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The Hard Rock Cafe in Las Vegas.
Photo by Christopher Taylor

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Ghosts and Etiquette

As a teenager in the 1950s, **Stanley W. Paher** discovered ghost towns. "A bunch of us at Las Vegas High School would take our jeeps and go exploring the old mining camps around the state," he says. "We would live for the weekends."

In this issue Stan describes the joys of ghost towning and rules of the road in "Ghost Town Etiquette." A key rule, he points out, is simply to leave things alone. "Those people who would dismantle a ghost town ruin it for everyone who follows. The ghost town is history—in both senses of the word."

Stan is a leading authority on ghost towns in the Silver State. The author of many books on Western history, including the best-selling *Nevada Ghost Towns and Mining Camps*, the Reno resident still goes ghost-towning when he can. After his "Tybo Time Travel" appeared in the March/April '96 issue, nine comrades, including a couple of high-school friends, persuaded him to lead a trek back to Tybo, an old camp east of Tonopah. "I wore them out," Stan reports with satisfaction.

Etiquette is not a major survival issue at Las Vegas's theme restaurants, but **John L. Smith** found other intriguing elements—giant guitars, ceaseless videos, and unique combos of meals, music, and memorabilia—at the new wave of eateries. John, a *Las Vegas Review-Journal* columnist, describes the phenomenon in "The Theme Scene." Also, Events Editor **Ann Henderson** strolls through several '50s diners while Associate Editor **Carolyn Graham** visits the themed restaurants of Reno and Lake Tahoe.

Joe Royer, heli-ski director of Lamoille, is a photographer with a keen eye for mountain scenes, as he shows in "Pinnacle of Powder." **Kate Butler**, also of Lamoille, writes about the heli-skiing experience.

This issue we take pleasure in presenting "100 Years of Roughing It," a *Nevada* classic by longtime contributor **Guy Shieler**, who died last year. Guy's story of lawmakers' Capitol antics marks the opening of the 1997 Nevada Legislature.

Verita Black describes "A Celebration of Rights" and the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday in Nevada Events and Shows. The "Range Rhymers" of Elko's Cowboy Poetry Gathering are the focus of former *Nevada* editor **C.J. Hadley's** photos. In "Taking the Polar Route," **Kim Pryor** asks Polar Bear Swim veteran Julie Tester why someone would jump in Lake Tahoe in the middle of winter.

Deke Castleman uncovers the driven world of valet parking in "A Wheel Deal." Valet parking is a great casino bargain, says Deke, who adds tips on how to tip.

This issue has two valentines. **A.C. Turman** frames the hairy hearts of Virginia City artist Edw Martinez, and Publisher **Richard Moreno** visits Lovelock, the erstwhile marriage capital that Kelsey Grammer almost made famous.—*David Moore*



Stanley W. Paher explores Ophir Canyon.

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LETTERS

Railroading women and a mixed-up Manhattan.

Women of the Rails

The Nevada Magazine Historical Calendar is my favorite and the only one I keep at the end of the year. In the 1997 calendar, August's 1910 photograph of women laborers (right) is especially memorable. I've been a railroad women's researcher and collector of photographs for 14 years. The August image is reminiscent of other photographs I have in my collection that are of the same period. Some might doubt that women worked as laborers, especially for the railroads at the turn of the century, but it can be confirmed in the 1900 U.S. Census section on women's employment.

Shirley Burman
Women and the American Railroad
Research Project
Sacramento, CA

Sam's the Man

Regarding the frontier Christmas



The girls of August, at work near Caliente.

story, "The First Piano in Camp," by Sam Davis last issue: Each edition of *Nevada Magazine* has provided me and my family with a good variety of worthwhile reading. Since reading this classic story, I have become fascinated with the style and personality of Sam

Davis, the Carson City author and newspaperman. Thank you for sharing some of his great talent, wit, humor, and imagination.

Ben Matulich
Reno

New York to Monte Carlo

Time travel is a shimmering fantasy. If my long-deceased father, a pioneer Strip motel man whose Gateway opened in 1931, could now return to Las Vegas, he could motor from one end of the world to the other. Especially

impressive is the New York-New York skyline with Monte Carlo nearby. And as Art Nadler's excellent article, "The World Comes to Vegas," showed in the Sept/Oct issue, there is more to come.

Stanley Paher
Reno

Pinning Praise

Thanks so much for David W. Toll's story, "30-Year Pin," in the Sept/Oct issue about past *Nevada* editors Don Bowers and C.J. Hadley. I have had the privilege of working with C.J. Her contribution to Nevada publishing is far-reaching and legendary. C.J. helped make *Nevada Magazine* what it is today and is now doing the same thing with *Range* and also *Silver and Blue*, the alumni magazine of the University of Nevada, Reno.

Sherril Steele-Carlin
Reno

Sherril, you'll be pleased to see C.J.'s photos of the Elko Cowboy Poetry Gathering in this issue's Nevada Events and Shows.—Ed.

A New Spin on New York

In last issue's Nevada Events and Shows the picture of New York-New York is backward. The Empire State Building should be on the left and the Chrysler Building on the right. Even the Statue of Liberty has the wrong arm sticking up.

Bill Wittmeyer
Las Vegas

Bill, you're right. It's not that we're backward around here, but we did overlook the fact that Lady Liberty always holds her torch in her right hand.—Ed. □

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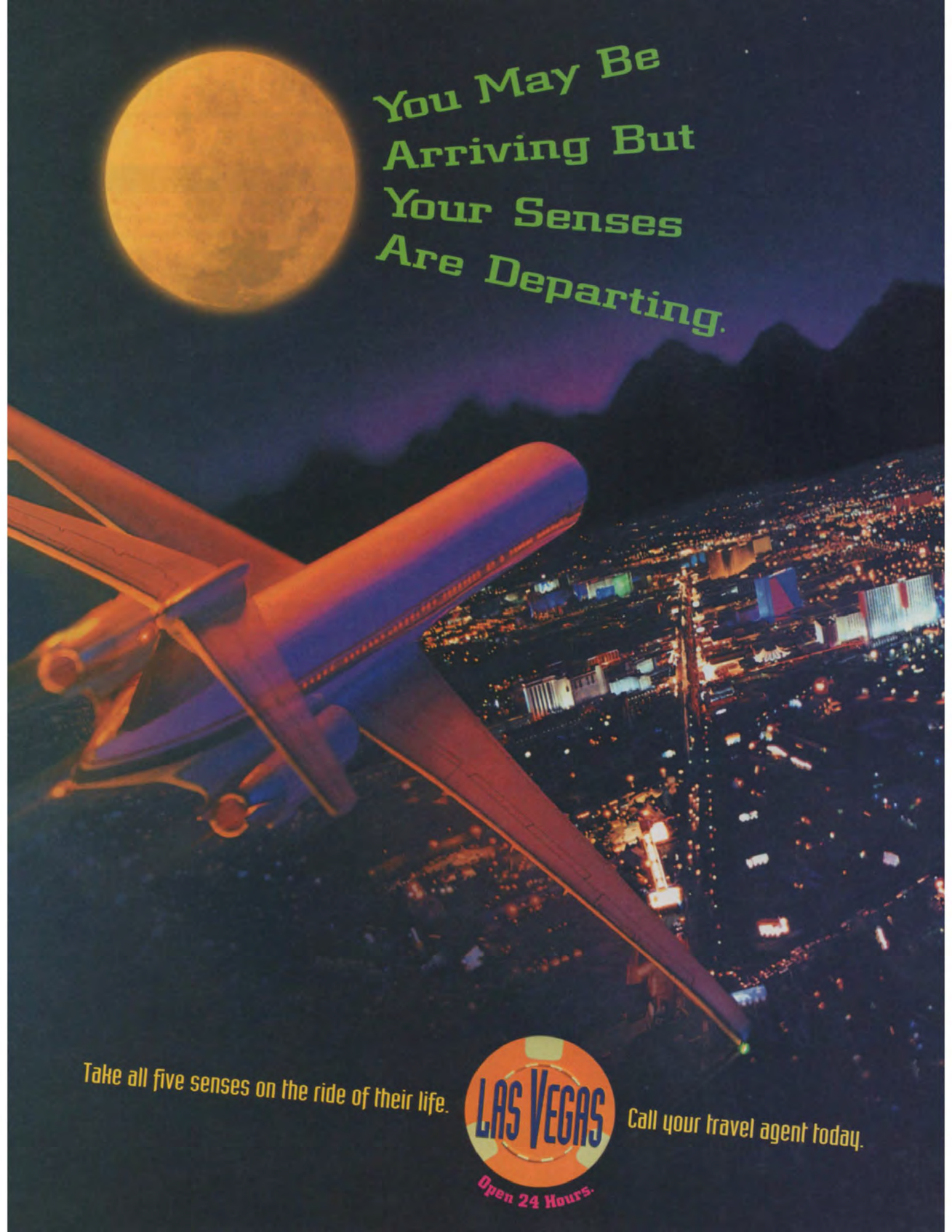
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ROADSIDE ATTRACTIONS

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WEDDING CHAPELS



A bride goes crazy among the costumes at Divine Madness.

Frankly, Scarlet, I Do

LAS VEGAS—In Las Vegas, the nation's wedding wonderland, couples can get married while dressed in costume as their favorite characters at the **Divine Madness Fantasy Wedding Chapel**.

The groom and bride can be Caesar and Cleopatra, Rhett Butler and Scarlet O'Hara, or Tarzan and Jane. Feathered hats and crowns, period jewelry, royal armor, lace, leather, and chains can complete the wedding attire. There are old-fashioned and contemporary gowns and tuxedos for those who prefer a more traditional ceremony. Owner Kathleen Ragan says with a week's notice she can create special garb if couples are looking for a theme that isn't among the selections.

Divine Madness has two chapels. Ragan describes one as "angelic white" and the other as "erotic Egyptian." Each chapel can accommodate 15 guests, and there is a small reception room. She offers four wedding packages, from the shotgun type with silk bouquet, 12 pictures, and wedding scroll for \$100 to her most elaborate with cake and champagne, video taping, limousine, and other amenities for \$835. Costume rentals off the rack average \$100 per couple. Catering and entertainment are additional options.

The Divine Madness Fantasy Wedding Chapel is open 24 hours. For a brochure write the chapel at 1111 South Las Vegas Boulevard, Suite H, Las Vegas, NV 89104 or call 800-717-4734, 702-384-5660, or 702-286-0784 (cellular).—*Kate Butler*

RECREATION

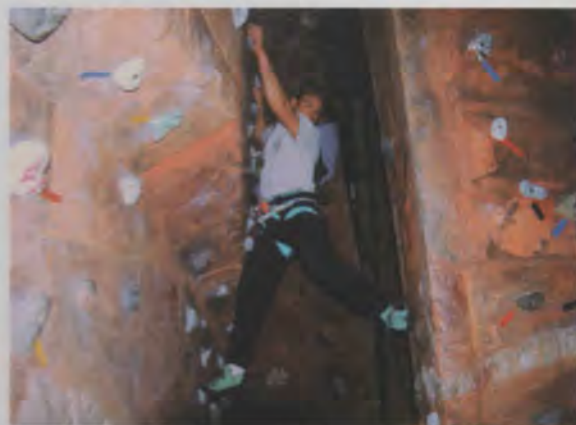
Room to Rock

RENO-TAHOE—As cabin fever sets in this winter, rock climbers, hikers, and other outdoor enthusiasts can climb the walls at one of Northern Nevada's indoor rock-climbing gyms.

In **Reno RockSport Indoor Climbing Center** has a 35-foot-tall wall with 6,500 square feet of sculpted climbing terrain. The gym is open to all skill levels and offers lessons for beginners, women, experienced climbers, and kids. Day passes are \$12, and classes cost \$25 to \$30 (\$35 per hour for private instruction). RockSport is open daily at 1901 Silverada Boulevard, off Oddie and U.S. 395 in the Sak 'N Save shopping center. Call 702-352-ROPE (7673).

Headwall Café and Climbing at Squaw Valley serves cappuccinos with its climbs. Headwall has a 30-foot wall with 4,000 square feet of

climbing and more than 30 routes. At the top, climbers can strap in horizontally and crawl across 30 feet of overhang on the ceiling. Headwall also has a 45-foot-tall outdoor wall that is open during warm months. In the winter the gym is open daily



The action rocks at the Headwall Café.

from noon to 8 p.m. Prices are \$7 for adults and \$10 for kids; a climbing harness is included, and shoe rental costs \$4. Call 916-583-ROPE for information.—*Carolyn Graham*

GETAWAYS

Romancing the Slopes

LAKE TAHOE—Skiers will find the ingredients for a romantic rendezvous this winter at **Heavenly**. For the third season the ski resort's Mountain Caterers will offer a gourmet lunch on the slopes for skiing sweethearts. Patti Samp, Heav-

enly's catering and special events coordinator, says couples can choose from several private and scenic settings overlooking Lake Tahoe and the Carson Valley. The staff carves chairs and a table out of the snow, lays out linens and fresh flowers, and turns on the music. On the slopes a Heavenly chef prepares the entree (filet mignon and salmon are popular) with fruit, soup, wine, bread, and dessert.

"The menu depends on what the people want," Samp says. "I can go as crazy as they like."

The romantic luncheon costs about \$100 per couple, depending on the menu, and requires at least a week's notice. Call Samp, 916-542-5153, for more information.—*Carolyn Graham*



Trey Stone and Marie Breen share a sideside feast at Heavenly.

THE BARGAIN ADVISOR

By Deke Castleman

One of the longest-running Nevada bargains, both in money and time, is getting united in **holy matrimony**. All you have to do is show up at one of the state's 17 county courthouses with your identification, your cash (\$35 for the license), and your presumptive spouse. There's no blood test, no waiting period, no third degree. Unless it's Valentine's Day, the whole licensing procedure takes five minutes. Then you stroll over to the nearby commissioner of civil marriages for no-frills, JP-type nuptials—again, no appointment necessary, no muss or fuss, just \$25 to \$30, a couple of rings, a couple of "I dos," and it's done. Try getting away with that in less enlightened locales.

It's winter in the high desert, and how much dough you spend to stay the night at the gambling resorts near the **ski resorts** is highly variable. In Reno, rooms are at their least expen-

sive for the year, with Sunday-through-Thursday deals at the major hotels going for \$25 and weekend rooms for as low as \$44. Downtown Reno is only 35 minutes from Mount Rose, 40 minutes from Northstar, 45 minutes from Diamond Peak, and an hour from Heavenly.

Now that it's chilly on the streets of Las Vegas, the second-most convenient no-cost way to get around (the first, of course, being the feet) are the **free buses** that run between various casinos. Shuttles leave the Fashion Show Mall and MGM Grand for Boulder Station, Palace Station, Fiesta, Boomtown, and Hard Rock. You can catch shuttles to the Rio from MGM and the Forum Shops at Caesars. Shuttles run between the California Hotel downtown and Sam's Town on the Boulder Highway, as well as be-



Treasure Island has a free monorail.

tween Sam's Town and the Stardust on the Strip. You can also go to and from Barbary Coast and Gold Coast, Polo Towers and Stratosphere. Free monorails run between the MGM Grand and Bally's and the Mirage and Treasure Island. □

Deke Castleman is managing editor of the Las Vegas Advisor, a monthly newsletter on the Las Vegas bargain scene.

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Ghost Town Etiquette



How we can help
preserve the rustic ruins
and relics of Nevada's
old mining camps.

By Stanley W. Paher

In her book *Ghosts of the Glory Trail*, Nell Murbarger dramatically described how Nevada's ghost town heritage can disappear. During a trip in 1948 Murbarger photographed the old mining town of Aurora,

25 miles southwest of Hawthorne over Lucky Boy Pass. Aurora had boomed between 1861 and 1881. An early resident was the young Mark Twain, who prospected for gold there and began writing dispatches to the *Territorial Enterprise* in Virginia City. By 1863 Aurora's population approached 10,000. When Murbarger visited 75 years later, the camp was entirely abandoned.

Nevertheless, Murbarger reported finding "more than 100 buildings of dwelling size and larger—35 of them substantial structures of brick and stone—were ranged along streets in the bottom of a V-shaped canyon.... Sagebrush stood more than man-high in those streets."

Aurora was a ghost town's paradise. Murbarger found long-abandoned homes open to the weather. Inside, she could see ornate furniture, trunks with old garments, and 50-year-old calendars on the walls. The brick



schoolhouse still had desks and dog-eared textbooks. "Everywhere we turned we were confronted by a wonderful wilderness of relics," she wrote. "In one day's time we could have loaded a railroad box car with material of museum caliber. Yet, the grandest relic of all was this priceless old town, herself!"

Soon afterward Murbarger heard that used-brick salvagers had invaded Aurora. When she returned to the town in 1953, she found only cellars, a few shacks, and piles of rubble. Litter choked the streets. Not one of the priceless brick structures had survived. All were gone—saloons, the courthouse, general stores, and brick mansions. The big-scale brick thieves had conquered.

Another well-known ghost town, Don Ashbaugh, wrote about the fall of Aurora in his weekly column for the *Las Vegas Review-Journal* in 1956. Regarding

the bricks that had been hauled away to Malibu and Orange County, Ashbaugh quipped, "I hope that every chimney made from Aurora brick smokes!"

The destruction of Aurora raises an important question for Nevada's desert explorers: How should we treat ghost towns and other historic sites?

Murbarger, who was an influential Western author in her day, admonished readers to abide by the Golden Rule and let a trained conscience be their guide. If an item appeared to be owned, leave it alone.

Today, most ghost towners and historic preservationists go a step further. Leave everything in place, they say, and take only photographs.

Disturbing a ghost town's buildings, undermining stone walls, or defacing mines and mills is both ethically and legally wrong. Such acts destroy the very attractions that lure us to ghost towns in the first place—photogenic ruins with stately trees and a blue Nevada sky as a backdrop, as well as the realization that here, before your eyes, is the Place Where It Happened. There is something magical about discovering that in this locality, amid the crumbling walls and weathered boards of Rawhide, is where prospectors once sought refuge in Tex Richard's saloon and outfitted themselves for weeks of prospecting in the general store. Or that

To a ghost town, there is something magical about discovering that this is the Place Where It Happened.

Jim Butler, the founder of Tonopah, once lived in a certain neighborhood of Belmont now covered with stone foundations and sagebrush.

Ghost towns, of course, date back to Nevada's earliest days. After the discovery of silver at Virginia City in 1859, dozens of mining camps sprang up in canyons and mountainsides far and near, only to be abandoned when the gold and silver mines began to fail. The result: the birth of ghost towns like Santa Clara, Yankee Blade, and Silver Hill. The last named was established in 1860 on the east flank of the Stillwater Range, 120 miles east of Virginia City. When Comstock newspaperman Dan De Quille visited Silver Hill only months later, he found the new town rather quiet—it was already deserted.

John Muir noticed such ghost camps

Western author Nell Murbarger (left) visited Aurora in 1948 when its Main Street (below) had a picturesque ghost town appearance. Soon afterward, brick scavengers virtually leveled the town. Far left: One of the miner's cabins in the old camp of Berlin in Berlin-Ichthyosaur State Park.



when he traveled through Nevada in the 1870s. Writing in the *San Francisco Bulletin* in 1879, the future founder of the Sierra Club observed that "the young state of Nevada is already strewn with ruins that seem as grey and silent and time-worn as if the civilization to whom they belonged had perished centuries ago." According to Muir, Nevada's dead mining camps then outnumbered the live ones five to one. In Big Smoky Valley the naturalist saw a tall, imposing chimney, complete with furnaces and walls. He wrote, "It seemed strangely out of place in the desert, as if it had been transported entire from the heart of some manufacturing town and left here by mistake."

For the rest of the 19th century and into the 20th, Nevada's dead towns lay scattered in the desert like the bones of cattle that had died of thirst. The *Saturday Evening Post* published an article about Aurora entitled "Ghost Cities of the West" in 1915. The author, a romanticist named Charles Van Loan, wrote of

The *Saturday Evening Post* story was likely the first major national article on "ghost cities," as they were called in those days.

Mark Twain and his wood-frame cabin at the lower end of town. (The structure was later moved to Reno's Idlewild Park, where scavengers dismantled it over the years.) Many mining historians agree that the *Saturday Evening Post* story was likely the first major national

article on "ghost cities," as they were called in those days.

But Nevada's 700 ghost towns were seldom visited until the emergence of the postwar automobile society in late 1940s. The public—mostly city dwellers eager to escape Nevada's and California's urban centers on weekends—learned about ghost towns from such writers as Murbarger, whose articles appeared in *Desert* magazine and Southwestern newspapers. Her book *Ghosts of the Glory Trail* (1956) was an instant success. Now a new hobby had been created—ghost town chasing.

At Las Vegas High School in the mid-1950s several friends and I caught the ghost town fever. We were looking for weekend adventure in the desert, and the ruins we discovered presented wonderful mysteries. What was life like in these abandoned towns? What kind of people sought their fortunes there? We imagined streets filled with wagons and horses as men and women scurried from houses to stables, from the news-

Good Haunting

The following ghost towns are among the most intriguing and accessible in the Silver State. Please be considerate of residents.

Rhyolite, near Death Valley National Park, is 125 miles northwest of Las Vegas and four miles west of Beatty. With three railroads and 5,000 residents in 1906-08, Rhyolite was a place of great promise. You can clearly see the three-story bank, a store, and many cellars on the town's main drag, Golden Street. The Friends of Rhyolite hold an annual festival in March.

Goodsprings, 37 miles southwest of Las Vegas off Interstate 15, peaked during World War I and today hangs on as a small community. The Pioneer Saloon is housed in a classic pressed-metal building. Two roads to the west lead to photogenic mines.

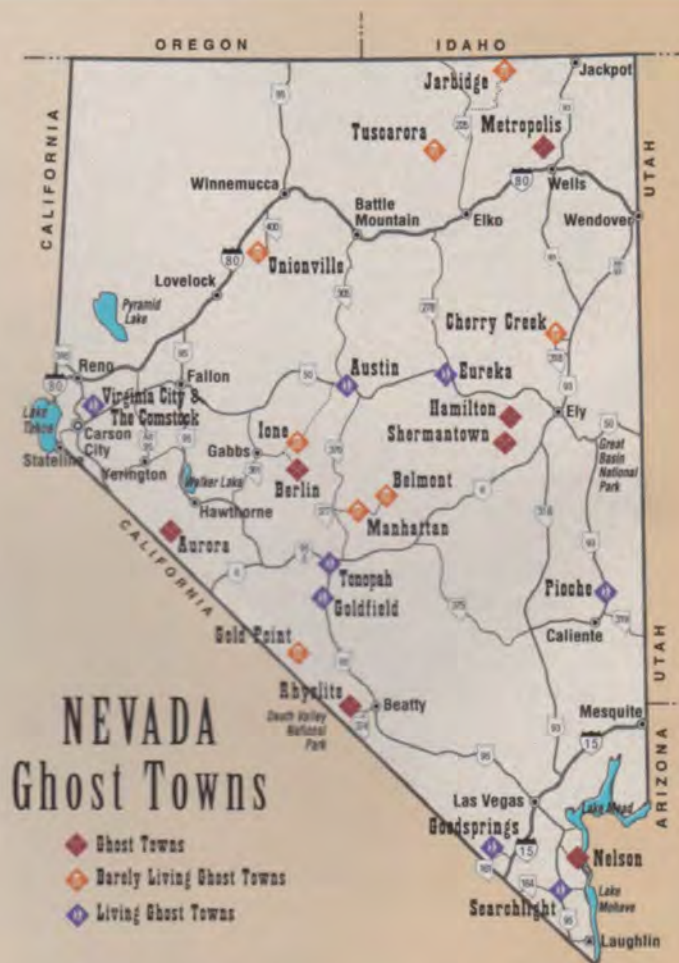
Belmont, 46 miles northeast of Tonopah, was founded after silver strikes in the late 1860s. The town has a dozen residents, a handsome two-story courthouse, and Nevada's best example of a ghost commercial street.

Manhattan is 49 miles north of Tonopah. A few active businesses, including two saloons, function in this picturesque mining town that dates from the early 1900s.

Unionville, 155 miles northeast of Reno off Interstate 80, has about 30 residents, many ruins, and a bed-and-breakfast inn. Nearby ghost towns are Star City, Santa Clara, Rochester, and Humboldt City.

Hamilton is 45 miles (10 dirt) west of Ely off U.S. 50. Here one finds new ruins—abandoned trailers from the 1980s—among the 19th-century remnants. High-centered vehicles can take dirt roads to nearby ghosts such as Treasure City, Shermantown, Eberhardt, and Monte Cristo.

Berlin, 23 miles east of Gabbs, has been preserved in a state



of arrested decay as a part of Berlin-Ichthyosaur State Park. Attractions include century-old miner's cabins, a rustic mill, a campground, and fossils of ichthyosaurs, sea-swimming creatures from the age of dinosaurs. Rangers regularly conduct tours.—Stanley W. Paher



The ruins of Rhyolite are dusted with snow where thousands sought their fortunes. Visitors can admire an old railroad depot and a bottle house.

paper office to the red-light district.

Our day outings led to camping trips. At dawn's first glow we would experience the rebirth of the town. Instead of miners and mule skinnors, we encountered chattering jays and astonished rabbits intruding upon the early-morning stillness. Suddenly the sun would leap over the mountains, and everything changed. It was warm again. As the sun moved above the horizon, the hills below our campsite awoke with colors and flowing shadows, creating a scene that held us in awe.

But I've also learned painful lessons from those outings. The curse of the ghost town explorer comes when you visit a ghost town, perhaps even less well known than Hamilton or Treasure City, and tell others about it. Back home, you show photos to your buddies. "Hey, that place is great!" they exclaim. "Where is it?" Weakened by flattery, you tell them.

A few months later you return to the ghost town. Some of its stone walls have been reduced to rubble. Enormous holes and dirt piles dot the former saloon district, as if huge ants had invaded. Wooden houses have been flattened. You feel resentful and cheated

by your "friends." Nearly every veteran ghost town has had a similar experience. There ought to be a law, and there is. Still, despite the efforts of preservationists, ghost towns continue to be mistreated.

There are several points of view among desert explorers regarding the removal of items from ghost towns. They tend to fall into three categories: preservationists, collectors who belong to treasure-hunting groups, and unscrupulous scavengers who try to cart off anything not nailed down.

Those over-eager souvenir hunters

**Authorities caught
a treasure digger
who virtually set up
a sales desk at
Shermantown, selling
recently dug items.**

who claim the desert belongs to "the people" usually find themselves in the direct fire of Bureau of Land Management and U.S. Forest Service personnel, who will move quickly against anyone taking machinery, ore cars, and wooden siding from historic sites. Officials are especially tough on anyone disturbing Indian camp or burial sites.

Recent examples include a Black Rock Desert excavator from Oregon who, over a period of many years, removed skulls from Indian grave sites; a treasure digger who virtually set up a sales desk at Shermantown ghost town, selling recently dug items; and a group that took an ore bucket from Mill Canyon in Eureka County. In the last case the violators were tracked down, the bucket seized, and fines levied.

