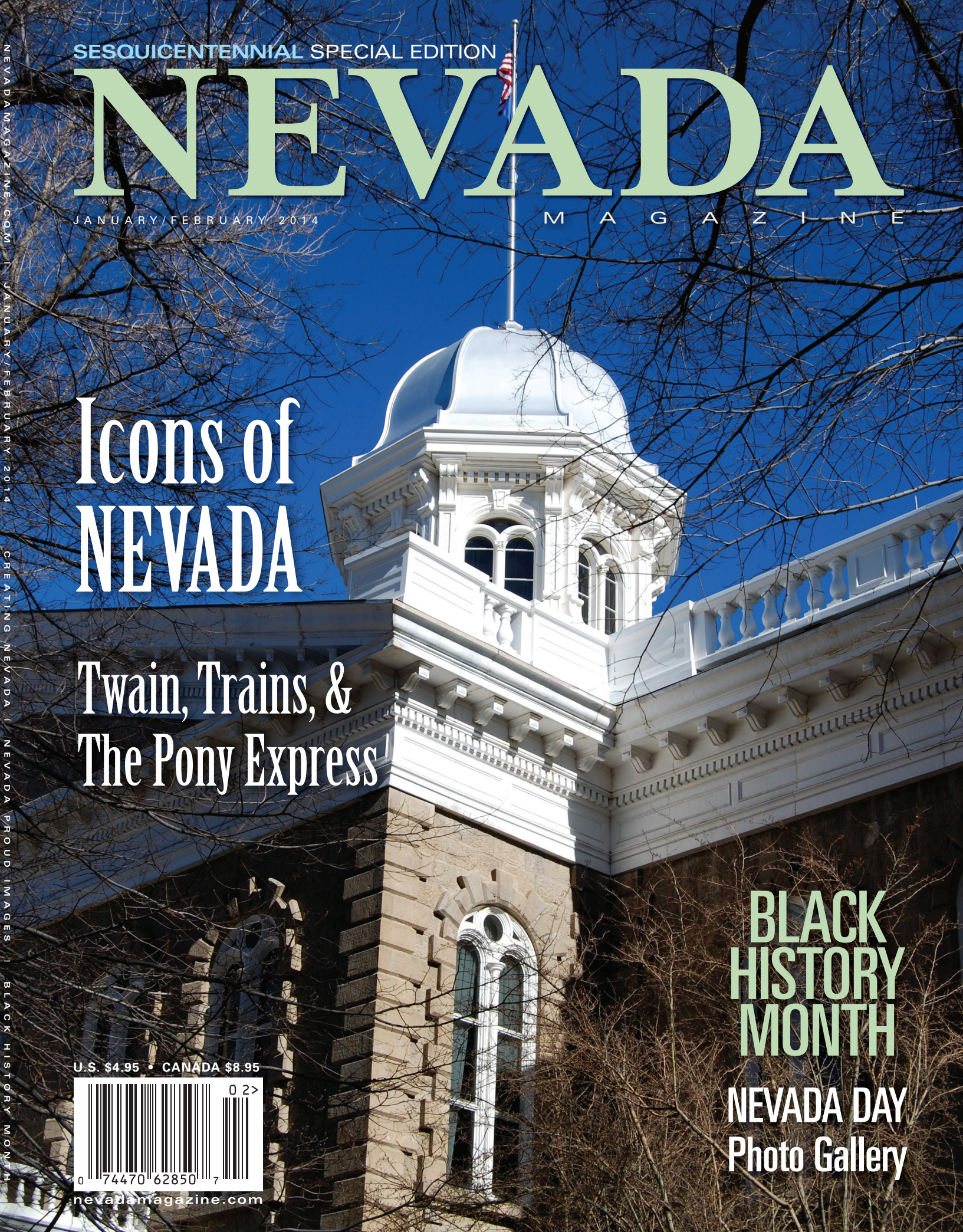
SESQUICENTENNIAL SPECIAL EDITION
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Icons of NEVADA
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02
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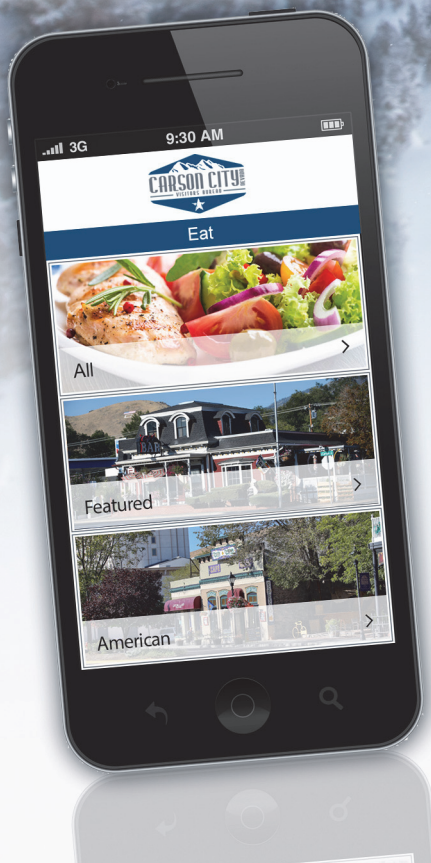

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JANUARY/FEBRUARY **2014**

contents

DEPARTMENTS

Up Front
8 Sparks Museum & Cultural Center, "Home Means Nevada" Project, Historic Airway Beacons, Nevada Press Association Sesquicentennial Series, & More

Visions
18 Conquering Arc Dome, Freezing Fog, & Our Facebook Photography Group's Finest

City Limits
22 Explore Laughlin

Wide Open
28 Eldorado Canyon: Channeling Techatticup

Special Section
32 Icons of Nevada

People
38 Black History in Nevada

History
42 Metropolis Ghost Town

Events & Shows
46 Jubilee! Rejuvenated
49 Nevada Sports Roundup
50 Statewide Events & Shows
52 Area 51 Exhibit Touches Down

IN EVERY ISSUE
3 Nevada Wide Web
4 Editor's Note
5 Letters to the Editor
6 Know Your Nevada, by Brian K. Krolicki
7 Nevada Map
54 Visit Our Partners/More Events & Shows
80 Your Nevada

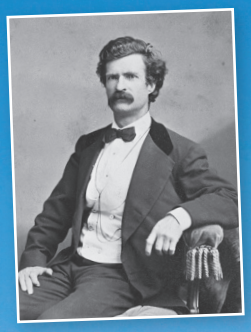
Cover Photo: Matthew B. Brown
Nevada's Capitol building, located in Carson City, is one of the West's oldest—construction was completed in 1871.

Background Image: Matthew B. Brown
Rusted trucks are just a few of the many old pieces of machinery that greet those who visit Eldorado Canyon, home of the 1861 Techatticup Mine.

