegas Blvd. S., 792-0640 or 792-3766 (business office)

Imperial Palace Auto Collection: 9:30am-11:30pm daily, 731-3311

Las Vegas Art Museum: 10-3 Tues.-Sat., noon-3 Sun., Lorenzi Park, 3333 W. Washington Ave., 647-4300

Las Vegas Natural History Museum: includes the Wildlife World Art Museum, 9-4 daily, 900 Las Vegas Blvd. N., 384-DINO

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

Lied Discovery Children's Museum: 10-5 Tues. and Thurs.-Sat., 10-7 Wed., noon-5 Sun., closed Mon. except on school holidays, 833 Las Vegas Blvd. N., 382-KIDS

Marjorie Barrick Museum of Natural History: 9-5 Mon.-Fri., 10-5 Sat., UNLV 739-3381

Nevada State Museum and Historical Society: 11:30-4:30 Mon.-Tues., 8:30-4:30 Wed.-Sun., Lorenzi Park, 486-5205

Old Las Vegas Mormon Fort: 8-2 Sat. and Mon., noon-3 Sun., Las Vegas Blvd. N. at Washington (entrance from Cashman Field parking lot B only), 382-7198

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

Mesquite

Mesquite Museum: 9-5 Mon.-Fri., occasionally open on Sat., call ahead, 31 W. Mesquite Blvd., 346-5705

North Las Vegas

The Planetarium: 2-8 Thurs.-Sat., Community College of Southern Nevada, 644-5059

Overton

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

Searchlight

Searchlight Historic Museum: Satellite of Clark County Heritage Museum 9-5 Mon.-Fri., 9-12 Sat., Searchlight Community Center, 200 Michael Wendell Way, 455-7955

A 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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Reno-Tahoe Territory



Snowfest events include wacky parades (above) and swims in icy Lake Tahoe in a spirited celebration of winter in the High Sierra.

EVENTS

January

"Rocky Horror Picture Show," Dec. 30-Jan. 2, Pioneer Center for the Performing Arts, 786-5105

Great Nevada Picture Hunt Winners Show, thru Jan. 8, exhibit of *Nevada Magazine's* 15th annual photo contest winners, Reno Town Center Gallery, 333-2826

A Holiday Treat: Animation Cells from the George Sturman Collection, thru Jan. 10, original hand-painted cartoon cells used in the production of movie cartoons (including Mickey Mouse, Tom and Jerry, Rocky and Bullwinkle, Peanuts, and Fred Flintstone), Nevada Museum of Art, 329-3333

December Festivities Art Show, thru Jan. 11, works by Nevada Artists Assn. members, featuring Egon Klementi's sculpture, silk scarves, and silk paintings, Reno Town Center Gallery, 333-2826

Old Ties, New Attachments: Italian-American Folklife in the West, thru Jan. 27 traveling

exhibit by the American Folklife Center of the Library of Congress, Nevada Museum of Art, 329-3333

Winter Festival of Lights, thru March 1, businesses along Lake Tahoe Boulevard (U.S. 50) decorate with millions of tiny white lights for the holiday season, South Shore, Lake Tahoe, 916-544-5050

A Century of Presidential Campaigns, thru April 15, exhibit of buttons, ribbons, ballots, and other material from U.S. presidential campaigns, Nevada Historical Society, 688-1190

Concerts in the Atrium, thru May 28, every Fri., professional musicians from Reno area perform live classical music concerts, noon-1pm, free, Airport Gardens Office Complex, 329-1324

Canadian Friendship Days, Jan. 1-23, events TBA in Reno, Sparks, North Lake Tahoe, 827-7613

"Wild Oats," Jan. 2, Jan. 8-9, Jan. 15-16, and Jan. 22-23, comedy, Proscenium Players, Brewery Arts Center, Carson City, 883-1976

"Three Guys Naked From the Waist Down," Jan. 2-3, Jan. 8-10, Jan. 15-17 and Jan. 22-23, comedy, Reno Little Theater, 329-0661

Rage'n at the Ranch, Jan. 2-3, Jan. 16-17 Feb. 20-

21, and March 13-14, fifth annual, Pro/Am Snowboard Competition Series, Donner Ski Ranch, 916-426-3635

Alpenglow Lake Tahoe 10K Classic Ski Race, Jan. 3, Tahoe Donner, 916-587-9484

South Lake Tahoe Winter Celebration, Jan. 3-31, second annual, a month of skiing and winter festivities including a torchlight parade, fireworks, and ice sculpting, Heavenly, 586-7000

Art Exhibit, Jan. 4-29, Mon.-Fri., sculpture and paintings by Lynda Yuroff of Reno, Sierra Arts Gallery, 329-1324

Snow Flaky Festival, Jan. 4-30, snow- and rain-themed works by Artists Co-Op members, wear boots for snow dance on Jan. 23 in parking lot, Artists Co-Op Gallery, 322-8896 or 825-9293

Sharkey's Serbian Christmas Dinner, Jan. 7, free buffet in Serbian tradition offered by the Sharkey Begovich family, owners of Sharkey's Casino in Gardnerville, 782-3133

Reno Masters International Hockey Tournament, Jan. 7-10, Sierra Nevada Ice Arena, 539-9023 or 827-7636

Torchlight Parade and Fireworks Display, Jan.

8, Heavenly Ski Resort, 586-7000

Homewood Food Drive, Jan. 8, bring a can of food and get an adult lift ticket at half-price, Ski Homewood, 916-525-2992

"Wild Oats," Jan. 8-9, Jan. 15-16, and Jan. 22-23, Brewery Arts Center, Carson City, 883-1976

Full Moon Ski Tours, Jan. 8-9, guided cross-country ski tour, Tahoe Nordic, 916-583-0484

Tournament of Champions, Jan. 8-10, skiing legends such as Franz Klammer, Bill Johnson, and Michela Figini battle it out on the slopes, on Fri. fireworks and torchlight slalom, Heavenly, 586-7000

American Bicycle Association's Silver Dollar Nationals, Jan. 8-10, Reno Livestock Events Center, 602-961-1903

Classic Dart Tournament, Jan. 8-10, Sands Regency, 348-2200 or 800-233-4939

Emerald Bay in Winter, Jan. 9, participants ski to water's edge at Emerald Bay State Park and look for bald eagles, Eagle Point Campground entrance on the south side of Emerald Bay, 916-525-7277

Gun Show, Jan. 9-10, Reno Livestock Events Center, 688-5751

Great Nevada Picture Hunt Winners Show, Jan. 9-31, exhibit of *Nevada Magazine's* 15th annual photo contest winners, Brewery Arts Center, Carson City, 883-1976

Sunday Cafe, Jan. 10, open mike, Brewery Arts Center, Carson City, 883-1976

Hispanic Girls: Career Paths, Jan. 11, program by the American Assn. of University Women for girls 10-18, 3-5pm, Incline Village Branch Library, 831-2936

Reno Philharmonic Orchestra, Jan. 12, Pioneer Center for the Performing Arts, 825-5905

Art Celebration of '93 Show, Jan. 12-Feb. 23, Nevada Artists Assn., NAA Town Center Gallery, 333-2826

Storyteller, Jan. 14, Brewery Arts Center, Carson City, 883-1976

Changing Role of Women in Nevada Politics, Jan. 14, talk by Jean Ford, Historic Lecture and



George Foreman (above) faces Pierre Coetzer January 16 during Reno's Dr Martin Luther King, Jr. celebration.

Events Series, 7:30 pm, \$3, Gold Hill Hotel, Gold Hill, 847-0111

Hard Corps Skier Challenge, Jan. 14-15, combination of four Olympic alpine disciplines in one run—slalom, giant slalom, super G, and moguls, open to all skiers, Heavenly, 586-7000

Sing the Dream, Jan. 15-18, first annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. birthday celebration includes: on Jan. 15 Tower of Power concert, Pioneer Center for the Performing Arts; on Jan. 16 heavyweight boxing featuring George Foreman and Tommy "The Duke" Morrison in separate bouts, tickets \$25-\$250, 6pm, Reno Sparks Convention Center; on Jan. 17 gospel concert starring the Hawkins

Family, \$12 children and seniors, \$15 general admission, Pioneer Center for the Performing Arts; on Jan. 18 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday Celebration with parade and march in downtown Reno at noon, banquet at 7pm at John Ascuaga's Nugget in Sparks, tickets \$50 (329-8990); for more information call 329-8990 or 800-FOR-RENO

Trappings of the Great Basin Buckaroos, Jan. 15-June 28, photos of cowboy craft and gear from C.J. Hadley's forthcoming book, *Trappings of the Great Basin Buckaroo*, Nevada Historical Society, 688-1190

Animals in Winter, Jan. 16, participants see active winter animals and follow tracks, General Creek Campground entrance station, Sugar Pine Point State Park, Lake Tahoe, 916-525-7982

U.S. Powerlifting Federation Professional Championship, Jan. 16, featuring some of the strongest men and women in the U.S., Carson City Community Center, 885-1886

USRSA Mitsubishi Diamond Ski Classic, Jan. 16 and Feb. 13, Northstar, 916-562-1010

Junior Plus Ski Meet, Jan. 16-17 Carson Valley Swim Center, Minden, 782-8841

Truckee Lions Sierra Sweepstakes Sled Dog Races, Jan. 16-17 Truckee, 916-587-3276

Olympic Meadows Ski Tour, Jan. 17, cross-country ski tour of Olympic Meadows at Sugar Pine

Point State Park, site of the 1960 Olympic biathlon, at Lake Tahoe, ski trail parking lot, 916-525-7982

Dealer Downhill Ski Races, Jan. 19, determines the fastest casino dealer on Lake Tahoe's south shore, Heavenly, 586-7000

World Championship of Horse Race Handicapping Tournament, Jan. 20-23, Club Cal-Neva, 323-1046

Bill Morrissey, Jan. 21, folksinger, songwriter, and humorist, Brewery Arts Center, Carson City, 883-1976

Wovoka Ghost Dance Messiah, Jan. 21, talk by John Sanderson, Historic Lecture and Events Series, 7:30pm, \$3, Gold Hill Hotel, Gold Hill, 847-0111

Men's U.S. Pro Skiing Tour and Celebrity Ski Challenge, Jan. 21-24, Heavenly, 586-7000

Mademoiselle Magazine Ski Race and Fashion Show, Jan. 21-24, Squaw Valley, 916-583-6985 ext. 188

Joy of Painting Workshop With Bob Ross, Jan. 22-24, TV's Bob Ross and two certified instructors will teach classes, each featuring a different Bob Ross "Joy of Painting" technique, \$40 registration includes canvas, benefit for

TERRITORY MAP



HOT LINES

Festivals at Tahoe: information on North Shore festivals throughout the year, 916-583-7625
Nevada Division of State Parks: hikes, tours, stargazing, campfire programs at 21 parks around the state, District II, Carson City, 687-4379

UNR Basketball: Jan. 2 v. Utah State, Jan. 14 v. Long Beach State, Jan. 16 v. UC Santa Barbara, Jan. 28 v. UNLV, Jan. 30 v. New Mexico State, Feb. 4 v. UC Irvine, Feb. 6 v. Cal State Fullerton, Feb. 15 v. Pacific, Feb. 18 v. San Jose State, Lawlor Events Center, UNR, 348-PACK

UNR Music Department: concerts, recitals, 784-6145

For chamber of commerce and convention center phone numbers, see page E-4

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PREVIEW



Nevada Opera, which performed "The Barber of Seville" (above) in October, premieres "Mark Me Twain" in April.

Silver Season

BY DAN MCGEE

The Nevada Opera Association is celebrating its 25th anniversary season. Two more operas are scheduled for this Silver Season—Puccini's "Tosca" in February and "Mark Me Twain," a specially commissioned work, in April.