Most history-minded visitors would never dream of such acts. But should you leave even small items like nails and bottles alone? Preservationists say yes, citing two federal laws, the Archaeological Resource Protection Act and the National Historical Preservation Act. Both laws have the noble purpose of safeguarding all objects, large and small, at historic sites.

Preservationists contend that the sur-



An old miner's cabin in Manhattan or Gold Point has as much legal protection as if it were located in a crowded city.

face collecting of coins, tokens, and bottles not only violates the law but also hinders the proper study of historic sites. Ronald M. James, the state's historic preservation officer, likens such removals to an individual entering a public library and removing attractive illustrations from a seldom-used book.

Discriminating relic hunters say that the laws' wording allows the collecting of tokens, bottles, and other small objects. Such relic hunters see themselves akin to sportsmen who hunt only in season.

Veteran ghost towners may debate the issue at length, but both groups seem to have the same object in mind: to leave Nevada's mining legacy for future generations to study and enjoy.

Certain rules of the road are worth remembering when you're traveling in Nevada's backcountry. With respect and safety in mind, following are 10 commandments to guide ghost town explorers:

- 1) Always respect private property. An old miner's residence in Manhattan or Gold Point has as much legal protection as if it were located in a crowded city. A "Keep Out" sign means just that. Leave all mine and mill buildings and machinery in place. Buildings used for occasional occupancy, such as a rancher's line camp, may be used in an emergency or bad weather. However, upon leaving you must replace any food or fuel used so that its owner will have the same convenience you did.

- 2) As you travel through range country and forested areas, leave each gate as you find it. Don't assume that an open gate ought to be closed; doing so might trap cattle on water-less range.

- 3) On dusty roads, drive slowly past parked vehicles. Also, watch for children. As you drive up a steep grade,



Top: Belmont dates to the 1860s and has one of the state's most intact commercial districts. **Above:** Manhattan, which boomed in 1906, still has a number of residents and a steeped church.



The silver town of Hamilton, established in 1868, was once the seat of White Pine County. Now the town has scattered but photogenic ruins.

like the one outside Jarbidge, yield to the vehicle descending (since you will have better control than the person coming down the hill).

4) Respect another person's camp—his tent, food supplies, and firewood. Also, do not leave or bury discards. Instead, pack them out.

5) As you approach an inhabited ghost town, stop well before the first occupied house, walk in, and introduce yourself to the owner. Tell him or her of your interest in exploring.

6) Obey all signs. Military bombing ranges are in continuous use. Obey all fire-season regulations.

7) Metal detectorists should consider joining a reputable prospecting, metal detecting, or archaeological club to learn the dos and don'ts of the pastime.

8) Keep your vehicle on existing

roads to avoid damaging plants and your car. Blazing your own trail by driving cross-country can result in a flat tire or your car getting stuck in sand. A desert road is always the shortest and safest route between two points; a road knows more than you do. If stranded,

With each vandalized building, another remnant of Western Americana is gone forever.

stay with your vehicle. If you must hike out for help, follow ravines downward to roads. They lead to safety.

9) Give others help if you can. Offer to drive to the nearest telephone to call for help. If the other party is stuck in sand, help pull him out only if your vehicle rests on safe ground.

10) Be prepared. Carry at least one fully inflated spare tire, jack, ax, and shovel. Let family or friends know where you're going and when you expect to return. (Counting on rescue by use of a cellular phone is never a substitute for proper planning.) Be sure your car is in good mechanical condition and the gas tank is filled to the brim. Carry water and emergency food. Don't use glass containers, sweet foods, sodas, and candy. To avoid snakebite, be

(Continued on page 69)

Pinnacle of Powder

In the Rubies,
the snow is fresh and
the runs are long.

Story by Kate Butler,
Photographs by Joe Royer

The skiers huddle quietly inside the metal bird as it lifts through a soft fog that hovers over the snow-covered pastures of Lamoille. Suddenly the helicopter breaks into the azure sky, and the passengers see their destination, the rugged peaks of the Ruby Mountains.

A few minutes later the skiers are standing on a high ridge as the chopper flies away. Snow clings to evergreens, and white slopes sweep downward to the valley. The skiers stare at the long run ahead—fresh, trackless, dry powder—as their bursts of breath frost and drift upward. For first-time heli-skiers, this is a pinnacle moment. It makes up for all the soggy gloves, crowded slopes, and painful tumbles on hardpack.

For nearly 20 winters Ruby Mountain Helicopter Skiing has been taking skiers by whirlybird into one of Nevada's most scenic ranges. During their three-day stay guests are guaranteed 39,000 vertical feet of skiing; each day they usually ski eight to 10 runs of about 2,000 vertical feet. Fees (\$2,400 to \$2,760) include three days' skiing and lodging and meals at Red's Ranch in Lamoille, 20 miles southeast of Elko. (Write Ruby Mountain Heli-Ski, Box 281192, Lamoille, NV 89828 or call 702-753-6867 for information.) Also included are the use of "fat" skis. Virtually all heli-skiers, including guides, use "fat" skis because their wide plane allows one to ski longer and easier through powder.

Some folks go to the Rubies for more than skiing, though. "A lot of good skiers go up there for the silence, the untracked snow, and the beauty they don't find elsewhere," says heli-ski guide Ed Licht of Lamoille. "It's so beautiful, the skiing is almost a side benefit." ▢

Kate Butler is a skier and resident of the bucolic Elko County community of Lamoille. Joe Royer, who also lives in Lamoille, is principal owner of Ruby Mountain Helicopter Skiing and a past Nevada contributor.





The skiers stare at the long run ahead—fresh, trackless, dry powder—as their bursts of breath frost and drift upward.



Above: Heli-skiers glide through powder in the Ruby Mountains southeast of Elko. Far left: Helicopter delivers skiers to the top. Left: An après-ski gathering at Red's Ranch.

the theme scene

Theme restaurants are mixing food and fantasy in the new Las Vegas.

By John L. Smith

Every time I drive by the Hard Rock Cafe in Las Vegas, I marvel at the giant guitar with the strummable strings and wonder how it must look to astronauts as they orbit the planet. Surely it must be visible from the upper stratosphere. "On your left is the Great Wall of China," a spaceman says, "and, for the love of Elvis, will you get a look at that big six-string."

That's the theme restaurant story in the new Las Vegas. It doesn't whisper a message—it twists and shouts. And you need to shout to be heard at the Hard Rock.

On Friday night, a typical conversation at the Hard Rock goes something like this:

Customer A: "HEY, THERE'S STEVIE RAY VAUGHAN'S GUITAR!"

Customer B: "WHAT? YOU LEFT YOUR KEYS IN THE CAR?"

Customer A: "I SAID, THERE'S STEVIE RAY VAUGHAN'S GUITAR!"

Customer B: "SURE, I'LL HAVE A DRINK FROM THE BAR!"

Loud music and ubiquitous artifacts are essential to the theme experience at the Hard Rock. Besides Stevie Ray's guit-fiddle, there are guitars signed and strummed by Lou Reed, Johnny Winter, Jerry Garcia, and dozens more. The place is so crammed with instruments and gold albums that it resembles a surrealistic music store.

The Hard Rock Cafe strikes a chord with loud music and rock memorabilia.

And an Elvis museum. The Hard Rock's bar is the ultimate in Las Vegas rock 'n' roll memories. It is dedicated to the King, of course.

Who were you expecting, Wayne Newton?

Don't worry about the bikers who park their Harleys out front. They're mostly yuppies and personal-injury attorneys.

nothing new to Las Vegas. On Sahara Avenue near the north end of the Strip stands the big, bronze bovine of the **Golden Steer** (384-4470), the sacred cow that has defined Las Vegas cuisine for 50 years. Filet mignon, New York cut, prime rib—if it hangs on a heifer, it's served at the Golden Steer with a baked potato the size of a football.

Another venerable theme restaurant

is the **Bachannal Room** (731-7731) at Caesars Palace. Here diners enjoy a Roman feast while maidens pour wine from long-necked carafes and offer shoulder massages for dessert. It's a setting suited to Caesars, one of the Strip's first theme resorts.

Caesars has two other noted theme eateries. The latest is **Caesars Magical Empire** (800-CP-MAGIC), where guests find catacombs and comedy, mystery and magicians at each table. A little suspension of belief goes a long way here as griffins peer intently from stone walls.

Your trek through the catacombs and back lasts two hours, making the Empire by far the most elaborate of the

The Hard Rock launched a trend toward lavishly themed restaurants in Nevada.

The cuisine is hip cafe with excellent turkey burgers. Throw in a Hard Rock Hurricane or Rock 'n' Roll Bloody Mary, and you will be ready to elbow Mick out of the way and sing lead vocals for the Rolling Stones. (Just don't take your show on the road.)

When restaurateur Peter Morton opened the **Hard Rock Cafe** (702-733-8400) on Paradise Road in 1990, it launched a trend toward lavishly themed restaurants in Nevada that continues to pick up steam. We're not talking glorified golden arches and waiters in goofy hats. The theme machine goes where few restaurants have boldly gone before, seeking new ways to add life to the dining experience. After all, even the best hot dog on the planet is only a loaf of bread and a pound of meat. But add plenty of loud music, upbeat servants, video screens, a rock 'n' roll hall of fame, or a Spielbergian submarine, and you have an experience worth remembering.

The medium is the message at themed eateries, and the message is delivered on T-shirts, caps, boxer shorts, and an astounding number of other items available in the gift shop. Retail sales are a major part of the theme-restaurant movement. Servers often hand you merchandise order forms before taking your food order. The result is not only millions in annual sales but also walking billboards for places like the Hard Rock, Planet Hollywood, Dive!, and the Fog City Diner.

The Hard Rock exemplifies another step in the process. The cafe's appearance in Las Vegas coincided with the rise of theme resorts like the Excalibur and Mirage. The Hard Rock's theme proved so successful that the eatery evolved into the 339-room Hard Rock Hotel and Casino in 1995.

Of course, themed restaurants are



Dive! burst onto the Strip with portholes, periscopes, and a sub-conscious theme.



Las Vegas' Planet Hollywood is filled with movie props and other mementoes.

city's theme experiences. Taking a cue from Hollywood's Magic Castle, the Empire offers professional magicians, table tricks, and special effects. While other establishments provide a scene,

Caesars Magical Empire offers a show. Where else does a wizard come with your entree?

Nearby, **Planet Hollywood** (791-7827) at the Forum Shops at Caesars takes the

movie-industry theme to its ultimate level. The restaurant's cinematic motif was created by former Hard Rock Cafe developer Robert Earl, but celebrity owners Sylvester Stallone, Arnold Schwarzenegger, Demi Moore, and Bruce Willis give the place its superstar identity.

If you're into movies, you have discovered Eldorado. Film memorabilia hangs everywhere at Planet Hollywood. The theme in the lava bar is monster movies from Freddy Krueger to *The Mummy*. The back bar features a mad scientist's laboratory. The non-scary cuisine runs toward gourmet pizza and superburgers, and the appetizers are tasty. Try them in the lava bar with a cup of bl-blood, or perhaps settle for a glass of Type A cabernet.

With its submarine facade protruding from the Fashion Show Mall on the Strip, the theme of **Dive!** (369-3483) is difficult to miss. Dreamed up by Holly-
(Continued on page 71)

Northern themes

Themes reign at these Reno-Tahoe restaurants.

You don't have to sing for your supper at **Johnny Rockets** (702-333-5200)—the waiters and waitresses will do that for you. The main attractions at this diner inside the Reno Hilton are the servers, who sing to oldies on the jukebox while they dish up malts and burgers. The shakes, made from real ice cream, are so thick your eyes bulge when you suck on the straw.

The **5 & Diner** (852-2111), four miles south of downtown Reno, harks back to the railroad dining cars that were once common in America. Sassy, gum-smacking waitresses roam the counter and booths as they serve burgers, sand-

wiches, chili, soup, shakes, and malts.

Northern Nevada has two **Planet Hollywoods**. At first glance, the Planets at Harrah's Reno (323-7837) and Caesars Tahoe (588-7828) seem strikingly similar, from the zebra-striped tablecloths to the movie props, photos, and TV screens covering the walls. But movie and television buffs will appreciate the memorabilia that is unique to each eatery. In Reno you can admire the dress that Barbara Stanwyck wore in *Big Valley* and Vanna White's letter "S" from *Wheel of Fortune*. At Lake Tahoe, you can check out the phone booth used in *Bill and Ted's Excellent Adventure* and an animatronic penguin from *Batman Returns*. Amid the sensory overload—TV screens blare movie clips and footage from Planet Hollywood openings—the food is pretty tasty. The grilled ranch chicken is juicy and comes with garlic mashed potatoes. The apple strudel, reportedly a recipe of the Terminator's mom, is delectable.

At **Trader Dick's** (356-3300) in John Ascuaga's Nugget, the decor and entrees are as exotic



Bruce Willis was center stage during the Planet Hollywood opening in Reno.



Trader Dick's brings the South Seas to Sparks.

as the fish swimming in the restaurant's 45-foot-long saltwater tank. Tiki gods and birds of paradise surround diners, who can choose from South Seas specialties as well as such drinks as the Volcano, complete with steam, and the Aku-Aku, a ginger and brandy flavored drink topped with a flaming sugar cube.—Carolyn Graham

PEOPLE PAGE

A boogeyman, beards, and a rich bouquet.

Stephen King: *Desperation* in Ely

Ely residents won't soon forget the day the Bangor Boogeyman rode into town. The sun glistened off the chrome of his Harley as he rumbled up Aultman Street, twisting his head slowly from side to side, scanning the storefronts. As he approached the Jailhouse Casino, he began dropping the gears and revving the brawny V-Twin engine. Children scurried to their mothers. Old men cowered in doorways. Songbirds dropped from the trees.

He kicked down the sidestand and peeled off his leather. Underneath was a black T-Shirt. On the back was his name: **Stephen King**.

The best-selling author from Maine made at least two trips to Eastern Nevada in the fall of 1994. The result was *Desperation*, another of King's terrifying tales, published last fall by Viking-Penguin.

In the book, *Desperation* is the name of a Nevada mining town located near U.S. Highway 50 and just a couple of miles from the gates of hell. The setting is loosely based on the old copper-mining town of Ruth, five miles east of Ely. The author of *The Shining* and *Misery* stayed in Ely during the research trip.

"He was very nice, but he wouldn't give autographs," recalls Melody



Hawkins, manager of Book Ends, where King paid a call during his visit. The author walked in, found a rack of his novels, signed them, and returned them to the rack. He also did his part for the state's economy, spending time at the Jailhouse pumping nickels and

quarters into the casino's slot machines.

Rich Hasler, whom King acknowledges in the book, was his consultant on mining and Nevada lore. Hasler is the senior geologist with BHP Copper in Ruth.

"He was full of questions about

This Dentist Nose

Jeff Kinner is a Las Vegas dentist with a nose for business. He has developed a fragrance that is so distinctive it sells for \$5,500 for a 1.7-ounce bottle.

Xuvia, as Kinner calls his fragrance, is sold only at Saks Fifth Avenue in Las Vegas. Clients include royal families in North Africa, Southeast Asia, and Thailand. "Some people are looking for the best and are willing to pay for it," Kinner says. Other sweet-smelling sales have been made to Fortune 500 and Las Vegas casino executives.

Kinner grew up in Las Vegas during the '60s and graduated from UNLV. He became a dentist and on the side formed his own skin-care and cosmetics company, developing a floral fragrance using exotic, natural oils—a rarity in the perfume industry. The result, a mixture of extremely expensive ingredients, came out smelling like a rose.

Preferring kids to kings and queens, Kinner recently forsook the jet-setter scene and became a pediatric dentist. "There's no pretense," says the perfumer, who still drives an old Ford pickup. "It's a good dose of reality."—Katherine McDonnell



Las Vegas Jeff Kinner's Xuvia was a royal success.



Award-Winning Whiskers

The bearded men of Virginia City say they have the best collective set of whiskers in Nevada, and they challenge anyone who disagrees to prove it next October on the steps of the State Capitol.

Virginia City's bearded bunch took home awards in three of eight categories at the annual Nevada Beard Contest on Nevada Day in Carson City. **John Hunt's** dense chin whiskers won the fullest-beard award, **Eldon "Red Dog" Corwin's** effort was deemed scruffiest of the lot, and **John Bartlett's** belly-length beard won him honors for the longest.

"When I came to Virginia City, I decided I'd do what I wanted to do," says Red Dog, a former Fallon resident who is retired. "I live the way I want to now."

Bare chins aren't in vogue these



Steve Carl (left) and John Bartlett on Nevada Day.

days in Virginia City, and the fellows with the long whiskers say they like it that way. "The type of people who live up here don't quite fit into the mainstream lifestyle," says Hunt, an artist. "Any given weekend I can dress up in old-time stuff, and the locals don't laugh at you and think you're weird."

He wore a short beard for years, but his wife, Hazel Wald-Hunt, encouraged him to let it grow. Hunt's beard is now about seven inches long. "It's easier to lead him around by it," says Hazel.—*Bob Kretschman*

what kind of nasty critters we have out here," Hasler recalls. Not surprisingly, the novel features spiders and scorpions that swarm and attack, buzzards that dive bomb human victims, and coyotes that menace people.

"He was about as awed with the mining operations as we were with his lifestyle," says Hasler of the celebrity scribe. While touring the mine, discussing rocks and explosives, the geologist asked King if he wanted to hear a true horror story. He did.

Hasler told him about the disaster at the nearby Chainman Mine. In 1872 an unstable mass of rock gave way, sealed the mine's entrance, and trapped between eight and 12 Chinese miners who had been working underground. The mine owners decided not to reopen the passage; since the mine had not been lucrative, they couldn't be bothered. Tragically, the Chinese men presumably died of suffocation.

"We mined that area, and we were on pins and needles expecting to find human bones," Hasler says. "We found some ore carts, but no bones."

King was fascinated by the story and adapted it as the central theme of the book. In his version, the Chinese miners are buried in a cave-in, and heartless mine bosses decide that the ground is too unstable to be worked. Rather than go to the trouble of rescuing the men, they dynamite the opening, sealing the workers in forever. Naturally, this attracts the attention of a nasty demon, who infests the mine shaft while waiting for someone to reopen it. Someone does, of course, and some very disturbing things begin to happen in *Desperation*. Nothing subtle, mind you. This is, after all, Stephen King. The local lawman has lost his mind and has taken to arresting people out on Highway 50, seemingly for

no reason, and tossing them into the town bucket. The hapless prisoners escape and wage war on the minions of darkness, and the ensuing crusade is led by a precocious young fellow who takes his orders directly from God.

Despite its daunting size, over 600 pages, *Desperation* is a pretty fast read. King maintains a taut line of suspense while tossing in highly intense characters, a bleak Nevada landscape, and a couple of blood-crazed monsters from the infernal pit.—*K.J. Evans*

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Valets like those at the MGM Grand (above) offer door-to-door service between your car and the casino.

A Wheel Deal

Valet parking lets you check your car at the door. **By Deke Castleman**

In the beginning was the car. And the car spawned muffler shops, drive-up windows, chase scenes, Los Angeles, demolition derbies, assembly lines, traffic reports, Hot August Nights, breathalyzers, and other phenomena vital to social stability and the general state of affairs. But of all the byproducts of the automobile, one of the most useful—and underappreciated—is valet parking.

Knowing the ins and outs of valet parking is helpful in any big city, but it's especially salutary in Las Vegas and Reno. Valet parking allows easy entry into hotel-casinos, especially the megaresorts, for people who have disabilities, safety concerns, or a need to get to the tables as quickly as possible. It also provides a measure of security for your car. Elsewhere, most establishments charge a hefty premium for the service. Throughout Nevada, however, valet parking is a comp, free to anyone who shows up.

Well, it's close to free. Most people know that they are expected to tip the valet-parking attendant, same as they would a bellman, waitress, or cab driver. Normally one hands the tip to the attendant at departure time, when he or she delivers the car back to the valet-parking area. "Almost everybody will

**Throughout Nevada,
valet parking is a
comp, free to anyone
who shows up.**

throw a dollar or two at you," says Michael Mongold, who parks cars at the Silver Legacy in Reno. "It's the rare stiff that doesn't hand you something."

But the \$1 tip has been standard for too long, according to Mike Riordan, a longtime Las Vegas who financed his

education at Nevada Southern University (now UNLV) with a valet job at the Golden Nugget. "Valets today are making the same buck-a-car that I made in 1966," Riordan says. "The minimum you should tip is a deuce, and if you're a sport, a nickel [\$5]."

In the good old days, according to Riordan, getting a job as a valet attendant required some heavy juice but was well worth it. By themselves, three or four track stars could handle even a busy weekend-night shift at a major Strip hotel. They motored on two legs or four wheels between the port-cochere and the parking lot nonstop for eight hours and made a whole lot of money. "Of course, we had to duke off a good percentage of the tokes to whoever juiced us in, and that cash got sliced across many tiers," says Riordan. "It's different today, especially at places like the MGM Grand with four valet lanes, cars lined up 10 deep, and a dozen attendants driving cars back and

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forth from parking lots that are underground or a quarter-mile away."

In the old days any valet attendant worth his Converse high-tops knew you by your name, your make and model, or your last tip—so if you had parked in valet once, you could expect good service the next time. Today it's a little different. The following tricks of the trade will help you negotiate the valet-parking experience.

First, valet parking is never full, even when a sign—or a valet—says so. If you're a guest of the hotel, have reservations at a show or restaurant, or are attending an affair, a valet should take your car. If you're not a guest, or if the valet stands firm, ask if there's a "\$5 parking spot" (on a normally busy night), a "\$10 spot" (for a concert or at

**Flash some cash,
and parking magic
will occur before
your very eyes.**

show time), or even a "\$20 spot" (on a fight night or New Year's Eve). Flash some cash, and parking magic will occur before your very eyes.

If you're running in and out of a hotel to meet a friend or to place a sports bet, a \$5 bill will usually persuade a valet to hold your car out front. What if you're staying for the evening but don't want a valet to drive your car at all? If it's a fancy car, and if the place has enough parking out front, and if you offer up a \$20 bill, you might have a chance. Otherwise, drop off your passengers at the door and park it yourself.

Finally, hang onto your claim check. If you lose it, someone could find it and try to steal your car. Valet attendants take precautions against this scenario, such as writing your name on their portion of the receipt and double-checking when you reclaim your wheels. If you show up without your stub, not to worry. You're ushered into the valet booth to identify your keys, and then an attendant checks your ID against the car's registration.

"When that happens," Michael Mongold suggests, "an extra buck in the hand is appropriate." □

Deke Castleman, author of the guidebooks Nevada Handbook and Las Vegas, always tips at least a deuce but admits he usually uses self parking.

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Ghost Town Etiquette

(Continued from page 15)

careful where you place hands and feet. Watch where you drop your feet as you get out of the car.

Of course, we must respect ghost towns themselves. Anytime an overzealous and misdirected relic hunter dismembers an old building or desecrates a grave, another remnant of Western Americana is gone forever. The ghost townner must ask himself, if objects are removed and hauled back to the city, will they bring more pleasure than merely taking a picture of them in their natural setting? Conscientious ghost townners obey all laws and harbor in their hearts a strong desire to preserve historic places for others to enjoy.

We will never see the ghost of Mark Twain's Aurora that Nell Murbarger saw a half-century ago. Still, we can help preserve the hundreds of other ghost towns that are still protected by remoteness, good fortune, and our good care. □

The author of 19 ghost town and historical books on the desert Southwest, Stanley W. Paher of Reno is working with KC Publications of Las Vegas as series editor of a projected 13 volumes on Western mining camps.

Ghost Writers

The following authors offer good guides for ghost-town travels around Nevada.

Don Ashbaugh, *Nevada's Turbulent Yesterday*, 1963, 346 pages, \$19.95, Westernlore Press, Tucson. The choice harvest of the author's 1950s columns on ghost towns in the *Las Vegas Review-Journal*.

Mickey Broman, *Nevada Ghost Town Trails*, 1985, 80 pages, \$5.95, Gem Guides, Baldwin Park, California. Quick reference with maps and pictures of 90 ghost towns.

Deke Castleman, *Nevada Handbook*, fourth edition 1996, 473 pages, \$16.95, Moon Publications, Chico, California. This comprehensive guidebook includes ghost town stops.

Shawn Hall, *Ghost Towns and Historic Sites of Eureka, Lander, and White Pine Counties*, 208 pages, \$15.95, Nevada Publications, Reno and Las Vegas. Describes the history and condition of Eastern Nevada ghost towns. Also *Ghost Towns and*

Historic Sites of Nye County, \$19.95. For ghost town trips out of Tonopah.

Richard Moreno, *Nevada's Living Ghost Towns*, 1994, 30 pages, \$4.95, Nevada Magazine. Digest-sized guide visits survivors such as Austin, Eureka, and Pioche.

Nell Murbarger, *Ghosts of the Glory Trail*, 1956, 291 pages, \$14.95, Nevada Publications, Reno and Las Vegas. Intimate glimpses into 225 Nevada ghost towns with extensive coverage of the top 40.

Stanley W. Paher, *Nevada Ghost Towns and Mining Camps*, 1970, 500 pages, \$44.95, Nevada Publications, Reno and Las Vegas. Nevada's all-time best-selling history book has 710 old-time photographs. Also, an updated companion *Illustrated Atlas*, 1996, 208 pages, \$24.95.

David W. Toll, *The Complete Nevada Traveler*, sixth edition 1996, 256 pages, \$14.95, Gold Hill Publishing. The *Traveler* reviews the state's mining history and visits numerous ghost towns.—Stanley W. Paher

Dangerous Mines

The danger of entering old mines was evident last Labor Day weekend when two men died due to "bad air" while exploring a mine tunnel in Virginia City. Music teacher John Montgomery of Virginia City and postal clerk Jon Reece of Winters, California, suffocated in the New Savage Mine after they encountered a pocket of air that was extremely low in oxygen—a common danger in old mines.

Although ghost-town explorers may find abandoned mines photogenic and romantic on the surface, the rustic workings are not so friendly on the inside. On average,

one person dies in an old Nevada mine each year.

"The mines are totally passive hazards. Only when people go inside are they in danger," says Doug Driesner, mining services director with the Nevada Division of Minerals. "Our motto is 'stay out and stay alive.'"

Mine hazards are numerous, Driesner says. People often fall down shafts. An unlucky explorer can drown in a water pool. Old dynamite sticks and caps may explode. Ladders break. Timbers fall. Rattlesnakes lie in the cool darkness. Even minor vibrations can cause a cave-in. And, as in the tragic incident in Virginia City, there is the risk of "bad air" that has poisonous gases or too little oxygen.

Driesner and colleagues have catalogued about 6,800 abandoned mines; about 4,000 have been secured. However, officials estimate

there might be as many as 50,000 open mine workings in Nevada. Contact the Nevada Division of Minerals, Department of Business and Industry, 400 West King Street, Suite



The sign means it: Do not enter.

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Patty Sheehan on Golf by Patty Sheehan and Betty Hicks, Taylor Publishing, Dallas, TX 75235. 206 pages, \$19.95 hardcover LPGA star and Reno resident Patty Sheehan offers insights on the perfect golf swing through entertaining anecdotes and step-by-step photos. Betty Hicks, an LPGA founding member, balances the book with commentary on Sheehan's 16 years on tour and her humanitarian work.

