

NEVADA

MAGAZINE

February 1998

INSIDE:
Complete Guide
to Events & Shows

Amazing Museums

Historical relics
tell humorous and
often hairy tales
of Nevada's past

Puffer's Paradise

Cigar smokers find
havens in Las Vegas,
Reno, and Carson

Ice Fishing

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On the Cover:
Re-creation of sheriff's office at the Lyon County Museum in Yerington. Photo by Jay Aldrich

Features

12

Strange But True

The weird, wacky, and wonderful relics found in Nevada's museums tell colorful stories of the state's past.

By Richard Moreno

16

Snow Route

An intrepid photographer finds new routes and a winter wonderland in Nevada's hinterlands.

Photos by Carolyn Fox



Puff Palaces: Page 18

18

Hand-Rolled Heaven

The swank, swell, and smoky places around Nevada where cigar puffers partake of their popular habit.

By Deke Castleman and Carolyn Graham

20

The Polite Bandit

In 1880 Milt Sharp was known in Nevada for his daring stage robberies as well as his good manners.

By Eric Bryan

Departments

- 5 **Editor's Note** This issue's contributors.
- 6 **Letters** A good guide and the real McCoy.
- 8 **Roadside Attractions** Snow tubers, horses, and a soulful gallery.
- 71 **Yesterday: Elko Snow Job** Creating a blizzard of figures. By Howard Hickson
- 72 **Dining Out** Luciano's by Sandra Macias, Philips Supper House by Ann Henderson
- 74 **Gallery: A Golden Age** Virginia City saloons. Photos by Jim Reinheller
- 83 **Shopping Guide** Nevada's malls and shopping meccas. By Carolyn Graham
- 84 **Recreation: Ice, Ice, Baby** Ice fishing's cold truth. By Lin Anderson
- 87 **Artist: Ginger Rose** Warm winter scenes in snowy Nevada.
- 88 **Side Trip: Those Lonely Roads** A Californian explores Nevada's 10 loneliest roads and returns to tell about it. By Dr. Allen E. Fuhs



Roadside Attraction for Snow Sliders: Page 8



Cowboy Poetry: Page 40

Events & Shows

- 23 **Sagebrush Divas** Verdi's "Masked Ball" sets the tenor for Nevada Opera's 30th season in Reno. By John Bardwell
- 31 **Nevada Events** Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. celebrations and sweethearts on skis.
- 40 **Cowboy Nightlife** Elko's Cowboy Poetry Gathering. By Cynthia and Patrick Kennedy
- 44 **Nevada Showguide** Where the stars and shows are playing.
- 52 **Show People** Dan Fogelberg at Caesars Tahoe. By Kim Pryor
- 54 **Casino Notes** News from hotel-casinoland. By Ann Henderson
- 56 **Outings** Mount Charleston has snow, scenery, and skiing. By Richard Moreno
- 68 **Review** "MADhattan" at New York-New York. By Ann Henderson

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We'll be back next issue with the answer to another frequently asked question.



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Renaissance Man

John Bardwell, who wrote about Nevada Opera's "Sagebrush Divas" in this issue's Nevada Events and Shows, is described in his writer's credit as a painter, cartoonist, writer, photographer, gourmet cook, and opera buff. That list tells only half the story. He has been a screenwriter, movie producer, and set and costume designer. *Nevada Magazine* readers will recognize Bardwell for his eight years as its art director in the '70s and his tongue-in-cheek illustrations that have appeared in these pages for 25 years.

Although Bardwell admits he has been called a Renaissance man, the Reno artist pushes the compliment aside with self-deprecating humor. "Yeah, that just means I haven't got a real job," he says.

Bardwell became involved—and eventually immersed—in Nevada Opera in 1980. What started as a job producing brochures and posters mushroomed into set design for operas such as "Tosca" ("my favorite"), "Hansel and Gretel" ("really fun to do"), and "Madame Butterfly" ("I was pleased with it"). He also designed the costumes for "Cinderella."

For the opera Bardwell drew from his experiences in the movie industry. A graduate of the Art Center College of Design in Los Angeles, Bardwell spent the late '60s and early '70s working the



Opera goer John Bardwell.

Hollywood scene with actor-director John Cassavetes. "I started out as a glorified gofer and worked up to assistant producer," he recalls. "Working with Cassavetes was a really interesting experience because he used many of the same actors on each project, like Gena Rowlands, Seymour Cassel, and Fred Draper. We became a family. In fact, we worked out of Cassavetes' house. His dining-room table was my office." He adds, "Cassavetes' movies were usually about dysfunctional people who find each other and become dysfunctional couples. Nobody got killed, and cars didn't explode." Bardwell worked on *Woman Under the Influence*, *Minnie and Moskowitz*, and *Faces*.

In those days, Bardwell learned that the way to a woman's heart was through her stomach. "I had decided I didn't want to be one of those helpless bachelors," says Bardwell, who often cooks for his wife, Kathleen Conaboy, and friends. "For some reason girls trusted guys who can cook. I don't know why—I wasn't any more trustworthy than anyone else."

Bardwell's paintings can be seen at Art Encounter in Las Vegas, and he is represented in Reno by Richardson Gallery of Fine Art. Meanwhile, the opera-going artist recently took up yet another interest: He's racing sports cars.—Ann Henderson, Events Editor

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Letters

A good guide and the real McCoy.

Guide to Good Travel

My husband and I recently returned from a trip to the wonderful state of Nevada. We travel there twice a year. Your magazine was a helpful guide for us.

We stayed in Reno and visited Genoa, stopping in Gardnerville for a fabulous Basque lunch at JT's. Also, we saw "Aireus" at the Reno Hilton and "Smokey Joe's Cafe" at the Eldorado. We sampled brews and ate at the Brew Brothers at the Eldorado. All of these places have been mentioned in the magazine.

When my copy of *Nevada* comes, I read it from cover to cover, discovering more interesting places to visit in the future.

Cecelia Kostreva
Crivitz, WI



Clint Boehringer (above) and his friend Riley McCoy both lead Bottle House tours.

Raves for TV Waves

Great article by Chuck Woodbury, "Tuning Into Hawthorne," in the Nov/Dec issue.

George Ryan
Bakersfield, CA

Is Riley the Real McCoy?

The photo caption in my story about Rhyolite ("On Golden Street," Sept/Oct '97) mistakenly identifies Clint Boehringer (see photo) as his fellow Bottle House tour guide, Riley McCoy. Of course, they may enjoy sharing the fame. After all, one got his picture in the magazine, the other his name. However, Riley's wife tells me he's having a hard time convincing people he's the real McCoy.

At any rate, I will leave it up to these two fine gentlemen to settle the question of who has the better-looking beard, dog, and wife.

Richard T. Stephens
Beatty

Skier Survival

I shivered when I read "Skier Survival" by John Trent last issue. It reminded me of a hike my husband and I took in Lamoille Canyon near Elko. It was late September, and although the weather was summer-like in the valley, the creeks were covered with ice.

We ignored the warning signs, and I foolishly left all my warm-weather clothes—hat, gloves, extra sweatshirt—in the car to avoid carrying them. The higher we climbed, the colder I got, and the more threatening the clouds became. Fortunately, we used better sense by retreating rather than risking frostbite, but it sure gave me a sense of how helpless and miserable it is to be that cold. John Trent's story made me think I should learn how to build a snow cave.

Karen Grant
Los Angeles, CA

Hotel Holidays

The "suite life," as described in "The Big Splurge" by Deke Castleman last issue, is an intriguing notion. I once was upgraded to a presidential suite in Vegas—it was fun. Yes, I would consider a penthouse suite, limo, and tickets to Siegfried and Roy's show, which I've already seen twice. One question, though. For the right price, do

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you think they'd let me play with Siegfried and Roy's white tigers?

Francis Wiley
New York, NY

Francis, you've got more nerve than we do. The animals at the Mirage are off limits to personal contact, although you can get close views of them in the hotel, show, and the Secret Garden habitat. Please don't try to pet them.—Ed.

Nevada Santa

I really enjoy the Nevada Historical Calendars and give them out at Christmas instead of cards. It would be great if *Nevada Magazine* would consider expanding their catalog to include more Christmas items with a Nevada theme.

Sid Teal
Morrison, TN

Need for a New Guide

Would you consider putting in an up-to-date list of hotels and casinos? I have the 1991 issue, but, wow, Las Vegas has changed in six years. It would be nice to have a current list, in one place, all at the same time. This is just a suggestion. I still like the magazine—it is a favorite.

Roselle Keller
La Coste, TX

Roselle, thanks for the tip. We'll look into that hotel guide.—Ed.

A Plea for History

I received the Sept/Oct issue of *Nevada Magazine* and am disappointed with it. I get the magazine because of the old history and the people that made history, but all I find in the issue are advertisements for Las Vegas, Reno, and Laughlin. I'm not interested. Let's see more old-time history on towns like Wabuska and Yerington and places like old Fort Churchill and beautiful Wilson Canyon.

Caroline Nichols
Norwalk, CA

Letting Off Steam

The article "Reriding History" in the Nevada Events and Shows section of the July/August issue requires a correction. The story says that in "the Sparks Railroad Park, which has Southern Pacific Railroad Locomotive No. 8. the 1907 Baldwin 10-wheeler" was "the last steam engine to run on a Southern Pacific line." The SP retired it in 1955, not 1954 as you wrote, but it was scarcely the last one to travel the company's tracks. Presently owned by the State of Nevada, Engine No. 8 resided for many years in Carson City.

Richard C. Datin
Reno

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Riders return to Furnace Creek Stables after exploring the trails in Death Valley National Park.

Packing Into the Park

DEATH VALLEY—Winter is one of the best times to visit **Death Valley National Park**, and there's no more intimate way to view the park than on horseback.

The tradition of taking visitors on pack trips into the remote region began in 1926. Today pack trips are the only way to view the lonely places in Death Valley, since vehicles and bicycles are not allowed.

The stables at Furnace Creek Ranch offer day rides and pack trips in Death Valley. Located on Route 190 near the center of the park, Furnace Creek is 115 miles west of Las Vegas via Pahrump or Beatty.

Mark and Robin Berry, managers of Furnace Creek Stables, offer a wide range of rides. A one-hour trip across the salt flats that lie 205 feet below sea level costs \$20; a two-hour ride into the foothills of the Funeral Mountains costs \$35. Forty-five

minute carriage and haywagon rides around the ranch are \$10 per person.

Visitors who have more time can arrange overnight or one- or two-week trips and hire a wrangler and a cook. Visitors interested in geology can request a trip to Hole in the Wall or the dinosaur fossil grounds in Echo Canyon. Visitors interested in history might meander up Trail Canyon or Wildrose Canyon following the trails of the argonauts of '49. Wilderness areas surrounding Death Valley National Park on the Nevada side that are accessible via horseback include the Funeral Mountains, Saddle Peak Hills, Queer Mountain, and North Grapevine Mountains, among others.

Summer temperatures can reach 120 to 132 degrees, so the Furnace Creek Stables are closed from May 15 to October 15. The best times to explore the park by horseback are November through March. For longer trips it's wise to avoid the holidays since most of the wranglers are swamped with day rides.

To schedule a pack trip into Death Valley National Park or one of the 14 wilderness areas that surround it, call Furnace Creek Stables at 760-786-2345 ext. 230 or fax 760-786-9945. For general park information call the Death Valley visitor center in Beatty, 702-553-2200, or in Death Valley, 760-786-3248.—*West Spaulding*

Surf and Ski

If you're planning a vacation or convention in Las Vegas, you'll find everything you need—and more—at the Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority's Web site, www.lasvegas24hours.com. The site is incredibly comprehensive but easy to navigate. Buttons on the attractive home page connect you to information about conventions, attractions, shows and events, and booking, brochures, and contacts.

On the shows and events page, you can type in dates and types of events you're interested in—from headliners to automotive conventions—and a

list pops up with the what, where, and when of your selection. Then you can click on the event and find out more details, such as price and who to contact. The visitor page has information about everything you'll ever need to plan a Vegas vacation, including RV parks, gaming, attractions, maps, and photographs.

If you're planning a ski vacation at Lake Tahoe, www.snowweb.com, an Incline Village-based commercial site, offers conditions at the downhill resorts near the lake. You'll find a skier's weather forecast, lodging links, season-pass rates, photographs, and road conditions. Local experts offer reviews of some of the resorts. You'll



also find a bookstore and a featured products section, where you can browse the goggles, poles, and back-country gear.—*Carolyn Graham*

A Soulful Place

RENO—Few people would expect to see paintings of African elders wearing festive garb and gathering for high ceremony on Sixth Street in Reno. But that is exactly what shoppers will uncover at **EnSoul Gallery**, located near downtown at 335 East Sixth Street.

The quaint white house with ruddy trim is filled with items ranging from African art and toys to ethnic hair products. Owner Ceola Davis says, "Initially we had lots of African clothes, but they didn't sell very well. People are really interested in the art, toys, and hair products, so that's what we stock." Davis tries to carry items that are not sold elsewhere in the city. The art gallery offers African prints, sketches, framing, figurines, and pottery.

Davis is a longtime resident of Reno who not only runs the gallery but also owns and manages Personal Touch Hair Salon. In her spare time she is the editor of *EnSoul Magazine*, which covers the activities of Reno's African American community and highlights its achievements.

EnSoul Gallery is quite an achievement for Davis. It is the only black-owned busi-



The EnSoul Gallery in downtown Reno displays ethnic-themed dolls (above) as well as artwork by Demetrice Cheathon (left) and other artists.

ness in the area that carries art items and caters to patrons of all backgrounds. Shoppers get a mini-mall experience while exploring the gallery's five rooms.

Room One has an array of African-themed prints, figurines, and toys. Much of the artwork in the gallery is made by Davis' daughter, Demetrice Cheathon. Shoppers also will find African cloth caps and sandals as well as leather Kufi caps.

Room Two has an extensive line of ethnic hair products and T-shirts with gospel

themes. (The shirts are designed by Cheathon and have slogans like "Are you dog tired of sin?") Room Three, the reception area, is filled with Russell Berry Bears and other items for children including games, dolls, and educational toys.

Room Four houses the art gallery and has changing exhibits featuring such works as oil paintings by Cheathon of African and African American women. Past shows have included local and inter-

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national artists. Room Five is filled with ethnic holiday figurines and note cards.

EnSoul is open 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday. For more information call 702-786-1121.—*Verita Black*

A Glowing Museum

LAS VEGAS—The gaucho on horseback that once welcomed visitors to the Hacienda Hotel is perched three stories above the intersection of Las Vegas Boulevard and Fremont Street as one of the attractions of Las Vegas' **Neon Museum**.

The open-air, free museum, located on Fremont between Las Vegas Boulevard and Fourth Street just east of the Fremont Street Experience canopy, is dotted with historic neon signs. In contrast to the ever-changing Strip attractions, the museum marks Las Vegas' struggle to preserve its sense of history.

"A neon museum has been in someone's mind for many years, probably 15 or 20," says Donna Engellener, management analyst for the City of Las Vegas' planning and development department. "I've lived here most of my life, and it's so neat to see those old signs."

The old Hacienda horse and gaucho



The Neon Museum at the Fremont Street Experience has brought the return of such glowing icons as Andy Anderson (left) and the Chief Hotel Court sign (right).



sign was the first exhibit to open the museum in November 1996. The waving Argentine cowboy and golden palomino sit atop a 24-foot-high pole in the center divide of the busy boulevard.

The Young Electric Sign Company supplies the Hacienda horse and rider and most of the other classic signs on display along the Fremont Street block, including

the Aladdin's Lamp, the Flame from the Flame Restaurant, and Andy Anderson, the Anderson Dairy's mascot from 1956 to 1994. The delivery man is hurrying along, carrying bottles of milk. At two feet off the ground, Andy is the perfect photo opportunity for passing visitors.

Dozens of vintage neon icons from Las Vegas' past are in mothballs on a lot behind YESCO's Cameron Street plant. Five signs currently are on display and more are planned. Upcoming exhibits, which include the Fifth Street Liquor sign, will fill the easternmost block of the Fremont Street Experience. Call 702-229-4872 for more information.—*Katherine McDonnell*

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Tops for Tubes

LAKE TAHOE—For snow lovers who'd rather ride the bumps than ski them, Soda Springs Ski Area on Donner Summit, 47 miles west of Reno, has introduced Tahoe's first **snowtubing** lanes.

Tubers will find four lanes, each with its

Soda Springs Ski Area introduced Tahoe's first snowtubing lanes this winter.



own bumps, twists, and turns. Sledders who have trudged up steep slopes towing themselves and their sleds will no doubt appreciate the park's best feature—a lift called the Soda Tube Express. You attach your inner tube to the special lift and ride to the top.

Lift tickets for both skiing and tubing cost \$15 (\$10 for ages seven and younger) and include a tube or a double tube. All ages are welcome; small children are required to ride with an adult. Soda Springs is open daily through Easter from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Call the resort, 916-426-3666, for additional information.—*Carolyn Graham*

A Peek at the Venetian

LAS VEGAS—Visitors can peek into the luxurious future of the Venetian Hotel, opening on the Strip in early 1999, at the **Venetian Preview Center**.

The resort, located on the former site of the Sands Hotel across from the Mirage, will cater to conventioners and will be connected to the Sands Expo Convention Center. The \$2-billion resort will have 6,000 suites and a 1,200-foot-long reproduction of Venice's Grand Canal, with



Visitors can get a preview of the \$2-billion Venetian Hotel.

cobblestone walkways, 150 shops, cafes, and a canal complete with serenading gondoliers.

The preview center, situated in the shadow of construction cranes and the emerging megaresort, houses a full-scale replica of a suite as well as a diorama of the 63-acre resort complex. Visitors can stroll through the 700-square-foot suite, which has a sunken living room and Italian-marble bathrooms.

At the preview center, open daily from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m., eager guests also can buy Venetian-themed merchandise and sign up to receive mailings and construction updates. For information call 702-733-5000.—*Carolyn Graham*

Snow Vacations

RENO-TAHOE—Snow lovers who are planning a visit to the Lake Tahoe ski areas this winter can call ahead to receive a useful color brochure, "**Reno Tahoe Ski Packages**." Published by the Reno-Sparks Convention and Visitors Authority, the brochure presents details on Tahoe ski areas, winter sports that visitors can indulge in, and special events like Snowfest, the North Tahoe festival on February 27-March 8, and the U.S. Collegiate Skiing Championships on March 6-8 at Diamond Peak.

Of special interest is the listing of hotel ski packages for vacationing skiers. A dozen hotels in Reno, Sparks, and Incline Village offer deals for skiers, such as two nights' lodging, one or two lift tickets to Tahoe ski resorts, and shuttle service, for under \$100 per person, double occupancy. Some packages include car rentals, hotel spa time, breakfast, and shows.

The pamphlet also notes other snow sports—ice skating, sleigh rides, and snowmobiling. For copies of "Reno Tahoe Ski Packages" call the Reno-Sparks Convention and Visitors Authority, 702-827-RENO or 800-FOR-RENO. ♣

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STRANGE BUT TRUE

The weird, wacky, and wonderful relics found in Nevada's museums tell colorful stories of the state's past.

By Richard Moreno

You have to admire Crazy Tex's ingenuity. Tex was a cattle rustler who didn't want lawmen to follow his footsteps. So he came up with a novel solution—he attached cow hooves to the bottoms of his shoes. The scheme worked. During the late 1920s in Northeastern Nevada, cows disappeared without any trace of a rustler. One day, however, deputies caught Tex wearing his shoes while walking point on a herd of stolen bovines.

Tex went to prison but gained immortality when his shoes were displayed at Elko's Northeastern Nevada Museum. Today, you can see them in an exhibit devoted to the exploits of longtime Elko Sheriff Joe Harris, who helped put Tex away.

Tex's hoof shoes—along with other historical oddities like Liberace's red, white, and blue hot pants and a 19th-century picture made of human hair—are among the strange but remarkable objects that you can find in Nevada's museums. While most of the museums'



Sheriff Joe Harris holds Crazy Tex's unique hoof shoes, now on display at the Elko museum.

exhibits highlight serious subjects like the Emigrant Trail and indigenous plants, these odder artifacts tell the colorful and sometimes weird side of the Nevada story.

"When a museum begins, it's usually by a group of volunteers, and they have a big, empty building to fill," says Jane Pieplow, director of the Churchill County Museum in Fallon. "They begin collecting items and they get a lot of unusual things—and sometimes those things stay in the collection.

"The Smithsonian has a toupee collection and locks of hair from all the presidents. We have our share of these things, just as a larger museum does."

The best museums serve as public attics, and this is particularly true at the Nevada Historical Society in Reno. One of the society's most unusual items on display is Reuel Gridley's sack of flour. In 1864, Gridley, an Austin businessman, lost an election bet and carried a 50-pound sack of flour through town. The sack was auctioned several times with proceeds benefiting the U.S.

Sanitary Commission, a forerunner of the Red Cross. Word of Gridley's good deed spread, and he was invited to hold similar fundraising efforts throughout the country and as far away as Boston. Eventually, Gridley and his sack raised more than \$170,000 for the Sanitary Commission.

The sack was one of the first acquisitions of the historical society, which purchased it in 1915 from the Gridley family. Phillip I. Earl, the society's curator of history, notes that due to years of exposure to moisture,



Reuel Gridley's famous sack of flour was acquired in 1915 by the Nevada Historical Society in Reno.

the flour has turned "as hard as a rock"—so Reuel Gridley pancakes are probably out of the question.

Some items in the society's collection are so bizarre that they aren't displayed, according to Earl. "We have a 'merman. What they did was take a monkey skull and mount it on the bones of a fish. We used to have it on display," he says. "I think it was originally in a oddities and curiosities shop—there used to be a lot of these things around the country."

The society—better known for its prestigious collection of willow baskets woven by the Washoe basketmaker Dat So La Lee—has other weird, undisplayed items. There is a two-headed calf with six legs and three tails that was born in the early 1900s, possibly in Wadsworth. Another is a cloth napkin with which President Theodore Roosevelt wiped his famous mustache after eating tomato soup during a



Wilfrid Gagnon's homemade violins appeared in the exhibit "Sagebrush Stradivarius" at the state museum in Las Vegas.

1911 visit to Carson City. Why does the society keep such items? "I don't know," Earl says. "We just got them, and now they belong to the people of Nevada."

The Incredible Mummified Cat

A few bizarre objects can be found at the Nevada State Museum in Carson City, including the desiccated remains of a cat. The dried feline was found in Genoa in the 1920s. "We

have it depicted with other things to show how the desert dries things out," says Robert Nysten, the museum's curator of history. He adds that many people are fascinated by the animal. "I have friends who are doctors who always ask me about the mummified cat."

In Las Vegas, the Nevada State Museum and Historical Society has important collections that tell Southern Nevada's history and geology—and a pair of panties that belonged to famed stripper Lily St. Cyr. "During her performances,

she usually threw her panties into the audience. Someone gave a pair to us," explains Dave Millman, curator of collections. With tongue in cheek, he adds that he hasn't found the right exhibit in which to put them.

More recently the museum displayed a collection of hand-carved violins made by Wilfrid J. Gagnon, a miner who lived in isolated Eldorado Canyon from 1967 to 1979. Gagnon, who died in 1984, crafted more than



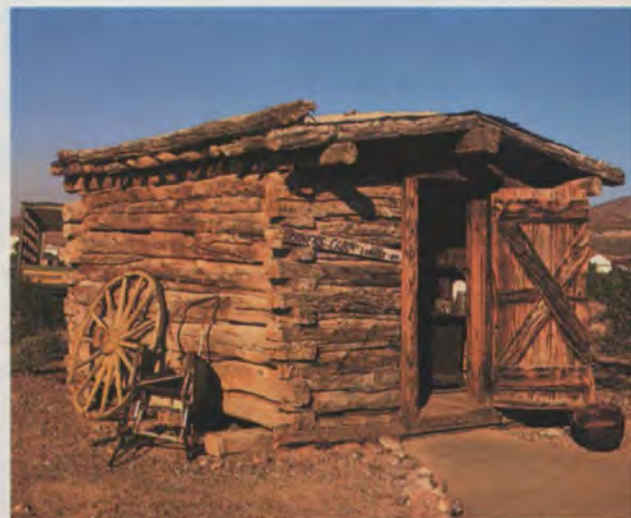
A mummified cat, found in Genoa, now lurks the climatological exhibits at the Nevada State Museum in Carson City.

40 violins while living in a small house without running water, electricity, or a telephone.

Doby Doc's Astounding Collection

The Clark County Heritage Museum in Henderson is noted for its Heritage Street, a row of restored buildings representing eras in Southern Nevada's history. The structures, which range from a 1912 California-style bungalow (the Beckley House) to a 1940s company-town home (the Henderson Townsite House), were moved to the museum grounds.

Visitors also can see three unusual buildings from rural Nevada—a wooden jail from the mining town of Tuscarora, the Pioche General Store, and a cabin from Lamoille. The buildings were part of a vast collection of Western artifacts gathered by Robert "Doby Doc" Caudill. Sometimes called the "Robin Hood of



Doby Doc moved this cabin 500 miles from Elko County to the Las Vegas Strip in the 1940s.

Elko County," Doby Doc was one of the first collectors of Nevada memorabilia. From the early 1920s and until the late '40s, this colorful and controversial figure roamed the state acquiring things, sometimes legally.

Over the years, Doby Doc—he said the name was derived from the fact that he once built a row of adobe apartments in Elko and always wanted to be a veterinarian—came to possess an entire narrow-gauge railroad, a Chinese joss house, automobiles, and several structures removed from decaying mining towns. In 1947, he packed up his railroad, buildings,

and 2,786 boxes of antiques and moved to Las Vegas. His collection was incorporated into the Last Frontier Hotel's Western Village, a re-creation of an Old West town on the Strip.

In the 1950s the Western Village closed, and many of the buildings were moved to the Gold Strike Hotel near Boulder City. A few years ago the three surviving Doby Doc structures were donated to the Henderson museum.

Tickling the Ivories in Hot Pants

An equally eccentric collection can be found at the Liberace Museum in Las Vegas. This museum celebrates the life of Wladziu Valentino Liberace, who until his death in 1987 was one of the world's most popular pianists.

Part of Liberace's appeal derived from his elaborate, over-the-top costumes, which incorporated flowing capes, feathers, and sequins. Museum visitors can see more than a dozen costumes, including a 125-pound, black glama mink cape covered with rhinestones that is valued at \$750,000 and the red, white, and blue sequined hot pants that the entertainer wore when he performed in New York for the 100th birthday of the Statue of Liberty.

Several of Liberace's custom cars (he owned 50) and pianos (he had 40) are on display. In keeping with one of the entertainer's favorite fashion motifs, the museum houses the world's largest Austrian rhinestone, a 115,000-carat monster that weighs more than 50 pounds.



Liberace, never shy about his attire, wore these hot pants at the Statue of Liberty.



In 1860, Margaret Nichol had a hairy idea—this flower portrait made of human hair.

A Picture Made of Real Human Hair

Nevada's rural museums contain their share of unconventional relics. Look on the wall of the Lyon County Museum in Yerington, and you'll see a picture made of human hair. The hirsute heirloom, which depicts flowers, was created in 1860 by Scottish-born Margaret Nichol, a Smith Valley pioneer. The museum is housed in a former Baptist church, and its exhibits include re-creations of the East Walker schoolhouse, a barber shop, a blacksmith shop, and a Lyon County courthouse office. The latter includes a large roll-top desk, law books, antique photographs, and a candlestick telephone.

At the Churchill County Museum in Fallon you might have to ask a docent to show you the strangest item: a saddle with a naked woman engraved on its front fender but obscured by a leather flap. The saddle, on loan to the museum, was made in 1911 by the J.W. Vannoy Saddle Shop of Fallon. "For its day, it was fairly risqué," says museum director Jane Pieplow.

Pieplow says visitors are frequently surprised by what they see in the museum's



The exotic figure carved in this historic saddle is on display at the Fallon museum.



An old-time store registers with visitors to the Churchill County Museum in Fallon.

restored Woodliff Novelty Store, a century-old building next door. There, visitors can examine antique merchandise, such as unused eyeglasses and shoes that were stored in the Kolhoss General Store, a business that operated in downtown Fallon for most of this century. "I don't think they ever threw anything away," Pieplow says. "As a result we have all these wonderful things that are brand-new and that have never been used."

The Land of Many Mysteries

There are more questions than answers in one of the displays you'll see at Hawthorne's Mineral County Museum. Exhibited in a glass case are 17 tarnished, green-colored bells of varying sizes. The bells are engraved with such dates as 1810,



The Lost City Museum has replicas of ancient dwellings.

1818, and 1819. One of the mysterious bells is marked "Mexico" and another "Mejico."

"They were all found a few years ago buried about 15 miles southeast of Hawthorne," says Georgana Mayne, director of the museum. She adds that no one seems to know how the bells arrived in



Was the town of Searchlight named for this brand of matches? The debate smolders.

Nevada, although there is a theory is that they were left behind by a Spanish expedition that came north from Mexico in 1822. "But we have no facts as to how they got there," she says.

