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SESQUICENTENNIAL SPECIAL EDITION

NEVADA

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2013

M A G A Z I N E

Photo Contest

36TH ANNUAL
GREAT NEVADA
PICTURE HUNT



PRE-STATEHOOD
THE UNKNOWN TERRITORY

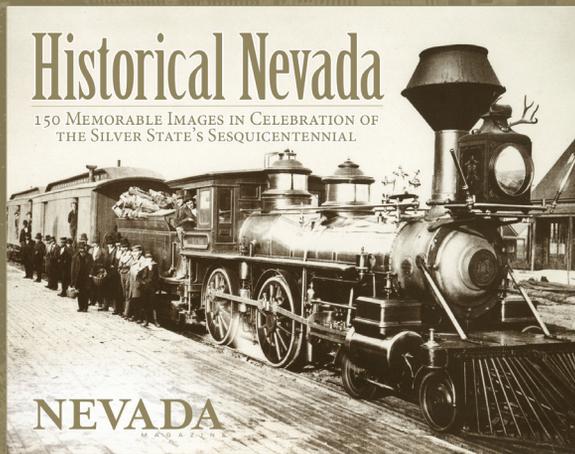
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NEVADA
MAGAZINE

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Cover Photo: Wayne Posner

One of the many intriguing sculptures at Rhyolite's Goldwell Open Air Museum. This is "Ghost Rider," by Charles Albert Szukalski. Read more about Posner's image on page 70.

Background Image: Matthew B. Brown

Petroglyph Canyon Trail at Valley of Fire State Park offers a glimpse into Nevada's past.

FEATURES

PRE-NEVADA

56 The establishment of Nevada as a territory, and eventually a state, is a long and dramatic story. It features every type of western character imaginable: Indians, Spanish friars, mountain men, explorers, surveyors, Santa Fe traders, prospectors, cowboys, railroaders, Mormons, desperadoes, and ladies of the demimonde.



2013 PHOTO CONTEST

68 This year we ditched the categories and instead let the Nevada images do the talking. See how the Grand Prize winner shined a spotlight on ancient rock art—with a Milky Way backdrop for good measure—to take top honors in our 2013 photo contest.



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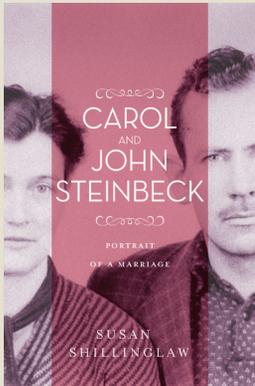
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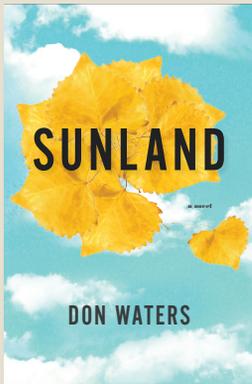
Carol and John Steinbeck

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—Claire Vaye Watkins, author of *Battleborn*

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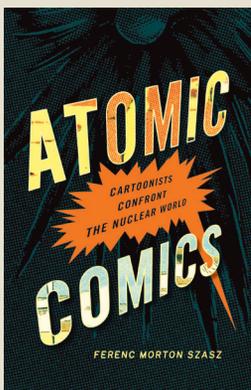
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COMMENT

Share your thoughts and opinions on stories at nevadamagazine.com.



WEB EXTRAS

- ▶ The Furnace Creek Visitor Center in **Death Valley National Park** recently welcomed weather enthusiasts from across the nation (above) to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the hottest day ever recorded: July 10, 1913.
- ▶ The University of Nevada, Reno's Department of Anthropology, in partnership with the Nevada Indian Commission and the Washoe Tribal Historic Preservation Office, conducted an August excavation at the historic **Stewart Indian School** in Carson City.
- ▶ Las Vegas traditional artist Ofelia Perez, 81, is the recipient of the 2014 **Nevada Heritage Award** presented by the Folklife Program of the Nevada Arts Council.

FOLLOW OUR BLOGS

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nevadamag.blogspot.com

Nevada Events & Shows
nevadaeventsandshows.blogspot.com



FEATURED VIDEO

Visit our YouTube page for more on the grand opening of 1864 Tavern, featured in this issue. Footage includes a ribbon cutting with Reno Mayor Bob Cashell and an interview with tavern co-owner Kevin Walen.



WORTH A CLICK

tahoe.ucdavis.edu/stateofthelake

Read the findings of Lake Tahoe's annual health exam, *Tahoe: State of the Lake Report 2013*, recently released by the University of California, Davis' Tahoe Environmental Research Center, located in Incline Village.

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Look for this icon throughout the next eight issues. It means you're reading special coverage of the state's 150th birthday.

A Special Time for Nevada Lovers

I consider myself fortunate that my seven years at *Nevada Magazine* have spanned two major Nevada milestones. In 2011, we celebrated our 75th anniversary as a publication, producing six special "Territory" issues and a commemorative anniversary edition that celebrated our legacy (going back to our days as *Nevada Highways and Parks*). After making our debut in January 1936, we're still going strong 77 years later.

Now I'm lucky enough to be a part of something much grander—Nevada's 150th birthday, or sesquicentennial. We're putting the finishing touches on a *Historical Nevada* book, which should be available in early October in time for the big Nevada Day celebration in Carson City. Although the 150th is actually in 2014, the State of Nevada will be starting the party early. Look for the *Nevada Magazine* booths on October 26 in Carson City, where we will have books available for purchase and plenty of current and back issues on hand.

We used four pages in this issue—turn to page 52—to give our readers a special preview of the *Historical Nevada* book's contents. Like our anniversary issue of 2011, we are sure every Nevadan and Nevada enthusiast is going to want this collector's edition on their coffee tables in 2014...and beyond.

You may have noticed the words "Special Sesquicentennial Issue" on the cover or Contents page. This is the first of eight magazines (through November/December 2014) that will thoroughly celebrate Nevada's past—and most importantly the connections to its present. In this issue, author and historian Ron Soodalter explores Nevada's pre-statehood era in one of our feature stories. Part II of his "Pre-Nevada" series will run next issue. These stories will make readers appreciate the Indians, explorers, miners, and settlers who paved the way for Nevada's rise to statehood.

Also in this issue is our annual photo contest. We have the pleasure of working with so many great photographers, and Neil Lockhart—the 2013 Grand Prize winner—is one of our favorites. He is extremely passionate about documenting the Silver State, whether it's breaking-news images such as the Bison Fire (page 20), a ghost-town sunrise (page 26), or his photos that complement our pre-statehood feature (starting on page 56).

This edition also features a southwestern Nevada ghost-towns tour, spectacular fall images, more on the changing face of downtown Las Vegas, and a new tavern in Reno that pays homage to Nevada's birth year: 1864.

The anticipation for the state's sesquicentennial celebration continues to grow, and this issue kicks off *Nevada Magazine's* own dedication to this very special time to be Battle Born, Nevada Proud.



A NEW ERA IN CUSTOMER SERVICE

I would also like to introduce Carrie Roussel, our former advertising sales manager, as our new circulation manager. If you have questions about subscriptions, back issues, special orders, etc., e-mail her at carrie@nevadamagazine.com or give her a call at 775-687-0610 or (toll free) 855-729-7117, and she will take care of you. We are excited to bring circulation in-house for the first time in several years, which will result in a much-improved customer experience for you, the reader. ▾


 A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Matthew B. Brown".

Matthew B. Brown, Managing Editor
editor@nevadamagazine.com
[linkedin.com/in/matthewbbrown](https://www.linkedin.com/in/matthewbbrown)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

**ONE APPRECIATIVE
ROCK HOUND**

I really liked your stories on camping and backcountry lakes in [the July/August 2013] issue. My husband and I are rock hounds and camp at Virgin Valley when in that area. Nice to see editors who actually go out and contribute text to their issues.

Katy Tahja, Comptche, California

FROM BELMONT WITH LOVE

I just got my July/August [2013 issue] in the mail. I was so surprised to see a full page. I can't thank you enough for the support you have shown the Belmont Courthouse group in getting our information out to the public.

Donna Motis, Tonopah

ENVY FOR NV

Reading [former associate editor] Charlie Johnston's article about your joint adventures in [the May/June 2013 feature story] "Gravel in Our Travel"

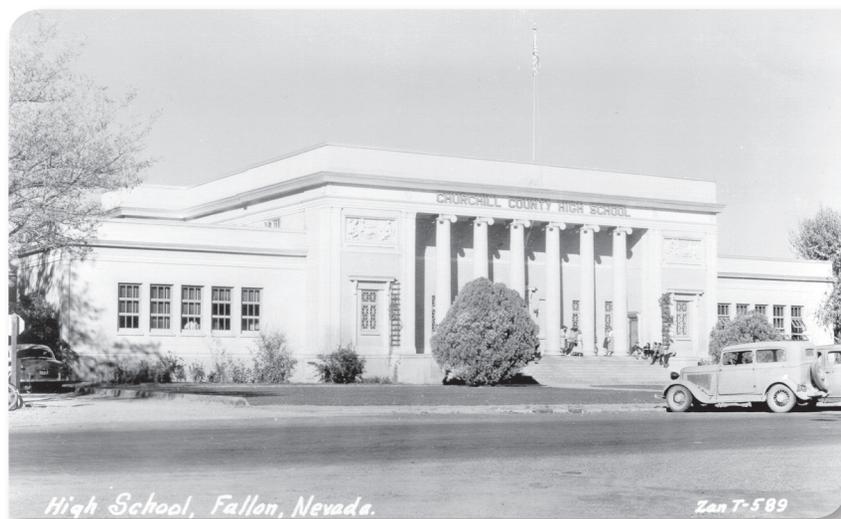
reminds me of why every time I return home to Connecticut from a trip to Nevada, I beg my husband to consider moving out West.

Jan Liverance,
Old Greenwich, Connecticut

CORRECTIONS

• Page 24 of last issue's Best of Nevada 2013 article should have listed Blue Man Group's show residency as Monte Carlo Resort and Casino, not The Venetian. The group moved from The Venetian to Monte Carlo in 2012.

• On page 45 of our July/August 2013 issue, in "Schoolhouse Memories," the building in the middle photo is the former Douglas County High School, which is now a museum. It is not Fallon High School, as we reported. In addition, the Fallon school should have been referred to as Churchill County High School (pictured). Thank you, Bunny Corkill—research curator at Churchill County Museum—for the clarification.



COURTESY OF CHURCHILL COUNTY MUSEUM

WE VALUE YOUR INPUT

Write to editor@nevadamagazine.com or via mail at 401 N. Carson St., Carson City, NV 89701. You can also comment on stories and read more letters at nevadamagazine.com. Letters and comments are subject to editing.

CONTRIBUTORS

NEIL LOCKHART



To say that Neil Lockhart, Grand Prize winner of our 2013 Great Nevada Picture Hunt photo contest, has a passion for photography would be an understatement. The freelance photographer and graphic designer, from Reno, enjoys shooting in the studio as well as the Nevada outback.

Among his favorite subjects are Nevada's mining camps and ghost towns. "It's all about the light, whether it's natural or artificial," Lockhart says. "I try to capture my shots in a new and unique way by harnessing or manipulating the subject's light." On a recent photo outing, Lockhart started his day at 3 a.m. By getting up early and hiking in the dark, he was ready to capture the first light as it fell across the ridges and valleys of Gold Canyon.

■ PGS. 20, 26, 56, & 68

JOANNA HAUGEN

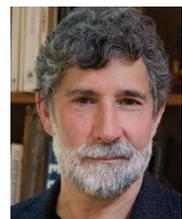


JoAnna Haugen is a former Peace Corps volunteer and freelance travel writer, but when she isn't roaming the globe, she works from her home office in Las Vegas. Haugen has been watching the transformation of

downtown Las Vegas for the last few years and is thrilled to share this revitalized corner of the city with friends and family who visit. "People ask me what's new on the Strip, but I like to turn their attention toward the developments happening downtown," she says.

■ PGS. 22 & 24

RON SOODALTER



Ron Soodalter came by his love of the West from his grandfather, who was a cowboy in the early 1900s. He worked as a curator in a Colorado museum and is a collector of cowboy memorabilia. He has authored

two books and written more than 150 articles for various publications, including *Wild West*, *Smithsonian*, *American Cowboy*, *True West*, *Civil War Times*, *Military History*, and *America's Civil War*. "Pre-Nevada, Part I: The Unknown Territory" is the first in a series of articles tracing the history of Nevada from its earliest days to the present.

■ PG. 56



KNOW YOUR NEVADA

Brian K. Krolicki, Brian Sandoval, and Sandoval's daughter, Marisa, on July 3 in Carson City.

MATTHEW B. BROWN

Party Like It's 2014

Dear Friends,

The best part of Nevada's upcoming sesquicentennial celebration is the fact that all Nevadans will have the opportunity to participate. It will be a year filled with delightful events and colorful tributes to the rich history of our state.

Planning for Nevada's 150th birthday has been underway for some time, and the Nevada 150 Commission is proud to announce that there will be several wonderful ways the people of our great state can commemorate this milestone, including an opportunity to show off their Nevada pride before the official kick-off during Nevada Day weekend at the end of October.

Governor Brian Sandoval and I had the privilege of unveiling the 150th Nevada Anniversary license plate at the Nevada State Railroad Museum in Carson City on July 3. The commemorative plate simply—yet elegantly—depicts the honor Nevadans feel by being "Battle Born." We are fortunate to experience this era of our state's history, and the license plate is a perfect way to demonstrate your support for years to come. These plates are available now through October 2016 via the Nevada Department of Motor Vehicles. A portion of the fee is donated to the Nevada 150 Foundation to help with the cost of our yearlong celebration.

Additionally, an outstanding corporate citizen of our state, Coeur Mining, Inc., gave Nevada a special early birthday present. Coeur Mining gifted a 1,000-ounce, .999 fine silver bar—mined entirely from Coeur's Rochester Mine in Pershing County—to Governor Sandoval and me in May. This bar will be used to mint commemorative sesquicentennial medallions.

The Nevada State Museum in Carson City will fire up its historic Coin Press No. 1 on Saturday, October 26 and create the first of what is planned to be a series of four medallions that will be released quarterly. These medallions will be available for purchase and are undoubtedly a great addition to anyone's coin collection and a perfect reminder of our beloved nickname—the Silver State.

A third exciting facet of the celebration is the United States Postal Service's commissioning of a special stamp commemorating Nevada's 150th birthday. Stamps are valuable collector's items and keepsakes that can be treasured by each passing generation. We are working with the USPS on the release of this stamp, so stay tuned for more information.

Turning 150 is an exciting milestone for Nevada and worthy of a big party. I'm very excited to be part of the yearlong celebration that will start on Nevada Day 2013 and last through Nevada Day 2014. During that time, there will be at least 150 signature celebrations across the state; there is even a rumor of a birthday cake to end all birthday cakes.

Follow this column—and visit nevada150.org—for details about what's coming up on the birthday calendar so you, your family, and friends can plan to attend as many events as possible. Who knows, you may discover your Nevada in a whole new way!



Lt. Gov. Brian K. Krolicki



dmv.nv.com/platescharitable.htm

Brian K. Krolicki

Lieutenant Governor
Chairman—Nevada Commission on Tourism & Nevada 150 Commission
Itgov.nv.gov

Editor's Note: For more information about Nevada 150 happenings, turn to page 10.



**PLACES COVERED
IN THIS ISSUE**

- Blair** (pg. 26)
- Bonnie Claire** (pg. 26)
- Carson City** (pgs. 6, 8, 10, 54)
- Dayton** (pg. 56)
- Elko** (pg. 8)
- Ely** (pgs. 8, 34)
- Genoa** (pgs. 44, 47, 56)
- Gold Point** (pg. 26)
- Goldfield** (pg. 26)
- Lake Tahoe** (pg. 68)
- Las Vegas** (pgs. 8, 14, 21, 22, 24, 40, 42, 68)
- Minden** (pg. 8)
- Overton** (pgs. 8, 56)
- Pahrump** (pg. 8)
- Paradise Valley** (pg. 80)
- Reno** (pgs. 38, 49, 55)
- Rhyolite** (pg. 68)
- Silver Peak** (pg. 26)
- Tuscarora** (pg. 12)
- Virginia City** (pg. 53)

Discover Your Nevada

SECOND ANNUAL NEVADA COMMISSION ON TOURISM CONTEST REVEALS SIX STATE TREASURES. THE WINNERS ARE:

Cowboy Country

The Star Hotel, Elko

Defending its state treasure title earned in the inaugural 2012 DYN contest, The Star Hotel restaurant specializes in traditional Basque cuisine. The Star Hotel first opened its doors to Nevadans and visitors in 1910 and has since been converted exclusively into a restaurant. A custom rooted in Basque culture in the American West, The Star serves up its cuisine family style, offering traditional steak and lamb dishes, soup, chorizo, and fries. elkostarhotel.com, 775-738-9925



Indian Territory

The Lost City Museum, Overton

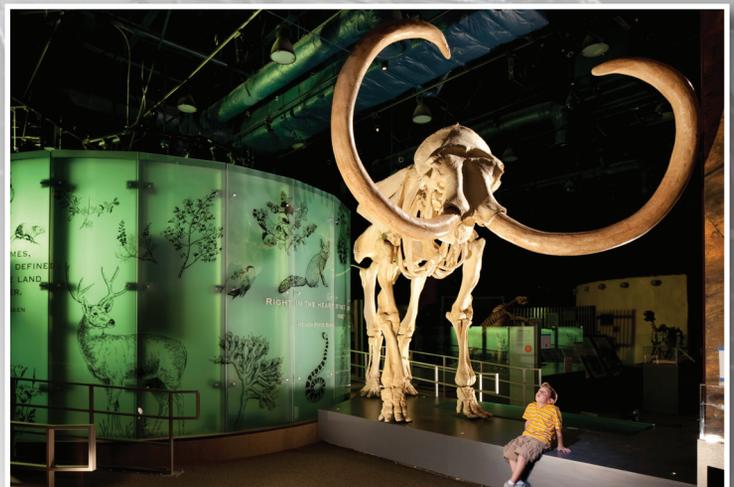
The Lost City Museum is located on a prehistoric site of the ancestral Puebloan people who first populated Southern Nevada circa 300 B.C. The National Park Service built the museum in 1935 to exhibit artifacts that were being excavated from Pueblo Grande de Nevada. Visitors can observe an excavated pit house and artifacts, reconstructed Pueblo houses, and various other exhibits, and the museum hosts several children's activities. museums.nevadaculture.org, 702-397-2193



Las Vegas Territory

Nevada State Museum, Las Vegas

The Nevada State Museum, Las Vegas, located on the Springs Preserve campus, offers an interactive experience that details Nevada history from prehistoric times through the present. The 13,000-square-foot gallery features everything from the primitive flora and fauna of the Great Basin to the atomic-testing exhibit area. The museum also contains a library and research center, educational labs, meeting spaces, and store. museums.nevadaculture.org, 702-486-5205



FROM JULY 3 TO AUGUST 2, NEVADA ENTHUSIASTS NOMINATED AND VOTED FOR THEIR FAVORITE TREASURES IN THE STATE'S SIX TOURISM TERRITORIES. FIND OUT MORE AT TRAVELNEVADA.COM/DISCOVER.