A Guide to Rock Art Sites, Southern California and Southern Nevada by David S. Whitley. Mountain Press Publishing Company, Missoula, MT 59806. 232 pages, \$20 softcover Anthropologist David Whitley has written a guide to 38 prehistoric rock-art sites, including a half dozen in Southern Nevada.

California Trail: Voyage of Discovery, The Story Behind the Scenery by Charles H. Dodd. KC Publications, Las Vegas, NV 89120. 64 pages, \$7.95 softcover This attractive and readable book on the Emigrant Trail includes color photographs by Jeff Gnass. The book retraces the route between Missouri and California used by pioneers from 1841 to the early 1870s. The author tells why the trail's Nevada section was the most difficult part of the journey.

—Richard Moreno, David Moore

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the theme scene (Continued from page 20)

wood hitmaker Steven Spielberg (and partly owned by the Mirage's Steve Wynn), Dive! is the ultimate submarine-sandwich shop.

Hold it a minute. Dive! is a sandwich shop?

Fact is, Dive! is to sub shops what Caesars Palace is to Motel 6. Dive! is what might have resulted had Walt Disney been best friends with Jacques Cousteau.

became of catsup. The food is more expensive, but more interesting, than at the Hard Rock.

At the **Country Star American Music Grill** (740-8400), the menu declares, "It ain't country till it cooks." In reality, it ain't country till you are intoxicated by the dreamy pungence of hickory-smoked ribs and chicken served in generous portions. Country-western stars Vince Gill and Reba McEntire are in-

Country singers drop by the restaurant to be honored with "star booths."



Country Star patrons marvel at videos, the Elvis Room, and Dolly Parton's dress.

The submarine-theme interior goes 20,000 leagues over the top. Every 55 minutes, the whole place goes into dive mode with sirens, flashing lights, water spouts, and bubbles, bubbles, bubbles. Porthole television screens simulate submersion, and customers experience everything but seasickness. The water-themed rock and reggae music is nonstop.

At Dive!, even the fries have attitude. They are served on a festive funnel with an array of condiments—herb, barbecue, you name it—that will have traditionalists wondering whatever

vestors in the Los Angeles-base chain, and chart-topping singers drop by the Strip restaurant, some to be honored with "star booths." On Sundays a gospel group adds soul to brunch.

Country Star's gift shop has its own giant guitar and T-shirts bearing the smiling faces of country singers. After a big barbecue-rib dinner and genuine peanut-butter pie for dessert, you might not be able to go line dancing after supper.

The newest and arguably coolest of the hopping theme restaurants is the **Motown Cafe** in New York-New York

'50s diners

Cruising several Las Vegas-area diners.

When it comes to '50s cafes, the **Happy Days Diner** (702-294-2653) in Boulder City is the real thing, the kind of place where kids spent hours sharing one plate of French fries so they could feed the jukebox instead of themselves. Built in 1934, the restaurant settled on a permanent theme about four years ago, incorporating rock 'n' roll and Coca-Cola memorabilia.

In Mesquite, **Peggy Sue's** (346-5232) is a '50s hangout at Si Redd's Oasis. The decor and music are authentic, as are the milkshakes.

Several Las Vegas casinos have glitzy reproductions of '50s diners. At **Mary's Diner** (456-7777) in Sam's Town, the jukebox is loaded with Elvis Presley songs, offering the perfect accompaniment to Mary's Big Belly Bomber, an eight-ounce, mouth-stretching burger slathered in Mary's No Big Secret Sauce.

The booths in **Joe's Diner** (736-0111) at the Aladdin have jukebox selectors for easy access to tunes. It's also fun to sit at the counter and watch the soda jerks make elaborate sundaes.

At **Ralph's Diner** (732-6111) in the Stardust, waitresses in poodle skirts do the handjive while serving such '50s delectable as sliders (mini-hamburgers) and chocolate milkshakes. The decor features a black-and-white checkered floor.

Through adroit use of karaoke, waiters and waitresses sing at **Roxy's Diner** (382-4446) in the Stratosphere and coax diners to try the hula hoop. Roxy's not only is entertaining but also gets high marks for its meatloaf dinner.

The **Roadhouse** (564-1150), a Route 66-themed casino in Henderson, exhibits memorabilia beginning with the '20s and '30s in its restaurant. Live music nightly except Monday leaves the dancing to the patrons in the Cadillac Lounge.—Ann Henderson

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The barnyard theme at Holy Cow! is accented by an award-winning brewery.

(740-6969). This eatery is the Hard Rock with a Motor City rhythm that will have you humming Aretha Franklin tunes the moment you walk through the door. The menu isn't flashy, but the walls are covered with the discs and images of Motown stars from the Jackson Five to Marvin Gaye.

You can find a number of home-grown theme eateries in the valley. On the Strip at Sahara stands the **Holy Cow!** brewery (732-2697), developed by Wisconsin native and longtime local Tom Wiesner. The barnyard theme is highlighted by an award-winning brewery with pints of smooth ales and wheat beer for under \$3. Wiesner's other bar-restaurants include Big Dog's with its bowser theme and the Draft House with horse and cow motifs.

Jungle wildlife is the theme at **Hippo and the Wild Bunch** (731-5446) across Paradise Road from the Hard Rock. Before dinner, try a Hippotizer. Another equatorial experience is the **Safari Club** (648-1925) with its bamboo decorations and tiki masks, near UNLV.

The '50s are alive at several diners in Las Vegas and also in the appropriate small-town atmospheres of Boulder City and Mesquite (see page 71).

Meanwhile, yet another wave of restaurants—excuse me, cafes—is riding the theme *tsunami* into Las Vegas. The **Rain Forest Cafe** plans to enhance the Stratosphere's environment. The **Harley-Davidson Cafe** is rolling into a Strip location. The **Fashion Cafe**, based on the humdrum, everyday lifestyle of supermodels, should be striding down a runway soon. The new Showcase Mall near the MGM Grand will house two theme joints: **Marvel Mania**, for comics lovers, and the **Official All Star Cafe**, direct from Manhattan with lots of photos and other reminders of owners Andre Agassi (a Vegas resident), Wayne Gretzky, Ken Griffey Jr., Joe Montana, Shaquille O'Neal, and Monica Seles.

If your senses have been overwhelmed by super-theme restaurants, drop by the **Fog City Diner** (737-0200) on Flamingo Road a few blocks west of the Strip. It offers a touch of San Francisco without getting stuck at the airport.

In Las Vegas, where 30-story glass pyramids constitute architectural un-

derstatement, the Fog City Diner has taken awhile to attract the attention of tourists wide-eyed over \$4.99 buffets. Fog City, originated in San Francisco and replicated in Las Vegas, Dallas, and Osaka, Japan, has dark mahogany, leather booths, a Mexican-onyx bar, and an eclectic wine list. The restaurant

is upscale but not stuffy, offering fresh oysters, steamed clams, hot basil bread, and Anchor Steam on tap.

Maybe it's the tasty strains of Coltrane played at a seductive level, or the top-shelf collection of single-malt scotches, or the fresh fish and the ubiquitous steaks and chops, but I think Fog City is destined to find its place in Sin City. □


John L. Smith, a Las Vegas Review-Journal columnist, blew his diet for the next two years during this assignment. He likes the music at the Hard Rock, but the waitresses get mad when he insists on dancing.

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Martinez created a hairy Victorian valentine with cupid in 1989. He says this heart is his favorite.



King of Hearts

Virginia City artist Edw Martinez shows 25 years of valentines.

By A.C. Turman

St. Valentine's Day is a hairy holiday for Edw Martinez. For the past 25 years the University of Nevada, Reno art professor has produced screen-printed "hairy heart" valentines that he sends to women coworkers, friends, and other worthy recipients throughout Nevada and beyond. Many of the recipients anticipate the mail every February 14 for a look at love's labors for the year.

The hairy-heart tradition started one February day in 1973 after Martinez made a quick sketch in class. "It was a class demonstration," recalls Martinez, who spells his first name Edw ("Ed with a silent 'w'") in the art world. "You know, to encourage students to be creative, to just go ahead and do it." A student pointed out that the scribbles looked like a heart with hair. The class made about 15 prints of the

sketch, and Martinez gave them to friends and colleagues around campus for St. Valentine's Day. The rest, as they say, is art history.

Martinez' hearts have appeared in many styles and guises, from an embellished Victorian valentine to an anatomically correct version. "That year, the heart prints kinda scared some people," the Virginia City resident chuckles. "They thought I was talking about my death or something." He wasn't, of course. He had adapted the design from an anatomical drawing in an old medical text.

The hearts are so popular that, in a few families, four generations of women receive them each year. "I'll send one to a friend, then her mother'll ask for one, then her daughter likes them, and then the daughter's daughter may get one as

a newborn gift. In fact, one gallery owner describes me as the most-collected artist in Nevada," he quips.

Although the list of hairy-heart collectors grows annually, probably the only woman who has every print from day one is Martinez' wife, Kay. "I print a special edition for her each year in a special size," he says. "I call it the 'boutique' size since they fit in the spaces above the doors in our house."

A well-known printmaker, Martinez grew up in Vallejo, California, and attended the university in Reno. "I did my undergrad work primarily in journalism and skiing, and neither worked out," he explains. After reporting for the *Reno Evening Gazette*, he studied printmaking in graduate school at the University of Iowa. In 1968, Martinez joined the University of Nevada art department, where he has been chair since 1991.

A volume of his valentines, *Straight From the Heart*, will be published by the university's Black Rock Press to commemorate the hearts' silver anniversary. The book is scheduled to be ready in time for a gallery show at the university. From February 14 to 27, Martinez' hairy hearts—all 25 of them, and more—will be featured in a "Straight From the Heart" exhibit at the Sheppard and McNamara galleries in the Church Fine Arts Building (call 702-784-6658 for information). An artist's reception will be held Friday, February 14—St. Valentine's Day, of course. In Las Vegas, one can see adaptations of Martinez' hearts on permanent display at the Rio Suite Hotel. □

A.C. Turman is a Virginia City writer and art connoisseur



Martinez made the original hairy heart (left) during a class demonstration in 1973. The artist and his hearts, including the anatomical pumper (below), are featured in a new book and gallery show in February.



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100 YEARS OF ROUGHING IT

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

BY GUY SHIPLER

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

From the first, the Capitol's stately contours provided an impressive backdrop for the governors, secretaries of

state, and other officials whose offices were located there. But the legislators, who met in the building for two months every two years, discovered that their second-floor chambers had high ceilings and tall windows—but little working space beyond their desk tops.

The result: For a full 100 years, from the first session held in the Capitol in 1871 until they got a building of their own in 1971, the legislators labored in Carson City in a unique intimacy. They could hardly tell the difference in the

crowded hallways between their colleagues and hangers-on, witnesses, and lobbyists. This atmosphere didn't lend itself to the kind of dignity associated with legislatures elsewhere. Indeed, Nevada's lawmakers became noted for at least a casual and more often a kind of raucous behavior in and out of the theoretically hallowed halls.

Some extra space was provided when the Legislature in 1913 authorized the addition of two wings to the Capitol, in part to create new chambers for the Senate and Assembly at oppo-



Having no offices, members of the Assembly worked closely together in the Capitol. Lawmakers moved to today's legislative building in 1971.

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

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

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

What did the other committees do for meetings? Usually they met in any free corner they could find. The lucky ones met in the most spacious area—the press table in the Assembly chamber. But that depended on the reflexes of the committee chairmen.

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

Cramped quarters didn't matter as much in those days, however. Even as recently as the 1950s legislative life was relatively calm and uncomplicated.

"There was a lot of card playing when I first came down," recalled Swackhamer. "At that time the state lived entirely off the property tax, so the legislators would get together and appropriate a little bit of money here and little bit there. They'd pass a few laws, then play cards for a while. Finally they'd go back and make some more appropriations and go home in 60 days."

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



*True to the
free-wheeling
character
of the Legislature
in the Capitol,
UPI reporter
Bob Bennyhoff took
advantage of voice
votes in the Assembly
by shouting his own
"Yes" or "No"
from the press table.*

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

It took quite a while for things to improve. James I. Gibson of Henderson remembered his first session as an assemblyman in 1959 with a sense of wonder. It was still like camping out.

"The main thing I recall is that there were no facilities for anything," he said. "I was the first committee chairman ever to get a secretary to take minutes,

and I had to arrange for that myself.

"Also, in the those early days, the Legislature would allow lobbyists to come right onto the floor when we were in session to push their interests with individual legislators. I remember one time when we had a bill up to do away with the right-to-work law. When it came up for a vote, the labor lobbyists came in and sat down right next to their doubtful or questionable representatives."

When legislators got themselves trapped in such a situation, the only way out usually was to be absent when the bill came up for a vote. That took some doing, especially when there was a "call of the house," a procedural mechanism requiring all members to be present.

The most celebrated case of that kind took place in the 1969 session. Richard Bryan (now a U.S. senator) was a freshman assemblyman from Las Vegas. Bryan remembered, "A highly controversial bill was up for a vote, and there had been a call of the house, and to make sure that all members would stay in the chamber, the sergeant at arms had even fastened a chain across the entrance.

"But when the roll call began, a legislator from Mesquite suddenly leaped out of his chair—it was literally like the Christmas fairy tale—and ran to the window which was only a few feet from his desk. The window flew open, and he jumped out and climbed down the fire escape on that very snowy day. Howard McKissick, who was speaker that year, shouted, 'Come back! Come back! You can't do that!' The reluctant legislator, who immediately came to be known in the press as 'the Mesquite Mosquito,' had no choice. He did come back, and he had to vote."

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

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

"The Legislature was much more informal in the Capitol Building than it is today," Bryan said. "And I don't think

"100 Years of Roughing It" by Guy Shieler originally appeared in Nevada Magazine's Jan/Feb '87 issue.

When he was six years old, Guy Shipler lost his left ring finger while playing with a papercutter in the office of his hometown's newspaper, and the infusion of ink was part of him ever after. "So you could say journalism is in my blood," joked the Carson City writer.

Politics was in his blood, too. Guy Shipler, who died last March at 82, was one of Nevada's most respected writers and political commentators. A correspondent for *Time*, he covered the past 20 Nevada Legislatures and wrote a weekly column for Carson's *Nevada Appeal*, the *Henderson Home News*, and other newspapers.

Guy also was a popular contributor to *Nevada Magazine*. Readers enjoyed his stories on millionaire Max Fleischmann, billionaire Howard Hughes, the Blizzard of '52, and Nevada's frontier-style politics. The story reprinted here, "100 Years of Roughing It," first appeared 10 years ago in the magazine.

Guy enjoyed the give and take of the legislative process and the no-holds-barred quality of Nevada politics. "When I'd send my campaign stories to *Time* in New York, they would hardly believe the candidates' quotes," he once recalled with a laugh. "They often didn't understand Nevada back East."

Guy, in fact, was from back East. "I had the reputation of being a little dandyish when I first came to Nevada from New York City in 1956," said Shipler, known for his trademark fedora, "but I didn't feel like I was really going to work unless I put on a jacket and tie."

He grew up in New Jersey, where his

A CAPITAL GUY

Guy Shipler covered 20 sessions of the Nevada Legislature.

BY SHARON CARTER



Guy Shipler talks with John F. Kennedy during a Young Democrats convention in the 1950s. Due to a mixup, Shipler and photographer Don Dondero were the only ones on hand to greet the future president at the Reno airport.

minister father ran an Episcopalian monthly magazine, and California, where he went to military school. In 1936, fresh from Hobart College with a degree in English, he unsuccessfully sought a reporter's job in Manhattan. After working on his father's publication, *The Churchman*, he landed a position at *Newsweek*. Later he moved to *Time* and then to a new magazine, *Business Week*. He often worked 16 hours a day. During those years in New York he married three times. By his first wife he had one child, his son David.

After Guy visited Washoe Valley to get a divorce, he began considering the

advantages of the Western life. Then in 1956 he gathered stringer assignments from *Time* and *Sports Illustrated* and moved to Nevada.

"My friends thought I was crazy, leaving New York at the height of my career," he said, adding, "The pressure was intense, and I had achieved my goals, and I wasn't happy. I looked around for something else, something more. I found it out here."

Working in his office downstairs in the Capitol press room, he freelanced for 40 years, a remarkable run for a newsman—in Carson City, no less. He and his wife Marian, who died in 1995, were married for most of three decades. Besides his column, editing, and radio work, he wrote the book *Nevada: Golden Challenge in the Silver State* and served as chairman of the Nevada Judicial Discipline Commission, although as a journalist he didn't relish the spotlight. A few years ago he was pleased but

also a bit embarrassed when he was assigned his own parking place, with a nameplate, behind the Capitol.

However, he was immensely proud when his son David, a former *New York Times* reporter, won the Pulitzer Prize for nonfiction for his book *Arab and Jew* in 1987.

Guy loved politics and writing deeply. Ever the working journalist, he was composing his weekly column the night before his final trip to the hospital. The letterhead on his office notepad read, "Screw the Golden Years."

Sharon Carter is a Nevada Appeal reporter.

there was as much partisanship then as now.... Naturally we had to deal with partisan issues often. But we didn't seem to have to try from day one to build a record to defeat so-and-so, or plot how to maintain our control, or strive to create a political issue that would work to our advantage."

Leola Armstrong, who spent 32 years working for the Legislature as a secretary, minute clerk, assistant secretary of the Senate, and finally its secretary, said, "It was the best job I ever had." Even though she worked in the

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

Mouryne (Landing) Dini, chief clerk of the Assembly, who started work there in 1965 (and retired after the 1995 session), said that even though things

were much more efficient in the new building, she felt a touch of nostalgia. "I remember that the chambers were situated so I could stand at the front desk in the Assembly and look down the hall and I could see whether the Senate was in session. I miss that."

Some people also miss the Old West atmosphere, which has not carried over to the new building. The chambers are on the first floor now, but it would be impossible for anyone to escape through a window. As in most modern buildings, the windows resist all at-

tempts to open them, so it would be hard for some new Mesquite Mosquito to break out.

But there are important practical aspects of the newer quarters. The building has 96,000 square feet of usable space (which is increasing to 185,000 square feet with its 1996-1997 expansion), as opposed to about 5,000 square feet in the old chambers. There is space for each committee, a 300-seat meeting room for hearings, and an office for each of the 63 legislators. The Legislative Counsel Bureau, which had been a closet stepchild in the Capitol, has 150 full-time employees and 150 part-timers who work during the biennial sessions.

Nostalgia? Yes, there might be a little, Senator Gibson said, but the changes in Nevada and its government have been so drastic that "I don't think the Legislature could function today under the strictures we had in the Capitol Building. I certainly wouldn't want to return to what it was like."

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

The 1997 Session

The Nevada Legislature begins its biennial session on January 20 in Carson City. As required by the State Constitution, the Legislature meets every odd-numbered year, opening on the third Monday in January. Since 1971, lawmakers have met in the Legislative Building south of the Capitol. (Arizona and North Carolina are the only other states whose legislatures meet in buildings separate from their state capitols.) Nevada has 63 legislators—21 in the Senate and 42 in the Assembly.

Visitors are welcome at the Legislature, which recently has undergone an expansion and facelift. In the lobbies you can obtain a free brochure and learn how to attend hearings and floor sessions.

It's also possible to visit the old chambers upstairs in the Capitol. The Assembly room is used for events and meetings, while the Senate houses a free museum.

—Dana R. Bennett

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Love Locked

Lovelock is the marriage capital of Pershing County? By Richard Moreno



Lovelock has an unusual, round courthouse and a romantic-sounding name.

In 1992, the actor Kelsey Grammer, star of the television show *Frazier*, was married in Lovelock. The ceremony was low-key, without paparazzi or reporters from *Entertainment Tonight*.

"It was a very quiet thing," recalls Donna Giles, Pershing County clerk and treasurer, who issued Grammer's marriage license. "I remember him sitting there in the chair, and I thought to myself, 'My, he looks familiar.'"

The event didn't unleash a flood of celebrity weddings in Lovelock—perhaps because Grammer's marriage to Leigh-Anne Cshany lasted only a year—but it did draw attention to the small agricultural community with the romantic-sounding name. In fact, for years Lovelock boosters distributed bumper stickers that depicted a big, red heart pierced by a padlock in an attempt to attract the marriage trade.

So couples must flock to Lovelock to get married on St. Valentine's Day, right? Not exactly. Last year, the county recorded seven weddings in February.

"Reno and Las Vegas do more weddings in an hour than we do in a month," Giles notes. She says the monthly average is six, and June, with a

near-record 10 nuptials in 1995, is the most marrying month.

Location is one reason Lovelock is not yet a marriage capital. Lovelock is located on Interstate 80 about halfway between Reno and Winnemucca. Most people with an itch to get hitched get married long before reaching the town that was promoted in the 1930s as "America's Valley of the Nile."

Grammer selected Lovelock because a friend knew the district judge, the late Llewellyn Young, brother of Nevada Supreme Court Justice Cliff Young. But many out-of-towners choose Lovelock for wedlock because of its name, which derives from rancher George Lovelock, who donated land for a townsite in 1869. For newlyweds today, "Lovelock" on a marriage certificate is a reminder that they are forever locked in love.

Another attraction for marriage-minded couples is the Pershing County Courthouse. Built in 1921 and designed by prominent Reno architect Frederick DeLongchamps, the court-

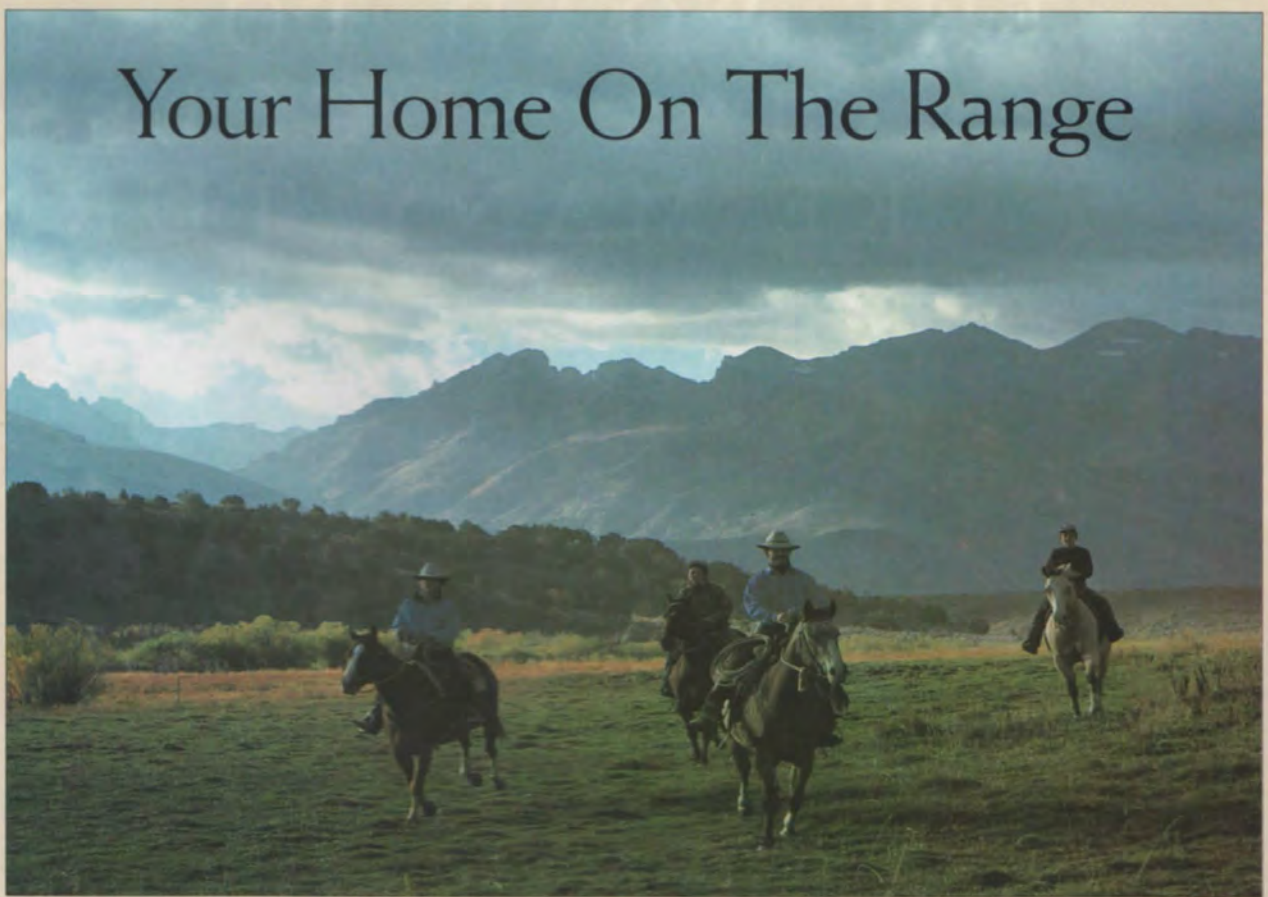
house is round. "It has its own acoustics," Giles points out. "Sound doesn't come out like it normally does." Curiously, the circular shape of the courtroom—where most weddings take place—makes it easier for a judge to hear people speaking from the side than the center. On the other hand, the roundness allows a jury to see everything that goes on in the courtroom. "It's very unique, and we're proud of it," Giles says.

Surrounding the round courthouse is a park with shade trees, picnic tables, and a playground. The park is a popular spot for outdoor weddings.

There's even an old joke about getting married in the Lovelock courthouse. In a moment of weakness, a frequently bickering couple decided to tie the knot in the curved quarters of the courthouse—and they've been going 'round and 'round ever since. □

Richard Moreno is Nevada Magazine's publisher. He thinks if the Lovelock courthouse is ever replaced, the new building should be heart-shaped. Eloping couples can call 702-273-2208 for Lovelock matrimonial information.