The Reno company is the creation of Ted and Deena Puffer and a cadre of loyal, hard-working supporters. The Puffers came to Reno in the 1960s when Ted accepted a position with the Music Department at the University of Nevada, Reno. One stipulation was that he would be free to form an opera company. After a university-sponsored opera was enthusiastically received, the Puffers sought out supporters and planned strategy at several dinner parties.

By 1968 the Nevada Opera Guild had been formed and was staging its first productions at the Reno Little Theater. Soon the company moved to its present 1,428-seat home at the Pioneer Center for the Performing Arts in downtown Reno.

Since those early days, Nevada Opera has maintained its goal of offering the art form as it was originally intended—entertainment for the masses.

To help the audience, all productions except musicals have SimulText (English subtitles) projected above

the stage, which allows everyone to understand the show.

The core of any company is its chorus; Nevada Opera has one for adults and one for children. One of the chorus' most famous alumni is Dolora Zajick, now an international star who headlines in "Aida," "Il Trovatore," and "Don Carlo" at the Metropolitan and La Scala.

The Silver Season began with a summer musical, "Annie Get Your Gun," featuring Broadway great John Raitt as Buffalo Bill. The "classic" part of the season started last October with a reprise of the opera's debut production, Rossini's "Barber of Seville," followed by "Hansel and Gretel" in December. Puccini's "Tosca" takes the stage on February 18 and 20.

April ends the season with the world premiere of the company's first commissioned work, "Mark Me Twain," by Seattle-based composer Bern Herbolzheimer and librettist Phil Shallat. Based on Mark Twain's years in Virginia City, the production promises to be a whimsical look at 1860s Nevada.

Tickets are available by writing to Nevada Opera, Box 3256, Reno, NV 89505, or calling 702-786-4046.

Dan McGee of Reno is a freelance writer-photographer and a stage hand with Nevada Opera.

Nevada Easter Seal Society, Silver Club, Sparks, 827-8829

Donner Party Escape, Jan. 23, snowshoe hike, learn of the Donner Party escape attempts and the ordeals they encountered, Donner Memorial State Park Museum, 916-587-3841

Horse Show, Jan. 23, Reno Livestock Events Center, 688-5751

Jeep Challenge Ski Race, Jan. 23-24, Northstar, 916-562-1010

Sierra League Ski Race, Jan. 24, Kirkwood, 209-258-6000

Donner Ski Ranch Anniversary Week, Jan. 25-29, lift price is \$6, lessons are \$6, rentals are \$10, 916-426-3635

Ririe Woodbury Dance Company, Jan. 26, modern dance, Carson City Community Center, 883-1976

Firefighter's Team Ski Challenge, Jan. 26-28, Heavenly, 586-7000

R. Carlos Nakai, Jan. 27, Native American flutist and storyteller, 8pm, Comstock Arts Council Concert, Gold Hill Hotel, Gold Hill, 847-0111

Argenta Trio Concert, Jan. 27, Nightingale Hall, UNR, 784-6145

"Beauty and the Beast," Jan. 27-29, Little Broadway Productions, Pioneer Center for the Performing Arts, 786-5105 or 818-894-4222

Bernie Siegel Lecture, Jan. 28, doctor and author of the best-selling books "Love, Medicine, and Miracles" and "Peace, Love, and Healing," benefit for a local charity, \$5 general admission, \$3 seniors and students, Harvey's, Lake Tahoe, 588-2411

Master Western Regionals, Jan. 28-31, ski races, Squaw Valley, 916-583-6985 ext. 188

Pro Snow Volleyball Tournament, Jan. 29, entry is free, Heavenly, 586-7000

Los Angeles Brass, Jan. 29, South Lake Tahoe High School, 916-541-0234

Comedy Night Live, Jan. 29, starts at 9pm, \$10 admission, Carson Valley Inn, Minden, 782-9711 ext. 625

Household Pet Cat Show, Jan. 30, fun contest for altered household cats, no pedigree required, Holiday Inn on E. Sixth St., 322-7456

Contra Dance, Jan. 30, line, circle, and square dances to live music, Brewery Arts Center, 883-1976

Tahoe Nordic Championships, Jan. 31, 15K cross-country ski race, 10am, Tahoe Nordic, 916-583-0484

February

Black Nevadans: Yesterday and Today Exhibit, Feb. 1-28, Douglas County High School Library, Minden, 784-6587

Art Sale, Feb. 1-28, Artists Co-Op Gallery, 322-8896 or 852-5090

Concert, Feb. 4, featuring instrumentalist Harvey Reid, Brewery Arts Center, Carson City, 883-1976

Sports Cards: A Pictorial Treasure from the 1800s, Feb. 4, talk by Al Moe, Historic Lecture and Events Series, 7:30pm, \$3, Gold Hill Hotel, Gold Hill, 847-0111

"Voices: Great Moments in Literature," Feb. 4, local celebrities and notables read passages from great literature, sponsored by the Friends of the University Library, Nightingale Hall, UNR, 784-6564

An Evening of Kung Fu Theatre, Feb. 4-6 and Feb. 12-13, comedy martial arts production, all-teen cast, Brewery Arts Center, Carson City, 883-1976

Magical Moonshine Theatre, Feb. 5-6, international puppet theatre group brings animal folk

tales to life, 7:30pm Fri., 11am Sat., Cal-Neva Lodge, Crystal Bay, 916-546-4602

"The Rainmaker," Feb. 5-6, Feb. 12-14, and Feb. 19-20, Reno Little Theater, 329-0661

World's Largest Cribbage Tournament, Feb. 5-7, Sands Regency, 348-2200 or 800-233-4939

Playboy Ski Fest, Feb. 5-7, ski race, après ski party, ski bunnies, Squaw Valley, 916-583-6985

A Show of Hands: Sculpture in Fiber by the Great Basin Basketmakers, Feb. 5-May 1, traveling mixed media exhibitions of traditional and non-traditional baskets created by the Great Basin Basketmakers of Reno, Sparks, and environs, in conjunction with 1993: The Year of American Craft, Nevada Historical Society, 688-1190

Moonlight Hot Dog Roast and Cross-Country Hike, Feb. 6, meet at Grover Hot Springs State Park, four miles west of Markleeville, 916-694-2248

Animals in Winter, Feb. 6, participants see active winter animals and follow tracks, General Creek Campground entrance station, Sugar Pine Point State Park, Lake Tahoe, 916-525-7982

Rabbit Show, Feb. 6, Reno Livestock Events Center, 688-5751

Full Moon Ski Tours, Feb. 6, guided cross-country ski tour, Tahoe Nordic, 916-583-0484

Jeep Challenge Ski Race, Feb. 6-7 Kirkwood, 209-258-6000

McKinney Speed Challenge, Feb. 6-7 and March

Win Place Show



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13-14, recreational speed skiing event open to all ages and abilities, Boreal, 916-426-3666

Gun Show, Feb. 6-7 Reno Livestock Events Center, 688-5751

Richard Hunt: Contemporary Master of Sculpture Exhibit, Feb. 6-March 14, Nevada Museum of Art, 329-3333

Art Exhibit, Feb. 6-April 6, abstract sculptures made of hand-cast paper by Ingrid Evans, Nevada Museum of Art, 329-3333

Carson Valley Bridal Fair, Feb. 7, Carson Valley Inn, Minden, 782-9711 ext. 615

February Film Festival, Feb. 7-28, every Sun., films by Roman Polanski and speakers, discussion at 7pm, film at 7:30pm, sponsored by Comstock Arts Council, upstairs in the Delta Saloon, Virginia City, 847-0789

North Lake Tahoe Chamber of Commerce Merchant's Day, Feb. 9, \$10 all-day lift tickets, buy tickets at chamber office only, live music, free ski clinics, barbecue, Ski Homewood, 916-525-2992

Nevada Winter Special Olympics, Feb. 9-11, 12th annual, Diamond Peak, 832-1171

Historical Glass as Art, Feb. 11, talk by Kathleen Hallamore on the historical perspective of stained glass, Historic Lecture and Events Series, 7:30pm, \$3, Gold Hill Hotel, Gold Hill, 847-0111

Chevy Ski View Carnival, Feb. 11-14, Squaw Valley, 916-583-6985

UNR Jazz Ensemble Concert, Feb. 13, 8pm, upstairs in the Delta Saloon, Virginia City, 847-0789

Horse Show, Feb. 13, Reno Livestock Events Center, 688-5751

Torchlight Parade, Feb. 13, Tahoe Donner, 916-587-9400

Sunday Cafe, Feb. 14, open mike, Brewery Arts Center, Carson City, 883-1976

Love and Music with Dr. Leo Buscaglia, Feb. 14, author and Reno Philharmonic, Lawlor Events Center, 825-5905

Valentine's Day Ski Race, Feb. 14, Northstar, 916-562-1010

Mexican Dance, Feb. 15, Reno Livestock Events Center, 688-5751



Skiing Around the State

A guide to Nevada and Tahoe Basin ski areas.

1993 Downhill Skier's Guide

Area	Phone	Top Elevation	Vertical	Lifts	Rating Bg-Int-Adv	Lift Price Adult/Child	Rental Adult/Child	Children's Programs
TAHOE BASIN								
Alpine Meadows	916-583-4232	8,637	1,800	12	25-40-35	\$39/\$13	\$19/\$14	✓
Boreal	916-426-3666	7,800	600	9	30-55-15	\$31/\$15	\$18/\$14	✓
Diamond Peak	702-831-3211	8,540	1,840	7	18-49-33	\$33/\$14	\$15/\$11	✓
Donner Ski Ranch	916-426-3635	7,751	720	5	25-50-25	\$20/\$10	\$15/\$10	
Granlibakken	916-583-4242	6,480	280	2	50-50-0	\$12/\$6	\$15/\$12	✓
Heavenly	916-541-1330	10,100	3,600	25	20-45-35	\$39/\$17	\$18/\$10	✓
Homewood	916-525-2992	7,880	1,650	10	15-50-25	\$29/\$10	\$18/\$12	✓
Kirkwood	209-258-6000	9,800	2,000	11	15-50-35	\$35/\$17	\$18/\$12	✓
Mount Rose	702-849-0704	9,700	1,440	5	30-35-35	\$29/\$12	\$15/\$10	✓
Northstar	916-562-1010	8,600	2,200	11	25-50-25	\$38/\$15	\$19/\$13	✓
Sierra Ski Ranch	916-659-7475	8,852	2,212	8	20-60-20	\$32/\$15	\$20/\$14	✓
Soda Springs	916-426-3666	7,352	650	2	30-50-15	\$18/\$9	\$18/\$14	✓
Squaw Valley	916-583-6985	9,050	2,850	33	25-45-30	\$40/\$5	\$20/\$12	✓
Sugar Bowl	916-426-3651	8,383	1,500	9	20-30-50	\$33/\$14	\$18/\$13	✓
Tahoe Donner	916-587-9400	7,350	600	3	50-50-0	\$24/\$12	\$16/\$12	✓

MOUNT CHARLESTON (LAS VEGAS)

Lee Canyon	702-646-0008	9,510	1,000	3	15-80-5	\$25/\$18	\$15/\$15	✓
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1993 Cross-Country Skier's Guide