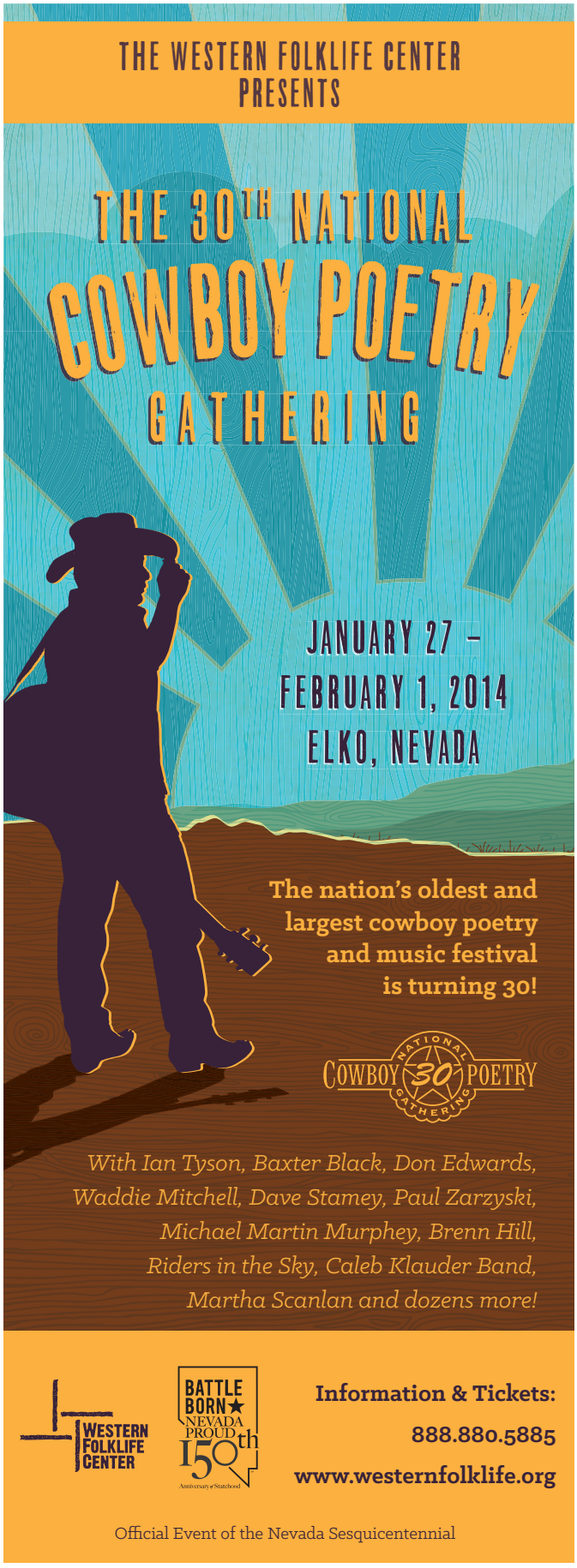
SESQUICENTENNIAL SPECIAL EDITION

FEATURES

TWAIN, TRAINS, & THE PONY EXPRESS
56 Bombastic journalists such as Mark Twain, the rise of the railroads, and the birth of Nevada's university system all merged to make Nevada prosperous in its early years of statehood. However, a depression overwhelmed the state at the end of the century, leaving its once-hopeful future in doubt.



BATTLE BORN ★ NEVADA PROUD
68 What better way to challenge our talented pool of photographers than by sending them out to document the state's 149th-birthday celebrations? We asked lovers of the lens to capture our Nevada pride during Nevada Day Weekend, October 25-27.



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DAVE ZOOK

WEB EXTRAS

▶ Three men, friends from their college days at the University of Oregon, climbed central Nevada's **Arc Dome**—the tallest point in the vast Toiyabe Range—in November. Read about their epic adventure. **By Dave Zook**

RADIO SHOW

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COMMENT

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

On NEVADAMAG.BLOGSPOT.COM

▶ **"The Motel Life,"** filmed mostly in Reno and Virginia City, hit the big screen recently. We take a look back at other movies filmed in Nevada.

▶ Learn the ins and outs of **Wasting Arrows**, the only indoor archery range in the Reno/Sparks area.

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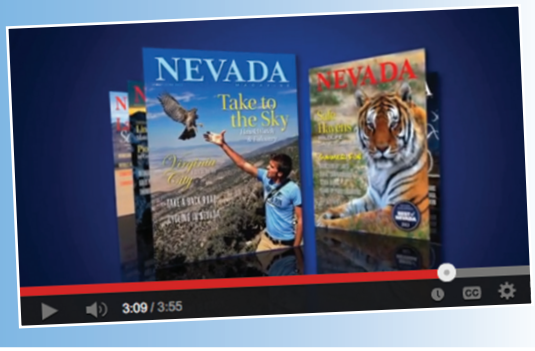
FEATURED VIDEO

Visit our YouTube page to watch our new *Nevada Magazine* promotional video, produced by Lake Tahoe's THS-Visuals. Learn about our publication's 78-year history and why you should be a subscriber.



WORTH A CLICK

nevada150.org/category/stories

Part of what makes Nevada so wonderful is its people and their individual experiences. The Nevada 150 website is collecting these personal stories, as well as giving the option to "Tell Us Your Story."

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Look for this icon through November/December 2014. It means you're reading special coverage of the state's 150th birthday.

What Do You Love About Nevada?

That's a subject we could do an entire magazine on—and we will, in fact. But we need your help first.

Right off the top, happy 150th birthday, Nevada! Our six 2014 issues will be a special dedication to our state's rich history and the people and things that make it so great today. We have some exciting things planned for our upcoming issues, including a "150 Things We Love About Nevada" special edition in November/December 2014.

That's why we're asking for your participation. Simply put, we want to know why you love Nevada. Send us an e-mail (preferred), write us a letter, or give us a call and tell us why the Silver State is special to you. You don't have to be a resident—the only stipulation is that you have to love Nevada.

As the year goes on, we will compile this information for possible inclusion in the November/December 2014 issue. We look forward to your submissions, and be sure to include photos if they help tell your story. See the information at right for more details on how you can get involved.

Need a little help getting started? Here are just five reasons why I love Nevada:

* It's sunny practically year-round.
* There's so much public land to explore.
* There are ghost towns galore.
* I love the snow and cold.
* Nevada is the last bastion of the Wild West.

I could go on and on, and so could the rest of the *Nevada Magazine* staff, but we already know what *we* love about Nevada. We want to know what *you* love about Nevada. We also want to know what your friends and family love about the state. Your list doesn't have to be as brief as mine; in fact, the more detail, the better. Thanks in advance for your participation.

IN OUR CURRENT ISSUE

This is our third of eight Sesquicentennial Special Editions. Author and historian Ron Soodalter continues his eight-part sesquicentennial history series with Part III, which explains how bombastic journalists such as Mark Twain, the rise of the railroads, and the birth of Nevada's university system all merged to make Nevada prosperous in its early years of statehood. But a statewide depression in the late 1800s left Nevada wondering what its unpredictable future would hold.

Our second feature story is a celebration of Nevada pride—images captured during Nevada Day Weekend 2013. We thank all of the talented pool of photographers who participated in our Nevada Photographers Day II event, which this time around was held over a three-day period in October.

Also in this issue are stories on the Southern Nevada riverside town of Laughlin, the historic Techatticup Mine in Eldorado Canyon, seven influential black leaders from Nevada's past and present, and the ghost town of Metropolis.

At *Nevada Magazine*, we recognize that this is a special time for Nevada and Nevada lovers, and we are honored to celebrate Nevada's 150th birthday in our pages.

Matthew B. Brown, Managing Editor
editor@nevadamagazine.com | 775-687-0602
linkedin.com/in/matthewbbrown

TELL US WHY YOU LOVE NEVADA

1. Send an e-mail to editor@nevadamagazine.com.
2. Write us a letter to Editor, 401 N. Carson St., Carson City, NV 89701.
3. Call us at 775-687-0602.
4. Or use hashtag #nvmaglove on social media.