Nevada Silver Trails

Pahrump Valley Winery, Pahrump

Who would've thought that a winery built in the Mojave Desert would produce such exceptional pours? The award-winning winery features a tasting room, a tranquil rose garden with a gazebo, an outdoor stage, and an upscale, casual restaurant. Join the Pahrump Valley Winery for its annual Grape Stomp, October 5-6, and enjoy grape stomping, live music, and, of course, some delectable Nevada wines. pahrumppwinery.com, 775-751-7800



Pony Express Territory

Nevada Northern Railway, Ely

Also voted a state treasure in 2012, the Nevada Northern Railway leaves even seasoned railroad buffs with newfound knowledge. With the best-preserved short line railway in the country, the National Historic Landmark provides visitors a chance to experience the working railroad. The museum is dedicated to restoring, preserving, interpreting, and operating the historic facilities, yards, and rail collection.

nnry.com, 866-407-8326



Reno-Tahoe Territory

Dangberg Home Ranch Historic Park, Minden

Also reclaiming its 2012 title, the historic Dangberg Ranch, founded in 1857, is one of Nevada's oldest and largest ranches. The 58,000-acre ranch still holds some of the original buildings, which are in the process of being restored. The ranch is operated as a museum (appointment required), offering visitors a look at the buildings and original artifacts. The ranch frequently hosts special events, including exhibits and an outdoor concert series.

dangberghomeranch.org, 775-783-9417



◆ Heavy rain in late July forced several **Death Valley National Park** roads to close due to flood damage. Some of these roads, especially in the backcountry, may take up until September to re-open. In other news, the National Park Service recently approved a Wilderness and Backcountry Stewardship Plan for Death Valley National Park, concluding a four-year planning process. nps.gov/deva, 760-786-3200

◆ In July, the Sacramento Kings, the **Reno Bighorns**, and the NBA Development League announced that the Kings and Bighorns have entered into a single-affiliation partnership beginning with the 2013-14 NBA D-League basketball season. renobighorns.com, 775-853-8232

◆ The **Nevada Arts Council** announced its new slate of officers through 2014. Reno's Julia Arger is chair; Deon Reynolds, Eureka, is vice-chair; and Javier Trujillo, Henderson, is secretary-treasurer. Arger was reappointed in 2012 for a second four-year term. nac.nevadaculture.org, 775-687-6680

◆ Nevada's seven **state museums** expanded operating hours beginning in July. "Nevada's steady recovery continues, and I'm happy to announce that [these] museums will be returning to full-time service," Governor Brian Sandoval says. museums.nevadaculture.org, 775-687-4340

◆ **Silver Sevens Hotel & Casino** was officially introduced to Las Vegas residents and visitors in July with a lighting ceremony for its new neon signage. The property was formerly known as Terrible's Hotel & Casino. silversevencasino.com, 702-733-7000

EVENTS

Nevada 150 Rolls Out Signature Celebrations

With Nevada's big 150th-birthday bash quickly approaching, the spirit of celebration is resonating throughout the state. In October, the Nevada 150 Commission is kicking off its first round of Nevada 150 signature events.

Signature events are one-time special events that will occur only during the sesquicentennial year with the express purpose of celebrating Nevada's 150th anniversary.

Be sure to mark the following signature events on your calendar, and don't forget to check nevada150.org for more information and events.

EVENT	PLACE	DATE
Governor's Nevada Day Banquet	Reno	Oct. 24
75th Annual Nevada Day Parade	Carson City	Oct. 26
"Battle for Nevada" UNLV vs. Nevada Football Game	Reno	Oct. 26
Vegas Valley Book Festival	Las Vegas	Oct. 30-Nov. 2
Las Vegas Veterans Day Parade	Las Vegas	Nov. 11
Sparks Hometowne Christmas Parade	Sparks	Dec. 6-7



MATTHEW B. BROWN



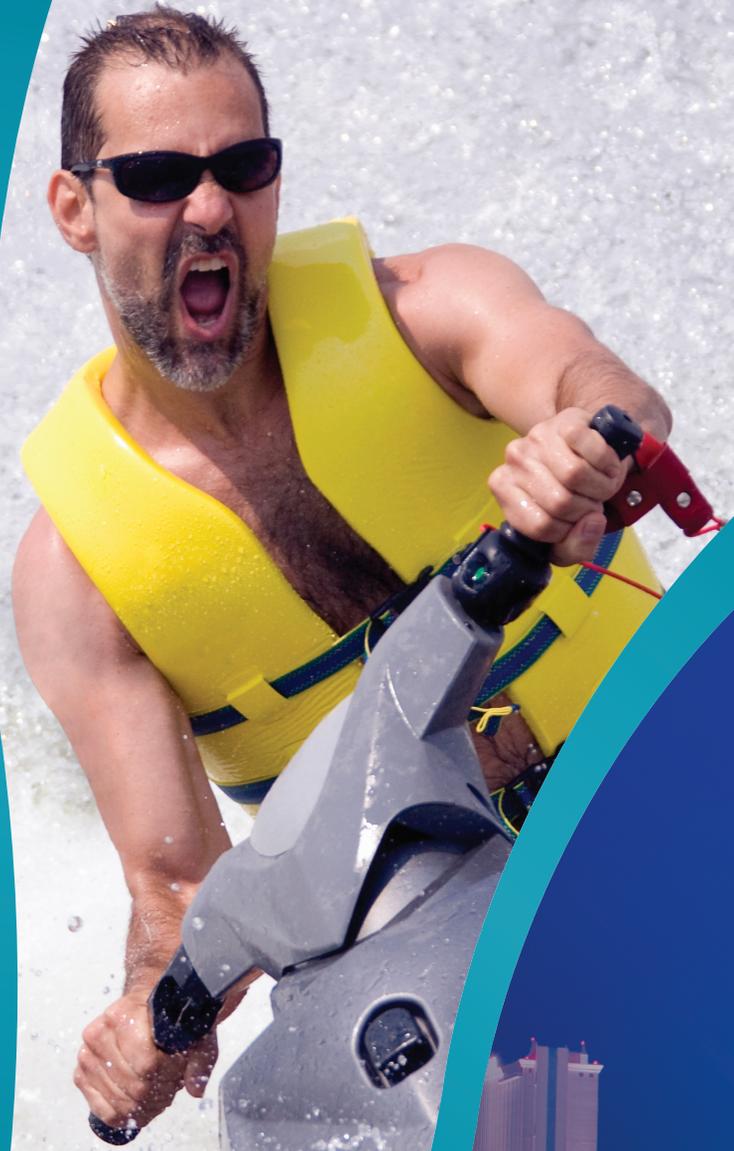
Lieutenant Governor Brian K. Krolicki (left), Governor Brian Sandoval, and Sandoval's daughter, Marisa.

Editor's Note: Refer to page 6 for more about Nevada's sesquicentennial celebration.

A NEVADA
LAKE, PASS, AND RIVER ARE NAMED
FOR 1800s EXPLORER
JOSEPH R. WALKER.
READ MORE ABOUT NEVADA'S PRE-STATEHOOD HISTORY
STARTING ON PAGE 56.

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MUSEUM

Tuscarora Unveils New Society Hall

After more than a decade of restoration work, the Tuscarora Society Hall is complete. The newly opened community center and museum celebrates the unique history of one of Nevada's lesser-known living ghost towns.

Named for a Civil War ship, Tuscarora boomed in the 1870s, producing millions of dollars worth of silver. At its peak, the northeastern Nevada town had a population of more than 3,000; today it's less than 50.

Friends of Tuscarora and Independence Valley, a nonprofit organization in charge of the restoration, set out in 2001 with the goal of raising \$20,000 in funds to purchase a historic building in Tuscarora, most recently known as Tuscarora Tavern. Once a crumbling artifact, the Society Hall has been transformed into an informative historical center.

The grand-opening celebration in July featured an exhibit called "Tuscarora and Independence Valley: Then and Now" and provided visitors with an understanding of the diverse history of the region. The exhibit featured Chinese history, fraternal organizations, ranching, schools, mining, hunting, fishing and



This 1878 structure, at one time the Tuscarora Tavern (see below), has been refurbished as the Tuscarora Society Hall.

trapping, the town cemetery, the Tuscarora Post Office, and current residents and events. Fall and winter tours of the Society Hall are



available by appointment only. 775-756-6569, elko.chamberofcommerce.me/elkochamber/mem_fstiv

Only in Ely!



Silver State Classic Challenge
September 13 - 15



PBRA Bull Riding
September 14



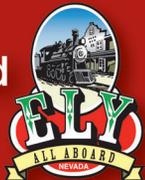
Take It to the Lake Half Marathon
September 21



Haunted Ghost Train
Saturdays in October

White Pine County Tourism & Recreation Board

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elynevada.net • travelnevada.com



3rd Annual Park to Park Pedal - Extreme 100



Saturday, October 12, 2013

LincolnCounty
Nevada.com

get primitive

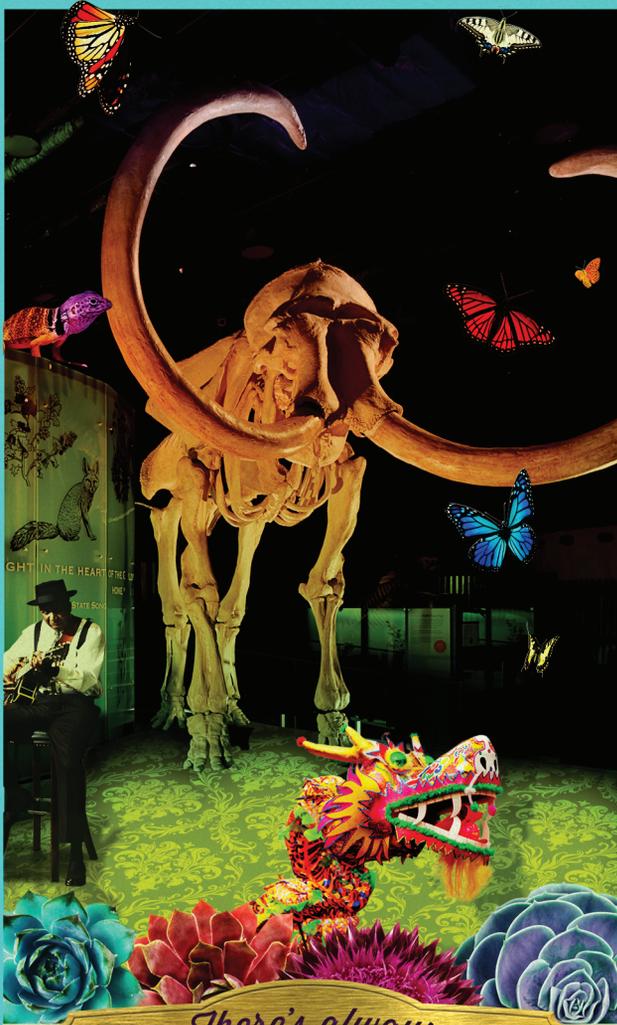


Both bike riders and fans of spectacular scenery will enjoy the 3rd Annual Park to Park Pedal - Extreme 100, in Lincoln County, Nevada. The tour winds through four Nevada State Parks: Kershaw-Ryan, Cathedral Gorge, Spring Valley and Echo Canyon. For information and registration, visit LincolnCountyNevada.com.

State Parks (775) 728-4460 Lincoln County (877) 870-3003



Don't miss the mouthwatering Dutch oven feast at Kershaw-Ryan State Park at the end of the tour. The park is situated in the northern end of beautiful Rainbow Canyon.



There's always
SOMETHING TO SEE.

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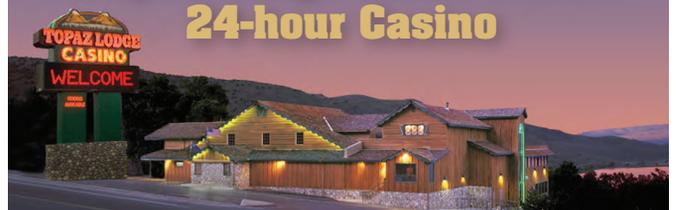


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NEVADA news

◆ The Western Nevada College Specialty Crop Institute and Nevada Grown are holding a year-long “**Savor the Season**” recipe contest. Each month, Northern Nevada residents are invited to visit [facebook.com/nevadagrown](https://www.facebook.com/nevadagrown) or nevadagrown.com to submit a favorite recipe utilizing locally grown foods.

◆ Earlier this year, the **Bureau of Reclamation’s Lower Colorado Regional Office** in Boulder City received a LEED Platinum rating from the U.S. Green Building Council. usbr.gov/lc, 702-293-8000

◆ In August, U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein (D-Calif.) introduced the **Lake Tahoe Restoration Act**, a bill to protect Lake Tahoe and the Tahoe Basin from a number of imminent threats. The legislation is co-sponsored by Senators Harry Reid (D-Nev.), Dean Heller (R-Nev.), and Barbara Boxer (D-Calif.). feinstein.senate.gov

◆ The **William N. Pennington Foundation** made a \$6 million lead donation to the proposed Student Achievement Center at the University of Nevada, Reno. The new center, set for the location of the former Getchell Library, will be a 77,064-square-foot, multi-winged facility. unr.edu, 775-784-1169

◆ **Northwest Territorial Mint** in Dayton has produced five metric tons of Silver Bullet Bullion, currently available for purchase. To clarify, the “rounds” are not real ammunition. silverbulletbullion.com, 800-344-6468



CITY LIMITS

Innovative Social Hub Will Soon Make its Debut in Downtown Las Vegas

You’ve probably seen the large metal shipping containers that are used to transport cargo, but have you ever shopped, enjoyed art, or sipped a coffee inside of one? That’s the idea behind downtown Las Vegas’ newest social center—Downtown Container Park, set to open this fall.

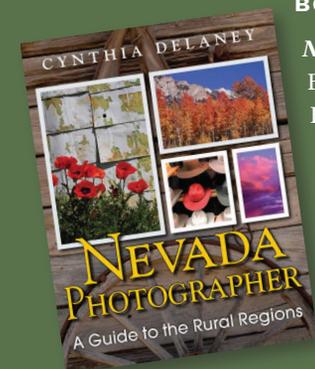
Advocates of the project hope to transform an underused, high-value urban area by installing repurposed shipping containers and locally manufactured Xtreme Cubes (used to construct buildings and storage facilities) to house small businesses. The project is aimed to provide entrepreneurs with small space to launch businesses in downtown Las Vegas.

The park will contain a mix of cafes, boutiques, bars, galleries, community space, a children’s play area, and an outdoor stage. The Container Park will also offer several dining options. There is even a 40-foot-long praying mantis figure that will sit at the entrance and occasionally shoot 12-foot flames. downtowncontainerpark.com

BOOKS

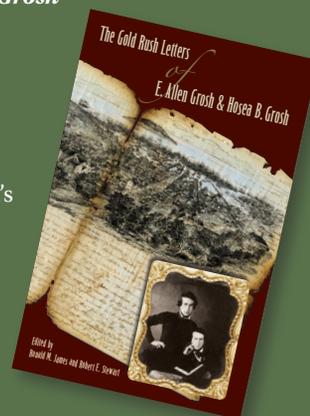
Nevada Photographer: A Guide to the Rural Regions
By Cynthia Delaney, with introduction by David Moore,
Beowawe Press, cynthiadelaney.com

This book is the ultimate read for every Nevada photographer. Inside, discover essential techniques for taking and making quality photographs, detailed expeditions for the adventurous cinematographer, historical facts about cool places in Nevada, and a resource guide with helpful tips on marketing or sharing your images.



The Gold Rush Letters of E. Allen Grosh and Hosea B. Grosh
Edited by Ronald M. James and Robert E. Stewart,
University of Nevada Press, unpress.nevada.edu,
775-784-6573

Brothers Ethan and Hosea Grosh left Pennsylvania in 1849 to join the droves of men hoping to find a fortune. The brothers’ search for wealth brought them to Nevada’s Gold Canyon, where they placer mined for gold and silver. The letters they sent back to their family offer vivid commentaries on the turbulent western frontier, the diverse society of the gold rush camps, and the heart-breaking labor and frustration of mining. The book recently received an Award of Merit from the American Association for State and Local History.



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Fall For Nevada

"My daughter came along for the adventure, as she calls my photo outings," says Herbert, who has become a mainstay in *Nevada Magazine* for her brilliant captures of Dayton and its surrounds. This joyous image of Cianna Lynn was taken on November 4, 2012 on Six Mile Canyon Road, a winding two-lane byway that connects Virginia City to the northeastern end of Dayton. "This wasn't a planned photo shoot of her," Herbert adds. "She was amazed at all the leaves and colors, so I snapped her in all her excitement. My daughter is often my sidekick and my little assistant."

The inset photo of the yellow leaf was taken at Dayton State Park, accessible via U.S. Highway 50 and just north of the Dayton city limits.

PHOTOS BY TRACY HERBERT

See more of Herbert's work by searching "Tracy Herbert Photography" at [facebook.com](https://www.facebook.com).





Smoky Horizons



Lockhart captured this ominous scene of the lightning-caused Bison Fire just before sundown on July 8. The devastating blaze scorched roughly 43 square miles in Douglas and Lyon Counties from July 4 to July 13. “Just as we crested a hill near the Walker River Resort [on State Route 208], this view presented itself,” Lockhart says. “I’m pleased to report the home in the foreground was spared. Events like this are tragic, but they are also part of nature and have a unique beauty all their own.”

PHOTO BY NEIL LOCKHART

See more of Lockhart's work at neillockhartphotography.com.



ART DIRECTOR'S CHOICE

Each issue, *Nevada Magazine's* Art Director Sean Nebeker chooses a photo from our Nevada Photographers Facebook group to be showcased on this page.

PHOTO BY NANCY GOOD

See more of Good's work at newlightfotodesign.com.

INFRARED, WHITE, & BLUE

Good snapped this infrared photograph on July Fourth when the lightning-caused Carpenter 1 Fire, which ravaged Mount Charleston, was just a few days old. The fire burned in the Spring Mountains, west of Las Vegas, practically the whole month of July, consuming nearly 30,000 acres.

"I shot this from approximately 30 miles to the southeast and even at that distance, it was obvious how powerful a fire this was becoming," Good says. "Shooting in infrared allows for the capture of even more detail of the plume and clouds, as the visible light is far different than what we can see with our own eyes—or with a traditional camera."

FIRE IN THE SKY

This image—a hazy scene created by the Carpenter 1 Fire—was taken at the northwestern-most point of Las Vegas, near Altemueller's home. "The smoke was pouring," he says, "and the sunset was very red with oranges in it. This was a bracketed shot, with one exposure underexposed, one correctly exposed, and one overexposed. I used an HDR program to blend the three together."

PHOTO BY KLAUS ALTEMUELLER



GROUP CHOICE

Each issue, our Nevada Photographers Facebook group votes for their favorite photo out of three selected by the *Nevada Magazine* production staff.



Something Grand in the Making

A reborn Lady Luck Hotel & Casino is one of many projects changing the face of downtown Las Vegas.

BY JOANNA HAUGEN

If you haven't visited downtown Las Vegas lately, it may be time to take a trip. A variety of interesting museums have either opened or received facelifts over the past year. New bike lanes and a movement toward more pedestrian-friendly spaces are making progress.

The Smith Center for the Performing Arts has turned the city into a cultural destination. Entirely new neighborhoods—complete with innovative dining opportunities, an emphasis on the arts, and a shared interest in promoting this corner of Las Vegas as a whole—are popping up all over downtown.

At one time, visitors likely would have been told to avoid anything beyond the Fremont Street Experience, but taking that advice nowadays would be a mistake. Even those things residents and travelers thought they once knew well have undergone such a transformation that they're as good as new on the Las Vegas scene.

Take the Lady Luck Hotel & Casino, for example. Having opened in the 1960s, the 650-room Lady Luck Hotel property has been anything but fortunate in recent years. In the early 2000s, it began changing hands as it passed from one com-

pany to another before shutting down completely in 2006. In February 2011, owner, CIM Group, and future operator DTG Manager Las Vegas LLC took over the development of the property, and, this October, it will reopen as Downtown Grand Las Vegas. Don't be mistaken, though: Downtown Grand may have the shell of Lady Luck, but this is much more than a simple renovation or makeover. This hotel will have a vibe, personality, and look all its own.

The building was essentially gutted to create Downtown Grand, but it doesn't resemble its previous incarnation at all. "Downtown Grand is an industrial chic hotel," says Seth Schorr, CEO of DTG Manager Las Vegas LLC, which is overseeing the redevelopment and operations of Downtown Grand, located at 206 North 3rd Street. "In terms of the design, it will have a raw industrial feel of this warehouse building that we repurposed as a casino." Exposed catwalks and ceilings juxtaposed with luxurious components create the physical foundation for what Schorr calls "an authentic and unique urban hospitality experience," and certainly something that isn't found elsewhere in Las Vegas.

Downtown Grand will have two guest towers with 650 rooms ranging in size from 350 to 1,024 square feet. The

30,000-square-foot casino will contain more than 600 slot machines, 30 table games, two private high-roller rooms, an Asian gaming room, and a race and sports book. Gamblers can even take advantage of an outdoor gaming space featuring a new game patented by Downtown Grand called Street Dice.

A rooftop pool will also be the site of PICNIC, a casual, covered dining concept that resembles a picnicking experience. “When you dine there, the food is served in picnic baskets. It’s a little bit ironic, a little bit kitschy,” Schorr says. “We believe PICNIC talks to the diverse audience of downtown.”

Right off the casino floor of Downtown Grand will be Stewart + Ogden Diner Bistro, Stewart and Ogden being two historical Nevada figures and the names of the streets between which the property is located. “The idea behind the restaurant is that Stewart and Ogden were friends and foodies. Stewart was a traditional foodie. He liked his simple food, his meat and potatoes. He liked it consistent, the same every day,” Schorr says. “His friend, Ogden, was more eccentric and liked the presentation of food. He liked to experiment with his food.” The menu reflects the dichotomy of these two gentlemen, with a selection of Stewart’s traditional meal options as well as Ogden’s choices, which are a bit more progressive, providing two distinct experiences in a single restaurant.