Area	Phone	Trail (km)	Trail Fee Adult/Child	Rental Adult/Child	Lessons Adult/Child	Day Lodge
TAHOE BASIN						
Clair Tappan Lodge	916-426-3632	8	\$5/\$2.50	\$11/\$7	\$12/\$12	✓
Diamond Peak	702-831-3211	35	\$10/\$8	\$11/\$7	\$15/\$15	✓
Kirkwood	209-258-7248	80	\$12/\$7	\$12/\$8	\$28/\$20**	✓
Lake Tahoe Basin	916-573-2600	The U.S. Forest Service has brochures on many forest areas.				
Northstar	916-562-1010	65	\$13/\$6	\$14/\$9	\$17/\$9**	✓
Royal Gorge	916-426-3871	317	\$16.50/\$8.50	\$14/\$9.50	\$32.50/\$25	✓
Sorensen's	916-694-2203	80	none	\$12/\$8	\$24/\$16	✓
Spooner Lake	702-887-8844	101	\$9.50/\$4.50	\$10.50/\$8	\$26**	✓
Squaw Valley	916-583-6300	30	\$12/\$8	\$12/\$8	\$32/\$28**	✓
Tahoe Donner	916-587-9484	65	\$14/\$9	\$13/\$9	\$29/\$20	✓
Tahoe Nordic	916-583-0484	65	\$12/\$4	\$12/\$6	\$29/\$18**	✓

AROUND THE STATE

Lee Canyon (Las Vegas)	702-732-7222 702-477-7782	Randy McGhie of the Ski Chalet offers x-country suggestions The U.S. Forest Service has info on camping and avalanche conditions
Ruby Mountains (Elko)	702-753-6867	Ruby Mt. Heli-Skiing in Lamoille offers helicopter skiing
Spring Valley (Eureka)	702-237-5280	Ron Carrion at the Owl Club provides directions
White Pine (Ely)	702-289-3031	Ward Mtn. and Loop Trails info. available from the U.S. Forest Service

prices subject to change **includes trail pass, equipment, and lessons



With numerous ski areas available, skiers in the Reno-Tahoe region can spend time at resorts that offer views of Lake Tahoe like Diamond Peak in Incline Village (left) and enjoy the color and action of the sport, as skier Ryan Kane (below) is doing at Northstar



- Cultures of American Music Concert**, Feb. 17, UNR Chamber Singers, UNR Dancers, and lecturers, Nightingale Hall, UNR, 784-6145
- Polled Hereford Cattle Show and Sale**, Feb. 17-21, Reno Livestock Events Center, 688-5751
- Mark Twain**, Feb. 18, scholar and performer McAvoy Layne portrays Mark Twain in "The Wild Humorist of the Pacific Slope," Brewery Arts Center, Carson City, 883-1976
- 1908 New York to Paris Auto Race Presentation**, Feb. 18, talk by Steve and Jackie Frady of the National Automobile Museum, Historic Lecture and Events Series, 7:30pm, \$3, Gold Hill Hotel, Gold Hill, 847-0111
- Youth Obstacle Fun Ski Race**, Feb. 18, Sierra Ski Ranch, 916-659-7453
- "Tosca,"** Feb. 18 and Feb. 20, opera, in Italian with English SimulText translation, Nevada Opera, Pioneer Center for the Performing Arts, 786-4046 or 800-992-2072
- Seventh Annual Shooting Weekend**, Feb. 18-20, pheasant hunt, game feed, and sporting clays shoot, headquarters at Carson Valley Inn, Minden, 782-9711 ext. 625
- Contra Dance**, Feb. 20, line, circle, and square dances to live music, Brewery Arts Center, 883-1976
- Antique Show**, Feb. 20, Reno Livestock Events Center, 688-5751
- Snowboard Boardercross Race**, Feb. 20, Ski Homewood, 916-525-2992
- Sawmill 15K Cross-Country Ski Race**, Feb. 20, Northstar, 562-1010
- The Boardercross Challenge**, Feb. 20-21, open to all snowboarders, Diamond Peak, 832-1171
- Carson City Chamber Orchestra Concert**, Feb. 21, 4pm, Carson City Community Center, 883-4154
- Emigrant Trail Cross-Country Ski Tour**, Feb. 21, tour along the historic Emigrant Trail from Lake Van Norden to Rainbow Lodge, free shuttle ride back, Royal Gorge, 916-426-3871 or 800-634-3086
- American Shorthorn Cattle Show and Sale**, Feb. 24-28, Reno Livestock Events Center, 688-5751
- Timeless Art of Magic in Nevada**, Feb. 25, presentation by Robert "I caught the bullet in my mouth" Ames, Historic Lecture and Events Series, 7:30pm, \$3, Gold Hill Hotel, Gold Hill, 847-0111
- A Common Thread**, Feb. 25-March 26, Nevada traveling show of weavings, celebrating The Year of American Craft, Sierra Nevada Community College, Incline Village, 831-1314
- Comedy Night Live**, Feb. 26, starts at 9pm, \$10 admission, Carson Valley Inn, Minden, 782-9711 ext. 625
- Firefighter's Team Challenge**, Feb. 26-28, Heavenly, 586-7000
- Beaux Arts Ball**, Feb. 27, black and white ball where dress of no color is required (anyone with color gets "jailed" and must post bond), dress in not formal, Reno area's finest restaurants provide food, American Institute of Architects and Sierra Arts Foundation event, Lear Jet Hangar in Stead, north of Reno, 329-1324
- Reno Chamber Orchestra Concert**, Feb. 27, Nightingale Hall, UNR, 826-0880
- Connoisseur Food and Wine Fest**, Feb. 27, Diamond Peak, 832-1171
- Coca-Cola Cup Ski Race**, Feb. 27, Sierra Ski Ranch, 916-659-7453
- Ski Orienteering**, Feb. 27, skiers use a map to find markers like a treasure hunt, Boreal Ridge, 831-5071
- Carson City Founders Festival**, Feb. 27-28, celebration of Carson City's 135th birthday with

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- ▶ Group Discounts

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a banjo-fiddlers ole-time music jamboree, snowshoe races, baseball game, food, arts and crafts, historic tour, Carson City, 687-3636 or 800-NEVADA-8

National Brotherhood of Skiers Winter Carnival, Feb. 27-28, racing, picnics, and parties, Alpine Meadows, 916-583-4232

Chase/VISA Ski Race, Feb. 27-28, giant slalom race open to all skiers, Ski Homewood, 916-525-2992

Molson Obstacle Course Ski Race, Feb. 27-28, Kirkwood, 209-258-6000

Gun Show, Feb. 27-28, Reno Livestock Events Center, 688-5751

Gourmet Cross-Country Ski Tour, Feb. 28, ski 5K course and sample gourmet items at stations located along course, Northstar, 916-562-1010

March

California Special Olympics, March 1-4, Northstar, 916-562-1010

Art Exhibit, March 1-26, works by Trena Noval of Reno, Sierra Arts Gallery, 329-1324

Best of the West, March 1-31, exhibit of paintings by Luverne Lightfoot and Betty Mills, reception March 7 from noon-4pm, Artists Co-Op Gallery, 322-8896 or 359-3590

Sigma Alpha Iota Music Fraternity Concert, March 3, Nightingale Hall, UNR, 784-6145

International Police Ski Race, March 3, Alpine Meadows, 916-583-4232

American Airlines Celebrity Ski Races, March 4-6, Squaw Valley, 916-583-6985

Snowfest, March 5-14, 10-day celebration with more than 100 events including fireworks, torchlight ski parade, ski races, snow and ice sculpture contests, parades, après ski entertainment, Polar Bear Swim in Lake Tahoe, Dress-Up-Your-Dog Contest, Tahoe Localman Triathlon, Napkin Hat Contest, Hawaiian luau, wild game and fish cook-off, and Diaper Derby, theatrical productions, dances, and concerts, North Lake Tahoe and Truckee, 916-583-7625

"Something You Need to Know Before the World Ends," March 5-6, March 12-13, and March 19-20, Proscenium Players, Brewery Arts Center, Carson City, 883-1976

"Plaza Suite," March 5-6, March 12-14, March 19-20, and March 26-27, 8pm, Reno Little Theater, 329-0661

Shrine Circus, March 5-7, Reno Livestock Events Center, 688-5751

Tahoe/Truckee Ski and Skate Week, March 5-14, includes first annual Incline Winter Swim Invitational, Snowfest Dive-In Pool Party, Hyatt Cup, and Snowfest Ski Race Series, Diamond Peak, 832-1171

Jim Gamble Marionettes in the Wonderful World of Puppets, March 6, 7:30pm, location TBA, South Lake Tahoe, 916-541-0234

"Jack and the Bean Stalk," March 6-7 Missoula Children's Theatre, North Lake Tahoe High School Auditorium, 916-546-4602

Corporate Ski Challenge, March 6-13, the original corporate ski race features a downhill, team and individual giant slaloms, and executive race, coaching by Olympians Tamara McKinney and Greg Jones, parties, awards, Alpine Meadows, 916-583-7625

The Great Ski Race, March 7 17th annual 30K cross-country ski race from Tahoe Nordic to Truckee, Tahoe Nordic, 916-583-0484

Piano Recital, March 7 Nightingale Hall, UNR, 784-6145

Salers Cattle Show and Sale, March 8-10, Reno



McAvoy Layne (above) delivers the wit of Mark Twain in a show February 18 at Carson City's Brewery Arts Center

Livestock Events Center, 688-5751
Pro Patrol Ski Race, March 9, professional ski patrollers from Lake Tahoe and Truckee area resorts compete at night under the lights, Ski Homewood, 916-525-2992
Localman's Triathlon, March 9, fun competition includes installing chains on a vehicle, stacking firewood, and shoveling snow, Ski Homewood, 916-525-2992
Patrick Ball Concert, March 9, Celtic harp concert, Brewery Arts Center, Carson City, 883-1976
Homewood Taco Feed, March 9, 5pm, fundraiser for Meeks Bay Fire Dept., Ski Homewood, 916-525-2992
Chris Bayer and Friends: Old-Time Music, March 10, Brewery Arts Center, Carson City, 883-1976
Snowfest Fireworks and Street Dance, March 11, Tahoe City, 916-583-7625
Exceptional Children's Big Ski Adventure, March 11, Sierra Ski Ranch, 916-659-7453
St. Patrick's Arts and Crafts Fair, March 12-14, bagpipe music, fiddles, arts and crafts, held outside under the Reno Arch, 785-3666
Cavini String Quartet, March 13, winner of the 1989 Naumburg Chamber Music Award, Nightingale Hall, UNR, 784-6847
"Jack and the Bean Stalk", March 13, Missoula Children's Theatre, Incline Village High School, 916-546-4602
Snowfest Children's Parade, March 13, Kings Beach, 916-583-7625
Doctors' Wives Rummage Sale, March 13, 42nd annual, 8am-4pm, Auxiliary to the Washoe County Medical Society benefit, Reno Livestock Events Center, 829-1303
Gelande Jump Championships, March 13-14, professional and amateur skiers compete on special ski jump that allows speeds of up to 60mph while flying more than 250 feet in the air, Sugar Bowl, 916-426-3651
Sunday Cafe, March 14, open mike, Brewery Arts Center, Carson City, 883-1976
Bob Everson Memorial Ski Race, March 14, Homewood, 916-525-2992
Ranganiketan, March 16, drummers, dancers,

and martial arts and cultural arts of Manipur, 7:30pm, Cal-Neva Lodge, Crystal Bay, 916-546-4602
Argenta Trio, March 17, Nightingale Hall, UNR, 784-6145
St. Patrick's Day Ski Race, March 17, Northstar, 916-562-1010
St. Patrick's Day Barrel Stave and Snowshoe Thompson Race, March 17, Sierra Ski Ranch, 916-659-7453
Monster Truck Show, March 19-20, Reno Livestock Events Center, 688-5751
Antique Sale, March 19-21, Reno Livestock Events Center, 688-5751
St. Patrick's Day Invitational Swim Meet, March 19-21, third annual, Carson Valley Swim

Center, Minden, 782-8841
Subaru California Gold Nuggets Kid's Ski Race, March 20, obstacle course, medals, no entry fee, 2pm, Royal Gorge, 916-426-3871 or 800-634-3086
USSA Master Ski Racing Slalom, March 20-21, Kirkwood, 209-258-6000
Nevada Festival Ballet, March 20-21, Pioneer Center for the Performing Arts, 329-2552
Subaru California Gold Rush 50K and Silver Rush 25K Ski Marathons, March 21, event is part of the Great American Ski Chase, 9am start, Royal Gorge, 916-426-3871
Victor Borge in Concert, March 22, 25th birthday gala benefit for Nevada Opera, location TBA, 786-4046 or 800-992-2072



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NIGHTLIFE

B.B. King, the Blues Man

BY GUY RICHARDSON

By any standard, B.B. King is wildly successful. The 67-year-old blues singer and guitarist is, in Robin Leach's nasal tones, rich and famous. He's the king of the blues, and his guitar "Lucille" is almost as famous as he is. He appears all over the world. He even has an honorary degree from Yale.