Your Home On The Range



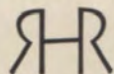
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WELLS FARGO

January/February 1997

NEVADA Events & Shows

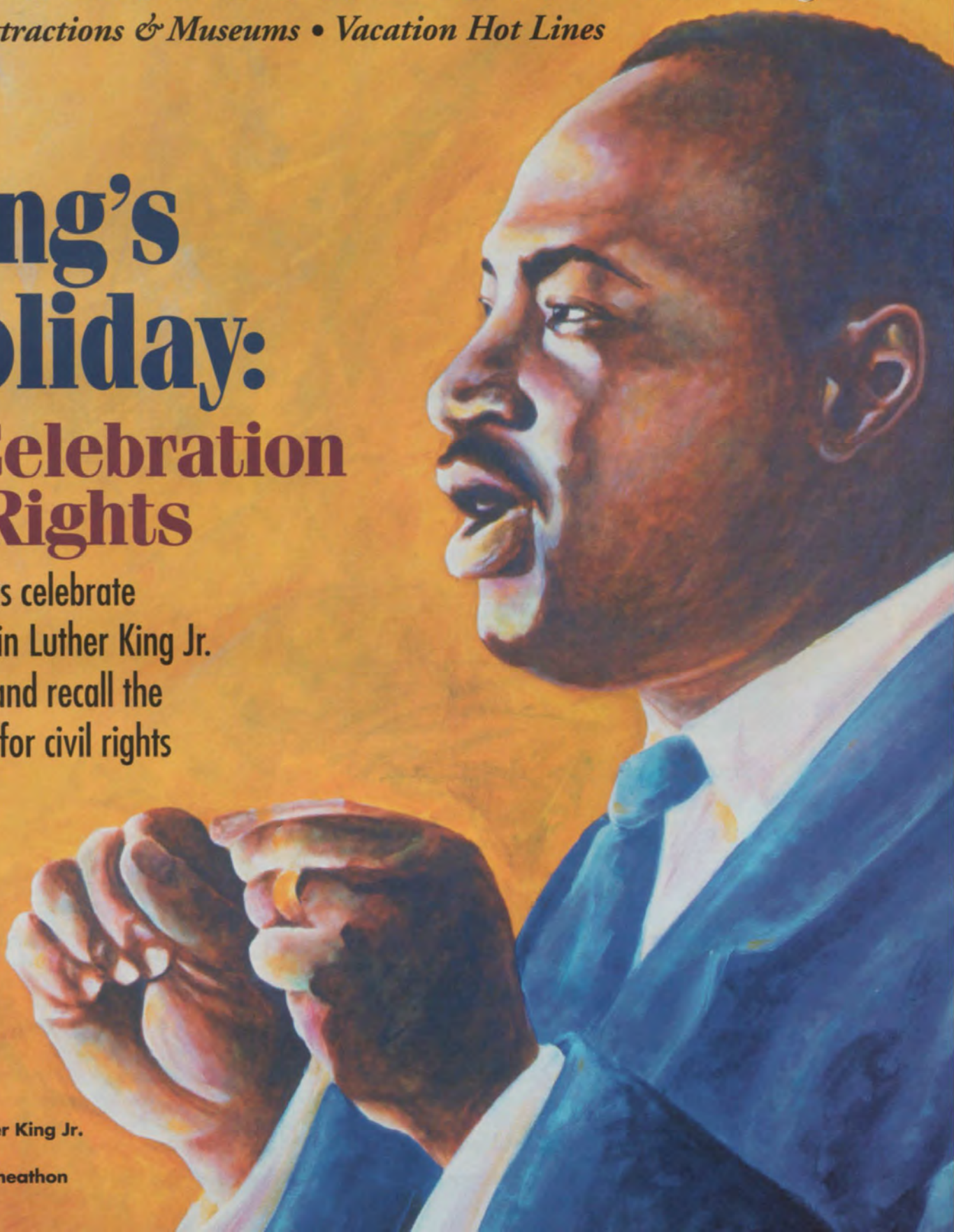
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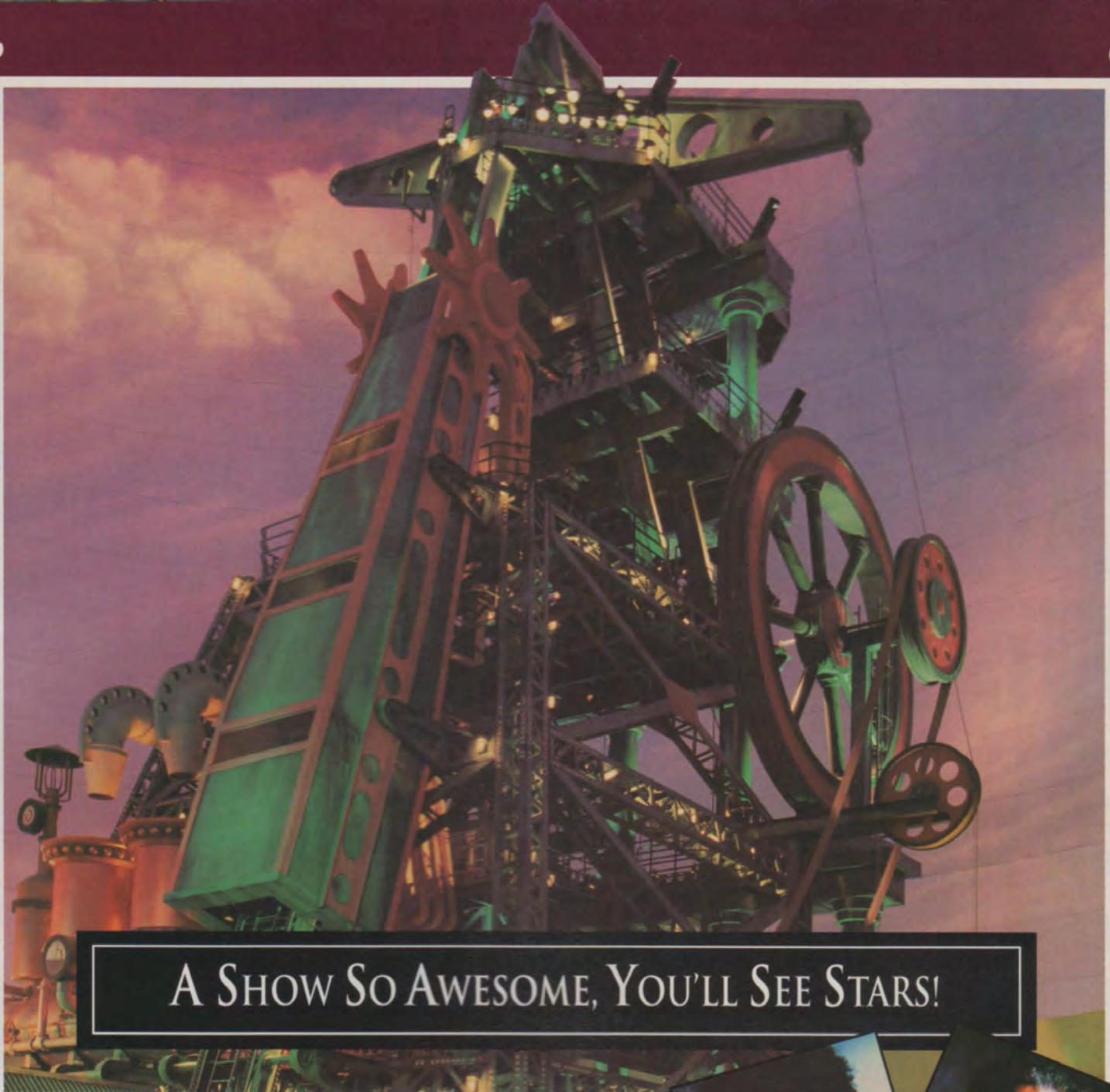
*Section of
Nevada Magazine*

King's Holiday: A Celebration of Rights

Nevadans celebrate
the Martin Luther King Jr.
holiday and recall the
struggle for civil rights

Martin Luther King Jr.
portrait by
Demetrice Cheathon





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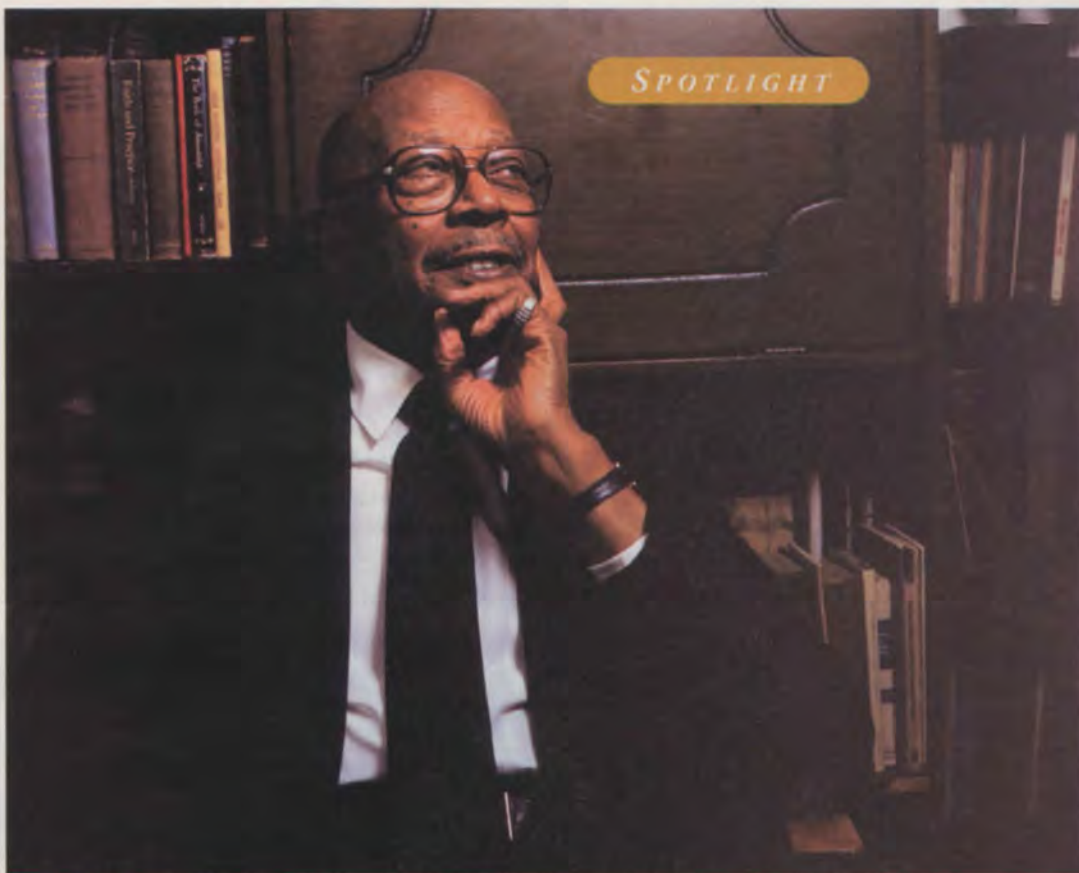


Little Richard

January 18

B.B. King

February 8



A civil-rights leader in Northern Nevada, the Reverend David B. Meadows of Reno was instrumental in the struggle to integrate the state's casinos in the '50s and '60s.

Nevadans celebrate the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday with events while recalling the man and the civil-rights movement.

A Celebration of Rights

By Verita Black

It is hard for me to believe that a few years before I was born, African-Americans could not walk into a casino to see a show or bet on a game of blackjack. It is equally difficult for me to imagine my parents and their compatriots marching in the snow to gain access to those same gaming facilities.

As a Reno native who has heard the stories and seen the pain and triumph in the retelling, I know that the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday on Monday, January 20, is far more than a day off from work. It is an opportunity to reflect on a movement that changed the course of this country's history in a positive way. It is also a time to honor the local heroes who, with few resources except their determination, fought the grass-roots battles for civil

rights. Two such heroes are the Reverend David B. Meadows of Reno and Dr. James McMillan of Las Vegas.

Reverend Meadows was our leader in the struggle for equality in Northern Nevada. With a smooth, eloquent speaking style, he inspired people to attend meetings, participate in marches, and organize fund-raising rallies.

Meadows recalls the beginnings of the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday in Nevada.

Now 84, Meadows, who is associate pastor of Second Baptist Church in Reno, recalls the beginnings of the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday in Nevada. "It was a good feeling when that day became a holiday, after all the hard work and effort by so many people. Dr. King was a great man," he says. "We worked hard locally to support him and to gain civil rights here."

The issues of the late '50s and '60s—



Martin Luther King Jr. is honored in Nevada at several holiday events.

Show Time at the Moulin Rouge



The Moulin Rouge became the state's first integrated hotel in 1955.

During five glorious months in 1955, Nevada's first integrated hotel, the Moulin Rouge, secured a place in Las Vegas history. At the time African-Americans could not stay or play in Nevada casinos, a situation that would last until 1960.

When the Moulin Rouge opened in May 1955, it became not only a hit with African-Americans but also the city's hottest late-night hangout. Celebrities such as Nat King Cole, Jack Benny, George Burns, Gracie Allen, and Kay Starr crowded into the showroom to see the "Tropi-Can-Can" production show and listen to Lionel Hampton, Dinah Washington, and Les Brown. Financial woes forced the casino to close in October 1955. The hotel and coffee shop have remained open over the years, but the Moulin Rouge's glory days represent a singular era that was an important part of the city's heritage.

The Moulin Rouge has been named a historic landmark by the Las Vegas City Council and listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Now community groups are working to restore the aging hotel to its former elegance. Securing the financing has not been easy, according to hotel president James Walker. He says to date there are commitments for \$4 million, but the club's owners and the Moulin Rouge Preservation Association need another \$3 million for the project. They believe the hotel's days of glory can return.—Ann Henderson

jobs and economic security—still concern millions of people today. "We wanted to integrate the clubs because they directed how everything else went in this state with regard to jobs. The only Negroes who could go in there were the few women who worked as maids. Entertainers who performed couldn't even stay in the hotels. So we raised money in Reno, Hawthorne, and Las Vegas to hire an attorney, Charles Keller, as our lobbyist."

Meadows, who speaks like an Ivy League English professor, reminisced about the movement's triumphs and set-

"Entertainers who performed couldn't even stay in the hotels," Meadows says.

democratic National Convention in 1964 and going on the road with the legendary Freedom Riders.

"The trip I took to Mississippi in 1961 was something else. There were 18 of us who went from the West Coast. We flew to Jackson, where we were met at the airport by 18 policemen. They said they were there to escort us to our meeting," he says with a chuckle. At that time, being escorted anywhere by policemen in Mississippi could have been a life-threatening experience.

"We told them we could make it with-



In 1962, NAACP members from Reno and Las Vegas convened in Hawthorne for a strategy meeting and later demonstrated against segregation.

backs. "Once I barbecued all night for an NAACP fund-raiser the next day. We sold six or seven hundred dollars in dinners—and someone stole the money while we were in the park. I was so hurt. That was a lot of money in those days. But we were still able to raise enough money to retain Mr. Keller's services. The Lord really blessed us."

Meadows worked on the national level as well, serving as a delegate to the De-

out their help. And we certainly did. Dr. King was at that meeting. That was the first of two times I ever saw him. He was there even though there was a death threat if he ever returned to Mississippi soil," Meadows says. "At the meeting we saw others in the struggle who had welt marks from being beaten with water hoses. We came home even more determined to gain civil rights."

He speaks with pride about the decisive

point in Nevada's civil-rights struggle. "We organized a caravan from Reno to the State Capitol in Carson City. We had people join us from Hawthorne and Las Vegas chapters [of the NAACP].

"We started down Virginia Street, and there were white people who stopped us and asked what we were doing," he recalls. "We told them we were going to march on the Capitol for our rights. And you know what? A lot of them turned around and followed us to Carson City and marched right along with us.

"We only had to march one time. I believe the civil-rights laws passed during the next legislative session. I feel we did a good job. I only hate that now so many young people don't realize how hard we worked for the things they take for granted."

Dr. McMillan also remembers those years. McMillan, 79, was the first African-American board-certified dentist in Nevada and was president of the Las Vegas chapter of the NAACP in the late '50s.

"Las Vegas was a segregated city," he says. "Blacks could only go in black- or Chinese-owned clubs on the West Side. We had to use 'colored only' facilities,



Dr. James McMillan of Las Vegas received threats while helping to organize civil-rights efforts in Nevada.

and there were no blacks working for the city or county. It was very hard work to end segregation in Las Vegas.

"There were employment problems with companies as well. Many wouldn't hire blacks, even the ones who did business on the West Side. So we decided to boycott them," he adds. "In fact, I started receiving calls from mob people, who at that time owned casinos. They

told me to stop what I was doing or they would drop me in Lake Mead."

McMillan helped organize civil-rights efforts in Reno and in Hawthorne, which, with its military base, had a large black population. "Along with the Reno branch, we met in Hawthorne and demonstrated in front of the big gambling hall there. We thought it was important that it be desegregated, too, so that people who were driving from Las Vegas to Reno would have someplace to stay. Eventually, Hawthorne opened up, too. We had a hard time in Northern Nevada. The hotel owners refused to even meet with us," he says. "But the march we had in Carson City was very effective."

McMillan recalls meeting King in Las Vegas. "He was the guest speaker at our NAACP banquet," he says. King spoke to the gathering at the request of Las Vegas Robert Bailey, who attended Morehouse College in Atlanta with King. "He was very inspiring and got people fired up to go forward."

Verita Black is the public information officer for the National Judicial College in Reno.

Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday Events

Many civic and social groups in Nevada are working to see that Martin Luther King Jr.'s memory is not taken for granted. Holiday events will include (Nevada's area code is 702):

Las Vegas

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Committee 17th Annual Banquet: January 11, Mirage Hotel. Entertainment will be provided by the jazz group Balance. Guest speaker will be Dr. Lonise Bias, who became an activist on youth problems after her son, Len Bias, a first-round draft pick of the Boston Celtics, died of a drug overdose. Her other son, Jay, was the victim of a drive-by shooting. Tickets are \$75 per person, benefiting student scholarships. Call 631-1913.

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Youth Talent Showcase: January 15, Las Vegas High School. Song, dance, verse, skits, and step shows. Free admission. Call 631-1913.

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Parade: January 18, at Las Vegas Boulevard South and Bridger Avenue. The pageantry begins at 10 a.m.

Peace Around the World Celebration: January 18, Rafael Rivera Community Center. Ethnic celebration with world peace programs, dances, song, information booths, and carnival games. Call 229-4600.

"A Raisin in the Sun": January 30-February 9, Judy Bayley Theater, UNLV. Broadway play explores black

identity and the quest for liberation. Call 895-3535.

Silent Pride: Portraits of the Million Man March: January 23-March 23. Photo exhibit at the Clark County Library. Call 733-7810.

In Celebration: Black History Month: February 4-March 4, Moonstruck Gallery. Thomas Blackshear's paintings and Ebony Visions porcelain images. Call 800-421-9133.

Sunday Gospel Brunch: Weekly performances at 10 a.m., noon, and 2 p.m. at the Country Star American Music Grill on the Strip. Call 740-8400.

Reno-Sparks

Beyond Category: The Musical Genius of Duke Ellington: Thru January 24, Carson City Library. A Smithsonian exhibit. Call 887-2244 ext. 1021.

The Life of Duke Ellington: January 4 and 11, Carson City Library. Free lectures by Scott Faulkner. Call 887-2244 ext. 1021.

Field Hollers and Work Songs: The Tap Roots of Jazz: January 8, Carson City Library. Free lecture by KUNR jazz host Kenn West. Call 887-2244 ext. 1021.

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Birthday Celebration Dinner: January 13, Rose Ballroom, John Ascuaga's Nugget. Guest speaker will be Dr. King's youngest daughter, the Reverend Bernice King. Call 329-8990.

Patti LaBelle Concert: January 18-19, John Ascuaga's Nugget. Benefit for the Northern Nevada Black



Patti LaBelle performs at John Ascuaga's Nugget on January 18-19.

Awareness Society. Call 800-648-1177 or 356-3300.

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Community-Wide Service: January 19, St. John's Presbyterian Church. Call 329-8990.

Youth Breakfast: January 20, John Ascuaga's Nugget. Honors academically talented students. Call 329-8990.

Nevada Territories



To assist you in your travels through Nevada, the state has been divided into five territories: Las Vegas, Reno-Tahoe, Cowboy Country, Pony Express, and Pioneer. Indian Territory encompasses all of Nevada.



Las Vegas Territory

EVENTS

The Las Vegas area offers many winter cultural activities. Music lovers can see and hear the Warsaw Philharmonic Orchestra, the Paris Opera Ballet, and the always swinging Doc Severinsen and His Big Band. The following listing is divided into areas of interest. Be sure to call ahead to confirm dates and times. The area code is 702 throughout Nevada.

January & February

CELEBRATIONS & FESTIVALS

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Committee 17th Annual Banquet • Jan. 11 • Guest speaker is youth activist Dr. Lonise Bias; musical entertainment by Balance. Mirage Hotel, Las Vegas, 631-1913.

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Youth Talent Showcase • Jan. 15 • Las Vegas High School, 631-1913.

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Parade • Jan. 18 • Las Vegas Blvd. South and Bridger Avenue, Las Vegas, 631-1913.

Peace Around the World Celebration • Jan. 18 • Demonstrations, booths, and carnival games. Rafael Rivera Community Center, Las Vegas, 229-4600.

Chinese New Year • Feb. 8 • Cultural performances, ethnic art, food, Lion Dance. Chinatown Plaza, Las Vegas, 252-0400.

Mesquite Chili and Art Festival • Feb. 15-16 • Chili and ribs cook-off, arts and crafts fair. Downtown Mesquite, 346-ARTS.

Black History Month Celebration • Feb. 18-22 • Senior luncheon Feb. 18, talent show Feb. 20, and youth night Feb. 22. Doolittle Community Center, Las Vegas, 229-6374.

PERFORMANCES

Winter Stage Combat Workshop • Jan. 2-8 • Workshop on sword fighting skills for the theater. Black Box Theatre, UNLV, Las Vegas, 895-3662.

Senior Adult Theatre Festival • Jan. 5-9 • Judy Bayley Theatre, UNLV, and the Aladdin Hotel, Las Vegas, 895-3666.

Paris Opera Ballet • Jan. 10 • Artemus Ham Hall, UNLV, Las Vegas.

Warsaw Philharmonic Orchestra • Jan. 17 • Artemus Ham Hall, UNLV, Las Vegas, 895-3535.

"To Kill a Mockingbird" • Jan. 18-19, 23-26 • Classic play. Actors Repertory Theatre, Summerlin Library, Las Vegas, 647-7469.

The Duttons • Jan. 23 • Concert. Virgin Valley High School, Mesquite, 346-2787.

Concert by Vernon Robison • Jan. 27 • Classical pianist performs. Ron Dalley Theatre, Moapa Valley High School, Logandale, 397-2193.

Budapest Festival Orchestra • Jan. 28 • Artemus Ham Hall, UNLV, Las Vegas, 895-3535.

"A Raisin in the Sun" • Jan. 30-31, Feb. 1-2, and 5-9 • Drama by playwright Lorraine Hansberry about racism and the African-American quest for equality. Judy



Snowbox Derby enthusiasts catch a great ride on Mount Charleston, 40 miles northwest of Las Vegas.

Bayley Theatre, UNLV, Las Vegas, 895-3535.

Moscow Festival Ballet • Feb. 4-5 • Artemus Ham Hall, UNLV, Las Vegas, 895-3535.

"Choreographer on the Line" • Feb. 9 • Opus Dance Ensemble. Summerlin Library, Las Vegas, 732-9646.

Doc Severinsen and His Big Band • Feb. 11 • Horn Theatre. Community College of Southern Nevada, North Las Vegas, 651-5483.

"Funny Girl" • Feb. 11-16 • Broadway touring company musical stars Debbie Gibson. Theatre for the Performing Arts, Aladdin Hotel, Las Vegas, 736-0240 or 736-0419.

The Jesters • Feb. 13 • Concert of classic American music. Virgin Valley High School, Mesquite, 346-2787.

"A Midsummer Night's Dream" • Feb. 15-16 • Nevada Dance Theatre performance. Artemus Ham Hall, UNLV, Las Vegas, 732-3838.

"Around the World in 80 Days" • Feb. 18 • Jules Verne play performed for children at 10am and noon. Artemus Ham Hall, UNLV, Las Vegas, 800-497-5007.

Las Vegas Marimba Quartet • Feb. 21 • Chamber music. Artemus Ham Hall, UNLV, Las Vegas, 895-3535.

"1940s Radio Hour" • Feb. 21-23 and Feb. 28-March 2 • Broadway play. Horn Theatre, Community College of Southern Nevada, North Las Vegas, 651-5483.

Beachfront Property • Feb. 27 • Concert featuring jazz and pop classics. Virgin Valley High School, Mesquite, 346-2787.

EXHIBITS

City Series in Desert Form: Sculptured Bowls and Teapots • Thru Jan. 7 • Ceramic sculptures by Robin Stark. West Charleston Library, Las Vegas, 878-3682.

Visibility Unlimited • Thru Jan. 31 • Karen Sandquist's oil paintings of Southern Nevada. Library, Laughlin, 298-1081.

Nevada Watercolor Society Fall Show • Thru Feb. 16 • Juried show. Spring Valley Library, Las Vegas, 368-4411.

Resisted Images Dyed on Silk • Thru April 6 • Artist M.J.M. Hernandez's landscapes and abstracts. West Las Vegas Library, 647-2117.

Beyond Gum San: The Story of the Chinese in Nevada • Thru May 18 • Exhibit honors the importance of the Chinese people in the history of Nevada. Nevada State

Nevada Events & Shows

Nevada Events & Shows is a section of Nevada Magazine. To list an event, contact Events Editor Ann Henderson: 702-486-2433 • fax 702-486-2789 • 555 E. Washington, Suite 5600, Las Vegas, NV 89101. Subscription rates for Nevada Magazine are \$16.95 for one year, U.S.; \$22.95 Foreign. To subscribe call toll-free, 1-800-495-3281.

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- Museum and Historical Society, Las Vegas, 486-5205.
- Sagebrush Stradivarius** • Thru June 30 • Display of violins made by miner Wilfrid Gagnon. Nevada State Museum and Historical Society, Las Vegas, 486-5205.
- Inside the Glitter: Portraits of Workers in Nevada's Casino Industry** • Jan. 23-March 23 • Photographs by Kit Miller of Washoe Valley. Clark County Library, Las Vegas, 733-7810.
- Silent Pride: Portraits of the Million Man March** • Jan. 23-March 23 • Lisa Margerum's photos of the Oct. 16, 1995, event. Clark County Library, Las Vegas, 733-7810.
- Saynday Was Coming Along** • Jan. 25-March 15 • Kiowa artist Silverhorn's exhibit about Saynday, the Kiowa trickster. Clark County Heritage Museum, Henderson, 455-7955.
- Boulder City Art Guild Exhibit** • Feb. 1-28 • Lost City Museum. Overton, 397-2193.
- Animals Eat** • Feb. 1-April 30 • Whimsical look at animals' eating habits. Lied Discovery Children's Museum, Las Vegas, 382-5437.
- In Celebration: Black History Month** • Feb. 4-March 4 • Thomas Blackshear's paintings. Moonstruck Gallery, Las Vegas, 800-421-9133.
- Best of Nevada Camera Club** • Feb. 19-April 22 • Spring Valley Library, Las Vegas, 368-4411.