Mystery also surrounds the Lost City Museum in the Southern Nevada community of Overton. The museum spotlights the Anasazi people, who thrived in the region 1,500 years ago before they mysteriously disappeared. Archaeologists

believe the Anasazi may have abandoned the region as a result of drought, famine, or war. The museum contains hundreds of artifacts rescued during excavations that began in the 1920s. Following the completion of Hoover Dam in 1935, many sites in the ancient settlement were submerged under Lake Mead.

At the Searchlight Historic Museum, it is a box of matches that strikes many visitors' fancy. On the box are the words "Search Light Double Dip Match," and, according to legend, that is the source of the town's name. A prospector named George F. Colton discovered gold in the area in 1897 and allegedly named the town, which is located 55 miles south of Las Vegas, in honor of the popular Search Light brand of matches. Most historians, however, believe the name was derived from a humorous comment Colton is said to have made—that it would take a searchlight for someone to find much gold in the area.

White Pine Puts Best Foot Forward

Visitors to Ely can see one of Nevada's more macabre artifacts—a petrified foot in a shoe displayed at the White Pine Public Museum. "It's not really petrified. It's just a bone in a shoe," admits Sean Pitts, the museum's former director. "We don't re-



This Army Air Force observation tower now stands at the Tonopah museum.

ally know whose bone it is or whose shoe."

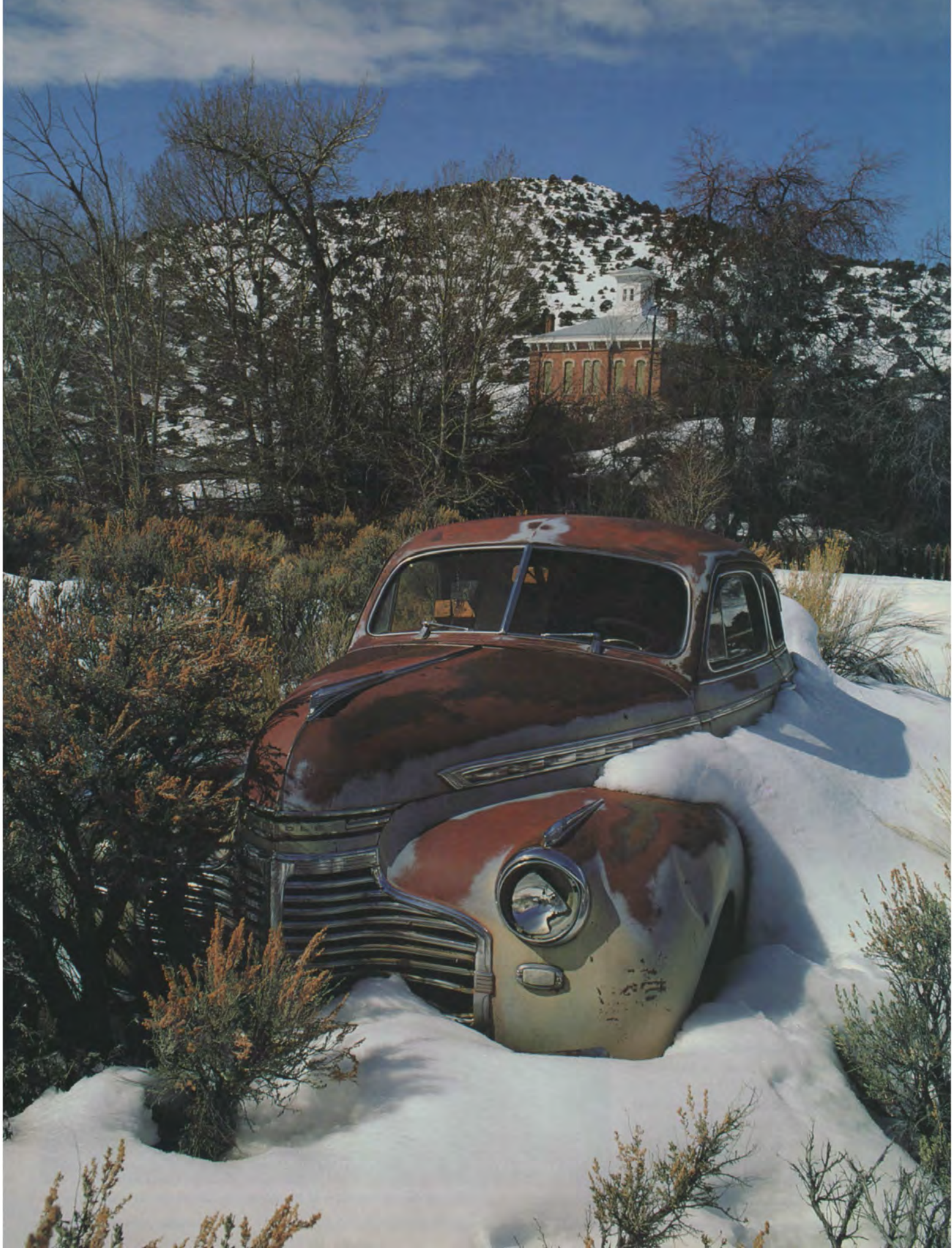
Pitts, the curator of the East Ely Railroad Depot Museum, points out another relic at the White Pine museum—a bottle of whiskey with an eighth of an inch of liquid remaining. Years ago, a man was arrested while trying to sell whiskey to local Indians. The whiskey was confiscated and placed into evidence. Friends of the judge noticed the bottle on his desk and began to drink it. As the bottle shows, they were stopped just in time before they consumed all the evidence.

Although Tonopah's Central Nevada Museum is largely devoted to telling that region's rich mining history, one exhibit is

(Continued on page 76)



A key attraction at the Lincoln County Museum in Pioche is its collection of old typewriters.



Snow Route

Photos by Carolyn Fox

Carolyn Fox and her photographer husband Larry Angier like to trek into Nevada's hinterlands to capture unusual scenes of the Silver State. Sometimes that means bringing snow boots and down jackets as well as cameras and tripods. Fox, who lives in Jackson, California, caught these images while traveling in a roundabout way to Shooting the West, the photography seminar held in Winnemucca in March. At left, Fox was drawn to a snowy scene near the old courthouse in Belmont. "You go there expecting to shoot buildings, and here's this car," she says. A red barn (top right) caught her eye while she was driving State Route 225 between Elko and Mountain City. "The snow was so pure," she recalls. Another pure scene is the Presbyterian Church in Lamoille (bottom right). "I had to shoot it," she says. "I'm a Presbyterian." ❧



Hand-Rolled Heaven

The swank, swell, and smoky places around Nevada where cigar puffers partake of their increasingly popular habit.

By Deke Castleman and Carolyn Graham

Most historians believe that Christopher Columbus sailed the ocean blue in search of new worlds, gold, spices, and proof that the Earth wasn't flat.

But it has recently come to light that Señor Christopher was instead looking for perfect surfing, a tropical tan, and, most of all, a good cigar. Too bad he isn't around today to discover Las Vegas, Reno, and Carson City, where he'd find a growing number of puff palaces.

In Nevada, casinos have been inextricably linked to smoking, including cigars—the image of cigar-chomping card players and sports bettors comes immediately to mind. “Casinos are the only indoor places left in the country where cigar smokers are welcome,” explains Michael Konik, a Los Angeles-based gambling columnist for *Cigar Aficionado* magazine, a glossy tribute to the sophisticated world of patrons who love to puff. “In fact, casinos love to see players light up cigars because they know that cigar smokers have money to burn.

“Cigars are an accessory,” Konik adds. “On a symbolic level, they represent power, money, glamour, sexiness. It's an expensive

hobby, and only people with a lot of disposable income can pursue it.” That would include *Cigar Aficionado's* female cover subjects like Demi Moore and Claudia Schiffer, who give extra panache to a panatela.

“When women picked up the stogies, that's when cigars became really hip,” says Max Rubin, one of Las Vegas's best-known bon vivants.

For cigar smokers, forced to smoke on the sidewalk outside the office and unable

Hamilton's is owned by actor George Hamilton, whom *Cigar Lovers* magazine calls “a pacesetter in refined taste.”

to take a drag in friends' homes, this is a surprising and pleasant change in public attitude. Smokers not only are free to puff in casinos but also can repose in comfortable lounges. Far from being pariahs dumping unwanted smoke and ash into the atmosphere, they are instead welcomed with open arms.



What does this trend mean for non-smokers? Well, in the casino, it's still everyone for himself. But if you want to sniff out the cigar scene, you'll find that most of the big smoking lounges have good ventilation systems. It is possible for the nonsmoker to have as good a time as the smokers, as long as the company is good and the conversation isn't entirely about hand-rolled Hondurans.

Cigar-smoker central in Las Vegas is **Hamilton's Cigar Bar and Lounge** on the mezzanine level of New York-New York (702-740-6400). This elegant retreat for cigar lovers resembles a 1930s nightclub, with plush booths, leopard-patterned carpet, and two large faux windows overlooking murals of a nighttime Manhattan skyline. The bar is owned by actor George Hamilton, whom *Cigar Lovers* magazine calls “a pacesetter in refined taste.” A small window displays photographs of the tanmeister himself with celebrities and in promotional shots from the immediately forgettable movies in which he acted.

Smokers will find all kinds of paraphernalia in the gift shop outside the bar: Hamilton baseball caps, playing cards, riding gloves, suntan lotion, sunglasses, fresh-



A tobacco-loving troupe offers a smoking salute to the stogie at the Carson Cigar Company.

ground coffee, and, of course, cigars. Hamilton cigars are stored in a refrigerated humidor; regular visitors can rent a private locker within the humidor for their personal cigar stash. There are two varieties of signature cigars. Hamilton's is made from a peppery medium-bodied Dominican Republic tobacco blend and a Javanese wrapper, with a hint of chocolate, cinnamon, and coffee flavors. The Hamilton Reserve consists of a Connecticut broadleaf wrapper with hints of coffee, spice, and toasted-nut flavors. The eight-inch Hamilton is the most expensive cigar at \$24. Regular Don Tomas brand cigars sell in the \$8 to \$12 range, and cognac- and whiskey-dipped cigars go for \$24 apiece.

The well-stocked bar offers more than a dozen quality wines sold by the glass, 10 different martini concoctions, champagne, cognac, scotch, and all your favorite liquors and cocktails. A jazz trio serenades cigar smokers and cognac drinkers nightly. The air-filtration system is awesome, and there's just the faint pungence of cigar aroma, so even nonsmokers can enjoy the music and atmosphere without having to flee in nauseated horror.

A less formal, more comfortable destination is the **Cigar Bar at Boulder Station** out on the Boulder Strip (702-432-7777). This comfortable lounge, with several plush leather sofas, two bookcases full of books (the only casino bar in Las Vegas

that stocks a dictionary and bound *National Geographics* for its patrons' perusing pleasure), and two humidified cigar cabinets, is located in a relatively quiet corner of the casino near the registration desk. Menus on each table list a variety of whiskeys, scotches, bourbons, cognacs, and specialty martinis. The selection of cigars is modest—Leon Jimines torpedos, little coronas, Rum Runner robustos in the \$4 to \$10 range—but adequate.

A handful of other Las Vegas establishments have embraced the cigar culture.

The Cigar Bar at Boulder Station is the only casino bar in Las Vegas that stocks a dictionary and bound *National Geographics*.

Downtown **Main Street Station** (702-387-1896) has a unique option—an authentic Pullman smoking railroad car (trendy as they may seem, smoking lounges are anything but new). Although the car sits inside the upscale Pullman Grille restaurant, a high-tech ventilation system ensures that nonsmokers eating dinner only a few feet away will have no complaints. There's a selection of about a dozen cigars in the \$5 to \$25 range, mostly from the Dominican Republic. Cognacs, single-malt scotches, bourbons, premium beers, wine, and appetizers are listed on tabletop menus in the comfortable (if narrow) train car.

Microbrewery enthusiasts will want to
(Continued on page 81)



Peter Dingfield shows the smokes at the gift shop in Hamilton's, the ritzy cigar bar at New York-New York.

The Polite Bandit

In 1880 highwayman Milt Sharp was known in Nevada for his daring stage robberies as well as his good manners.

By Eric Bryan

It was a warm June day in 1880, and the Wells Fargo stage had just left Carson City heading south toward Bodie. In Dalzell Canyon, about 18 miles north of Wellington, an armed figure and his accomplice stepped into the road and ordered the stage to stop.

In a smooth voice, the stranger asked the driver, Tom Chamberlain, and his passengers to dismount. The road agent shattered the lock of the strongbox and pilfered its contents. Then he told the passengers to empty their pockets. Before vanishing into the sagebrush, the mysterious perpetrator offered effusive apologies to the stage's occupants.

"He was one of the politest gentlemen I ever met," one of the passengers, Colonel K.B. "Kettle Belly" Brown, former chief engineer of Virginia City's fire department, reminisced years later with friends in San Francisco's Palace Hotel. Brown's account of the mysterious robber, published in *Great Stagecoach Robbers of the West* by Eugene B. Block, was a glowing review considering that the "gentleman" had absconded with the Colonel's valuables.

The robber was Milt Sharp, and he became known as the "Polite Bandit." Sharp was Nevada's most industrious highwayman, according to Wells Drury, a longtime Comstock newspaperman and contemporary of Sharp's. "Sharp in a modest way did what he could to reduce the wealth of Wells Fargo," Drury wrote in *An Editor on the Comstock Lode* (1936). "He robbed stages whenever he wanted to, and with great thoroughness, never making a mistake and never finding an empty treasure-box."

Sharp confounded Wells Fargo detectives with his repeat robberies, surprising them by holding up the same stage in the same spot, sometimes on consecutive days. In fact, just one week after the robbery near Wellington, Sharp and a partner struck Chamberlain's stage again. They dealt quickly and efficiently with the strongbox. This time, according to the late Nevada author Norm Nielson, Sharp had



Highwayman Milt Sharp's urbane style earned him a Robin Hood's respect.

some words for the patient Chamberlain: "I am most sorrowful that I had to relieve you of your gold watch last time around." The bandit returned the timepiece to the dumbfounded driver and once again melded into the countryside.

The Bodie-Carson road was Sharp's favorite haunt. He usually struck near

Dalzell Canyon or the East Walker River. The stages of Dorsey and Company, Novacoveich's Concords, and the Bodie Stage Lines all fell prey to Sharp's audacious but well-mannered methods.

Born in Missouri, Sharp was a former Confederate soldier. Wells Fargo's *Robbers' Record* lists five rifle and bayonet scars among Sharp's war injuries. He was described by historians as lean, tall, and handsome.

Sharp came to Nevada in 1869 and went to work in the mines at Aurora near Bodie, about 90 miles south of Carson City. Soon, Sharp commenced his double life as miner and road agent. The *Bodie Daily Free Press* and *Bodie Chronicle* reported that he disguised his features with a flour-sack mask during holdups, Black Bart style. He was frugal and didn't smoke, drink, or gamble. Rather, he buried his takings, presumably intending to recover them when he had amassed a suitable fortune.

But this system didn't always work. Sharp once stole \$13,000 in Sacramento bank notes from the Wells Fargo Bodie-Carson stage. When he went to recover the money he'd stashed, he discovered it had already been unearthed. (Soon afterward, a rancher was arrested after paying off a \$12,000 mortgage with Sacramento bank notes. Wells Fargo, suspecting that the rancher had collected Sharp's stash, sued the man, but the court found in the rancher's favor.)

The year 1880 saw a flurry of Sharpian activity. The *Robber's Record* credits the holdup artist and his partner, W.C. Jones, alias Frank Dow, with six stage robberies from May 15 to September 5, 1880.



Wells Fargo stages such as this one were Milt Sharp's primary targets. He confounded detectives by repeatedly robbing the same stage in the same place.

That year, Sharp decided to retire to San Francisco on his proceeds, and he and Dow rented a room in a lodging house on Minna Street in San Francisco. But Sharp also wanted to end his career as a Nevada highwayman with a flourish.

The duo decided to rob two stages in one night on the Carson City-Bodie route. Both Bodie papers later reported that the bandits hid themselves among cottonwoods and willows a few yards from the East Walker River bridge, near Desert Creek in Dalzell Canyon. The moon was bright, but the shadowy trees provided ideal cover.

After the Bodie-bound stage crossed the bridge, the highwaymen strode into the road. Poor Chamberlain was at the reins again. Frustrated, he kicked down the express box containing \$3,000 in bank notes. The robbers, pleased with their haul, waved on the coach.

Chamberlain encountered the Carson-bound stage a few hours later. The coach carried three special passengers—route agent Billings and Wells Fargo shotgun messengers Tovey and Woodruff. The last two were special guards hired and trained to fight highwaymen. When Chamberlain told Billings about the holdup, Billings directed his stage immediately to the scene of the crime.

There, the Wells Fargo men found the bandits' footprints leading north from the broken express box. Cautiously, they followed the trail to a fork in the road, and Tovey leaped down to inspect the tracks. Suddenly a voice called out from the darkness. A gun cracked, and a bullet narrowly missed Tovey and hit the lead horse in the head. The animal died instantly.

Tovey rolled underneath the stage, rifle

ready. The voice told the men, "If you fellows fire a gun, we will murder every son of a bitch of you." Tovey called out, "Nobody is firing any guns. What's the matter with you? If you want anything, come along."

The speaker stepped into the road. Tovey fired, and Dow fell dead.

Sharp, concealed in the sagebrush, shot Tovey in the arm. Woodruff returned fire and thought he saw Sharp fall.

Tovey was losing blood rapidly. Fearing for Tovey's life, Billings and Woodruff helped him to a nearby ranch house for medical attention.

Driver Billy Hodge, left behind with the coach, released the harness from the dead horse and hitched the other lead animal to the back of the stage. He was ready to drive on, but Sharp, who hadn't been hit after all, had other ideas.

The outlaw stepped into the moonlight and commanded Hodge to throw down the strongbox and drive away. Sharp

collected the contents and moved off into the night.

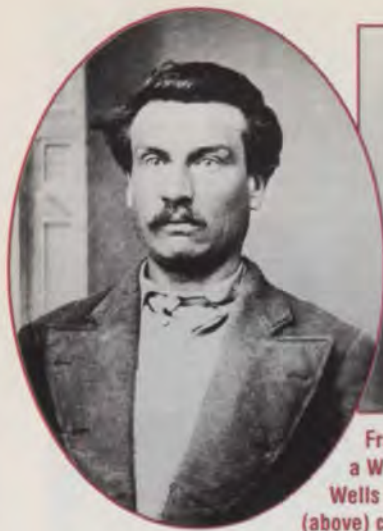
In the aftermath Wells Fargo detective Jim Hume identified the dead man as Dow. The following week detectives, Indian trackers, and messengers scoured the hills for Sharp.

With a \$3,000 reward posted, the search was directed to Aurora, Bodie, Candelaria, and other Esmeralda County-area mining towns. Wells Fargo distributed circulars that described Sharp's "Roman nose, a scar over his right eye, and bright flashing eyes which he turns on you when he talks, never taking them away when conversing." But investigators found the townspeople tight-lipped. Sharp's urbane style had earned him a sort of Robin Hood's respect, and many were reluctant to speak against him.

When Hume discovered that Dow had reserved a room in the San Francisco lodging house, he kept the room under surveillance. At 11 p.m. on September 11,



Sharp escaped from jail in the Esmeralda County Courthouse in Aurora (above) on election day in 1880.



Frank Dow (left) was killed by a Wells Fargo shotgun messenger. Wells Fargo detective Jim Hume (above) captured Sharp.

his cell, pulling bricks from the same spot chosen by earlier escapees.

But November 2 also happened to be election day, and the polls were housed in the Aurora courthouse—the same building that contained the Esmeralda County jail. Additionally, the bandit had an Oregon boot (a 15-pound iron shoe) fastened to his right ankle. The details of how the encumbered Sharp slipped through crowds

of voters remain obscure.

Sharp managed to hobble over the rugged country south of Aurora. Once he was away from town, he used rocks to bash the rivets out of his leg iron. A posse was on his trail, but Sharp kept moving, camping south of Aurora at Adobe Meadows and Black Lake before heading east.

He arrived in Candelaria six days later, with hopes of joining a friend. But when a cold and hungry Sharp stopped to rest behind a lodging house near McKissick's saloon, he was seen and arrested by police officer Alex McLean.

Wells Drury recalled, "After his supper he was taken to Wells Fargo and Company's office in the bank building for safe-keeping until arrangements could be made for his transportation to Aurora. I had a good chance to talk to this terror of seven counties that night, and I found him a mild-mannered, pleasant-spoken fellow, but with a flash now and then beneath the surface which showed him alert and keen as a trap. A Missourian, he had a handsome countenance, swarthy, with jet black hair, mustache and goatee. His features were sharp and his gaze was sharp.

"This inglorious Milton was not inclined to be communicative at first, and when asked how he got the shackle off his leg he replied, 'Well, I got it off, and I was glad of it. Afterwards, becoming more talkative, he admitted he was compelled to wear the iron for three days and that all the time he was surrounded by men who were armed with shotguns and hunting him. 'It seemed to me, said he, 'that I could not get out of their sight. The shackle

hurt my ankle and made me very lame.'"

McLean hauled Sharp back to Aurora and locked him in an iron cell. Sharp was found guilty of the first robbery at the East Walker River bridge, and although he asked the judge to "draw it mild," the bandit was sentenced to 20 years in the Nevada State Penitentiary in Carson City.

A woodcut in the December 1880 edition of the *Police Gazette*, a national magazine, lampooned Sharp's likeness with unflattering, exaggerated features. The *Free Press* proclaimed, "Sharp looks there as if he had just had a collar and elbow tussel with a barrel of Bodie whiskey, and got badly beaten. He has a bad eye, a villainous mouth, a frightful nose, ponderous jaws, big ears and a general expression of double distilled cussedness. If Sharp sees the picture he will commit suicide or kill the turnkey."

As the years bumped by, Milt Sharp receded from memory. Legend whispered of his loot, supposedly buried in the wilds of Western Nevada, but the treasure went undiscovered.

Then on August 15, 1889, Sharp escaped from the state prison (records don't indicate how). As a free if hunted man, he apparently gave up stage robbing and worked at legitimate jobs, mostly in Northern California. But four years later he was arrested in Red Bluff, California, when recognized by a former fellow Carson City convict.

Back in the state prison, Sharp drew up a long letter describing the people he'd worked for during his years as a fugitive and sent it to Wells Fargo detective Jim Hume. The detective verified Sharp's references and urged Nevada authorities to grant the reformed outlaw's request for a pardon.

Governor R.K. Colcord granted Sharp's pardon on July 10, 1894. Sharp, legally free at last, was not heard from again. He presumably returned to a law-abiding way of life.

Over the years his reputation for courtesy served him well. When Sharp victim Colonel Brown, reminiscing in the Palace Hotel, was asked why Sharp had never robbed a store or broken into a cabin, the Colonel replied, "No, sir, not Milton Sharp. Not in a hundred years. Sharp was a stage robber, but he would never stoop to burglary." ♣

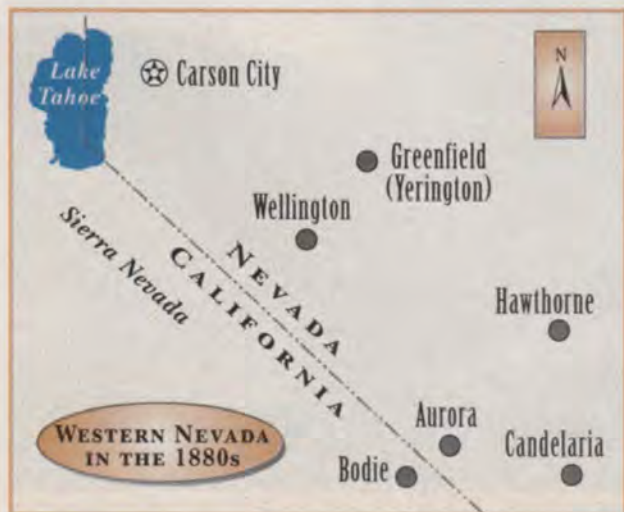
Eric Bryan is a writer based in Auburn, Washington. His stories have appeared in the San Francisco Examiner and Out West and has had fiction stories published in Writer's International Forum.

1880, Sharp appeared. The highwayman had two guns (one stolen from an express box), a money belt with \$2,500, a mask, 150 shares of mining stock, and \$300 in certificates of deposit from the First National Bank.


Hume, assisted by Captain Lees of the San Francisco Police Department, arrested and questioned Sharp. The road agent professed his innocence. He claimed he had worked as a miner for the past 12 years and that the \$2,500 represented his savings. Unconvinced, Hume brought Sharp back to Aurora in irons for trial.

As Sharp sat in the Esmeralda County jail, hotshot Bodie lawyer Patrick Reddy was hired by Wells Fargo to prosecute the case. The *Bodie Daily Free Press* followed Sharp's story closely: "The heavy sentence that probably awaits him has given him such a fit of blues that even the jailer scarcely knows him. His buoyant spirit is gone and his chances for any considerable life outside prison walls is also quoted at a very low figure."

However, the *Free Press* was forced to eat its words. On November 2, 1880, the day the story appeared, Sharp escaped from jail. He had tunneled through the wall of



Sagebrush Divas



Verdi's "Masked Ball" sets the tenor
for Nevada Opera's 30th season in Reno.
Story and Illustration by John Bardwell

Nevada Opera has done a lot in its 30 seasons, not the least of which is to prove the doubters wrong—it survived. It even prospered. And this year the Reno company will stage a grand opera that much larger outfits shy away from.

Giuseppe Verdi's "Un Ballo in Maschera" is big, even in a genre that's famous for throwing everything, including the kitchen sink if necessary, out on stage. "Ballo," as opera folk refer to "A Masked Ball," demands a lot of time, talent, and people. Where most operas require two lead singers, this one demands five. Add supporting roles and a huge chorus, and you have a crowd. As co-producer Deena Puffer puts it, "The only thing that limits the size of this production is the size of the stage."

Besides its impressive physical weight and Verdi's overpowering score, "Ballo" has something else working that too many operas lack—a really good story line. The plot is based on a true

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Mezzo Dulce Reyes, shown here last season in Nevada Opera's hit production of "Samson and Delilah," will return to Reno on March 5 and 7 as the star of "Un Ballo in Maschera." Reyes earned rave reviews as Delilah, a role she stepped into at the last minute.

event, the assassination of the king of Sweden in 1792 during a (take a guess) masked ball. There was even a conspiracy. In addition, there's a story behind the story, as they say in the newsroom.

When Verdi first submitted the libretto (that's the story) to the theater censors in 1858, it was rejected as too dangerous for public consumption. You couldn't have a royal person murdered on stage, and certainly not by a couple of commoners. That sort of thing could stir up nasty ideas.

Verdi was an old hand at politics—he was later elected to the Italian Parliament—so he simply shifted the scene away from Europe and over the ocean to America and colonial Boston. After all, who would care what happened over there? They're savages and had dumped royalty completely by 1783. So let the murders begin. The opera opened in Rome in 1859 without causing even a small revolution.

Opera, even a normal-sized one, is a complicated affair, not something to

attempt at home. It's really a costume play, with singing actors and a symphony orchestra, all working at the same time, and (hopefully) together. Nevada Opera has done it 250 times.

That's a thousand set changes, 2,500 costumes, a hundred thousand pages of music, and about a million chances for disaster.

Credit luck or skill, but there have been surprisingly few mishaps during the company's three-decade history. Ted Puffer,

Dastardly deeds are brewing during the masked ball in Nevada Opera's "Un Ballo in Maschera" (right). The opera is based on a true event, the assassination of the king of Sweden in 1792, but the locale is often varied. The Reno "Ballo" will be set during an Old New Orleans-style Mardi Gras.





Audiences have come to expect elaborate staging from Nevada Opera, as in this 1990 production of "Aida" with its menagerie of animal stars.

Tonio di Paolo costars March 5 and 7 in Nevada Opera's production of "Un Ballo in Maschera" at Reno's Pioneer Theatre for the Performing Arts.



Nevada Opera's founder and artistic director, recalls a few incidents that could have turned out much worse: "During a rehearsal of 'The Merry Widow, the tenor was in the middle of his aria when I realized that he was on the wrong side of the stage. We stopped, and he changed posi-

When world-famous mezzo Dolora Zajick was hit by the flu, director Ted Puffer made some calls to New York, where he knows a few hundred professional singers.

tion. No sooner had he crossed the stage than a huge piece of steel pipe came crashing down on the spot where he had just been. So, we took a coffee break.

"Only a few years ago, we were in dress rehearsal for 'Madame Butterfly' when someone noticed unscripted puddles of water forming on stage. A water line had broken, and by midnight the theater was flooded—two days before opening. Pumps and fans gurgled and whirred, and we opened on time.

"And there are the inevitable stories of following animals on stage. For 'Aida, we

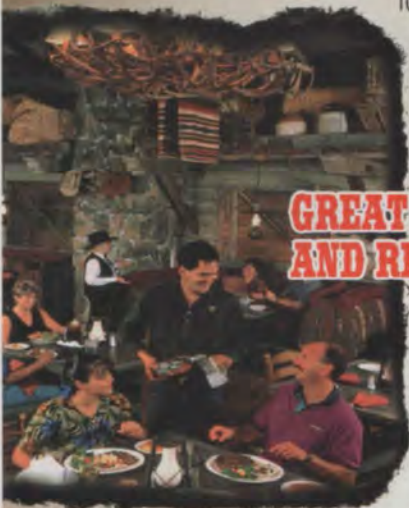
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Nevada Opera maestro Ted Puffer.

had goats, zebras, and lots of other animals. You can imagine what happened."