And among his most vivid memories, he has said, is the sight of a black man electrocuted by the state of Mississippi and placed on the courthouse steps for public viewing, presumably as a warning to any other black men who thought they could cross the state of Mississippi and live to boast about it.

The sight came when young Riley King—he wouldn't be B.B. until he became a disc jockey and picked up the nickname of Beale Street Blues Boy, shortened to B.B.—was a sharecropper in Itta Bena, Mississippi.

Musicologists make hay over King's musical roots, those of legendary old black men of the South who played in bars and dives, making music from bruised pride and unfaithful women.

I suspect there's more than that in King's music, although the true blues are certainly there. Every time I hear B.B. play I accompany his choruses by pounding my chair, screaming until my voice heads south. We are talking emotion.

Once, under the influence of a sea of B.B.'s music, I scribbled in my notebook, "I have never seen the face of God, but I've heard the music of B.B."



B.B. King plays the blues at Caesars Tahoe January 15-17

King and that is sufficient." It didn't seem at all sappy at the time.

King started playing music when he was a kid, firing up the crowds in little Sanctified churches. "The Baptist churches used piano and organ, but you couldn't bring drums, saxophones, or harmonicas or nothing like that," King says. "But the Sanctified people said, 'If you play it, bring it.' They would get such a groove going that you really didn't want them to stop service."

Most white people have never heard a black Southern church in full voice. What's called "gospel" is but a

part of the intensely emotional rainbow of sound that enfolds the ecstasy of messianic Christianity with the joys and pains of Southern black life.

King folded that passion into the sound of the blues, while under the surface runs the raging against a world that could kill a man because of his color. It is the most emotional music I've ever heard.

He left school in the 10th grade to plow and pick cotton, but by the time he was 21, King became a DJ at WDIA in Memphis, where he picked up the Blues Boy name. He also played guitar in a gambling joint for \$12 a night.

By the 1950s he had a recording career, starting with "Three O'Clock Blues." He began studying musical theory, overlaying a keen intelligence and mastery of style on top of an emotional power.

In the '60s English rockers discovered American blues. When guitarists like Eric Clapton and Mike Bloomfield mentioned King in interviews, their voices would—in a phrase coined by rock historian Lillian Roxon—"turn pale with respect." Young blues aficionados found King records, and then King himself. He went from a genre star to a star.

He appears at Caesars Tahoe main room January 15-17. I'll go and take my chances once again with the face of God.

Guy Richardson is a reporter and entertainment writer for the Reno Gazette-Journal and a regular contributor to Nevada.

COMING EVENTS

Earth Day, April 22, Reno, 784-4636
Chili Cook-Off and Cinco de Mayo, May 1, Virginia City, 847-0500
Downtown A-Fair, June 5, Carson City, 885-0411
Kit Carson Rendezvous Wagon Train, June 9, Carson City, 885-7491
Kit Carson Rendezvous, June 11-13, Carson City, 885-7491
Stewart Indian Museum Powwow, June 19-20, Carson City, 882-1808
Reno Rodeo, June 19-27 329-3877

Nugget Jazz Festival, July 4-7, Sparks, 356-3300
Sports Cars and All That Jazz, July 9-11, Reno, 786-3030 or 800-FOR-RENO
Carson Valley Heritage Days, July 10, Minden/Gardnerville, 782-8144
Capital City Fair, July 23-25, Carson City, 882-4460
Hot August Nights, Aug. 5-8, Reno, 829-1955
Santa Maria Day, Aug. 14, Dayton, 246-7909 or 246-3993
Carson Valley Fine Arts and Crafts Street Celebration, Aug. 21-22, Minden/Gardnerville, 782-8144
Reno Basque Festival, Aug. 21-22, 356-2125

SHOWGUIDE

Reno/Sparks

Circus Circus, 329-0711 or 800-648-5010: Free circus acts, 11am-midnight
Clarion, 825-4700 or 800-723-6500: High Voltage/Glass House, Dec. 28-Jan. 3; Edy Gainer, Jan. 1-31; Vamp, Jan. 4-10; Nitelite, Jan. 4-17; Angel South, Jan. 18-24; Solid Ground, Jan. 25-31; Shake, Rattle 'n Roll, Feb. 1-7
Eldorado, 786-5700 or 800-648-4597 (U.S. outside Nevada): Rob Hanna's Salute to Rod Stewart,

Jan. 1-10; Doug Kershaw and the Louisiana Men, Jan. 12-24; Miss Pat Collins, the Hip Hypnotist, Jan. 26-Feb. 7; Danny Marona, Feb. 9-28; Rob Hanna's Salute to Rod Stewart, March 2-21; Miss Pat Collins, the Hip Hypnotist, March 23-April 4; Glenn Williams and the Danny Marona Band, March 30-April 18

Fitzgeralds, 785-3300 or 800-648-5022: Entertainment TBA

Flamingo Hilton Reno, 322-1111: *Flamingo Showroom*: "Russian Roulette," revue, indf. (dark Thurs.); *Showspot Lounge*: Zella Lehr, Jan. 5-31; Louie Fontaine and the Rockets, Feb. 2-14; Zella Lehr, Feb. 16-March 14; Louie Fontaine and the Rockets, March 16-April 11

Harolds Club, 329-0881: Entertainment TBA

Harrah's Reno, 788-3773 or 800-648-3773: *Sammy's Showroom*: Greg Thompson's "Stagestruck" and "High Voltage," Jan. 3-indf.; Glen Campbell, Jan. 1-2; Boots Randolph, Jan. 12-24; Bill Medley, Jan. 26-Feb. 7; B.J. Thomas, Feb. 9-21; Patti Page, Feb. 23-March 7; Jack Jones, March 9-21; Phyllis Diller, March 23-April 4

John Ascuaga's Nugget, Sparks, 356-3304 or 800-648-1177: Neil Sedaka/Mario and Daniel, Dec. 31-Jan. 3; T.G. Sheppard/Mario Daniel, Jan. 4-6; Boxcar Willie, Jan. 7-20; Herb Reed and the Platters, Jan. 21-Feb. 3

Peppermill, 826-2121 or 800-648-6992 (U.S. outside Nevada): Lelands/Double Edge, Dec. 28-Jan. 10; Tommy Bell, thru Jan. 3; Madison Avenue, Jan. 4-17; Kot Time Machine/Abbey Road, Jan. 11-17; Savage/France, Jan. 18-24; Johnny Baron, Jan. 25-31; Cameron, Jan. 25-Feb. 7; Smiles Revival, Feb. 1-7; Tanzania, Feb. 1-14; Passion/Double Edge, Feb. 8-21; St. Romain, Feb. 15-28; David Proud/Cheryl Cotten, Feb. 22-March 7; Tommy Bell, March 1-14; Band on the Run/Savage, March 8-21; Surprise Package, March 15-28; Cameron/Lelands, March 22-April 4; Madison Avenue, March 29-April 11

Ponderosa, 786-6820: Nightly entertainment

Reno Hilton, 789-2285 or 800-648-3568 (continental U.S. outside Nevada): "Spellbound," starring the Pendragons, indf.

Reno Ramada, 788-2000: Entertainment TBA

Silver Club, Sparks, 358-4771 or 800-648-1137: Entertainment TBA

Western Village, Sparks, 331-1069: Entertainment TBA

Carson City/Carson Valley

Carson City Nugget, 882-1626 or 800-426-5239 (continental U.S. outside Nevada): Entertainment TBA

Carson Station, Carson City, 883-0900: Live entertainment Tues.-Sat.

Carson Valley Inn, Minden, 782-9711 or 800-321-6983 (U.S. outside Nevada): Shake, Rattle 'n Roll, Jan. 1-2; Whiskey Ridge, Jan. 4-16; Perfect Circle, Jan. 18-23; Lelands, Jan. 25-20; The Act, Feb. 1-13; Carmen and Duchane, Feb. 15-20; Foreign Affair, Feb. 22-27; Boulevard, March 1-13; *Cabaret Lounge*: Live bands and dancing Mon.-Sat., DJ and oldies records Sun.

Ormsby House, Carson City, 882-1890

Sharkey's Nugget, Gardnerville, 782-3133

Topaz Lodge, Topaz Lake, 266-3339

Lake Tahoe

Bill's Lake Tahoe, Stateline, 588-2455

Caesars Tahoe, Stateline, 588-3515 or 800-648-3353: *Circus Maximus*: The Four Tops, Jan. 1-2; B.B. King, Jan. 15-17; Robert Palmer, Jan. 22-23; Peter, Paul, and Mary, Feb. 5-6; Howie Mandel, Feb. 19-20; The Moody Blues, March

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January 15-Indefinite

"George M" at Harvey's

January 22-23

Robert Palmer at Caesars

February 19-20

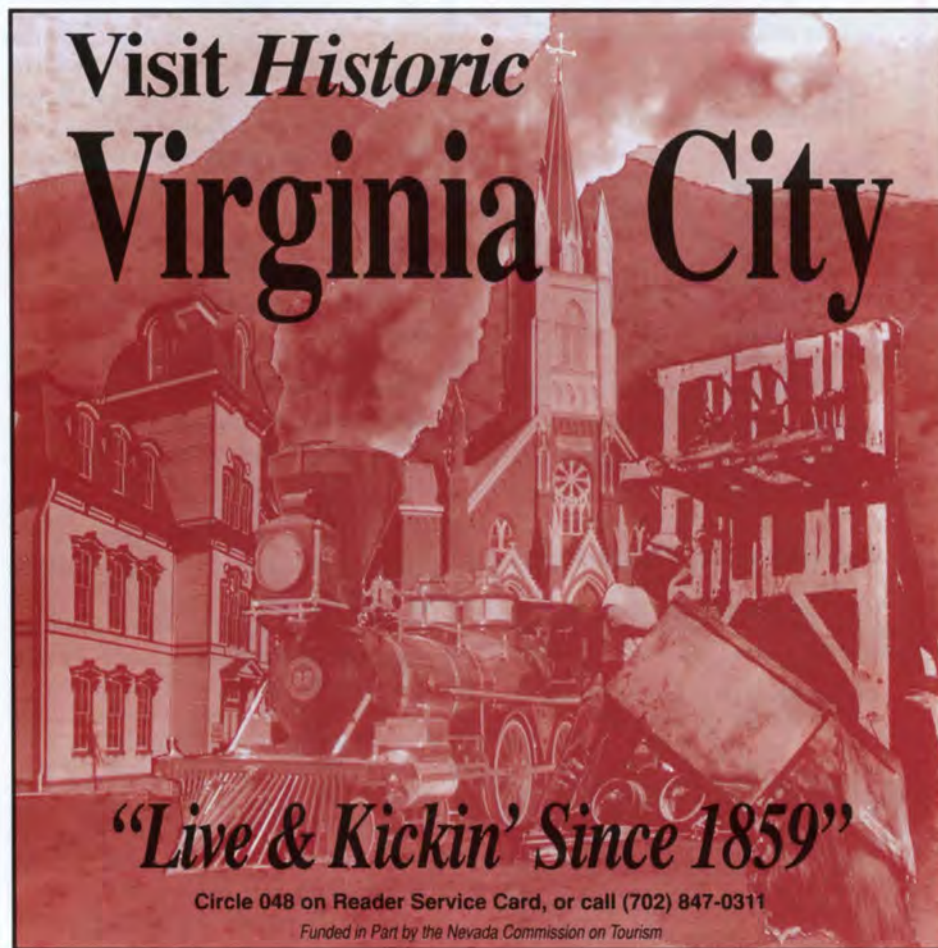
Howie Mandel at Caesars

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PREVIEW



An old-time concert with instruments similar to those used by the Ambroses (above), an early Carson City family, will be held during Founders Festival.