SPORTS & COMPETITIONS

- Las Vegas Thunder Hockey** • The Thunder plays Jan. 3-4 v. Kansas City Blades, Jan. 7 v. Houston Aeros, Jan. 14 v. Milwaukee Admirals, Jan. 17 v. San Antonio Dragons, Jan. 28 v. Manitoba Moose, Feb. 4 v. Kansas City Blades, Feb. 7 v. Utah Grizzlies, Feb. 8 v. Indianapolis Ice, Feb. 11 v. Long Beach Ice Dogs, Feb. 14 v. Quebec Rafales, Feb. 21 and Feb. 25 v. Michigan K Wings, Feb. 28 v. Chicago Wolves. Thomas and Mack Center, Las Vegas, 798-PUCK.
- Charity Golf Classic** • Jan. 11 • Open to first 128 players, \$200 registration fee, proceeds benefit Ronald McDonald House in Las Vegas. Players Island Golf Course, Mesquite, 346-7537.
- UNLV Basketball** • The Runnin' Rebels play Jan. 11 v. Hawaii, Jan. 30 v. Colorado State, Feb. 1 v. Wyoming, Feb. 15 v. San Jose State, Feb. 17 v. Fresno State, Feb. 20 v. Air Force Academy, Feb. 22 v. Texas Christian. Thomas and Mack Center, Las Vegas, 895-3614.
- Pro Baseball Arm Wrestling Championships** • Jan. 15-20 • Major and minor league baseball players compete. Sahara Hotel, Las Vegas, 646-0237.
- YMCA Snowbox Derby** • Jan. 25 • Las Vegas Ski and Snowboard Resort, Lee Canyon, Mount Charleston, 877-9622.
- Super Bowl Parties** • Jan. 26 • Football festivities at hotel-casinos throughout Southern Nevada.
- Vegas Shoot** • Jan. 31 and Feb. 1-2 • Archery championship and show. Sands Expo and Convention Center, Las Vegas, 795-7103.
- Las Vegas International Marathon and Half-Marathon** • Feb. 9 • Finish line at Vacation Village Hotel, Las Vegas, 876-3870.

COMING EVENTS

- Laughlin River Roundup** • March 3-6 • 298-2214.
- WAC Men's and Women's Basketball Championships** • March 3-8 • Thomas and Mack Center, Las Vegas, 892-0711.
- "Hamlet"** • March 3-13 • Utah Shakespeare Festival, North Las Vegas, 651-5483.

A Show of His Own

Danny Gans is making his hits as an impressionist. By Michael Paskevich

It's a whole new ballgame for impressionist Danny Gans. The former baseball player has hit a home run as a Las Vegas headliner, ending any "who the heck is he?" trash talk while earning a spot in the starring lineup.

Gans opened the Stratosphere last summer with a song-and-dance act that featured dead-on vocal takes of everyone from Al Pacino, Frank Sinatra, and Sarah Vaughn to Nat King (and Natalie) Cole and Eric Clapton. Gans quickly became a show-room favorite. In December he departed the Stratosphere as the city's hottest young property and will open a new show at the Rio in mid-January.

Reflecting on the success of his show, Gans, 37, recalls how he once dreamed of reaching the Show—baseball's major leagues. As a prospect in the Los Angeles Dodgers' system, Gans knocked the ball all over parks in the Northwest League in the late 1970s, leading the circuit in home runs as a third baseman with a good glove and decent speed.

"There was talk of me being traded to San Diego and going right up to the big leagues," he recalls. But his dream ended on a fluke play. While filling in defensively at first base, Gans was spiked in the ankle, and the resulting injury, a severed Achilles tendon, ended his baseball career.

"I remember being in the ambulance that night," he says. "I looked out the doors, saying good-bye to baseball, and I remember the umpire shouting, 'Play ball!' That was the end of a chapter in my life, and it was time to move on."

Baseball's loss would be show biz's gain. Gans decided to test his comedic skills. He says, "I used to goof around with voices in the locker room," some-



Rio headliner Danny Gans went from the Show to the showroom.

times trading doo-wop riffs with future Hall of Fame shortstop Ozzie Smith.

So Gans took to the road, working comedy clubs and developing his ability to hear a famous voice and duplicate it with uncanny accuracy. At one point his father, Sid Gans, who ironically became an entertainer after his own dream of playing pro ball was ended by injury, took Danny aside.

"He said, 'I'm going to take you to see somebody, and you are going to find the answer,'" says Gans. "That somebody turned out to be Sammy Davis Jr. It was at the tail end of his career, and Sammy just totally blew me away. He sang great, performed songs that brought me to tears, was hysterically funny, and played instruments. My dad turned to me and asked, 'So, now do you know?'"

Thus inspired to become an enter-

tainer who can connect with an audience and draw emotion from it, Gans hit his stride. He began opening for stars like Joan Rivers and Bill Cosby. Strong reviews convinced him that he could be a headliner, although it took Vegas entertainment bookers a few years to agree.

Meanwhile, he worked the lucrative convention circuit, winning a Corporate Entertainer of the Year award. He played Dean Martin in a TV mini-series about Frank Sinatra and had a recurring role in the TV police drama *Silk Stalkings*. Gans turned down a chance to extend an engagement at the Neil Simon Theatre on Broadway. "New York is not the kind of place I wanted to raise my family," says the father of three.

So Gans waited. His big break came last year when the newly opened Stratosphere made the relatively unknown impressionist and his three-piece band its resident showroom attraction.

"We kind of keep pinching ourselves," he says. "What's happened has been amazing and quite humbling, and I've grown more comfortable with the show."

Gans and his wife, Julie, recently purchased a home in Green Valley in Henderson, and the future looks bright for a guy who is now playing in a league of his own.

"I have no problem being associated with Las Vegas," he says, recalling the days when he traveled from Chicago to Guam. "It's a great town, and all of a sudden people are coming just to see us. After 15 years on the road, I think I'm home."

Michael Paskevich is an entertainment reporter and columnist for the Las Vegas Review-Journal.

CasinoNotes

Whale of a Show: A film about the underwater world of marine mammals plays through May 26 at Caesars Palace's Omnimax Theatre. *Whales* follows the lives, habits, and relationships of whales and dolphins living in the coastal waters of Alaska, California, Hawaii, Patagonia, Colombia, and Newfoundland.

Downtown Experience: The Fremont Street Experience received a Special Achievement Award from the International Downtown Association. The award recognizes innovative projects, strategies, and events. The Fremont Street Experience transformed Glitter Gulch into a five-block mall covered by a 90-foot-tall canopy that comes alive nightly with a light-and-sound show.

Showroom Opens: "Imagine...A Theatrical Odyssey" opens in June in the Luxor's new showroom with theater-style seating. The 90-minute production extends from underwater fantasy to cyberworld and will have an anticipated \$34.95 ticket price.

Party-Party: January 3 is the much-anticipated opening day for New York-New York, the \$460-million hotel that recreates the Manhattan skyline. The 2,035-room property adds a Statue of Liberty and a roller coaster to the Strip's architectural frenzy.



"American Superstars" at the Stratosphere recently added the Supremes. The trio includes (from left) Victoria Bentley as Cindy Birdsong, Marva Scott as Diana Ross, and Dorothea Fletcher as Mary Wilson.

Really Big Show: On February 7 a new entertainment attraction opens at the Rio Suite Hotel that will allow guests to ride with performers dressed in bizarre costumes during a 12-minute carnival parade. The festive parade features five 16,000-pound floats that will travel on a 950-foot track suspended above the casino floor. Each float has a different theme and is 27 feet long and 16 feet tall. The \$5-million production begins on the hour, every other hour, at noon Sunday through Tuesday and at 1 p.m. Thurs-

day through Saturday.

Top This: The old Sands Hotel is making way for the new Sands Expo Congress Center that will cater to the conventioneer. Featuring 6,000 suites and more than 1.4 million square feet of meeting and exhibit space, the hotel is slated for a 1998 completion date.

New Songbird: Jennifer Page, whose credits range from "Les Miserables" to opening for the heavy-metal band Tesla, has joined the Stardust's "Enter the Night" as lead female singer.

Ladies of Motown: A tribute to Diana Ross and the Supremes was added recently to "American Superstars," the musical impersonator show at the Stratosphere. Marva Scott, who was the lead singer in "Enter the Night" at the Stardust, stars as Ross. The Stratosphere's production also features Charlie Daniels, Madonna, and Michael Jackson imitators.

A New Deal: Station Casinos, Inc. created a new form of video poker for its three Las Vegas properties, the Palace, Boulder, and Texas Stations. Players can win two jackpots, the first on the deal (for a good initial hand) and again on the draw.

Sure Insomnia Cure: Texas Station opened a late-night club last fall offering drink specials such as Jell-O Shooters. From 9 p.m. to 4 a.m., partiers at Texas Late Nite will find a larger dance floor and a disc jockey spinning music.

Hoover Dam Weekend Dances • March 7-8 • Boulder City, 293-4918.

"Swan Lake" • March 27-30 • Judy Bayley Theatre, UNLV, Las Vegas, 732-3838.

Las Vegas Senior PGA Classic • April 21-27 • 382-6616.

Wilderness Circuit Rodeo • April 24-27 • Laughlin, 298-2214.

City of Lights Jazz Festival • April 26 • Las Vegas, 798-6405.

Hellorado Days and Rodeo • May 13-18 • Las Vegas, 870-1221.

Mesquite Days • May 29-31 • 346-2902.

Laughlin River Days • May 30-June 1 • 298-2214.

SHOWGUIDE

The Las Vegas area offers big-name entertainment and production shows at many clubs and hotels. The Broadway touring company of "Funny Girl" starring Debbie Gibson plays the Aladdin, Penn and Teller appear at Bally's, and Eddy Arnold performs at the Riverside in Laughlin. Showrooms often fill fast, so call ahead for show times and reservations.

BOULDER CITY

Gold Strike Inn • Between Boulder City and Hoover Dam, 293-5000 or 800-245-6380: Country-western entertainment.

HENDERSON

Eldorado • 564-1811: Margaritaville Lounge: Dance bands play Wed.-Sun.

Joker's Wild • 564-8100: Live entertainment Wed.-Sun.

JEAN

Gold Strike Hotel • 477-5000 or 800-634-1359: Bands



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play at the hotel off Interstate 15 (dark Tues.).

Nevada Landing • 387-5000 or 800-628-6682: Live entertainment (dark Wed.).

LAS VEGAS

Aladdin • 736-0240 or 736-0419: "Country Tonite," revue (dark Tues.); Sinbad Lounge: Entertainment nightly; Theatre for the Performing Arts: "Funny Girl" starring Debbie Gibson, Feb. 11-16.

Arizona Charlie's • 258-5100: Naughty Lady Saloon: Live music Tues.-Sun.; Palace Grand Theatre: TBA.

Bally's • 739-4567 or 800-237-SHOW: Jubilee Theater: "Jubilee!" (dark Fri.); Celebrity Room: Penn and Teller, Jan. 3-25; Andrew Dice Clay, Jan. 24-25; Engelbert Humperdinck, Feb. 6-12; George Carlin, Feb. 13-March 1 (dark Feb. 27).

The Beach • 731-9298: Concerts.

Boomtown • 263-7777 or 800-588-7711: "Outlaw Women of Boomtown," revue (dark Mon.).

Boulder Station • 432-7777 or 800-683-7777: Railhead Saloon: Jim Messina, Jan. 3; Steven Bishop, Jan. 4; dance bands nightly, entertainers such as Sonny Turner and Cornell Gunther's Coasters; talent contest Mondays thru Jan. 6.

Caesars Palace • 731-7333 or 800-445-4544: Circus Maximus: Johnny Mathis, Jan. 23-26; Wynonna, Feb. 19-23; Crosby, Stills and Nash, Feb. 28-March 2; live bands play in the La Piazza Lounge, Olympic Lounge, and Cleopatra's Barge.

Circus Circus • 734-0410 or 800-444-CIRCUS: Free circus acts 11am to midnight.

Continental • 737-5555: Upstairs Silver Slipper Theater: "Guys Will Be Dolls," female-impersonator revue (dark Wed.); Continental Theater: Cook E. Jarr (dark Sun.-Tues.).

Country Star American Music Grill • 740-8400 • Gospel music Sundays.

Debbie Reynolds Hollywood Hotel • 7-DEBBIE or 800-633-1777: Star Theatre: "The Debbie Reynolds Show Featuring the Uptown Country Singers" (dark Sun.); Kenny Kerr Show.

Desert Inn • 733-4566 or 800-634-6909: Crystal Room: Dana Carvey, Jan. 23-26; B.B. King, Feb. 14-16; Frankie Valli, Feb. 27-March 2; Starlight Theatre: Closed thru May.

Excalibur • 597-7600: King Arthur's Arena: "King Arthur's Tournament," nightly; "An Evening in Vienna," starring the Royal Lipizzaner Stallions, 2pm daily (dark Fri.); Wild Bills Saloon and Steakhouse and Minstrel's Theatre Lounge: Dance music nightly; Court Jesters Stage: Strolling entertainers 10am-10pm daily.

Fitzgeralds Holiday Inn • 388-2400 or 800-274-LUCK (U.S. outside Nevada): Don Cloe (dark Tues.), Ray Perez (dark Wed.-Thurs.).

Flamingo Hilton • 733-3333 or 800-221-7299: Flamingo Showroom: "The Great Radio City Spectacular" with the Rockettes (dark Fri.); Bugsy's Celebrity Theatre: "Forever Plaid," '50s musical revue (dark Mon.).

Four Queens • 385-4011 or 800-634-6045: Live entertainment Tues.-Sat. in the French Quarter Lounge.

Gold Coast • 367-7111 or 888-402-6278 (U.S. outside Nevada): East Lounge: Sorta Dixie Jazz Band, noon to 6pm Mon.-Fri.; bands play in the East and West lounges; Dance Hall and Saloon: Entertainment TBA.

Golden Nugget • 386-8100: Theatre Ballroom: "Country Fever," look-alike variety revue (dark Fri.); entertainment nightly in the lounge.

Hard Rock Hotel • 226-4650 or 800-HARD-ROCK: The Joint: Rock concerts.

Harrah's Las Vegas • 369-5222 or 800-392-9002: Commanders Theatre: "Spellbound"; "The Improv at

PREVIEW

Back to the '40s in Laughlin

It was a time when swing was king, Sinatra crooned while girls swooned, and a grateful nation welcomed home its heroes.

Visitors can take a sentimental journey to the World War II era at the Ramada Express in Laughlin during the "Back to the 1940s" celebration through February 28. The series of events features big band ballroom dancing and musical salutes to the Swing Era, including concerts by the Mills Brothers, Four Lads, and Kay Starr (see the Showguide for concert dates during January and February).

Vintage movies and newsreels will play at 11 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. daily in the hotel's Classic Movie Theater. Folks



The Swing Sisters salute the '40s on January 4 and February 8 at the Ramada Express in Laughlin.

who wear authentic clothing—such as military uniforms or cocktail dresses—for the afternoon dance contests on Tuesday through Saturday can win additional prizes. Vintage war tanks, color-guard performances, photos, fashions, WWII artifacts, and flags of the Allies will form a colorful display. For information on the events call the Ramada Express, 800-243-6846.—Wendy Miller

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Ice-skaters Troy Goldstein and Elisa Curtis perform in the water-themed "Splash II" at the Riviera. Off-hours, Goldstein studies for his law degree while Curtis attends UNLV and works in medical research.

Harrah's" (dark Mon.); entertainment nightly in the Court of Two Gators Lounge.

Holiday Inn Boardwalk • 735-2400: Lighthouse Showroom: The Unknown Comic (dark Mon.); G. David Howard indf. (dark Mon.); "Visions of Elvis With Michael Conti," (dark Mon.); Mr. Dixie Dooley's Magic Show, 4pm Tues.-Fri.; "Musical Madness," noon and 1:30pm Mon.-Fri.

Imperial Palace • 794-3261: Imperial Theatre: "Legends in Concert" (dark Sun.).

Jackie Gaughan's Plaza • 386-2110 or 800-634-6575

800-929-1111: Grand Theatre: "EEX" (dark Thurs.); Hollywood Theatre: TBA; Center Stage Cabaret: "Catch a Rising Star," comedy-variety club; bands play during Late Night after the comedy; Bobby Dickerson, nightly except Mon. in the Flying Monkey Bar; entertainment in the Santa Fe Lounge; Grand Garden: TBA.

The Mirage • 792-7777: Siegfried and Roy Theater: "Siegfried and Roy," magic spectacular (dark Wed.-Thurs.); bands play in the Lagoon Saloon and Baccarat Bar (piano bar).

Monte Carlo • 730-7777: Lance Burton Theatre: "Lance

(U.S. outside Nevada): Plaza Showroom: "Xposed," adult revue (dark Fri.).

King 8 Hotel • 736-8988: Bands play nightly except Mon.

Lady Luck • 477-3000 or 800-523-9582: Entertainment TBA.

Las Vegas Hilton • 732-5755 or 800-222-5361: Starlight Theatre: Andrew Lloyd Webber's "Starlight Express" (dark Fri.); also appearing are Chaka Khan, Jan. 24; Nancy Wilson/Norman Brown, Feb. 14; Etta James, Feb. 28.

Luxor • 262-4000 or 800-288-1000: Entertainment TBA.

Maxim • 731-4300 or 800-634-6987: "Comedy Max," comedy nightclub; "Nick Lewin's Comedy Magic," 1 and 3pm (dark Sun.); entertainment in Muldoon's Room.

MGM Grand • 891-7777 or

Burton, Master Magician" (dark Sun.-Mon.).

New York-New York • 740-6969 or 800-675-3267: "Madhattan," opens May 1.

The Orleans • 800-ORLEANS: "Gone Country," musical revue.

Palace Station • 367-2411 or 800-634-3101: Bands play nightly in the Palace Station's Loading Dock Lounge.

Rio Suite • 252-7776 or 800-PLAYRIO (U.S. and Canada): Copacabana Entertainment Complex: Impressionist Danny Gans, opens in mid-Jan.; "Masquerade Show in the Sky," carnival-themed parade above the casino, every other hour beginning at noon Sun.-Tues. and 1pm Thurs.-Sat. (dark Wed.); Ipanema Piano Bar: Entertainment nightly; Club Rio: Dance-video nightclub, Wed.-Sat.; Mambo's Lounge: Entertainment nightly except Sun.

Riviera • 794-9301 (477-5274 Splash): Splash Theatre: Jeff Kutash's "Splash II, Voyage of a Lifetime," nightly; Grand Ballroom: Entertainment TBA; Mardi Gras Showroom (third floor): "An Evening at La Cage," celebrity female impersonators revue (dark Tues.); Mardi Gras Showroom (second floor): "Crazy Girls: Sensuality, Passion, and Pudgy!" adult revue (dark Mon.); "Bottoms Up," burlesque-style revue, 2 and 4pm (dark Sat. and Sun.); "Riviera Comedy Club"; Le Bistro Lounge: "Jazz on the Strip," Mon.; music Tues.-Sat.

Sahara • 737-2515: Congo Theatre: TBA; Casbar Lounge: TBA.

Sam's Town • 454-8048: Western Dance Hall: Bands play 9pm-3am; Roxy's Saloon: Entertainment noon-5am.

San Remo • 597-6028 or 800-522-7366: Parisian Cabaret: "Showgirls of Magic," 8 and 10:30pm (late



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PREVIEW

Stradivari OF THE SAGEBRUSH

Wilfrid J. Gagnon was a miner with a passion for violins. While living in isolated Eldorado Canyon south of Hoover Dam from 1967 to 1979, Gagnon created more than 40 hand-carved violins. Several of the unique instruments will be exhibited through spring at the Nevada State Museum and Historical Society in Las Vegas.

This Stradivari of the Sagebrush was born in Canada in 1905. As a boy he taught himself to play the violin and became determined to make one of his own. After his family moved to Flint, Michigan, he learned about the craft from a Hungarian violin maker. Gagnon made his first violin as a teenager, later honing his skills while doing interior woodwork on Buicks and Hudsons at the Fisher Auto Body Plant.

In the 1950s Gagnon moved to Las Vegas for health reasons. In 1967 he took up the life of a miner near Nelson in Eldorado Canyon and worked a claim he called the "Nugget of Gold." During his 12 years in that remote country, without the convenience of a telephone, running water, or electricity, he made 42 violins. Each instrument

Gagnon's violins are displayed at the state museum in Las Vegas.

took Gagnon four months or more to build by hand. He used a variety of woods that he carefully seasoned to avoid warping. To form a violin's back and sides, he used a hardwood such as cat's claw, a small tree common to Southern Nevada washes. For the front, or belly, he used a softer wood like Western spruce. He usually made the instrument's neck from cherry. He would file and curve the pieces by hand and carefully glue them together.

Following Gagnon's death in 1984, his son, Jerry Gagnon of Las Vegas, donated several of the instruments to the Nevada State Museum and Historical Society. The exhibit, "Sagebrush Stradivarius," pays tribute to a solitary man's love of mining and music.



A gold miner in Eldorado Canyon, Gagnon made more than 40 violins by hand.

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Santa Fe • 658-4900: Live entertainment Tues.-Sat. in the Ice Lounge.

Showboat • 383-9232 or 800-826-2800: Mardi Gras Room: Bobby Morris' New Orleans Jazz Band 2-6pm daily except Mon.; David St. David, Mondays, indf.; Muskat Ramblers 1-5pm Mondays, indf.

Stardust • 732-6111 or 800-824-6033: Stardust Theatre: "Enter the Night," production show (dark Fri.); bands play in the Starlight Lounge.

Stratosphere • 382-4446 or 800-99-TOWER: Broadway Showroom: "American Superstars," impersonator revue (dark Thurs.); "Viva Las Vegas," musical revue 2 and 4pm daily except Sun.; Images Cabaret: show bands play nightly; L'Isles Bar: Caribbean and Reggae music.

Treasure Island • 894-7111: Cirque du Soleil in "Mystère" (dark Mon.-Tues. and Jan. 1-2 and Feb. 12-13); entertainment nightly in Captain Morgan's piano bar and the Doubleloon Saloon.

Tropicana • 739-2411: Tiffany Theatre: "Folies Bergere" (dark Sat.); Weekend headliners TBA; Comedy Stop Theatre: "The Comedy Stop," stand-up comedy nightly; bands play in the Tropics Lounge.

Vacation Village • 897-1700 or 800-658-5000: Koo Koo's Lounge: Entertainment and dancing Tues.-Sun.

Westward Ho • 731-2900: "Hurray America," starring Robbie Howard and Red Hot Mama and the Goodtime Jazz Band (dark Sat.).

LAUGHLIN

Avi Casino • 535-5555.

Colorado Belle • 298-4000: "D" Deck: Riverboat Ramblers, strolling musicians.

Edgewater • 298-2453: Kokopelli's Lounge: Sneak Preview thru Jan. 5.

Flamingo Hilton Laughlin • 298-5028 or 800-435-8469: Club Flamingo Room: "Country Dreamin'," musical revue (dark Thurs.).

Gold River • 298-2242 or 800-835-7904: Cody's Saloon: Entertainment Tues.-Sun.

Golden Nugget Laughlin • 298-7111 or 800-237-1739: Tarzan's Lounge: Entertainment Tues.-Sun.

Harrah's Laughlin • 298-4600 or 800-447-8700: Fiesta Showroom: "The Great American Wild Wild West Show," musical revue (dark Thurs.); "Hot Salsa," production show (dark Thurs.); Club La Bamba: Entertainment nightly except Mon.

Ramada Express • 298-4200 or 800-243-6846: Pavilion Theater: Swing Sisters, Jan. 4; Four Lads, Jan. 11-14; USO Show, Jan. 18-24; Four Aces, Feb. 1-4; Swing Sisters, Feb. 8; Americana, Feb. 22-28; Ballroom Dancing: Stan Mark Big Band, Jan. 5; Swing Kings Dance Band, Feb. 9 and 15-16.

Regency • 298-2439.

Riverside Resort • 298-2535 or 800-227-3849 ext. 616: Don's Celebrity Theatre: Charlie Prose, Jan. 5-Feb. 13 (dark Fri.); Mel Tillis, Feb. 14-18; Roy Clark, Feb. 20-25; Eddy Arnold, Feb. 26-March 3.

MESQUITE

Players Island • 346-7529 or 800-459-7529: Bali Hai Theater: Entertainment TBA; bands play nightly in the Cascades Lounge.

Si Redd's Oasis • 346-5232 or 800-621-0187: Entertainment nightly in the Cabaret Lounge.

Virgin River • 346-7777 or 800-346-7721: Entertainment TBA.

A Festival Afoot

The Las Vegas Marathon is a 26.2-mile dash for runners and a spectacle for spectators. **By Dahn Shaulis**

I clearly remember the morning of my first Las Vegas Marathon. The sun had not yet risen, but I could plainly see the star-lit outlines of the Spring Mountains. I was among thousands of entrants gathered at the starting line about four miles south of Jean. We all stretched, jogged, and chatted while warming up for the race on State Route 604, the old Los Angeles Highway.

That anxious, colorful scene will be repeated on Sunday, February 9, during the Las Vegas International Marathon



A runner celebrates crossing the finish line during February's Las Vegas Marathon.

and Half-Marathon. When the starter's pistol sounds at 7:30 a.m., a human wave of men, women, and children from all 50 states and 35 foreign countries will surge toward Las Vegas, bound for the finish line 26.2 miles away in the parking lot of the Vacation Village Hotel. Thirteen miles ahead and half an hour earlier, a similar throng already will have begun the half-marathon, which has a fast downhill course designed for personal-best times.

The Las Vegas Marathon represents a grueling but invigorating day for marathoners and a festival-like atmos-

phere for spectators. One of the oldest marathons in the West, the event was started by the late *Las Vegas Sun* publisher Hank Greenspun in 1966. The field has grown from 102 runners to an expected 7,000 participants this year.

The runners' motivations vary. Some entrants are world-class marathoners running for \$43,000 in prize money. Many more are joggers pounding the pavement in their first race and hoping their rubbery legs will hold up for a finisher's medal. Others are veterans striving for new personal bests, relay runners performing five- or six-mile segments for a team, wheelchair racers, and masters or senior runners. Some will be walkers; for the first time the event will include the Las Vegas Racewalking Championship.

Spectators can rub elbows with the marathoners on Saturday, February 8, during a five-kilometer (3.1-mile) fun walk to benefit Opportunity Village. The event includes breakfast and entertainment at the Drink nightclub. Later that afternoon, from 2 to 6 p.m., many runners will gather at Drink for jazz and spaghetti during a pre-race pasta party. (Call 702-876-3870 for information.)

On race day many spectators gather at the finish line at Vacation Village. There, one can browse through the vendors' tent and watch from grandstands as marathoners cross the finish line. Spectators also can walk to the nearby Belz Factory Outlet Mall to cheer the participants as they come down the stretch.

That's the toughest part of the Las Vegas Marathon for many runners. I'll never forget one year when I was struggling as I approached Vacation Village. Suddenly an Elvis impersonator sang out to me, "You're looking good!" I smiled and even picked up my pace. Like other runners nearing the finish line, I appreciated the help after almost 26.2 grueling but invigorating miles.

Dahn Shaulis is a Henderson writer and long-distance runner.

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NORTH LAS VEGAS

Fiesta Casino • 631-7000: Entertainment in the Cantina Bar; Mariachis, 10:30am-2:30pm Sun.

Texas Station • 631-1000: Music is presented nightly

in the casino's Armadillo Honky Tonk Lounge.

PRIMM (STATE LINE)

Buffalo Bill's Resort • 382-1111 or 800-FUN-STOP: Star of the Desert Arena: Entertainment TBA; Carolee's Theatre: "Carolee's Comedy Club," Fri.-Sun.
Primadonna • 382-1212 or 800-826-4471.
Whiskey Pete's • 382-1212 or 800-367-7383.