Then there are those precious voices that opera was created for. Suppose all the parts are working fine. The lead is a renowned mezzo-soprano who will debut a new role in Reno. There's excitement. Every ticket is sold. After months of preparation and weeks of rehearsal, and just a

few days before the opening curtain, the star is hit by the flu. The million-dollar voice is a croak. An opera company's worst nightmare comes true.

It happened to Nevada Opera last season. The world-famous mezzo, Dolora Zajick, was returning to her hometown to perform in "Samson and Delilah," another of those grand operas. Thousands of fans were anticipating some modern opera history here in Nevada. Before opening night only a few people knew that the star couldn't go on.

The director, Ted Puffer, made some calls to New York, where he knows a few hundred professional singers and they know him. Within hours he contacted an excellent singer who knew the role and could fit it into her schedule. She could come, but would the audience? When word got out that the star was being replaced, the crowd could get ugly and demand their tickets be returned.

On opening night, the auditorium was full, but it was quiet. You could hear the rustling of programs and the inserts that announced the cast change. When the curtain came down on the first act, there was some applause. Then more applause. Thunderous! Bravos!

Was Puffer ever worried? He's seen it all

before. That's one of the differences between a professional company and, well, the other kind. Puffer made the right call, to Dulce Reyes, a popular mezzo with a resume of leading roles with the New York City Opera, among others. As a result

One might wonder how a real opera company can survive for so long, out in the sagebrush of Northern Nevada, and even attract world-class performers.

of her pinch-hit home run playing Delilah, she will star in this year's spectacle, "A Masked Ball." Her costar will be rising international talent Tonio di Paolo, with credits from the Berlin Deutsche Opera, Hamburg Opera, and the Israel Philharmonic. Also returning is Theodore Lambrinos, a regular with the Metropolitan Opera and one of the best actors in the business.

One might wonder how a real opera company can survive for so long, out in the sagebrush of Northern Nevada, and even attract world-class performers. It might be the same kind of battle-born Nevada spirit that brought opera singer Jenny Lind to Piper's Opera House in Virginia City more than a century ago. But it's mostly the hard work of Ted and Deena Puffer and their reputation in the world of big-time opera. And maestro Puffer, far from riding off into the sunset, also is teaching a new generation of singers at the Manhattan School of Music in New York.

It seems like yesterday people were saying, "Opera in Reno?"

Show Notes

Nevada Opera concludes its 30th season with Verdi's "Un Ballo in Maschera" on March 5 and 7 and Gilbert and Sullivan's "Mikado" on May 14 and 16 at the Pioneer Theatre for the Performing Arts in Reno. Most Nevada Opera productions since 1986 have been performed in their original languages with English translations projected above the stage of the 1,428-seat auditorium. Ticket prices are \$20, \$30, \$40, \$45, and \$50. Senior citizen discounts are available. Call 702-786-4046 or 800-992-2072 for information.

John Bardwell is a Reno painter, cartoonist, writer, photographer, gourmet cook, and opera buff.

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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.



Nevada Events

January and February events in Las Vegas, Reno-Tahoe, and Rural territories.



Leapin' in Laughlin

The spine-jarring terrain of the Laughlin Desert Challenge on January 29-February 1 awaits more than 400 top off-road racers such as Robby Gordon and Ivan Stewart. Highlights include the Laughlin Leap, in which drivers jump their cars for distance and \$15,000 in prize money.

Nevada travelers will find a full schedule of winter cultural events throughout the state. Jazz great Joe Williams sings in North Las Vegas while numerous festivities and art exhibits remember Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and celebrate Black History Month (February) in Las Vegas and Reno. Visitors to Reno can view never-before-seen photographs of Virginia City and the Comstock at the Nevada Historical Society. *Nevada Magazine* presents the following events listing for January and February, divided into areas of interest. Be sure to call ahead to confirm dates and times. Nevada's area code is 702.

Las Vegas Territory

FESTIVALS & CELEBRATIONS

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Committee 17th Annual Banquet • Jan. 10 • Caesars Palace, Las Vegas, 631-1913.

Oratorical Contest • Jan. 12 • Celebrates the life of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. West Las Vegas Theatre, 631-1913.

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Youth Talent Showcase • Jan. 14 • Cheyenne High School, Las Vegas, 631-1913.

Interfaith Gospelfest • Jan. 15 • Dedicated to Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Second Baptist Church, Las Vegas, 631-1913.

Comedy Night • Jan. 16 • Part of the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. celebration. New York-New York, Las Vegas, 631-1913.

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Parade • Jan. 17 • Downtown Las Vegas, 631-1913.

African American Cultural Arts Festival • Feb. 7-8 • Crafts and entertainment. Magicland Plaza, Las Vegas, 647-2242.

Senior Valentine Dance • Feb. 14 • For ages 55 and older. Bonanza Road Senior Center, Las Vegas, 229-6454.

Mesquite Chili and Art Festival • Feb. 14-15 • Chili and salsa cook-off, arts and crafts. Downtown Mesquite, 346-ARTS.

African American Celebration • Feb. 17-20 • Senior luncheon, gospel night, and a youth talent showcase highlight this 21st annual event. Doolittle Center, Las Vegas, 229-6374.

Brews Festival • March 1 • Entertainment, food, 50 beers to taste, and a live and silent auction to benefit public-radio station KNPR. Palace Station, Las Vegas, 456-6695.

PERFORMANCES

Big Band Salute to WW II • Jan. 14 • Harry James Orchestra. Horn Theatre, Community College of Southern Nevada, North Las Vegas, 651-LIVE.

NEVADA MAGAZINE

presents

Nevada Events & Shows

Nevada Events and Shows is a special section of *Nevada Magazine*, the official guide to travel, recreation, people, history, and events in the Silver State. To list an event, please send information at least three months in advance to Events Editor Ann Henderson, 555 E. Washington Ave., Suite 5600, Las Vegas, NV 89101; 702-486-2433; fax 702-486-2789; e-mail nevevents@aol.com. Subscription rates for *Nevada Magazine* are \$16.95 for one year, U.S.; \$22.95 foreign. To subscribe to *Nevada Magazine*, which includes Nevada Events and Shows, call toll-free:

1-800-495-3281

Wind Symphony Pops Concert • Jan. 22 • Artemus Ham Hall, UNLV, 895-3801.

"Aesop's Fables" • Jan. 26 • Mixed media puppet production featuring the "The Lion and the Mouse," "The Tortoise and the Hare," and "The Fox and the Grapes." Artemus Ham Hall, UNLV, 800-497-5007.

Naumberg Piano Competition Winner • Jan. 28 • Master Series concert. Artemus Ham Hall, UNLV, 895-3801.

"Hedda Gabler" • Jan. 29-Feb. 1 and Feb. 4-8 • Mystery surrounds an elusive woman who wishes to shape human destiny. Judy Bayley Theatre, UNLV, 895-3801.

The Hughes Brothers • Jan. 31 • Concert. Virgin Valley High School Auditorium, Mesquite, 346-2974.

"Hansel and Gretel with Peter and the Wolf" • Feb. 12-15 • Judy Bayley Theatre, UNLV, 895-3801.

"My Sister in This House" • Feb. 12-15 and 18-22 • Based on a 1930s French murder case, the play proves the maid did it, but why? Black Box Theatre, UNLV, 895-3801.

"Best Stories of the Silver State" • Feb. 13-15 and 19-22 • Rainbow Company Children's Theatre performs stories and songs from its original Old Nevada series. Reed Whipple Center, Las Vegas, 229-6211.

Michael Ballam in Concert • Feb. 14 • Performer sings Valentine's Day favorites. Virgin Valley High School Auditorium, Mesquite, 346-ARTS.

Ballet du Capitot de Toulouse • Feb. 15 • Artemus Ham Hall, UNLV, 895-3801.

"Phantom of the Opera" • Feb. 17 • Musical adaptation of the Gaston Leroux classic for young people. Artemus Ham Hall, UNLV, 800-497-5007.

Joe Williams in Concert • Feb. 27 • Jazz singer performs with a studio orchestra for ninth annual fundraiser. Horn Theatre, Community College of Southern Nevada, North Las Vegas, 651-LIVE.

Utah Shakespeare Festival Performs "Romeo and Juliet" • Feb. 23-28 and March 2-6 • Romance Bard-style. Horn

Theatre, Community College of Southern Nevada, North Las Vegas, 651-LIVE.

EXHIBITS

Las Vegas: The War Years • Permanent exhibit of photographs and artifacts on Las Vegas' coming of age during the 1940s. Nevada State Museum and Historical Society, Las Vegas, 486-5205.

Mixed Media Exhibit • Thru Jan. 11 • National League of Pen Women, Nevada Chapter. West Charleston Library Gallery, Las Vegas, 878-3682.

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Racing Las Vegas

Runners grind out the miles February 1 during the Las Vegas International Marathon, which attracts contestants from 50 states and 40 foreign countries. For spectators, entertainers perform at the Vacation Village Hotel, the site of the finish line.

Paintings by Jack Hallberg • Thru Jan. 17 • Horn Theatre, Community College of Southern Nevada, North Las Vegas, 651-4113.

Irish Artists Exhibit • Thru Jan. 24 • Mixed media. Marjorie Barrick Museum, UNLV, 895-3381.

Super Bowl Parties • Jan. 25 • Many casinos plan parties. Some have cheerleaders or football players to liven the gathering. Contact casinos for information on events that are open to the public.

Something That a Cowboy Knows • Thru Feb. 8 • Portraits and works of cowboy poets. Clark County Heritage Museum, Henderson, 455-7955.

Willow Transformed: Baskets of the Paiute, Shoshone, and Washoe • Thru March 29 • Baskets made from 1900 to 1930. Nevada State Museum and Historical Society, Las Vegas, 486-5205.

Black History Month Student Art Exhibits • Various Clark County libraries: Jan. 6-March 1 main branch, Jan. 8-March 3 Summerlin, Jan. 13-March 10 West Charleston, Jan. 21-March 15 Spring Valley, Jan. 22-April 7 Rainbow, Jan. 29-March 17 Sunrise. Las Vegas, 228-4274.

Crayola Dream Maker Art Exhibit • Jan. 11-30 • Beam Fine Art Gallery, UNLV, 895-3893.

Harold Bradford Exhibit • Jan. 15-March 8 • Subjects by African-American painter range from sports images to landscapes. Green Valley Library, 228-4274.

There's Always Room for Jell-O • Jan. 16-March 13 • The history and social impact of Bill Cosby's favorite snack. Lied Discovery Children's Museum, Las Vegas, 382-3445.

Maurice Smith Exhibit • Jan. 22-Feb. 28 • Black history paintings and drawings. Horn Theatre, Community College of Southern Nevada, North Las Vegas, 651-4113.

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Old Nevada on Stage

Nevada's history is grist for drama February 13-15 and 19-22 in Las Vegas when the Rainbow Company Children's Theatre performs "Best Stories of the Silver State," a show of anecdotes and music from its Old Nevada series.

Women's History Month Exhibit • Feb. 26-March 27 • Richard Tam Alumni Center, UNLV, 895-3535.
Sy Collier Exhibit • Jan. 27-March 29 • Oils by artist-edu-

ator in celebration of Black History Month. West Las Vegas Library, 228-4274.
Silent Pride: Portraits of the Million Man March • Feb. 3-

March 4 • Photographs by Lisa Margerum of the October 16, 1995, event. Sahara West Library, Las Vegas, 228-4274.

SPORTS

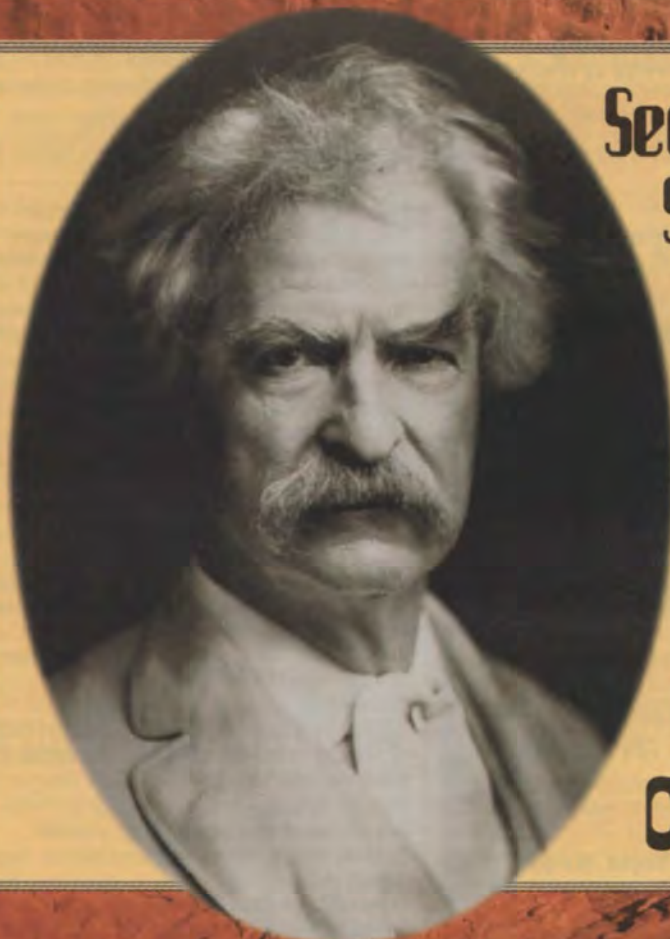
January Jamboree • Jan. 9-18 • Golf tournaments, high school band competition, and a banquet. Fundraiser for United Way and the High School Booster Club. Mesquite, 346-2974.

Start Your Engines

The best of the best meet at the starting line March 1 when NASCAR makes its inaugural Winston Cup Series stop at the Las Vegas Motor Speedway. The Las Vegas 400 will be preceded on February 28 by a NASCAR Busch Series Grand National Division Race, making it a weekend of motor heaven for race fans.

UNLV Basketball • The Runnin' Rebels play Jan. 10 v. Air Force; Jan. 22 v. BYU; Jan. 24 v. Utah; Jan. 26 v. Chaminade; Feb. 7 v. Wofford; Feb. 14 v. Texas, El Paso; Feb. 16 v. New Mexico; Feb. 26 v. Wyoming; Feb. 28 v. Colorado State. Thomas and Mack Center, Las Vegas, 895-3900.

Las Vegas Thunder • The International Hockey League pro team plays Jan. 6 v. Milwaukee Admirals; Jan. 9 v. Utah Grizzlies; Jan. 14 v. Grand Rapids Griffins; Jan. 16 and 17 v. Houston Aeros; Jan. 20 v. Cincinnati Cyclones; Jan. 23 v. Long Beach Ice Dogs; Jan. 27 v. Fort Wayne Comets; Jan. 30 and 31 v. San Antonio Dragons; Feb. 3 v. Manitoba Moose; Feb. 6 v. San Antonio Dragons; Feb. 8 v. Manitoba Moose; Feb. 13 v. Long Beach Ice Dogs; Feb. 15 and 17 v. Houston Aeros; Feb. 20 and 21 v. Utah Grizzlies; Feb. 24 v. Manitoba Moose; Feb. 27 v. San Antonio Dragons. Thomas and Mack Center, Las Vegas, 798-PUCK.



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Say Cheese

Members of the Virginia City Camera Club show off their enthusiasm and photography gear in the late 1890s. The photo is part of "Virginia City and the Comstock: Boom, Bust, and Albumen" on display January 16-May 15 at the Nevada Historical Society Museum in Reno. The photos, some of them rare albumen prints, trace the rise and decline of the famous mining town.

Turquoise Circuit Rodeo Finals • Jan. 16-18 • Civic Center Park, Bullhead City/Laughlin, 298-2214.

Laughlin Desert Challenge • Jan. 29-Feb. 1 • More than 400 drivers compete in an off-road race across desert terrain. Includes competition to see which car can make the longest leap for \$15,000 in prize money. Special Events Area, Laughlin, 298-2214.

International Friendship 5K Run • Jan. 31 • A charity event held in conjunction with the Las Vegas Marathon. A field of international runners start and finish the race at the Showcase Mall on the Strip. Las Vegas, 876-3870.

Las Vegas International Marathon and Half-Marathon • Feb. 1 • Runners from 50 states and more than 40 countries compete in the 32nd annual event. Race ends at Vacation Village, Las Vegas, 876-3870.

Sweetheart Deal • Feb. 14 • Two-for-one night skiing. Las Vegas Ski and Snowboard Resort. Mount Charleston, Las Vegas, 872-0704.

NASCAR Busch Series, Grand National Division Race • Feb. 28 • Las Vegas Motor Speedway, 644-4443.

Las Vegas 400 • March 1 • First-ever NASCAR Winston Cup race for Las Vegas Motor Speedway. 644-4443.

GENERAL INTEREST

Winterfest Fight Workshop • Jan. 2-11 • Sharpen swash-buckling skills on a variety of swords and shields. Black Box and Judy Bayley theaters, UNLV, 895-3801.

Piccadilly Antique Fair • Jan. 3-4 • Cashman Field, Las Vegas, 813-345-4431.

Searchlight: The Camp That Didn't Fall • Jan. 15 • Book signing by Nevada Senator Harry Reid and an exhibit of photographs and documents from Searchlight. Nevada

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State Museum and Historical Society, Las Vegas, 486-5205.
YMCA Snowbox Derby • Jan. 24 • Las Vegas Ski and Snowboard Resort, Lee Canyon, Mount Charleston, 877-9622.

Las Vegas Gun and Knife Show • Jan. 31-Feb. 1 • Cashman Field, Las Vegas, 800-333-GUNS.

Going to Pieces Jigsaw Puzzle Contest • Feb. 2-7 • Timed competition open to individuals and teams. All Clark County Community Centers, Las Vegas, 455-8206.

Sports Show • Feb. 19-22 • Cashman Field, Las Vegas, 736-5958.

St. Jude's Dinner Gala • Feb. 28 • Black-tie benefit for St. Jude's Ranch for Children. Desert Inn, Las Vegas, 294-7100.

COMING EVENTS

WAC Women's and Men's Basketball Championships • March 2-7 • Las Vegas, 895-3900.

Parade of Homes Hot-Air Balloon Races • March 20-22 • Mesquite, 346-5295.

Clark County Fair • April 2-5 • Logandale, 398-FAIR.

Laughlin River Stampede • April 2-5 • Laughlin, 298-2214.

Invitational Native American Arts Festival • April 3-5 • Henderson, 455-7955.

Handcar Races • April 11 • Boulder City, 293-4857.

Henderson Heritage Days • April 17-26 • Henderson, 565-8951.

Laughlin River Run • April 23-26 • Laughlin, 298-2214.

Cinco de Mayo • May 2-3 • Mesquite, 346-5295.

Mesquite Days • May 8-11 • Mesquite, 346-5295.

International Music Conference • May 14-16 • Las Vegas, 837-3636.

Rattlin' Rails Handcar Races • Sept. 26-27 • Boulder City, 293-4857.

Reno-Tahoe Territory

FESTIVALS & CELEBRATIONS

Sharkey's Serbian Christmas Feast • Jan. 7 • Free dinner from 4 p.m. until all are served. Sharkey's Nugget, Gardnerville, 782-3133.

Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday Celebration • Jan. 16-19 • Dinner at John Ascuaga's Nugget, concerts, church ser-

vices. Reno and Sparks, 329-8990.

Snowfest • Feb. 27-March 8 • Winter carnival at various Lake Tahoe locations including opening ceremonies at Squaw Valley USA on Feb. 27. Other events include a Wild Things parade and costume party, ice-carving contest, showshoe races, showshoe golf tournament, snowshovel drill team, Monster Dawg pull, roving performers, live music, magic show, barbecue, and kids' parade. North Lake Tahoe and Truckee, 800-824-6348.

PERFORMANCES

Reno Philharmonic Concert • Jan. 13 • Barry Jekowsky guest

Toast the Arts

Beer connoisseurs will taste suds from 17 microbreweries February 20 during the BrewHaHa Microbrew Beer Fest and Concert in Sparks.

Zydeco-Cajun music by the groups Mumbo Gumbo and Jo Mama will enliven the annual Sierra Arts Foundation fundraiser at John Ascuaga's Nugget.

conductor, with violinist Livia Sohn. Pioneer Center for the Performing Arts, Reno, 323-6393.

"Mother Courage and Her Children" • Jan. 16-7, 22-24, and 29-31 • Drama by Bertolt Brecht. Bruka Theatre, Masonic Building, Reno, 323-3221.

Jose Greco II, Flamenco Dance Company • Jan. 29 • Nevada Festival Ballet presentation. Pioneer Center for the Performing Arts, Reno, 785-7915.

Argenta Quartet • Jan. 30 • The music of Richard Strauss. Nightingale Concert Hall, U of N, Reno, 784-1985.

"A Telling Experience": David Novak Storyteller • Jan. 30 • Cal-Neva Resort, Crystal Bay, 530-546-4602.

Wind Power II • Feb. 1 • A Casual Classics low-brow concert featuring the Argenta Quartet playing garden hoses, straws, and whistles. Nightingale Concert Hall, U of N, Reno, 784-1985.

"A Time of Castles" • Feb. 12-14, 16, and 20-21 • Fantasy play featuring half-man, half-dog character. Bruka Theatre for Children, Masonic Building, Reno, 323-3221.

Reno Philharmonic • Feb. 17 • Guest conductor Bernard Rubenstein with pianist Lee Luvisi. Pioneer Center for

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Sweethearts on the Slopes

Ski areas welcome lovebirds on Valentine's Day. **By Kim Pryor**



Valentine's Day keepsakes such as sweetheart photos from Squaw Valley await skiing couples.

Love is in the air at Lake Tahoe on Valentine's Day, when many alpine resorts woo skiers with sweetheart deals.

While lovers' hearts race, so do skiers at Heavenly, where couples can compete in the Valentine's Day Race starting at 11 a.m. on February 14 (702-586-7000). Competitors, who also will be entered in drawings, will need to pay a race fee as well as lift ticket prices.

Competitive couples can enter Northstar-at-Tahoe's dual giant slalom Valentine's Fun Race at 11 a.m. (916-562-1010). Prior to the race, couples register a guess of the combined time of their runs. The three couples who guess best will win prizes such as sunglasses and dinner for two. The cost includes lift tickets plus \$2 per couple for one run each or \$8 per couple for all-day unlimited runs on the race course.

At Squaw Valley, employees will roam the mountain, taking Polaroid photos of couples in front of heart-shaped pillows and passing out "I Love Squaw" pins (916-583-6985).

Skiers at Mount Rose will also be seeing red. For a fee, sweethearts can have their photo taken outdoors while seated on a red couch against a scenic backdrop (702-849-0704).

At Kirkwood, visitors dining in the Cornice Cafe can treat themselves to a Sweetheart Dinner complete with flowers for the women and special made-for-two entrees (209-258-6000).

In Southern Nevada, cold winter evenings get warmer at the Las Vegas Ski and Snowboard Resort, which will offer two-for-one night skiing on Valentine's Day (702-872-5462).

Don't have sweetie? Then you can play Sugar Bowl's matchmaker game (916-426-9000). When purchasing a lift ticket at the Donner Summit resort, singles will receive a sticker chosen from two different piles. The goal is to find the guy or gal with the matching sticker. Couples who meet their match during the game win prizes.

Hitting the slopes is a popular Valentine's Day outing, so it is a good idea to make room and restaurant reservations early.

Skiing Around the State

A Guide to Nevada and Tahoe Basin Ski Areas.

1998 Downhill Skier's Guide

Area	Phone	Top Elevation	Vertical Feet	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	\$47/\$10	\$24/\$17	Yes
Boreal	916-426-3666	7,700	500	9	30-55-15	\$28/\$10	\$18/\$12	Yes
Diamond Peak	702-831-3211	8,540	1,840	6	18-46-36	\$38/\$14	\$20/\$12	Yes
Donner Ski Ranch	916-426-3635	7,751	750	6	25-50-25	\$23/\$10/\$5	\$17/\$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	26	20-47-33	\$47/\$34/\$22	\$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/\$33/\$5	\$20/\$14	Yes
Mount Rose	702-849-0704	9,700	1,440	5	30-35-35	\$38/\$14	\$25/\$15	Yes
Northstar-at-Tahoe	916-562-1010	8,600	2,200	12	25-50-25	\$46/\$38/\$10	\$25/\$15	Yes
Sierra at Tahoe	916-659-7453	8,852	2,212	10	25-50-25	\$43/\$33/\$5	\$22/\$15	Yes
Soda Springs	916-426-1010	7,352	652	3	30-50-20	\$15/free	\$15	Yes
Squaw Valley	916-583-6955	9,050	2,850	30	25-45-30	\$48/\$24/\$5	\$25/\$13	Yes
Sugar Bowl	916-426-9000	8,383	1,500	10	17-43-40	\$42/\$10	\$21/\$14	Yes
Tahoe Donner	916-587-9444	7,350	600	3	40-60-0	\$26/\$12	\$20/\$15	Yes
AROUND THE STATE								
LV Ski and Snowboard	702-646-0008	9,510	1,000	3	20-60-20	\$28/\$21	\$16	Yes
Elko Snobowl	702-738-6125	7,000	650	2	20-60-20	\$6	No	Yes
Ruby Mountains (Elko)	702-753-6867	Ruby Mt. Heli-Skiing in Lamolle offers helicopter skiing						

1998 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	\$7/\$3.50	\$13/\$9	\$14	✓
Diamond Peak	702-831-3211	35	\$14/\$9	\$15/\$7	\$32*	✓
Hope Valley	916-694-2266	80	none	\$14/\$8	\$28/\$20	✓
Kirkwood	209-258-7248	80	\$15/\$5	\$15/\$9	\$35/\$25*	✓
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/\$9	\$16/\$9	\$39/\$25*	✓
Royal Gorge	916-426-3871	328	\$19.50/\$8.50	\$16.50/\$9.50	\$18/\$12	✓
Spooner Lake	702-887-8844	101	\$15/\$9/\$3	\$15/\$9/\$4	\$34/\$25/\$18*	✓
Resort at Squaw Creek	916-583-6300	18	\$12/\$8	\$13/\$9	\$35*	✓
Tahoe Donner	916-587-9484	70	\$16/\$14/\$9	\$15/\$9	\$35/\$29*	✓
AROUND THE STATE						
LV Ski and Snowboard	702-252-8077 702-873-8800	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.



Bowled Over

A turned-wood Southwestern bowl by Reno Artist Mike Phillips is part of a Silver State Gallery exhibit February 10-March 10. Phillips assembles and glues pieces of wood and shapes the bowl while it is spinning on a lathe.

the Performing Arts, Reno, 323-6393.

"Ten Little Indians" • Feb. 20-22, 27-28 and March 1 • Agatha Christie's classic story. Reno Elks Club, 331-1877.
Carson City Chamber Orchestra • Feb. 22 • Concert featuring pianist Rachel Ing. Community Center, Carson City, 883-4154.

Music From the Heart • Feb. 22 • Bev Colgan and Joe Venuto perform on harp and vibes. St. Mary's Church, Virginia City, 847-9ART.

Markham and Broadway • Feb. 24 • Duo-pianists perform tribute to George Gershwin. Pioneer Center for the Performing Arts, Reno, 686-6600.

"The Who's 'Tommy'" • Feb. 27-28 and March 4-8 • Nevada Repertory Company presentation. Redfield Theatre, U of N, Reno, 784-6847.

EXHIBITS

Die Cast Model Exhibit • Thru Jan. 2 • Model cars. National Automobile Museum, Reno, 333-9300.

Wolf Kahn: Dialogue Between Abstract and Traditional Paintings, Pastels, and Monoprints • Thru Jan. 18 • American modernistic painter. Nevada Museum of Art, Reno, 329-3333.

Romance in Eureka

Music lovers will celebrate Valentine's Day in Eureka with a concert by the Ying Quartet at the Eureka Opera House. The quartet will play romantic classical music during a special holiday dinner.

Danae Anderson Paintings • Thru Jan. 30 • Sierra Arts Center Gallery, Reno, 329-1324.

Home on the Road • Thru Feb. 17 • Auto camping exhibit with some of the first RVs. National Automobile Museum, Reno, 333-9300.

Horseless Carriages • Thru March 30 • Cars from local collectors. National Automobile Museum, Reno, 333-9300.

The Buckaroo • Jan. 1-June 30 • Photos, artifacts, paintings, and saddles trace the history of the Nevada buckaroo. Carson Valley Museum and Cultural Center, Gardnerville, 782-2555.

Tucker: An American's Dream • Jan. 12-April 27 • History of the Tucker automobile. National Automobile Museum, Reno, 333-9300.

Lines in Sculpture: Maria Jamirollo • Jan. 16-Feb. 5 • Large-scale compositions in ink, paper, canvas, and aluminum coil sculptures. Sheppard Art Gallery, U of N, Reno, 784-6658.