Historic Bash

BY DANIELLE BIRKIN

From Carson City's birthday to the day soda pop was introduced to the Silver State, the second annual Carson City Founders Festival on February 27-28 will honor Nevada's history.

Among other firsts, the festival will celebrate Carson City's 135th birthday. Frontiersman Abraham Curry arrived in Eagle Valley in 1858 and set aside a 10-acre parcel for the capital.

Warren Engine Company No. 1, the oldest continuous fire department west of the Mississippi, will celebrate its 130th birthday with displays of old-time firefighting equipment.

The festival will recognize the 125th anniversary of the first manned hot-air balloon in Nevada. In 1868 a hot-air balloon belonging to Carson City resident Tony Ward took off from the old Magnolia Saloon. In honor of the occasion, festival-goers can enjoy a free tethered hot-air balloon ride on Saturday morning.

This year also marks the 115th anniversary of the introduction of soda pop to Nevada. A Carson City pharmacy offered "soda gushes" in flavors like orange and lemon. Vendors at the festival will offer old-fashioned

soda fountain treats.

Then there's the 100th anniversary of the invention of the Ferris wheel. Inventor George Washington Gayle Ferris lived in Carson City as a child and was said to be inspired by a water wheel on the Carson River. Visitors who want to experience the thrill of riding a wheel without getting wet can ride a Ferris wheel at the festival.

Volunteers from the Kit Carson Trail Committee will lead a walking tour through the city's historic district on February 27. Points of interest include Ferris' home, the Rinckel mansion, the Olcovich-Myers house, and several churches. The tour will begin at the Brewery Arts Center.

In keeping with the historic theme, a baseball game with 1859 rules is planned for Sunday afternoon.

The outdoor events will be at Grace Bordewich Elementary School. Food vendors will peddle hot dogs, chili, barbecued chicken, and ribs. Historic demonstrations and presentations will be held nearby at the Brewery Arts Center.

Danielle Birkin is an intern for Nevada Magazine and a UNR student.

19-20; *Caesars Cabaret*: Laff Trax
Cal-Neva Lodge, Crystal Bay, 832-4000 or 800-225-6382
Crystal Bay Club, Crystal Bay, 831-0512: Debbie McIntyre, Dec. 29-Jan. 10; Blind Date, Jan. 12-24; Martina Marie and Street Talk, Jan. 26-Feb. 7; The Act, Feb. 23-March 7
Harrah's Lake Tahoe, Stateline, 588-6606 or 800-648-3773: *South Shore Room*: Wynonna Judd, Jan. 1-2; "Forever Plaid," Jan. 15-March 29; *Stateline Cabaret*: "Beyond Bare Essence," indf. (dark Thurs.); Little Charlie and the Nightcats, Jan. 1-2; Joe Louis Walker and the Boss Talkers, Jan. 7-9; Roomful of Blues, Feb. 11-14
Harvey's, Stateline, 588-2411 or 800-648-3361: *Emerald Theater*: "American Superstars," indf. *Llewellyn's*: Ron Rose Sound, indf.; *Emerald Party Lounge*: T & T, Dec. 28-Jan. 3; Reta and the Wizz Kidz, Dec. 28-Jan. 10; Gary and Sandy, Jan. 4-10; David Proud, Jan. 11-17; Steel Breeze, Jan. 11-24; Laura St. Romain, Jan. 18-31; Tommy Bell, Jan. 25-Feb. 7
Hyatt Regency Lake Tahoe, Incline Village, 831-1111: Entertainment TBA
Lake Tahoe Horizon, Stateline, 588-6211: "Passion 2," indf.; "Bottoms Up," indf.
Lakeside Inn, Stateline, 588-7777: Entertainment TBA
Tahoe Biltmore, Crystal Bay, 831-0660: Frenz, Dec. 29-Jan. 31; Band on the Run, Feb. 2-28; Devotee, March 2-28

GAMING TOURNAMENTS

January

Poker, Jan. 5-8, Club Cal-Neva, 323-1046
Slots, Jan. 8-10 and Jan. 18-20, Fitzgeralds, 785-3381 or 800-431-3134
Slots, Jan. 9-11, Comstock, 329-1880 or 800-824-8167
\$100,000 Golden Dollar Slot Marathon, Jan. 10-12, Eldorado, 786-5700
Slots, Jan. 10-12, John Ascuaga's Nugget, Sparks, 356-3300 ext. 3610 or 800-648-1177
Keno, Jan. 15-17, Comstock, 329-1880 or 800-824-8167
Slots, Jan. 18-21, John Ascuaga's Nugget, Sparks, 356-3300 ext. 3610 or 800-648-1177
World Championship of Horse Race Handicapping Tournament, Jan. 20-23, Club Cal-Neva, 323-1046
Dice, Jan. 22-24, Harolds Club, 785-3381 or 800-431-3134
Slots, Jan. 23-24, Silver Club, 358-4771 or 800-648-1137
Slots, Jan. 29, Club Cal-Neva, 323-1046
Slots, Jan. 29-31, Riverboat, 323-887 or 800-888-5525
Keno/Slots, Jan. 30-Feb. 1, Clarion, 825-4700

February

Keno, Feb. 5-7 Comstock, 329-1880 or 800-824-8167
Slots, Feb. 5-7 Riverboat, 323-8877 or 800-888-5525
Slots, Feb. 5-7, Feb. 19-21, and Feb. 22-24, Fitzgeralds, 785-3381 or 800-431-3134
Slots, Feb. 7-9 and Feb. 15-18, John Ascuaga's Nugget, Sparks, 356-3300 ext. 3610 or 800-648-1177
Slots and Blackjack, Feb. 21-23, Riverboat, 323-8877 or 800-888-5525
Slots, Feb. 26, Club Cal-Neva, 323-1046
Slots, Feb. 26-28, Comstock, 329-1880 or 800-824-

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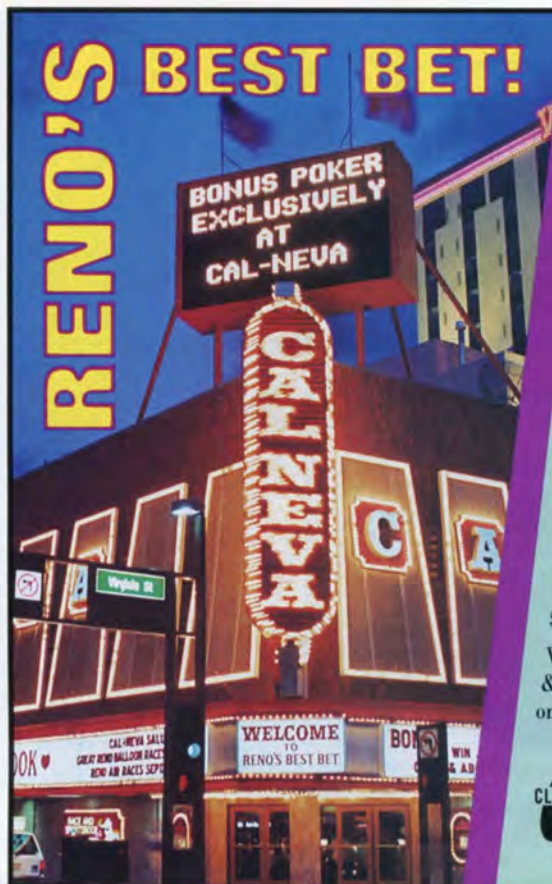
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Keno, Feb. 26-28, John Ascuaga's Nugget, Sparks, 356-3300 ext. 3610 or 800-648-1177

MUSEUMS

Carson City

Nevada State Archives: 8-5 Mon.-Fri., opening in January at 100 S. Stewart St., 687-5210
Nevada State Museum: 8:30-4:30 daily, 600 N. Carson St., 687-4810
Nevada State Railroad Museum: 8:30-4:30 Wed.-Sun., S. Carson St. at Fairview Dr., 687-6953
Roberts House Museum: 1207 Carson St., hours vary, call 882-1805
Stewart Indian Museum: 9-4 every day, 5366 Snyder Ave., 882-1808
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 1-Oct. 15 (tentative), closed during winter, 782-4325

Reno

Fleischmann Planetarium: 8-5 and 7-10 Mon.-Fri., 10:30-5 and 7-10 Sat.-Sun., UNR, call 784-4811 for schedule of shows
Harolds Club Gun Collection and Museum: 10-10 daily, 329-0881
Liberty Belle Slot Collection: 11-11 daily, 4250 S. Virginia St., in Liberty Belle Saloon and Restaurant, 825-1776
Mackay School of Mines Minerals Museum: 8-5 Mon.-Fri., UNR, 784-6988
Nevada Historical Society Museum: 10-5 Mon.-Sat., 1650 N. Virginia St., 688-1190
Nevada Museum of Art, E. L. Wiegand Gallery: 160 W. Liberty St., 10-4 Tues.-Sat., noon-4 Sun., call 329-3333
UNR Anthropology Dept. Research Museum: 9-1 Mon.-Fri. Sept.-May, open all year by appointment, UNR, 784-4686
Wilbur D. May Museum: 10-5 Wed.-Sun., (Rancho San Rafael Park), 785-5961
William F. Harrah Foundation National Automobile Museum: 9:30-5:30 daily, 10 Lake St. S., 333-9300

Sparks

Sparks Heritage Foundation and Museum: 1-4 Wed.-Sun., 820 B St., 355-1144

Virginia City

Comstock Firemen's Museum: 10-4 daily May-Oct., closed during winter, 847-0717
Fourth Ward School Museum: 10-5 daily May-early Nov., closed during winter, 847-0975
Julia C. Bulette Red Light Museum: 7:30-9 daily, 847-9991
Mackay Mansion: 10-6 daily June-Oct., 11-5 daily Nov.-May, 847-0173
Mark Twain Museum: 10-6 daily, 847-0525
Museum of Memories: 9:30-5 daily, 847-0454
Nevada Gambling Museum: 10-6 daily, 847-0789
The Castle: 11-5 daily Memorial Day-Oct., closed during winter, 847-0275
The Way It Was Museum: 9:30-5 daily, 847-0766
Wild West Museum: 9-5 daily, 847-0400

A 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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CASINO NOTES

Newsmakers

•The **Carson Valley Inn** in Minden recently began a \$4.4-million casino expansion. The project will add a third restaurant, as well as a new keno lounge, a game arcade, and supervised kids' fun center. The expansion also includes a sports book.

•**Circus Circus-Reno** now offers Braille menus for visually impaired customers at the Hickory Pit Steak House and Three Ring Restaurant. Guests can request a Braille menu from hostesses or food servers.