GAMING TOURNAMENTS

Queens Poker Classic VII • Jan. 4-24 • Four Queens, 385-4011.
Island Bowl Slots • Jan. 17-19 • Tropicana, 800-521-8767.
Alpine Adventure Slots • Jan. 20-23 • MGM Grand, 800-929-9410.
World Championship of Video Poker • Jan. 21-22 • Santa Fe, 800-457-2882 ext. 4371.
Fame and Fortune Slots • Jan. 23-25 • Edgewater, Laughlin, 800-289-8777.
Mardi Gras Slots • Feb. 9-12 • Aladdin, 736-0477.
Star Struck Slots • Feb. 23-26 • MGM, 800-929-9410.
Mardi Gras Slots • Feb. 23-26 • Caesars Palace, 731-7485 or 800-262-2502.
Keno • March 16-19 • Caesars Palace, 731-7485.

ATTRACTIONS, TOURS & MUSEUMS

BOULDER CITY

Black Canyon River Raft Tours • 293-3776.

Boulder City Historic District • Walking tour. 1497 Nevada Hwy., 293-2034.

Boulder City/Hoover Dam Museum • 444 Hotel Plaza, 294-1988.

Hoover Dam and Visitor Center • Tours, theaters, exhibit hall at Hoover Dam. U.S. 93, 293-8367, 293-8000, or 293-8419.

Lake Mead Cruises/Desert Princess • 293-6180.

Lake Mead National Recreation Area • 601 Nevada Hwy., 293-8906.

HENDERSON

Clark County Heritage Museum • 1830 S. Boulder Hwy., 455-7955.

Cranberry World West • Tours of Ocean Spray facility. 1301 American Pacific Dr., 566-7160.

Ethel M Chocolate Factory and Cactus Garden • Tours. 2 Cactus Garden Dr., 458-8864.

Kidd Marshmallow Factory • Tours. 8203 Gibson Rd., 564-3878 or 800-234-2383.

Ron Lee's World of Clowns • Free factory tours. 330 Carousel Pkwy., 434-1700.

LAS VEGAS

A.J. Hackett Bungy • 810 Circus Circus, 385-4321.

Debbie Reynolds Hollywood Movie Museum • Tours, 733-2334.

Excalibur • Dragon battle in front moat, fairy tale enacted every half hour at the Glockenspiel Clock 9am-10pm, 597-7777.

Floyd Lamb State Park • Picnicking and fishing. 9200 Tule Springs Rd., 486-5413.

Fremont Street Experience • Light show on the hour from dusk to 11pm. Downtown Las Vegas, 678-5600.

Grand Slam Canyon • Adventure park with rides and at-

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tractions. Next to Circus Circus, 800-444-CIRCUS.
Guinness World of Records Museum • 2780 Las Vegas Blvd. S., 792-3766.
Holy Cow! Casino • Brewery tours, 732-2697.
Imperial Palace Auto Collection • 794-3174.
Las Vegas Art Museum • 6130 W. Charleston Blvd., 647-4300.
Las Vegas Museum of Natural History • 900 Las Vegas Blvd. N., 384-DINO.
Liberace Museum • Pianos and memorabilia. 1775 E. Tropicana, 798-5595.
Lied Discovery Children's Museum • 833 Las Vegas Blvd. N., 382-KIDS.
Luxor • Motion rides and IMAX Theatre, 262-4000.
Marjorie Barrick Museum of Natural History • 4505 Maryland Pkwy., UNLV, 895-3381.
MGM Grand Adventures • Theme park, 891-7979.
Mirage • Dolphin habitat, white tigers, volcano, 791-7111.
Mount Charleston • Recreation info., 222-1597.
Nevada State Museum and Historical Society • Lorenzi Park, 700 Twin Lakes Dr., 486-5205.
New York-New York • Roller coaster, 740-6969.
Old Las Vegas Mormon Fort Historic State Park • 908 Las Vegas Blvd. N. at Washington (enter from Cashman Field parking lot B only), 486-3511.
Omnimax Theatre • Caesars Palace, 731-7900.
Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area • 363-1921.
Southern Nevada Zoological Park • 1775 N. Rancho Dr., 648-5955.
Spring Mountain Ranch State Park • Red Rock Canyon, 875-4141.
Sam's Town • Water and laser show, 456-7777.
Treasure Island • Pirate battle, 894-7111.
Wet 'n Wild • 2601 Las Vegas Blvd. S., 737-SURE.

LAUGHLIN

Big Bend of the Colorado State Recreation Area • Four miles south of Laughlin, 298-1859.
Lake Mohave Resort • 602-754-3245.
Nevada Gold Museum • Flamingo Hilton Laughlin, 800-FLAMINGO.
Riverside Resort • Classic cars, 298-2535.

MESQUITE

Desert Valley Museum • 346-5705.
Si Redd's Oasis • Gun club, hayrides, microbrewery, 346-5232.

NORTH LAS VEGAS

The Planetarium • Community College of Southern Nevada, 651-5059.

OVERTON

Lost City Museum of Archaeology • Pueblo culture, 397-2193.
Valley of Fire State Park • 397-2088.

SEARCHLIGHT

Searchlight Gallery • 297-1540.
Searchlight Historic Museum • 455-7955.

PRIMM (STATE LINE)

Buffalo Bill's • Roller coaster and water-flume ride, 382-1111.

A Reminder:

To confirm dates and times, please use the phone number listed with each event. The area code is 702 throughout Nevada. For hotels' toll-free numbers, call 800-555-1212.

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Reno-Tahoe Territory

EVENTS

The Reno-Lake Tahoe area offers skiing and an abundance of cultural events during January and February. You can join the nonstop activities at Lake Tahoe's Snowfest or watch McAvoy Layne perform as Mark Twain in Carson City. The following listing is divided into areas of interest. Be sure to call ahead to confirm dates and times. Nevada's area code is 702.

January & February

SKI EVENTS & FESTIVALS

MCI Downhill Relays • Jan. 10-12 • Former Olympians and World Cup champions compete. Heavenly Ski Resort, 586-7000.

CE Sports Pro Snowboarding • Jan. 10-12 • Kirkwood Ski Resort, 209-258-6000.

Ski Fest '97 • Jan. 12 • Free learn-to-ski lessons, tours, races. Lakeview Cross-Country Ski Area, Tahoe City, 916-583-9353.

Sprint World Ski Challenge • Jan. 16-17 • North American v. European legends. Resort at Squaw Creek, 415-924-7500 ext. 301.

Coke Cup Regional Races • Jan. 18 • Kirkwood Ski Resort, 209-258-6000.

National Brotherhood of Skiers Winter Carnival • Jan. 18-20 • Races, clinics, and parties. Alpine Meadows Ski Resort, 800-441-4423.

Telemark Ski Race • Jan. 19 • Northstar-at-Tahoe, 916-562-2475.

U.S. Men's Pro Tour • Jan. 23-25 • Competition and bar parties throughout South Lake Tahoe. Heavenly Ski Resort, 586-7000.

FWA Masters Giant Slalom • Jan. 25-26 • Squaw Valley USA, 916-541-2462.

Lakeview Resolution Solution • Jan. 26 • 20K cross-country race, all ages and abilities. Lakeview Cross-Country Ski Area, Tahoe City, 916-583-9353.

Lord of the Boards • Jan. 30-31 • Alpine, telemark, and snowboard races. Northstar-at-Tahoe, 916-562-2475.

Cross-Country Nature Tour • Feb. 2 • Kirkwood Ski Resort, 209-258-6000.

Lakeview Quick Kick • Feb. 8 • 10K cross-country ski race, all ages and abilities. Lakeview Cross-Country Ski Area, Tahoe City, 916-583-9353.

Ski the Huts Marathon Tour • Feb. 9 • Challenge to ski to nine warming huts in one day. Royal Gorge Ski Resort, 916-426-3871.

Valentine's Day Sweetheart Race • Feb. 14 • Race with or for a sweetheart and win a 14-carat diamond pendant and ring. Heavenly Ski Resort, 586-7000.

President's Day Torchlight Parade and Fireworks • Feb. 15 • Kirkwood Ski Resort, 209-258-6000.

Tahoe Snowboard Series • Feb. 22 • Kirkwood Ski Resort, 209-258-6000.

Winter Police Games • Feb. 24-27 • Alpine Meadows Ski Area, 916-541-2462.

Bluewater Benefit • Feb. 27 • Third annual fund-raiser



Mogul and aerial competitors fly high over Tahoe during the Bumps and Jumps Challenge Finals at Heavenly.

for Tahoe Adaptive Ski School, which provides ski instruction for the disabled. Bluewater Brewing Co., Tahoe City, 916-581-4161.

Snowfest • Feb. 28-March 9 • Ten days of parties, races, parade, dances, concerts, and a Polar Bear swim in Lake Tahoe during annual winter carnival of North Lake Tahoe. 916-583-7625.

PERFORMANCES

McAvoy Layne as Mark Twain • Jan. 3 • Brewery Arts Center, Carson City, 883-1976.

"Ruthless" • Jan. 10-11, 17-18, and 24-25 • Musical production. Brewery Arts Center, Carson City, 883-1976.

Taking the Polar Route

Intrepid swimmers go for the cold at Snowfest.

By Kim Pryor

When Snowfest, the largest winter carnival in the West, lights up Lake Tahoe's North Shore, people go a little crazy. They dress up their dogs in clothes, ski with torches, and dance in the streets.

They even jump into the lake's icy waters and go swimming.

Once again during Snowfest, February 28 to March 9, some of the bravest swimmers south of the Arctic will freeze their fannies in Lake Tahoe's 45-degree water during the Polar Bear Swim. Last year 30 people jumped into the lake, swam 150 yards out to a buoy, and then churned back to shore before emerging as shivering human ice cubes. Spectators lined the beach outside Garwoods Restaurant in Carnelian Bay, awed and wondering: Why?

Julie Tester knows. The Carnelian Bay resident took her first Polar Bear plunge five years ago when a friend suggested that Tester, who had been a competitive swimmer in high school and college, sign



Contestants brave Lake Tahoe's bone-chilling water during Snowfest's annual Polar Bear Swim.

up for the race. So she donned two bathing suits, smeared petroleum jelly on her body for warmth, and surprised herself by jumping in.

"I had my doubts whether I was going to actually do it up until I did it," she says. "It was in the middle of a blizzard. There were one-foot swells in the lake and a foot of fresh snow on the ground."

Tester placed first in the women's division during the race's first three years. Last year, she finished fourth. These days Tester competes against wimps in wetsuits. "I'm a purist," she says. "I think there should be a separate category for those who wear wetsuits."

Even though the competitors are in the water for no more than five minutes, the physical exertion is grueling. "You're pumping really hard," Tester says. "My lung threshold has gone down because in the win-

ter it's hard to get an aerobic workout. Swimming a 150-yard race takes a big toll on you." After the race, Tester's husband is usually there to wrap her in a towel and warm clothes. And a cold and sore throat following the swim are as much a tradition for Tester as the event itself.

So why does she do it? Tester says her participation has nothing to do with the \$150 first prize.

"It's a habit now," she says. "I've always been a person who jumps in the water when it's cold out. I always asked my mom, 'Can I go swimming?' and she would say, 'I don't think so, it's November.' Ever since then I wanted to prove them wrong."

The Polar Bear Swim—tentatively set for 2:30 p.m. on Saturday, March 1, at Garwoods Restaurant—is one of scores of Snowfest events. Call 916-583-7625 to confirm event times or to obtain a schedule.

Kim Pryor is a Lake Tahoe writer who swims the lake only in summer.



Polar Bear swimmer Julie Tester doesn't warm to wetsuits.

Reno Philharmonic • Jan. 14 • Including selections from Tchaikovsky and Brahms. Pioneer Center for the Performing Arts, Reno, 323-6393.

Winter Blues and Brews Festival • Jan. 18 • Benefit for cancer victims. Ormsby House, Carson City, 883-7477.

Imago • Jan. 21 • Comedy, mime, and dance. Nightingale Concert Hall, U of N, Reno, 784-4046.

Reno Chamber Orchestra • Jan. 25 • Selections from Mozart and Bach. Nightingale Concert Hall, U of N, Reno, 348-9413.

"The Sound of Music" • Jan. 27-29 • Pioneer Center for the Performing Arts, Reno, 686-6600.

Nevada Festival Ballet • Jan. 30 • Lula Washington performs. Pioneer Center for the Performing Arts, Reno, 785-7915.

St. Lawrence Quartet Concert • Feb. 1 • Concert, Pioneer Center for the Performing Arts, Reno, 686-6600.

Feather, Stone, and Light • Feb. 3 • Concert featuring R. Carlos Nakai, William Eaton, and Will Clipman. Carson City Community Center, 883-1976.

Reno Philharmonic • Feb. 11 • Guest artists soprano Katharine Deboer and tenor Jon Fey. Pioneer Center for the Performing Arts, Reno, 323-6393.

Sabella Consort: Renaissance Jazz • Feb. 14 • Brewery Arts Center, Carson City, 883-1976.

"Goodbye Charlie" • Feb. 14-16, 21-23 • Reno Little Theater, 329-0661.

"Don Pasquale" • Feb. 20 and 22 • Donizetti's comic opera. Nevada Opera, Pioneer Center for the Performing Arts, Reno, 786-4046.

Patrick Ball Concert • Feb. 21 • Celtic harpist and storyteller. Brewery Arts Center, Carson City, 883-1976.



The theatrical ensemble Imago creates tricks and illusions during its show January 21 in Reno.

Carson City Chamber Orchestra • Feb. 23 • Concert featuring flautist Mary Miller as soloist. Carson City Community Center, 883-4154.

Chestnut Brass Company • Feb. 23 • Baroque to blues. Nightingale Concert Hall, U of N, Reno, 784-6847.

"Measure for Measure" • Feb. 28-March 1 • Shakespeare's comedy. Redfield Presceniun Theatre, U of N, Reno, 784-6847.

EXHIBITS

Fantastic Plastic • Thru Jan. 3 • Model car display. National Automobile Museum, Reno, 333-9300.

Charles M. Russell: The West on Paper • Thru Jan. 5 • Paintings and illustrated letters from the collection of the C.M. Russell Museum in Great Falls, Montana. Nevada Museum of Art, Reno, 329-3333.



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Casino Notes



Say good-bye to Circus Circus' pink exterior accents. A change in the Reno casino's color scheme is part of a \$35-million makeover.

Best for 21: The Atlantis was rated the best place for blackjack in Reno by *Blackjack Confidential Magazine*. The casino has single and multideck 21 and rules that enable the player to double down on any two original cards.

Deals on Skis: The Carson Valley Inn is one of several Reno-Tahoe properties offering ski packages. The Minden inn has packages ranging from \$59 per person for two nights (Sunday through Thursday) to \$165 for three nights (Friday and Saturday arrivals). The deals are based on double occupancy and include one or two lift tickets per person, depending on length of stay.

Think Pink: Circus Circus is slated for a facelift this spring that will change the color of the hotel's pink-and-white tower and circus tent. The landmark will receive an off-white base coat before a final color is selected. The makeover is part of a \$35-million project that included a 3,000-space garage and renovation of all 1,520 rooms.

Schuss and Putt: Embassy Suites at South Lake Tahoe offers a Ski and Tee package that includes a two-day stay, breakfast, manager's reception, ski storage, and either one adult lift ticket or a round of golf. The package is \$99 per person through April 12.

Sudsy News: The Tahoe Mountain Brewery opened this winter at the Lake Tahoe Horizon in Stateline. Visitors will find pub food and five brews, such as Cave Rock Pale Ale, named after local landmarks.

Ski Alert: At South Lake Tahoe, the Inn by the Lake's Ski for Less package offers one night's lodging Sunday through Thursday and an adult lift ticket for \$69 per person, based on double occupancy. Friday and Saturday nights are \$74.

Home Sweet Home: Casino

green comes with a house and lawn on St. Patrick's Day during the Home Sweet Home Sweepstakes at John Ascuaga's Nugget in Sparks. The annual promotion, which begins January 17, ends with a drawing for a new home on March 17.

Readers' Choice: The Peppermill's slots were voted "the best in Nevada" by the readers of *Casino Magazine*. The casino also recently added single-zero roulette, which reduces the house's advantage from 5.2 percent to 2.7 percent.

Slots Pay Off: *Casino Player Magazine* has given casinos in the Reno and Lake Tahoe area its 1996 "Loosest Slots Award." On dollar slots, Reno has a 95.9-percent payback, compared to 92 percent for East Coast casinos, according to the magazine; Lake Tahoe's \$5 slots rate a 97-percent payback, Reno 96.86-percent. Reno was also at least two percentage points higher than Eastern properties on nickel and quarter slots, with 92.22 and 94.15 percent respectively, the survey reported.

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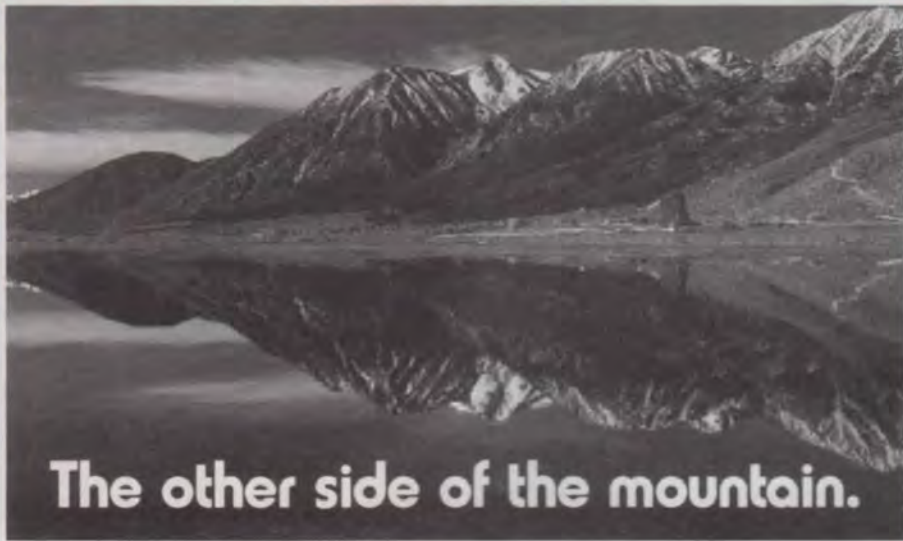
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Reno-Tahoe

Full Deck Art Quilts • Thru Jan. 19 • Smithsonian traveling exhibit of quilts inspired by playing cards. Nevada Museum of Art, Reno, 329-3333.

Beyond Category: The Musical Genius of Duke Ellington • Thru Jan. 24 • Exhibit organized by the Smithsonian Institution. Workshop, lectures, concerts, displays related to Ellington and the jazz era. Carson City Library, 887-2244 ext. 1021.

Royal Elegance • Thru March 31 • Rolls-Royce exhibit. National Automobile Museum, Reno, 333-9300.

Comics, Characters, and Cartoons—Circa 1930s • Thru Oct. • Display of more than 100 dolls, includes such characters as Charlie McCarthy, Little Orphan Annie, and Popeye. Children's Museum of Northern Nevada, Carson City, 884-2226.

Issues and Landscape of Israel • Jan. 10-March 2 • Two exhibits, New Art From an Ancient Land: Contemporary Art From Haifa, Israel, and The War Trilogy: Images of Israel by Avi Holtzman. Nevada Museum of Art, Reno, 329-3333.

Straight From the Heart • Jan. 24-Feb. 27 • Show of U of N Professor Edward Martinez's 25-year mixed-media paintings of heart images. Sheppard Gallery, U of N, Reno, 746-6658.

Blackhawk Automotive Art Exhibit • Feb. 24-Aug. 11 • Women and the automobile. National Automobile Museum, Reno, 333-9300.

Great Basin Basketmakers • Feb. 28-April 11 • Traditional and contemporary basketry. Brewery Arts Center, Carson City, 883-1976.

GENERAL INTEREST

The Life of Duke Ellington • Jan. 4 and 11 • Free lecture by Scott Faulkner, Carson City Library, 887-2244 ext. 1021.

Sharkey's Serbian Christmas Feast • Jan. 7 • Sharkey's Nugget Casino, Gardnerville, 782-3133.

Field Hollers and Work Songs: The Tap Roots of Jazz • Jan. 8 • Free lecture by Kenn West, Carson City Library, 887-2244 ext. 1021.

Ice Sculpture Competition • Jan. 12 • Chefs and ice artists carve displays. Embassy Suites, South Lake Tahoe, 588-2412.

Blues Singing! A Perspective on What Is and What Ain't • Jan. 15 • Free lecture by Kenn West, Carson City Library, 887-2244 ext. 1021.

Winter Wine and All That Jazz • Jan. 18 • Wine tasting, live jazz, finger-food buffet, \$25 per person, benefit for the Carson Advocates for Cancer Victims. Ormsby House, Carson City, 883-7447.

Antique Show and Sale • Jan. 18-19 • Walley's Hot Springs, Genoa, 782-4951.

Super Bowl Parties • Jan. 26 • Football-game parties at casinos throughout the Reno-Tahoe area.

SPORTS & COMPETITIONS

University of Nevada Women's Basketball • The women's team plays Jan. 3 v. Sacramento State, Jan. 10 v. Idaho, Jan. 12 v. Boise State, Jan. 25 v. UC Irvine, Feb. 7 v. Long Beach State, Feb. 9 v. Pacific, Feb. 21 v. North Texas, Feb. 23 v. New Mexico State. Lawlor Events Center, U of N, Reno, 348-PACK.

Reno Renegades Pro Hockey • The Renegades play Jan. 11-12 and 24 v. Bakersfield Fog, Jan. 25 and 29 v. Alaska Gold Kings, Jan. 31 and Feb. 1 v. Anchorage Aces, Feb. 8 v. Fresno Falcons, Feb. 12 v. San Diego Gulls, Feb. 16 and 21-22 v. Alaska Gold Kings, Feb. 26 and 28 v. Anchorage Aces. Reno-Sparks Convention Center, 828-3400.

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Duke

The music and life of Duke Ellington is highlighted in a multimedia exhibit that is on display at the Carson City Library through January 23.

"Beyond Category: The Musical Genius of Duke Ellington," a traveling exhibit sponsored by the Smithsonian Institution, incorporates interactive video, historic photographs, and informative text. The Carson City Library is one of only 30 libraries in the United States that will host the exhibit.

In addition to the display, which traces Ellington's life and musical influences, the library has scheduled a series of free lectures by jazz aficionados Scott Faulkner, a University of Nevada, Reno professor, and Kenn West, host of the KUNR radio program "Jazz Straight Ahead" during early January (see events listings).

Ellington, who lived from 1899 to 1974, was a noted jazz composer, arranger, conductor, and pianist. Known as the King of Jazz and the Aristocrat of Swing, he composed more than 900 works, including gospel music, plays, musical comedies, ballets, symphonic scores, movie soundtracks, and popular songs.

The Ellington exhibit is on display in the reading area of the Carson City Library, which is open from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday, Friday, and Saturday and from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Tuesday through Thursday. Admission



Duke Ellington is the subject of John Howard's poster art.

to the exhibit is free. Call 702-887-2244 for more information on the Smithsonian traveling show.

The Seniors Strike Silver Club, for folks 50 and older, lights the way for a great stay in Carson City.



Photo courtesy of the Nevada State Museum

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CARSON CITY

Carson City Convention & Visitors' Bureau
1900 So. Carson Street, Suite 200 Carson City, NV 89701

Reno-Tahoe

University of Nevada Men's Basketball • The Wolf Pack plays Jan. 16 v. New Mexico State, Jan. 18 v. North Texas, Jan. 30 v. Santa Barbara, Feb. 1 v. Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, Feb. 13 v. Cal State Fullerton, Feb. 20 v. Boise State, Feb. 22 v. Idaho. Lawlor Events Center, U of N, Reno, 348-PACK.

Brunswick World Tournament of Champions • Jan. 21-25 • Features 59 champion bowlers and five international players, kicks off the 1997 PBA Tour. National Bowling Stadium, Reno, 334-2600.

Silver State Invitational Indoor Track Meet • Jan. 25 • Reno Livestock Event Center, 784-6081.

Bill Cosby Invitational Indoor Track Meet • Feb. 8 • Reno Livestock Event Center, 784-6081.

Holiday Inn Classic Indoor Track Meet • Feb. 15 • Reno Livestock Event Center, 784-6081.

Indoor Track Big West Conference Championship • Feb. 21-22 • Reno Livestock Event Center, 784-6081.

COMING EVENTS

"Grease" • March 3-5 • Reno, 686-6610.

Big West Conference Basketball Tournament • March 7-9 • U of N, Reno, 348-PACK.

Cowboy Jubilee and Poetry • March 8 • Carson City, 883-1532.

Delta Saloon International Mountain Oyster Fry • March 15 • Virginia City, 847-0311.

Mother Earth Awakening Powwow • March 15-17, Carson City, 882-1808.

Sprint Bumps and Jumps Tour • March 21-22 • Heavenly Ski Resort, 586-7000.



Rain: A Tribute to the Beatles appears January 17-19 at Harrah's Lake Tahoe.

Fiesta Nevada • May 2-4 • Sparks, 353-2284.

Celebrate the River • June 6-8 • Reno, 265-5281.

Night Curves • June 6-8 • Reno, 329-7469.

Reno Rodeo • June 21-29 • 329-3877.

SHOWGUIDE

The Reno-Lake Tahoe area offers production shows and big-name entertainment. Patti LaBelle and

Kenny Rogers sing at John Ascuaga's Nugget in Sparks, and Wynonna performs at Caesars Tahoe. It's always wise to call ahead for show times and reservations. Nevada's area code is 702.

RENO/SPARKS

Atlantis • 825-4700 or 800-723-6500: Center Stage Cabaret: Band on the Run, thru Jan. 5; Steppen Stonz, thru Jan. 19; White Wing, Jan. 7-19; Edy Gainer and

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Skiing Around the State

A guide to Nevada and Tahoe Basin Ski Areas.