Submissions will be considered for possible publication in the November/December 2014 issue of Nevada Magazine. Submissions are subject to editing. Please include relevant photos.

Submission deadline is September 2, 2014 at 5 p.m. Pacific.

A MINING BUFF SATISFIED

What a great state and a special magazine. Your item on gold and silver mining [in the November/December 2013 issue] was very special. Thank you for helping me enjoy the great stories of our state.

Floyd A. Brandt, Machesney Park, Illinois

HAPPY (NEW) SUBSCRIBER

I subscribed to *Nevada Magazine* for the first time this year. I love it! Wish I had subscribed sooner. Great articles, the pictures are just breathtaking, and I am so glad I will get the articles and info on Nevada's 150th-birthday celebrations. Excellent job marketing Nevada.

Jennie Humphreys, Carson City

LEARNING TO LOVE NEVADA

Your magazine is the best. It's the absolute premier magazine for Nevada history and current events. I always rush to buy it as soon as it hits the bookshelves. I live in Southern Nevada, but love Carson Valley, Reno, the Great Basin, and the Sierra Nevada. The magazine is a gold mine of info and helps me keep in touch with the places I've traveled.

I've lived in Nevada for 12 years and, to be truthful, I did not like the state so much. Your magazine opened my eyes to so much. I have to come to love and appreciate what a beautiful state we have.

Susan Thurston, (via Facebook)

CORRECTION

• In the November/December 2013 issue, on page 36, we incorrectly cited the 1960 Olympics in Squaw Valley as "America's first Olympic Winter Games." The 1932 event was held in Lake Placid, New York. Thanks, W.H. Painter of Las Vegas, for keeping us honest.

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.

The Sesquicentennial Celebration Continues

Brian K. Krolicki addresses the crowd at December's Nevada Governor's Conference on Tourism.

CHRIS MATTHEWS/NCOT

Dear Friends,

The sesquicentennial is well underway, and what fun we're having! As I wrote in the November/December 2013 issue, we had a tremendously successful kick-off. Our November and December events were as diverse as our state. Hopefully you, your family, and friends had the chance to participate in at least one of them.

From the outstanding watercolor exhibit held at the Wilbur D. May Center in Reno, with our state's 150th birthday as the focus; to the Las Vegas Great Santa Run, which featured country music starlet Shania Twain as the Grand marshal; to an old-fashioned tree lighting on Maine Street in Fallon; there was something for everyone. I was honored to be the Grand marshal of December's Sparks Hometowne Christmas Parade, a great tradition that embraced our celebration.

The Nevada Governor's Conference on Tourism was held at the beautiful Red Rock Casino Resort Spa in Las Vegas in early December. I took advantage of this unique opportunity to educate a captive audience about our state's birthday, including our friends from China, Japan, and Korea.

The next couple months are packed with exciting events. One of our signature events is a special occasion to hear firsthand what life in the Governor's Mansion was like. If you have the chance to attend "First Ladies First" on January 11, 2014 at Caesars Palace in Las Vegas, I strongly encourage it. First Lady Kathleen Sandoval will host five former First Ladies in a conversation about their unique roles in Nevada.

Lovelock will host its ninth annual Lovers Aloft Balloon Race during Valentine's Day weekend. This will be the first of five hot-air balloon races held throughout the state during our sesquicentennial year. The winner of this race series will be announced at the 2014 Nevada Day Parade in Carson City.

One of the most beautiful celebrations of our extraordinary Asian community and culture will be February 8-10 at Fremont Street Experience in Las Vegas. For those of you who haven't attended a Chinese New Year celebration, take your family and experience the rich, exquisite pageantry of the "Las Vegas Festival: Chinese New Year in the Desert."

Mark your calendar to be in Carson City on March 14, where a mammoth birthday cake will be served to celebrate the day Congress approved Nevada's Constitution in 1864. The Battle Born Birthday Cake will be a close replica of the centennial cake that was served when Nevada turned 100 in 1964. Our cake will weigh about 1,300 pounds, so bring your friends because there will be plenty for everyone. This fun and tasty occasion will tie our past to our present—and maybe even challenge the 200th-birthday-year organizers to keep up the tradition.

Continue to check our website, nevada150.org, to learn about all the upcoming events and find ways to support Nevada 150. Serving and representing the people of the great State of Nevada is such a privilege—never more so than during this sesquicentennial year. Whether I'm reading to schoolchildren, leading a parade, or serving chili at my annual Nevada Day Chili Feed, I plan to enjoy every facet of the celebration. I hope you do, too.

Lt. Gov. Brian K. Krolicki

Brian K. Krolicki
Lieutenant Governor
Chairman—Nevada Commission on Tourism & Nevada 150 Commission
ltgov.nv.gov

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

PLACES HIGHLIGHTED IN THIS ISSUE

- Arc Dome (pg. 18)
- Beatty (pg. 68)
- Carson City (pgs. 6, 38, 68)
- Elko (pgs. 51, 56)
- Fallon (pg. 6)
- Gardnerville (pg. 21)
- Genoa (pgs. 20, 38)
- Las Vegas (pgs. 6, 36, 38, 46, 49, 52, 68)
- Laughlin (pg. 22)
- Metropolis (pg. 42)
- Moapa (pg. 21)
- Mt. Charleston (pg. 80)
- Nelson/Eldorado Canyon (pg. 28)
- Pyramid Lake (pg. 56)
- Reno (pgs. 6, 10, 12, 36, 38, 49, 56, 68)
- Sparks (pg. 8)
- Virginia City (pg. 56)

PHOTOS: MATTHEW B. BROWN

The Sparks Museum & Cultural Center (above), located at 814 Victorian Avenue just east of Reno in the City of Sparks, houses history exhibits on a diverse range of topics, including mining, music, police, railroads, space, and transportation. The museum grounds are also home to the historic 1864 Glendale School (below), an early-1900s railroad engine and business car, and a mid-1900s caboose.

MUSEUM

Sparks Museum & Cultural Center treats history and train buffs

As Nevada continues its 150th-birthday celebration, an inconspicuous schoolhouse in Sparks should be getting a lot more attention. That's because it was founded in 1864, the year Nevada became a state. Although the little white schoolhouse has moved from its original location on the northwest corner of Henry Whistler's ranch, it still maintains its charm from its 94 years of educating Nevada's youth.

In the time between rancher Erastus C. Sessions establishing the school and its closing in 1958, a number of students sat in its vintage wooden desks. Celebrated former senator Patrick McCarron learned the three "Rs" there. Visitors who venture inside will find a stuck-in-time schoolhouse, with old Nevada maps, an American and Nevada flag, and portraits of famous presidents Lincoln and Washington. On parts of the walls are black-and-white photos from the school's history.

That's just one small part of the museum grounds. Next to the school is steam locomotive No. 8—a 1907 remnant of the Nevada-California-Oregon Railroad. Its cars, Caboose No. 1153 and Business Car No. 132, are decorated just as they might have been during the railroad's 1900s glory days, giving tourists a candid reminder of a bygone era.