•Don Carano, owner and chief executive officer of the **Eldorado** in Reno, has been chosen by the Nevada Hotel and Motel Association as the 1992 Nevada Hotelier of the Year. The award symbolizes recognition by industry peers for outstanding contributions of leadership, service, and ex-

emplary professionalism.

•**Harrah's Lake Tahoe** has expanded its health club, adding cardiovascular exercise equipment and allowing more space for free weights and quieter massage rooms. The club is free to all hotel guests. For non-guests, the daily use fee is \$10.

•Delores Adams of Sacramento set a new world record for a slot jackpot May 30, 1992, when she hit the Megabucks dollar progressive for a \$9,346,876.45 payoff at **Harrah's Reno**. The 60-year-old surgical nurse had played only \$12—equivalent to four handle pulls on the three-coin machine—when the four Wild 7 symbols lined up on the machine's bottom pay-line, breaking the former world record slot Megabucks payout of \$6.8 million set in 1988.



Bertha (above) and Angel, performing elephants at John Ascuaga's Nugget in Sparks, star in their own video.

•**John Ascuaga's Nugget** in Sparks honors both St. Patrick's Day and the Nugget's 38th anniversary on March 17.

•**Sparks' Silver Club** celebrates its fourth birthday January 15.

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The Rural Territories

PREVIEW

A 'Western Woodstock'

BY DEBORAH MAWHAR

In the crowded hallway at the Elko Convention Center, a thicket of cowboy hats moves slowly toward a poetry session in the next room. One man's voice rises above the rest. "I call this Woodstock for cowboys," he says.

Indeed. With six days of poetry readings, workshops, gear shows, historical displays, yodeling, fiddling, and as many nights of informal jamming, the Elko Cowboy Poetry Gathering on January 26-31 is rich fodder for the hand or rancher who harbors a poet in his soul.

For non-cowboys, it's a chance to learn about another way of life where true friends, family, dogs, cattle, and newborn colts are all worthy of poetic expression. The gathering is also an opportunity to treasure and preserve a vanishing lifestyle.

On the last weekend in January, and for the four days preceding it, 8,000 people come to the Elko Cowboy Poetry Gathering. About 350 people are expected to perform this year, including the "open sessions."

This year the granddaddy of all poetry gatherings will be celebrating its ninth anniversary. Poet Baxter Black, singer-songwriter Michael Martin Murphey, and a remake of the Folklife Center's 1992 Australian tour show will be among the entertainment. There will also be a Mexican brass band.

Tara McCarty, Western Folklife Center director, says a Mexican rodeo will be held Saturday afternoon. "It's very different from what we're used to," McCarty says. "It's more how you work with an animal, not conquer it. It's much more stylistic."

And did we mention poetry?



Johnny Whelan of New Mexico plays at last year's Cowboy Poetry Gathering.

Sessions run Thursday through Saturday. Some poetry has humor, some offers philosophy, some presents cowboy songs. Western states have forums, too, spotlighting their native talent.

You can check out the Hispanic cowboy cultural display at the Northeastern Nevada Museum. In the evening, after a Basque dinner at one of the several ethnic restaurants in Elko, you might wander upstairs at Stockmen's Hotel-Casino for an all-night jam session.

Yep, Woodstock for cowboys. Hat and boots suggested, but not required.



"We put the gathering in Elko, Nevada, in the middle of the winter in the middle of nowhere," says

Waddie Mitchell, Nevada's best-known cowboy poet. "We keep 'em up all night, and make it hard for them to get food—and they love it."

About 8,000 people will love it this year. Finding a motel room or RV space is often difficult, so it's advisable to make reservations early. The Elko Chamber of Commerce has all the details at 1601 Idaho St., Elko, NV 89801, 702-738-7135.

For a brochure listing workshops and events, an order form to reserve seating for special performances (these usually sell out), and a three-day ticket to the gathering (\$10), write the Western Folklife Center at Box 888, Elko, NV 89801, or call 702-738-7508; call 800-748-4466 for orders only.

Deborah Mawhar is the Reno editor of *Spectrum*, a newspaper for mature adults.

COWBOY COUNTRY



January

Made in Northern Nevada: Crafts of the Ranch, thru Sept. 4, 1993, first exhibit for the new Western Folklife Center features contemporary cowboy crafts, Western Folklife Center, historic Pioneer Hotel, Elko, 738-7508

High Strung Band, Jan. 8, bluegrass band from Reno, Lowry High School Auditorium, Winnemucca, 623-4824

High Strung Band, Jan. 9, bluegrass band from Reno, Battle Mountain Civic Center, 635-9228

Wells Invitational Chariot Races, Jan. 24-25 (tentative), races, calcutta, dancing, chariot track, Wells, 752-3884 or 752-3544

Cowboy Poetry Gathering, Jan. 26-31, cowboy cultural event includes poetry readings, concerts, exhibits, workshops, and art, Western Folklife Center in historic Pioneer Hotel and Elko Convention Center, Elko, 738-7508 or 800-748-4466



The Stagecoach Shoot-Out in Beatty includes a tobacco-spitting contest and shooting championships January 15-17

Lance Brown: A Tribute to Will Rogers, Jan. 27 actor and musician Lance Brown performs as Will Rogers, Community Center, Lovelock, 273-2082

Lance Brown: A Tribute to Will Rogers, Jan. 29, Lowry High School, Winnemucca, 623-4824 or 623-5507

February

Canoe Races, Feb. 6, races down the Humboldt River, sponsored by Club Key Largo, Elko, 738-3099

Hole in the Mountain Cross-Country Ski Race, Feb. 6, Angel Lake Road, Wells, 752-3540

Sweetheart Valentine Dance, Feb. 13, dancing to the acoustic trio Cats 'n' Jammers, champagne and dessert, Convention Center, Winnemucca, 623-4824

Crab Feed, Feb. 13, sponsored by the Eagles, Community Center, Lovelock, 273-7144

Fireman's Ball, Feb. 20, Community Center, Lovelock, 273-7144 or 273-7334

March

Shooting the West V: The Nevada Photography Experience, March 5-7 seminars, exhibits, trade show, workshops, Convention Center, Winnemucca, 623-6388

St. Patrick's Day Celebration, March 9, Patrick Ball plays the Celtic harp and tells stories of Ireland, Battle Mountain Civic Center, 635-9228

St. Patrick's Day Celebration, March 10, with Patrick Ball, Lowry High School, Winnemucca, 623-4824

St. Patrick's Day Celebration, March 11, with Patrick Ball, Community Center, Lovelock, 273-2082

Native Shoshone Handicraft, March 19-April 19, pottery, beadwork, and basketry, Northeastern Nevada Museum, Elko, 738-3418

Sierra Wind Quintet, March 26, Battle Mountain Civic Center, 635-9228

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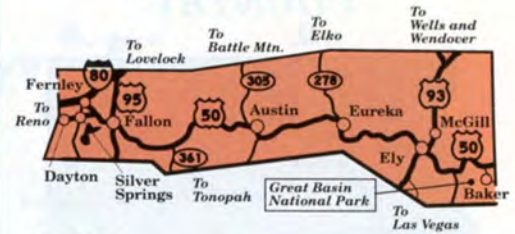
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PONY EXPRESS TERRITORY



January

Hidden Cave Tour, Jan. 9, 9:30am, Churchill County Museum, Fallon, 423-3677

John Delafosse and the Eunice Playboys, Jan. 22, Cajun-zydeco band from Louisiana, Fallon Community Center, 423-1440

February

Hidden Cave Tour, Feb. 13, 9:30am, Churchill County Museum, Fallon, 423-3677

March

Hidden Cave Tour, March 13, 9:30am, Churchill County Museum, Fallon, 423-3677

PIONEER TERRITORY



January

Berlin-Ichthyosaur Fossil House and Berlin Ghost Town Tours, ranger leads tours of 225-million-year-old ichthyosaur fossils and the Berlin ghost town site, call for times and days, Berlin-Ichthyosaur State Park, 964-2440 or 867-3001

Silver Shooters Stagecoach Shoot-Out, Jan. 15-17 presented by Silver City Shooters Society, includes first-ever Nevada State Cowboy Action Shooting Championships, costume contest, knife throwing, tobacco-spitting contest, and dance, shooting takes place next to Beatty Golf Course and Driving Range, Beatty, 871-7795 or 598-0686

Saddle West Chili Cook-Off, Jan. 16, sanctioned by the International Chili Society, Saddle West Hotel, Pahrump, 727-5953

February

Southwest Antique Gun and Knife Show, Feb. 6-7 Saddle West Hotel, Pahrump, 727-5953

Cajun Night with Michael Coucet and Beausoleil, Feb. 13, Cajun-zydeco music, dancing, food and drink, Yerington Theatre for the Arts, 463-3066

March

"Trying to Get Home," March 13, one-man show



Debbie Stetz, Carol Kassebaum, Kate Graves, and Kari Coughlin are some of the "ghosts" who have attended the Rhyolite festival.

PREVIEW

It's 1907 Again

The Nevada ghost town of Rhyolite will come to life during the Living History Festival on March 20-21.

The theme of this year's festival will be a "1907 Expo and Fair." Visitors can see the household products and inventions from 1907 as well as crafts of the day.

Rhyolite was founded in 1904 after gold was discovered. It became one of the largest towns in Nevada with more than 6,000 people and several banks, train depot, stock exchange, running water, and two electrical plants. Miners sustained several saloons and a prosperous red-light district. By 1911 the gold played

out and Rhyolite gradually died off.

The Living History Festival is free to the public. A shuttle will be available at the edge of town. Visitors will find motels in Beatty, four miles east. Rhyolite is located 120 miles northwest of Las Vegas via U.S. 95.

Donations are welcome to help the restoration and stabilization of the town site. For more information, write the Friends of Rhyolite, Box 85, Amargosa Valley, NV 89020 or call 702-486-7234.—Lisa Brewer

Lisa Brewer is with the Nevada Commission on Tourism and a member of the Friends of Rhyolite.



The Smothers Brothers bring laughs to Cactus Pete's in Jackpot February 26-27

telling the history of African-American song through singing and storytelling, Catholic Center on Virginia St., Yerington, 463-3066

Rhyolite Living History Festival, March 20-21, second annual festival celebrating the historic ghost town, on Sat. parade down Golden Street to the Bottle House for dedication ceremony, on Sat.-Sun. guided tours with living history vignettes, 486-7234

Spring Craft Show, March 27-28, miniature train and railroad display, handmade items for sale, Hawthorne Convention Center, 945-5854

COMING EVENTS

International Collegiate Mining Competition, April 9-10, Elko, 738-4091

Armed Forces Day, May 15, Hawthorne, 945-5896

Lincoln County Homecoming, May 21-24, Caliente, 726-3333

Jim Butler Days, May 28-31, Tonopah, 482-3859

Denio Barbecue and Roping, June 5, 941-0357

Winnemucca Mule Show and Races, June 5-6, 623-2225

Winnemucca Basque Festival, June 12-13, 623-2225

Gridley Days, June 18-20, Austin, 964-2200

Red Mountain Powwow, June 19-20, McDermitt, 532-8742

First Cowboy Music Gathering, June 25-27, Elko, 738-7508 or 800-748-4466

National Basque Festival, July 2-4, Elko, 738-7547

A 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.

SHOWGUIDE

Cowboy Country

Battle Mountain: Owl Club, 635-5155

Elko: Commercial Hotel, 738-3181. Red Lion, 738-2111 or 800-545-0044 (Western U.S. outside Nevada). Stockmen's Hotel, 738-5141

Jackpot: Barton's Club 93, 755-2341. Cactus Pete's, 755-2321 or 800-821-1103: T.G. Sheppard, Dec. 31-Jan. 3; "Bottoms Up!" Jan. 5-Feb. 7; The Lime Lighters, Feb. 16-25; Smothers Brothers, Feb.