There will also be a Chinese restaurant on the property, in partnership with an established local restaurateur. A retail and meeting space component, called DT3R, will be 100,000 square feet and located around The Mob Museum, just down the block from the hotel. DT3R is expected to debut about 18 months after Downtown Grand opens its doors.

Perhaps one of the most unusual things about Downtown Grand is that, like many of the businesses located in downtown Las Vegas, the property is intended to be a part of the greater community. Downtown Grand is designed to be the anchor of Downtown3rd, a five-block metropolitan center that will feature 18 restaurants and bars (including some owned and operated by Fifth Street Gaming and its sister company, LEV Restaurant Group), many of which will have indoor/outdoor seating where patrons can walk up to a window to order.

This particular neighborhood also features an indoor farmers market. “It has that comfortable pedestrian feel where you can walk from bar to restaurant and is really integrated with the city,” Schorr says. All of this is within easy walking distance of the Fremont East Entertainment District and aforementioned Fremont Street Experience.

Schorr points out that in hotels in other cities around the world, the concierge is equipped with maps of the city and recommends places to eat, shop, and be entertained beyond the confines of the hotel. In Las Vegas, the opposite occurs because resort properties offer everything on site. “We’ve taken the traditional approach where we’ve integrated the property within the city,” he says. “We’re encouraging people to explore and discover what downtown Las Vegas has to offer. We’re willing to give up some revenue because we truly believe in the collaboration of downtown Las Vegas, and we believe that the guest will have a



NATALIE MILANI / MILANI PHOTOGRAPHY

Seth Schorr, CEO of DTG Manager Las Vegas LLC—future operator of Downtown Grand Las Vegas—stands amid construction of the new property slated to open in October. Downtown Grand will be the anchor of Downtown3rd (see rendering on page 22).

much more interesting story when they go home.”

For example, guests staying at Downtown Grand can easily walk to The Mob Museum, one of the many businesses and organizations that recently joined the growing downtown scene. Having opened in February 2012, The Mob Museum welcomed nearly 225,000 visitors in its first year, which executive director and CEO Jonathan Ullman says he is very happy with, given its location. However, he says, the development of Downtown Grand and other businesses throughout the area are good news for the museum’s future. “We couldn’t be more excited about the continuing development that is happening here, not the least of which is happening right across the street from us,” Ullman says. “The more this area is accessed, the better it is for everyone.”

Downtown Grand and Downtown3rd are likely to bring thousands of people within close proximity to The Mob Museum, just as visitors to The Mob Museum will be introduced to this neighborhood district. “These are exciting days for all of the downtown businesses,” Ullman says.

Downtown Grand, Downtown3rd, The Mob Museum, and the vast catalog of other businesses popping up throughout downtown Las Vegas are not just designed for the out-of-town visitor, however. “We want to provide an experience for locals,” Schorr says. “We want locals to visit Downtown3rd, but that also makes it more interesting for tourists, who now feel like they’ve discovered something the locals have signed off on.”

If you’re one of those people who haven’t made the trip to downtown Las Vegas lately, a visit—perhaps a future stay at Downtown Grand—truly is in order. “Downtown Las Vegas is continuing to change every week,” Schorr says. “It’s a combination of out with the old and in with the new while still respecting our past.”

PLAN YOUR TRIP

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downtowngrand.com



NANCY GOOD

The classic neon façade of Atomic Liquors in downtown Las Vegas fits the establishment well, considering its roots can be traced to the 1950s.

ATOMIC LIQUORS STILL ON FIRE

BY JOANNA HAUGEN

In 1945, there was a restaurant in downtown Las Vegas called Virginia's Café. Starting in the 1950s, when the nearby Nevada desert was used to test atomic bombs, patrons would flock to this café to watch the blasts from the rooftop. The owners of the restaurant cashed in on the trend in 1952 by changing their business from a café into what is now the oldest freestanding bar in Las Vegas.

Atomic Liquors was a prime spot for many of Las Vegas' famous performers, including the Rat Pack and Smothers Brothers. In 2012, the business changed hands, and, after being closed for about a year for remodeling, it reopened to the public under the new ownership of brothers Kent and Lance Johns and Derek Stonebarger. "We've kept Atomic Liquors the way it always was, but we've upgraded," Kent says.

New liquor shelving and a marble bar counter are among the cosmetic changes patrons will find when they stop by for an F-Bomb—the bar's specialty cocktail—and a swig of nostalgia. "This used to be the go-to place for entertainers, and a lot of Fremont Street closes down between 2 and 4 in the morning," Kent says. "We want to get the dealers and entertainers back down here."

Atomic Liquors is geographically central to many of the initiatives funded by the Downtown Project, the revitalization project spearheaded by Zappos' CEO Tony Hsieh. "We're part of the renaissance of downtown," Kent says. "We've got a great vibe here. Everyone who walks in loves it." ▽

BELLY UP TO THE BAR

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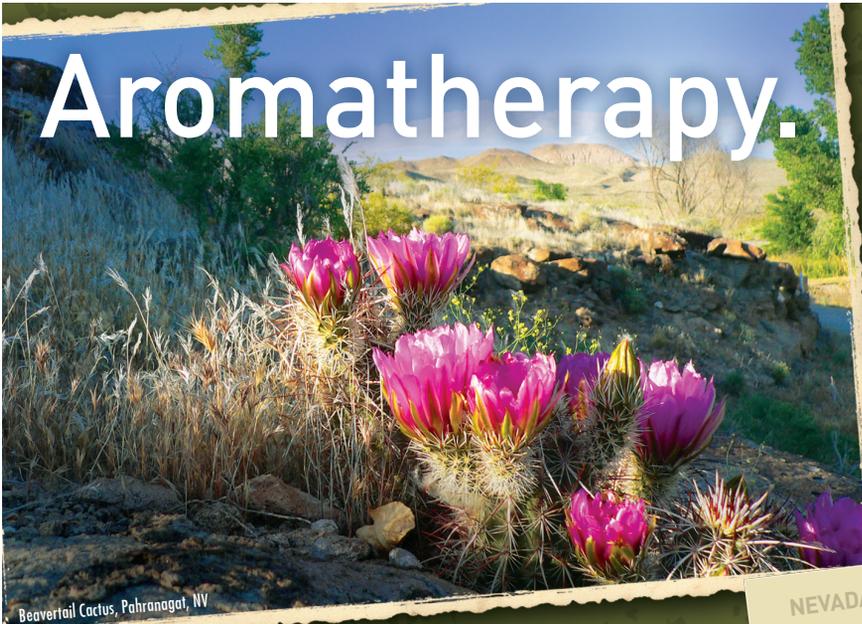
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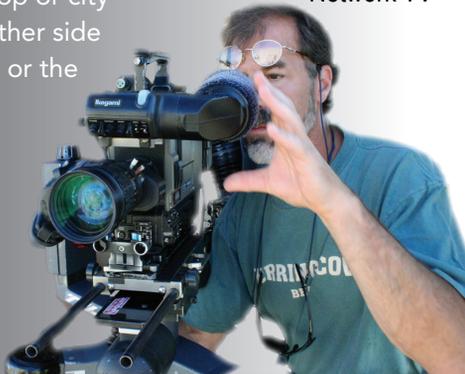
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Glorified GHOST TOWNS

A group of off-roaders find treasures in some of southwestern Nevada's most inconspicuous places.



NEIL LOCKHART

BY ERIC CACHINERO

Ghost towns. They practically hide in plain sight in our state's unbounded wilderness. The phrase ghost town intrigues the mind with its mysterious, timeworn essence. And, with Nevada claiming more than 600 of them, many of these historic landmarks beg to be explored.

An adventurous group of Toyota FJ Cruiser owners and I had the pleasure of doing just that during a June road trip in the southwestern portion of the Silver State—my first journey as associate editor of *Nevada Magazine*.



NANCY GOOD

NOT YOUR AVERAGE ROAD TRIP

The crackle of a CB radio complements the drone of my truck tires on the pavement as we make our way out of Hawthorne. As my mind becomes entranced by the lure of U.S. 95, I'm convinced highway hypnosis will soon set in. A lukewarm cup of cheap, black coffee and the vast expanses of sagebrush and rock occupy my thoughts as I scan through dull folk radio stations. Our caravan advances quickly on the desert, and I have only vague suppositions of what adventures lie ahead.

I'm touring some of southwestern Nevada's ghost towns, expecting to see not much more than a few old wooden shacks and a lifetime supply of rusty punch-top cans. Little do I know that some of these ghost towns hold an extensive history of our state—some are even considered early cornerstones of Nevada.

Las Vegas resident Nick Moody, off-road expert and ghost-town enthusiast, has invited me on this expedition. The trip consists of more than a dozen people who share Nick's love for off-roading, some making the trek from as far away as New Mexico. Having previously spent hours upon hours exploring ghost towns, Nick acts as our group organizer and leader, making sure our experience is exciting and informative.

This trip has special meaning for Nick. In December 2012, he was diagnosed with Lymphoma. In the wake of this unfortunate news, he began planning a ghost-town trip as a way to get out and bask in some soul-soothing isolation. "Everything [in Nevada] is sparse, spread out, and you have to go looking for it," Nick says. "You can travel off road for days and not see anyone."

A road sign in Silver Peak (left) gives travelers a number of different routes to several area ghost towns. Silver Peak is one of Nevada's oldest mining communities and relies on lithium mining today.

Opposite page: A time-tested structure in Blair is illuminated by a glowing Nevada sunrise.

BLAIR

The Desert Lobster Café in Mina and the ruins of abandoned Coaldale are a few of the signs of civilization before we turn on State Route 265, headed for Blair. As we continue south, anomalous soot-black cinder cones dot the desert scenery. Stone rubble appears on the horizon, and I know that we've reached our first ghost town.

Once a thriving boomtown, Blair holds a history similar to many of Nevada's ghost towns. In 1907, the Pittsburgh Silver Peak Gold Mining Company—which had originally planned to mine in Silver Peak—decided to build its mill several miles out of town because of expensive land prices. Once the mill was built, a post office and the Silver Peak Railroad followed, creating the town of Blair. In 1915, the mill closed, and five years later Blair was essentially abandoned.

Today, Blair is comprised of several stone and cement structures. Rusty combinations of artifacts and old trash speckle the surrounding area, while fragments of fine china can be found in the cracked mud floors. An old wood-burning fireplace and chimney act as the optical centerpiece amongst the walls, which, remarkably, still hold strong after nearly a century of withstanding the elements.

Atop the mill site stand several more stone structures, which provide a view of a peak in the distance with the intriguing name of Alcatraz Island. One strange, misplaced single-room building on top of the mill holds a different type of history. With almost every square inch of the wall covered in names and dates of visitors to the site, the building acts as a time capsule. The oldest account I can find scratched into the cement wall reads, simply, "Donald, Shirley, 1/25/42."

SILVER PEAK

What we at *Nevada Magazine* and others deem a "living ghost town," Silver Peak is not completely abandoned. Only a short drive south from Blair, it's one of Nevada's oldest mining communities—founded in 1864. Although the town is sparsely populated, the streets are still lined with weathered early-Nevada artifacts, including an old post office.

Silver Peak is still a mining district, only instead of silver, it is now known for a different type of element. The Chemetall Foote Lithium Operation, just east of Silver Peak, is the only mine of its kind in the country.



PHOTOS: NICK MOODY

Six Toyota FJ Cruisers and one Jeep (far right) line up for photographs in front of the historic Goldfield Hotel.

GOLDFIELD

Herds of wild horses and cattle trot across the dirt road as we continue our journey east toward Goldfield. “Why would they raise cattle all the way out here?” a voice crackles through the CB radio. “That has to be some tough beef.”

It’s true. Things do have to be tough to live in Nevada. I begin daydreaming about what these ghost towns were like in their prime more than a century ago and how Nevada’s early inhabitants must have been as tough as the cattle that now surround their rubble remains. Before I know it, we’re in another living ghost town, our first stop the Goldfield Cemetery.

I have only moments to wander amongst the headstones and begin snapping photos before I hear a car coming up the road toward the cemetery. Immediately, I know that one of Goldfield’s most well-versed historians has arrived—Virginia Ridgway.

As I approach the door to greet Virginia and offer her help out of the car, I notice her holding a bouquet of flowers. “May I hold those for you?” I ask. “Oh,” Virginia replies. “No, these are for the spirit, Elizabeth.” It is at that moment that my heart begins to race in anticipation knowing that Virginia is about to guide us through one of the most historic and haunted places in Nevada—the abandoned Goldfield Hotel.

I stand and gaze upward at the famous hotel’s eerie marvel.



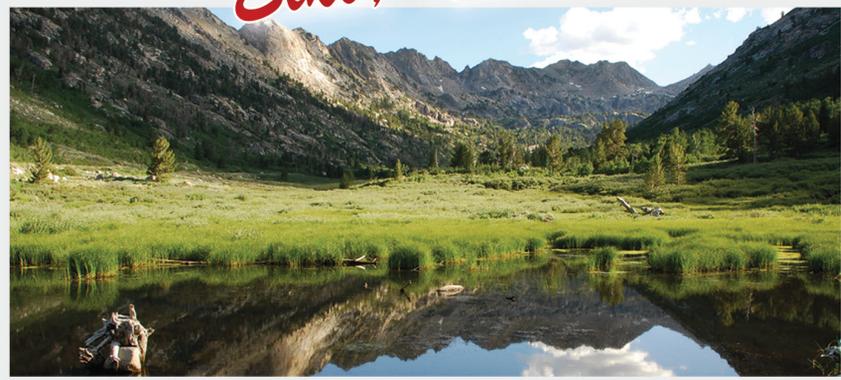
Virginia Ridgway gazes upon a gravestone as she recalls the history of Goldfield residents during its time as an early-1900s boomtown.

The towering edifice of cracking brick, granite, and hazy windows command a presence over the entire town. The boarded-up door lets out a creak as Virginia welcomes us in for a tour and detailed history of the building.

Built from 1907-08, the Goldfield Hotel was said to be the most remarkable hotel in Nevada at the time of its completion. With black leather upholstery, crystal chandeliers, a mahogany-trimmed lobby, and private baths, the hotel was a bastion of luxury during its prime. The hotel remained in use through the end of World War II, eventually falling into disrepair.

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PHOTOS: ERIC CACHINERO

The saloon at Gold Point (above) provides comforts and entertainment, including billiards, a piano, and running water. Herb Robbins (right), co-owner, cook, historian, bartender, and official fire chief, cleans dishes after a large communal breakfast served to visitors in June.

Virginia takes us room to room, showing us strangely displaced children's toys while telling the tales of the men and women who lived here...and the spirits that now haunt the hotel. After we finish the tour of the lobby, Virginia brings us to notorious Room 109, Elizabeth's room.

"Please say hello to Elizabeth, and she will give us a sign that she's here," Virginia says. As we individually greet Elizabeth, I have a chance to look around the room. As my eyes adjust to the light, I see the floor is lined with cracker-dry flowers and old teddy bears. Timeworn paint seems to be dripping down the walls, and an old cast-iron radiator sits in the corner. After spending a mere minute in the room, I understand why this place holds such a unique history.

Once the sun begins to set, we thank Virginia and continue our trek down 95. We pick up the pace knowing we have a steak-and-potato dinner waiting for us at our next stop—Gold Point.

GOLD POINT

I know what you're thinking—steak and potatoes waiting for us in a ghost town? Referred to as "the friendly ghost town," Gold Point has been restored and maintained to provide creature comforts. With all the amenities of a lodge (bathrooms, hot meals, cabins, and a bar), Gold Point creates a happy medium for ex-



plorers looking to experience a historic ghost town, and afterward sleep in a warm bed with a full belly.

After enjoying our meal I wander around Gold Point wondering how it came to be so different. An owner of a sparsely populated ghost town must wear many hats. Herb Robbins—co-owner, cook, historian, bartender, and official fire chief—came across Gold Point on a ghost town trip similar to ours. "Gold Point didn't make a lot of money in gold and silver," Herb says. "But because of the lack of people, it's stayed pretty well preserved."

The next morning, we awake to another hot meal, and then we're on our way to the Hard Luck Castle.

HARD LUCK CASTLE

Constructed in a relatively isolated area of the Nevada desert, the Hard Luck Castle is a work of art. As we approach the castle, a cylindrical central granite column is visible, decorated with forest-green roofing and an American flag blowing in the breeze.



Construction of the 8,000-square-foot Hard Luck Castle (left and above) began in 2000 and is nearing completion.

A cabin (below) rests at the Bonnie Claire mill site. The mill handled ore from three major mines all located near Gold Mountain. The original mill foundations as well as the mill frame are still standing.

Nick Moody (bottom left) stands in front of an old firetruck on the streets of Gold Point.

PHOTOS: ERIC CACHINERO, JOEL CHILDERS (BELOW)





NICK MOODY

Left: Associate Editor Eric Cachinero and fellow explorer David Stone take a moment to stretch their legs at the Coaldale Junction.

Below: A pillar sits near a non-functioning elevator with pineapple doors in the Goldfield Hotel. The Goldfield Hotel, built from 1907-08, was constructed on the site of two earlier hotels of the same name, both of which burnt down.

See map on page 7 for town locations.

The structure is impossible to miss against the customary sagebrush backdrop of the desert. Though we don't have to cross a moat, we are greeted at the castle door by two barking dogs.

The Hard Luck Mine operated from 1897 to around World War II. Because of looting, the mine could not reopen after the war. When Randy Johnston and his son sought shelter near the Hard Luck Mine during a desert snowstorm, they decided the location would be an apt area to build a legacy.

In 1998, Randy purchased the 40 acres that encompass the Hard Luck Mine and its neighboring Emerson claim, with the purpose of building his dream home. Beginning construction in 2000, Randy has since nearly completed the four-story, 8,000-square-foot castle, complete with a theater, game room, two kitchens, four bedrooms, and two grandiose pipe organs that fill the walls of the castle.

Tours of the castle are available daily from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Visitors also have the opportunity to sleep in an original miner's cabin. The cabin sleeps up to five adults—with space outside for trailers and tents—and includes a kitchen, shower, toilet, and fire ring. Visitors are encouraged to call ahead for availability and road conditions.

As we depart I have one final chance to look back before the castle disappears from view, and it's on to the final ghost town of our trip—Bonnie Claire.

BONNIE CLAIRE

Only a short distance from 95, Bonnie Claire is the quintessential ghost town. Old wooden structures falling into disrepair, abandoned mining shafts, and piles of rusty debris complete this small settlement.

Originally settled under the name Thorp, the Bonnie Claire town site was established in the early 1900s, with the post office

opening in 1905. The town went through periods of boom and bust, until it was eventually deserted, the post office closing in 1931. Later the area was revived by the construction of the Lippincott Smelter. The smelter, which processed lead ore from the Lippincott Mine until 1953, lies on the hill near the town site.

The Lippincott Smelter is closed to the public because of vandalism, but this industrial work of art can still be enjoyed from a distance.