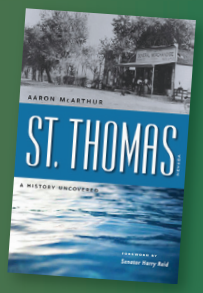
Across Victorian Avenue, in a historic brick building, is the main museum. It's a treasure trove of artifacts dedicated to the history of Sparks and the surrounding area. In 1904, a year before the town settled on the name Sparks and was incorporated in 1905, the largest roundhouse in the world was constructed here. While the area's railroad legacy is front and center, there are also displays that cover mining, pioneer, police, and space history. There's even a one-horse open sleigh that once served Carson Valley.

Museum hours are 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., Tuesday through Friday. Tours of the train are Saturdays only, 1 to 4 p.m., during which time the museum is also open.

PLAN YOUR TRIP

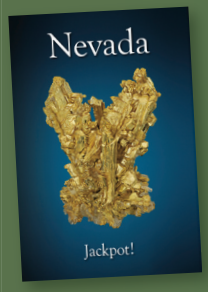
Sparks Museum & Cultural Center
814 Victorian Ave., Sparks, NV 89431
sparksmuseum.org
775-355-1144

NEVADA BOOKS



St. Thomas, Nevada: A History Uncovered
By Aaron McArthur, University of Nevada Press, unpress.nevada.edu, 800-621-2736, 184 pages

The National Park Service today preserves and interprets the remains of St. Thomas, located in Lake Mead National Recreation Area, as a significant historical site. Touching as it does upon early explorers, Mormons, criminals, railroad and auto transportation, mining, water, state and federal relations, and more, *St. Thomas, Nevada: A History Uncovered* offers much to Mormon and regional historians, as well as general readers of western history.



Nevada—Jackpot!
Lithographie, Ltd., lithographie.org, 303-495-5521, 128 pages

This Denver-based publisher, which specializes in books on mining and minerals, worked with a team of Nevada geologists and collectors to publish this colorful book, No. 18 in its biannual MINERAL monograph series. The illustrated publication offers a detailed overview of mining and mineral collecting in the Silver State. This volume is the first of a number planned to cover states and provinces in the U.S. and Canada.

NEVADA'S FIRST UNIVERSITY

—THE STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEVADA PREPARATORY SCHOOL—OPENED IN **ELKO IN 1874** TO A TOTAL ENROLLMENT OF SEVEN STUDENTS. THE UNIVERSITY MOVED TO RENO IN 1885.

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NEVADA news

- Las Vegas could be home to **The Modern Contemporary Art Museum** in a matter of a few years. It's one of three components of a planned cultural center that will showcase art, technology, and design. The project has already received $2.4 million pledged in land and cash donations. **themodernlv.org**

- After flooding that caused millions of dollars in damage at **Las Vegas Paiute Golf Resort**, three of Las Vegas' premier courses are back—or nearly back—online. Snow Mountain and Sun Mountain reopened in the fall, and the Wolf course is slated to reopen January 1, 2014. **lvpaiutegolf.com, 800-711-2833**

- Hospitality leader sbe has hired Albert Smith as Vice President of Hotel Operations for **SLS Las Vegas**. The property is slated to open in fall 2014, featuring more than 1,600 guest rooms and suites and a collection of sbe dining and nightlife concepts. **slshotels.com/lasvegas**

- **Las Vegas Ski & Snowboard Resort** has launched its complimentary coaching service in which skiers and snowboarders with day or season passes can receive free instruction from representatives of the Professional Ski Instructors of America or American Association of Snowboard Instructors. Reservations are not required. **skilasvegas.com, 702-385-2754**

- The **Las Vegas Arts Commission** has a new chairman, first vice-chair, and second vice-chair. Stephen Grogan was elected chairman; Glenn Nowak, first vice-chair; and Jerry Schefcik, second vice-chair. **lvartscommission.com, 702-229-5431**

BATTLE BORN NEVADA PROUD 150th

SESQUICENTENNIAL

Reno Phil orchestrates "Home Means Nevada" project

To celebrate the state's 150th anniversary this year, the Reno Philharmonic has embarked on a special project to give musicians and educators across the state new materials to teach and perform "Home Means Nevada," the official state song.

As part of the sesquicentennial celebration, and thanks to a significant grant from the E. L. Wiegand Foundation, the Reno Phil will record seven different orchestral and choral versions of the song, which will be available online for listening and download along with sheet music. Educators and students will then be encouraged to perform, record, and share the version they prefer.

The Reno Philharmonic Orchestra and Chorus will perform the full arrangement in October 2014 at a special performance to celebrate Nevada's 150th birthday. This performance will also feature recordings of "Home Means Nevada" by students across the state. **renophil.com, 775-323-6393**

AMY HEALD

"HOME MEANS NEVADA"

By Bertha Raffetto (1932)

Way out in the land of the setting sun,
Where the wind blows wild and free,
There's a lovely spot, just the only one
That means home sweet home to me.
If you follow the old Kit Carson trail,
Until desert meets the hills,
Oh you certainly will agree with me,
It's the place of a thousand thrills.

Home means Nevada
Home means the hills,
Home means the sage and the pine.
Out by the Truckee, silvery rills,
Out where the sun always shines,
Here is the land which I love the best,
Fairer than all I can see.
*Deep in the heart of the golden west
Home means Nevada to me.

Whenever the sun at the close of day,
Colors all the western sky,
Oh my heart returns to the desert grey
And the mountains towering high.
Where the moonbeams play in shadowed glen,
With the spotted fawn and doe,
All the livelong night until morning light,
Is the loveliest place I know.

(repeat chorus)

**—Also sung "Right in the heart..."*

NEVADA 150 EVENTS	PLACE	DATE
First Ladies First: An Afternoon with Five Former First Ladies of Nevada	Las Vegas	Jan. 11
50th annual Sheep Dip Show	Sparks	Jan. 17-18
30th annual Nat. Cowboy Poetry Gathering	Elko	Jan. 27-Feb. 1

GO WITH the FLOW or KICK IT into HIGH GEAR

Mesquite Hot-Air Balloon Festival
January 25-26, 2014

Mesquite Off-Road Weekend
February 21-23, 2014

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NEVADA news

- Marnell Gaming recently announced the development of the **Laughlin Event Center**. The outdoor venue is expected to open in February 2014. Anthony Marnell III, owner and operator of Laughlin's Colorado Belle and Edgewater casino-resorts, is spearheading the project. **visitlaughlin.com, 800-452-8445**

- Film producer Adryenn Ashley has launched the **Reno Film Directory**, an online resource guide for production companies to find film-friendly businesses, resources, and local crew and talent. **renofilm.com, 775-525-1510**

- Redeveloper Dacole Co. is in the process of renovating the historic 1932 post office building in **downtown Reno** into retail and office space. The renovation is expected to be finished by late March or early April.

- Set to host a number of special 50th-anniversary events and new shows through January 12, **Fleischmann Planetarium** at the University of Nevada, Reno invites the community to celebrate 50 years of science education and engagement in Northern Nevada. **planetarium.unr.edu, 800-233-8928**

- The **Boy Scouts of America-Nevada Area Council** recently opened the doors to its new headquarters located on 500 Double Eagle Court in Reno. The Nevada Area Council is geographically the second-largest scouting council in the United States, serving 23 counties in northern California and Nevada. **scouter.org, 775-787-1111**

SESQUICENTENNIAL

State's newspaper heritage recognized by NPA

To mark Nevada's sesquicentennial, many of the state's newspapers are printing a series of front pages of historic Nevada events. The front pages were copied from microfilm at the Nevada State Library and Archives or other sources, and the stories on them were re-typed.