Virginia City and the Comstock: Boom, Bust, and Albumen • Jan. 16-May 15 • Photographs tracing the rise and decline of the famous mining town. Includes rare albumen prints. Nevada Historical Society Museum, Reno, 688-1191.

Lobsang Samten and Tibetan Mandala

• Jan. 23-Feb. 22 • The artist, founder and spiritual director of four Tibetan Buddhist Centers, will create a sand mandala and will be available to speak about the work and Tibetan spirituality. Nevada Museum of Art, Reno, 329-3333.

Annual Valentine Auction

• Feb. 9-13 • Donated Valentine-themed works are auctioned during fundraiser for Sheppard Art Gallery, U of N, Reno, 784-6658.

Winter Exhibit

• Feb. 10-March 10 • Works by Gene Speck, oils; Mary Aiwahi-Cisco, watercolors; Roxanne Ekstrom, pastels; Mike Phillips, turned wood; Mary Lee Fulkerson, basketry; Molly Gardner, Spirit Vessels; and Hannah Lea Willis, John Dondero, and David Woodin, pottery, will be displayed during the winter show. Silver State Gallery, Reno, 324-2323.

SNOW & SKI EVENTS

Ski With the Captain • Jan. 3-4 • Free race for skiers over 21, followed by awards party. Squaw Valley USA, 530-583-6985.

Guided Snowshoe Tour • Jan. 4 • Royal Gorge Cross-Country Ski Resort, 530-426-3871.

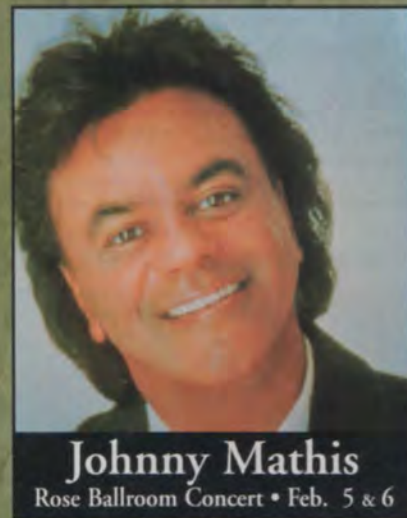
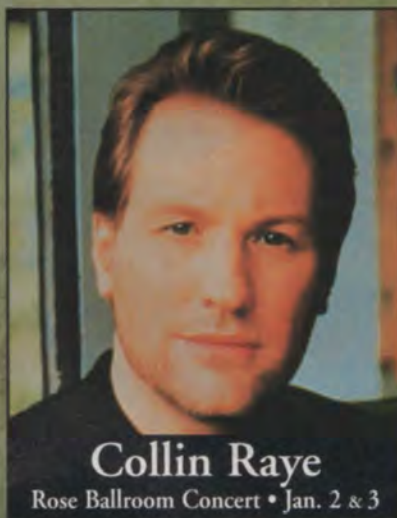
Wendy's Downhill Relays • Jan. 9-10 • Teams of former Olympic and World Cup champions compete. Heavenly Ski Resort, 586-7000.

Elvis Day • Jan. 10 • Dress like Elvis to celebrate the King's birthday. Mount Rose-Ski Tahoe, 800-SKI-ROSE.

Take Your Daughter to the Slopes Day • Jan. 10 • Mothers and daughters get special rates for beginner, halfpipe, and carving classes at Alpine Meadows, Northstar-at-Tahoe, and Squaw Valley ski areas. 530-583-4232.

Band on Skis • Jan. 16 • An 80-person marching band from UC Berkeley forms a giant wedge and performs while skiing down the mountain. Squaw Valley USA, 530-583-4232.

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The Drifters & the Coasters • January 1-7

Marty Stuart • January 8-14

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Mickey Gilley • February 5-18

Rich Little • February 19 - March 4

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U.S. Snowboard Competition • Jan. 24-25 • Sierra at Tahoe, 530-659-7453.

Lord of the Boards • Jan. 28-29 • Competitors run a course on skis, snowboards, or telemark skis. Alpine Meadows Ski Resort, Lake Tahoe, 530-583-4232.

Chinese New Year Celebration • Jan. 31 • Apres-ski music and food specials. Northstar-at-Tahoe, 530-562-1010.

Valentine's Day Race • Feb. 14 • Prizes include a diamond pendant and diamond ring. Heavenly Ski Resort, Lake Tahoe, 586-7000.

Valentine's Day Fun Race • Feb. 14 • Dual giant slalom for couples. Northstar-at-Tahoe, 530-562-1010.

Valentine's Day Ski Promotions • Feb. 14 • Couples can have their pictures taken at Squaw Valley (530-583-6985) and Mount Rose (849-0704). Sugar Bowl offers a match-maker game for singles (530-426-9000).



Western Yarns

Raphael Cristy spins the yarns of Western Artist Charlie Russell January 28-31 during dinner theater performances at Elko's Great Basin College Theater. The one-man show is part of Elko's Cowboy Poetry Gathering, January 24-31.

Truckee Sled Dog Races • Feb. 14-15 • Three-, four-, six-, and eight-dog teams compete. Truckee Airport on Brockway Road, Truckee, 530-587-3657.

Mardi Gras Celebration • Feb. 21 • Zydeco band, bar and food specials. Northstar-at-Tahoe, 530-562-3555.

World Pro Snowboard Tour • Feb. 21-22 • Squaw Valley USA, 530-583-6985.

SPORTS

University of Nevada Basketball • The Wolf Pack plays Jan. 8 v. Long Beach State; Jan. 10 v. Pacific; Jan. 22 v. Idaho; Jan. 24 v. Boise State; Feb. 7 v. UC Irvine; Feb. 14 v. Utah State; Feb. 19 v. Butler; Feb. 26 v. North Texas; Feb. 28 v. New Mexico State. Lawlor Events Center, U of N, Reno, 348-PACK.

University of Nevada Football • The Wolf Pack plays Nov. 15 v. Utah State. Mackay Stadium, Reno, 348-PACK.

Reno Rage Pro Hockey • The Rage plays Jan. 9 v. Bakersfield Fog, Jan. 10 v. Tacoma Saber Cats, Jan. 14 v. San Diego Gulls, Jan. 16-17 v. Fresno Falcons, Feb. 6-7 v. Anchorage Aces, Feb. 20 v. Phoenix Mustangs, Feb. 21 v. San Diego Gulls, Feb. 25 v. Idaho Steelheads. Reno-Sparks Convention Center, 828-3400.

Super Bowl Parties • Jan. 25 • Football festivities at Northern Nevada casinos.

GENERAL INTEREST

Winter, Wine, and All That Jazz • Jan. 17 • Wine tasting,

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Sound of Music

Phillip Ruder of Reno's Argenta Quartet receives musical assistance from a young fan. The group, which is known for its high- and low-brow concert styles, often appears in sneakers and jeans. The Argenta Quartet will play January 30 and February 1 in Reno and February 2 in Lovelock.

two jazz bands, and finger-food buffet, \$25 per person. Benefit for the Carson Advocates for Cancer Victims. Ormsby House, Carson City, 800-NEVADA-1.

Antique Show and Sale • Jan. 17-18 • Walley's Hot Springs, Genoa, 782-4951.

Custom Gunmakers and Engravers Show • Jan. 30-Feb. 1 • Silver Legacy, Reno, 829-2810.

Victorian Valentine Tea Party and Fashion Show • Feb. 8 • River Bend Grill at Genoa Lakes Golf Club, Genoa, 782-2164.

RV, Boat, and Sport Show • Feb. 13-16 • Reno-Sparks Convention Center, 892-SHOW.

Stewart Indian School Lecture • Feb. 19 • Gene Hattori, staff archaeologist of the Nevada State Historic Preservation Office, will speak on the early history and daily life of the Carson City school (1890-1980). Nevada Historical Society, Reno, 688-1191.

BrewHaHa Microbrew Beer Fest and Concert • Feb. 20 • Sierra Arts benefit. John Ascuaga's Nugget, Sparks, 329-1324.

Mardi Gras Gala • Feb. 28 • Food, music, and magic to benefit local medical facilities. Harrah's Reno, 322-7064.

COMING EVENTS

U.S. Collegiate Ski Championships • March 4-8 • Diamond Peak Ski Resort, 800-GO-TAHOE.

"Un Ballo in Maschera" • March 5 and 7 • Nevada Opera, Reno, 786-4046.

Big West Conference Basketball Tournament • March 6-8 • Reno, 784-6900.

Lake Tahoe Winter Games • March 8-9 • Incline Village, 800-GO-TAHOE.

Cowboy Jubilee and Poetry • March 14 • Carson City, 883-1532.

Mother Earth's Awakening Powwow • March 21 • Carson City, 882-1808.

Reno Jazz Festival • April 23-25 • Reno, 784-4046.

Eagle Valley Muzzleloaders Mountainman Rendezvous • April 24-26 • Carson City, 887-1221.

Fiesta Nevada Celebration • April 30-May 3 • Sparks, 353-2291.

Grand Prix Motorcycle Race • May 9-10 • Virginia City, 847-0311.

Celebrate the River • June 5-7 • Reno, 334-2417.

Reno Rodeo • June 20-28 • Reno, 329-3877.

Father's Day Powwow • June 21 • Carson City, 882-2808.

Cowboy Country

FESTIVALS & CELEBRATIONS

Cowboy Poetry Gathering • Jan. 24-31 • Considered the major cowboy cultural event in America. Irish and Welsh balladeers, horsemen, and drovers join the annual celebration of the cowboy life, its poetry, and music. Western Folklife Center, Elko, 738-7508 or 888-880-5885.

Winter Classic Ranch Rodeo • Jan. 24-25 • Celebrity ranch rodeo held in conjunction with Elko's Cowboy Poetry Gathering. Spring Creek Horse Palace, Spring Creek, 753-6295.

PERFORMANCES & EXHIBITS

Henry: Portrait of the African-American Cowboy • Jan. 15-March 15 • Photographs by Tony Gleaton. Includes the exhibit, Gear Show: Exploring Cowboy Cultures. Northeastern Nevada Museum, Elko, 738-3418.

"Charlie Russell's Yarns" • Jan. 28-31 • Dinner theater performances by Raphael Cristy. Held in conjunction with the Cowboy Poetry Gathering. Great Basin College Theater, Elko, 888-880-5885.

Cowboy Antique Show and Sale • Jan. 30-31 • Holiday Inn, Elko, 753-6995.

Argenta Quartet: Casual Classics • Feb. 2 • Musicians decked out in jeans, T-shirts, and sneakers perform the classics. Community Center, Lovelock, 273-2197.

Sheer Pandemonium: Celtic Folk Music • March 3 • Traditional music of the British Isles and Ireland, plus modern numbers. One musician plays a harmonica made of wine glasses. Community Center, Lovelock, 273-2082.

GENERAL INTEREST

Chariot Races • Jan. 31-Feb. 1 • Calcutta, auction, and racing action. Chariot Track, Wells, 752-3251.

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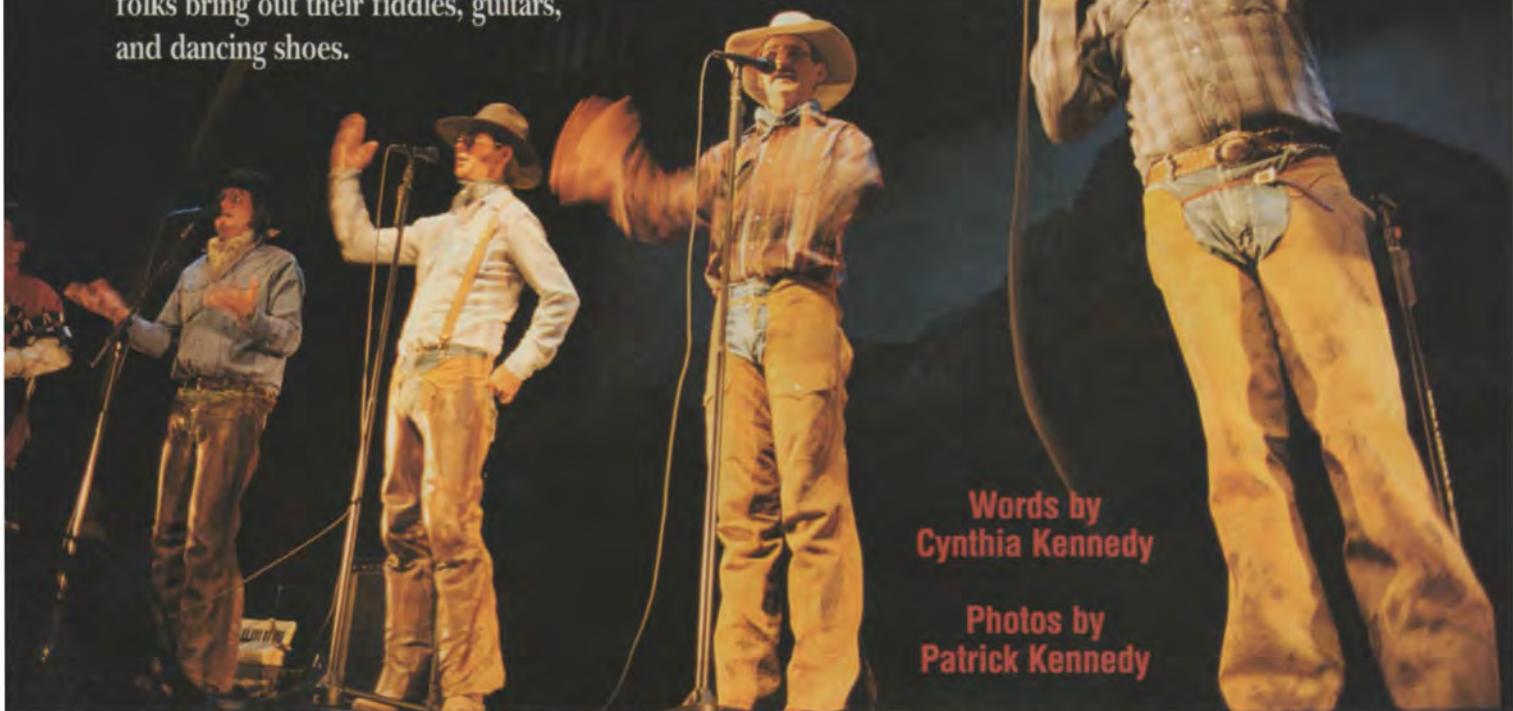
Nevada Events & Shows

is a section of

NEVADA
MAGAZINE

Cowboy Nightlife

When the sun sets at Elko's Cowboy Poetry Gathering, folks bring out their fiddles, guitars, and dancing shoes.



Words by
Cynthia Kennedy

Photos by
Patrick Kennedy

The Ringling Five of Wilsall, Montana, offer a humorous salute to the music and folklore of the range during the Elko Cowboy Poetry Gathering in January.

Throughout the day people will crowd the poetry readings, craft shows, and other events at Elko's Cowboy Poetry Gathering on January 24-31. But when night falls, buckaroos, cowgirls, and enthusiastic fans will take to the dance halls and showrooms for energetic evenings of dancing and music-making.

Dressed in their best Stetsons and knife-creased jeans, couples whirl in a blur around the polished dance floors. Every major casino in town has a *Who's Who* of cowboy musicians booked in their showrooms. Late at night you'll find amateur musicians having "pickin' parties" in hotel hallways and rooms.

Evening also is people-watching time. Mustaches are waxed and combed to phenomenal lengths, and hats have a myriad of creases and brim styles. Women cinch into their best Dale Evans ensemble, and everyone is wearing silver. Outfitting is an art at the gathering. The only problem is deciding what to buy: Craftsmen and artists sell Western clothing, saddlery, and jewelry during the event.

Tickets to performances as well as hotel rooms often sell out early. For more information about the Elko Cowboy Poetry Gathering, call the Western Folklife Center, 702-738-7508 or 888-880-5885, or the Elko Chamber of Commerce, 702-738-7135.



Elks Club dancers perform furious fandangos and two-steps.



Irish fiddler David Coe reveals the Celtic roots of cowboy-ballad melodies.



Stephanie Davis is a Columbus, Montana, poet, musician, and rancher who tends to her stock by day and often writes songs in the evenings by firelight. Davis recently toured with Garth Brooks.



The trio of Rich O'Brien (left), Waddie Mitchell, and Don Edwards is pure poetry.



After sundown musicians gather 'round at the Stockmen's in downtown Elko for a "pickin' party," an impromptu jam session for players of all instruments.

Annual Crab Feed • Feb. 7 • All-you-can-eat feast, music by Papa Clutch and the Shifters, dessert auction. Civic Center, Battle Mountain, 635-2651.

Wild Horse Ice Fishing Derby • Feb. 14-16 • Wild Horse Reservoir, 60 miles north of Elko, 738-7135.

COMING EVENTS

Shooting the West Photo Seminar • March 6-8 • Winnemucca, 623-6388.

Bordertown Bike Challenge • June 6 • Wendover, 208-342-3910.

National Basque Festival • July 2-5 • Elko, 738-3418.

Pony Express Territory

PERFORMANCES

"A Christmas Carol" • Jan. 9 • The Silver Stage Players from Elko perform Dickens' classic during a benefit for the

Eureka Opera House and Sentinel Museum, Eureka, 237-6006.

Danielle Martineau et Rockabayou • Jan. 16 • Crossing cultures with a blend of French-Canadian and Zydeco-style music. Eureka Opera House, Eureka, 237-6006.

Danielle Martineau et Rockabayou • Jan. 24 • Concert. Convention Center, Fallon, 423-1440.

Dinner Concert • Feb. 13 • The Ying Quartet will perform Valentine's Day-themed classical music during dinner. Eureka Opera House, Eureka, 237-6006.

EXHIBITS

Story of the Newlands Project: Turn This Water into Gold • Jan. 11 • Display on the first reclamation project in America. Churchill County Museum, Fallon, 423-3677.

Joe DeLappe Digital Media Exhibit • Feb. 1-28 • Churchill County Library, Fallon, 423-1440.

GENERAL INTEREST

Hidden Cave Tours • Jan. 10 and 24, Feb. 14 and 28, and March 14 and 28 • Free guided tour of Hidden Cave



Bring Your Snowshoes

Elaborate floats join the parade of colorful events during Snowfest, Lake Tahoe's week-long winter carnival, February 27-March 8. Snowshoe golf, snow-shovel drill teams, music, and a costume party are among the festivities held at numerous locations in North Lake Tahoe and Truckee.

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Pioneer Territory

SPORTS

Walker Lake Fishing Derby • Feb. 14-16 • Hawthorne, 945-5896.

Rocky Mountain Elks Banquet and Outdoor Sports Show • March 6-7 • Outfitters, guides, and the latest equipment. El Capitan, Hawthorne, 945-5854.

COMING EVENTS

Armed Forces Day • May 16-17 • Hawthorne, 945-5896.

UFO Friendship Campout • May 23-25 • Rachel, 729-2515.
Lincoln County Memorial Day Homecoming Celebration • May 23-25 • Caliente, 726-3121.

A Reminder: To confirm dates and times, please use the phone number listed with each event. Nevada's area code is 702.

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Play the Way You Like It.



Nevada Showguide

Where the stars and shows are playing in January and February.

Nevada offers big-name entertainment and production shows at clubs and hotels. During January and February, Clint Black headlines at Caesars Palace in Las Vegas, James Brown plays the Reno Hilton, and Don Rickles appears at Harrah's Lake Tahoe. Here, *Nevada Magazine* presents a guide to featured performers. Showrooms often fill fast, so call for show times and reservations. Nevada's area code is 702.

Las Vegas Territory

BOULDER CITY

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

HENDERSON

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

Sunset Station • 547-7777: Club Madrid: Entertainment TBA.

JEAN

Gold Strike Hotel • 477-5000 or 800-634-1359: Bands play at the hotel off Interstate 15 (dark Tues.).

Nevada Landing • 387-5000 or 800-628-6682: Bands like Chuy's Company, Sound Chaser, and Main Event appear.

LAS VEGAS

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

Bally's • 739-4567 or 800-237-SHOW: Jubilee Theater: "Jubilee!" (dark Fri.); Celebrity Room: George Carlin, thru Jan. 3.

The Beach • 731-9298: Concerts TBA.

Boomtown • 263-7777 or 800-588-7711: Rattlesnake Rickey's Saloon: Live entertainment 4pm-3am.



A High-Gloss Show

"Lipstick," the adult revue playing at Harrah's Reno, is the latest production from Greg Thompson and his choreographer, Mistinguett. In the cast are (from left) dancers Jennifer Young, Jennifer Knorr, Shannon O'Keefe, Dejah Juarez, and Jennifer Casper. "Lipstick" plays nightly except Thursday in Sammy's Showroom.

Nevada Events & Shows
is a section of
NEVADA
MAGAZINE

Boulder Station • 432-7777 or 800-683-7777: Railhead Saloon: Performers TBA; Karaoke sessions on Sun.

Caesars Palace • 731-7333 or 800-445-4544: Circus Maximus: Jon Secada, Jan. 2-4; David Copperfield, Jan. 8-27; Clint Black, Feb. 13-15; Concert of Love Fundraiser, Feb. 22; Chicago, Feb. 27-March 1; bands play in the La Piazza Lounge, Olympic Lounge, and Cleopatra's Barge; magicians like Scott Grocki and Bob Jardine perform in the Secret Pagoda at Caesars Magic Empire Theatre.

Casino Royale • 737-3500: Volcano Room: "Which Way to the Rat Pack?" variety show, Fri. and Sat.

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

Continental • 737-5555: Entertainment TBA.

Debbie Reynolds Hollywood Hotel • 7-DEBBIE or 800-633-1777: Star Theatre: "The Debbie Reynolds Show" (dark Sat.-Sun.); "Kenny Kerr Show," the long-running Las

Vegas female impersonator revue (dark Sun.-Mon.)

Desert Inn • 733-4566 or 800-634-6909: Crystal Showroom: B.B. King, Dec. '30-Jan. 3; Dana Carvey, Jan. 15-18; Don Rickles, Jan. 23-25; Dennis Miller, Feb. 5-8; Starlight Theatre: TBA.

Excalibur • 597-7600: King Arthur's Arena: "King Arthur's Tournament," nightly; Wild Bills Saloon and Steakhouse and Minstrel's Theatre Lounge: Dance music nightly; Court Jesters Stage: Strolling entertainers 10am-11pm. **Fitzgeralds Holiday Inn** • 388-2400 or 800-274-LUCK (U.S. outside Nevada): Casino Stage: Entertainment TBA.

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

Four Queens • 385-4011 or 800-634-6045: Royal Pavilion Room: "Comedy Fun House at the Four Queens," nightly.

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Gold Coast • 367-7111 or 888-402-6278 (U.S. outside Nevada): East Lounge: Kinda Dixie Jazz Band, noon to 6pm Mon.-Fri.; bands play in the East and West lounges; Karaoke Tues. and Wed. in the West Lounge; Gold Coast Showroom: "An Elvis Celebration" starring Michael Conti, Jan. 7-11; "A Musical Tribute to Patsy Cline" featuring the Jordanaires and Sharon Haymes, Jan. 21-Feb.

Voice Recognition

Brenda Lee, the little lady with a big voice, and Rich Little, the guy of many voices, have engagements this winter at John Ascuaga's Nugget in Sparks. Lee appears January 15-28, followed by Little on February 19-March 4.

2; Disk jockey Larry Taylor plays Big Band and pop, Tues. and Sun; DJ Marty Martinez spins Latin records, alternating with Tropical Splash's live Latin dance music on weekends.

Golden Nugget • 386-8100: The Theatre Ballroom: New show opens mid-Jan.; entertainment nightly in the lounge.

Hard Rock Hotel • 226-4650 or toll-free 800-HARD-ROCK: The Joint: Concerts TBA.

Harrah's Las Vegas • 369-5222 or toll-free 800-392-9002: Commanders Theatre: "Spellbound '97"; "The Improv at Harrah's" (dark Mon.); entertainment nightly in the Court of Two Gators Lounge.

Holiday Inn Boardwalk • 730-3194: Lighthouse Showroom: Boardwalk Comedy Club (dark Mon.); "The Dream King" with Trent Carlini (dark Mon.); Dixie Dooley's Magic Show, 4 and 5:30pm, Tues.-Sun.

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

Jackie Gaughan's Plaza • 386-2110 or 800-634-6575 (U.S. outside Nevada): Plaza Showroom: "The X-treme Scene," adult revue (dark Fri.).



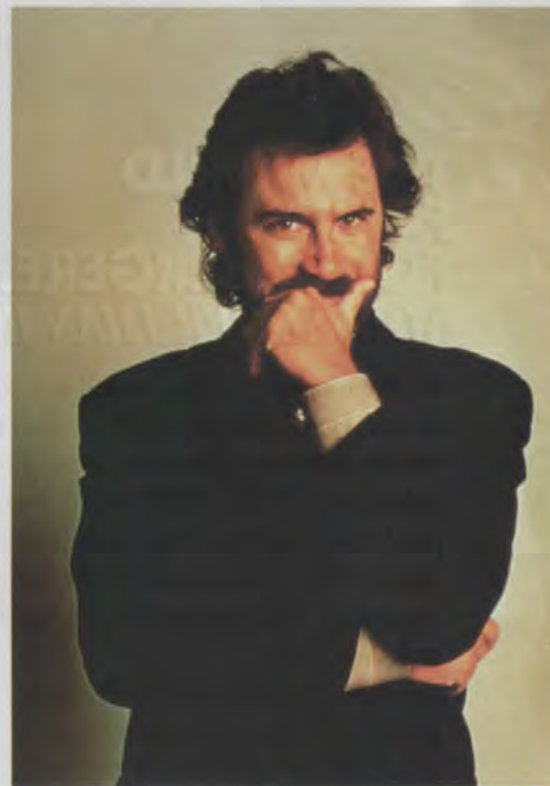
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Dennis Miller, Live

Deadpan comedian Dennis Miller, a former *Saturday Night Live* star, mugs for Desert Inn audiences February 5-8 in Las Vegas.



Wayne on Stage

The Midnight Idol, Wayne Newton, performs December 31-January 1 at John Ascuaga's Nugget in Sparks.

Key Largo • 733-7777: Sand Bar Lounge: Bands provide live entertainment.

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

Lady Luck • 477-3000 or 800-523-9582: Lady Luck Showroom: "Sexy Magic With Steve Wyrick" (dark Mon.). **Las Vegas Hilton** • 732-5755 or 800-222-5361: Hilton Theater: Harry Belafonte, Jan. 1-2; Chris Rock, Jan. 23-24; Trisha Yearwood, Feb. 13-14; The NightClub: Kristine W/Louie Louie.

Luxor • 262-4000 or 800-288-1000: Showroom: "Imagine: A Theatrical Odyssey," production show; Nefertiti's Lounge: Live entertainment.

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

MGM Grand • 891-7777 or 800-929-1111: Grand Theatre: "EFX" starring David Cassidy (dark Thurs.); Hollywood Theatre: Rodney Dangerfield, Dec. 25-Jan. 3; Center Stage Cabaret: "Catch a Rising Star," comedy-variety club; "Comedy FIXX," late-night adult revue, Fri.-Sat. at 12:30 a.m.; bands play during Late Night after the comedy; Flying Monkey Bar: Bobby Dickerson (dark Mon.), Christy Bryant (dark Sun.), Chuy's Company, Sun.; entertainment in the Santa Fe Lounge, the Brown Derby, and Gatsby's; Grand Garden: Events TBA.

The Mirage • 792-7777: Siegfried and Roy Theater: "Siegfried and Roy," magic spectacular (dark Wed.-Thurs. and Jan. 1-2); bands play in the Lagoon Saloon and Baccarat Bar (piano bar).

Monte Carlo • 730-7000: Lance Burton Theatre: "Lance Burton, Master Magician" (dark Sun.-Mon.); dance music nightly in the Monte Carlo Pub and Brewery.

New York-New York • 740-6969: "MADhattan," musical production (dark Wed.-Thurs.); Empire Bar and Bar at Times Square: bands play nightly.

The Orleans • 800-ORLEANS: Orleans Showroom: The Neville Brothers, Jan. 15-18; The Smothers Brothers, Feb. 3-8; Roy Clark, Feb. 11-15; The Pointer Sisters, Feb. 19-21; Willie Nelson, Feb. 27-March 1; bands play in the Bourbon Street Cabaret; strolling Orleans Parade Band (dark Sat.-Sun.).

Palace Station • 367-2411 or 800-634-3101: Entertainment TBA.