26-27. Horseshu Casino, 755-2331

Mill City (on I-80): Burns Bros. Casino, Mr. B's Lounge, 538-7306

Wendover: Nevada Crossing, 664-4000. Peppermill, 664-2255 or 800-648-9660 (continental U.S. outside Nevada): Gregg Peterson, Dec. 21-Jan. 3; Deloach, Dec. 28-Jan. 10. Red Garter, 664-2111 or 800-982-2111 (continental U.S. outside Nevada): Mon. Night Comedy at 9pm, live music Tues.-Sun. Silver Smith, 664-2231 or 800-648-9668: Nightly entertainment. State Line, 664-2221 or 800-648-9668: Nightly entertainment

Winnemucca: Winners Hotel, 623-2511: Devotee, Dec. 29-Jan. 3; Capone, Jan. 5-17; Tammy Allen, Feb. 2-7; The Smash Hit Revue, Feb. 9-14; The

Smash Hit Band, Feb. 16-21; Renata, Feb. 23-March 7; Band on the Run, March 9-21

Pony Express Territory

Fallon: Bonanza Inn, 423-3111 ext. 47 Fallon Nugget, 423-3111: Classified Information, Dec. 22-Jan. 2

Pioneer Territory

Hawthorne: El Capitan, 945-3321

Pahrump: Saddle West Casino, 727-5953 or 800-522-5953: The Ink Spots, Feb. 12-13

Tonopah: Station House, 482-9777

Yerington: Casino West, 463-2481: Blue Flame, indf. Dini's Lucky Club, 463-2868: Live entertainment Fri.-Sat. nights

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MUSEUMS

Cowboy Country

Buckaroo Hall of Fame and Heritage Museum:
9-4 Mon.-Sat., 50 Winnemucca Blvd. West,
Winnemucca, 529-0452

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

Marzen House Museum, 9-2 Mon.-Fri., 1:30-4
Sat.-Sun., Lovelock, 273-7213

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

Pony Express Territory

Cherry Creek Museum, 10-5 Sat.-Sun., Star Route
1, Cherry Creek, 591-0411 or 591-9906

Churchill County Museum and Hidden Cave,
10-4 Mon.-Wed. and Fri.-Sat., noon-4 Sun.,
1050 S. Maine St., Fallon, 423-3677. For Hidden
Cave tours call Carson City BLM, 885-6000

Eureka Sentinel Museum, open April 15-Oct. 13,
hours vary, call 237-5484, Eureka

Nevada Northern Railway Museum, 8:30-4:30
daily, May 27-Oct. 1, closed during winter,
East Ely, 289-2085

White Pine Public Museum, 9-5 Mon.-Fri., 10-4
Sat.-Sun., 2000 Aultman St., Ely, 289-4710

Pioneer Territory

Central Nevada Museum, 12-5 Tues.-Sat.,
Tonopah, 482-9676

Lincoln County Museum, 9-5 Mon.-Sat., 10-5
Sun. closed during winter, Pioche, 962-5207

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



Shooting the West: The Nevada Photography Experience offers photographers and writers a chance to meet with professionals to learn new skills. Above is "Sand Harbor, NV" by Roy Herrick, one of the speakers at the March 5-7 workshop in Winnemucca.

Million Dollar Courthouse, 10-4 (closed from
11:30-12:30 for lunch) Mon.-Sat., 1-5 Sun., open
May-Oct., Pioche, 962-5182

Mineral County Museum, 11-5 Mon.-Fri. from
May-Sept., noon-4 Mon.-Fri. from Oct.-April,
Hawthorne, 945-5142

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DINING

The following Nevada dining directory includes current magazine advertisers. Each listing gives sample dishes, whether breakfast, lunch, or dinner (B, L, D) are served, and accepted credit cards. 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.

BOULDER CITY

Gold Strike Inn/The Steak House—Between Boulder City and Hoover Dam, 293-5000. Prime rib, porterhouse steak. D. \$-\$\$, major.

Gold Strike Inn/Gold Strike—293-5000. Sandwiches, steaks. B, L, D. \$, major.

Gold Strike Inn/Gold Strike Buffet—Ham, roast baron of beef, salads. L, D. \$, major.

Railroad Pass/The Dining Room—Between Boulder City and Henderson, 294-5000. Prime rib, porterhouse steak, steak and lobster. D. \$-\$\$, major.

Railroad Pass/Railroad Pass Coffee Shop—294-5000. Prime rib, sandwiches, salads, full coffee shop menu. B, L, D. \$, major.

Railroad Pass/Railroad Pass Buffet—294-5000. Nightly specials. L, D. \$, major.

JEAN

Nevada Landing/The Jade Room—I-15, Exit 12, 387-5000. Lobster Cantonese, lobster, and chicken kew. D. \$-\$\$, major.

Nevada Landing/The Landing Restaurant—I-15, Exit 12, 387-5000. Prime rib, T-bone. B, L, D. \$, major.

Nevada Landing/The Landing Buffet—I-15, Exit 12, 387-5000. Roast baron of beef, ham. L, D. \$, major.

LAS VEGAS

AMERICAN

Aladdin/Oasis Coffee Shop—736-0111. B, L, D. \$, major.

Circus Circus/Skyrise—734-0410. Prime rib, steak, and shrimp. B, L, D. \$, major.

Sam's Town/Mary's Diner—5111 Boulder Hwy., 454-8073. '50s flair, blueplate specials served 24 hours. B, L, D. \$, major.

Sam's Town/Smokey Joe's 24 Hour Cafe & Market—5111 Boulder Hwy., 456-7777. Barbecue specialties served 24 hours. B, L, D. \$, major.

Sam's Town/Uptown Buffet—5111 Boulder Hwy., 454-8048. B, L, D. \$, major.

Stars' Desert Inn/La Promenade—733-4444. American and Continental cuisine. B, L, D. \$-\$\$, major.

CAJUN

Aladdin/Fisherman's Port—736-0111. D. \$\$, major.

Harrah's Las Vegas/Joe's Bayou—369-5000. Shrimp Creole, blackened catfish, Memphis-style barbecue. D. \$-\$\$, major.

FRENCH/CONTINENTAL

Aladdin/The Florentine—736-0111. D. \$\$, major.

Stars' Desert Inn/Monte Carlo—733-4444. Sirloin steak with fresh peppercorn and cream, Nevada quail in red wine, stuffed veal chop with gruyère, prosciutto, caramel, and ginger. D. \$\$\$, major.

Lady Luck/Burgundy Room—477-3000. Rack of lamb, beef Wellington, lobster thermidore, veal of the day. D. \$\$, major.

Las Vegas Hilton/Le Montrachet—732-5111. Gourmet French cuisine, jackets required, reservations suggested. D. \$\$\$, major.

INTERNATIONAL

Caesars Palace/La Piazza Food Court and Lounge—731-7324. International cuisine. B, L, D. \$, major.

ITALIAN

Stars' Desert Inn/Portofino—733-4444. Scampi alla Provinciale, Fettuccine Verde with Pesto, Veal Chop alla Parmigiana, Osso Buco Milanese con Risotto. D. \$\$\$, major.

Imperial Palace/Pizza Palace—794-3261. Pizza, pasta, and salads. L, D. \$, major.

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Lady Luck/Marco Polo's—477-3000. Northern Italian specialties, pasta, veal. D, \$\$, major.

Las Vegas Hilton/Andiamo—732-5111. Northern Italian cuisine prepared in an exhibit kitchen, fish and poultry specialties. D, \$\$, major.

MEXICAN

Las Vegas Hilton/Paco's—732-5111. Fajitas, burritos, chimichangas, and tostadas. D, \$\$, major.

Sam's Town/Willy & Jose's Mexican Cantina—5111 Boulder Hwy., 454-8044. Authentic Mexican dishes in Old Mexico setting. D, \$, major.

ORIENTAL

Aladdin/Bufet—736-0111. B, L, D, \$, major.

Stars' Desert Inn/Ho Wan—3145 Las Vegas Blvd. S., 733-4547. Prawns a la Szechwan, almond pressed duck. D, \$\$, major.

Imperial Palace/Ming Terrace—794-3261. Mandarin and Cantonese cuisine, abalone, Kung Pao shrimp, roast duck. D, \$\$, major.

Lady Luck/Emperor's Room—477-3000. Cantonese, Szechuan, and Mandarin specialties. L, D, \$-\$\$, major.

Las Vegas Hilton/Benihana Village—732-5111. Two traditional-style Japanese restaurants: habachi and robata. D, \$-\$\$\$; major.

STEAK AND SEAFOOD

Aladdin/The Wellington—736-0111. D, \$\$, major.

Circus Circus/Steak House—734-0410. Steak, Prime rib, lobster, seafood appetizers flown in fresh daily. D, \$\$, major.

Four Queens/Hugo's Cellar—385-4011. Rack of lamb Indonesian, crab legs and sirloin, roast duckling anise, filet mignon Atlantis. D, \$\$\$, AE, MC, V.

Harrah's Las Vegas/Claudine's—369-5000. Steaks and seafood, open kitchen, piano bar nearby, excellent wine list. D, \$-\$\$\$; major.

Imperial Palace/Seahouse—794-3261. Alaskan King crab legs, appetizers, seafood salads. D, \$\$, major.

Las Vegas Hilton/Hilton Steak House—732-5111. Steaks and fresh seafood prepared over mesquite wood. D, \$\$\$, major.

Sam's Town/Diamond Lil's—5111 Boulder Hwy., 454-8009. Fresh fish and seafood daily. D, Sun. brunch. \$-\$\$, major.



Mexican fare is served at Paco's in the Las Vegas Hilton.

LAUGHLIN

Edgewater/The Embers—298-2453. Steak, seafood, prime rib, Midwestern beef. D, \$\$, major.

Riverside/Gourmet Room—298-2535. Chateaubriand, Cajun dishes, steak and quail, rack of lamb; wine steward. D, \$\$, major.

Riverside/Prime Rib Room—298-2535. Salad, potato, vegetable, and dessert bar, prime rib. D, \$, major.

RENO-CARSON AREA

AMERICAN

Carson Nugget/Bufet—882-1626. Sun. champagne brunch, Sat. breakfast buffet, Fri. seafood buffet. B, L, D, \$, major.

Carson Nugget/Coffee Shop—882-1626. Open 24 hours. B, L, D, \$, major.

Carson Station—883-0900. Steaks, prime rib, seafood, soups, sandwiches, and salad bar. B, L, D, \$, major.
Carson Valley Inn/Fiona's—Minden, 782-4347. Steaks,

seafood, veal, soup and salad bar. L, D, Sun. brunch. \$-\$\$, major.

Carson Valley Inn/Katie's—Minden, 782-9711. Four-course prime rib dinner, steak and lobster, half-pound burgers. B, L, D, \$, major.

Harrah's Reno/Garden Room—786-3232. Eggs Benedict, avocado clubhouse, triple dragon. B, L, D, \$, major.

Harrah's Reno/Skyway—786-3232. Buffets, Sun. 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—Sparks, 356-3300. Buffet; Sunday brunch. L, D, \$-\$\$, major.

Peppermill/Coffee Shop—2707 S. Virginia St., 826-2121. Fruit salads, lasagna, omelets. B, L, D, \$\$, major.

Peppermill/Island Buffet—2707 S. Virginia St., 826-2121. Salad bar with fresh shrimp and crab legs and homemade pasta. Sun. brunch. B, L, D, \$-\$\$, major.