Within those stories is the history of the state as told by the reporters and editors who were there. It is not merely a rough draft of history; it is a representation caught by the eyes and ears of the people who lived it, then told in colorful and droll prose. Barry Smith, director of the Nevada Press Association, chose the pages. If you have suggestions for historical Nevada events you'd like to see, e-mail them to nevadapress@att.net. **nevadapress.com, 775-885-0866**

SPORTING SECTION

Reno Evening Gazette

THE WEATHER Fair tonight and Sunday

METAL MARKET NEW YORK, June 30—Lead, $4.40@4.50. Copper, $11.75@12.00. Silver, 59 1-2.

THIRTY-FOURTH YEAR RENO, NEVADA, TUESDAY EVENING, JULY 5, 1910. NO. 151.

JEFFRIES LOSES IN 15 ROUNDS

THE BLACK CHAMPION PROVES TO BE INVINCIBLE

JOHNSON ASKS IF HE DID NOT BOX WELL IN RING

The champion, Jack Johnson, when asked for his expression this afternoon following his victory said:

"Don't you think I boxed well. I fought this fight different than I ever did before and I fought a better one."

"I wish to thank the people of Reno for the treatment accorded me."

BATTLE NOT MARRED BY ACCIDENTS

THE KNOCKOUT

JEFFRIES SAYS BIG BLACK BEAT HIM FAIR AND SQUARE

The defeated champion, James J. Jeffries, gave out the following statement to The Gazette shortly after this afternoon's contest:

"The colored fellow beat me fair and square, but I thought I would get to him before he got me. In this I found I was mistaken."

O'BRIEN SAYS JEFF COULDN'T "COME BACK"

BY JACK O'BRIEN

NEARLY 20,000 MEN WITNESS DEFEAT OF JAMES J. JEFFRIES

Mrs. Jeffries Bore Up Bravely When News of Fatal Fifteenth Was Flashed to Her Over Wire

JEFFRIES FOUGHT ONCE TO OFTEN SO MET HIS WATERLOO

On July 4, 1910, Jack Johnson—who two years earlier became the first black boxer to hold the heavyweight title—beat former champion and white opponent James Jeffries in 15 rounds in Reno. Johnson-Jeffries is still regarded as one of the most famous heavyweight matches.

See more historic Nevada newspaper covers at nevadapress.com.

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NEVADA news

- Pennsylvania artist Jocelyn Beatty has been named the winner of the 2014 **Nevada Duck Stamp Art Contest**. Her winning entry featuring two American coots floating on the water will grace Nevada's 2014-2015 State Duck Stamp. **ndow.org, 775-688-1500**

- **Churchill Vineyards**, the only estate winery and first legal distillery in Nevada, released its Churchill Vineyards Brandy in November. Owned and operated by fifth-generation Nevadan Colby Frey and his wife, Ashley, the Fallon winery has successfully entered the spirits market. **churchillvineyards.com, 775-423-4000**

- AEG and MGM Resorts International recently released the first images and details of a new 20,000-seat sports and entertainment venue in **Las Vegas**, which will be located near the heart of the Strip and adjacent to the I-15 corridor. The **arena** is expected to break ground in April 2014. **mgmresorts.com**

- Major League Baseball veteran Phil Nevin will take over as manager for the **Reno Aces** in the 2014 season, the club announced in November. Nevin will replace former manager Brett Butler. **renoaces.com, 775-334-4700**

HISTORY

Former airway arrows and beacons point the way to a different era in postal service

Once in a while, an explorer or hiker in the rural desert southwest will come upon a large, mysterious concrete arrow—some as long as 70 feet. What are they, and why are they there?

In the early 1920s, the U.S. Postal Service was experimenting with using airplanes to deliver mail. So, the Postal Service established routes, which it called airways, along which to fly airmail. In making the assertion that the pilots would need to fly day and night, the first arrow—foundations for electrical beacons that would guide pilots—was laid in 1924. The beacons, which sat on tall steel towers, were placed every 10 to 15 miles along an airway. The Postal Service hired people, similar to lighthouse keepers, who would turn on the beacons nightly.

By 1929, this system of arrows spanned the country from San Francisco to New York. Advances in communication and navigation technology made the big arrows obsolete, however, and the beacons were decommissioned in the 1940s. Most of the towers were torn down and went to the war effort, but the hundreds of arrows still remain. In Nevada, most of the arrows lie roughly on the path of modern-day Interstate 80 from Reno to West Wendover. There are a few in Southern Nevada as well along I-15.

SKIP REEVES

DALLAS HENRICHSEN

Above: One of the many airmail beacons installed by the U.S. Postal Service in the 1920s still stands near the Northern Nevada town of Fernley. The concrete arrow at right lies 10 miles west of Mesquite, near Interstate 15's milepost 110, in Southern Nevada.

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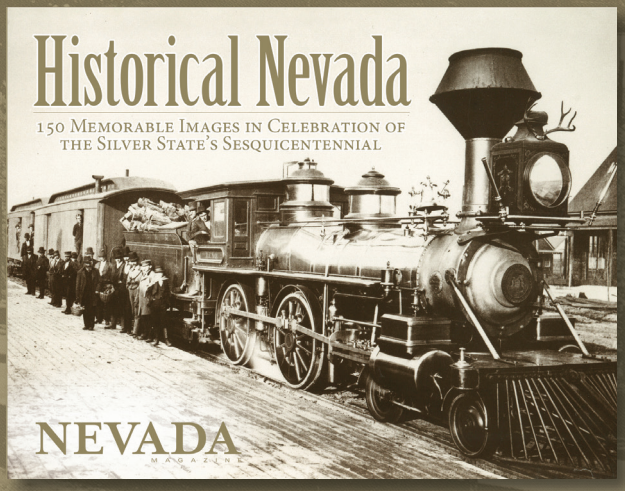

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Express ~~$65~~ | **$39**

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• Cruise Lake Mead on an authentic Mississippi style river boat • Day cruises available • Hoover Dam Tour & Lake Mead day cruise together in one Tour! • Visit Ethel M Chocolate Factory with free samples on day cruise only • Photo opportunity at the "Las Vegas" sign