Rio Suite • 252-7776 or 800-PLAYRIO (U.S. and Canada): Copacabana Entertainment Complex: Impressionist Danny Gans (dark Mon.-Tues.); "Masquerade Show in

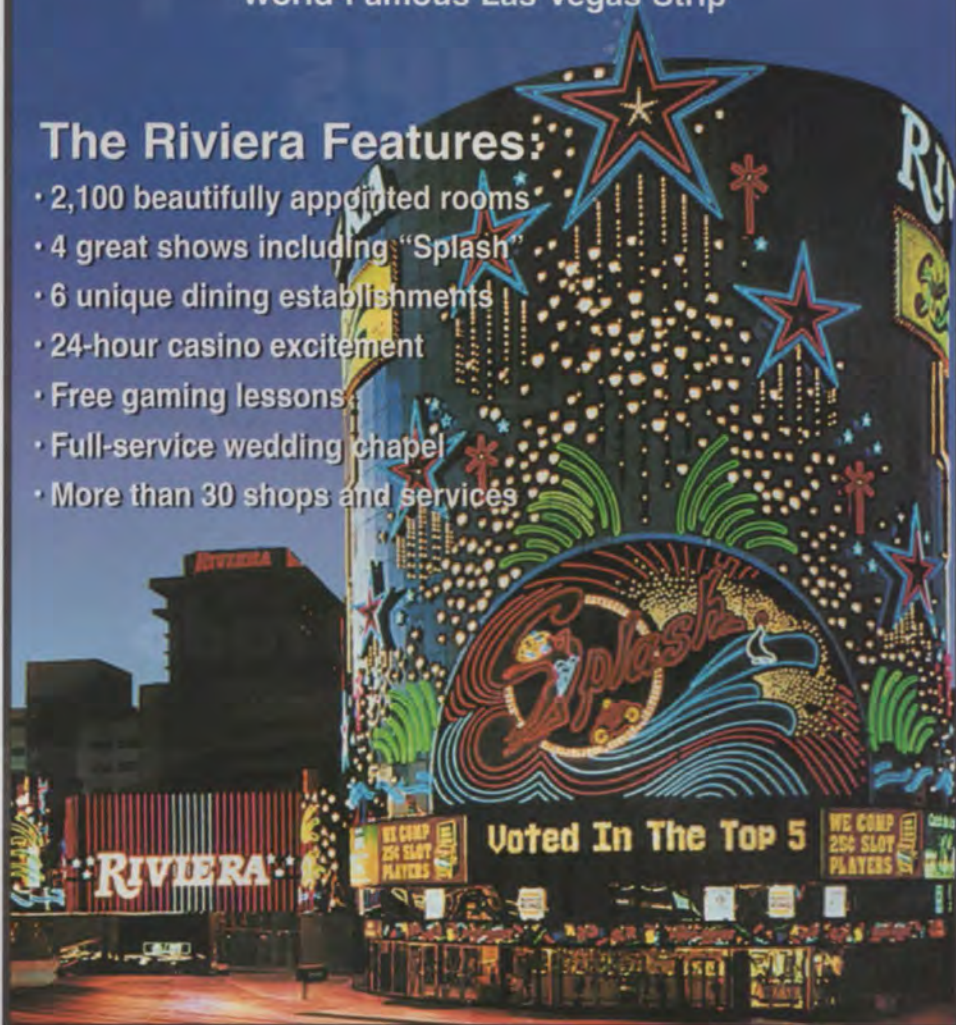
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the Sky," carnival-themed parade above the casino, every two hours beginning at noon Sun.-Tues. and 1pm Thurs.-Sat. (dark Wed.); Ipanema Piano Bar: Steven Boyd, indf. (dark Mon.); Shutters Piano Bar, Voo Doo Lounge, and Cucina, Masquerade, Village, and Mambos bars have live entertainment; Club Rio: Dance-video nightclub Wed.-Sun.

Riviera • 794-9301: Splash Theatre: "Splash," nightly; Mardi Gras Showroom (third floor): "An Evening at La Cage," celebrity female impersonators revue (dark Tues.); second floor theater: "Crazy Girls: Sensuality and Passion," adult revue (dark Mon.); "Riviera Comedy Club"; Le Bistro Lounge: Jazz on the Strip, Mon.; Lon

Night Owl Special

"Comedy FIXX," a late-night adult revue, follows Friday and Saturday performances at Catch a Rising Star, the comedy club at the MGM in Las Vegas. The 12:30 a.m. show is being billed as "stand-up for grownups."

Bronson's All-Star Band, Mon. and Sat., indf.; bands play Tues.-Sun.

Sahara • 737-2515: Congo Showroom: Rita Rudner, thru Jan. 4; Gallagher, Jan. 6-14; Richard Jeni, Jan. 26-Feb. 8; Jeff Dunham, Feb. 9-22.

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 show for adults only); bands play in the Bon Chance Lounge.

Santa Fe • 658-4900: Entertainment Tues.-Sat. in the Ice Lounge and nightly in the Atrium; Grand Ballroom: Entertainment TBA.

Showboat • 383-9232 or 800-826-2800: Mardi Gras Room: Coco and the G's, thru Jan. 4.

Stardust • 732-6111 or 800-824-6033: Stardust Theatre: "Enter the Night," production show (dark Fri.); Stardust Ballroom: Glenn Miller Orchestra, Feb. 21; 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: Hypnotist Marshall Sylver (dark Mon.-Tues.); L'Isles Bar: Caribbean and reggae music.

Treasure Island • 894-7111: Cirque du Soleil in "Mystère" (dark Mon.-Tues.); entertainment nightly in Captain Morgan's piano bar and the Doubloon Saloon.

Tropicana • 739-2411: Tiffany Theatre: "The Best of the Folies Bergere...Sexier Than Ever" (dark Thurs.); "The Magic of Rick Thomas," 2 and 4pm daily except Tues.; Comedy Stop Theatre: "The Comedy Stop," stand-up comedy nightly; bands play in the Atrium Lounge.

Vacation Village • 897-1700 or 800-658-5000: Koo Koo's Lounge: Don Cloe (dark Mon.-Tues.); Big Band Sounds of Vince Tell, Tues. and Thurs.

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

LAUGHLIN

Avi • 535-5555: Bands play nightly.

Colorado Belle • 298-4000: "D" Deck: Riverboat Ramblers, strolling musicians; Boiler Room Brew Pub: Live entertainment (dark Mon.).

Edgewater • 298-2453: Live music nightly.

Flamingo Hilton Laughlin • 298-5028 or 800-435-8469: Club Flamingo: Entertainment TBA; Outdoor Amphitheater: Concerts resume in March.

Gold River • 298-2242 or 800-835-7904: Fantasy Theatre: Entertainment TBA; Cody's Saloon: Entertainment TBA; Sandy Hackett's Comedy Club, Mon. and Thurs.

Golden Nugget Laughlin • 298-7111 or 800-237-1739: Tarzan's Lounge: Bands like Stinger, Van Gogh's Ear, and Wildlife perform.

Harrah's Laughlin • 298-4600 or 800-447-8700: Fiesta

Showroom: "Golden Girls U.S.A.: Stand Up and Salute," nostalgic revue; Club La Bamba: Bands play.

Ramada Express • 298-4200 or 800-243-6846: Caboose Lounge: Bands play nightly.
Riverside Resort • 298-2535 or 800-227-3849 ext. 616: Don's Celebrity Theatre: Carl Hurley, Jan. 4-9; Charlie Prose, Jan. 11-Feb. 12; Eddy Arnold, Feb. 13-19; The Oak Ridge Boys, Feb. 20-21; Roy Clark, Feb. 25-March 1.

MESQUITE

CasaBlanca • 346-7529 or 800-459-7529: Bands play nightly except Monday in the Cascades Lounge; piano bar afternoons.
Rancho Mesquite • 346-4646: Live entertainment in the Wild Cactus and Scorpion lounges.
Si Redd's Oasis • 346-5232 or 800-621-0187: Red Boot Club: Big band dancing, Wed.; karaoke, Thurs.; dance contests, Fri.; live bands perform Fri. and Sat.; Casino Lounge: Bands play nightly.
Virgin River • 346-7777 or 800-346-7721: Country music bands play in the casino lounge nightly except Monday.

NORTH LAS VEGAS

Fiesta Casino • 631-7000: Entertainment in the Cantina Bar; Mariachis, 10:30am-2:30pm Sun.
Jerry's Nugget • 399-3000: Royal Street Lounge: Dance bands play Fri.-Sun.
Texas Station • 631-1000: Armadillo Honky Tonk Lounge: Live entertainment nightly.

PRIMM

Buffalo Bill's Resort • 382-1111 or 800-FUN-STOP: Star of the Desert Arena: Headliner entertainment TBA; Carolee's Theatre: "Carolee's Comedy Club," Fri.-Sun.; Stage Bar: Lounge bands play Thurs.-Sun.



Ready For Action

Knights stand ready to charge nightly in the medieval production of "King Arthur's Tournament" at the Excalibur in Las Vegas.

Primm Valley • 382-1212 or 800-826-4471.
Whiskey Pete's • 382-1212 or 800-367-7383.

Reno-Tahoe Territory

RENO/SPARKS

Atlantis • 825-4700 or 800-723-6500: Bands such as Steppen Stonz play nightly in the Center Stage Cabaret.
Circus Circus • 329-0711: Free circus acts, 11am-midnight.
Club Cal-Neva • 323-1046: Entertainment TBA.
Comstock • 329-1880.
Eldorado • 786-5700, 800-648-5966 (U.S. outside Nevada) or 800-648-3024 (Canada): Showroom: "Smokey Joe's Cafe: The Music of Leiber and Stoller," Broadway musical (dark Tues.); Brew Brothers: Bands play nightly; piano music in the Bistro Roxy.
Eddie's Fabulous '50s • 329-1950: Casino Lounge: "The Legend of Elvis" (dark Tues.); live bands play Wed.-Sun.
Fitzgeralds • 785-3300 or 800-648-5022 (U.S. outside Nevada): Bands play nightly.
Flamingo Hilton Reno • 785-7080: Flamingo Showroom: "American Superstars," reopens Feb. 14; bands play in the Showspot Cabaret; music at Top of the Hilton restaurant (dark Tues.).
Harrah's Reno • 788-3773 or 800-HARRAHS: Sammy's Showroom: "New York, New York"; "Lipstick," revue (dark Thurs.); Smothers Brothers, thru Jan. 1. Rain: Tribute to the

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Nevada Magazine

Guaranteed TOURS



Putting the Fun Back Into Dysfunctional

Ventriloquist Jeff Dunham and his dysfunctional family play the Sahara in Las Vegas February 9-22. Dunham's characters include (from left) Jose Jalapeño, Peanut the Woozle, and Walter the Sarcasm Curmudgeon.

Beatles, Jan. 15-18; The Kingston Trio, March 12-15.
John Ascuaga's Nugget • Sparks, 356-3304 or 800-648-1177 (U.S. and Nevada): Rose Ballroom: Wayne Newton, Dec. 31-Jan. 1; Collin Raye, Jan. 2-3; Johnny Mathis, Feb. 5-6;

Celebrity Showroom: The Drifters and The Coasters, Jan. 1-7; Marty Stuart, Jan. 8-14; Brenda Lee, Jan. 15-28; Lou Rawls, Jan. 29-Feb. 4; Mickey Gilley, Feb. 5-18; Rich Little, Feb. 19-March 4. Bands play nightly in the Casino Cabaret

provide live entertainment nightly.
Pifion Plaza • Carson City, 885-9000: Sports Book Lounge: Bands play Thurs.-Sat.
Sharkey's Nugget • Gardnerville, 782-3133: Live music Fri. and Sat.

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: Patti LaBelle, Dec. 31 and Jan. 2-3; George Carlin, Jan. 23-24; Dan Fogelberg, Jan. 30-31; Steve Miller Band, Feb. 13-15; Wynonna, March 6-7; Crosby, Stills, and Nash, March 14-15; Nero's 2000 nightclub has live music; Cleo's Bar and Entertainment Lounge: Pianist Arthur Herve appears indf.

Harrah's Lake Tahoe • 588-6606 or 800-HARRAHS: South Shore Room: Don Rickles, Jan. 16-18; Danny Marona, Jan. 23-24; "Dazzle Dance: Celebrating Rhythms of the World," Jan. 28-April 20; Smokey Robinson, Feb. 13-15; Casino Center Stage: Nightly bands.

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, thru April (dark Wed.); Llewellyn's: Ron Rose Sound.

Lake Tahoe Horizon • 588-6211 or 800-322-7723: Golden Cabaret: "Phantasy," magic and comedy revue (dark Mon.); Grande Lake Theater: Carrot Top, Jan. 2-13; Gallagher, Feb. 15-16.
Lakeside Inn • 588-7777.

NORTH LAKE TAHOE

Cal-Neva Resort • Crystal Bay, 832-4000 or 800-225-6382.
Crystal Bay Club • Crystal Bay, 831-0512: Crystal Bar: Bands like Impact play nightly.
Hyatt Regency Lake Tahoe • Incline Village, 832-1234.
Jim Kelley's Tahoe Nugget • Crystal Bay, 831-7157.
Tahoe Biltmore • Crystal Bay, 831-0660: Bands like Siren play in the Aspen Lounge.

Cowboy Country

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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. outside Nevada): Club Max Showroom: Headliners TBA; Top 40 bands, Thurs.-Sat.

Stockmen's Hotel • 738-5141 or 800-648-2345 (U.S. and Nevada).

JACKPOT

Barton's Club 93 • 755-2341.

Cactus Petes • 755-2321 or 800-821-1103: Cabaret Lounge: "An Evening at the Improv," Jan. 1-4; "Sounds of the Supremes," Jan. 6-11; The Coasters, Jan. 13-18; Herman's Hermits, Jan. 20-25; Rubber Biscuit: A Tribute to the Blues Brothers, Jan. 27-Feb. 1; Rob Hanna's Salute to Rod Stewart, Feb. 3-8.

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 between Lovelock and Winnemucca.

WENDOVER

Peppermill • 664-2255 or 800-648-9660 (U.S. outside Nevada): Bands play nightly.

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: Jim's Bar: Live entertainment nightly.

State Line • 664-2221, 800-354-3671: Entertainment TBA.

WINNEMUCCA

Winners Hotel • 623-2511: Bands like Midnight Riders play nightly.

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 800-4BIGWIN (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-GEDDYUP: Casino-lounge entertainment.

TONOPAH

Mizpah Hotel • 482-6202.

Station House • 482-9777: Bands play nightly in the casino lounge.

YERINGTON

Casino West • 463-2481 or 800-227-4661 (U.S. and Nevada): Steve Long entertains on weekends in the Wild West Lounge.

Dini's Lucky Club • 463-2868.

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

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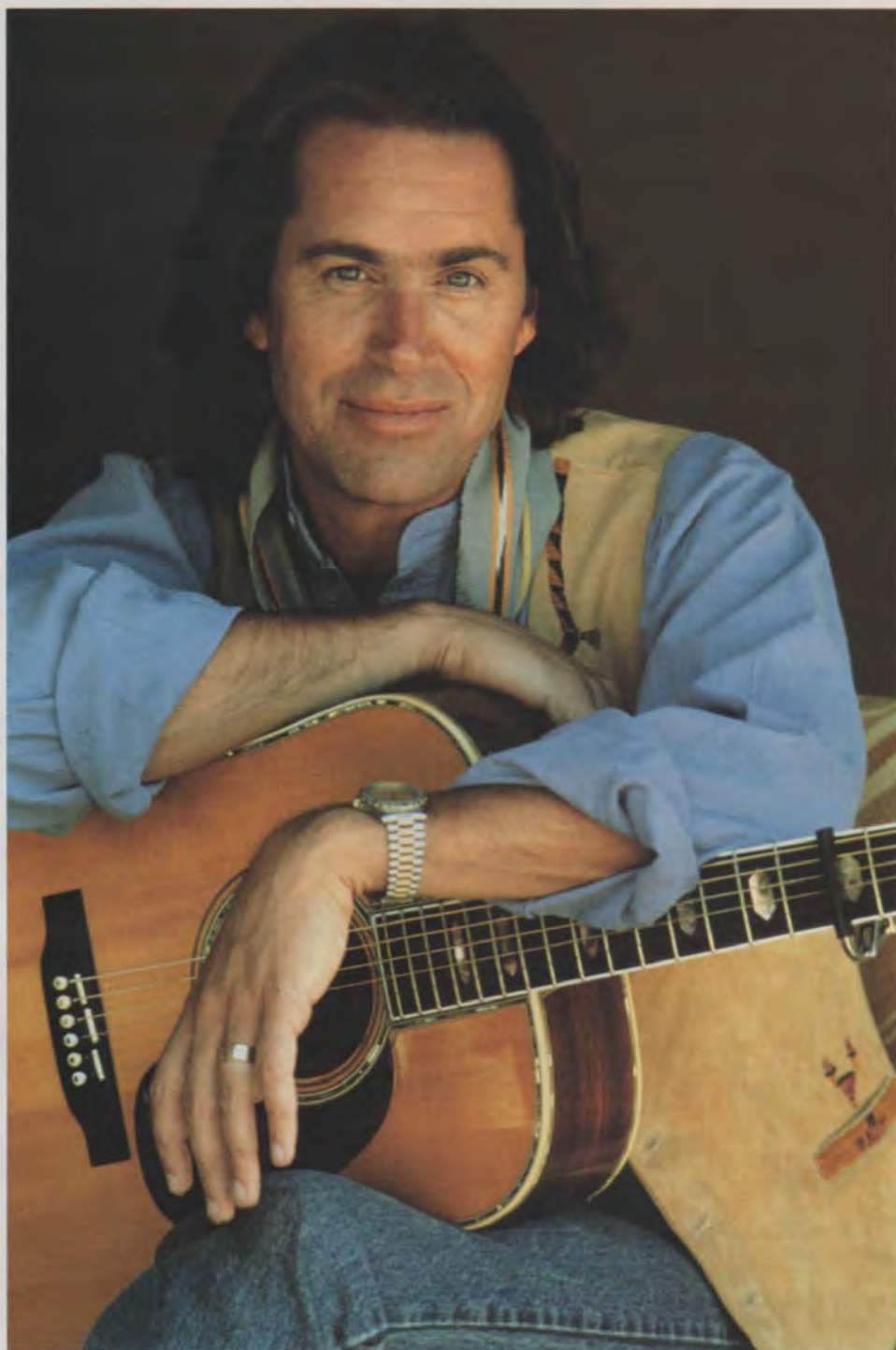
By Kim Pryor

For balladeer Dan Fogelberg, an avid skier and nature lover, Lake Tahoe is a place where he can indulge his two passions—music and mountains. “Squaw Valley is an incredible mountain with incredible terrain,” says Fogelberg. “I also ski at Heavenly and Alpine. But it doesn’t matter where I’m skiing. As long as I’m on skis, I’m happy.”

While Fogelberg traverses the slopes during the day, on January 30-31 he’ll spend evenings performing his acoustical show at Caesars Tahoe. It will be just Fogelberg and the audience, a more intimate concert than his stadium appearances with a band, but elegant in its simplicity.

“Obviously, the rock ‘n’ roll’s not going to be there,” the 46-year-old entertainer says. “It’s more of a softer-edged, folk-type show. You have to be more disciplined to do this type of acoustical show, whereas in a band you can jam as a guitar player. We take more chances in the band. I just can’t get away with that as one guy.”

Fans can expect to hear Fogelberg favorites like “Same Old Lang Syne,” “Leader of the Band,” “Run for the Roses,” “Power of Gold,” and “Part of the Plan.” In his 25-year career Fogelberg has explored several musical territories, and the audi-



Look for singer Dan Fogelberg on the ski slopes when he performs January 30-31 at Caesars Tahoe.

ence will hear examples of Fogelberg the bluegrass guitar picker, the environmentalist, and the pianist.

The musician found his first success in pop music, but now he is setting his sights on other musical outlets. “I really don’t have any fantasies left in the pop world,” he says. “I’ve always wanted to do a Christmas record, but I’d like to do something that’s more medieval, dealing with obscure British and French carols. It would be a lot of fun to explore that era.

“I’ve always been one to follow my muses,” he says. “I follow what interests me rather than what’s commercial.”

Fogelberg’s hunches have paid off. In 1978, when he teamed with flautist Tim Weisberg to record “Twin Sons of Different Mothers,” he never expected the mostly instrumental album to be a hit. Its one commercial song, “The Power of Gold,” went to the Top 20.

His “Windows and Walls” (1984), featuring the hit single “Language of Love,” focused on the world around him and offered a sometimes dark look at humanity’s troubles. Likewise, with “The Wild Places” (1990) and “River of Souls” (1993) the performer entered new territory with his environmental themes.

Fogelberg, who grew up in Peoria on the banks of the Illinois River, has always been in tune with nature. But it was the mountains that lured the aspiring singer on a cross-country trip from Chicago to

A hotel owner took pity on him and offered free lodging until his manager wired him money a week later.

Hollywood, a journey interrupted when he ran out of money in Estes Park, Colorado, on the border of Rocky Mountain National Park. A hotel owner took pity on him and offered free lodging until his manager wired him money a week later. Fogelberg spent the days hiking and writing songs, many of them tributes to Mother Nature.

After he became a household name, Fogelberg purchased a house in Colorado, perched at 9,000 feet above sea level, overlooking the Rockies and the Continental Divide.

"I pretty much learned to ski when I moved to Colorado," he recalls. "There weren't many hills in Illinois. I remember strapping on a pair of boards and trying to go down my parents' driveway. That's the closest I could get."

Living in Colorado and performing at places like Lake Tahoe, Fogelberg will never again have to worry about being away from the mountains for too long.

"I think the lifestyle is attractive, whether it's Utah, Colorado, California, or Nevada," says Fogelberg. "I've lived in the mountains for almost 25 years now. It's a total lifestyle that has always resonated within me. I always feel my best, my healthiest, and happiest."

Show Notes

Dan Fogelberg appears January 30-31 in the Circus Maximus showroom at Caesars Tahoe in Stateline. Show times are 10 p.m. January 30 and 9 p.m. January 31. Ticket prices are \$26, \$34, and \$41. Call 702-588-3515 or 800-426-5239 for reservations.

Kim Pryor is a Lake Tahoe-based feature and entertainment writer who, like Fogelberg, moved west from the flatlands after falling in love with the mountains.

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Casino Notes

News from hotel-casinoland. By Ann Henderson

Las Vegas Territory

Two Fer: The Aladdin closed in November to make way for a \$1.3-billion complex with two distinctly different hotels: a new 2,600-room Aladdin that will be themed around the stories of *Sheherazade and the 1,001 Nights*, and Planet Hollywood's music-themed 1,000-room project. The 7,000-seat Theater for the Performing Arts will be refurbished and operated by Planet Hollywood. The site will include a shopping center called Desert Passage.

Special Roman Chips: Caesars Palace recently issued limited-edition chips to honor the grand opening of its Palace Tower and the expansion of the Forum Shops at Caesars. The hotel's commemorative chips are in \$25 and \$5 denominations.

Totally Big: Visitors entering the Luxor in Las Vegas are now dwarfed by a new 35-foot-tall, life-size replica of the great Temple of Ramses II. The redesigned entry is part of a \$300-million expansion that added another 1,900 rooms, bringing the hotel's room count to 4,427 and giving the Luxor the distinction of being the second largest hotel in the U.S. after the MGM Grand.

Nectar of the Brunch: The Luxor's new restaurant, Luxor Steak House, has added a champagne brunch on Sundays from 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. The cost is \$24.95, and reservations are suggested.

With or Without Salt: A walk-up margarita bar is one of the star features at the MGM's latest restaurant, Ricardo's of Las Vegas. The Mexican eatery first opened in a local shopping mall in 1979. Its new uptown Strip location will have nightly entertainment and an exhibition palapa taco bar.



Magician Tony Clark unleashed his well-practiced white doves during the 1,000th performance of "Phantasy" at the Lake Tahoe Horizon in Stateline.

Variety of Victuals: The menu at Primm Valley Resort's new restaurant, GP's, has no theme except variety. Diners will find American classics such as meat loaf and chicken pot pie offered alongside fancier—and more nouvelle—Italian and Oriental dishes. Primm is located 43 miles south of Las Vegas on Interstate 15.

Only Broad-Minded Need Apply: Producers saved a ton of money on costumes when they revamped the "Crazy Girls" revue at the Riviera. The adults-only topless production, which marked its 10th anniversary in October, is known for its skimpy attire, leggy dancers, and the memorably bawdy humor of comedienne Carole Montgomery. A bronze statue of the cast's backsides at the hotel's entrance is a pop-

ular Strip photo opportunity.

New Hangout: Sunset Station in Henderson has created an after-midnight weekend dance spot in its Club Madrid. There is no cover charge, and music is live or from records played by DJs and projected on big-screen video walls.

Reno-Tahoe Territory

Make It Mine: Dollar slot machine players who win a hand-pay jackpot (usually more than 400 coins) at the Comstock in Reno get five free pulls on the Cool Millions machine. If you're lucky, you'll take home \$1 million and receive the rest over the next 20 years. The hotel, which is located across First Street from the Truckee River, recently redecorated its Miner's Cafe.

Root for Beer: The Brew Brothers, the Eldorado's suds factory, was recently voted Reno's best microbrewery in the *Reno Gazette-Journal's*

reader poll. Seven beers and a root beer are made on site to accompany the pub's menu of pizzas, sandwiches, pasta, and steak. The Brew Brothers hosts coed cigar smoker dinners the last Thursday of each month.

Major Do: A \$13.5-million remodeling project at Harrah's Lake Tahoe should be completed in early 1999. So far, the hotel has created a new higher limit gaming area and VIP lounge. The American River Cafe with its outdoorsy decor has opened, and the remodeling of the hotel rooms is more than half finished. The next phase of rooms will be completed in April.

Breakfast With a View: Visitors staying at Harveys can munch a free continental breakfast while enjoying views of Lake

Tahoe and the surrounding mountains. The breakfast is served from 7 to 10 a.m. daily on the 12th floor of the Mountain Tower, the former location of the Top of the Wheel restaurant.

Phantastic Milestone: "Phantasy," the magic and comedy revue at the Lake Tahoe Horizon in Stateline, recently celebrated its 1,000th performance. The musical production, which opened February 29, 1996, stars swashbuckling magician Tony Clark and presents illusions based upon "Phantom of the Opera," Indiana Jones, and the escapes of Harry Houdini. "Phantasy" plays nightly except Monday in the Golden Cabaret of the South Shore hotel.

Resort Rating: The Reno Hilton received the International Award of Excellence for 1997 from the Restaurant and Hospitality Rating Bureau. Members of the rating service visit and evaluate each hotel, judging it as a guest would. Two of the hotel's restaurants, the Steakhouse and Andiamo, were recognized also in the dining category.

Good Deals

Reno Escape: The Atlantis in Reno has a \$50 Room rate (that's for two people) Sunday through Thursday. The Escape to Paradise promotion is subject to availability and is good through March 31.

Snow Specials: Skiers who can schedule midweek vacations to Lake Tahoe will find fewer people on the slopes and some attractive room and lift ticket packages. For example, the Carson Valley Inn in Minden, 20 miles east of South Tahoe, offers the Ski Inn-Vite special, which at \$59 per person includes two nights' lodging and one lift ticket per person to Kirkwood Ski Area. For



Elaborate costumes, aerial stunts, and special effects such as an underwater world are part of Luxor's new show, "Imagine: A Theatrical Odyssey." The Las Vegas Strip hotel created a showroom especially for the exotic production as part of a \$300-million expansion.

\$139 per person, skiers can stay three nights, ski two days, and receive two \$12 dinner certificates per guest.

Freebie Alert: Admission is free to the comedy club at the Four Queens in downtown Las Vegas, but you will be expected to buy one drink. The lineup of comedians changes each Monday, and show times are 7:30 and 9:30 p.m. The club presents comics on their way up as well as seasoned veterans.

Hit the Road: Biker dudes, dudettes, and wannabes can get their pictures taken at the Harley-Davidson Cafe in Las Vegas while sitting on a replica of Peter Fonda's Captain America motorcycle from the movie *Easy Rider*. The thrill will cost you five bucks.

Really Big Deal: Sharkey Begovich, owner of Sharkey's Nugget in Gardnerville, is known for the quality and size of the slabs of prime rib served in his casino restaurant. On January 7, Begovich takes generosity a step further when he hosts his 28th annual free Serbian Christmas Feast. The event begins at 4 p.m. and lasts until everyone has eaten. Last year about 5,000 people were fed. The why of it? It is a family tradition handed down from Begovich's mother, who fed the constant flow of family and friends who dropped by during the holiday.

Return Visits: Buy-one-get-one-free promotions work for car washes, so why not for Nevada hotels? In this case, stay 10 nights at the Tahoe Biltmore in Crystal Bay, and you'll receive the 11th night's lodging free. Unlike car washes and video stores, the Frequent Sleeper Club at the North Tahoe hotel doesn't require a punch card. Filling out a simple membership form will do.



These special chips were issued by Caesars Palace to celebrate the opening of its Palace Tower and the expansion of the Forum Shops.

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Outings



Within an hour's drive from Las Vegas you can go from shirt-sleeve weather to ski-bunny conditions at the Las Vegas Ski and Snowboard Resort, located near 8,500 feet on Mount Charleston.

Schuss, Schuss, Sweet Charleston

Northwest of Vegas, Mount Charleston offers snow, scenery, and skiing. **By Richard Moreno**

With its lush, pine-covered canyons and snowcapped 11,918-foot peak, Mount Charleston finds a way to rise above the ordinary. Mount Charleston is Southern Nevada's tallest point—and one of its most beautiful spots. The peak is named after Charleston, South Carolina, hometown of several members of an Army survey team that mapped the area in 1906. Charleston is part of the Spring Mountain Range, which has the steepest vertical rise of any of Nevada's mountains, climbing nearly 10,000 feet.