HOME MEANS THE HILLS

With the expedition coming to a close, we hit 95 and head south to Beatty for fuel. I have one last chance to thank Nick and the group for graciously hosting me on this awesome journey. With a full tank of gas I hit the open road on my way back to Reno, not missing an opportunity to reflect on the unique history of our state, all the while knowing why home means Nevada to me. ▽

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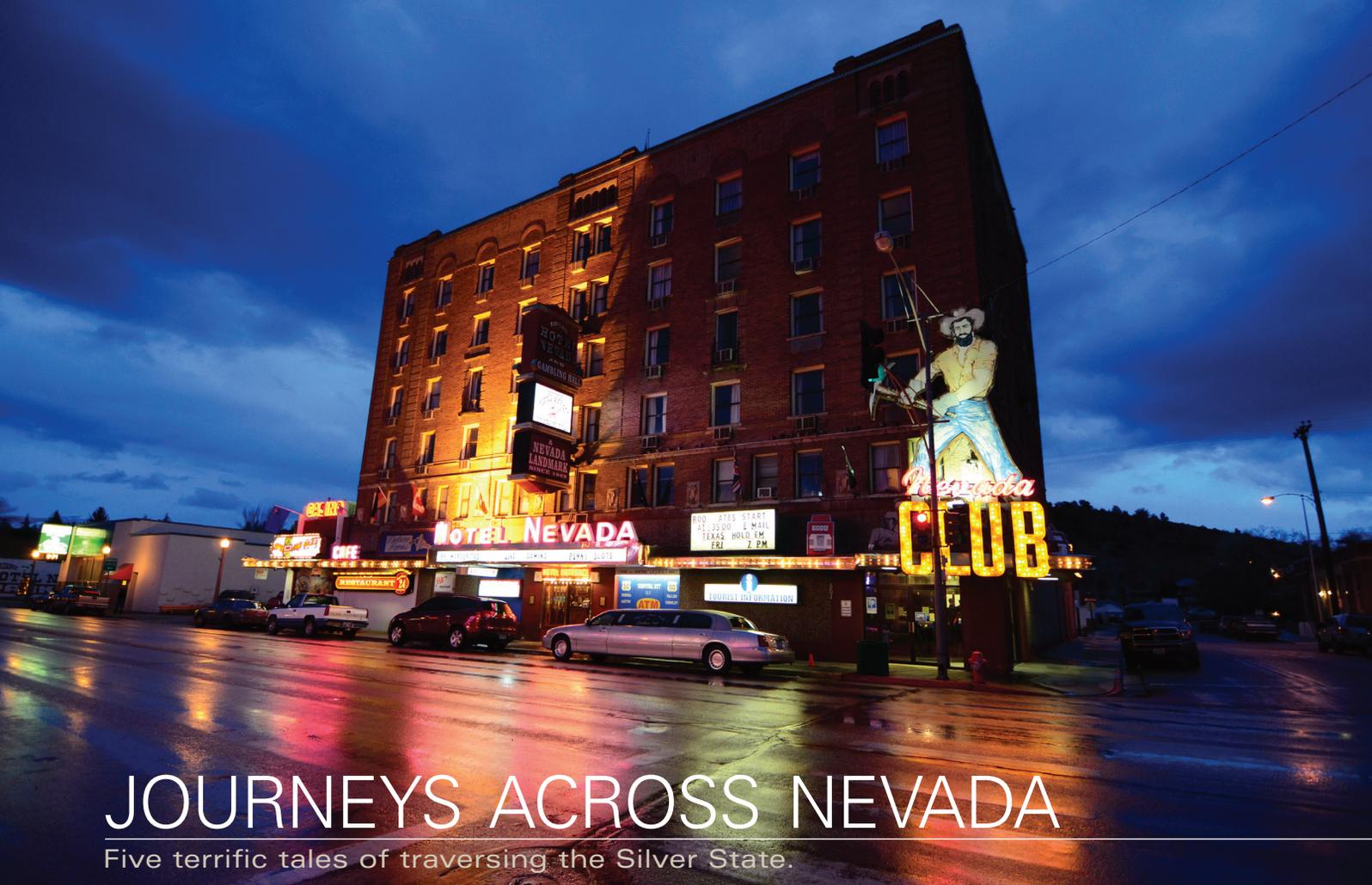
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JOURNEYS ACROSS NEVADA

Five terrific tales of traversing the Silver State.

PHOTOS: GLEN ABBOTT

BY MATTHEW B. BROWN

Whether you're an explorer, journalist, motorcyclist, horse rider—or combination thereof—there's a Silver State adventure waiting for you. Just ask these five travelers, some Nevadans and some not, who all had very different experiences (and causes) but share one thing in common: a memorable Nevada journey.

Glen Abbott of New Orleans April 2011

The impetus for Abbott's Nevada adventure was a writing assignment for *HOG*, Harley-Davidson USA's official magazine. A condensed version was published later in Canada's *Pique* magazine. Abbott picked up a Harley in L.A. and drove it east to Las Las Vegas, where his story began.

From Las Vegas, he motored west to Death Valley National Park, then turned east and visited Rhyolite, Beatty, Goldfield, Tonopah, Hawthorne, Fallon, Austin, Eureka, Ely, and Pioche. He even found time to take State Route 375—the Extraterrestrial Highway—to Rachel and the town's Little A'Le'Inn, before he circled back to Las Vegas.

"Although it was April, temperatures were near 100 degrees in Death Valley, but a few days later, riding through the middle of Nevada's high desert, I encountered snow flurries and 32-degree temps," says Abbott, who refers to himself as "The Travelin' Gringo."

U.S. Highway 50, which he calls one of his "all-time favorite motorcycle trips," left the biggest impression on Abbott. "Highway 50 truly lives up to its reputation as 'The Loneliest Road in America,' with its wide-open spaces and spectacular high-desert and mountain scenery," he adds. He also loved the western charm of Ely and its historic Hotel Nevada and Nevada Northern Railway.

WORTH A CLICK

The Travelin' Gringo
travelingringo.com



Hotel Nevada in Ely (top) and Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area (above) were two of many Nevada locales Abbott visited.

Cindy Hawks of Reno June 2013

“We left Reno on June 13, with our saddlebags bulging, motorcycle luggage strapped down, and *The Official Highway 50 Survival Guide* in our hip pockets,” says Hawks, another motorcycle enthusiast. “For the next nine days we were riding the loneliest highway [east] from Carson City to Great Basin National Park, and back again. The towns we encountered along the way were relics of the Wild West.”

What made the trip even more special for Hawks and her husband, Andy, is they were on a mission to collect seven special Pony Express Territory coffee mugs. Seven different Highway 50 communities gave the mugs away during the month of June. An eighth mug was delivered to those who collected all seven mugs. The souvenirs commemorated this year’s 100th anniversary of the original Lincoln Highway. Nevada’s Highway 50 roughly follows the original Lincoln Highway route.



WORTH A CLICK

Pony Express Territory
ponyexpressnevada.com
*Be sure to request
*The Official Highway 50
Survival Guide*

Andy and Cindy Hawks pose at their home in Lemmon Valley with their Pony Express Territory Lincoln Highway commemorative mugs.

Jeffrey Lehmann of Del Mar, California June 2013



Jeffrey Lehmann, host of the “Weekend Explorer” television series, poses inside Great Basin National Park’s Lehman Caves.

Lehmann’s Northern Nevada adventure, a “Journey Across Nevada” familiarization tour hosted by the Nevada Commission on Tourism, began in Reno and included a trip to downtown’s National Automobile Museum.

Their next stop was Naval Air Station Fallon, the Navy’s premier integrated strike warfare training facility. “This was a constant scene of motion as we watched these fighter pilots train,” says Lehmann, EMMY-winning host of the PBS “Weekend Explorer”

television series. The group also made time to tour the scenic Stillwater National Wildlife Refuge, near Fallon.

Day two of the tour took them to Eureka, which they reached via a long ride on The Loneliest Road in America, U.S. Highway 50. Lehmann and the others explored the Eureka Opera House, Eureka Courthouse, and Eureka Sentinel Museum. “We kept seeing classic cars from the 1950s in what must have been a car club rally,” Lehmann says.

The next stop was Great Basin National Park, including a tour of Lehman Caves. “The formations were beautiful, and this was a great cave to explore,” he says. The group finished its day in Ely with a ride on the Nevada Northern Railway. Lehmann adds, “The train ride was great, but the behind-the-scenes tour of the repair shop was fascinating.” The mayor of Ely, Jon Hickman, was the guest of honor at dinner, served at the All Aboard Cafe & Inn.

Day three included a morning visit to Ward Charcoal Ovens State Historic Park and an afternoon hike into Cathedral Gorge State Park. “This was like a pint-sized Grand Canyon,” Lehmann says. “It was nice to escape the heat for a few minutes in the naturally cool slot caves.” The day ended with a tasty Dutch oven cookout hosted by park rangers.

WORTH A CLICK

Weekend Explorer
weekendexplorer.com

Rich Moreno of Macomb, Illinois July 2013



If you're a longtime reader of *Nevada Magazine*, you might recognize the name Rich Moreno. Moreno left the magazine, where he worked for 14 years, in late 2006 to pursue his current job at Western Illinois University. But his ties to Nevada remain strong. He recently authored *A Short History of Carson City*, and he has several entries about traveling the Silver State on his blog, *Backyard Traveler*.

Moreno was thrilled to return to the Silver State via a road trip on U.S. Highway 50, while

on assignment for AAA Southern California's *Westways* magazine. "The story will be a kind of natural-history tour of the region, using my science-teacher wife as the hook," Moreno says.

Day one (July 1) of Moreno's journey included a jam-packed itinerary: visits to Soda Lake, Stillwater National Wildlife Refuge, Grimes Point, Hidden Cave, and Sand Mountain. Moreno and his wife and daughter stayed the night in Austin.

The next morning, the Morenos headed to Spencer Hot Springs in the Big Smoky Valley before checking out the petroglyphs at Hickison Summit and continuing on to Eureka, where they spent the afternoon and toured the historic Eureka Courthouse. They drove that evening to Ely, where they spent the night.

The following day, the Morenos rode the train at Nevada Northern Railway prior to a tour of Great Basin National Park's Lehman Caves. Day three concluded with a stay at Baker's Border Inn. Their final day in Nevada—July Fourth—was highlighted by a scenic drive in Great Basin National Park to the base of Wheeler Peak and a hike to the ancient Bristlecone pines and the glacial cirque.



RICH MORENO

Rich Moreno and his daughter, Julia (above), enjoy a train ride at Nevada Northern Railway. Moreno's wife, Pam (top right), examines an ancient Bristlecone pine at Great Basin National Park.

WORTH A CLICK

Backyard Traveler
backyardtraveler.blogspot.com

Samantha Szesciorka of Reno May & June 2013



You might recognize the name, and face, of Samantha Szesciorka from our May/June 2013 issue. That was before she embarked on a nearly 500-mile journey across Nevada riding her adopted mustang, Sage. The purpose of her trek on the American Discovery Trail, which Szesciorka chronicled on her Facebook page, facebook.com/nevadadiscoveryride, was to promote wild-horse adoption. In total, she raised \$1,530 for the Wild Horse Preservation League.

"We started on the Utah border [on May 25] and traveled across the middle of Nevada, up and over 14 mountain ranges and across every valley in between," Szesciorka says of her back-country endurance ride. She began riding each day at 6 a.m. to beat the heat and averaged about 20 miles per day. She arrived in Reno on June 23 to an ovation from a group of supporters who had followed her ride and wanted to witness her triumphant return to civilization.

The ride was life changing in more ways than one. On day four, Szesciorka's boyfriend, Ryan, asked her to marry him. The good news for Ryan: She said yes. The bad news: She lost the ring. The trail had its share of hardships: aggressive wild horses, bad directions, rattlesnakes, thunderstorms, and ticks all reared their ugly heads. At more than 10,000 feet, Ophir Summit in the Toiyabe Range was the most difficult portion of trail. "It was an amazing feeling of accomplishment when we reached the top," she says.

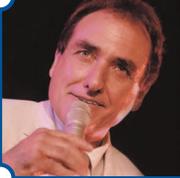
The trail had its beautiful moments, too. "A wonderful rancher in the Big Smoky Valley invited us to stay for the night," Szesciorka adds. "He and his wife treated us to good food, good conversation, and even some live music." The ranchers' names are Oz and Lorinda Wichman. She also spoke highly of a group of friendly park staff at Berlin-Ichthyosaur State Park.

WORTH A CLICK

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1864 Tavern

The Nevada pride flows—literally and figuratively—inside new California Avenue saloon in Reno.

BY MATTHEW B. BROWN

As Nevada preps for its sesquicentennial celebration of 2014, 1864 Tavern in Reno couldn't have come at a more appropriate time. "We just really take pride in our state," says co-owner Shawn Plunket, "and we wanted to have a venue that celebrates that. Not only our state, but our community."

An homage to the year that Nevada was granted statehood, the classy new establishment on California Avenue is marked by its clean, open Victorian décor and serves up tasty libations that exude Silver State pride such as the Nevada Fix and the Gold Rush. The combination of history and enthusiasm for the Battle Born State works well. Plunket and his business partner, Kevin Walen, went so far as to create a replica mine shaft in one part of the building.

During the grand opening in late May, Walen explained how the old-saloon concept was derived. "We just didn't want your average, everyday bar," Walen said. He, like Plunket, is a master sergeant who has served the U.S. in Iraq and Afghanistan as a Nevada Air National Guard C-130 Flight Engineer. "Traveling back and forth to the desert we stopped in a lot of European towns, and we got to see some of these really cool, old bars that had been around [forever]...but they still had a modern feel to them. That's how we came up with this idea of 1864—and to show off Nevada as much as we could."

A weathered crate labeled "JAMES-CANYON RANCH GENOA

NEV" is fastened to the wall behind the bar, and black-and-white photos of historical Nevada figures are scattered about. Keeping with the 1864 theme, patrons can grab a seat in the Lincoln Booth, the wall of which includes an iconic portrait of the famous president who was instrumental in admitting Nevada into the Union during the Civil War. "Always sit with your back to the wall in [that] booth," Walen jokes.

We were elated to learn of a *Nevada Magazine* connection as well. Our 2012 Great Nevada Picture Hunt photo contest Grand Prize winner, Kristoffer Pfallmer of Reno, has his phenomenal photography displayed throughout the venue. Many of Pfallmer's photos are aerials—that's because, as a traditional guardsmen navigator for the Nevada Air National Guard, he sees the state from a vantage not many get to (see page 77). That's also how he befriended Plunket and Walen.

The tavern is not just about celebrating Nevada, or serving thirsty patrons; there's a greater cause at work here. In addition to supporting other local businesses, Plunket and Walen hope to assist in building a playground for children who attend Reno's Marvin Picollo Elementary School, established in 1974 to serve students with mental and physical challenges. To renovate the playground with the necessary special-needs equipment, it will cost about \$75,000. The guardsmen are helping by donating a portion of their revenues from 1864 Tavern.

Much like their successful military careers, the men hope 1864 Tavern takes off as well.

A TASTE OF NEVADA

Spring Creek

- 2 oz. Russian Standard Vodka
- 1 oz. fresh grapefruit juice
- 3/4 oz. fresh honey
- 1/2 oz. lime juice

Shake, and strain over crushed ice in a glass. Add a "snow cone" to the top, and garnish with a grapefruit slice.

Picon Punch

- 1 oz. Torani Amer
- 3/4 oz. grenadine
- 1/2 oz. Christian Brothers Brandy
- Splash of soda water
- Garnish with a lemon slice.



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The new 1864 Tavern on Reno's California Avenue takes its name—a tribute to the year Nevada became a state—seriously. On the wall behind the bar (opposite page, left) hang pictures of historical and modern Nevada. Co-owners, and occasional bartenders, Kevin Walen (opposite page, right) and Shawn Plunket (inset) opened the establishment in May. ▽

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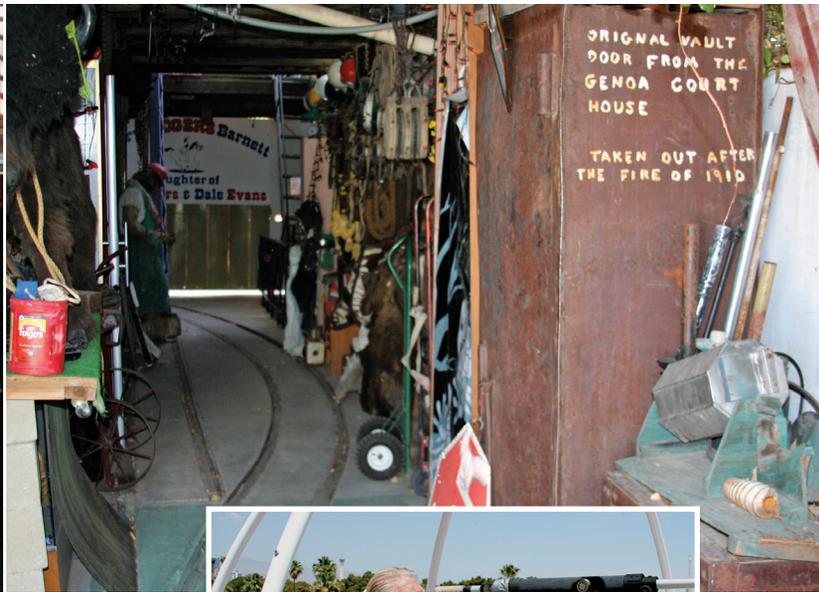


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HAMMAR TIME

Former lieutenant governor displays his eclectic collection of Nevada memorabilia.

BY ERIC CACHINERO

Surrounded by a life-size Tyrannosaurus Rex skeleton, the original vault from the Genoa Courthouse (removed after a fire decimated the town in 1910), and a miniature replica of the Apollo Space Shuttle, Lonnie Hammargren thoroughly enjoys playing tunes on his piano.

Technically his instrument now, the jewel-encrusted white piano originally belonged to famous musician and vocalist Liberace. The piano shares a home with Evel Knievel's former motorcycle, a giant model of the Statue of Liberty's hand and torch, and a seemingly endless treasure trove of peculiar knick-knacks and relics.

According to this retired politician, neurosurgeon, and honorary consul for Belize, he has been working tirelessly to protect "what's left of Las Vegas," he says. Hammargren and his wife, Sandy, moved to their Las Vegas residence in 1971. Their collection of memorabilia grew until the original building was filled and needed to expand into two more homes. The couple now shares a 14,000-square-foot, three-story-high complex connected by bridges, tunnels, and a functioning railroad.

Referred to by three titles (Castillo del Sol, the Hammargren Home of Nevada History, or the Principality of Paradise), the place resembles a museum more than a home. It's filled wall to wall with objects Hammargren has gathered from across the globe. His collection contains many unique pieces of Nevada history, including various signs from now-closed Vegas casinos,

the rollercoaster that used to sit atop the Stratosphere, and the aforementioned Genoa Courthouse vault.

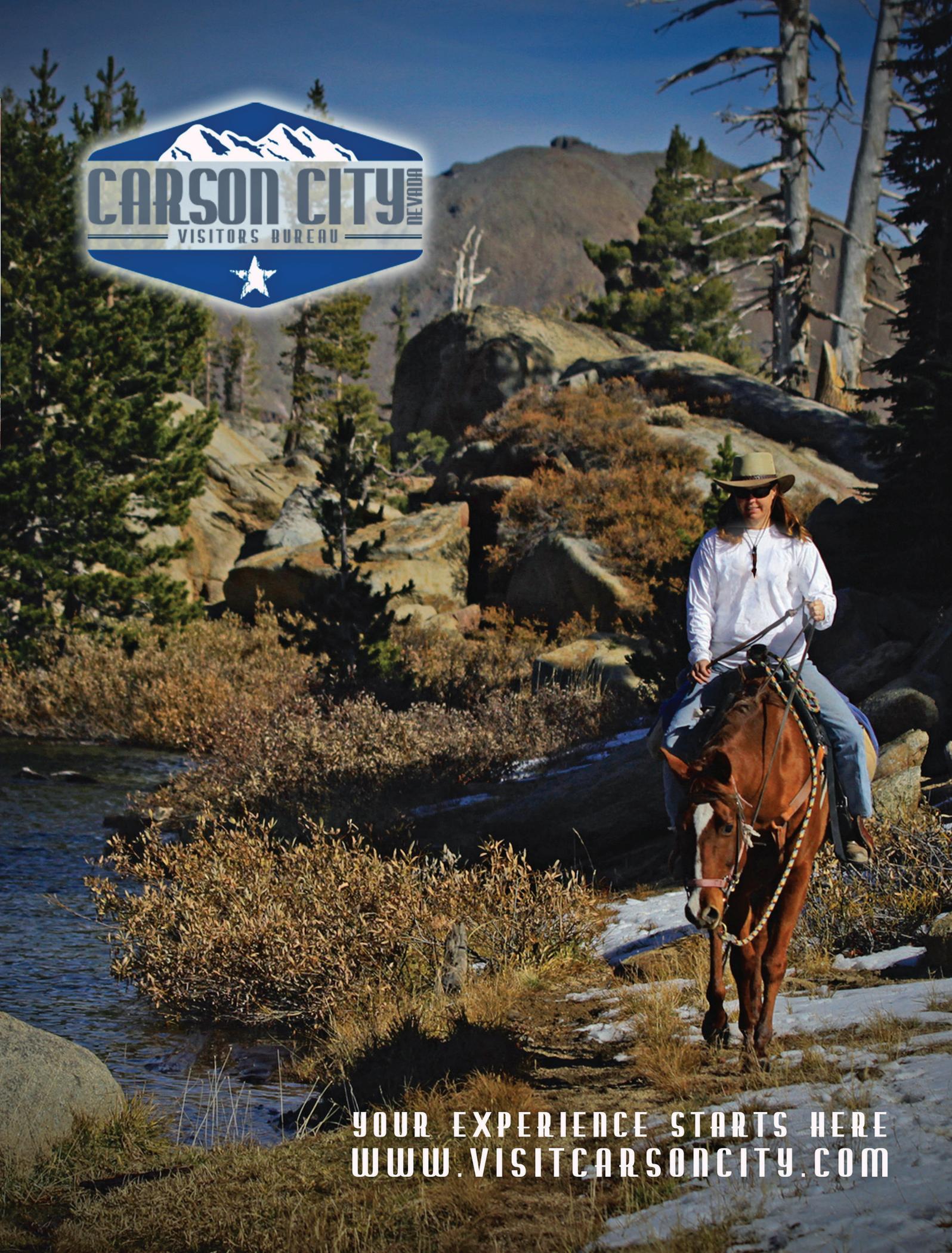
As a seasoned jack-of-all-trades, Hammargren has expertise in everything from state government to aerospace medicine for NASA. When he arrived in Nevada in 1971, he was one of only two licensed neurosurgeons in the state and has since completed thousands of operations. Spending much of his career as a boxing surgeon, Hammargren says he has operated on more boxers than anyone in the world. From 1988 to 1994, Hammargren served as a member of the Nevada System of Higher Education's Board of Regents. Soon thereafter, he was elected lieutenant governor of Nevada, serving from 1995-99.