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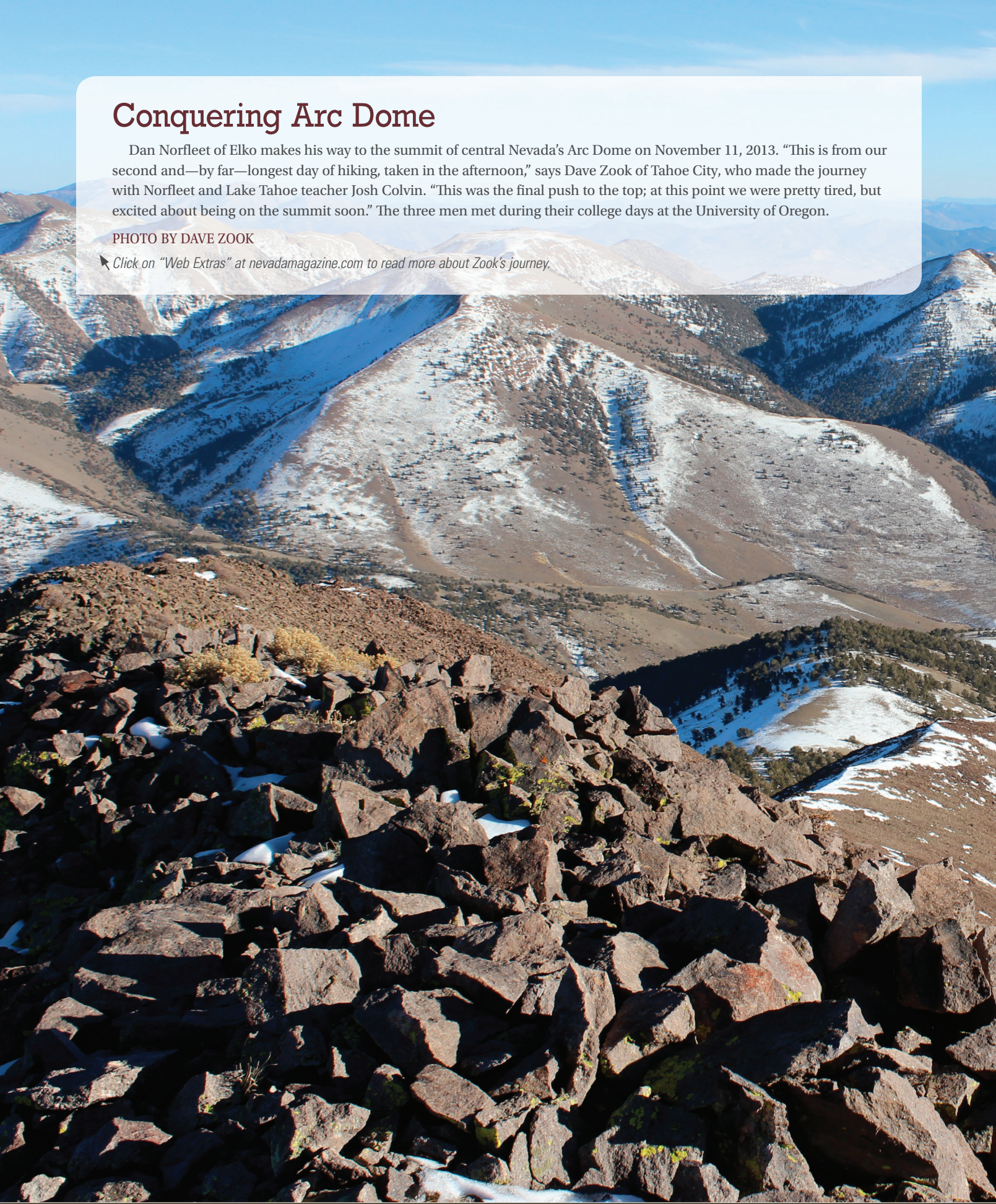
Conquering Arc Dome

Dan Norfleet of Elko makes his way to the summit of central Nevada's Arc Dome on November 11, 2013. "This is from our second and—by far—longest day of hiking, taken in the afternoon," says Dave Zook of Tahoe City, who made the journey with Norfleet and Lake Tahoe teacher Josh Colvin. "This was the final push to the top; at this point we were pretty tired, but excited about being on the summit soon." The three men met during their college days at the University of Oregon.

PHOTO BY DAVE ZOOK

Click on "Web Extras" at nevadamagazine.com to read more about Zook's journey.



FREEZING FOG

A word that has Shoshonean roots, pogonip is a winter phenomenon that occurs in the mountain valleys of the western United States. This serene scene was captured on January 7, 2013 at David Walley's Hot Springs Resort in Genoa. Established in 1862, David Walley's is a popular destination for Carson Valley residents and visitors.

PHOTO BY CAROLE TALAN

WINTER IS FOR THE BIRDS

Sometimes a photographer doesn't have to venture far at all to find that Kodak moment. "It was the beginning of 2013 in Carson Valley," Merry Muller says. "There was a gentle snow falling and a silence, except for the robins eating the berries from my tree. It was a beautiful moment."

Muller, from Gardnerville, excels at nature photography—she won both categories of the 2013 Eagles & Agriculture Photo Contest, and her website contains hundreds of images of wild horses.

PHOTO BY MERRY MULLER

See more of Muller's work at merrymullerphotos.com.

ART DIRECTOR'S CHOICE

Each issue, *Nevada Magazine* Art Director Sean Nebeker chooses a photo submitted via e-mail or Facebook to be showcased on this page. E-mail your photos to **snebeker@nevadamagazine.com**.

POW-WOW PORTRAIT

Little Sun was a participant in the 22nd annual Southern Paiute Veterans Pow-Wow on November 2, 2013 in Moapa. "I enjoy shooting close-ups," says John Wayland, who used a 500mm lens to capture this colorful moment.

PHOTO BY JOHN WAYLAND

See more of Wayland's work at mosby.zenfolio.com.

GROUP CHOICE

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

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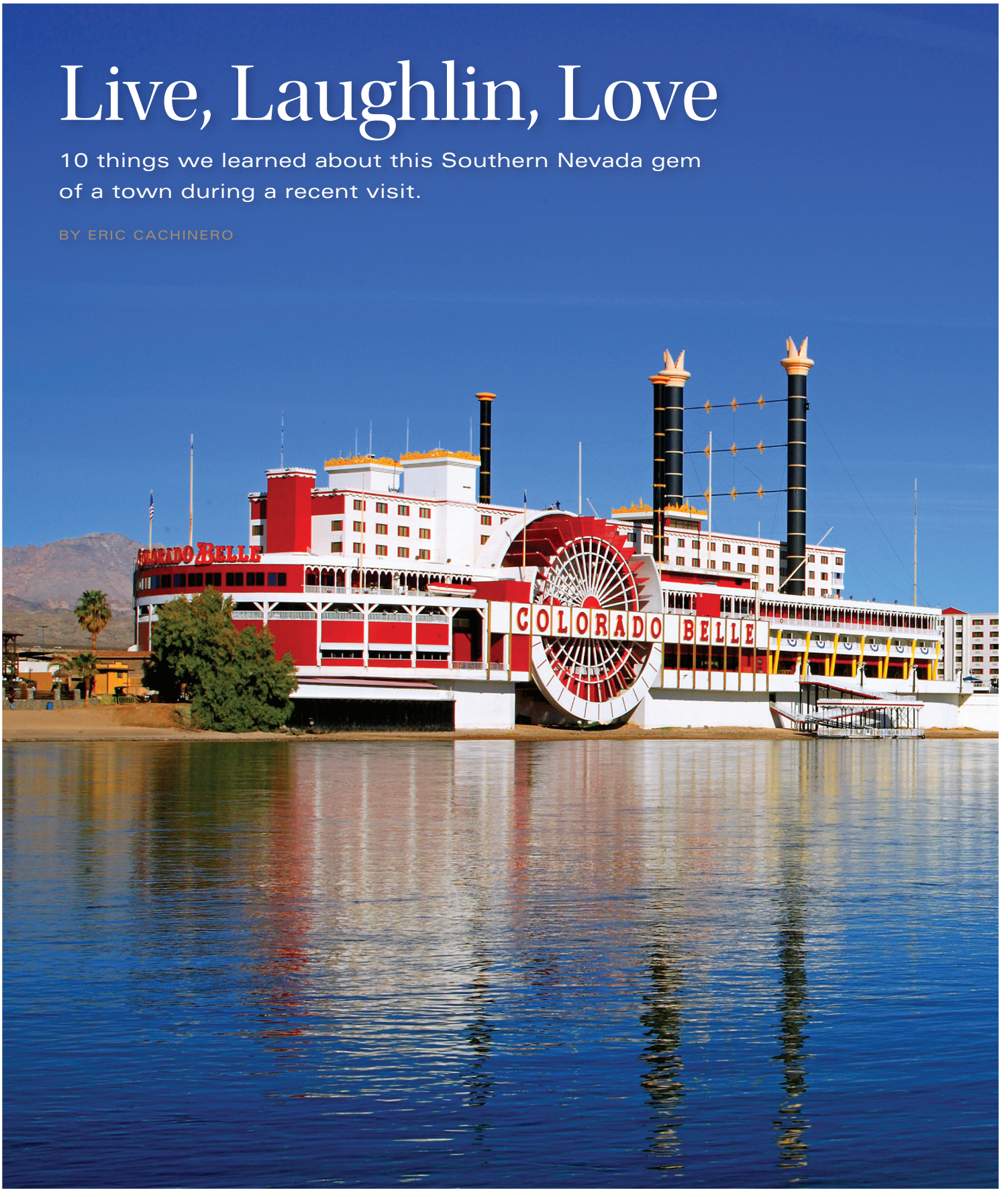
Live, Laughlin, Love