The 40-mile drive from Las Vegas to Mount Charleston takes you from the flat, desert terrain of the Mojave Desert to barren, rocky heights where only bristlecone pines thrive. As you head northwest on U.S. 95 and west on State Route 157 (Kyle Canyon Road), the surroundings gradually change from creosote and Joshua trees to piñon and juniper woodlands, where sagebrush is the dominant shrub. A few miles higher the terrain becomes thick

with ponderosa pine, fir, and aspen trees. Expressive rock formations peek from pine forests that at this time of year are dusted with snow.

Ahead is the Mt. Charleston Hotel and Restaurant, a rustic three-story hotel with a restaurant, lounge, entertainment on weekends, gift shop, and nice views of the nearby golf course. The restaurant offers gourmet meals in a room that has a view of the surrounding snow-topped mountains. Built in 1984, the hotel has 63 rooms, with prices ranging from \$49 to \$139 (call 702-872-5500). The adjacent Mt. Charleston Golf Resort, which opened last summer, has nine holes, a skating rink, and miniature golf (call 702-872-GOLF).

Up the road is Mount Charleston Village, with a few residences and the U.S. Forest Service district office (the area is part of the 316,000-acre Spring Mountain National Recreation Area). The Mt. Charleston Resort and Lodge, located near the road's end, offers a restaurant, lounge, horseback riding stables, and 13

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log cabins with overnight rates ranging from \$125 to \$220 (call 702-386-6899). For a more intimate experience, you can stay at the Almost Heaven Bed and Breakfast, which has four rooms. Rates range from \$199 to \$499 per night (call 702-872-0711).

Near this point Kyle Canyon Road (State Route 157) intersects with State Route 156, also known as Lee Canyon Road. At the top of Lee Canyon you'll find something unexpected in Southern Nevada, the Las Vegas Ski and Snowboard Resort.

It's appropriate that in a place like Las Vegas—which builds pyramids next to castles—you can waterski at Lake Mead and then head to Mount Charleston to go downhill or cross-country skiing. During the winter the Lee Canyon area becomes busy with skiers taking advantage of the annual average snowfall of 100 inches. The Las Vegas Ski and Snowboard Resort offers a ski shop, three chairlifts, a ski school, a dozen ski runs, a restaurant, and a lounge (call 702-646-0008).

In the warmer months both Kyle Canyon and Lee Canyon offer popular hiking trails that range from easy day hikes to more challenging treks. For example, at the end of Kyle Canyon you'll find a pleasant walk to Mary Jane Falls, an attractive cascade of water that usually flows in the spring and early summer.

More experienced hikers can tackle the Charleston Peak National Recreation Trail, a 17-mile loop that begins at the Cathedral Rock Picnic Area and continues to the top of Mount Charleston before concluding at the Kyle Canyon trailhead (see "A Hiker's Tale," *Nevada Magazine*, July/August '97). The trail has an elevation gain of more than 4,000 feet and follows the ridges of the Mount Charleston Wilderness for much of the journey, which involves hiking at an elevation of more than 11,000 feet for about six miles.

Mount Charleston has three picnic areas and five developed campgrounds offering more than 140 sites. Prices range from \$10 per night for a single family unit to \$30 a night for a triple family space. The Kyle Canyon RV site can accommodate 15 self-contained recreational vehicles and up to 60 people. Cost is \$55 per night.

For more information about Mount Charleston contact the Toiyabe National Forest, Spring Mountains National Recreation Area, 2881 South Valley View, Suite 16, Las Vegas, NV 89102; call 702-873-8800.

Richard Moreno, publisher of Nevada Magazine, once dared to drive up Mount Charleston in a snowstorm.



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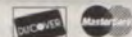
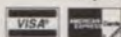
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Las Vegas Territory

BOULDER CITY

Black Canyon River Raft Tours • 293-3776.
Boulder City Historic District • Walking tour. 1305 Arizona, 293-2034.
Boulder City/Hoover Dam Museum • 444 Hotel Plaza, 294-1988.
Boulder Dam Hotel • 1305 Arizona, 293-7731.
Hoover Dam and Visitor Center • Tours, theaters, exhibit hall. U.S. 93, 294-3515, 293-8367, 293-8000.
Lake Mead Cruises/Desert Princess • 293-6180.
Lake Mead National Recreation Area • 601 Nevada Hwy., 293-8906.
St. Jude's Ranch for Children • Artifacts, tours. 100 St. Jude's St., 294-7100.

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.
Favorite Brands 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.
Crystal Palace In-Line Skating and Hockey Complex • 9295 W. Flamingo, 253-9832.
Debbie Reynolds Hollywood Movie Museum • 733-2334.
Excalibur • Dragon battle in front moat and motion simulators, 597-7777.
Floyd Lamb State Park • Picnicking and fishing. 9200 Tule Springs Rd., 486-5413.
Forum Shops at Caesars • Animatronic attractions, "Race for Atlantis" IMAX 3D motion simulator. Caesars Palace, 893-4800.
Fremont Street Experience • Light show on the hour from dusk to midnight. Downtown, 678-5600.
Gameworks • Climbing wall and arcade. Showcase Mall, 597-3122.
Grand Slam Canyon • Adventure park with rides and attractions. Next to Circus Circus, 800-444-CIRCUS.
Guinness World of Records Museum • 2780 Las Vegas Blvd. S., 792-3766.
Harley-Davidson Cafe • Motorcycle memorabilia. The Strip, 740-4555.
Holy Cow! Casino • Brewery tours, 732-2697.
Imperial Palace Auto Collection • Classic and antique vehicles, 794-3174.
Las Vegas Art Museum • 9600 W. Sahara Ave., 647-4300.
Las Vegas Club • Sports memorabilia. Downtown, 385-1664.
Las Vegas Hilton • Star Trek: The Experience, 732-5111.
Las Vegas Museum of Natural History • From dinosaurs to



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Henry and Sharon Rogers, owners of the Virginia City Radio Museum, are surrounded by the 160 Radios on display. The radios in their collection date from 1915 through 1955 and include a 1929 Victor once owned by cowboy actor Hoot Gibson. The dog figurine is the RCA mascot Nipper.

desert creatures. 900 Las Vegas Blvd. N., 384-DINO.
Liberace Museum • Pianos and memorabilia. 1775 E. Tropicana, 798-5595.
Lied Discovery Children's Museum • Science and other learning exhibits. 833 Las Vegas Blvd. N., 382-KIDS.
Luxor • Motion rides, IMAX Theatre, and King Tut's Tomb and Museum, 262-4000.
Marjorie Barrick Museum of Natural History • 4505 Maryland Pkwy., UNLV, 895-3381.
MGM Grand Adventures • Theme park, 891-7979.
Mirage • Dolphin habitat, volcano, and Secret Garden with tigers, elephant, lions, and panthers, 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. North at Washington Avenue, 486-3511.
Omnimax Theatre • Caesars Palace, 731-7900.
Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area • 363-1921.
Sahara Hotel • Virtual reality Indy car racing, 737-2777.
Sam's Town • Water and laser show, 456-7777.
Southern Nevada Zoological Park • 1775 N. Rancho Dr., 648-5955.
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Treasure Island • Sea battle every 90 minutes from 4 to 11:30 p.m., 894-7111.
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Big Bend of the Colorado State Recreation Area • Nature

and water sports, four miles south of Laughlin, 298-1859.
Boiler Room Microbrewery • Colorado Belle, 298-4000.
Colorado River Museum • Arizona Hwy. 95, 520-754-3399.
Del Rio Beach Club • Colorado River sightseeing boat tour, 298-6828.
Davis Dam • Self-guided tours, 298-2214.
Grapevine Canyon • Seven miles west of Laughlin. Inquire about road conditions, 298-2214.
Lake Mohave Resort • 602-754-3245.
Laughlin River Tours • Colorado River sightseeing, 298-1047.
Nevada Gold Museum • Gaming memorabilia display, Flamingo Hilton Laughlin, 800-FLAMINGO.
Riverside Resort • Classic cars and river tour boat, 298-2535.

MESQUITE

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

NORTH LAS VEGAS

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

OVERTON

Lost City Museum of Archaeology • Pueblo culture, 397-2193.

Space Case

The long-awaited interplanetary attraction, Star Trek: The Experience at the Las Vegas Hilton, opens at 11 a.m. on Sunday, January 4. That's when trekkies will be "transported" aboard the *U.S.S. Enterprise* for a shuttlecraft mission, after which they can meet space travelers like the Ferengi and Klingons.

Valley of Fire State Park • 397-2088.

PRIMM

Primadonna Resorts • Roller coaster, water flume, and Turbo Drop rides at Buffalo Bill's; cars belonging to Bonnie and Clyde and Dutch Schultz at Whiskey Pete's; Ferris wheel at Primm Valley Resort, Primm, 382-1111.

SEARCHLIGHT

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

Reno-Tahoe Territory

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. 395 S., 782-2555.

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.

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Take Your Mummy

King Tut's Tomb and Museum reopened recently at the Luxor in Las Vegas. The exact replica of the tomb found by British explorer Howard Carter in 1922 was closed during the hotel's recent expansion. There is a 15-minute audio-guided tour from 10 a.m. to 11 p.m.

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 Rim Trail • 150-mile system, 588-0686.

U.S. Forest Service Visitors Center • 916-573-2600.

Vikingsholm • Tours, 916-525-7232.

Zephyr Cove Resort • Beach, cruises, boat rentals. 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 • Stargazing programs, U of N, 784-4811.

Galena Creek Regional Park • Mount Rose Hwy., 785-4319.

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.

Playland • Train, rides, picnicking, Idlewild Park, seasonal hours, 329-6008.

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

Sierra Arts Center Gallery • 200 Flint St., 329-1324.

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

Silver Legacy • Giant mining and laser shows every hour, 325-7396.

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.



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VIRGINIA CITY

Assay Office Museum • 847-0777.
 The Castle • Seasonal, 847-0275.
 Chollar Mine • Tours, seasonal, 847-0155.
 Fourth Ward School Museum • 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 • seasonal, 847-0380.
 Virginia City Radio Museum • 847-9047.
 Virginia City Tours • 786-0866.
 Way It Was Museum • 847-0766.
 Wild West Museum • Seasonal, 847-0400.

VERDI

Boomtown Family Fun Center • 345-8668.

WASHOE VALLEY

Bowers Mansion Park • Historic mansion of Comstock millionaires, seasonal, 849-1825.
 Davis Creek Park • 849-0684.
 Washoe Lake State Park • East Lake Blvd., 687-4319.

Cowboy Country

ELKO

Jarvis Wilderness Area • North of Elko, 208-543-4129.
 Northeastern Nevada Museum • 1515 Idaho St., 738-3418.
 Western Folklife Center • 501 Railroad St., 738-7508 or 888-880-5885 (Cowboy Poetry Gathering tickets).
 Wild Horse State Recreation Area • 65 miles north of Elko, 758-6493.

LOVELOCK

Giant Tufa Park • West of Lovelock, 273-7213.
 Pershing County Marzen House Museum • 273-7213.
 Bonneville Salt Flats • 801-977-4300.

WINNEMUCCA

Buckaroo Hall of Fame • 623-2225.
 Humboldt Museum • 623-2912.

Pony Express Territory

AUSTIN

Hickison Petroglyph Recreation Site • 24 miles east of Austin on U.S. 50.

ELY/Great Basin N.P.

Cave Lake State Recreation Area • 15 miles south of Ely, 728-4467.
 East Ely Railroad Depot Museum • Tours, 289-1663.
 Great Basin National Park • Baker, 65 miles east of Ely, 234-7331.
 Nevada Northern Railway Museum • Train rides on historic locomotives, seasonal. 1100 Ave. A, East Ely, 289-2085.
 Ward Charcoal Ovens State Historic Site • 16 miles (11 dirt) south of Ely, 728-4467.
 White Pine Public Museum • Exhibits on history of Ely area. 2000 Aultman St., 289-4710.

EUREKA

Eureka Opera House • Open Mon.-Fri. or by appointment, tours, 237-6006.
 Eureka Sentinel Museum • 237-5010.

FALLON

Churchill County Museum and Hidden Cave • Tours. 1050 S. Maine St., 423-3677.
 Fort Churchill State Historic Park • 35 miles southeast of Fallon at Silver Springs, 577-2345.
 Sand Mountain • Unusual giant sand dune. 20 miles east of Fallon, 885-6000.

GABBS

Berlin-Ichthyosaur State Park • 23 miles east of Gabbs, 964-2440.

Pioneer Territory

BEATTY

Beatty Museum • Mining exhibits, 553-2424.
 Death Valley National Park • Park can be reached via Beatty, 619-786-2331.
 Rhyolite Bottle House Historic Site • Four miles west of Beatty, 553-2424.

HAWTHORNE

Mineral County Historical Museum • Exhibits on history of the Hawthorne area. 400 10th St., 945-5142.
 Walker Lake State Recreation Area • 945-5896.

PAHRUMP

Death Valley National Park • Park can be reached via Pahrump, 619-786-2331.
 Pahrump Valley Winery • Tours. 3810 Winery Rd., 727-6900 or 800-368-WINE.

PIOCHE/CALIENTE

Cathedral Gorge State Park • South of Pioche, 728-4460.
 Kershaw-Ryan State Park • Five miles south of Caliente, 728-4460.
 Lincoln County Historical Museum • Pioche, 962-5207.
 Million Dollar Courthouse • Pioche, 962-5207.
 Spring Valley State Park • 728-4460.
 Stone Cabin Living History Museum • One mile north of Eagle Valley Reservoir, seasonal, 728-4460.

TONOPAH

Belmont Courthouse State Historic Site • 50 miles north of Tonopah, 867-3001.
 Central Nevada Museum • 482-9676.

YERINGTON

Lyon County Museum • 463-2245.

A Reminder: To confirm hours of operation, please use the phone number listed with each attraction. Nevada's area code is 702.

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Gaming Tournaments

A guide to hotel-casino tourneys.

Gaming tournaments are designed for players of all levels. Some hotels offer daily, weekly, and monthly tournaments—some of them free. Here, *Nevada Magazine* brings you a list of gambling events during January and February. It is a good idea to confirm dates and times. Nevada's area code is 702.

Las Vegas Territory

- Mini Slots** • Tuesdays • Virgin River, Mesquite, 800-346-7721.
- Blackjack** • Fridays • Virgin River, Mesquite, 800-346-7721.
- Slots** • Sundays • CasaBlanca, Mesquite, 800-459-PLAY.
- Blackjack** • Thursdays • CasaBlanca, Mesquite, 800-459-PLAY.
- Slot Challenge Series** • Jan. 4-6 • Tropicana, 739-3656.
- Slots and Keno** • Jan. 11 • Flamingo Hilton, Las Vegas, 733-3117.
- The Land Forgotten Slots** • Jan. 11-14 • MGM, 800-929-9410.
- Tailgate Party Slots** • Jan. 15-18 • Tournament marks the

- approach of the Super Bowl. Las Vegas Hilton, 732-5410.
- Kick-Off to Cash Slots** • Jan. 20-22 • Edgewater, Laughlin, 800-289-8777.
- Slots and Roulette** • Feb. 8 • Flamingo Hilton, Las Vegas, 733-3117.
- Leprechaun's Loot Slots** • March 1-4 • MGM, 800-929-9410.
- The Big Easy Mardi Gras Slots** • March 19-21 • Las Vegas Hilton, 732-5410.
- Tea for Two** • April 6-9 • MGM, 800-929-9410.
- Gumdrops and Lollipops Slots** • May 21-24 • Las Vegas Hilton, 732-5410.

Reno-Tahoe Territory

- \$4,000 Slots** • Jan. 9 • Lakeside Inn, Stateline, Lake Tahoe, 800-523-1291.
- \$23,000 Winning Weather Slots** • Jan. 10-11 • Eldorado, Reno, 786-5700.
- Winter Wonderland Slots** • Jan. 12-13 • Peppermill, Reno, 800-648-6992.
- World Championship of Horse Racing Handicapping Contest** • Jan. 15-18 • Club Cal-Neva, Reno, 323-1046.
- Great Train Robbery Slots** • Jan. 30 • Club Cal-Neva, Reno, 323-1046.
- \$36,000 Happiness Is a Big Jackpot Slots** • Feb. 16-17 • Slot-

- machine tournament. Eldorado, Reno, 786-5700.
- \$4,000 Slots** • Feb. 20 • Lakeside Inn, Stateline, Lake Tahoe, 800-523-1291.
- Mardi Gras Slots** • Feb. 22-23 • Peppermill, Reno, 800-648-5966.
- Great Train Robbery Slots** • Feb. 27 • Club Cal-Neva, Reno, 323-1046.
- Blackjack** • Feb. 28 • Reno Hilton, 800-443-3105.
- Show Me the Money Blackjack** • March 13-14 • Peppermill, Reno, 800-648-6992.
- \$23,000 Rainbow to Riches Slots** • March 15-16 • Eldorado, Reno, 786-5700.
- Slots** • March 15-17 • Reno Hilton, 800-443-3105.
- \$4,000 Slots** • March 20 • Lakeside Inn, Stateline, Lake Tahoe, 800-523-1291.
- \$23,000 Showers of Dollars Slots** • April 12-13 • Eldorado, Reno, 786-5700.

Rural Nevada

- Slots** • Monthly • Casino West, Yerington, 800-227-4661.
- State Line Keno** • Feb. 12-13 • State Line Casino, Wendover, 800-354-3671.
- St. Patrick's Day Slots** • March 18-20 • State Line Casino, Wendover, 800-354-3665.

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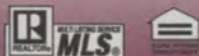
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- 017 Fernley Chamber of Commerce
- 028 Las Vegas Convention & Visitors Authority
- 030 Laughlin Division/Las Vegas Convention & Visitors Authority
- 035 Mineral County Chamber of Commerce
- 038 Nevada Commission on Tourism
- 041 Pahrump Chamber of Commerce
- 043 Reno-Sparks Convention & Visitors Authority
- 048 Virginia City Convention & Tourism Authority
- 050 Wendover Convention & Visitors Authority
- 052 Winnemucca Convention Bureau
- 053 Pershing County Convention & Visitors Authority/Lovelock
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HOTELS/CASINOS

- 111 Carson Station Hotel/Casino
- 113 Caesars Tahoe
- 116 Carson Nugget/Carson City
- 117 Carson Valley Inn/Minden
- 120 Circus Circus/Las Vegas
- 131 Center Strip Inn/Crest/Downtown
- 135 Eldorado Hotel/Reno
- 153 Harrah's Nevada/Laughlin
- 163 Imperial Palace/Las Vegas
- 165 John Ascuaga's Nugget/Sparks
- 179 Ormsby House Hotel Casino/Carson City
- 198 Riviera Hotel & Casino/Las Vegas
- 200 Sahara Hotel/Las Vegas
- 201 Sam's Town/Las Vegas
- 207 Sturgeon's/Lovelock
- 212 The Station House/Tonopah
- 229 Tropicana/Las Vegas
- 236 Silver Legacy Hotel/Reno
- 238 Winners Hotel & Casino/Winnemucca
- 240 Model T Casino/Hotel/RV Park/Winnemucca
- 242 Holiday Inn/Rancho Mesquite

HOUSEBOAT RENTALS

- 396 Forever Resorts

ATTRACTIONS, GALLERIES & MUSEUMS

- 397 Nevada State Museum/Las Vegas
- 398 Clark County Heritage Museum
- 399 Lyon County Museum/Yerington
- 400 Cranberry World West/Henderson
- 402 Nevada Historical Society/Reno
- 405 Liberace Museum Foundation/Las Vegas
- 407 Nevada State Museum/Carson City
- 409 Central Nevada Museum/Tonopah
- 414 Marshall Sylvester Show/Stratosphere/Las Vegas
- 419 Nevada State Railroad Museum/Carson City

EVENTS

- 420 Pioneer Territory
- 429 Nevada's Cowboy Country/Winnemucca

WEDDING CHAPELS

- 451 Little Chapel of the Flowers/Las Vegas
- 452 Candlelight Wedding Chapel/Las Vegas
- 453 Little Church of the West/Las Vegas
- 457 Viva Las Vegas Wedding Chapel

RECREATION

- 488 Black Canyon Raft Tours
- 489 Lake Mead Cruises

EDUCATION

- 552 KUNR-FM/Public Radio/University of Nevada/Reno

TOURS

- 562 Interstate Tours/Las Vegas
- 564 Flag Tours
- 567 Guaranteed Tours

TOUR INFORMATION

- 576 Las Vegas Freebies

TRANSPORTATION

- 609 Resort Rent-A-Car

RESTAURANTS

- 653 Louis' Basque Corner/Reno

BUSINESS SERVICES

- 698 Nevada Corporation Headquarters/Las Vegas

REAL ESTATE

- 725 Americana Group Realtors/Mullin/Las Vegas
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SENIOR RECREATION

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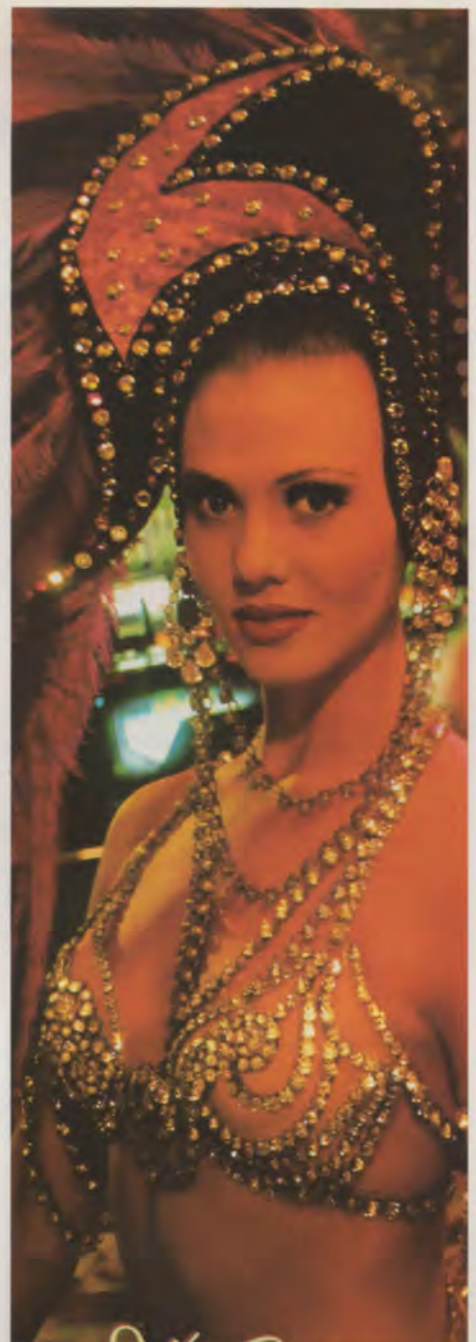
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Vacation Hot Lines

Where to call or write for Nevada travel tips.

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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: 1305 Arizona, 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 South, Exit 12, Jean, NV 89019; 874-1360.

Las Vegas C of C: 3720 Howard Hughes Pkwy., 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; 346-2702.

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: 1512 Hwy. 395, No. 1, Gardnerville, NV 89410-7814; 782-8144 or 800-727-7677 in U.S.

Dayton Area C of C: 15 Main St., Box 2408, Dayton, NV 89403; 246-7909 (open Thurs.-Sun.).

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.

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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: Chamber of commerce is inside 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, 800-248-ELKO outside Nevada.

Jackpot Visitor Information: Box 627, Jackpot, NV 89825; 800-411-2052.

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

Lovelock C of C: Box 821, Lovelock, NV 89419; for information phone 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.

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.

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 Brougher Ave., Box 869, Tonopah, NV 89049; 482-3859.

Tonopah Convention Center: Box 408, Tonopah, NV 89049; for information phone 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, Sutcliffe, 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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Las Vegas Area

AMERICAN

- Circus Circus/Circus Buffet**—734-0410. B, L, D. \$, major.
- Circus Circus/Pink Pony Cafe**—734-0410. A 24-hour cafe just off the main casino. B, L, D. \$, major.
- Circus Circus/Promenade Cafe**—734-0410. A 24-hour cafe with a cobblestone promenade. B, L, D. \$, major.
- Imperial Palace Emperor's Buffet**—731-3311. Carving station featuring roast baron of beef. B, L, D. \$, major.
- Imperial Palace/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.
- Sahara Hotel/Caravan Coffee Shop**—737-2407. Crab legs, New York steak. B, L, D. \$, major.
- Sahara Hotel/Casablanca**—737-2407. Prime rib. D. \$\$, major.
- Sahara Hotel/Sahara Buffet**—737-2407. Pizza, roast beef, turkey, ham. B, L, D. \$, major.
- Sam's Town Hotel/Mary's Diner**—454-8073. All-American cuisine and blue plate specials in a 1950s-style diner. B, L, D. \$, major.
- Sam's Town Hotel/Smokey Joe's Cafe and Market**—456-7777. 24-hour coffee shop in a market-style atmosphere featuring prime rib and two-pound dungeness crab dinner. B, L, D. \$\$, major.
- Sam's Town Hotel/The Great Buffet**—456-7777. B, L, D. \$, major.
- Tropicana Hotel/Island Buffet**—739-2222. Sunday brunch. D. \$, major.
- Tropicana Hotel/Player's Deli**—739-2222. Sandwiches, salads, fruit plates, and teriyaki bowl. B, L, D. \$, major.

INTERNATIONAL

- Riviera Hotel/Mardi Gras Food Court**—734-5110. Nine quick-service eateries, 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.
- Tropicana Hotel/Pietro's Gourmet Dining**—739-2222. Classic continental cuisine with tableside service. D. \$\$, major.

ITALIAN

- Circus Circus/Stivali Italian Ristorante**—691-5820. Italian eatery featuring homemade sauces, pastas, and Saturday champagne brunch. D. \$\$, major.
- Circus Circus/The Pizzeria**—734-0410. Fresh-baked pizza, calzones, and salads. L, D. \$, major.
- 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.
- Sam's Town Hotel/Papamios Italian Kitchen**—454-8041. Choose your pasta and sauce, bottomless salad, and a glass of wine. 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. Entrees include pineapple duck, orange roughy with black pepper sauce. D. \$-\$\$, major.
- Tropicana Hotel/Calypsos**—739-2222. Coffee shop and Chinese food. B, L, D. \$, major.
- Tropicana Hotel/Golden Dynasty**—739-2222. Chinese cuisine. D. \$\$, major.

MEXICAN

- Circus Circus/Comida Rica Restaurant**—734-



Papamios Italian Kitchen at Sam's Town in Las Vegas.

0410. Fajitas, quesadillas, authentic meals from south of the border. L, D. \$, major.
- Sahara Hotel/Paco's Hideaway**—737-2407. D. \$, major.
- Sam's Town Hotel/Willy and Jose's Mexican Cantina**—454-8044. Combination platters, fajitas, American specialties, margaritas. D. \$\$, major.

STEAK & SEAFOOD

- Circus Circus/The Steak House**—794-3767. Award-winning restaurant features steaks cooked over an exhibition-style mesquite grill, prime rib, lobster, and Sunday champagne brunch. 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.
- Sahara Hotel/Sahara Steak House**—737-2407. Steak and prime rib, open all evenings. D. \$\$, major.
- Sam's Town Hotel/Billy Bob's Steak House**—454-8031. Entrees include 28-ounce ribeye steak, rotisserie chicken, fresh catch of the day, prime rib. D. \$\$, major.

- Sam's Town Hotel/Diamond Lil's**—454-8009. Mesquite broiled steaks, shrimp scampi, veal loin, king crab legs, smoked salmon. D. \$\$, major.
- Tropicana Hotel/Savannah**—739-2222. Buffalo, antelope, steaks, specials, Sunday brunch. D. \$\$\$, major.
- Tropicana Hotel/Mizuno's Japanese Steak House**—739-2713. Japanese cuisine prepared table-side. D. \$\$\$, major.

Laughlin

AMERICAN

- Harrah's Laughlin/Colorado Cafe**—298-4600. Beef broccoli, pizza, salmon, California burger. B, L, D. \$, major.

MEXICAN

- Harrah's Laughlin/Colorado Cafe**—298-4600. Sizzling fajitas, De Hacienda Burrito, fish tacos, and filet mignon on new La Parrilla side menu. D. \$, major.

STEAK & SEAFOOD

- Harrah's Laughlin/William Fisk's Steakhouse**—298-4600. Entrees include coconut prawns, filet mignon, broiled salmon. D. \$, major.