1997 Downhill Skier's Guide

Area	Phone	Top Elevation	Vertical	Lifts	Rating Bg-Int-Adv	Lift Price Adult/Child	Rental Adult/Child	Snowboards
TAHOE BASIN								
Alpine Meadows	916-583-4232	8,637	1,800	12	25-40-35	\$46/\$18	\$22/\$15	Yes
Boreal	916-426-3666	7,700	500	9	30-55-15	\$27/\$10	\$17/\$12	Yes
Diamond Peak	702-831-3211	8,540	1,840	6	18-46-36	\$37/\$14	\$17/\$11	Yes
Donner Ski Ranch	916-426-3635	7,751	750	6	25-50-25	\$22/\$10	\$15/\$10	Yes
Granlibakken	916-583-4242	6,480	280	2	50-50-0	\$15/\$8	\$15/\$12	No
Heavenly	702-586-7000	10,040	3,500	25	20-45-35	\$47/\$31/\$20	\$20/\$10	Yes
Ski Homewood	916-525-2992	7,880	1,650	8	15-50-35	\$35/\$25/\$11	\$19/\$12	Yes
Kirkwood	209-258-6000	9,800	2,000	13	15-50-35	\$42/\$32/\$20	\$20/\$14	Yes
Mount Rose	702-849-0704	9,700	1,440	5	30-35-35	\$38/\$14	\$20/\$12	Yes
Northstar-at-Tahoe	916-562-1010	8,600	2,200	12	25-50-25	\$45/\$37/\$10	\$24/\$15	Yes
Sierra at Tahoe	916-659-7453	8,852	2,212	10	25-50-25	\$42/\$32/\$5	\$22	Yes
Soda Springs	916-426-1010	7,352	652	2	30-50-20	\$15/free	\$15	Yes
Squaw Valley	916-583-6955	9,050	2,850	32	25-45-30	\$46/\$5	\$25/\$13	Yes
Sugar Bowl	916-426-9000	8,383	1,500	10	17-43-40	\$41/\$10	\$20/\$13	Yes
Tahoe Donner	916-587-9444	7,350	600	3	40-60-0	\$26/\$12	\$18/\$13	Yes

AROUND THE STATE

LV Ski and Snowboard	702-646-0008	9,510	1,000	3	20-60-20	\$27/\$20	\$15	Yes
Elko Snobowl	702-738-6125	7,000	650	2	20-60-20	\$6	No	Yes
Ruby Mountains (Elko)	702-753-6867	Ruby Mt. Hell-Skiing in Lamolle offers helicopter skiing						

1997 Cross-Country Skier's Guide

Area	Phone	Trail (km)	Trail Fee Adult/Child	Rental Adult/Child	Lessons Adult/Child	Day Lodge
TAHOE BASIN						
Clair Tappaan Lodge	916-426-3632	12	\$5/\$2.50	\$13/\$8.50	\$14	✓
Diamond Peak	702-831-3211	35	\$14/\$9	\$15/\$7	\$23*	✓
Kirkwood	209-258-7248	80	\$15/\$5	\$15/\$9	\$35/\$23*	✓
Lake Tahoe Basin	916-573-2600	The U.S. Forest Service has brochures on many forest areas.				
Lake View	916-583-9353	65	\$15/\$6	\$15/\$9	\$35*	
Northstar-at-Tahoe	916-562-1010	65	\$16/\$8	\$16/\$9	\$44/\$25*	✓
Royal Gorge	916-426-3871	328	\$19.50/\$8.50	\$16.50/\$9.50	\$18/\$12	✓
Sorensen's	916-694-2266	80	none	\$12/\$8	\$26/\$18	✓
Spoooner Lake	702-887-8844	101	\$15/\$9	\$15/\$9	\$34/\$25*	✓
Squaw Valley	916-583-6300	18	\$12/\$10	\$13/\$8	\$35*	✓
Tahoe Donner	916-587-9484	70	\$15/\$13	\$15/\$9	\$29/\$21*	✓
AROUND THE STATE						
LV Ski and Snowboard	702-252-8077 702-873-1120	The Ski Chalet offers x-country suggestions The U.S. Forest Service has info on camping and avalanche conditions				
Spring Valley (Eureka)	702-237-5280	Ron Carrion at the Owl Club provides directions and transportation				
White Pine (Ely)	702-289-3031 (USFS) 702-289-1800 (BLM)	Ward Mt. and Loop Trails info. available from the U.S. Forest Service and BLM				

* Includes trail pass, equipment, and lessons

All prices are subject to change. Call resorts for information about children's programs.



Skiers at Mount Rose (above) will find more snow.

Snowy Slopes

Snow lovers will find winter carnivals and numerous racing events, both for spectators and participants, at Lake Tahoe ski areas this season (see events listing). Tahoe has North America's largest concentration of ski resorts, and many of the basin's 15 downhill areas are luring skiers with special deals and millions of dollars in improvements to lifts, slopes, and lodges. The region's 11 cross-country areas also are gearing up for a snowy winter.

This season, more efficient chairlifts have been installed at such downhill resorts as Alpine Meadows, Diamond Peak, Sierra-at-Tahoe, and Squaw Valley. Breaking with its purist past, Alpine Meadows has opened its slopes to snowboarding.

Northstar-at-Tahoe has all-new rental equipment and each day is offering free ski lessons for high-intermediate and above skiers. Tahoe Donner has new terrain, and fencing was installed on the upper mountain to maintain more consistent snow depths.

Heavenly has received approval for its 20-year master plan, which includes new runs and ski lifts, as well as a gondola linking Heavenly with the Stateline casinos.

Mount Rose will have snowmaking equipment to provide additional coverage near the base and ensure earlier openings.

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4 \$1.50 Keno Credits	\$ 6.00
4 Cocktails	\$ 8.00
4 Lucky Bucks	\$ 4.00
4 \$1 Gaming Tokens	\$ 4.00
Deluxe Motel Room (One night per couple)	\$ 46.33
TOTAL RETAIL VALUE	\$82.33
YOUR PRICE ONLY	\$46.00

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The ice action is slick at Reno Renegades games. The team plays at the Reno-Sparks Convention Center.

Dezire/Madison Avenue, Jan. 21-Feb. 2.

Circus Circus • 329-0711: Free circus acts, 11am-midnight.

Comstock • 329-1880.

Eldorado • 786-5700, 800-648-5966 (U.S. outside Nevada) or 800-648-3024 (Canada): Rubber Biscuit: Tribute to the Blues Brothers, thru Jan. 4; Brew Brothers: Entertainment TBA.

Eddie's Fabulous '50s • 329-1950.

Fitzgeralds • 785-3300 or 800-648-5022 (U.S. outside Nevada).

Flamingo Hilton Reno • 785-7080: Flamingo Showroom: "American Superstars" (dark thru mid-Feb.); music at Top of the Hilton restaurant (dark Tues.).

Harrah's Reno • 788-3773 or 800-HARRAHS: Sammy's Showroom: Frank Sinatra Jr. and the Frank Sinatra Orchestra, thru Jan. 1; Smothers Brothers, Jan. 16-19; "The Great Reno Wild Wild West Show" and "Heart Beat," revues.

John Ascuaga's Nugget • Sparks, 356-3304 or 800-648-1177 (U.S. and Nevada): Rose Ballroom: Patti LaBelle, Jan. 18-19; Sammy Kershaw, Feb. 7-8; Tom Jones, Feb. 13-14; Kenny Rogers, Feb. 29-March 1; bands play nightly in the Casino Cabaret and Trader Dick's restaurant.

Peppermill • 826-2121 or 800-648-6992: Bands play nightly.

Plantation Station • Sparks, 359-9440.

Reno Hilton • 789-2285 or 800-648-3568 (U.S. outside Nevada): Hilton Theatre: Peking Circus, thru Jan. 5; Aspen Lounge: Bands play Tues.-Sun.; Just for Laughs Comedy Club: Stand-up comedy nightly except Mon.

Riverboat • 323-8877.

Silver Club • Sparks, 358-4771 or 800-648-1137 (U.S. outside Nevada).

Silver Legacy • 329-4777 or 800-225-BASS (U.S., Canada, and Mexico): Grand Exposition Hall: Little Richard, Jan. 18; B.B. King, Feb. 8; Silver Legacy Gazebo: Wally Jones and Perry Joe Schirmer, afternoons; Gary Xavier, evenings till midnight; bands play in Legacy Saloon 9pm-3am.

Virginian • 329-4664.

Western Village • Sparks, 331-1069 or 800-648-1170.

CARSON CITY/CARSON VALLEY

Carson Nugget • 882-1626 or 800-426-5239 (conti-

nental U.S. including Nevada): Nugget Show Bar: Bands play Tues.-Sun.

Carson Station • Carson City, 883-0900: Bands.

Carson Valley Inn • Minden, 782-9711 or 800-321-6983: Cabaret Lounge, live entertainment Mon.-Sat.; country-western dancing and lessons, Sundays.

Ormsby House • Carson City, 882-1890: "Memories of Elvis and Roy Orbison" with Michael and Blue Suede, Jan. 3-5; JoAnn Jordan Big Band Dance, Jan. 19 and Feb. 16; "Comedy at the Capitol," Jan. 24-25.

Piñon Plaza • Carson City, 885-9000: Sports Book Lounge: Bands play Thurs.-Sat.

Sharkey's Nugget • Gardnerville, 782-3133.

Topaz Lodge • Topaz Lake, 266-3339.

STATELINE, LAKE TAHOE

Bill's Lake Tahoe • 588-2455.

Caesars Tahoe • 588-3515 or 800-648-3353: Circus Maximus: Wynonna, Feb. 7-8; Crosby, Stills and Nash, Feb. 21-22.

Harrah's Lake Tahoe • 588-6606 or 800-HARRAHS: South Shore Room: Four Tops, thru Jan. 1; Rain: A Tribute to the Beatles, Jan. 17-19; Bill Medley, Feb. 14-16; "Carnaval," revue, Jan. 15-April 14; Casino Center Stage: Nightly bands, après-ski parties Wed.-Sat.

Harveys • 588-2411 or 800-553-1022 ext. 2883 (U.S. and Nevada): Emerald Theatre: "Dick Clark's American Bandstand, Live at Harveys," musical revue with Dick Clark as video host (dark Wed.); Llewellyn's: Ron Rose Sound; bands play in the Emerald Party Lounge.

Lake Tahoe Horizon • 588-6211 or 800-322-7723: Grande Lake Theater: Anthony Clark, Jan. 18-19; Golden Cabaret: "Phantasy," magic and comedy revue (dark Mon.); bands play nightly in the Aspen Lounge.

Lakeside Inn • 588-7777.

NORTH LAKE TAHOE

Cal-Neva Resort • Crystal Bay, 832-4000 or 800-225-6382: Celebrity Showroom: Double Play Chamber Ensemble, Jan. 24.

Crystal Bay Club • Crystal Bay, 831-0512: Entertainment nightly.

Hyatt Regency Lake Tahoe • Incline Village, 832-1234.

Jim Kelley's Tahoe Nugget • Crystal Bay, 831-7157.

Tahoe Biltmore • Crystal Bay, 831-0660: Music and dancing nightly in the Aspen Lounge.

GAMING TOURNAMENTS

Poker • Weekends • Peppermill, 826-2121.
Keno • Sundays and Dec. 6-7 • Peppermill, 826-2121.
Blackjack • Tuesdays • Peppermill, 826-2121.
Winterfest Keno • Jan. 10-11 • Atlantis, 883-9300, ext. 4467.
Honest Abe Keno • Feb. 21-22 • Atlantis, 883-9300, ext. 4467.

ATTRACTIONS, TOURS & MUSEUMS

CARSON CITY

Brewery Arts Center • 449 W. King St., 883-1976.
Carson and Mills Park Railroad • Seasonal, Mills Park, 887-2523.
Children's Museum of Northern Nevada • 813 N. Carson St., 884-2226.
Kit Carson Trail • Walking tour. 687-7410 or 800-638-2321.
Nevada State Capitol • 687-5030.
Nevada State Library and Archives • State Constitution exhibit. 100 Stewart St., 687-5210.
Nevada State Museum • 600 N. Carson St., 687-4810.
Nevada State Railroad Museum • S. Carson St. at Fairview Dr., 687-6953.
Nevada Supreme Court • Tours. Stewart St., 687-8616.
Roberts' House Museum • 1207 N. Carson St., 882-1805.
Stewart Indian Museum and Cultural Center • 5366 Snyder, 882-1808.
Warren Engine Co. No. 1 Museum • 777 S. Stewart St., 887-2210.

DAYTON

Dayton State Park • 687-5678.

GARDNERVILLE

Carson Valley Museum and Cultural Center • Old Douglas County High School on U.S. Hwy. 395 S., 265-2889.

GENOA

Genoa Courthouse Museum • Seasonal, 782-4325.
Mormon Station State Historic Park • Seasonal, 782-4325, 687-4379.
Walley's Hot Springs • 2001 Foothill Rd., 782-8155.

LAKE TAHOE

Lake Tahoe Nevada State Park • 2005 Hwy. 28, Incline Village, 831-0494.
M.S. Dixie II Sternwheeler • Zephyr Cove, 588-3508.
Ponderosa Ranch • Seasonal, Incline Village, 831-0691.
Tahoe Gal Paddlewheeler • Tahoe City, 916-583-0141.
Tahoe Queen Sternwheeler • South Lake Tahoe, 800-23-TAHOE.
Tahoe Rim Trail • 150-mile system, 588-0686.
U.S. Forest Service Visitors Center • Stream chamber in creek, 916-573-2600.
Vikingsholm • Tours, 916-525-7232.
Zephyr Cove Resort • 588-5021.

RENO

Animal Ark • 10 mi. north of Reno, then 12 mi. on Red Rock Road, 969-3111.
Earth Window Museum • 500 N. Sierra St., Town Center Mall, 333-2828.
Fleischmann Planetarium • U of N, 784-4811.
Galena Creek Regional Park • Mount Rose Hwy., 785-4319.

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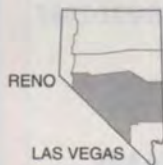
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Nevada's PIONEER TERRITORY

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Liberty Belle Slot Collection • Liberty Belle Saloon, 4250 S. Virginia St., 825-1776.

National Automobile Museum • 10 Lake St. S., 333-9300.

National Bowling Stadium • 300 N. Center St., 334-2695.

Nevada Historical Society Museum • 1650 N. Virginia St., 688-1190.

Nevada Museum of Art, E.L. Wiegand Gallery • 160 W. Liberty St., 329-3333.

Raymond I. Smith Truckee River Walk and Wingfield Park Amphitheater • 334-2077.

Reno Tahoe Gaming Academy • Tours. 300 E. First St., Suite 103, 329-5665.

Sierra Safari Zoo • 10 mi. north of Reno at Red Rock Rd., 677-1101.

Wilbur D. May Arboretum and Botanical Garden • Rancho San Rafael Park, 785-4153.

Wilbur D. May Great Basin Adventure • Seasonal, Rancho San Rafael Park, 785-4064.

Wilbur D. May Museum • Rancho San Rafael Park, 785-5961.

PYRAMID LAKE

Numana Hatchery Visitors Center • 574-0290.

SPARKS

Sparks Heritage Foundation and Museum • 820 Victorian Ave., 355-1144.

Wild Island • Seasonal, Off I-80, 359-2927.

VIRGINIA CITY

Assay Office Museum • 847-0777.

The Castle • Seasonal, 847-0275.

Chollar Mine • Tours, seasonal, 847-0155.

Fourth Ward School Museum • Historical displays in 1876 school, 847-0975.

Julia C. Bulette Red Light Museum • 847-9394.

Liberty Engine Co. No. 1 Comstock Firemen's Museum • Seasonal, 847-0717.

Mackay Mansion Museum • 847-0173.

Mark Twain Museum of Memories • 847-0454.

Nevada Gambling Museum • Old gaming tables, devices, and other memorabilia, 847-9022.

Piper's Opera House • Seasonal, 847-0433.

Ponderosa Mine • Tours, 847-0757.

Territorial Enterprise Mark Twain Museum • 847-0525.

Virginia and Truckee Railroad • Tourist train to Gold Hill, seasonal, 847-0380.

Virginia City Radio Museum • 847-9047.

Virginia City Tours • Narrated trolley tour of Virginia City, 786-0866.

Way It Was Museum • 847-0766.

Wild West Museum • Seasonal, 847-0400.

VERDI

Boomtown Family Fun Center • 345-8668.

Bull Creek Ranch • Trail, wagon, and sleigh rides, 345-7600.

WASHOE VALLEY

Bowers Mansion Park • Historic mansion of Comstock millionaires. Seasonal, 849-1825.

Davis Creek Park • 849-0684.

Washoe Lake State Park • Picnicking, camping. E. Lake Blvd., 687-4319.

A Reminder:

To confirm dates and times, please 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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Rural Territories

EVENTS

Rural Nevada's events include classical music and chariot races during January and February. Visitors can also tour the Hidden Cave archaeological site near Fallon or listen to authentic cowboy poetry and music in Elko. The listing is presented by territory and area of interest. Please call ahead to confirm dates and times. Nevada's area code is 702.

January & February

COWBOY COUNTRY

PERFORMANCES

Cowboy Poetry Gathering • Jan. 25-Feb. 1 • Thirteenth annual event featuring poetry, stories, music, dances, and entertainment. Convention Center, Elko, 738-7508.

Feather, Stone, and Light • Feb. 5 • Music featuring R. Carlos Nakai, William Eaton, and Will Clipman. Civic Center, Battle Mountain, 635-2651.

Sabella Consort: Renaissance Jazz • Feb. 13 • Concert covers six centuries of music. Event also features a wine and chocolate festival. Community Center, Lovelock, 273-7258.

GENERAL INTEREST

Cowboy Antique Show and Sale • Jan. 31-Feb. 1 • Western gear, memorabilia, and collectibles. Holiday Inn, Elko, 753-6995.

Annual Crab Feed • Feb. 1 • Music by Papa Clutch and the Shifters. Civic Center, Battle Mountain, 635-2651.

Chariot Races • Feb. 1-2 • Races, auction, and calcutta. Chariot track, Wells, 752-3540.

PONY EXPRESS TERRITORY

PERFORMANCES

Chestnut Brass Company • Feb. 7 • Brass quintet in concert. Eureka Opera House, Eureka, 237-6006.

Lazer Vaudeville • Feb. 28 • Laser magic show combined with vaudeville. Eureka Opera House, Eureka, 237-6006.

GENERAL INTEREST

Hidden Cave Tours • Jan. 11 and 25, Feb. 8 and 22 • Hike to view archaeological site. Churchill County Museum, Fallon, 423-3677.

PIONEER TERRITORY

PERFORMANCES

Don Edwards in Concert • Jan. 25 • Guitarist and com-



Shutterbugs will learn from the experts during Shooting the West, the annual photographic conclave to be held March 7-9 in Winnemucca. Above: "Horses" by participant Jess W. Smith of Winnemucca.

poser performs authentic Western music and cowboy lore. Catholic Center, Yerington, 463-3066.

Chestnut Brass Company • Feb. 22 • Brass quintet in concert. Catholic Center, Yerington, 463-3066.

SPORTS & COMPETITIONS

Nevada State Cowboy Action Shooting Championship • Jan. 17-19 • Fast draw, obstacle course, target, and black powder competition. Saddle West Hotel, Pahrump, 727-1111.

Walker Lake Fishing Derby • Feb. 17-19 • Hawthorne, 945-5896.

COMING EVENTS

Shooting the West IX • March 7-9 • Photography conference. Winnemucca, 623-6458.

"Feather on the Sea" • March 12 • Idaho Theater for Youth presentation. Battle Mountain, 635-2651.

Rhyolite Festival • March 17 • Rhyolite, 553-2424.

High Wizardry in Eureka



The wizard of Lazer Vaudeville appears February 28 at the Eureka Opera House.

Superficially, Lazer Vaudeville defines itself as a high-tech laser magic show combined with old-fashioned vaudeville. Dig deeper, and you'll discover a talented trio of entertainers who juggle machetes and chain saws. They also conjure up a wizard who performs magic with laser beams. And presiding over the performance is Alfonzo, a break-dancing, seven-foot-tall, fluorescent, fire-breathing dragon.

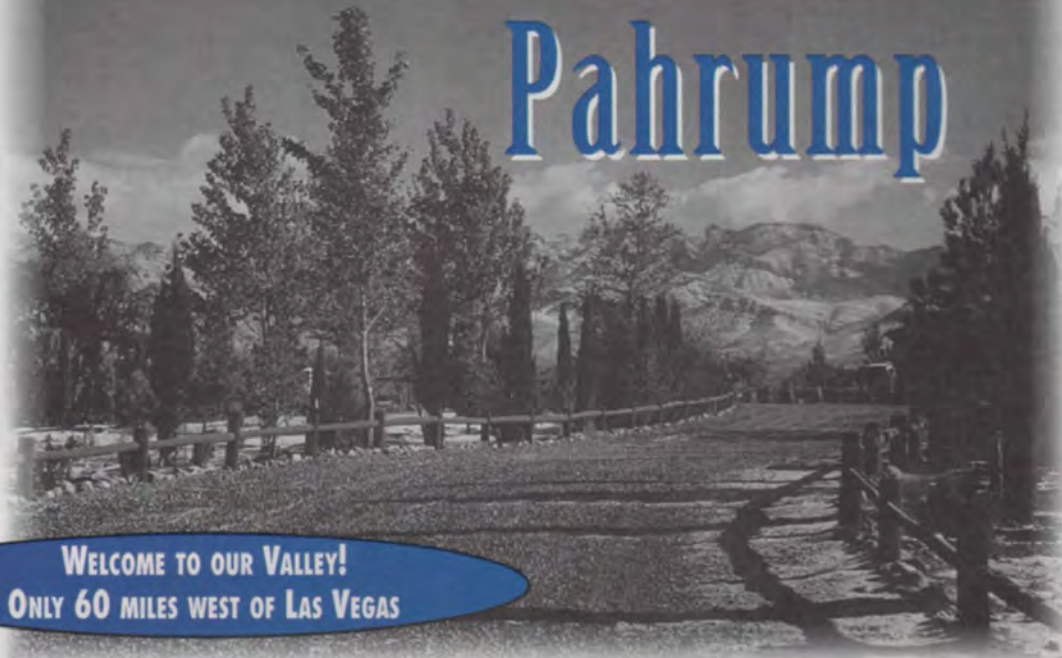
The touring company, which will perform February 28 at Eureka's historic opera house, includes Cindy Marvell, the first woman to win the International Juggling Association's championship. Children

will be selected from the audience to help her spin plates in the show's "cooking segment." A showgoer will have the chance to escape from a straightjacket.

Marvell's two partners, Carter Brown and Jeff Taub, are master jugglers who used to be Ringling Brothers clowns. Brown, Lazer Vaudeville's founder, has perfected bicycle-hoop rolling and spins a wicked luminescent rope. Taub, an admirer of the Three Stooges, has his own advanced degrees in silliness and spends off hours searching truck stops for the perfect cup of espresso. Call the Eureka Opera House, 702-237-6006, for more information.—Ann Henderson

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Tonopah 300 • March 28-30 • 300-mile off-road race. Tonopah, 457-5775.

Bordertown Bike Challenge • May 6 • Wendover, 664-3414.

Pioche Heritage Days • May 8-10 • 962-5544.

Desert Oasis Bluegrass Festival • May 16-18 • Fallon, 423-2544.

Jim Butler Days • May 23-26 • Tonopah, 482-3859.

Lincoln County Memorial Day Homecoming Celebration • May 23-26 • Caliente, 726-3121.

Portuguese Celebration • May 31-June 1 • Yerington, 463-3842.

Smith Valley Strawberry Festival • May 31-June 1 • 465-2481.

Mining Expo and Golf Tournament • June 4-6 • Elko, 738-4091.

Denio Barbecue and Roping • June 7 • 941-0357.

Gridley Days • June 13-15 • Austin, 964-2200.

Pizen Switch Round-Up • June 29 • Yerington, 463-2245.

Fourth of July Festivities • Statewide.

Ranch Hand Rodeo • July 4-5 • McDermitt, 532-8742.

Elko's National Basque Festival • July 5-7 • 738-7991.

Silver State Stampede Rodeo • July 12-14 • Elko, 738-1499.

All-Indian Rodeo, Stampede, and Pioneer Days • July 18-20 • Fallon, 423-2544.

Land Speed Opener and Hot Salt II • July 24-27 • Bonneville Salt Flats, Wendover, 664-3414 or 800-426-6862.

Native American Festival • July 25-27 • Elko, 753-3794.

Wells Fun Run • July 25-27 • 752-3540.

Wells Junior Rodeo • Aug. 2-3 • 752-3540.

Eureka County Fair • Aug. 8-10 • 237-5484.

Jarbidge Days • Aug. 9-10 • 488-2311.

Lyon County Fair and Rodeo • Aug. 14-17 • Yerington, 463-2090.

Lincoln County Fair and Panaca Rodeo • Aug. 17-18 • 726-3129.

Speed Week • Aug. 17-24 • Bonneville Salt Flats, Wendover, 664-3414 or 800-426-6862.

Spirit of Wovoka Days Powwow • Aug. 22-24 • Yerington, 463-5834.

Elko County Fair • Aug. 29-Sept. 1 • Elko, 738-3616.

White Pine County Fair • Aug. 30-31 • Ely, 289-8877.

Hearts O' Gold Cantaloupe Festival • Aug. 30-Sept. 1 • Fallon, 423-2544.

Winnemucca Tri-County Fair and Stampede • Aug. 30-Sept. 1 • 800-WMCA-NEV.

Pioche Labor Day Celebration • Aug. 30-Sept. 2 • 962-5544.

SHOWGUIDE

Many lounges in rural Nevada casinos have bands on weekends. Call ahead for show times. Nevada's area code is 702.

COWBOY COUNTRY

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Owl Club • 635-5155.

ELKO

Commercial Hotel • 738-3181: Comedy on Wed.

Holiday Inn • 738-8425: Piano bar, Tues.-Sat.; dance club, Thurs.-Sat.

Red Lion • 738-2111 or 800-545-0044 (Western U.S.)

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Stockmen's Hotel • 738-5141 or 800-648-2345 (U.S. and Nevada).

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Barton's Club 93 • 755-2341.

Cactus Petes • 755-2321 or 800-821-1103: Cabaret Lounge: Entertainment TBA.

Horseshu Casino • 755-2321.

MILL CITY

Burns Bros. Casino • 538-7306: Bands often appear in Mr. B's Lounge at the Mill City casino on Interstate 80.

WENDOVER

Nevada Crossing • 664-2900 or 800-537-0207.

Peppermill • 664-2255 or 800-648-9660 (U.S. outside Nevada).

Rainbow Casino • 664-4000 or 800-217-0049.

Red Garter • 664-2111 or 800-982-2111 (continental U.S. outside Nevada).

Silver Smith • 664-2231 or 800-354-3671.

State Line • 664-2221 or 800-648-9668.

WINNEMUCCA

Winners Hotel • 623-2511: Lonesome Heart plays in the lounge, thru Jan. 5.

PONY EXPRESS TERRITORY

ELY

Hotel Nevada • 289-6665.

FALLON

Bonanza Inn • 423-3111 ext. 47.

Fallon Nugget • 423-3111.

PIONEER TERRITORY

AMARGOSA VALLEY

Longstreet Inn • 372-1777: Weekend entertainment.

BEATTY

Stagecoach • 553-2419 or 800-4-BIGWIN (U.S. outside Nevada): Nightly entertainment.

HAWTHORNE

El Capitan • 945-3322: Entertainment TBA.

Joe's Tavern • 945-2302.

PAHRUMP

Mountain View Casino and Bowl • 727-7777: Bowling alley, entertainment.

Saddle West Casino • 727-1111 or 800-GEDDY-UP: Casino-lounge entertainment.

TONOPAH

Mizpah Hotel • 482-6202.

Station House • 482-9777: Trick Pony, thru Jan. 12; Laurie Star, Jan. 14-26; Jenny Lynn and The Men, Jan. 28-Feb. 9; Sierra, Feb. 11-16; Lonesome Heart, Feb. 18-March 2.

YERINGTON

Casino West • 463-2481 or 800-227-4661 (U.S. and Nevada).

Dini's Lucky Club • 463-2868.

Range Rhymers

PHOTOS BY C. J. HADLEY

You can hear tales of the West set to rhyme, learn to braid rawhide, and bone up on bunkhouse cooking January 25 to February 1 at the Cowboy Poetry Gathering in Elko.

For the past 12 years, a crowd of international fans has descended on the Northeastern Nevada mining and ranching town for a rowdy week of poetry and stories—recited by working cowboys fresh off the range—as well as music, dances, and exhibits of buckaroo trappings.