10 things we learned about this Southern Nevada gem of a town during a recent visit.

BY ERIC CACHINERO



The Colorado Belle Hotel & Casino and a portion of the Laughlin Riverwalk sit along the banks of the crystal-clear blue waters of the Colorado River.

LAS VEGAS NEWS BUREAU

Located roughly 90 miles south of Las Vegas lies an underrated Nevada treasure. Touting a scenic riverwalk, crystal-clear waters, and nearby petroglyphs strewn across the red rock countryside, Laughlin truly stands out as a Nevada town worth visiting. A popular destination for snowbirds hoping to escape frigid temperatures during the winter season, Laughlin provides a sunny escape year-round.

The town's origin dates to 1964 when founder Don Laughlin flew over the site and saw tourism potential. At the time, the region—a stretch of the Colorado River referred to as Tri State—consisted of not much more than an abandoned eight-room motel. Within two years, Don purchased the motel and six acres of riverfront property.

Construction of Laughlin began shortly thereafter, and the town began to take shape. After the addition of various hotels and casinos, Don funded his namesake Laughlin Bridge, which provided easy access to Arizona and established the location as a prosperous Nevada settlement. 2014 marks a special occasion for Laughlin as the town observes the 50-year mark since its conception.

In October, *Nevada Magazine* Editor Matthew B. Brown and I were lucky enough to visit Laughlin—one of Nevada's southernmost towns—taking in much that it has to offer. Though you don't have to search far and wide to find your niche in Laughlin, if you need a nudge here's a list of our top 10 favorite things about this home away from home:

1. CLEAR? CRYSTAL

Move over Lake Tahoe, Laughlin is giving you a run for your money. We were absolutely astonished by the clarity of the Colorado River—the impressive water source flowing alongside the Laughlin "strip," as locals refer to its casino district. And the amount of activities available on the river proves the beauty and clarity of this river are taken full advantage of. Watercraft rentals, riverboat tours, and the annual River Regatta—an event in which thousands of participants take to the river on inner tubes and float an eight-mile stretch—keep visitors coming back.

2. THE FOODIE'S PARADISE

From fine dining in one of the area's elegant steakhouses such as the Range Steakhouse inside of Harrah's Laughlin to enjoying an all-you-can-eat buffet in the Aquarius Casino Resort, the dining options in Laughlin are numerous. If you still crave a steak but want to keep it more casual, Saltgrass steakhouse inside Golden Nugget Laughlin will cater to your desire. If beer and a burger better suit your appetite, Pints Brewery & Sports Bar inside The Colorado Belle Hotel & Casino dishes up a more relaxed dining experience.

3. CANYON CANVASES AND A CHRISTMAS TREE

Less than 30 minutes from Laughlin lies Grapevine Canyon, one of Nevada's most interesting and accessible (via easily traversable dirt roads) archeological sites. This distinct area contrasts the normal landscape of the Mojave Desert, giving visitors a chance to view hundreds of petroglyphs carved into the canyon

MATTHEW B. BROWN

Hundreds of petroglyphs can be found strewn across the rock walls of nearby Grapevine Canyon.

walls. Though dry during our visit, the canyon is said to contain a natural spring, giving life to plants such as cottonwoods, cattails, and canyon grapes, while also attracting wildlife such as the desert bighorn sheep.

A short distance on dirt roads from Grapevine Canyon lies Christmas Tree Pass, which gives visitors astounding views of the area's geology and vegetation; and, yes, there was a small decorated Christmas tree on top of the pass when we visited.

4. YOU BUILT A TIME MACHINE OUT OF A DELOREAN?

You don't have to be a motor head to enjoy the Riverside Classic Auto Exhibition Hall at Don Laughlin's Riverside Resort. With more than 80 rare, antique, and historic automobiles, trucks, and motorcycles, the free exhibit (spread out across two locations on the property) is available to the public daily. Ford Model Ts, a classic Chrysler Crown Imperial, and even an iconic Delorean, popularized by the film "Back to the Future," can be viewed in these spacious automobile museums.

LAS VEGAS NEWS BUREAU

The Colorado River in Laughlin offers a number of aquatic activities including fishing, boating, and jet skiing.

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LAS VEGAS NEWS BUREAU

The manmade sandy beach at Harrah's Laughlin affords visitors an escape from the typical riverside view.

5. A RIVER RUNS BY IT

The Laughlin Riverwalk offers visitors a rousing way to cruise the Laughlin strip. The waterfront path is chock full of various restaurants, casinos, and river activities and provides a scenic view of the Colorado River. Guests who don't feel like walking can even traverse the riverwalk by taking a ride on a water taxi.

6. COURTESY OF THE RED, WHITE, AND BLUE

The entertainment life in Laughlin is dynamic. During our visit, live music lined the strip at venues plenty large enough for dancing. Several nightclubs, including Gold Diggers—a vivacious venue that offers a good mix of dancing and drink specials—provided the late-night entertainment. The finale, though, was seeing country music star Toby Keith perform at the Laughlin Amphitheater. Keith rocked the amphitheater with one of his signature patriotic performances.

Tower of Power, Smokey Robinson, the Charlie Daniels Band, and Montgomery Gentry are just a few of the big acts that have recently played Laughlin.

7. IT'S A CELEBRATION!

Visitors have the chance to sail upon the *Celebration*—a simulated paddlewheel boat that provides a different perspective of the crystal-clear waters. The vessel—capable of accommodating 149 passengers—offers 90-minute cruises along casino row to Davis Dam. The boat also offers dinner cruises, riverboat weddings, and group charters.

8. A SOUTHERN (NEVADA) TRADITION

The Colorado Belle Hotel & Casino is truly a sight to see. The replica paddlewheel boat includes not only a hotel and casino, but also contains retail stores and entertainment and dining options, all enclosed under the impressively decorated exterior. Lined with Koi ponds on one side and the Colorado River on the other, this resort stands out on the Laughlin strip.

Brown and I spent what seemed like hours in awe as we dropped handful after handful of fish food (for sale in front of the hotel in 25-cent vending machines) and watched as hundreds of Koi—and duck intruders—gobbled it down.