Reno-Carson Area

AMERICAN

- Carson Nugget/Buffer**—882-1626. Sunday champagne 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 Valley Inn/Fiona's**—Minden, 782-4347. Steaks, seafood, and veal. L, D, Sunday brunch. \$-\$\$, major.
- Carson Valley Inn/Katie's**—Minden, 782-9711. Four-course prime rib dinner, steak and lobster, half-pound burgers. B, L, D. \$-\$\$, major.
- Carson Valley Inn/Michael's**—Minden, 782-9711. Rack of lamb and fresh seafood creations. D. Closed Tuesdays. \$-\$\$, major.
- Fitzgeralds Reno/Molly's Garden**—785-3300. Omelets, prime rib, sandwiches, salads. Open 24 hours. B, L, D. \$, major.
- Fitzgeralds Reno/O'Luckey's Buffet**—785-3300. Casino buffet restaurant, open daily. B, L, D. \$, major.
- John Ascuaga's Nugget/General Store**—Sparks, 356-3300. Prime rib, giant apple pancake, seafood Louis, Sunday brunch. B, L, D. \$, major.
- John Ascuaga's Nugget/Rotisserie**—Sparks, 356-3300. Buffet, Sunday brunch. L, D. \$-\$\$, major.
- Napa-Sonoma Grocery Co.**—2309 Kietzke, Reno, 826-0595. Made to order sandwiches, quiche, salads, soups, chef's specials daily. L, \$, AE, MC, V.
- Ormsby House/Buffer**—Carson City, 882-1890. Sunday champagne brunch, Friday seafood, daily prime rib. L, D. \$, major.
- Ormsby House/Coffee Shop**—Carson City, 882-1890. Open 24 hours, breakfast special, one-pound T-bone steak. B, L, D. \$, major.

Ormsby House/Sports Grill—Carson City, 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. Buffet with prime rib, shrimp and crab cioppino, homemade ravioli, chicken cacciatore. B, L, D. \$, major.

ITALIAN

Eldorado Hotel/La Strada—786-5700. Northern Italian cuisine with veal, chicken, and seafood entrees. Award-winning wine list. D. \$\$, major.

INTERNATIONAL

Eldorado Hotel/Choices—786-5700. Express cafe with hofbrau, deli, bakery, ice cream. B, L, D. \$, major.
Eldorado Hotel/Chefs' Pavilion Buffet—786-5700. Rotisserie chicken, mushroom ravioli, salad bar, prime rib. B, L, D. \$, major.
Eldorado Hotel/Bistro Roxy—786-5700. Gourmet dishes include Chilean sea bass with Yukon gold potatoes, creamed spinach, and roasted pepper relish. D. \$\$, major.
Eldorado Hotel/Tivoli Gardens—786-5700. Multi-ethnic, 24-hour restaurant. B, L, D. \$, major.

BASQUE

Louis' Basque Corner—301 E. Fourth St., Reno, 323-7203. Sweetbreads, tripe, paella, other seafood dishes. L, D. \$\$, major.

ASIAN

John Ascuaga's Nugget/Trader Dick's—Sparks, 356-3300. Cashew chicken, Szechwan specialties, flaming dagger brochette. L, D. \$\$, major.
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. Clam chowder, fish and chips, and pan roasts. L, D. \$, major.
Carson Nugget/Steak House—882-1626. Veal scaloppini, scampi in dill sauce, escargot. D. \$\$, major.
Eldorado Hotel/Grill and Rotisserie—786-5700. Mahogany-fueled rotisserie and grill, fresh fish, fowl, lamb. D. \$\$, major.
Fitzgeralds Reno/Limerick's Pub and Grille—785-3300. Scampi St. Patrick, Emerald Isle Herb Chicken, Erin Creme Filet. L, D. \$\$, major.
John Ascuaga's Nugget/Oyster Bar—Sparks, 356-3300. Lazyman's cioppino, seafood stews. L, D. \$\$, major.
John Ascuaga's Nugget/Steak House—Sparks, 356-3300. Prime rib, steak and lobster. L, D. \$\$, major.
Ormsby House/Baron's—Carson City, 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. Crab cakes, oyster pan roast. L, D. \$\$, major.
Silver Legacy/Sterling's Seafood and Steakhouse—Reno, 329-4777. Medallions of filet mignon, spicy roast chicken, seafood fettucine. D. \$\$, major.

BREW PUBS

Eldorado Hotel/The Brew Brothers—786-5700. Gourmet pizzas, ribs, barbecued shrimp, sausage sampler. L, D. \$, major.

Lake Tahoe

AMERICAN

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

Caesars Tahoe/Broiler Room—Stateline, 588-3515. Prime rib, seafood, Cajun specialties. D. \$\$, major.
Caesars Tahoe/Pisces—Stateline, 588-3515. Salmon, lobster, sea bass. Flown in fresh daily. D. \$\$, major.

Around the State

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: Model T/Casino Restaurant—623-2588. Chicken strips, chicken-fried steak, prime rib special, rib-eye steak, fried prawns. B, L, D. \$, major.

WINNEMUCCA: Model T/Kentucky Fried Chicken Express—623-2588. L, D. \$, No cc.

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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Street Smart

“MADhattan’s” street performers bring a bite of the Big Apple to the Las Vegas Strip.

By Ann Henderson

Theatergoers looking for a change of pace will find it in “MADhattan” at New York-New York on the Las Vegas Strip. In a city where showgoers expect glitz, glamour, and glossy illusions, “MADhattan” dares to be different. The show is more funk than folies. The unconventional cast of street performers was mostly discovered not in casino revues but on the street corners of New York City. The show’s sets are dark, the costumes are off-the-rack, and you’ll see not a single magic act. But “MADhattan” stands strong on its own street smarts and irreverent energy.

Entering the theater, you’ll notice it lacks a curtain and glittery decorations. The decor is grunge chic, expressed in a collage of signs, graffiti, and even the back end of a transit bus. Some showgoers have had trouble adjusting to the rather dreary sets, but they evoke gritty New York City scenes—a subway platform, Washington Square, Grand Central Station, and Times Square—that fit the show.

“MADhattan” is different, too, because it begins 15 minutes before the announced show time. Deliberately. That’s when the Trembles—an *a cappella* trio who perfected their harmonies in the acoustically perfect caverns of Grand Central Station—stroll through the theater singing “Smokin’ in the Boys’ Room.” They are joined by Spank, an *a cappella* quartet whose members sing “Stand by Me” and other classics in what they call their “new-wop” (as opposed to doo-wop) style.

When the performers appear on stage, you’ll notice the costumes are regular street clothes—sweats, jeans, tank tops, and UNLV T-shirts. Defying the twiggy Vegas showgirl standard, the singers and dancers come in all shapes and sizes. Some MADhattanites even shop the plus-size department.

The performers are a talented group. If subway and train commuters in New York City didn’t stop and enjoy these street entertainers when they had the chance, it is their loss and Las Vegas’ gain.

“MADhattan” is a variety show in the



Rolondas Hendricks and Lindell Blake shuffle and stomp during a duel between the tap and break dancers in “MADhattan.” At right, singer Michelle Maria Weeks is looking “To Love Somebody.”

old *Ed Sullivan Show* tradition. The host is David “Asheba” Wilson, an Ed Sullivan in dreadlocks who plays the mayor of mythical MADhattan. The Trinidad native has performed underground in New York City, writing lyrics to match the flow of the trains. Wilson introduces standouts like mad painter Jean Francois Detaille, who paints a billboard-sized portrait in less than four minutes pressing his hands, brooms, and even his body against the canvas.

The music runs from hip-hop to jazz, rock to reggae. Also, expect terrific break dancing from Seven Deadly Sins, known as SDS and made up of seven dancers, including Mr. Wiggles, Sugar Pop, Skeeter Rabbit, and Zee Boogie. Equally impressive are tap dancers Roxane Semadeni, Rolondas Hendricks, and Lindell Blake. When SDS challenges the tappers to a showy duel, it’s great stuff.

The excellent principal singers are Michelle Maria Weeks and Roger Ridley. His version of “Summertime” exudes warm breezes and easy livin’

When Ridley brings a member of the audience on stage and sings “Try a Little



Tenderness” to her, Weeks storms out, jealous—“That’s my man!” The role allows Weeks to strut and preen in a style that suits her powerful voice. When she sings the torchy “To Love Somebody,” Weeks crouches low to the floor. She seems to dredge the high note from below stage, a git-down dramatic move you don’t often see in a Las Vegas showroom.

Show Notes

“MADhattan” plays five nights a week at New York-New York in Las Vegas. Show times are 7:30 and 10 p.m. (dark Sunday and Monday). Admission is \$39.95 plus tax, which does not include drinks. Call 702-740-6815 for reservations.

Ann Henderson is Nevada’s events editor.

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Elko Snow Job



Pondering Northeastern Nevada's snowfall in 1924, a calculating lumber man created a blizzard of figures.

By Howard Hickson

One day in December 1924, Harry L. Bartlett, coal dealer and owner of the Verdi Lumber Company in Elko, had an idea. His curiosity about how much snow could fall on Elko County, the sixth largest county in the nation, had proved to be more than he could contain. Perhaps, too, Harry might have had too much time on his hands.

Harry anticipated a heavy snowstorm the next day, so he spent a few minutes sweeping off the yard's coal-weighting scales before heading home in the evening.

When he got up the next morning, the *Elko Independent* reported, Harry looked out the window and saw snow falling heavily. The storm continued until nine inches of snow covered the streets and homes of Elko. Reports indicated snow had fallen that deep throughout the county and the rest of Northeastern Nevada.

Harry was ready. He adjusted his bifocals, slid the counterweights back and

forth over the scale, and noted that the nine inches of snow on the scales weighed 800 pounds.

He sharpened a pencil and began calculating. Harry, who was known for his beautiful penmanship, neatly wrote figures on a sheet of paper. Noting the size of the scales and the weight of the snow, and then dividing those numbers into Elko County's 17,187 square miles, Harry was astonished to learn that the county was covered with 1,853,000,000 tons of snow. That was nearly *two billion* tons.

Intrigued, Harry calculated the freight bill the railroad would have submitted had it hauled in all the white stuff. The bill would have been \$677,780,000,000, according to the railroad's 1924 rates. He wasn't through. Harry then figured that the storm had dumped the equivalent of approximately 500,000,000 gallons of water on Elko County.

A couple of weeks later, county residents saw the weather turn from snowy to chilly. Nighttime temperatures plummeted to 46

degrees below zero. Water pipes froze. Residents kept their autos in garages until civilized temperatures returned.

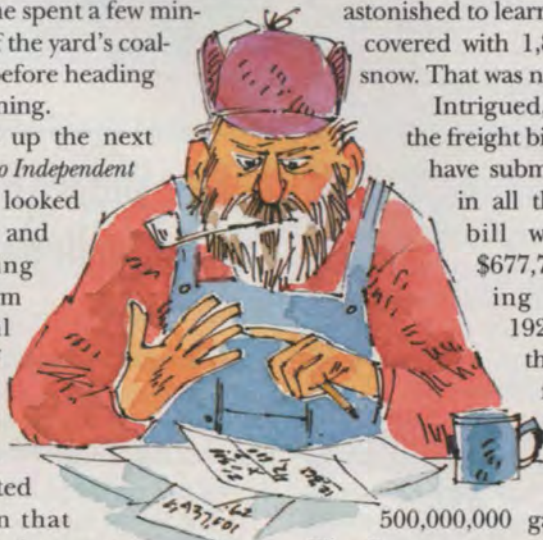
Today, as in Harry's day, many Elko County citizens spend the five months of winter trying to remember the warmth of

Harry noted that Elko County was covered with 1,853,000,000 tons of snow.

summer. A couple of years ago Elko made the national weather news when almost 24 inches of snow fell in 24 hours. Snow plows piled the white stuff in the middle of the streets. Then more snow fell.

If Harry Bartlett had been around to make his calculations, he might have announced that more than four billion tons of snow had fallen on Elko County, and the railroad's freight bill could have paid off the national debt. ■

Howard Hickson of Elko is a graphics artist, photographer, writer, audiovisual producer, and director emeritus of the Northeastern Nevada Museum.





Dining Out

Locals know best at these Reno and Las Vegas eateries.

Luciano's: Reno Italian

By Sandra Macias

Luciano's, one of Reno's best Italian restaurants, is like no other in town. It reminds you of big-city finds where you suddenly happen upon a place and intuitively know: This is it. Robust cooking aromas lead you to the door. Inside, the place buzzes with people having a good time.

Luciano's is a hole in the wall. No one, not even owners Luciano and Melanie Pilisi, would argue about that. The restaurant is located in a 1920s brick building on the less fashionable side of South Virginia Street. Across the street is a recycled furniture shop and a divorce-made-easy business. Next door is a bar, Shea's Tavern, noisy with Robert Altman-type characters.

On busy nights, Luciano's overflow often waits in Shea's. When a table comes up, Melanie, who plays hostess while Luciano cooks, hops in to grab you. In the days before Luciano's had a liquor license (beyond wine and beer), Melanie made hard-booze runs to the bar for her customers.

Although small—seating capacity is 46—Luciano's makes the most of its space. Bench-style seats run the length of two walls while several tables stand in the middle. The seating arrangement, while cozy, doesn't seem to bother the crowd of local diners. They'll tell you it adds to Luciano's ambiance along with white-linen service, an accordion-playing Italian waiter, and chef Pilisi, who steps out of his kitchen occasionally to see how you're doing.

The food that comes out of Luciano's closet-sized kitchen is impressive. Fresh pastas are a specialty. Both lunch and dinner menus list 11 choices, such as lasagna, linguine with fresh clams, and fettuccine tossed with fresh vegetables and herbs. Specials are listed on the blackboard.



Melanie and Luciano Pilisi are joined by waiter Piero Filipazzi, who plays the accordion on birthdays and other special occasions at Luciano's in downtown Reno.

These might include baked salmon wrapped in radicchio, mussels, roasted chicken with polenta, or braised rabbit.

The menu, which is a la carte, offers several salads, soups, and appetizers, such as a terrific marinated salmon dressed with a dash of olive oil and lemon thyme. For dessert, Luciano's tiramisu, made with liqueur-soaked lady fingers, chocolate, and mascarpone, can't be beat.

The restaurant is a dream come true for the Bologna-born Pilisi, who worked in his mom's restaurant as a kid. "Owning a restaurant was always in the back of my mind," he says. A graduate of the Culinary Academy of Bologna, he moved to the United States in 1981. After a brief stint in Chicago, he headed to San Francisco. During his seven years there he worked for such venerable restaurants as Veneto's (now gone), where he met Melanie. "She was dining there," he recalls with a laugh.

Pilisi made an immediate splash when

he arrived in Reno in the late '80s. He landed the chef de cuisine's job at La Strada, the Eldorado Hotel's signature Italian restaurant. Pilisi ran the kitchen for seven years before opening Luciano's two years ago.

The location he chose has been home to several successful hole-in-the-walls. The oldest was the Penguin, a ice-cream shop that old-time Reno residents remember fondly.

"A customer remembers going to the Penguin on her first date," Melanie says. "She and her date sat on one side of the parlor while her parents sat chaperoning on the other side."

Formalities have changed, but the charm is still there. Luciano's is keeping the tradition of excellent food shared with good company.

Luciano's, 719 S. Virginia St., Reno, 322-7373. Open for lunch 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Tuesday through Friday; dinner 5 to 9 p.m. Tuesday through Sunday. Pastas start at \$6.50 for lunch and \$10.75 at dinner.

Reservations are recommended. Major credit cards accepted.

Sandra Macias is a Reno writer and food critic who has dined at Luciano's since it opened.

Philips Supper House: Edwardian Rewards

By Ann Henderson

Choosing the right restaurant for Valentine's Day is particularly important because it is an established, scientific fact that romance flourishes where dinner din and loud music do not.

In Las Vegas, romance is well served at Philips Supper House, an upscale restaurant located three miles west of the Strip on Sahara Avenue. The clientele consists mostly of locals, many celebrating special

occasions. It is the eatery's layout that enables sweethearts to whisper rather than shout their Valentine wishes.

Outside, Philips looks like an Edwardian home. Inside, it resembles a very large Edwardian home with three spacious dining rooms, a banquet room, and a bar. Tables are clustered in the center of the rooms, but for those wanting privacy Philips has a labyrinth of cozy dining alcoves and booths.

"People like privacy," says principal owner Phil Deale. "They like to talk without having the person next to them answer."

Deale moved to Las Vegas from Cleveland in the late 1950s. He worked as an upholsterer and blackjack dealer before starting his first Las Vegas restaurant, Vince's, which he sold when he opened Philips in 1978. While decorating Philips, Deale expected to rely on an interior decorator and on his own experience as an upholsterer. But the waitresses also had definite opinions. "They took a vote, and that was that," he recalls.

The result is green flowered wallpaper that dominates the restaurant. Wood



Philips presents an Edwardian atmosphere for diners seeking seafood, steak, and privacy in Las Vegas.

accents and hanging plants enhance the sense of privacy. Edwardian sofas are grouped attractively in the foyer and bar.

Deale and his partners, chef Jerry Bormann and host Louis DeFilippis, have an I-know-what-I-like attitude toward the menu. "I try to serve the best I can buy at reasonable prices," says the restaurateur. "This is not a tourist trap. I want to see people come back often."

Philips offers seafood, beef, lamb, and Italian fare. The tournedos of beef filet mignon Oscar (\$23.95), served with crab

fingers and asparagus, are worth breaking a few rules of etiquette. Take your fresh bread and sop up every bit of the béarnaise sauce—no one will notice. This bit also works well with the appetizer portion of shrimp scampi (\$8) and its pungent mixture of garlic, herbs, and butter.

Entree prices range from \$14.95 for trout almondine and marinated chicken breast to \$28.95 for lobster thermidor. Early-bird diners who order between 4:30 and 6 p.m. will find a smaller menu selection priced from \$8.95 to \$15.95.

The food at Philips is rich and plentiful, often leaving no room for desserts such as the amaretto tartufo—except on Valentine's Day, when sharing a slice of caramel mocha ice cream pie is good for bonus points in the game of love.

Philips Supper House: 4545 West Sahara Avenue, Las Vegas. Call 702-873-5222. Reservations are encouraged. Open daily 4:30-11 p.m. Major credit cards accepted.

Events Editor Ann Henderson usually thinks Valentine's Day is overrated until she gets a Valentine and a poesy or two.

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A Golden Age

The 1960s were a memorable era for Virginia City saloons.



"Patrons at the Red Garter's Silver Dollar Bar would greet Rudy Rudnick, who was very genial and quick with a joke."

Photographs by Jim Reinheller

When he was a staff photographer for *Nevada Magazine* in the 1960s and '70s, Jim Reinheller traveled the state from Searchlight to Jarbidge. But one of his favorite subjects was Virginia City, the town where he lived. The old mining town was, and still is, known for its colorful saloons. "The '60s were a kind of golden age for saloons in Virginia City," says Jim, who still resides there. "Virginia City was

known as a party town, and three places stayed open 24 hours. People would go out in the evening to the Delta, the Bucket of Blood, and the other saloons. Someone was always playing the piano in the Union Brewery and the Brass Rail, and there was jazz at the Silver Stope. The Red Dog had rock 'n' roll. It was a great era." Harking back three decades, Jim's photographs recall past assignments and old friends on the Comstock.



“Gordon Lane of the Union Brewery was renowned for his unique establishment, where bottles sat on the bar and customers often poured their own drinks. Gordon’s place was featured in a *National Geographic* story by Robert Laxalt.”



Jim Reinheller served as photographer and circulation and advertising coordinator for *Nevada Magazine*. He still lives in Virginia City.



“The mural of the Silver Queen is still a big attraction. Her dress is made of 3,261 silver dollars. At right is Ruby Eaton, one of the owners then.”



“Marge Campbell, who worked at the Delta for many years, was a gracious woman and reputed to be the oldest change girl in Nevada.”

STRANGE BUT TRUE

(Continued from page 15)

devoted to another industry—the funeral business. The museum has a collection of mortician's instruments including extraction devices, embalming fluids, and a "call basket." "It's what they came to pick up a body in," says Viola Whipperman, assistant curator. "It looks like a rattan coffin."

The Lincoln County Museum in Pioche is jammed with items from earlier times, including a collection of 19th-century pianos and organs, a large display of vintage typewriters, and an array of early 20th-century dental equipment. The last is guaranteed to make you brush after every meal with its assortment of ominous-looking metal hooks, picks, saws, needles, and hand drills. Ouch.

Perhaps only in Nevada would gambling devices be considered historic. While many of the state's museums include exhibits describing the rise of the gaming industry, the Nevada Gambling Museum in Virginia City is the only one entirely devoted to games of chance. Displays describe pioneer Nevada saloon games such as faro and trace the development of the slot machine. Fortunately, none accept your money.

Nevada's Forgotten Starlet

In the early 1900s, actress Edna Purviance was one of Nevada's most famous exports. Born in Paradise Valley in 1896, she appeared in more than 30 films with Charlie Chaplin before retiring at the age of 30. She's largely forgotten today, except at Winnemucca's Humboldt Museum, where the elegant silk gown she wore in Chaplin's movie *The Adventurer* is displayed.

Entertainers figure in displays at the Eureka Sentinel Museum. Situated in the former offices of the *Eureka Sentinel* (1870-1960), the museum includes the newspaper's print shop and historic press equipment. The walls are lined with playbills and posters from the past. Scanning the yellowed, peeling newsprint sheets you can see decades-old announcements



The memory of Edna Purviance, star of Charlie Chaplin movies, lives on in Winnemucca.

for circuses, plays, and political campaigns.

In Elko you can view a unique denim tuxedo that was custom-made by the Levi Strauss Company of San Francisco for Bing Crosby. The tux was prepared for Crosby after the crooner, on a five-day hunting trip, had been refused lodging in Canada because of his scruffy appearance. Crosby owned a ranch near Elko and was involved in many civic activities, so Elko townspeople decided he should have the blue-denim evening wear. The tux was presented to Crosby on Blue Serge Day, June 30, 1951, at the Silver State Stampede rodeo in Elko. These days, Bing's tux is on display at the Northeastern Nevada Museum—not far from Crazy Tex's hoof shoes. To date, the Elko museum reports that no one has suggested wearing them together.

Nevada publisher Richard Moreno wants to donate his jackalope-horn collection to a museum.



Elko rancher Bing Crosby and Mayor Dave Dotta received denim tuxes from Levi Strauss.

Nevada's Museums: Going Public

Many Nevada museums have intriguing collections and displays of relics. Following is a sampling from south to north, noting highlights. The area code is 702 throughout Nevada.

Las Vegas Territory

BOULDER CITY

Boulder City/Hoover Dam Museum: Has a nice collection of photographs of the dam's construction. 444 Hotel Plaza, 294-1988.

HENDERSON

Clark County Heritage Museum: Includes railroad relics and houses from early Las Vegas, Boulder City, and Hen-

derson. 1830 S. Boulder Hwy., 455-7955.

LAS VEGAS

Debbie Reynolds Hollywood Movie Museum: Costume collection. 305 Convention Center Dr., 734-0711.

Guinness World of Records Museum: Displays of world-record holders in various fields of endeavor. 2780 Las Vegas Blvd. S., 792-3766.

Imperial Palace Auto Collection: Classic cars on display. 3535 S. Las Vegas Blvd., 794-3174.

King Tut's Tomb and Museum: Reproduction of ancient crypt. Luxor Hotel, 262-4000.

Las Vegas Museum of Natural History: Animated dinosaurs are big attractions. 900 Las Vegas Blvd. N., 384-DINO.

Lied Discovery Children's Museum: Hands-on science experiments and educational displays. 833 Las Vegas Blvd. N., 382-KIDS.

Liberace Museum: The clothes, pianos, automobiles, and candelabra that Liberace made famous. 1775 E. Tropicana, 798-5595.

Magic and Movie Hall of Fame: Memorabilia, ventriloquists' dummies. O'Sheas Casino, 3555 Las Vegas Blvd. S., 737-1343.

Marjorie Barrick Museum of Natural History: Good collection of Nevada animal and plant life. 4505 Maryland Pkwy., UNLV, 895-3381.

Nevada State Museum and Historical Society: Extensive exhibits on Nevada subjects. Lorenzi Park, 700 Twin Lakes Dr., 486-5205.

LAUGHLIN

Colorado River Museum: Arizona Hwy. 95, 520-754-3399.

Nevada Gold Museum: Flamingo Hilton Laughlin, 800-FLAMINGO.

Riverside Auto Collection: Riverside Resort, 298-1859.

MESQUITE

Desert Valley Museum: 31 W. Mesquite Blvd., 346-5705.

OVERTON

Lost City Museum: Collections of artifacts left by ancient Basketmaker and Pueblo people who lived in the Moapa Valley, 65 miles northeast of Las Vegas. Also replicas of dwellings. 721 S. Hwy. 169, 397-2193.

SEARCHLIGHT

Searchlight Historic Museum: Informative displays describing the history of

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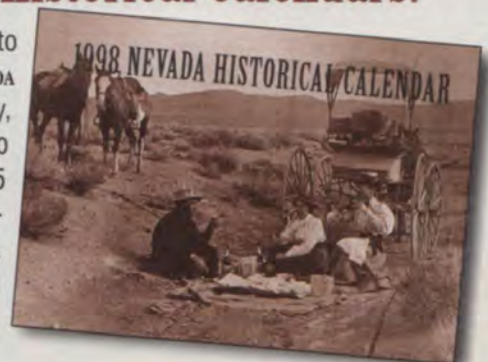


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The Nevada State Museum is housed in a historic Carson City building—the Comstock-era United States Mint.

Searchlight, including a box of matches. 200 Michael Wendell Way, 455-7955.

Reno-Tahoe Territory

CARSON CITY

Children's Museum of Northern Nevada: Hands-on science and history exhibits. 813 N. Carson St., 884-2226.

Nevada State Museum: Baskets by Washoe weaver Dat So La Lee, silver dollars made at Carson's old U.S. Mint, and other treasures. 600 N. Carson St., 687-4810.

Nevada State Railroad Museum: The *Inyo* and *Dayton* locomotives of the historic Virginia and Truckee Railroad, the old Wabuska depot, and other Nevada railroad artifacts. S. Carson St. at Fairview Dr., 687-6953.

Stewart Indian Museum: Collections of basketry and artifacts of the Paiute, Washoe, and Shoshone peoples. 5366 Snyder, 882-1808.

Warren Engine Co. No. 1 Museum: Antique fire equipment. 777 S. Stewart St., 887-2210.

GARDNERVILLE

Carson Valley Museum and Cultural Center: Old Douglas County High School

on U.S. 395 S., 782-2555.

GENOA

Genoa Courthouse Museum: Main St., 782-4325.

RENO

National Automobile Museum: Classic cars and rotating exhibits. 10 Lake St. S., 333-9300.

Liberty Belle Restaurant and Saloon: Owners Marshall and Frank Fey present more than 50 vintage slot machines, including the Liberty Bell, the first slot machine, which was invented by their grandfather. 4250 S. Virginia St., 825-1776.

Wilbur D. May Museum: World-traveler's collections are presented in a re-creation of his Double Diamond Ranch home. Rancho San Rafael Park, 785-5961.

Nevada Historical Society Museum: Indian artifacts, Victoriana, and Reuel Gridley's sack of flour. 1650 N. Virginia St., 688-1190.

SPARKS

Sparks Heritage Foundation and Museum: Has one of the West's biggest collections of railroad lanterns. 820 Victorian Ave., 355-1144.

VIRGINIA CITY

Assay Office Museum: Minerals and

stones on display. 98 N. C St., 847-0777.

Fourth Ward School Museum: Desks, books, and atmosphere from Victorian school used from 1876 to 1936. S. C St., 847-0975.

Julia C. Bulette Red Light Museum: 5 N. C St., 847-9394.

Liberty Engine Co. No. 1 Comstock Firemen's Museum: Has hose carts and old-time helmets. 51 S. C St., 847-0717.

Nevada Gambling Museum: Extensive collection of cards, dice, gambling tables, and unique games. 22 S. C St., 847-9022.

Territorial Enterprise Mark Twain Museum: 47 S. C St., 847-0525.

Virginia City Radio Museum: Vintage radio collection. F St., 847-9047.

Way It Was Museum: Historical exhibits on Virginia City. 113 N. C St., 847-0766.

Wild West Museum: History-related displays. 66 N. C St., 847-0400.

Pioneer Territory

BEATTY

Beatty Museum: Relics from the Bullfrog region's mining towns. State Route 374, 553-2424.

HAWTHORNE

Mineral County Museum: Jail cell from Rawhide, mysterious Spanish bells, and an anchor used by a Walker Lake ferry. 400 10th St., 945-5142.

PIOCHE

Lincoln County Museum: Clothing, minerals, and bottles from the county's pioneering days. 69 Main St., 962-5207.

Million Dollar Courthouse: Historic displays about law and order in this once rough mining town. Lacour St., 962-5207.



Lorenzi Park is the site of the Nevada State Museum and Historical Society in Las Vegas.

TONOPAH

Central Nevada Museum: Mining artifacts, mortician's instruments, research materials and photo file, and memorabilia from the Tonopah Army Airfield (1941-45). Logan Field Rd., 482-9676.

YERINGTON

Lyon County Museum: Memorabilia on local ranching history and the famous hair picture. 215 S. Main St., 463-2245.

Pony Express Territory

ELY

East Ely Railroad Depot Museum: Recounts the history of the Nevada Northern Railway. 1100 Ave. A, East Ely, 289-1663.

Nevada Northern Railway Museum: Eighty pieces of museum-quality rolling stock are part of this tourist railroad. 1100 Ave. A, East Ely, 289-2085.