If Hammargren's already impressive résumé wasn't enough, he is also an avid astronomer, and if you ever get the chance to venture inside the central tower of his music room, you will find his massive telescope—one of the largest in Nevada.

WORTH A CLICK 
nevadadays.org

Each year on Nevada Day, Hammargren opens up his one-of-a-kind abode for public tours, giving attendees a chance to see many would-be-forgotten Nevada relics. If you're interested in a private tour of Hammargren's property, call **702-451-8444** or e-mail him at hammarman@cox.net. 

Clockwise from top left: Lonnie Hammargren poses next to his Evel Knievel memorabilia. The original vault (not just the door) from the Genoa Courthouse. Hammargren peers through a modified telescope.



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"THE D* WORD" —A MUSICAL

NEW VEGAS SHOW COVERS THE "JOYS" OF BEING
*DITCHED, DUMPED, DIVORCED, AND DATING.



WHERE

LVH (Las Vegas Hotel & Casino)

WHEN

Showtime: Wed.-Mon., 8:30 p.m.

TICKETS

thelvh.com, 800-222-5361

Starting at \$39

WORTH A CLICK

thewordmusical.com

ALSO AT LVH

SHOWS

- Creedence Clearwater Revisited, Sept. 14
- "Comedy After Dark," dark Mon. & Tues.
- "The King," starring Trent Carlini (shown below), dark Tue.
- "Raiding the Rock Vault," nightly

If you've ever experienced some of life's more-challenging relationship twists, "The D* Word" will provide some comic relief. "The D* Word," Las Vegas' hilarious new musical, celebrates being ditched, dumped, divorced, and the ups and downs of dating.

The 90-minute show, now playing at LVH, features four single women who rely on the aid of friendship, martinis, and "mojo makeovers" to survive their relationships—or lack thereof. The musical features classic relationship-themed songs including Gloria Gaynor's "I Will Survive," Carrie Underwood's "Before He Cheats," and Kelly Clarkson's "Stronger."

Writer and producer of "The D* Word," Jeanie Linders, is not an amateur when it comes to crafting comedic musicals. As the creator of the hit "Menopause The Musical," Linders' new musical promises to keep the audience in stitches, even providing attendees with a complimentary shot glass.

"The D*Word has been described as 'Sex and the City' meets 'Mamma Mia,'" Linders says, "and has the appeal of being able to laugh out loud with your friends no matter your current D word."

The musical is held in the 350-seat Shimmer Cabaret, providing an intimate setting for the off-Broadway production.



FOR EVEN MORE EVENTS, DOWNLOAD

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las vegas shows



DON'T MISS

STREET DRUM CORPS

Hard Rock Hotel
Sept. 28 & Oct. 19
hardrockhotel.com, 866-946-5336

Throughout its nine-year stint, Street Drum Corps has captivated audiences with its percussive performances. The show features the 10 members of Street Drum Corps performing a number of instrumental drumming and vocal numbers. The innovative group plays mainly on instruments made of recycled appliances, pounding on everything from oil drums to washing machines.

The show is known for its surprise guest appearances, which include some of the biggest names in rock 'n' roll. Tommy Lee of Mötley Crüe, Adrian Young of No Doubt, and Stephen Perkins of Jane's Addiction have made cameos at Street Drum Corps' shows. One of the group's recent performances featured Jose Pasillas of Incubus and Deryck Whibley of Sum 41.

Showtime: 10 p.m.

ALSO AT HARD ROCK HOTEL

Volbeat, Sept. 4
Shinedown, Sept. 15
Mötley Crüe, Sept. 18, 20-22, 25,
27-29 & Oct. 2, 4-6
Pet Shop Boys, Oct. 11



NEW OR RELOCATED

LOUIE ANDERSON

Plaza Hotel & Casino
Thru Oct. 12
plazahotelcasino.com, 702-386-2507

SPANK!

Golden Nugget Las Vegas
Oct. 18 thru Nov. 9
goldennugget.com, 702-385-7111

SHOWS OF INTEREST

JERRY SEINFELD

The Colosseum at Caesars Palace
Sept. 6-7
thecolosseum.com, 866-227-5938

THE WIZARD OF OZ

The Smith Center for the
Performing Arts
Sept. 10-15
thesmithcenter.com, 702-749-2012

ELTON JOHN

The Colosseum at Caesars Palace
Sept. 18-19, 21, 24-25, 27-28
& Oct. 1-2, 5-6, 9-10, 12
thecolosseum.com, 866-227-5938

KID ROCK

The D Las Vegas
Sept. 28
thed.com, 702-388-2400

CHAR MARGOLIS

The Flamingo
Oct. 5
flamingolasvegas.com, 702-777-2782

A CHOREOGRAPHER'S SHOWCASE

Nevada Ballet Theatre
Oct. 6 & 13
nevadaballet.org, 702-243-2623

SHANIA TWAIN

The Colosseum at Caesars Palace
Oct. 15-16, 18-19, 23-24, 26-27, 29-20
thecolosseum.com, 866-227-5938

LIFE IS BEAUTIFUL FESTIVAL

Downtown Las Vegas
Oct. 26-27
lifeisbeautifulfestival.com

NEWS

- In honor of Brazilian Independence Day, singing sensation **Zeca Pagodinho** is performing inside the Encore Theater at Wynn Las Vegas on September 7. Pagodinho's performance takes showgoers on a journey through his greatest hits and samba classics from his new DVD "Zeca Pagodinho—30 anos—Vida que Segue." wynnlasvegas.com
- One of the true pioneers of MMA, King of the Cage, has announced the creation of a new hard-hitting event. **The World Amateur Championships**, October 19, brings 40 of the toughest amateur fighters from around the globe to the Pearl Concert Theater inside Palms Casino Resort. Fighters are competing for a chance at a professional contract worth \$250,000. palms.com

CANDY DANCE

TIME-HONORED FESTIVAL RETURNS TO GENOA FOR ITS 93RD YEAR.

September 28-29 marks the 93rd year the Town of Genoa will host its annual Candy Dance Arts and Crafts Faire. This year's theme, Bonanza Extravaganza, celebrates Nevada's upcoming sesquicentennial. With more than 300 craft and food vendors, Candy Dance attracts thousands of visitors each year with plenty of activities including the signature dinner-dance, which holds a unique history.

Originating in 1919 as an effort to raise money to purchase streetlights for the small community of Genoa, Lillian Virgin Finnegan, daughter of then Judge Daniel Webster Virgin, suggested the idea of a fundraiser dance in which candy would be passed around to increase turnout. The event managed to raise the required funds for the streetlights; however, a town electrical bill resulted from the newfound luxury. The solution—candymakers were called upon each year to help promote the Candy Dance to pay for a year's worth of electricity bills. The Arts and Crafts Faire was added in the 1970s, before it became a two-day event.

The highlight of the annual event is the Saturday night dinner-dance. Tickets are \$28 for adults and \$20 for children 12 and younger and include an all-you-can-eat dinner catered by Carson City Barbecue. If attendees want to attend the dance only, tickets can be purchased for \$20 for both adults and children. The Michael Fender Show is furnishing the tunes. Doors to the dance open at 4:30 p.m., with dinner being served from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Tickets can be purchased at the Genoa Town Office or by calling 775-782-8696. Jackpot VIP tickets cost \$50 per person and include VIP dinner seating, premier wines, a souvenir wine glass, and a commemorative poster. ▾



ALSO IN GENOA Sweet Sippin' Sundays

September 1 & October 6

On the first Sunday of the month, May through October, Genoa hosts its Sweet Sippin' Sundays event, which raises money for several different local charities. The event features live music, prizes, sweets, and some delectable cocktails for attendees to sample. \$12 gets you a keepsake glass and a Sweet Sippin' passport that allows attendees to access vendors.

Each month has a different theme. September's is tequila, which of course means margaritas. The event is September 1, with all proceeds going to the Gardnerville and Scarselli elementary schools. Vodka is the theme for October 6, with all proceeds being donated to the Greater Genoa Business Association.

Concerts on the Green

September 8

Bring a picnic and a blanket to Genoa Park and enjoy an evening of free music. The event begins at 4 p.m. and features cowboy and folk band Old West Trio.

Halloween Party and Hayride

October 31

Genoa residents have the opportunity to celebrate Halloween during the annual Halloween Party and Hayride. Dinner, drinks, and treats are provided for attendees. Children can enjoy a pumpkin-decorating contest, and the hayride begins at 5 p.m. outside Genoa Town Hall.

PLAN YOUR TRIP

Genoa Town Office
P.O. Box 14, Genoa, NV 89411
genoanevada.org
775-782-8696

10th Anniversary

Pumpkin Patch, Harvest Festival & Events Area at The Corley Ranch

Open:
September 28 & 29 and every weekend in October 11am-5pm

Admission:
\$6 Adults
\$5 Seniors & Kids ages 3-17
Kids 2 & under are free!

For coupons visit:
corleyranch.com



859 Highway 395 South
Gardnerville, Nevada
(775) 721-1047
corleyranch.com

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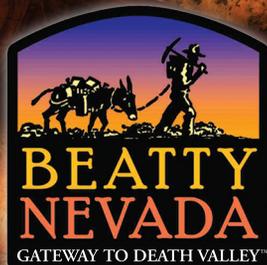
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Shootouts and Historical Reenactments, Antique Engine Display and
a lot more entertainment for the whole family. **So come on out for
some friendly folk, great food and old-fashioned small-town fun!**

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EVENTS

CARS, STARS, & GUITARS

Bicentennial Park, Boulder City
Sept. 6-7
carsstarsguitars.com, 702-259-1975

LAS VEGAS ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY STAR PARTY

Cathedral Gorge State Park
Sept. 6-7
parks.nv.gov, 775-728-4460

INTERNATIONAL CAMEL RACES

Virginia City
Sept. 6-8
visitvirginiacitynv.com, 775-847-7500

THE GREAT RENO BALLOON RACE

Rancho San Rafael Regional Park, Reno
Sept. 6-8
renoballoon.com, 775-826-1181

NIGHT HIKE

Fort Churchill State Historic Park
Sept. 7
parks.nv.gov, 775-577-4880

RANCH OWNERS DAY

Spring Mountain Ranch State Park
Sept. 7
parks.nv.gov, 702-875-4141

SCORPION HUNT & NIGHT HIKE

Pahranagat National Wildlife Refuge
Sept. 7
fws.gov/refuge/pahranagat,
775-725-3417 x.303

TOUR DE TAHOE

Lake Tahoe
Sept. 8
bikethewest.com, 800-565-2704

WORLD HUMAN POWERED SPEED CHALLENGE

Battle Mountain
Sept. 9-14
recumbents.com

NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP AIR RACES

Reno-Stead Airport
Sept. 11-15
airrace.org, 775-972-6663

PROSPECTORS DREAM WINE WALK

Austin
Sept. 14
austinnevada.org, 775-964-2200

SCORPION HUNT & NIGHT HIKE

Moapa Valley National Wildlife Refuge
Sept. 14
fws.gov/refuge/pahranagat,
775-725-3417 x.303

TRACTORS & TRUFFLES

Fallon
Sept. 14
visitfallonnevada.com, 775-423-4556

EDIBLE PEDAL 100

Reno
Sept. 15
ediblepedal100.org, 775-393-9158

FULL MOON HIKE

Fort Churchill State Historic Park
Sept. 19 & Oct. 18
parks.nv.gov, 775-577-4880

FULL MOON HIKE TO ASH GROVE

Spring Mountain Ranch State Park
Sept. 19 & Oct. 20
parks.nv.gov, 702-875-4141

FULL MOON HIKE TO SANDSTONE CANYON

Spring Mountain Ranch State Park
Sept. 20 & Oct. 18
parks.nv.gov, 702-875-4141

DUTCH OVEN COOK-OFF

Cathedral Gorge State Park
Sept. 21
parks.nv.gov, 775-728-4460

GHOST WALK

Carson City
Sept. 21
visitcarsoncity.com, 775-782-8145

JUST DESSERTS

Safe Haven Rescue Zoo fundraiser
at Art Source-Art Gallery, Reno
Sept. 21
safehavenwildlife.com, 775-538-7093

PIONEER DAY

Spring Mountain Ranch State Park
Sept. 21
parks.nv.gov, 702-875-4141

DAYTON VALLEY DAYS

Dayton
Sept. 21-22
daytonchamber.org, 775-249-7909

STREET VIBRATIONS FALL RALLY

Reno
Sept. 25-29
roadshowsreno.com, 775-329-7469

RUBY MOUNTAIN HOT AIR BALLOON FESTIVAL

Elko area
Sept. 26-29
rubymountainballoonfestival.com,
775-744-2732

SUPER RUN CLASSIC CAR SHOW

Henderson Events Plaza, Henderson
Sept. 26-29
hendersonlive.com, 702-267-2171

GREEK FOOD FESTIVAL

St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox
Church, Las Vegas
Sept. 27-29
lasvegaskgreekfestival.com, 702-221-8245

RYE PATCH NUGGET SHOOT

Rye Patch State Recreation Area
Sept. 28
parks.nv.gov, 775-684-2770

PAHRUMP WILD WEST EXTRAVAGANZA

Petrack Park, Pahrump
Oct. 4-6
pahrupmwildwest.com, 775-209-6731

HAUNTED GHOST TRAINS

Nevada Northern Railway, Ely
Oct. 5, 12, 19, & 25-26
nnry.com, 775-289-2085

CELTIC CELEBRATION

Reno
Oct. 5-6
renoceltic.org

CIVIL WAR VOLUNTEERS

LIVING HISTORY DEMONSTRATION
Fort Churchill State Historic Park
Oct. 5-6
parks.nv.gov, 775-577-4880

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP OUTHOUSE RACES

Virginia City
Oct. 5-6
visitvirginiacitynv.com, 775-847-7500

PARK TO PARK PEDAL—EXTREME NEVADA 100

Lincoln County
Oct. 12
parks.nv.gov, 775-728-4460

TIGER DASH 5K RUN/WALK

Safe Haven Rescue Zoo, near Imlay
Oct. 12
safehavenwildlife.com, 775-538-7093

GREEN LIVING FESTIVAL

ENVIRONMENTALLY CONSCIOUS FESTIVAL ENTERS ITS SEVENTH YEAR.

On September 21, join the Sustainable Living and Renewable Energy Roundup during the seventh annual Green Living Festival. The festival is held at The Nature Conservancy's 800-acre River Fork Ranch in Carson Valley and features a day filled with activities that focus on sustainable practices, renewable energy, and environmental responsibility.

Attendees of all ages can enjoy informative workshops and exhibits (greenhouse construction, utility-bill reduction, geothermal heating and cooling) and hike to search for monarch butterflies. There is also an interactive Discovery Center designed to teach children about alternative and renewable energy. Children can spend the day making smoothies using a blender powered by a bicycle, baking cookies in solar ovens, and learning about gardening from seasoned gardeners and the Great Basin Outdoor School.

The free event runs from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

PLAN YOUR TRIP

WHERE

River Fork Ranch, Genoa

WHEN

Sept. 21

INFO

greenlivingfest.org



JIM HECK

REDRUN

Virginia City

Oct. 12

visitvirginiacitynv.com, 775-847-7500

GREAT ELDORADO ITALIAN FESTIVAL

Eldorado, Reno

Oct. 12-13

eldoradoreno.com, 775-786-5700

LAUGHLIN INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

Laughlin

Oct. 17-20

laughlinfilmfestival.com, 951-204-5700

GOLD BUTTE DAYS FESTIVAL

Mesquite

Oct. 18-19

goldbuttedaysfestival.com, 702-346-2902

HALLOWEEN SPOOKTACULAR

Spring Mountain Ranch State Park

Oct. 19

parks.nv.gov, 702-875-4141

RIDE THE REZ

Pyramid Lake Indian Reservation

Oct. 19

tpbikeway.org, 775-825-9868

BEATTY DAYS

Beatty

Oct. 25-27

beattynevada.org, 775-553-2424

CIVIL WAR REENACTMENT

Spring Mountain Ranch State Park

Oct. 26-27

parks.nv.gov, 702-875-4141

PUMPKINS IN THE PARK

Kershaw-Ryan State Park

Oct. 27

parks.nv.gov, 775-726-3564

SHOWS

"GREASE"

Eldorado, Reno

Thru Nov. 10

eldoradoreno.com, 775-786-5700

JANE'S ADDICTION

Grand Sierra Resort, Reno

Sept. 9

grandsierraresort.com, 775-789-2000

JOURNEY

Lake Tahoe Outdoor Arena, Stateline

Sept. 14

harveyslaketahoe.com, 800-342-7724

THE YARDBIRDS

Harrah's South Shore Room, Stateline

Sept. 14

harrahslaketahoe.com, 800-427-7247

STEPHEN STILLS, KENNY WAYNE SHEPHERD, & BARRY GOLDBERG

Grand Sierra Resort, Reno

Sept. 27

grandsierraresort.com, 800-648-5080

SKYNNYN LYNNYRD

Harrah's, Reno

Sept. 28

harrahreno.com, 775-786-3232

GORDON LIGHTFOOT

John Ascuaga's Nugget, Sparks

Oct. 3-4

janugget.com, 800-648-1177

KENNY "BABYFACE" EDMONDS

Henderson Pavilion, Henderson

Oct. 11

hendersonlive.com, 702-267-4849

DOKKEN

Boomtown Casino, Reno

Oct. 26

boomtownreno.com, 775-345-6000

MOODY BLUES

Silver Legacy, Reno

Oct. 26

silverlegacy.com, 775-325-7401

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 Nevada Real Estate Review • On Location • Positive Spin • Profiles In Business • Reno-Tahoe Tonight Magazine
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- 401 Nevada B&B Guild

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- 604 National Cowboy Poetry Gathering, Elko
- 618 Springs Preserve
- 625 Yerington Theatre for the Arts
- 632 The Corley Ranch
- 633 Safe Haven Rescue Zoo

EVENTS/SHOWS

- 742 Town of Genoa, Candy Dance

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- 2401 America Matters/Fox News

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- 2501 Bob's Performance Center

FRIDA KAHLO: HER PHOTOS

RENOWNED ARTIST'S PHOTOGRAPHS MAKE A STOP IN RENO.



Starting September 7, Reno's Nevada Museum of Art is celebrating distinguished painter Frida Kahlo with a collection of her personal photographs

that have been hidden from the public for more than half a century. The gallery is made up of 240 images, which have been carefully selected from Kahlo's collection of more than 6,500 photographs. Upon her death in 1954, the photographs belonging to Kahlo and her husband and renowned painter Diego Rivera were placed in storage where they remained until 2007.

Frida Kahlo: Her Photos sheds light on a lesser-known side of Kahlo, reflecting her tastes and interests, experiences she shared with those who were close to her, and her complex, but also exciting, personal life. According to the

Nevada Museum of Art, "Viewers get an insider's look, not only through who was behind the camera, in front of the lens,

or the anonymous nature of some of the work, but also through the annotated writing found on the back of many of the photographs."