Performers this year include singer-songwriter Ian Tyson and poets Waddie Mitchell and Baxter Black. Michael Martin Murphey and the Sons of the San Joaquin also will appear. Workshops range from comedy and drawing to one-on-one song-writing sessions.



Buckaroo bard Baxter Black takes his hat off to the comical side of cowboy poetry.



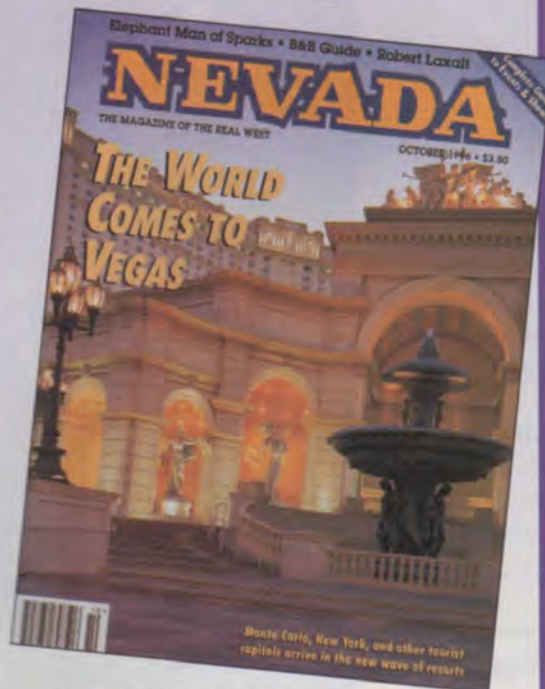
Well-versed poet Georgie Sicking spins a rhyme from the range at the gathering while Randy Rieman, Joel Nelson, and Jim Ross await their turns at the mike.

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COWBOY COUNTRY

- Bonneville Salt Flats • Wendover, 801-977-4300.
- Buckaroo Hall of Fame • Winnemucca, 623-2225.
- Giant Tufa Park • West of Lovelock, 273-7213.
- Humboldt Museum • Winnemucca, 623-2912.
- Jarbidge Wilderness Area • North of Elko, 208-543-4129.
- Northeastern Nevada Museum • 1515 Idaho St., Elko, 738-3418.
- Pershing County Marzen House Museum • Marzen Ln., Lovelock, 273-7213.
- Western Folklife Center • 501 Railroad St., Elko, 738-7508 or 800-748-4466.
- Wild Horse State Recreation Area • 65 miles north of Elko, 758-6493.

PONY EXPRESS TERRITORY

- Cave Lake State Recreation Area • 15 miles south of Ely, 728-4467.
- Churchill County Museum and Hidden Cave • Tours. 1050 S. Maine St., Fallon, 423-3677.
- East Ely Railroad Depot Museum • Train rides on historic locomotives, seasonal. 289-1663.
- Eureka Opera House • Open Mon.-Fri. or by appointment, tours. Eureka, 237-6006.
- Eureka Sentinel Museum • Eureka, 237-5010.
- Fort Churchill State Historic Park • Silver Springs, 577-2345.
- Great Basin National Park • Baker, 65 miles east of Ely, 234-7331.
- Hickison Petroglyph Recreation Site • 24 miles east of Austin on U.S. 50.
- Nevada Northern Railway Museum • Seasonal, 1100 Ave. A, East Ely, 289-2085.
- Sand Mountain • 20 miles east of Fallon, 885-6000.
- Ward Charcoal Ovens State Historic Site • 16 miles (11 dirt) south of Ely, 728-4467.
- White Pine Public Museum • 2000 Aultman St., Ely, 289-4710.

PIONEER TERRITORY

- Belmont Courthouse State Historic Site • 50 miles north of Tonopah, 867-3001.
- Berlin-Ichthyosaur State Park • 23 miles east of Gabbs, 964-2440.
- Cathedral Gorge State Park • Panaca, 728-4460.
- Central Nevada Museum • Tonopah, 482-9676.
- Death Valley National Park • Via Beatty or Pahrump, 619-786-2331.
- Lincoln County Historical Museum • Pioche, 962-5207.
- Lyon County Museum • Yerington, 463-2245.
- Million Dollar Courthouse • Pioche • 962-5207.
- Mineral County Historical Museum • 400 10th St., Hawthorne, 945-5142.
- Pahrump Valley Winery • Tours. 3810 Winery Rd., 727-6900 or 800-368-WINE.
- Rhyolite Bottle House, Historic Site • Four miles west of Beatty, 553-2424.
- Stone Cabin Living History Museum • One mile north of Eagle Valley Reservoir, seasonal, Pioche, 728-4460.
- Walker Lake State Recreation Area • Hawthorne, 945-5896.

A Reminder:

To confirm dates and times, please use the phone number listed with each event. The area code is 702 throughout Nevada. For hotels' toll-free phone numbers, call 800-555-1212.

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Members of the Chestnut Brass Company will play their unusual instruments on February 7 in Eureka, February 22 in Yerington, and February 23 in Reno.

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When the Chestnut Brass Company performs February concerts in Eureka, Yerington, and Reno, the group's five members also will be scouting the towns' antique shops for unusual brass instruments to add to their museum-quality collection.

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The group began 18 years ago as a Philadelphia street band. Two of the founders, Bruce Barie and Jay Krush, started playing their antique instruments during the curbside performances, and they added other brass pieces after combing antique and junk shops. Today, members of the Brass discuss their historical instruments while performing music from various eras.

The Chestnut Brass Company will play February 7 at the Eureka Opera House in Eureka (702-237-6006); February 22 at the Catholic Center in Yerington (702-463-3066); and February 23 at Nightingale Concert Hall, University of Nevada, Reno (702-784-6847).

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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 or long distance in-state, the area code is 702 throughout Nevada.

Las Vegas Area

AMERICAN

- Country Star**—740-8400. Western cooking featuring hickory-smoked barbecued ribs and chicken, certified Angus beef, and buffalo steaks. L, D. \$, major.
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- Imperial Palace Hotel/Emperor's Buffet**—731-3311. Carving station featuring roast baron of beef. B, L, D. \$, major.
- Imperial Palace Hotel/Imperial Buffet/Teahouse**—731-3311. Carving station featuring prime rib of beef. Weekend brunch. B, L, D. \$, major.
- Riviera Hotel/Kady's Coffee Shop**—794-9318. Deli-style restaurant. B, L, D. \$-\$\$, major.
- Safari Club/Las Vegas**—648-1925. Louisiana catfish, roasted chicken, hunter stew, 12-oz. New York steak, barbecued pork back ribs. L, D. \$, major.

INTERNATIONAL

- Riviera Hotel/Mardi Gras Food Court**—734-5110. Nine quick-service restaurants serving food from around

the world. B, L, D. \$, no CC.
Riviera Hotel/World's Fare Buffet—794-9400. International cuisines plus prime rib. B, L, D. \$, major.

ITALIAN

- Imperial Palace/Pizza Palace**—794-3261. Pizza, pasta, salads. L, D. \$, major.
- Riviera Hotel/Ristorante Italiano**—794-9363. Vermicelli salsa bella vista, lobster Francaise, fresh seafood. D. \$-\$\$\$\$, major.

ASIAN

- Imperial Palace/Ming Terrace**—794-3261. Mandarin and Cantonese cuisine, abalone, kung pao shrimp, roast duck. D. \$\$, major.
- Riviera Hotel/Rik' Shaw**—794-9537. Pineapple duck, orange roughly with black pepper sauce. D. \$-\$\$, major.

STEAK & SEAFOOD

- Caesars Palace/Caesars Magical Empire**—731-7333. Fine dining with illusions and magic. L, D. \$\$\$\$, major.
- Imperial Palace/Seahouse**—794-3261. Alaskan King crab legs, seafood salads. D. \$\$, major.
- Riviera Hotel/Kristofer's**—794-9233. Steak, seafood, and chicken. D. \$\$, major.

Laughlin

- Ramada Express/Dining Car Coffee Shop**—298-4200. Open 24 hours. B, L, D. \$, major.
- Ramada Express/Passaggio Italian Gardens**—298-4200. Homemade pastas and pizzas. D. \$, major.
- Ramada Express/Roundhouse Buffet**—298-4200. B, L, D. \$, major.
- Ramada Express/The Steakhouse**—298-4200. Specializing in flame-broiled meats. D. \$, major.

Reno-Carson Area

AMERICAN

- Carson Nugget/Buffer**—882-1626. Sunday champagne



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- brunch, Saturday breakfast buffet, Friday seafood buffet. B, L, D. \$, major.
- Carson Nugget/Coffee Shop**—882-1626. Open 24 hours. B, L, D. \$, major.
- Carson Station Hotel/Station Restaurant**—883-0900. Prime rib, biscuits and gravy, eggs benedict, chicken-fried steak, daily specials. B, L, D. \$, major.
- Carson Station Hotel/Station Grill and Rotisserie**—883-8400. Wood-oven-roasted lamb shanks, baby back ribs, bruschetta pizza. L, D. \$, major.
- Carson Station Hotel/Station Snack Bar**—883-0900. Tacos, burgers, thick sandwiches, homemade desserts. B, L, D. \$, major.
- Carson Valley Inn/Fiona's**—Minden, 782-4347. Steaks, seafood, veal. L, D. Sunday brunch. \$-\$\$, major.
- Carson Valley Inn/Katie's**—Minden, 782-9711. Four-course prime rib dinner, steak and lobster, half-

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Fitzgeralds Reno/O' Lucky's Buffet—785-3300. Casino buffet restaurant, open daily. B, L, D. \$, major.

Ormsby House Hotel/Bufet—882-1890. Sunday champagne brunch, Friday seafood, daily prime rib. L, D. \$, major.

Ormsby House Hotel/Coffee Shop—882-1890. Open 24 hours, breakfast special, one-pound T-bone steak. B, L, D. \$, major.

Ormsby House Hotel/Sports Grill—882-1890. Sandwich and appetizer specials. L, D. \$, major.

Silver Legacy/Legacy Saloon and Deli Exchange—Reno, 329-4777. Roast garlic Rosemary chicken with spinach pizza, chicken. B, L, D. \$, major.

Silver Legacy/Victorian Buffet—Reno, 329-4777. Prime rib, shrimp and crab cioppino, homemade ravioli, chicken cacciatore. B, L, D. \$, major.

Virginian Hotel/Ranch Restaurant—Reno, 329-2673. Gambler's Breakfast, prime rib, New York steak. B, L, D. \$, AE, MC, V.

BASQUE

Louis' Basque Corner—301 E. Fourth St., Reno, 323-7203. Sweetbreads, tripe, paella, other seafood dishes. L, D. \$\$, major.

ASIAN

Silver Legacy/Sweetwater Cafe—Reno, 329-4777. Baked homemade tortellini, fried shrimp, prime rib, Cantonese pepper steak. B, L, D. \$, major.

STEAK & SEAFOOD

Carson Nugget/Oyster Bar—882-1626. Seafood and pan roasts. L, D. \$, major.

Carson Nugget/Steak House—882-1626. Veal scaloppini, scampi in dill sauce, escargot. D. \$\$, major.

Fitzgeralds/Limerick's Pub and Grille—Reno, 785-3300. Scampi St. Patrick, Emerald Isle Herb Chicken, Erin Creme Filet. L, D. \$\$, major.

Ormsby House Hotel/Baron's—882-1890. Supper club with tableside preparation and live piano music. Steak, pasta, and seafood. D. \$\$, major.

Silver Legacy/Fairchild's Oyster Bar—Reno, 329-4777. Louisiana crab cakes, oyster pan roast, jambalaya, chef's seafood salad. L, D. \$\$, major.

Silver Legacy/Sterling's Seafood and Steakhouse—Reno, 329-4777. Medallions of filet mignon, spicy roast chicken, seafood fettucine. D. \$\$, major.

Lake Tahoe

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Caesars Tahoe/Cafe Roma—Stateline, 588-3515. Lamb chops, prime rib. B, L, D. \$-\$\$, major.

ITALIAN

Caesars Tahoe/Primavera—Stateline, 588-3515. Linguini carbonara, tenderloin pizzaiola. D. \$\$, major.

ASIAN

Caesars Tahoe/Empress Court—Stateline, 588-3515. Szechwan, Mandarin. D. \$\$, major.

STEAK & SEAFOOD

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Caesars Tahoe/Pisces—Stateline, 588-3515. Salmon, lobster, sea bass. Flown in fresh daily. D. \$\$, major.

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Lovelock: Sturgeon's—273-2971. Coffee shop open 24 hours, family dining room. Fiesta Room supper club Tuesday-Saturday. Steaks, seafood, Mexican dishes. B, L, D. \$-\$\$\$, major.

Tonopah: Station House/Mary's Kitchen—482-9777. Hamburgers, steaks, seafood. B, L, D. \$, AE, MC, V.

Winnemucca: Winners Hotel/Grandma's Dinner House—623-2511. Prime rib, Maine lobster, T-bone steak, chicken cordon bleu. D. \$, major.

Winnemucca: Winners Hotel/Pete's 24-Hour Coffee Shop—623-2511. Cafe and buffet. B, L, D. \$, major.

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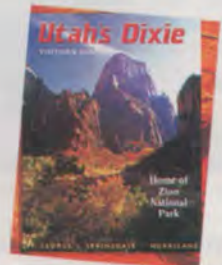


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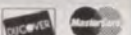
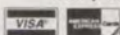
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Vacation Hot Lines

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 (C of C) office, chances are it will be open in the daytime Monday through Friday.

When calling long distance within Nevada, be sure to first dial the state's area code (702).

Statewide Information

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

Las Vegas Territory

African American Activities: 3838 Raymert Dr., Las Vegas, NV 89121; 456-3838

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; 294-1252

Henderson C of C: 590 S. Boulder Hwy., Henderson, NV 89015; 565-8951

Hoover Dam Visitors Services: Box 60400, Boulder City, NV 89006; 294-3523

Jean Visitor Center: Interstate 15 Rest Area (8 mi. south of Jean), Jean, NV 89019; 874-1360

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

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

Latin C of C: 829 S. Sixth St., Las Vegas, NV 89125; 385-7367

Laughlin C of C: Box 77777, Laughlin, NV 89028; 298-2214 or 800-227-5245 outside Nevada

Laughlin Visitor Center: 1555 Casino Dr., Laughlin, NV 89029; 298-3321 or 800-452-8445

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

Mesquite Visitor Center: Interstate 15 Exit 122, Box 1560, Mesquite, NV 89024; 346-2703

Moapa Valley C of C: Hwy. 169, Box 361, Overton, NV 89040; 397-2160

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

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 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-Sparks C of C: 405 Marsh Ave., Reno, NV 89505; 686-3030

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

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

Lake Tahoe Visitors Authority: 1156 Ski Run Blvd., South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150; 916-544-5050, 800-AT-TAHOE in U.S.

North Lake Tahoe C of C: 245 N. Lake Blvd., Tahoe City, CA 96145; 916-581-6900

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

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

South Lake Tahoe C of C: 3066 Lake Tahoe Blvd., S. Lake Tahoe, CA 96150; 916-541-5255

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 96145; 916-583-3494 or 800-TAHOE-4-U

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 Visitor Information: Box 508, Jackpot, NV 89825; 755-2321 or 800-821-1103 (Cactus Petes)

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

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

McDermitt Information: Box 278, McDermitt, NV 89421; 532-8742

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

Wendover USA Visitors/Convention Bureau: Box 2468, Wendover, NV 89883; 664-3414 or 800-426-6862 outside Nevada

Winnemucca C of C: 30 W. Winnemucca Blvd., Winnemucca, NV 89445; 623-2225

Winnemucca Convention and Visitors Bureau: 50 W. Winnemucca Blvd., Winnemucca, NV 89445; 623-5071 or 800-WMCA-NEV

Pony Express Territory

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

Dayton Area C of C: 15 Main St., Box 408, Dayton, NV 89403; 246-7909 (open Thurs.-Sun.)

Ely's Bristlecone Convention Center: 150 Sixth St., 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: 485 Truck Inn Way, Box 1606, Fernley, NV 89408; 575-4459

Great Basin C of C: Information on Baker and Great

Basin National Park. Box 90, Baker, NV 89311; 234-7302
Greater Fallon Area C of C: 379 W. Williams Ave.,
 Fallon, NV 89406; 423-2544
Silver Springs EDASS (Econ. Dev. Authority of Silver
 Springs): Box 269, Silver Springs, NV 89429; 577-2069
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 956, Beatty, NV 89003; 553-2424
Caliente C of C: Depot Building, Box 553, Caliente, NV
 89008; 726-3129
Gabbs, City of: Box 176, Gabbs, NV 89409; 285-4019
Goldfield C of C: Box 219, Goldfield, NV 89013; 485-
 3453
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
Mason Valley C of C: 227 S. Main St., Yerington, NV
 89447-2536; 463-2245
Mineral County C of C: 601 Fifth St., Box 1635,
 Hawthorne, NV 89415; 945-5896
Pahrump Valley C of C: Box 42, Pahrump, NV 89041;
 727-5800 or 800-633-WEST
Pioche C of C: Box 127, Pioche, NV 89043; 962-5544
Tonopah C of C: 301 Brougner Ave., Box 869,
 Tonopah, NV 89049; 482-3859
Tonopah Convention Center: Box 408, Tonopah, NV
 89049; 482-3558

Indian Territory

Inter-Tribal Council of Nevada: 806 Holman Way,
 Sparks, NV 89431; 355-0600
Indian Territory: Stewart Indian Cultural Center and
 Museum, 5366 Snyder Ave., Carson City, NV 89701;
 882-1808

State and National Parks

Death Valley National Park: Beatty Visitor Center: 307
 Main St., Beatty, NV 89003; 553-2200. Park: 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; 687-4370
Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area: HCR
 33, Box 5500, Las Vegas, NV 89124; 363-1921

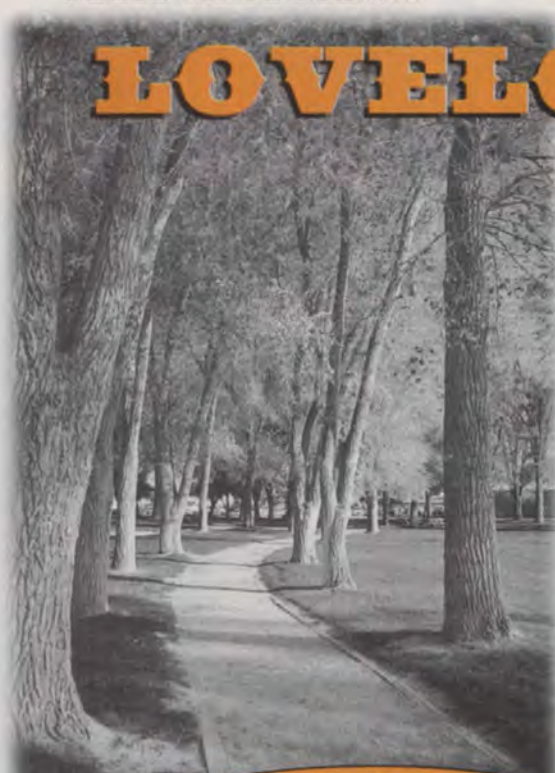
More Outdoor Activities

Bicycling in Nevada: Nevada Dept. of Transportation:
 1263 S. Stewart St., Carson City, NV 89712; 687-4997
Bureau of Land Management: Main: Box 12000, Reno,
 NV 89520; 785-6402; Box 26569, Las Vegas, NV 89126;
 647-5000; Box 831, Elko, NV 89801; 738-4071
Humboldt National Forest: 2035 Last Chance Rd.,
 Elko, NV 89801; 738-5171
Nevada Division of Wildlife: Main: Box 10678, Reno,
 NV 89520; 688-1500; Southern Nevada: State Mail
 Complex, Las Vegas, NV 89158; 486-5127
Pyramid Lake: Pyramid Lake Fisheries: Star Route, Sut-
 cliffe, NV 89510; 476-0500
Toiyabe National Forest: 1200 Franklin Way, Sparks,
 NV 89431; 331-6444; 2881 S. Valley View, Suite 16,
 Las Vegas, NV 89102; 873-8800

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'American Bandstand,' The Musical

Dick Clark's revue tops the charts at Harveys.

By Ann Henderson

On paper, "Dick Clark's American Bandstand, Live at Harveys" is a show that should never work. The concept has America's oldest living teenager, Dick Clark, hosting the Harveys Lake Tahoe revue—via television screens. It seems doubtful that a musical production with an absentee host could catch on with showgoers used to glitz, showgirls, and magicians.

But "Bandstand" works beautifully. In 70 minutes the show pays a satisfying tribute to five decades of music, from Motown and disco hits to the British Invasion and popular musicals, and includes two funny audience-participation numbers. Each decade begins with Clark as video-host, reliving classic moments and music from the *American Bandstand* TV show, including one hilarious bit with Cheech and Chong trying to rate new songs in their fuzzy, convoluted style.

In the opening Clark recalls how his Philadelphia television show began in 1957. For showgoers taking their



Sean Cooper stars in Harveys' "Bandstand," a tribute to 50 years of rock 'n' roll.

teenaged kids, Harveys' revue provides a this-was-Mom-and-Dad's-kind-of-music history lesson.

The opening medley from the '50s is crazed, moving nonstop through "Rockin' Robin," "Rock Around the Clock," and "See You Later Alligator." (Wasn't the stroll just the dreamiest dance?) The '60s segment demonstrates other dances such as the swim, hully gully, mashed potato, and twist. The costumes are colorful if not exaggerated, especially the awful piled-high hairdos on the women and the strange pompadours on the men.

"Bandstand's" cast of eight performers—plus a four-piece band, a rarity in a small revue—carries off an ambitious and exhausting program. Lead dancer-

comedian-impersonator Sean Cooper evokes cheers during James Brown's "I Feel Good," complete with splits and silly grin. Then he rolls right into an impersonation of Sammy Davis Jr. doing Peggy Lee's signature number, "Fever." Cooper teams with lead male singer Tim McManus to form the Blues Brothers, and they do a right-on "Soul Man." The audience screams and claps during McManus' rousing solo of "Unchained Melody."

Michelle Mais, the lead female singer, has appeared on Broadway and the television show *Silk Stalkings*. She's particularly strong when the disco beat picks up with "Last Dance" and "I Wanna Dance With Somebody."

The pace slows when a member of the audience is called on stage to impersonate Elvis. At a recent show, the Elvis was a father with two

children. His daughter obviously thought she'd never be able to show her face in public again. Her brother was giggling, expecting to see his father make a fool of himself. Dad's good-natured rendition of "All Shook Up" proved both correct.

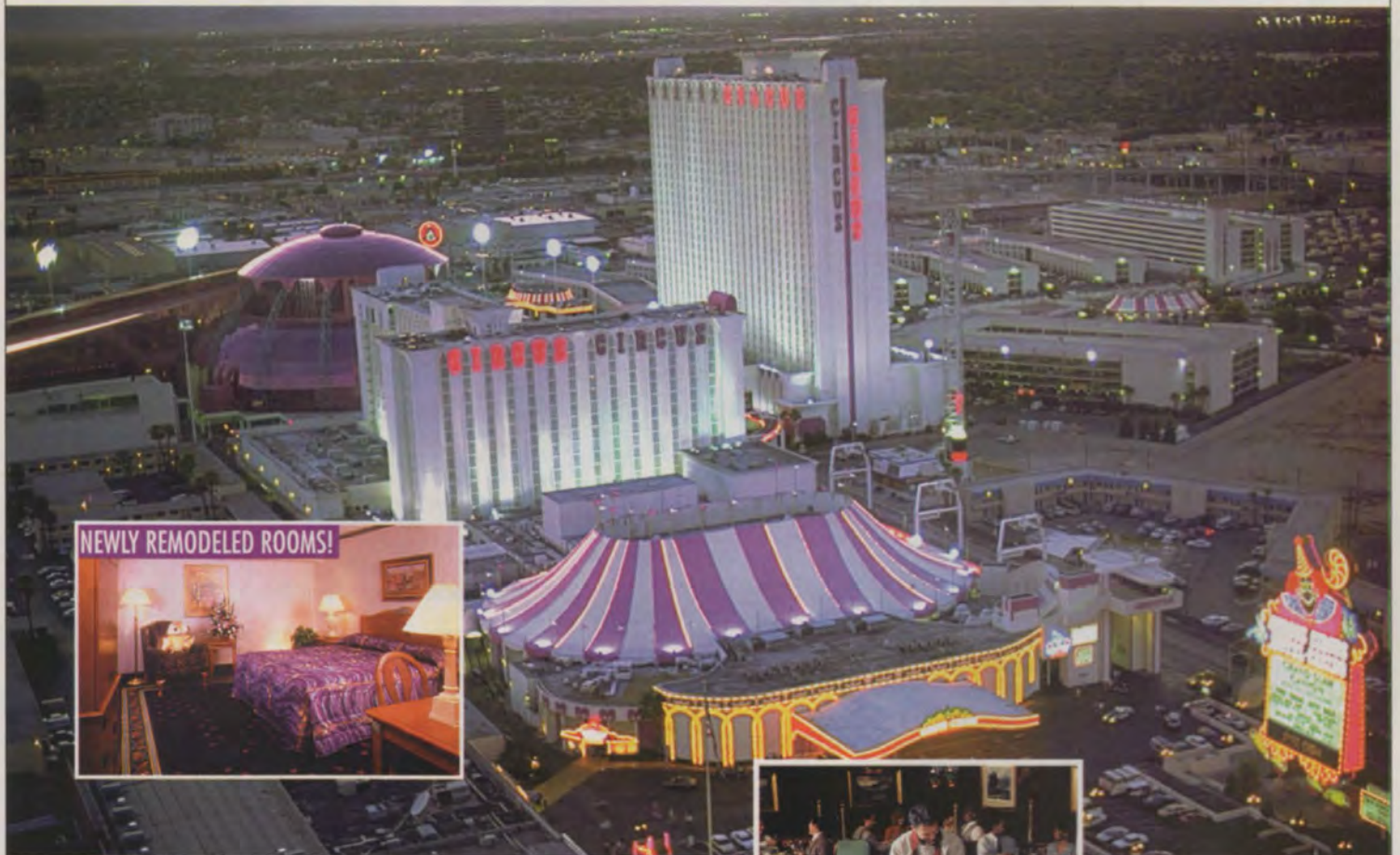
Before you see "Bandstand," it is recommended that you bone up on the "Name Game." Lead singer Michelle Mais wanders through the audience, encouraging showgoers to call out their names, take the microphone, and rhyme in time. On paper the routine sounds as if it would never work, but for this show it's right in tune.

Ann Henderson, Nevada Magazine's events editor, is a recycled teenager with a passion for Motown.

Rockin' Tonight

"Dick Clark's American Bandstand, Live at Harveys" appears indefinitely at Harveys' Emerald Theatre at Stateline, Lake Tahoe. Show times are 7:30 and 10 p.m. Monday through Saturday and 8 p.m. Sunday (dark Wednesday). Admission is \$16.50 and includes tax but no drinks. Call 702-588-2411 or 800-HARVEYS.

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