White Pine Public Museum: The Mary Frances Hesselgesser Doll Collection, the petrified foot in the boot, and the partially consumed whiskey bottle. 2000 Aultman St., 289-4710.

EUREKA

Eureka Sentinel Museum: Old newspaper offices with equipment. Downtown Eureka, 237-5010.

FALLON

Churchill County Museum: Carriages, Hidden Cave artifacts, old telephones, and the Woodliff Novelty Store. 1050 S. Maine St., 423-3677.

Cowboy Country

ELKO

Northeastern Nevada Museum: Basque clothing, G.S. Garcia's beautiful silver work and saddles, Bing's denim tux, and Crazy Tex's hoof shoes. 1515 Idaho St., 738-3418.

LOVELOCK

Pershing County Marzen House Museum: Old ranching equipment and other relics. Hwy. 40 W., 273-7213.

WINNEMUCCA

Buckaroo Hall of Fame: 50 E. Winnemucca Blvd., 623-2225.

Humboldt Museum: Memorabilia that belonged to local girl Edna Purviance, leading lady in Charlie Chaplin's films. Maple Ave. and Jungo Rd., 623-2912.

NEVADA MUSEUMS

*An Advertisers' Guide to Museums
in the Silver State.*



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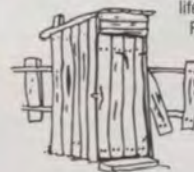
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Hand-Rolled Heaven

(Continued from page 19)

visit **Barley's Casino** in Green Valley, where a modest selection of cigars is available along with tasty beers brewed on the premises (702-458-2739). There's no designated smoking area, but cigars are welcome in the sports-book lounge and the bar area. The **Monte Carlo Pub and Brewery** on the Strip also has stogies on tap with their suds (702-730-7777).

The **Rio's Masquerade Village** houses

"Good cigars don't stink—they have an aroma," says Steve Browne of the Carson Cigar Company.

the **Mardi Gras Cigar Shop** on the second level, which has cigars (\$3 to \$18) and accessories (702-251-4920). The **Fiore** gourmet restaurant has an indoor Cigar Terrace, where you'll be offered cigars following an excellent meal.

Recently named "Best Tobacco Shop" by the staff of the *Las Vegas Review-Journal*, the **Pheasant Tobacconist** (702-368-1700) is a retail shop on West Sahara Avenue near Palace Station. Its walk-in humididor has

many cigars. For a mere \$2,500 you can get a lifetime membership to the private smoking lounge in the second-floor loft, complete with wet bar and your own cigar locker.

The *Review-Journal's* readers voted for **Mr. Bill's**. Each of its five locations (800-688-0302) has a well-stocked walk-in humididor, not to mention rock 'n' roll T-shirts, psychedelic posters, and novelty items.

However, the city's most authentic cigar locations are two retail outlets on the Las Vegas Strip that have been around longer than most of the casinos with cigar bars. Even nonsmokers will enjoy watching the skilled *torcedors* (cigar rollers) rolling up the lonsdales, panatelas, and figurados by hand at the **Las Vegas Cigar Company**, on the east side of the Strip just north of the MGM Grand (702-262-6100 or 800-432-4277), and **Don Pablo Cigar Company**, across from the Stardust (702-369-1818 or 800-537-4957). The employees are friendly and knowledgeable, the selection is incredible, and the prices are reasonable. Cigars are sold individually and by the box, and you'll find all the smoking accessories that you'll need. The **Las Vegas Cigar Company** even has a Web site at <http://www.lvcc.com>.

The Reno-Carson area also has its share of puff palaces where smokers can curl up with a snifter of cognac and linger in the fragrance of fine tobacco.

"Good cigars don't stink—they have an aroma," says Carson Cigar Company owner Steve Browne (318

Smokers

A "smoker" is a social event where cigars, liquor, food, and fun-seekers come together for a smokin' good time. The following establishments regularly host smokers.

Las Vegas: Boulder Station, 702-432-7771, **New York-New York**, Hamilton's, 702-740-6400; **Sam's Town**, 702-454-8020; **Barley's**, 702-458-2739; **Big Dog's** (microbrewery), 702-876-3647; **Drink** (nightclub), 702-796-5519.

Reno-Tahoe: Eldorado, Brew Brothers (coed smoker on last Thursday of each month), 702-786-5700; **Tinder Box**, 702-787-2215; **Carson Cigar Company**, 702-884-4402; **Lake Tahoe Horizon**, Tahoe Mountain Brewery, 702-586-1000.

North Carson Street, 702-884-4402). His enthusiasm for a good stogie is infectious, and he readily shares his knowledge with visitors to his downtown Carson City shop and humididor, which is stocked with more than 60 brands of cigars.

In the lounge, smokers can relax in the big, comfy leather chairs encircling the small bar. "This is the room I always wanted in my house," Browne says. "It's designed



The Mardi Gras Cigar Shop (left) in the Rio's Masquerade Village sells cigars and accessories. Smokers can light up over a view of Manhattan at Hamilton's (above).

around having a conversation. When you have a cigar, you have to sit down and give it its due. You have to have a conversation." Nonsmokers also frequent the lounge. The room is small, but the exhaust system is efficient, replacing the air every 15 minutes.

The clientele at the Carson Cigar Company includes lawyers, business people, tourists, and blackjack dealers. Even magician Tony Clark, who performs in "Phantasy" at the Lake Tahoe Horizon, makes frequent stops to stock up on cigars. And women, Browne says, comprise about 10 to 15 percent of the smokers. "You don't have to be a man to enjoy a cigar," Browne declares.

"Cigars aren't a fad," he says, adding that Nevada has been, and always will be, a haven for cigar smokers. "This is Nevada," he says, chest puffed as he puffs, "the last bastion of freedom."

In Reno the **Tinder Box** is not a bar but rather a retail shop with a smoking loft, which is intimate and social, although smokers often focus their attention on the 32-inch television tuned to the sports

The Tinder Box in Reno has a history as home to some of Nevada's original Marlboro men.

channel (3950 Mayberry Drive, 702-787-2215). The building has a history as home to some of Nevada's original Marlboro men: In the 1950s and '60s, it housed ranch hands working at the Upson Ranch. The decor includes a wagon-wheel table with tractor-seat chairs, cedar paneling, and several Reno Rodeo posters on the walls.

Owner and smoker Jay Schmitt stocks more than 70 brands. If you plan to puff in the loft, you can choose one of the combos, which includes a cigar and a free beverage that complements the flavor of the cigar. For example, the Number 4 pairs a Napa Cigar Company Dominican Selection with a glass of Woodbridge Port for \$8.75. The Tinder Box, located about three miles west of downtown Reno on Mayberry, also hosts smokers about once a month.

The Eldorado Hotel in downtown Reno is a popular choice for cigar lovers. At the **Brew Brothers**, which serves pizzas and sandwiches with its fresh-brewed beer, a smoker can choose a cigar from the humidor at the bar. The restaurant also offers a monthly smoker that includes din-



The *torcedors* are on a roll at the Las Vegas Cigar Company (top). Steve Browne (bottom) of the Carson Cigar Company keeps vigil over the humidor, which stays at 70 degrees and 70 percent humidity.



ner, a drink, and a cigar that complements the meal. The ambiance is more upscale at **Bistro Roxy**, which serves about a dozen different cigars that smokers can puff in the restaurant's stylish bar. Bistro Roxy offers a mind-numbing choice of 102 martinis, from a Basque martini to a chocolate-raspberry concoction.

Even if you're not a smoker, watching the cigar makers roll the tobacco into handmade cigars is an intriguing sight at **Casillas Cigars** (1581 South Virginia Street, 702-323-3301). There you can watch Cuban-born Macario Casillas roll his famously flavorful stogies. The simple south-of-downtown storefront sells cigars to smokers who wander in as well as to shops in Reno and California.

Aside from the golf course, casinos are

one of the last frontiers where cigar smokers can freely light up without fear of being heckled. However, nonsmokers may breathe a sigh of relief knowing that even smokers acknowledge their pungent pastime may not appeal to everyone. According to an informal survey conducted by *Cigar Lovers* magazine, the consensus among cigar smokers was that, if asked politely, they would always put out the offending stogie—but preferably not in anyone's drink. ♣

Deke Castleman, managing editor of the Las Vegas Advisor, is afraid that smoking too many cigars will make him look like George Hamilton. Carolyn Graham, Nevada's associate editor, would smoke more cigars if they could make her look like Claudia Schiffer.



Shopping Guide

Nevada malls and shopping meccas. **By Carolyn Graham**

The News



The shopping gods have struck again at the Forum Shops at Caesars on the Las Vegas Strip. Last Labor Day, 35 new stores opened, bringing the grand total to 105. Toy lovers can enter the new FAO Schwartz through a two-story Trojan horse and find a good mix of dinosaur, Barbie, and alien merchandise. Shoppers can now gawk at the new 30-foot animatronic sculpture of Neptune and see the Forum Shops' latest and greatest attraction: an IMAX theater and "Race for Atlantis," a giant-screen, IMAX motion-simulator ride.



Mall fans can add a trip to the movies to their shopping list in Laughlin at the Horizon Outlet Center, which opened a nine-screen movie theater in October. The Stadium 9 Cinemas show first-run movies and offer cappuccino at the snack bar. For movie times call 702-299-FILM in Nevada or 520-758-2535 in Arizona.



A new shopping corridor is emerging in Reno at McCarran Boulevard and Kietzke Lane just west of South Virginia Street. Last year Ross, a discount department store, moved to bigger digs at 4825 Kietzke, near a new Michael's and Home Place. The newest clothing store to open nearby is Old Navy, a San Francisco-based store.



In late January Meadowood Mall will kick off its annual Youth Entertainment Series, a program designed to bring quality entertainment to kids. One of the groups scheduled to perform is Reno's Argenta Trio. Call the mall, 702-827-8450, for a schedule.

Mall Guide Las Vegas

Belz Factory Outlet World is the largest outlet mall under one roof in the United States. In fact, to explore each of the mall's 140 stores you'd better wear your walking shoes. The four-year-old mall on Las Vegas Boulevard, a couple miles south of the Strip, has undergone two expansions, including the addition of Off Fifth Saks Fifth Avenue

outside at the south end of the parking lot. Inside stores include Spiegel, Levi's, Casual Corner, and Reebok. Belz also has two food courts, one of which has an old-fashioned carousel. Phone 702-896-5599.

The Boulevard Mall sprawls across 1.2 million square feet with 144 stores, making it Nevada's largest. Anchor stores include Macy's, Dillard's, JC Penney, and Sears. The mall is located at Maryland Parkway and Desert Inn Road, two miles east of Treasure Island on the Strip. Phone 702-732-8949, www.blvdmall.com.

The **Fashion Show Mall** has always had glamour appeal due to glitzy anchors Saks Fifth Avenue, Nieman Marcus, Robinson May, Dillard's, and Macy's. The mall, next door to Treasure Island, has more than 130 stores and is known for its trendy eateries, including Sfuzzi, Dive!, and Chin's. The



The Trojan horse awaits at the Forum Shops at Caesars.

Fashion Show also has some interesting specialty shops, such as the Discovery Channel Store and the Walt Disney Gallery. Phone 702-369-8382.

Your shopping bags—as well as your senses—will be overloaded at the **Forum Shops at Caesars** with its 105 shops and nine restaurants. The attractions—an ever-changing sky, Omnimax theater, animatronic sculpture, and 3-D Cinema Ride—nearly overwhelm the opulent stores and restaurants. Shops include the Museum Company, Gianni Versace, Warner Brothers, and a new NikeTown. Phone 702-893-4800.

Galleria Mall at Sunset in Henderson, a convenient hop across the street from the Sunset Station Hotel, is the Las Vegas area's newest mall. Neglected shoppers in Henderson anxiously awaited the February 1996 opening of the mall, where they now enjoy Dillard's, Robinson May, JC Penney,

Mervyn's California, and 130 specialty stores. Phone 702-434-0202.

Las Vegas Factory Stores is an open-air outlet mall south of Vacation Village at the far southern end of the Strip. Shoppers will find 41 stores, including Mikasa and Vanity Fair as well as other clothing and specialty shops. Phone 702-897-9090.

A focal point of **Meadows Mall** is its replica turn-of-the-century carousel, where shoppers can reward their weary children (and themselves) with a 50-cent whirl. Meadows Mall, at U.S. 95 North at Valley View Boulevard, is anchored by Macy's, JC Penney, and Dillard's. Phone 702-878-4849.

Laughlin

Since it opened more than two years ago, the **Horizon Outlet Center** in Laughlin has given visitors the chance to participate in the

one form of recreation that seemed to be missing in the Colorado River town: bargain shopping. The enclosed mall on the southern end of Casino Drive next to the Ramada Express has 55 outlet stores, including Geoffrey Beene, Wild Things, Mikasa, Bugle Boy, Levi's, and the London Bridge Candle Factory. The mall has a food court and covered parking as well as the Muddy Rudder Pub and Cecil's Market and Deli, both of which are open 24 hours. Phone 702-298-3003.

Reno

Meadowood Mall is Reno's largest with 130 stores, including anchors Macy's, JC Penney, and Sears. The mall, located at McCarran and South Virginia, recently added Sears and an attractive food court. If you're shopping for a new sofa or lamp, you'll find Macy's Furniture Store across Virginia Street. Phone 702-827-8450.

Park Lane Mall at South Virginia and Plumb Lane is anchored by Gottschalks and has 77 stores, including Jay Jacobs, Hot Cats, Lin's Imports, and Frederick's of Hollywood. If you like to exercise while getting a leg up on your window shopping, Park Lane opens daily at 7 a.m. for its mall-walking program. Phone 702-825-9452.

Carolyn Graham is Nevada Magazine's highly dedicated associate editor who logged many hours in the state's malls, all in the name of research.

Ice, Ice, Baby

For the ice fisher, boring is just the beginning.

By Lin Anderson

On bleak winter days, when most Nevadans are warding off the chill with fires and furnaces in their coons or attacking the snow with skis or snowmobiles, a hardy band of men and women are out on the ice ... waiting.

And waiting.

The signs of their presence are the campers and pickups surrounding the rims of the state's northern reservoirs. And unlike most other winter sportspeople, they are, in the immortal words of Elmer Fudd, *vee-vy vee-vy* quiet.

They're ice fishing.

While the uninitiated—and some of the initiated but unimpressed—might characterize ice fishing as boring a hole in the ice and boring yourself silly, the sport's adherents liken it to a social and spiritual phenomenon, albeit a really cold one. Recently popularized by Jack Lemmon and Walter Matthau in the *Grumpy Old Men* movies, this weird amalgam of sport and survival attracts new fans with every frigid season, and it's an ever-growing activity in Nevada's upper right-hand corner.

Don Hughley finds a lot to like about the pastime. The Elko resident says, "It's something to do in the winter, first of all. I'd rather fish than snowmobile or some



Facing the elements with guile and thermal clothing, Don Hughley of Elko pulls in a cutbow trout at Wild Horse Reservoir. The state recreation area is Nevada's most popular ice-fishing spot.

of the other winter sports, so it's a great way to spend the day."

Like most of Northeastern Nevada's ice fishers, Hughley prefers the winter wonderland of Wild Horse Reservoir, which on

The sport's adherents liken ice fishing to a social and spiritual phenomenon.

occasion boasts the coldest morning temperatures in the lower 48. "Sometimes it's not very pleasant—it's real cold—but there's a lot of guys who ice fish, and you

always meet new people when you go up there." Although Hughley's excursions are day trips, he knows of serious frozen-water anglers whose obsession causes them to pitch camp for longer durations out on the ice. Wild Horse is not yet home to the wooden sheds that dotted Lemmon and Matthau's cinematic Minnesota lake, but that day may not be far away. Particularly dedicated anglers use special tents.

"They're pitched on sled runners, with two or three holes in the bottom to fish out of," Hughley says. "I've seen guys put their tents out on the ice and stay there."

Trout is the lure for the iceman—or icewoman—who cometh to Wild Horse. The reservoir's population of bass is normally dormant in winter, but rainbow and cutbow trout are active—and plentiful, if you

The Hole Story

Wild Horse Reservoir, a state recreation area, is the most popular lake for ice anglers in the Elko area, followed by South Fork and Wilson. Other Elko County reservoirs include Sheep Creek, Bull Run, and Crittenden (near Wendover). Ice fishers also may find action at Eagle Valley and Echo Canyon reservoirs east of Pioche and at the Haymeadow and Cold Springs reservoirs on the Kirch Wildlife Management Area near Sunnyside. The season near Elko is the longest, usually running from December to mid-March.

Anglers are cautioned that holes must be no larger than 10 inches in diameter (so no one falls in). One should avoid the overenthusiasm of the Topaz Lake fishermen



who used chainsaws a few years ago to cut a long, vertical swath in the ice so they could fly fish. Generally you'll need at least six inches of good, clear blue ice. Check carefully around the shore beforehand and beware of soft spots. Never drive cars on the ice. For ice-fishing information contact the Elko office of the Nevada Division of Wildlife, 1375 Mountain City Highway, Elko, NV 89801; 702-738-5332. Annual fishing licenses are \$26 for Nevada residents and \$56 for nonresidents (both include a \$5 trout stamp). Also, one-day and multiple-day licenses start at \$7 for residents and \$12 for nonresidents.

Special Event: The Wild Horse Ice Fishing Derby takes place February 14-16. Call 702-738-7135 for information.

bore your hole in the right place. "Some spots where you get a good catch in the summer just aren't as good in the winter," Hughley allows. "But there are some spots where I've caught 50 or 60 in a day and turned 'em loose. Sometimes it gets to the point where you get tired of catching fish." He recommends areas where the water is five to 15 feet deep as most conducive to hooking trout.

Wild Horse is certainly the Elko area's most popular ice-fishing lake, according to Rich Haskins, senior fisheries biologist for the Nevada Division of Wildlife in Elko. He notes that South Fork and Wilson reservoirs offer less action, and Wilson is difficult to get to when the snow is deep.

The equipment required to get started in ice fishing is pretty rudimentary—one of the sport's attractions, Haskins says. "Basically a gas- or hand-powered ice auger [nearly everyone prefers the hand-operated variety], a pole, an ice chest, and a chair or an upside-down bucket" are all it takes along with your standard fishing license (see sidebar). Warm clothing is, of course, essential, and Haskins urges anglers not to go out alone.

Reason being that ice has a tendency to be treacherous in some areas. He says, "Typically, if you can get out on it safely with-

out crunching through, you're generally OK."

Proper thickness of ice can vary from six inches to two feet, but even the thickest covering can provide some anxious moments. "Certain days even the thick stuff cracks," Hughley says. "I've stood there

and had a crack go by right in front of me. I guess you could say I saved a kid from going in one day. He came running out on the ice while his dad was getting their gear together, and we all were screaming and hollering for him to stop before he got onto the thin ice. You do have to be real cautious."

Along with your good sense, you need to bring along some good bait. Hughley recommends salmon eggs or the commercial Berkeley Powerbait, "one of the best baits I've ever seen for fish." Traditionalists may wish to use worms or marshmallows.

Whatever the bait, Haskins' NDOW colleague Bob Layton says something new—and for biologists not entirely pleasant—may be attracted to your hook at Wild Horse. "We've got yellow perch in there now, illegally introduced," the fisheries biologist says. "It threatens the trout fishery, but it's highly prized on the table."

The act of reeling in a big trout can cause the ice angler some frustration, Layton points out. Ice-fishing poles are only about three feet long, not an optimal length for reeling in monsters. He notes that some novice icers make the mistake of holding the pole in a normal fashion while playing the fish through the hole. "That often causes the line to get cut on the ice," he



The air is cold and the landscape snowy-white as Hughley patiently fishes on the ice at Wild Horse Reservoir, 65 miles north of Elko.

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says. The solution? Put the entire pole through the hole while fighting the catch. Hughley, Haskins, and Layton all agree on one thing: Ice fishing isn't for everybody in today's fast-paced and somewhat cushy world. It's a cold-weather sport, first of all, and you must put effort into selecting a site and drilling your portal into the deep.

And then, once your bait is tantalizing

**Once your bait
is tantalizing the
finny friends, there's
usually a whole lot
of free time.**

the finny friends beneath, there's usually a whole lot of, well, free time.

But for the ice fisher, that's part of the attraction. "It's really a social thing," Layton says. "It's a chance to sit, fish, talk—maybe have a brandy."

It's quiet on the frozen reservoir amidst the wide sky with perhaps a skiff of snow flying and the only sound a low murmur of conversation, the cracking of the ice, or perhaps a snowmobile in the distance. All in all it's a perfect day for an ice fisher, for whom boring isn't a state of mind but rather what you do with an auger. ▀

Lin Anderson is program director of KELK Radio in Elko and recently completed *Tingler*, a book on the horror and sci-fi films of the 1950s and '60s. He thinks brandy is the best part of ice fishing.



Map: NDOT/Nevada Magazine

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Red Barn on Franktown Road

"So many times I would pass that barn in Washoe Valley before I painted it. I like to watch this barn change with the seasons.



Winter at Sand Harbor

"I love Lake Tahoe—it's a challenge. Water is hard to paint because it's hard to make it look like water. In this painting I was fascinated by the mirror image in the water."



Ginger Rose

This artist reveals warm winter scenes in snowy Nevada.

Watercolorist Ginger Rose manages to find warm colors in her landscapes even when a blanket of snow covers Northern Nevada. "There's something magical about Nevada," the Carson City resident says. "There's really a lot of beauty here, even in the dead of winter. It's the reds in the willows, the greens. And when the sun is out you get such crisp shadows."

Rose and her husband Dennis, a fifth-grade teacher, moved from Hermosa Beach, California, to Nevada's capital 17 years ago. During all seasons they hike and

explore the country around Carson City and Lake Tahoe, where she draws inspiration from subjects that some artists overlook.

"I love rocks," she says. "They have personalities and contrast." Trees, flowers, clouds, and water are familiar themes in her artwork. She is drawn to the more muted colors found in nature. "I see things in watercolors," she says. "I work with a basic palette: burnt sienna, Windsor blue, sap green, and Alizarin crimson, which is a cool red, perfect for sunsets."

Rose, a full-time artist, is pursuing a

degree in art from the University of Nevada in Reno. She also is a gardener, and in the spring her yard fills with vegetables as well as roses, hollyhocks, and pansies, many of which appear in her paintings. "My garden is like a little Shangri-La," she adds.

As a member of the Sierra Watercolor Society and Nevada Artists Association, Rose exhibits her work at shows throughout Nevada. This winter several of her paintings will be on display at the Brewery Art Center's King Street Gallery in Carson City.—Carolyn Graham

Those Lonely Roads

A Californian explores Nevada's 10 loneliest roads and returns to tell about it.

By Dr. Allen E. Fuhs

My wife Emily and I recently decided to drive the loneliest roads in Nevada. We had always wanted the experience of having the road to ourselves, and our interest was piqued by Richard Moreno's article, "10 Great Loneliest Roads," in the May/June '95 issue of *Nevada Magazine*.

Carefully studying the arrangement of the lonely roads (see map), two loops became apparent: a Northern Loop with milestones at Denio, Winnemucca, Carlin, Eureka, Austin, and Fallon, and a Southern Loop from Tonopah and Ely to Las Vegas and Goodsprings. We devoted five days and four nights touring each loop. Believe me, compared to Interstate 15 south from Las Vegas on a Sunday afternoon, with all those cars with California



Travelers will find a lonely road in every direction at this remote junction between Caliente and Rachel. The author and his wife Emily (left) plan another road trip.

license plates headed home at 70 mph, the 10 roads are *really* lonely.

Looking back at our odyssey, we were surprised that the roads are so smooth in the interior of Nevada. While driving the 10 lonely roads of the Silver State, one occasionally sees a sign

NEXT GAS 91 MILES

which makes you glance at your gas gauge. A tiny feeling of adventure is stimulated. What's ahead?

We found State Route 722 (old U.S. 50) west of Austin to be the loneliest route based on a sampling of one drive. In about 60 miles we saw six cars (really one car and five pickups). In spots, grass grew from cracks in the asphalt.

For other lonely roads, we estimated the number of cars per hour. On U.S. 93 south of Ely, by actual count, we observed four to five cars per hour.

Numerous diversions add to our enjoyment of the trips. Occasionally we'd see a pickup raising dust clouds on a distant dirt road. The clouds can be seen for 10 to 15 miles. A more dynamic display is the "dust devil," a miniature twister carrying dust to great heights. Vorticity in the boundary layer formed by the motion of air over the ground—that's right, wind—interacting with upward thermal drafts creates these desert visitors. We enjoyed two additional pastimes on the long, lonely roads. At each summit, we would guess the distance to the next summit. (Since this is Nevada, the game can even involve a small wager.) Our other pastime was looking for the remnants of the old roads. When a new, wider, straighter road is built, the old road remains alongside. Old U.S. 93 can be picked out for miles and miles.

I noticed several demonstrations of the laws of physics on the journey. One was the familiar mirage formed on a distant roadway. Air is heated by the hot road surface, causing the light to travel faster near the road surface, so light rays are bent upward. One "sees" the horizon sky just beyond the road, creating an illusion of a lake. Another little-known phenomenon



Driving solitary Nevada roads leaves time to play the "summit game" and watch for former roads like this abandoned section of Old U.S. 93 south of Ely.

takes place at night, when distant cars appear to have double sets of headlights. At "grazing incidence"—when there is a small angle between headlights and the road surface—a black, absorbing, asphalt road is really a mirror.

We saw other laws in action, too. The town of Tonopah had traffic crawling at 25 mph. Fortunately we observed the speed of the other cars and slowed to the limit. Active police officers were writing tickets to the less observant.

East of Tonopah and south of U.S. 6 are the Lunar Craters. Airways from San Francisco to Washington, D.C., go over the craters. Seen from the air, the craters, created by volcanic activity, are aptly named.

Many miles of lonely roads roll through open range. Near Sage Hen Hills, west of Denio on State Route 140, we saw wild burros alongside the road. True, we wouldn't know a wild burro from a domesticated mule, but it was more fun to assume the animals to be wild.

Later we definitely did see a wild animal. At our motel in Ely we had talked to two groups of elk hunters. We asked, "Are there really elk in these mountains?" The next day our question was answered. On U.S. 50-93-6, south of Ely near Connors Pass, we saw an elk that was as big as a horse. The elk had enormous antlers.

Hunters in Nevada use the road signs for target practice. Along U.S. 93 are signs that have a drawing of a deer with letters **DEER NEXT 30 MILES.**

Almost every sign has bullet holes in the deer. Were those frustrated hunters at work?

The interior of Nevada is cow country. The green, irrigated fields are largely alfalfa. Hay bundles are stacked in the fields. In contrast to the Midwest, where hay is rolled into cylinders, Nevada hay seems to be harvested in rectangular bales.

We intended to tell of the Nevada cow dung that covered the road for about a

mile on State Route 140. Our minivan acquired a quarter inch of manure on its lower sides. But looking at the map, we decided we had encountered it in Oregon just before Antelope Butte. Washing off a quarter inch of Oregon cow dung was not easy.

At the junction of U.S. 6 and State Route 375 (both lonely roads), Warm Springs really had a warm spring. However, the town was deserted. This was a ghost town with hot running water. But don't think about going for a swim. A large sign with bright-red lettering says

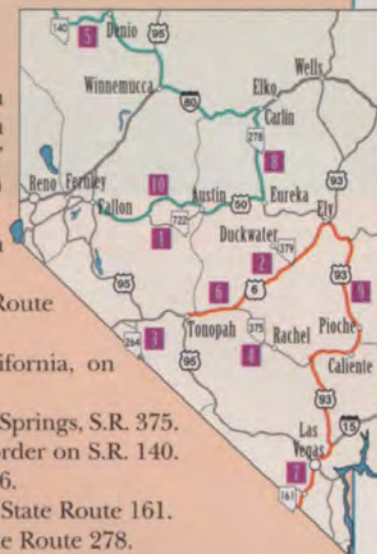
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Both five-day trips were highly enjoyable. Anyone who feels squeezed by wall-to-wall people and bumper-to-bumper traffic in these modern times should head down one of Nevada's lonely roads for a refreshing experience. Maybe they, too, will

On the Road

Lonely-road explorers Allen and Emily Fuhs toured each loop in five days. The roads' rankings (loneliest is No. 1) are noted on the map.

1. Eastgate to Austin on State Route 722.
2. Duckwater Road, State Route 379 off U.S. 6.
3. Coaldale to Oasis, California, on State Route 264.
4. Warm Springs to Crystal Springs, S.R. 375.
5. Denio to the Oregon border on S.R. 140.
6. Tonopah to Ely on U.S. 6.
7. Jean to Goodsprings on State Route 161.
8. Eureka to Carlin on State Route 278.
9. Pioche to Ely on U.S. 93.
10. Ely to Fernley on U.S. 50, a.k.a. the "Loneliest Road in America."—Richard Moreno



see an elk and a herd of "wild" burros. ♣

Dr. Allen E. Fuhs is a distinguished professor emeritus in aerospace studies at the Naval Post Graduate School in Monterey, California. In 1992 he was inducted into the International Space Hall of Fame. He and his wife Emily live in Carmel and travel frequently in Nevada.

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
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