The gallery includes family pictures and snapshots taken with lovers. It takes a look into Kahlo's associations with Russian Marxist revolutionary Leon Trotsky, American photographers Edward Weston, Alfred Stieglitz, and Georgia O'Keefe, and actress Dolores Del Rio. ▾

PLAN YOUR TRIP

WHERE

Nevada Museum of Art, Reno

WHEN

Sept. 7-Feb. 16, 2014

INFO

nevadaart.org, 775-329-3333

RELATED EVENTS

Frida Kahlo, in Person: Her Life and Photography, Sept. 13

hands/ON! Dia de los Muertos, Oct. 12

EVENTS & EXHIBITS

GAMING ART

Mathewson-IGT Knowledge Center, Reno
Thru Sept. 15
knowledgecenter.unr.edu, 775-784-4636

GREAT BASIN NATIONAL PARK: REVISITED

Nevada Historical Society, Reno
Thru Sept. 21
museums.nevadaculture.org, 775-688-1190

A WESTERN DEPENDENCE

Nevada Arts Council, Carson City
Thru Sept. 27
nac.nevadaculture.org, 775-687-6680

POST RURAL

College of Southern Nevada Fine Arts
Gallery, Las Vegas
Thru Sept. 27
csn.edu, 702-651-4146

BITE AT THE MUSEUM

Nevada State Museum-Springs Preserve,
Las Vegas
Sept. 28
springspreserve.org, 702-822-7700

GIFTS OF HEALING: FRENCH TRAVEL POSTERS 1945-1949

Nevada State Museum, Carson City
Thru Sept. 28
museums.nevadaculture.org, 775-687-4333

"AMATEURS"

Las Vegas Little Theatre, Las Vegas
Sept. 13-29
lvlt.org, 702-362-7996

BALLOON RACE POSTER COLLECTION

Sparks Museum & Cultural Center
Sept. 1-30
sparksmuseum.org, 775-355-1144

ART IN THE PARK

Boulder City
Oct. 5-6
artinthepark.org, 702-293-0214

4 WOMEN (ART FOR AND BY WOMEN)

Northeastern Nevada Museum, Elko
Thru Oct. 29
museumelko.org, 775-738-3418

GOLD RUSH

Mesquite Fine Arts Center
Thru Nov. 2
mesquitefineartscenter.com, 702-346-1338

NANO

Discovery Children's Museum, Las Vegas
Thru Dec. 3
discoverykidslv.org, 702-382-3445

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Refer to the full-page map on page 7 for city and town locations.



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LAKE TAHOE

Lake Tahoe Visitors Authority
tahoesouth.com, 530-544-5050

North Lake Tahoe Visitors Bureau
gotahoenorth.com, 888-434-1262

NORTHERN NEVADA

City of Reno
reno.gov, 775-334-INFO

Reno-Sparks Convention & Visitors Authority
visitrenotahoe.com, 800-FOR-RENO

Battle Mountain (Lander County Convention & Tourism Authority)
battlemountaintourism.com, 775-635-1112

Black Rock Desert (Friends of Black Rock High Rock)
blackrockdesert.org, 775-557-2900

Carlin (City of)
explorecarlinnv.com, 775-754-6354

Carson City Convention & Visitors Bureau
visitcarsoncity.com, 800-NEVADA-1

Carson Valley Visitors Authority
visitcarsonvalley.org, 800-727-7677

Dayton Chamber of Commerce
daytonnvchamber.org, 775-246-7909

Elko Convention & Visitors Authority
exploreeelko.com, 800-248-3556

Eureka County Economic Development Program
eurekacounty.com, 775-237-5484



MATTHEW B. BROWN

Fallon Convention & Tourism Authority
visitfallonnevada.com, 866-432-5566

Fernley (City of)
cityofferney.org, 775-784-9800

Gardnerville (Town of)
gardnerville-nv.gov, 775-782-7134

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Historical Nevada

Nevada Magazine will celebrate the state's upcoming 150th birthday with the release of a special book.

What better way to commemorate Nevada's 2014 sesquicentennial than by ordering the new *Historical Nevada* coffee table book? Published by *Nevada Magazine*, with a planned print date of October 2013 (in time for Nevada Day), the book features 150 memorable images from our nearly 40 years of producing the Nevada Historical Calendar. Highlights of the hardcover book, which is \$29.95 plus shipping & handling, include:

- ◆ Historical photos from around the state, including Las Vegas, Reno, Carson City, Lake Tahoe, Elko, and Virginia City.
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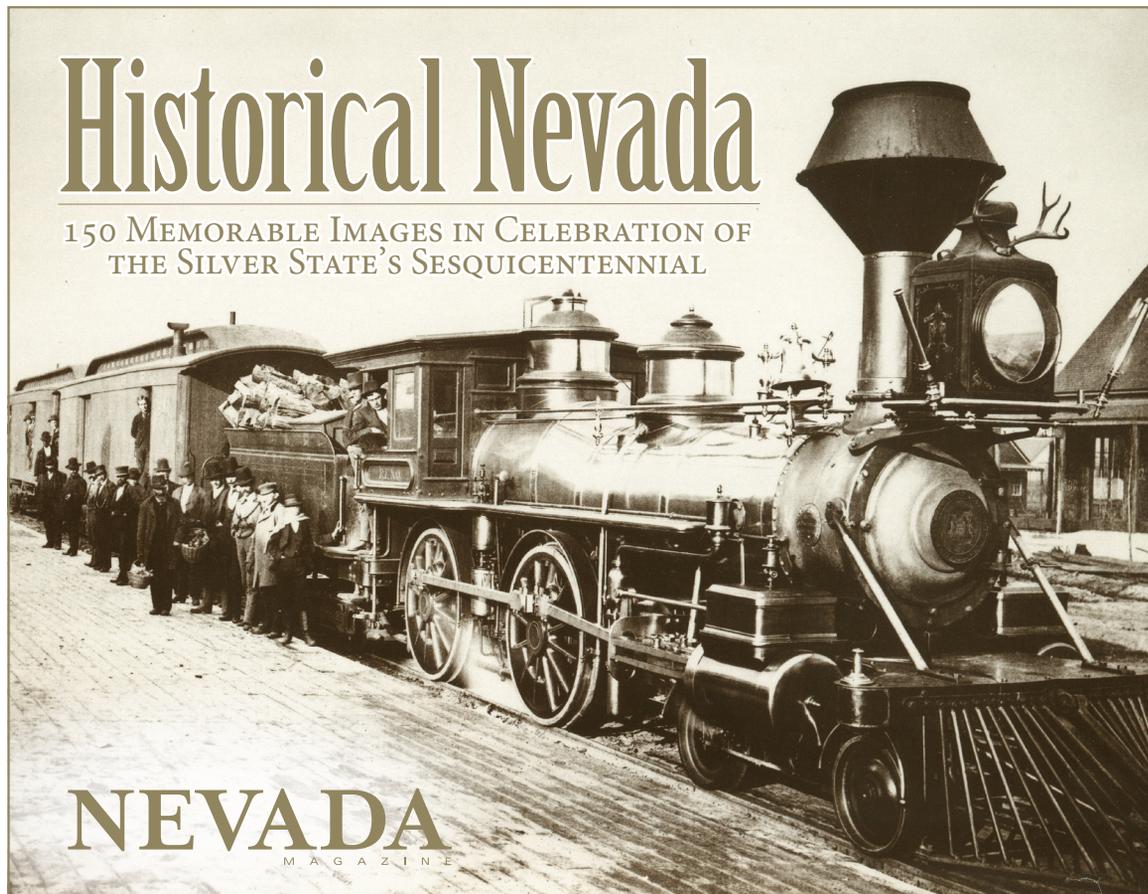


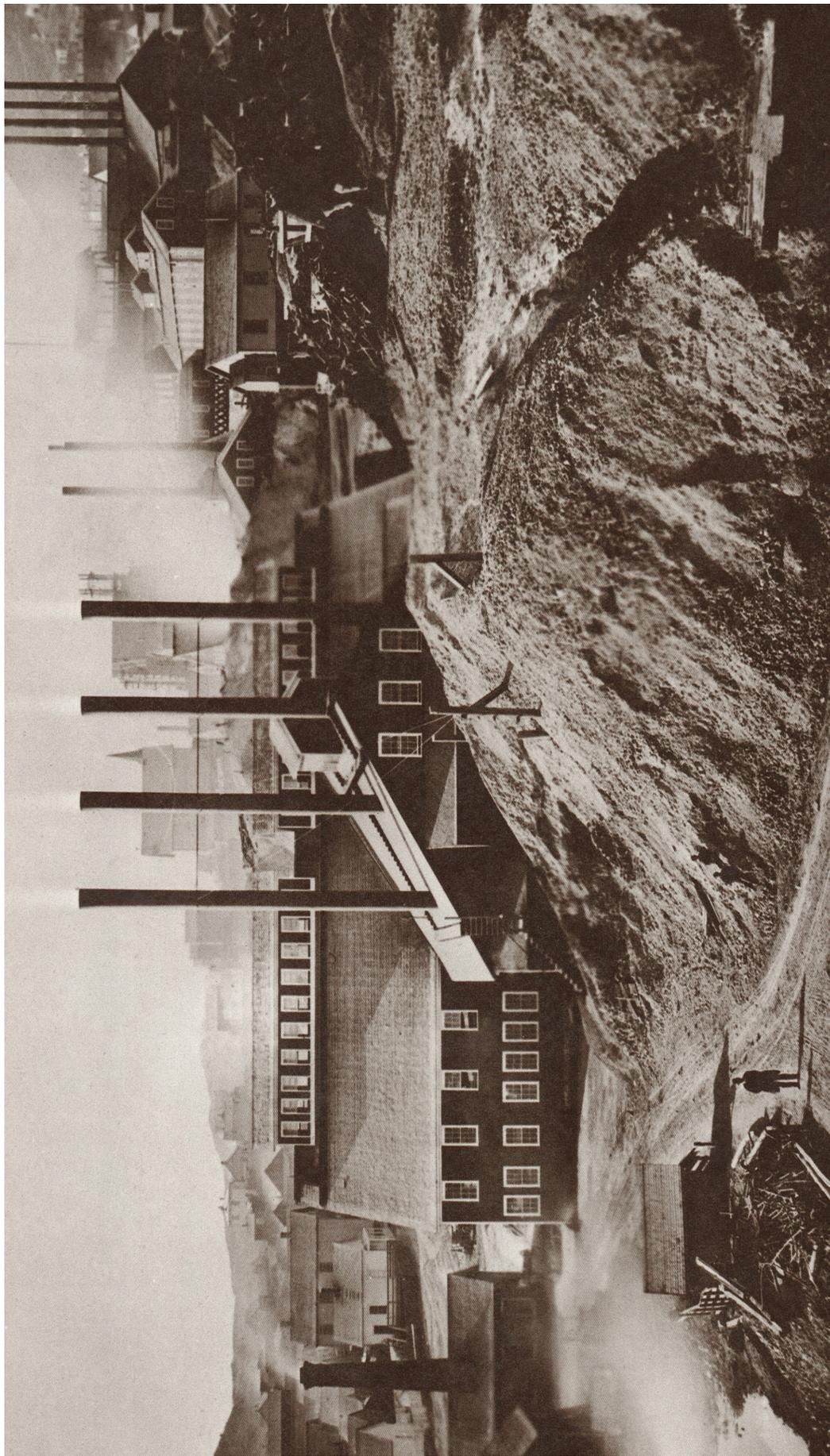
The image below is the proposed cover for the book, a perfect addition to the Nevada history buff's collection. It also makes a great holiday gift for friends and family. The following three pages are actual pages from the book.

Order at nevadamagazine.com/historical-nevada-book, or call 775-687-0610 or 855-729-7117 (toll free). Package deals are also available that include a one-year (six issues) subscription and/or the 2014 Nevada Historical Calendar.

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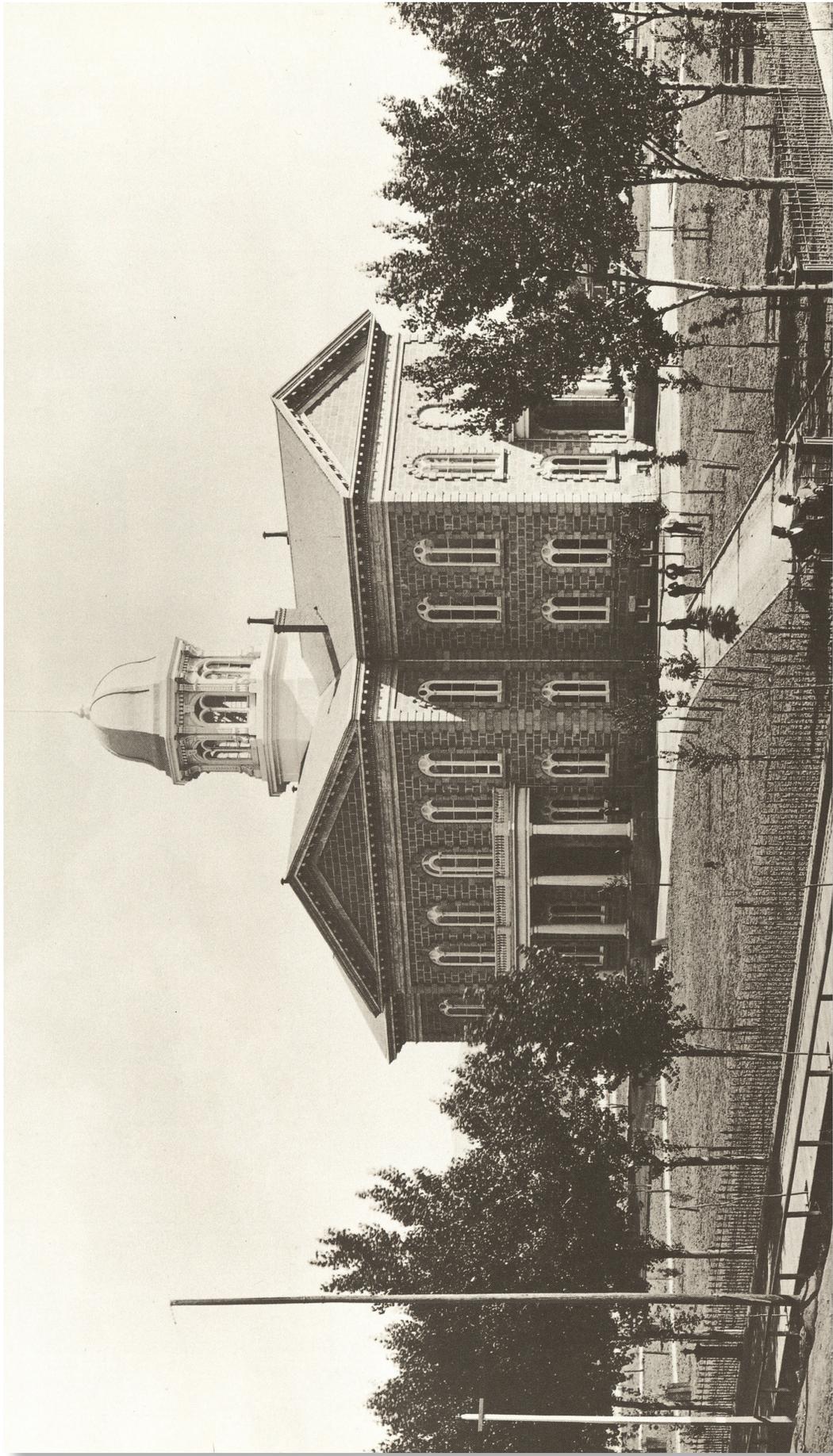




The Consolidated Virginia Mine in Virginia City, site of the Big Bonanza of the 1870s.

NEVADA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

In 1867, the Consolidated Virginia Mining Company began operations in Virginia City, but did not immediately achieve success. In 1871, James Flood—in partnership with John Mackay, James Fair, and William O'Brien—bought stock in Consolidated Virginia, forming the Bonanza Firm. Eventually, the men bought the land owned by Consolidated Virginia. They hit the “Big Bonanza” in 1873, extracting more than \$100 million in ore over the next nine years.



NEVADA STATE LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES

Noted photographer Carleton E. Watkins took this photo of the Nevada State Capitol in Carson City in fall 1876. The fence was built in 1875, and the gates and landscaping were added in summer 1876.

Construction of the Nevada State Capitol began in spring 1870, six years after Nevada became a state. In 1875, Hannah Clapp contracted to build an iron fence around the Capitol. Prior to the time this photo was snapped, the state planted the perimeter with American elm, many of which still stand today, providing shade in the summer and beautiful fall colors on the Capitol grounds.



NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

The mid-1940s found Reno reaping the benefits of its dual titles of divorce and gambling capital of the United States. Tens of thousands of visitors contributed to a robust economy, as evidenced by the proliferation of new businesses. Not long after this photo was taken, the posh art deco-style 12-story Mapes Hotel was erected in front of the buildings in the background.

At the start of the 20th century, because of Nevada's lenient divorce laws, a number of celebrities obtained divorces in Reno, garnering the city national attention. Newspapers embellished the incidents, labeling Reno the "divorce capital." After casino gambling was legalized by the state legislature in 1931, Reno flourished with gaming establishments, giving tourists another reason to visit. ▾

PRE-NEVADA

Part I: The Unknown Territory

BY RON SOODALTER

The establishment of Nevada as a territory, and eventually a state, is a long and dramatic story.

It features every type of western character imaginable: Indians, Spanish friars, mountain men, explorers, surveyors, Santa Fe traders, prospectors, cowboys, railroaders, Mormons, desperadoes, and ladies of the demimonde.

For some, Nevada merely represented a vast expanse of inhospitable country to be crossed if necessary, or circumvented if possible, on the trek from the East to California. To others, it became a mecca of religious freedom, a gold-and-silver seeker's nirvana, and a trapper's paradise. Eventually, through boom, bust, and boom again, it found its way to statehood during the course of the Civil War and has since been aptly known as the "Battle Born State."

ANCIENT HISTORY

As was the case virtually everywhere throughout the centuries of settling North America, the Indians were here first. For millennia before the arrival of the Euro-Americans, paleolithic hunter/fisher/gatherers ranged the vast reaches of what would one day become Nevada. No one can state with certainty just how long man has occupied the Great Basin, but modern-day archeologists have discovered grinding slabs, fashioned from flat rocks for the making of bread, dating nearly 10,000 years.

Eventually, tribal groups set up more stationary societies. The people of the Pueblo culture, which thrived within the last 1,000 to 1,500 years, left dwellings and artifacts as indicators of their lifestyle. The most famous such Nevada site is referred to as the "Lost City," which some historians refer to as present-day Nevada's "first center of population," as well as its "first ghost town."

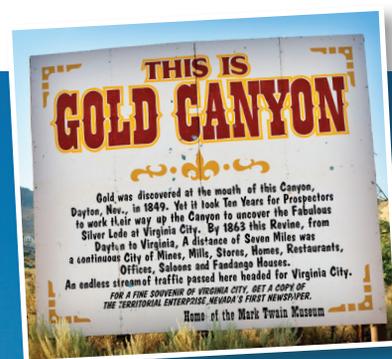
Officially named Pueblo Grande de Nevada, it was discovered in 1924 and excavated over the next several years. It apparently housed a community of between 10,000 to 20,000 people whose lives incorporated farming, hunting, mining, and trading. As an archaeological discovery, it offered a brilliant and unparalleled window into the lives of some of Nevada's early residents. A total of 121 "houses"—the largest containing a hundred rooms—were wholly or partially excavated, in part by Franklin Roosevelt's Civilian Conservation Corps.

In 1938, however, Lake Mead resulted from the construction of Hoover Dam, and the Lost City was indeed forever lost. Miles of prehistoric sites now lie under several feet of water. Three years earlier, the National Park Service—anticipating the cultural loss the lake would cause—built a museum in Overton as a display and interpretation center. Operated today by the Nevada Division of Museums and History, the Lost City Museum features reconstructed Pueblo structures and offers school tours, art shows, outreach programs, and archival library and collections research availability on the peoples and geography of the area.

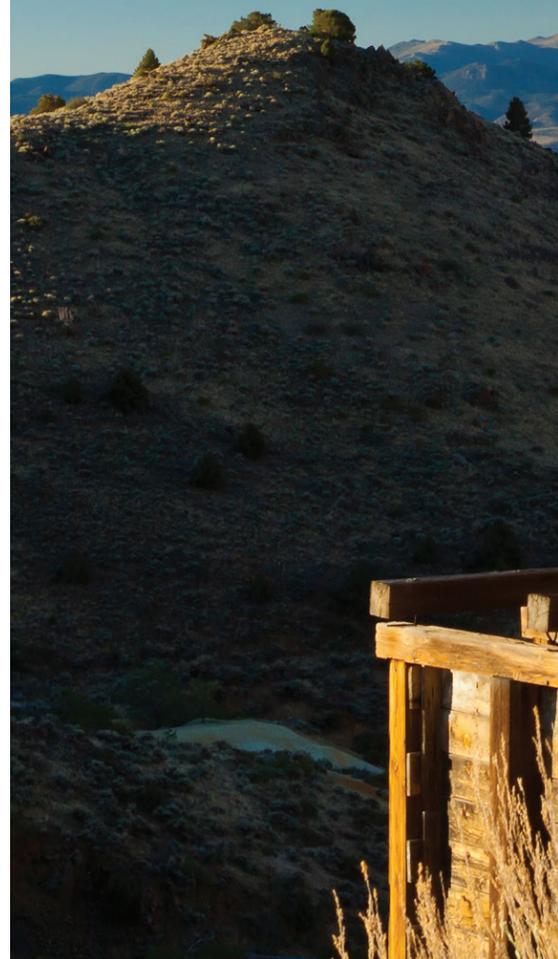
By the time of the arrival of the first white men, the predominant tribes in what is now Nevada were the Shoshone, the Northern and Southern Paiute, and the Washoe, along with various bands and sub-tribes.