Riverboat Restaurant and Coffeeshop—323-8877. Chicken and ribs, Cajun baked chicken with beef or pork ribs, open 24 hours. B, L, D, \$, major.

Sharkey's Nugget—Gardnerville, 782-3133. Prime rib is house specialty. B, L, D, \$, no CC.

BASQUE

Louis' Basque Corner—301 E. 4th St., Reno, 323-7203. Sweetbreads, tripe, paella, other seafood dishes. L, D, \$\$, major.

FRENCH/CONTINENTAL

Eldorado/The Vintage—786-5700. Continental cuisine, daily specials, choice dry-aged beef, mesquite-grilled. Complimentary wine tastings from award-winning wine list. D, \$\$, major.

Harrah's Reno/Steak House—786-3232. Steak Diane, fresh fish daily, roast rack of lamb. L (Mon.-Fri.), D, \$\$\$, major.

Peppermill/Le Moulin—826-2121. Tournedos of beef a la Diane, veal a la Oscar, Dover sole meuniere. D, \$\$, major.

INTERNATIONAL

Eldorado/Choices—786-5700. An express cafe with hofbrau, deli, bakery, ice cream. B, L, D, \$, major.

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Eldorado/Tivoli Gardens—786-5700. Multi-ethnic, 24-hour restaurant and entertainment attraction. B, L, D, \$, major.

ITALIAN

Eldorado/La Strada—786-5700. Northern Italian cuisine, homemade pasta, sauces, and desserts. Award-winning wine list. D, \$, major.

Harrah's Reno/Café Andreotti—786-3232. Italian favorites and specialty items. D, \$, major.

ORIENTAL

John Ascuaga's Nugget/Trader Dick's—Sparks, 356-3300. Cashew chicken, Szechwan specialties, flaming dagger brochette. L, D, \$, major.

STEAK AND SEAFOOD

Carson Nugget/Oyster Bar—882-1626. L, D, \$, major.

Carson Nugget/Steak House—882-1626. Veal scallopini, scampi in dill sauce, chicken picata, escargot. D, \$, major.

Circus Circus/Hickory Pit—329-0711. One-pound prime rib, New York steak. D, \$, major.

Eldorado/Grill and Rotisserie—786-5700. Mahogany-fueled rotisserie and grill, fresh fish, fowl, lamb and USDA choice dry-aged beef, soup and salad bar. D, \$, major.

Harrah's Reno Steak House—788-2929. From traditional Steak House favorites to specialty items like grilled Pacific salmon with a saffron butter sauce and steak Diane prepared table side. L, D, \$, 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.

Riverboat Oyster Bar—323-8877. Riverboat cioppino, bay shrimp cocktail. L, D, \$, major.

LAKE TAHOE

AMERICAN

Caesars Tahoe/Cafe Roma—Stateline, 588-3515. Lamb chops, prime rib. B, L, D, \$-\$\$\$ major.

Harrah's Lake Tahoe/Forest Buffet—Stateline, 588-6611. Daily buffet. B, L, D, \$, major.

Harrah's Lake Tahoe/Sierra—Stateline, 588-6611. Chicken pot pie, cashew chicken salad, Chinese cuisine. B, L, D, \$, major.

Harvey's/Cafe Metro—Stateline, 588-2411. European sweet shop, coffees, retail bakery. \$, major.

ITALIAN

Caesar Tahoe/Primavera—Stateline, 588-3515. Linguini carbonara, tenderloin pizzaiola, pollo allo spumante. D, \$, major.

Harrah's Lake Tahoe/Café Andreotti—Stateline, 588-6611. Pizza quattro stagioni, filetti barbaresco, lasagne Andreotti. D, \$, major.

Harvey's/Llewellyn's—Stateline, 588-2411. International and contemporary cuisine. Sun. brunch, L, D, \$-\$\$, major.

Harvey's/Pizzeria—Stateline, 588-2411. Pizza baked in a brick oven, lasagna, salads. L, D, \$, major.

Harvey's/Sage Room—Stateline, 588-2411. Rack of lamb provincial, prime dry-aged cuts of beef, beef Wellington. D, \$-\$\$\$ major.

MEXICAN

Harvey's/El Vaquero—Stateline, 588-2411. Camerones Veracruz, carnita. L, D, \$, major.

ORIENTAL

Caesars Tahoe/Empress Court—Stateline, 588-3515. Szechwan, Mandarin. D, \$, major.

STEAK AND SEAFOOD

Caesars Tahoe/Broiler Room—Stateline, 588-3515. Prime rib, seafood, Cajun specialties. D, \$, major, res. for large parties.

Harrah's Lake Tahoe/Friday's Station Steak and Seafood Grill—Stateline, 588-6611. Blackened shrimp, mixed grill of lamb filet and smoked quail. L, D, \$\$\$, major.

Harvey's/Seafood Grotto—Stateline, 588-2411. Seafood selection plus Chinese dishes. L, D, \$-\$\$\$ major.

ELKO

Stockmen's Motor Hotel—738-5141. Casino coffee shop, evening dinner house. B, L, D, \$-\$\$, major.

TONOPAH

Station House/Mary's Kitchen—482-9777. Casino restaurant, breakfasts, hamburgers, steak, and seafood. B, L, D, \$, AE, MC, V.

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1993 EVENTS CALENDAR

JANUARY

Elko: Cowboy Poetry Gathering
Wells: Invitational Chariot Races

MARCH

Winnemucca: Shooting the West V
(A Nevada Photography Experience)

APRIL

Elko: Int'l Collegiate Mining Competition

MAY

Winnemucca: Barrel Racing Futurity & Derby, Senior Pro Rodeo
Wendover: Spring Fling Mountain Bike Race
Lovelock: Portuguese Festa

JUNE

McDermitt: Red Mountain Indian Pow Wow and Rodeo
Winnemucca: Mule Show & Races
N.A. Basque Festival
Elko: Mining Exposition
Lamoille County Fair
Battle Mountain: Prospector Days

JULY

McDermitt: Ranch Hand Rodeo
Elko: National Basque Festival
Jackpot: Carl Hayden Daze

JULY

Jarbridge: Nevada Days

AUGUST

Wendover: Bonneville Speed Week
Winnemucca: Hot August Nights
Nevada Open Horse Show
Battle Mountain: Lander County Fair
Elko: Silver State Stampede
Lovelock: Frontier Days

Labor Day Weekend Events

Elko: County Fair & Livestock Show & Pari-Mutuel Racing
Winnemucca: Buckaroo Heritage Western Art Roundup, Tri-County Fair & Winnemucca Rodeo

SEPTEMBER

Battle Mountain: Covered Wagon Trail Ride
Wells: Race to the Angel
Wendover: World of Speed
Jackpot: Diamondfield Jack Horse Race
Winnemucca: Thoroughbred, Quarterhorse & Mule Pari-Mutuel Racing, Ranch Hand Rodeo

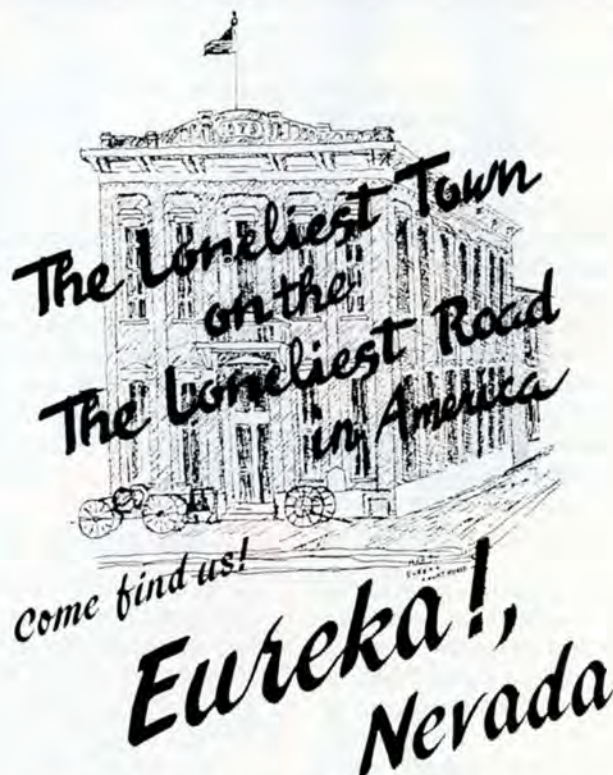
OCTOBER

Wendover: USA! Airshow & Races

NOVEMBER

Wendover: World Finals Speed Racing

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"Country Tonite" dancers (above) whoop it up at the Aladdin in Las Vegas.

Lowdown on a Hoedown

By JACKIE BRETT

Las Vegas has built revues around magic, comedy, and celebrity and female impersonators. Now here's one for country music lovers.

"Country Tonite," playing at the Aladdin on the Strip, is a wholesome family hoedown with a variety show format.

As emcee Paul Delicato explains to the crowd: "The first rule is there ain't no rules. You can stomp your feet, clap your hands, or get creative. We're not here to dazzle you with lasers. We're simply going to feature country artists from all over America."

The 10-piece Flamingo Road Band provides the musical and scenic backdrop for the show. Eight singers and musicians perform individual numbers, and they share the stage with a cast of 12 dancers.

As the curtain goes up, dancers in boots, hats, and bandannas take over the stage with high-stepping country dances and acrobatics. Karen Nelson-Bell, the show's musical director, wrote and also performs the contagious "Country Tonite" theme song. Twelve cloggers kick up their heels to this tune.

Delicato returns to the stage to get the audience going with his version of the Garth Brooks favorite, "Friends in Low Places." Then Karen Dee Brownlee,

a performer from Norton, Kansas, sings Patsy Cline's "I Fall to Pieces." During her performance, Brownlee sings, plays rhythm guitar, and even yodels while champion clogger Jon Burdette of Branson, Missouri, keeps the beat going.

Marilyn Kaye left the "Enter the Night" show at the Stardust to return to her country roots. She performs several tunes in the show and sings a duet of Judds medleys with Bell.

The show even has comedy. Ventriloquist Sammy King of Brownsville, Texas, appears with his parrot puppet Francisco and pulls off a mildly risqué but amusing routine. King says of his pal of 34 years, "Francisco says every-

thing I'd like to and can't."

The youngest performer in the show, 15-year-old Shane Sutton, performs three songs, ending with the Billy Ray Cyrus tune "Achy Breaky Heart." Sutton is from Henderson and was the 1989 *Star Search* grand-prize winner in the "Best Junior Vocalist" and "Best Junior Star" categories.

The last part of the show focuses more on the band and the dancers. Among the performers is guitarist and singer Dolly Coulter, who has lived in Las Vegas since she was three and has performed in showrooms with stars like Lola Falana and Juliet Prowse.

Vance Davenport of San Antonio is the show's fiddle-playing contortionist. Davenport manages to play one fiddle behind his back and the other above his head, and in just about every position imaginable. At 23 (he's been fiddling since he was six), he most recently toured with George Jones. As the song he performs says, "You've got to have a fiddle in the band."



"Country Tonite" adds a little variety to the Las Vegas show scene, and even city folk will enjoy this high-spirited hoedown.

Makin' Hay

"Country Tonite" is performed at the Aladdin Hotel in Las Vegas at 7:15 and 10 nightly; dark Tuesday. Show prices are \$15.95 for adults and \$9.95 for children 18 and under. Dinner and show combinations are \$19.95 for adults and \$12.95 for children 18 years and under with dinner at the Aladdin's International Buffet. The buffet is open for dinner from 4 to 10 p.m.

Jackie Brett is an entertainment critic and the Las Vegas manager for the Nevada Commission on Tourism.

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