THE SPANISH EXPLORATIONS

The first Euro-Americans to encounter Indian residents in what would one day be Nevada were representatives of the Spanish Empire in North America. Lords of the region for some 300 years, the Spaniards approached the natives with the same ambivalence that characterized Spanish national policy elsewhere—with a cross in one hand and a sword in the other. Theirs



A sunlit wheel hoist—perhaps once the property of the consolidated Jacket-Crown Point-Belcher Mines Company—shines in Gold Canyon, where in June 1850 a gold nugget was discovered that would set Nevada's transformation from territory to state in motion. The canyon is located between the present-day towns of Virginia City and Silver City but is intrinsically connected to the settlement of nearby Dayton. Today, a sign on State Route 342 (above) describes the history and relevance of Gold Canyon.





PHOTOS: NEIL LOCKHART

was an occupation of brutality, incorporating subjugation and slavery with religious conversion.

In the late 18th century, the Spanish government envisioned a single connecting trail linking the two provinces of New Mexico and California, both to serve as a trade route and further solidify Spain's holdings in the New World. In 1776, a Spanish priest, Father Francisco Garcés, set out to make the vision a reality.

Following an ancient Mojave trade route, he led a party from Sonora to the sleepy pueblo of Los Angeles and, in the process, became one of the first white men to cross the southern tip of present-day Nevada.

He and others, seeking religious converts as well as geographic connections, forged the first trail across the region. It was long and arduous and would be completed five decades later by a roughhewn group of American trappers, who used it in their quest for fur.

THE MOUNTAIN MEN

When Mexico won its independence in 1821, the British and Americans took it as an open invitation to seek valuable furs in the vast Western territory that had once belonged to Spain. Ironically, the rugged trappers, and the entrepreneurs who stood ready to buy their furs, were motivated by a single fashion accessory. Throughout the world, men were demanding and purchasing beaver hats, as a fashion statement and as a practical piece of headgear.

And nowhere was beaver more plentiful, or more profitable, than in the rivers, streams, and creeks of the American West. The venerable Hudson Bay Colony (HBC), known colloquially to its American competitors as "Here Before Christ," sent trapping expeditions south out of the Pacific Northwest, while members of such St. Louis-based firms as the Rocky Mountain Fur Company traveled up the Missouri by flatboat, then westward by horse and mule to the uncharted mountains and plains. Beginning in the mid-1820s, a hardy breed of fur trappers who have become known

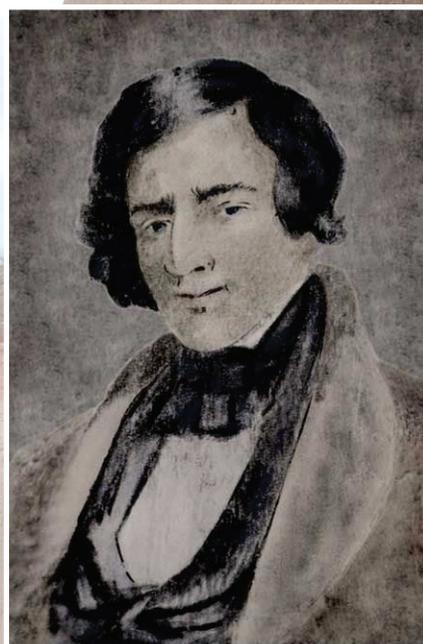
to history and folklore as "mountain men" rode into the wilderness with little more than a knife and a single-shot rifle for protection.

The trappers ranged over great distances in search of pelts and, in the process, they charted heretofore-unexplored expanses of the West. Perhaps the most telling statement of purpose comes from the famous mountain man and explorer Jedediah Strong Smith, who wrote in his journal: "I wanted to be the first to view a country on which the eyes of a white man had never gazed and to follow the course of rivers that run through a new land."

The New York-born Smith was described by one chronicler as "the greatest of all mountain man explorers." He was one of the few who could read and write, and he kept records and maps of his extensive travels. As a partner in the Rocky Mountain Fur Company, Smith blazed trails from the Pacific Northwest to Mexico, and from Utah to the West Coast, where he was arrested by the Mexican government for "military trespass." Upon his release, he turned north and east, crossing and re-crossing present-day Nevada's Great Basin.

Smith was the first to document the plants and animals of central and southern Nevada, as well as the lifestyles of its indigenous peoples. Smith's luck ran out when he was only 32, when—while riding alone on the Cimarron in search of water for his party—he was attacked and killed by a band of Comanche Indians. But Smith left a legacy. His charts and maps laid the groundwork not only for future exploration, but for the settlers who would one day drive their wagons west at the ox-powered rate of six or seven miles a day.

The American and British fur companies each approached the trade with the same goal in mind: to drive the other out of business. From the beginning, it was vital to reach the trapping ground ahead of the competition and, if necessary, to trap it to the point of extinction. For their part, the Hudson Bay Company could have done no better than to send out Peter Skene Ogden as their representative.



Explorer Jedediah Smith (above) was the first to document the plants and animals of central and southern Nevada, as well as the lifestyles of its indigenous peoples. Southern Nevada's American Indian past is celebrated at the Lost City Museum in present-day Overton.



PHOTOS: MATTHEW B. BROWN

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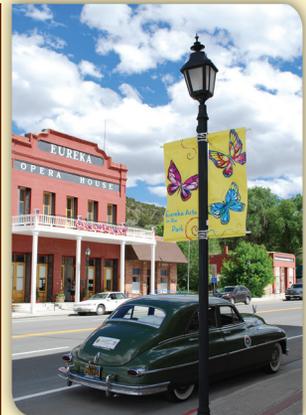
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Born in Quebec and raised in Montreal by parents who had fled the American Revolution, Ogden was drawn early to the fur trade, clerking for various companies. He fled to the Columbia River country after killing an Indian, purportedly for working for the competition. He soon went to work for the North West Company, gaining notoriety for his violent actions against their competitor, the Hudson Bay Company. When HBC absorbed the North West Company, its governor, George Simpson, immediately fired Ogden, only to rehire him when he saw a use for his aggressive tendencies.

Traditionally, the lands below the Columbia River had been the domain of HBC, and Simpson feared an incursion by American trappers. He sent Ogden—whom he named chief trader for the company—on a series of expeditions to chart the expanse that now constitutes Nevada, Utah, Idaho, Wyoming, Oregon, and California, and, in the words of the Nevada Trappers Association, to “devastate the country as far as beaver supply was concerned.” He was to pursue this “scorched stream policy” to the point of “denuding the country and rendering it unprofitable...to Americans.” No less a prize than the entire Pacific Northwest was at stake.

Ogden sallied out of his headquarters at Fort Nez Percés on the Columbia in 1826. He and his brigade are credited with being the first white trappers to enter Nevada. Although he only penetrated its northeast edge on this trip, he returned with a large brigade on three subsequent excursions—referred to as the “Snake Country Expeditions”—on which he not only discovered and explored the Humboldt River near present-day Winnemucca (while creating a route for future emigrants); he also trapped the Snake River and its tributaries, the Bruneau and Owyhee, in the area north of present-day Elko.

On his final excursion in 1828, Ogden led his brigade across the 42nd parallel, near what is now the tiny community of Denio—and he accomplished what he had set out to do. In the 11 months ending

in July 1829, his brigade trapped some 4,000 beavers, thinning the population so severely that the Americans were forced to look elsewhere for their pelts.

According to a recent Nevada Trappers Association study, *The Fur Industry in Nevada*, “From Peter Ogden’s reports through the gold rush days, numerous accounts documented the complete absence of beaver...in Nevada’s western river systems.”

A cursory glance at a list of Nevada place-names reveals a veritable “who’s-who” of the old-time beaver men. In 1832, trapper, scout, brigade commander, and explorer Joseph R. Walker led a party around the Great Salt Lake in search of an overland route to California and, while doing so, followed the Humboldt River west. Today, a Nevada river, lake, and pass bear his name.

The redoubtable Christopher “Kit” Carson ran away from indentured servitude in Missouri as a teenager, became a mountain man, and grew to be the most famous of the breed. He became a sought-after guide and was famed explorer John C. Fremont’s scout of record. It was on one of their explorations that Fremont named a river for his invaluable guide, and when a small community sprang up near its banks, the settlers gave it his name as well. Eventually, the settlement of course became Nevada’s state capital.

Despite the attention given to it in novels and movies, the fur trade lasted a remarkably short time. Although small expeditions were staged as late as 1844, by the early 1840s it had all but died out. There were two reasons for the trade’s demise. The seemingly endless supply of beaver had been over-trapped nearly to extinction—first in the rivers and creeks of the plains, then in the mountains. And the popularity of hats made of silk usurped those made of beaver.

Of the trappers who survived in the wilderness, some went back to civilization, while others remained in the West, serving as scouts and guides and offering their invaluable knowledge of the country to the Army, the wagon trains of westering set-



CHARLIE JOHNSTON

A monument to Christopher “Kit” Carson on the Capitol grounds honors the 1800s scout for whom the Nevada capital of Carson City is named, as well as the Carson River. Peter Skene Ogden (below) is famous for his Snake Country Expeditions of the 1820s.



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tlers, and the various corps of exploration that followed. Men like Carson, Walker, Jim Bridger, and John “Liver-Eating” Johnson provided an invaluable service to those looking to cross, explore, and exploit the West. In a very short time, the territory that would one day become Nevada saw its share of exploration—and exploitation.

By 1829, Nevada was being generally referred to as the “Unknown Territory,” and trappers were not the only white men to feel their way through it. Beginning in that year, various New Mexico-based traders, motivated by the hope of finding negotiable trade routes to California, also ventured into and across its southeastern tip. Among the first was an enterprising New Mexican trader named Antonio Armijo. Armijo led nearly 60 men from Abiquiu across Southern Nevada, through the Las Vegas Valley, and along the Amargosa River to Los Angeles. They followed the route taken long ago by the Mojave and followed by the Spanish padres decades earlier. Over time, it came to be known as the Old Spanish Trail.

No single Indian, trapper, trader, or explorer “discovered” it. As historian LeRoy Hafen describes, “This was a folk trail, mastered segment by segment through many years and many forces...” It became the earliest trail to course across a section of Nevada—and it was far from ideal. Although it served briefly as a means of delivering fine woolen blankets via caravan from New Mexico to California, the 1,200-mile trail was, in Hafen’s words, “the longest, crookedest, most arduous pack mule route in the history of America.”

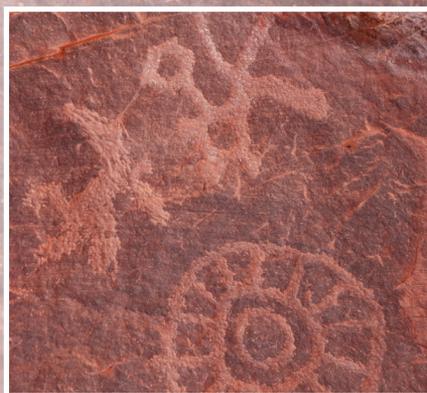
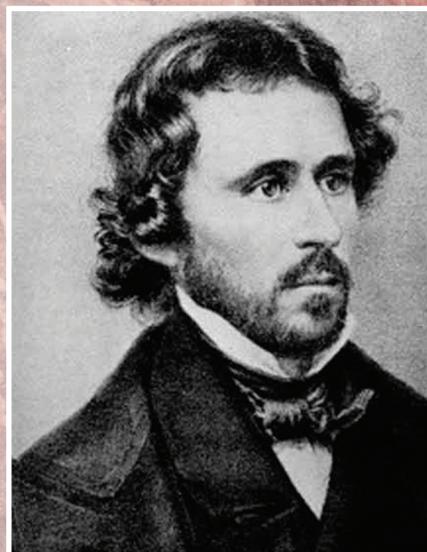
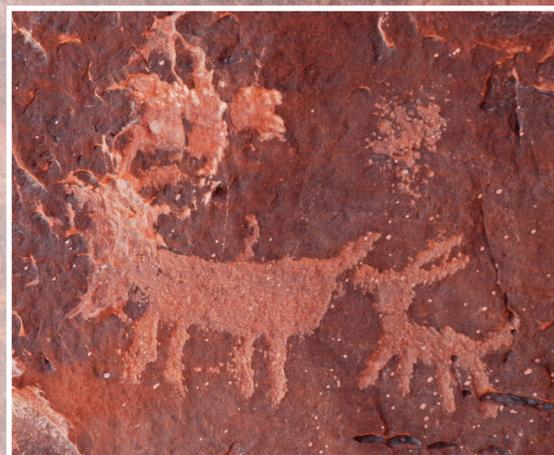
For the westward-bound emigrants who would come later, the Old Spanish Trail was an untenable route. Because it meandered over wild rivers, “mountain passes, precipitous canyons...sandy arroyos, granite ranges, broken plateaus, and waterless mesas,” through “an unmapped land of untamed Indians,” it was fit only for pack mules and horses. Taking wagons across it was out of the question. More serviceable trails would soon follow, as other white men entered the Great Basin for reasons other than collecting furs.

THE MAP AND CHART MEN

The second “exploratory phase,” which took the form of government-sponsored expeditions, burgeoned in the early to mid-1840s. It was a period during which the American eagle was spreading its wings and laying claim—through war or negotiation—to all lands east of the Pacific Ocean. It was one of the largest land grabs in modern history, and those who justified it as the nation’s God-given right of expansion referred to it as Manifest Destiny. The vast territory acquired through the Louisiana Purchase had long since been explored, and—armed with an unshakable belief in its superiority—America looked to the Far West to fulfill its birthright.

It began with the 1845 annexation of Texas and continued through the Mexican War, which netted the United States the lands that had formerly comprised northern Mexico—lands that would ultimately break down into the states of New Mexico, Utah, Arizona, California...and Nevada. In 1842, in anticipation of acquiring this vast expanse, the U.S. Topographical Engineers sent an enterprising, dashing young adventurer on the first of what would be three extensive surveying expeditions into the West. His name was John C. Fremont, and he was the son-in-law of one of America’s most vocal advocates of expansionism: Senator Thomas Hart Benton.

It was Fremont’s second and third surveying and trailblazing expeditions, in 1843-44 and 1845, that would earn him the sobriquet, “The Pathfinder.” He not only scientifically mapped and described the “Unknown Territory” in detail, he charted the trappers’ and Indian trails that crossed it. In December 1843, Fremont “discovered” and gave Pyramid Lake its American name. He also followed the Truckee River (which he coined the Salmon Trout River after its red-hued cutthroat trout) and the Carson River and—on his trek across the Sierra Nevada—was the first American to report sighting Lake Tahoe. He re-entered Nevada and followed a stretch of the Old Spanish Trail through Las Vegas and Moapa Valleys, and along the Virgin River.



PETROGLYPHS: CHARLIE JOHNSTON

Petroglyphs dot the Nevada landscape in such places as Valley of Fire State Park and Grimes Point and are vivid reminders of our American Indian heritage. John C. Fremont (middle) explored much of pre-Nevada, including giving Pyramid Lake its American name in the 1840s.

So successful was he in his explorations that Congress printed 20,000 copies of his route map—an unheard-of quantity for its time.

During the course of his 1845 expedition into Nevada, Fremont studied and re-mapped in detail the basins of the Carson, Truckee, Walker, and Humboldt Rivers and—with his newfound knowledge of the area’s interior drainage—named the Great Basin. He was not the first white man to view the natural wonders that he charted. However, taking a page from the travels and hard-won discoveries of the mountain men, Fremont had collated and formalized the charting of Nevada.

WESTWARD BY WAGON...

Fortuitously for the young nation, the U.S. victory over Mexico in 1848 coincided with the discovery of gold in California. Suddenly, the prospect of defining viable transportation routes to the West became a pressing necessity. In the early 1850s, the federal government raised money and sponsored additional “corps of discovery” to define and chart overland trails suitable for wagon travel.

The idea of westward migration was not a new one. The earliest group to set its sights on California—the Bidwell-Bartleson Party—left Missouri in 1841. They became the first emigrant party to cross the Great Basin. According to Nevada historian Russell R. Elliott, their “inexperience was exceeded only by their foolhardiness.”

Led by John Bidwell, a starry-eyed young schoolteacher who had absorbed the newspaper tales of the mountain men and large California landowners, the small party set out across the wilderness with neither guide nor clear picture of what lay ahead. Fortunately, they ran across famed mountain man Thomas “Broken Hand” Fitzpatrick, a former partner in the Rocky Mountain Fur Company who guided them as far as Soda Springs in present-day Idaho.

From there, Bidwell and his party made their way south to the Great Salt Lake and west across the salt flats. They struggled

across the Ruby Mountains, and along the Humboldt to its sink, then crossed the forbidding Sierra Nevada, arriving in California’s San Joaquin Valley in early November. For Bidwell, the exhausting trek proved a godsend. He made a gold strike soon after the initial discovery at Sutter’s Mill, rising to wealth and prominence in the new land. Pioneer, farmer, soldier, statesman, and politician, Bidwell even ran for president of the United States in 1892—on the Prohibition ticket.

Other parties made their way west across the Great Basin in the early 1840s, each going a step further in forging what became the California Trail. The most significant was Elisha Stevens’ party, which rolled west out of Missouri in May 1844. When they reached the Humboldt Sink, Stevens’ party met a friendly Paiute chief who showed them an accessible wagon route over the Sierra, by means of the river and pass that now bear what might or might not have been his name: Truckee. Although there were many trails—and many cutoffs—leading west, this latest iteration of the California Trail became one of the most accepted routes for future emigrants.

After the discovery of gold in 1849, traffic on the trails across Nevada increased a thousand fold. There were, however, those for whom the trail—however proven—seemed too long and who sought other, shorter means of reaching California or Oregon. Sometimes, disaster followed. In 1848, a Danish Immigrant and California rancher named Peter Lassen put out the word via eastern newspapers that he had found a shortcut that would get prospectors to the gold fields faster. In fact, he designed his dubious route to pass by his ranch, where he hoped to exploit the weary travelers.

Instead of a shorter route to the west, the detour by which Lassen led thousands of credulous victims ran north, from the dry end of the Humboldt River in Northern Nevada, through the Black Rock Desert, and across waterless mountains. It was far longer—and more brutal—than the main trail. He called it Lassen’s Cutoff;



PHOTOS: PAUL SEBESTA

State Historical Markers are scattered about Nevada, educating passersby on the history of the area they describe. Marker 49 (above) in Pershing County explains the Applegate-Lassen Trail, and 141 in Clark County is one dedicated to the Old Spanish Trail.



travelers soon labeled it the “Death Route.” In train after unsuspecting train, animals perished in droves, wagon wheels dried up, shrank, and fell apart, and people suffered and died.

At one point they reached a spring, which one traveler called “an abomination of desolation...ash heaps into which slowly percolated filthy looking brackish water.” Another, likening the flat, sun-blasted terrain to an oven, wrote, “The rocks resemble cinders about a furnace.” One emigrant was awed by the sheer numbers of dead creatures: “I do not think I have been out of sight of a dead carcass, and in many places the road is blockaded up so you are compelled to leave it or pass over their dead bodies.”

One survivor of Lassen’s Cutoff wrote in a letter home: “Dear George: There was some talk between us of your coming to this country. For God’s sake think not of it. Tell all whom you know that thousands have laid and will lay their bones along the routes to and in this country...and as for you, STAY AT HOME...”

A strange justice overtook Lassen in 1859 in a canyon near the Black Rock Desert. He was traveling with two companions on his way to prospect for silver near Virginia City, when an unknown party shot and killed him. Thus, the “most hated man in California” met his end. Locals blamed hostile Indians; others who had taken the infamous Lassen Cutoff assumed it was one of his victims, exacting revenge.

The most famous “cutoff disaster” is that of the Donner Party. In 1846, after departing late in the season, some 87 emigrants found themselves trapped by snow in the Sierra Nevada. They had taken a cutoff endorsed by Lansford Hastings, a jingoistic 1840s writer whose driving ambition was to see California taken from Mexico and declared a republic, with himself perched on the political top rung. To lure Americans to the West Coast, he had penned *The Emigrants’ Guide to Oregon and California*. In it, he advocated a cutoff—which he himself had never taken.

The route, which the Donner Party elected to follow, took them across the Wasatch

Range and the salt flats, piling on hardships and seriously delaying their progress. By November they were snowed in and, by the time a rescue party reached them in February, only 47 had survived, having resorted to cannibalism.

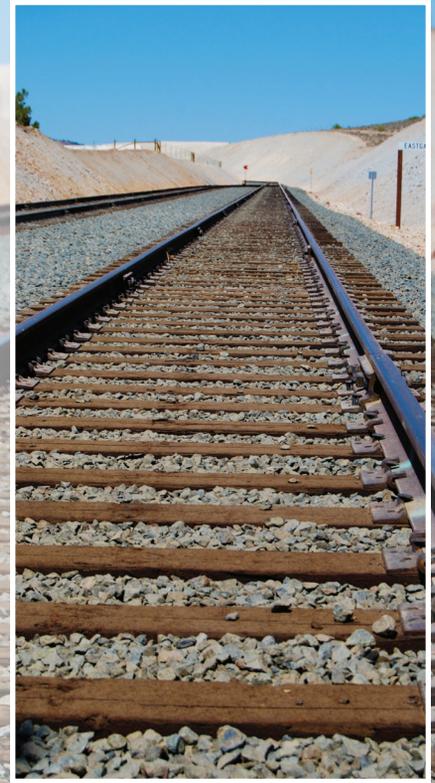
The tragedy technically occurred in California, and the town of Truckee boasts Donner Memorial State Park, which includes the Emigrant Trail Museum. Its displays describe the saga of the thousands of emigrants who traveled the route to California, as well as details of the Donner Party ordeal.

...AND BY RAIL

Not only was the federal government concerned with finding passable wagon trails for thousands of western emigrants, it was also looking to select and survey potential routes for a transcontinental railroad. This proved a harder task than anyone had imagined.

The first railroad survey to incorporate Nevada in its plan was led by Lt. Edward F. Beale in 1853, and it included a segment of the Old Spanish Trail. That same year, Fremont made his fourth and final excursion in an unsuccessful search for a suitable railroad route. In the process, Fremont led his party into Nevada at what is now Pioche, through the White River Valley, and past the site of the Tonopah Test Range and Stonewall Mountain, exiting near present-day Beatty.

Beale was followed the next year by another army officer—Lt. Edward G. Beckwith—who entered Nevada with orders to explore the Great Basin in search of “the most practicable route to the valley of the Sacramento River.” Over the next five years, there would be other army officers leading other railroad expeditions. Captain James H. Simpson headed the most thorough in spring 1859. His 65-man company of specialists from the Corps of Topographic Engineers entered Nevada through Pleasant Valley and proceeded to gather information on the region’s Indians and geography, as well as create the most comprehensive map of Nevada up to that time.



Nevada’s railroad era did not boom until after statehood, but the lines do owe their existence to the surveys that took place in the 1850s. The rails never reached the Black Rock Desert (middle and bottom), a harsh land that was crossed by rugged pioneers who were tricked into thinking they were taking a shortcut in order to bypass the more popular California Trail.



PHOTOS: MATTHEW B. BROWN

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When the various surveying expeditions had completed their work, Secretary of War Jefferson Davis (soon destined to serve as president of the Confederate States of America) selected four possible paths for the “Iron Horse”—none of which was ultimately adopted. The Central Pacific would not begin to lay track in Nevada until 1868, four years after Nevada achieved statehood.

THE FIRST SETTLERS

Genoa

Although most of the thousands of emigrants bound for California were simply passing through Nevada as they followed the lure of gold, there were some who either stopped in or returned to Nevada to seek their fortunes. It didn’t take long for enterprising men of commerce to realize that the goods, tools, and supplies of the westering pioneers would run down or simply wear out over the hundreds of miles of hard use. The nearer the journey’s end, the greater the need would be for refitting. Consequently, a number of supply depots and trading posts appeared along the trail.

The first supply station intended for permanence was built in the scenic Carson Valley in 1850 by a group of Mormons under the leadership of Captain Joseph DeMont of Salt Lake City, at the site of present-day Genoa. DeMont and company had originally intended to mine for gold in California but realized that a more certain road to riches lay in taking commercial advantage of others headed to the gold fields.

They built a trading post—which at first was nothing more than a small, canvas-roofed log structure—in a strategic location along the recently blazed Emigrant Road, named their endeavor “Mormon Station,” and stocked it with goods from Sacramento. Many thousands of emigrants passed through Carson Valley in 1850 alone, and the cabin was cannily placed to provide them with much-needed supplies.

With winter approaching, DeMont, his clerk Hampton S. Beatie, and the other

investors—facing the unpleasant prospect of isolation—reportedly sold out to a Mr. Moore and went their separate ways. Early the next year, Salt Lake City residents and brothers John and Enoch Reese, envisioning a permanent settlement at the site, bought the old DeMont trading post from Moore. John loaded several wagons with goods for sale and seeds for planting and proceeded to Mormon Station.

His first order of business was to abandon the original roughhewn log cabin and put up a solid building with a stockade—thereby erecting the first permanent structure in Nevada in 1851. The emigrant wagons and carts came through in a steady flow, and the valley’s grass and soil were ideal for grazing and planting. Within the year, Reese was prospering, and—as he had envisioned—his little community began to grow.

Technically, with the recent passage of the Compromise of 1850, most of Nevada had been made a part of Utah Territory. This placed all residents of Carson Valley—traders, miners, and settlers—under the aegis of the territorial government based in Salt Lake City, where Brigham Young served as governor. Still, rather than wait for a distant and inattentive administration to notice them and address their increasing list of needs, some 100 residents held “squatter” meetings and basically drew up their own constitution, containing a set of laws to protect the property and wellbeing of the community. Eventually, the territorial government would re-establish control over the settlement, which constituted its westernmost—and farthest—colony, but for now, they were on their own.

Mormon Station prospered. In July, the *Sacramento Union* reported that it consisted of “3-4 buildings, a tent, a spring house, and 2-3 corrals.” By the next year, in addition to several residences, it also boasted two blacksmith shops, a number of stock corrals, orchards, fields of hay, rich gardens and crops of fruit and vegetables, a bakery, a post office, and—at the southern end of the valley—the first sawmill in Utah Territory. Soon, fences went up, claims

Visitors to and residents of the historic Carson Valley town of Genoa are reminded of the legacy of famous 1850s mail carrier Snowshoe Thompson by his statue (below), which stands near the entrance to Mormon Station State Historic Park (bottom). Genoa, established in 1851, refers to itself as the state’s first permanent settlement.

PHOTOS: NEIL LOCKHART





NEIL LOCKHART

A brick building in historic Dayton displays the town's pre-statehood roots. Dayton traces its roots to the 1850s rush in nearby Gold Canyon, but it was not officially established as Dayton until 1863.

were filed, and the settlement took on an air of permanence.

Finally, in 1854, Young got around to setting up a government for western Utah Territory, which included Mormon Station. Early the following year, he sent church official Orson Hyde to the valley to establish Carson County and represent the territorial government as probate judge. Arriving with 38 Mormon settlers, he immediately built another sawmill and changed the town's name to Genoa—reportedly after the birthplace of Christopher Columbus, whom he was said to admire.

Harsh feelings soon arose between the gentiles and the Mormons, whose numbers allowed them to occupy most of the elective offices. Non-Mormon residents went so far as to petition—unsuccessfully—to become part of California. Nonetheless, despite the internal friction, the town thrived. By 1857, Genoa consisted of 25 buildings, including a billiard hall and at least one hotel, and was bordered by farms and ranches.

That same year, President James Buchanan ordered a contingent of American military forces into Utah, and Young—fearing the worst—called hundreds of Mormons back to Salt Lake City to mount a defense. Judge Hyde himself had re-

turned the previous year, and—with most of its abdicating officials back in Salt Lake, Genoa's Mormon-run local government collapsed. For the next two years, order was maintained in Genoa by vigilantes until superseded in 1859 by federally appointed officials.

Dayton

Meanwhile, as more and more get-rich-quick 49ers were walking, rolling, or riding to California, a few errant prospectors discovered gold in a canyon near the site of present-day Dayton. Although the pickings were small at first, the location came to be known as “Gold Canyon,” and it succeeded in stopping the westward progress of several “Argonauts” and in bringing others back from the California diggings.

Some enterprising prospectors set up camp in Gold Canyon in the warmer months, then trekked across the Sierra Nevada to California during the winter. Gold Canyon became a veritable melting pot of ethnic diversity, with Chinese, Mexican, and Indian prospectors joining the Anglos in their frantic search for the precious metal. James Finney, a prospector and local character better known as “Old Virginny,” spent the winter of 1850-51 in Gold Canyon, apparently earning the

distinction of being the first Euro-American to winter in Utah Territory.

By summer, some 200 prospectors had elected to seek their fortune in the canyon, although—according to Nevada historian Terri McBride—“the settlement...still had a transient, temporary air since no permanent buildings were erected.” A log trading post consisting of three cabins went up the following year, along with a board-innhouse and tavern and a rail system for hauling ore from the canyon to the river.

Gold Canyon, as its name implies, was mined for its precious minerals, while Genoa—initially established as a trading post—grew more as a commercial and farming community. To this day, there is disagreement over which settlement—Genoa or Dayton—was the first to sink its roots in what would soon become the State of Nevada.

Other settlements began to pop up in the 1850s. Some, such as Ragtown, were simply way stations, thrown up along the trails to California, while others—Virginia City and Carson City—grew to permanence, earning their place as linchpins in the growth and development of Nevada. The 1850s were promising for the territory's future—one that included wealth far beyond the imaginings of even the most ambitious prospector or investor. ▾



2013 GREAT NEVADA PICTURE HUNT

PHOTO CONTEST

Winners



Grand Prize ♦ “Light Glyphs” ♦ Neil Lockhart, Reno ♦ neillockhartphotography.com

In the Lousetown area north of Virginia City lies Lagomarsino Canyon, one of the state’s most intriguing collections of petroglyphs and the setting of this epic nighttime scene. “The image was created by light-painting the rock formations with a large portable spotlight, as well as a small Mini Maglite for the glyphs themselves,” says Lockhart, who has a passion for night photography. He strategically included the Milky Way. “I can only imagine how bright the light of the stars must have been at the time the glyphs were created,” he adds.



Camera: Canon EOS 5D
Lens: 24 mm
Tripod: Yes
Aperture: f/10
Shutter Speed: 78
ISO: 100
HDR: Yes



2nd Place ♦ "Life Guard Off Duty" ♦ Jarrod Lopiccolo, Carson City ♦ flickr.com/jarrodlopiccolo

Lopiccolo captured this image on September 23, 2011. "My brother and his family were in town from Hawaii, and my wife and I took them to Sand Harbor to catch the sunset," he says. "There is nothing like relaxing on the sand in late summer/early fall watching nature's colors change before your eyes." Sand Harbor is located on the northeastern shore of Lake Tahoe.



Camera: Canon EOS 7D
Lens: 10-22 mm
Tripod: Yes
Aperture: f/6.3
Shutter Speed: 1/25 | 1/200 | 1/1600
ISO: 250
HDR: Yes



3rd Place

"Rhyolite Ghost Town"

Wayne Posner, Las Vegas
wayneposner.com

Posner took his first trip to Rhyolite's Goldwell Open Air Museum on June 22, 2013. "Since I had a little LED flashlight with me, I decided I'd try my hand at some light-painting," he says. "I wanted to give life to some additional 'ghosts' that were flying around this central apparition. This was achieved by waving my flashlight through the air while pointed directly at the camera."



Camera: Nikon D4
Lens: 24-70 mm
Tripod: Yes
Aperture: f/11
Shutter Speed: 30
ISO: 800
HDR: No



4th Place ♦ “Star Dust” ♦ Michael Lindberg, Reno ♦ 500px.com/skifast25

Even in winter, Lindberg had to work hard to get this spectacular shot of Sand Mountain Recreation Area, east of Fallon. “I went in February 2013 during a cold weekend in hopes of seeing zero motorized vehicles,” he says. “Unfortunately, there were still plenty of people, and I had to hike all over to find sand that had not been touched. Luckily my sweat and determination rewarded me with this scene.”



Camera: Pentax K-5
Lens: 15 mm
Tripod: Yes
Aperture: f/11
Shutter Speed: 1/125
ISO: 100
HDR: No

Honorable Mentions



“Tranquility” ♦ Neil Pascual, Henderson ♦ neilpas.carbonmade.com

This peaceful image took shape in January 2011 in the early-morning hours at Lake Las Vegas in Henderson. “My goal was to take this at the moment in time when the sun rose behind the bridge and trees to bring about a natural contrast of the brilliant morning sky with the silhouettes of the foreground landscape—yet enough light to capture the reflections in the water,” Pascual says.



Camera: Nikon D300S
Lens: 19 mm
Tripod: Yes
Aperture: f/22
Shutter Speed: 1/6
ISO: 200
HDR: No



“You Are So Beautiful”

Dennis Doyle, Dayton
ducilla.com

To capture this autumn image of a small irrigation canal on Reservoir Road near Stillwater took a lot of preparation and a bit of luck, according to Doyle. “I am always looking for foggy mornings, but to get a small amount of snow, too, was a gift,” he says. “Watching the light come and go, in one brief moment this view presented itself. The light, color, and mood were just pure Nevada.”



Camera: Canon EOS 7D
Lens: 18 mm
Tripod: Yes
Aperture: f/8
Shutter Speed: 1/250
ISO: 100
HDR: No



“Old Hazen Market”

Heath Smith, Fallon
500px.com/heathsmith

While driving to Fallon from Reno on July 1, 2013, Smith caught a glimpse of a dramatic sunset developing in his rear-view mirror. He and his wife couldn't help but pull over at the Hazen Market, west of Fallon, and enjoy the scenery. “I am in the Navy, and I have traveled all over the world,” Smith says. “The sunsets in Nevada are some of the most amazing.”



Camera: Nikon D7000
Lens: 18 mm
Tripod: Yes
Aperture: f/8
Shutter Speed: 1/6
ISO: 100
HDR: Yes

“Gold Point Ghost Cabin”

Jack Freer, Gardnerville
overlandphotography.us

Freer snapped this image on November 6, 2011. “I was attending the Death Valley Natural History Conference in Beatty, and I selected the field trip to Gold Point,” he says. “I walked all over town taking photos, and I particularly liked this cabin surrounded by snow, the wet and torn blanket over the couch on the front porch, the view of the road going off in the distance, and the clouds.” The 2013 conference will be held November 15-17 at Furnace Creek Visitor Center in Death Valley National Park.



Camera: Canon EOS 7D
Lens: 11-16 mm
Tripod: Yes
Aperture: f/6.3
Shutter Speed: 1/640
ISO: 100
HDR: Yes





“Morning Stretch” ♦ Larry Turner, Malin, Oregon ♦ larryturnerphotography.com

Rancher Larry Stevenson stretches his arms in the chilly northwestern Nevada morning air last October. Turner snapped this image near the Hays Canyon Range and Surprise Valley during one day of a three-day cattle drive. The Stevenson family was making the final push from the Nevada summer range to their home ranch in—coincidentally—Surprise Valley, California.



Camera: Canon EOS 5D
Lens: 170 mm
Tripod: No
Aperture: f/7.1
Shutter Speed: 1/800
ISO: 100
HDR: No



“Mirror, Mirror”

Sandi Whitteker, Carson City
pbase.com/sandiwhi

“Part of the lure for me to move to Carson City from San Diego one year ago was the beauty of Lake Tahoe,” Whitteker says. “Sand Harbor is one of my go-to spots for great sunsets.” On one of those evenings in March, she spotted an explosion of color out of the corner of her eye, and the race was on. “I nearly broke my neck running up and down the beach trying to find the perfect spot to capture the magic, before it faded away,” she adds.



Camera: Canon EOS 5D
Lens: 24-105 mm
Tripod: Yes
Aperture: f/9
Shutter Speed: Bulb
ISO: 100
HDR: No



“Lightning Over Vegas” ♦ Elvis Rowe, Henderson ♦ elvisrowephoto.com

Rowe was editing photos on a July evening last summer when lightning struck—literally. “I saw a flash and heard a subsequent thunder clap,” he says. “I’d been wanting to capture lightning for some time. I gathered my gear and drove to the best Strip-shooting spot I could think of in Henderson. I spent an hour and a half shooting the storm cell as it moved off to the northeast.” You can see The Luxor light beam and the Stratosphere tower (bottom right) if you look at the image closely.



Camera: Canon EOS 60D
Lens: 18-200 mm
Tripod: Yes
Aperture: f/4
Shutter Speed: 0.4
ISO: 800
HDR: No



“Storm at Bonsai Rock” ♦ Tim Miley, Reno ♦ timmiley.com

“Lake Tahoe is one of the special places I frequently visit when feeling inspired to enjoy the outdoors and take landscape photos,” Miley says. “On this particular day, some clouds were rolling in, and I was hoping for a colorful sunset, but was instead left with this surprise.” He capitalized on the March 2013 storm’s thick cloud cover by using a four-minute exposure and a neutral density filter to achieve this smoothing effect. Bonsai Rock is on the lake’s northeastern shore.



Camera: Canon EOS 5D
Lens: 16-35 mm
Tripod: Yes
Aperture: f/8
Shutter Speed: 240
ISO: 200
HDR: No



“Ruby Mountain Virga” ♦ Kristoffer Pfallmer, Reno ♦ kristofferglenn.com

In his 11 years as a traditional guardsman navigator for the Nevada Air National Guard, based in Reno, Pfallmer has had the privilege of seeing the Silver State from some unique vantage points. Such was the case in October 2011. “We were flying past the Ruby Mountains when I caught this rain shaft falling out of the cloud formation and hitting the ground,” he says. “To catch a fleeting meteorological event in such a beautiful area of Nevada during the course of my job makes this a shot of a lifetime.”



Camera: Pentax K-7
Lens: 12-24 mm
Tripod: No
Aperture: f/9
Shutter Speed: 1/320
ISO: 200
HDR: No

“Hoover Dam at Night”

Tom Morris, Bartlett, Illinois
[ginareacameraclub.com/
galleries/tom-morris](http://ginareacameraclub.com/galleries/tom-morris)

Sometimes the best-laid plans don't necessarily produce the memorable photo. “My wife, MaryJean, and I had just finished the Lake Mead dinner cruise and intended to see what the dam looked like at night from the walkway on the new bridge [pictured] and perhaps shoot an image from there,” Morris says. “Unfortunately the walkway is closed after dark.” So Morris—who visited in May of this year—snapped this perfect panoramic from one of the main parking areas.



Camera: Canon EOS 7D
Lens: 13 mm
Tripod: Yes
Aperture: f/8
Shutter Speed: 2.5, 10, & 30
ISO: 400
HDR: Yes



“Twice is Nice”

Scott Rokis, Gardnerville
scottrokis.com

During summer 2010, Rokis was preparing to run his first 50k endurance race. “I spent many evenings exploring the Tahoe Rim Trail and very much enjoyed this view of Marlette Lake and Lake Tahoe virtually stacked next to one another,” he says. “The sun was casting just enough light on the foreground to bring out the flowers and illuminate the clouds.”



Camera: Canon EOS 40D
Lens: 11-16 mm
Tripod: Yes
Aperture: f/8
Shutter Speed: 1/125
ISO: 400
HDR: No



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Guest judge of this year's contest, Rachid Dahnoun of South Lake Tahoe, sports Lowepro gear.

These images were finalists in the 2013 Great Nevada Picture Hunt photo contest.



A Golden Silver State

This scene was captured on a cool September 2012 afternoon on the newest trail at the mouth of Lamoille Canyon, southeast of Elko. The 11-mile Lamoille-Talbot Trail has “beautiful, high views of Spring Creek, Lamoille, and sprawling ranchlands,” Esplin says.

TOP PHOTO BY DINI ESPLIN

On October 20, 2012, Homen was taking wedding portraits at the Stonehouse Country Inn, located in quaint Paradise Valley, north of Winnemucca. “The light was fantastic for shots around the yard with the wagon [resting beside] the massive old cottonwood trees,” he says. “This remains one of my all-time favorite prints.”

BOTTOM PHOTO BY DAVID HOMEN



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