9. RICK ROLLIN' ON THE RIVER

An iconic symbol of Nevada, River Rick (aka Laughlin Lou) greets visitors to the Laughlin Riverwalk. Displaying the same familiar appearance as his neon Nevada counterparts, Vegas Vic and Wendover Will, River Rick has been standing proudly at the Pioneer Hotel & Gambling Hall since 1981.

10. DESERT OASIS

A soft, sandy beach isn't easy to come by in the Silver State. However, at Harrah's Laughlin, guests can enjoy access to a riverfront beach, complete with cabana rentals and access to two outdoor swimming pools.

Laughlin Amphitheater

TOM DONOGHUE/LAS VEGAS NEWS BUREAU

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PHOTO BY A.D. WHEELER

A rustic pick-up truck is among the countless pieces of Nevada history that draw photographers and adventurers to the Techatticup Mine in Eldorado Canyon.

Eldorado Canyon

Nevada's Wild West roots are encapsulated in this living ghost town.

BY ERIC CACHINERO

At first glance, Eldorado Canyon visitors may not be aware they're standing on ground that at one time epitomized the Wild West. A region deluged in riches and plagued by lawlessness, greed, and murder, the history of this Southern Nevada treasure was crafted in blood and gold. Though the days of harboring Civil War deserters may be a thing of the past, the resonance of an unruly population can still be felt echoing throughout the canyon walls.

PHOTOS: MATTHEW B. BROWN

Though it certainly looks authentic, this airplane wreckage was left behind from the filming of the 2001 Hollywood hit "3,000 Miles to Graceland." The remnants are a reminder of the many movies and television shows that have been filmed in the area.

NOT YOUR EVERYDAY GHOST TOWN

In the heart of Eldorado Canyon, just east of Nelson, lies the Techatticup Mine—a popular destination for photographers and adventurers. Owners Tony and Bobbie Werly first took notice of the old mining camp while retrieving canoes for their former Colorado River canoe rental business. In 1994, the Werlys purchased 50 acres that included several mining claims, a store, a stamp mill, a bunkhouse, and a few tin miner cabins. Since then, the couple has been restoring the area, even opening up the Techatticup Mine for tours.

Though the area has become a popular tourist destination (located approximately one hour south of Las Vegas), Tony emphasizes to visitors that this is authentic Nevada history. "We remind people that this isn't Disneyland," Tony says. But to truly grasp the significance of Eldorado Canyon and the Techatticup Mine, a look back at the region's origins is necessary.

THE CANYON OF GOLD

According to the Werlys, the region owes its roots to the pre-Paiute basketweavers. After the basketweavers, Paiute and Mojave tribes inhabited the area relatively uninterrupted before the Spanish—in their conquest for gold—descended upon the canyon in the 1700s. The Spanish commenced mining in the area on the banks of the Colorado River, but found mostly silver before deeming the area unproductive and moving on.

Nearly 75 years later, the area would be visited by prospectors employing different methods, which allowed them to uncover the gold that had eluded the Spanish. The finds remained relatively secret until 1858, when steamboats began making their way up the Colorado River, causing whispers of gold to swell into a full-fledged mining boom.

In 1861 came the discovery of the Techatticup and Queen City mines, the combination of which formed one of the richest mining districts in pre-Nevada. The mines were owned by prominent California politician George Hearst. The name Techatticup derived from two Paiute words meaning "hungry" and "bread," as many Paiutes in the surrounding barren hills are reported to have frequented the mining camps begging for food.

Because of Eldorado Canyon's remoteness, vigilantism became the law of the land. According to Tony, even murder was not a heinous enough crime to warrant the involvement of the law. "In the 1870s, the nearest sheriff lived in Pioche, which was 200 miles north," Tony says. "It took him a week to get there, so not even a killing was a good enough reason for him to come."

The isolated canyon soon became a haven for Civil War deserters, and gunfights became commonplace. An ownership and labor dispute over the Techatticup Mine only fueled the fire. At one point, gunfights and killings in the canyon became frequent enough that even lawmen skirted the disputes. Camp Eldorado, a military settlement, was established to protect steamboat traffic and deter local Indians who were raiding the canyon.

But blood wasn't spilled only at the hands of prospectors. Eldorado Canyon was also home to two of Nevada's most notorious renegade Indians—Ahvote and Queho. Ahvote is said to have murdered five victims, while Queho is believed to have killed more than 20. According to a plaque near the Techatticup Mine, Queho killed his last victim, Maude Douglas, in 1919, then managed to successfully elude sheriff's posses.

In the 1920s, nearby Nelson's Landing—a port on the Colorado River which lies at the mouth of Eldorado Canyon—became one of the most active ports on the river. Later, preliminary work on the Hoover Dam also made Nelson's Landing an attractive place for surveyors to operate small boats, and, after the dam's completion, acted as a popular destination for fisherman and tourists.

The Techatticup Mine remained active until the mid-1940s, yielding millions of dollars in precious metals during its productive years. Nearly 10 years later—after the completion of the Davis Dam—the rising water levels and subsequent creation of Lake Mojave meant some changes to the region were due. "The old cemetery used to be further down the canyon," Tony says. "It was moved after the creation of the lake came close to washing the bodies away." The new cemetery stands approximately one mile west up the canyon from Nelson's Landing.

BEYOND THE BLOODSHED

Now that the happenings that earned Eldorado Canyon its notorious reputation are no longer a part of daily life there, it has become a popular Hollywood set. The canyon has been a filming location for several movies and television shows including the 2001 crime film "3,000 Miles to Graceland" and—more recently—the *National Geographic Channel's* "Brain Games."

Tony and Bobbie now reside in Eldorado Canyon and operate Techatticup Mine tours. The guided above and underground tour takes visitors into one of the oldest and most famous gold mines in Southern Nevada. The Werlys also operate a museum/gift shop near the mine, which holds an eclectic collection of historical items from the area.

Though details are still vague, the Werlys are rumored to be opening up a new mine tour this year, which will include underground mine tunnels. Tony explains that the new tour will be somewhat physically demanding, and thrill seekers must be ready for anything. "We're gonna call it the mother lode tour," Tony says.

Top left: The Eldorado Canyon general store is also a virtual museum, with information about the area's rich history. Top right: Scorpion pendants are aplenty at the store. Above: Eagle Wash near Nelson's Landing.

NELSON'S LANDING

After a major flash flood washed away most of Nelson's Landing in 1974, the area was never fully rebuilt. The landing is located approximately six miles east of the Techatticup Mine and has become a popular destination for aquatic activities, cliff jumping, and fishing. Though a boat ramp is not available, a paved road brings visitors fairly close to Lake Mojave.

PLAN YOUR TRIP

Eldorado Canyon Mine Tours
HC 62, Box 440, Nelson, NV 89046
eldoradocanyonminetours.com, 702-291-0026

ICONS OF NEVADA

NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE

These symbols have become synonymous with the Silver State.

BIGHORN SHEEP

Nevada Relevance: State Animal

The desert (Nelson) bighorn sheep *(Ovis canadensis nelsoni)* is found throughout the southern, central, and western part of the state and in mountain ranges as far north as Interstate 80.

Tourist Tidbit: Boulder City's Hemenway Valley Park is popular for its herds of bighorn sheep, which routinely come to the park to water and graze.

MOUNTAIN BLUEBIRD

Nevada Relevance: State Bird

The mountain bluebird *(Sialia currucoides)* lives in the Nevada high country and eats insects, berries, and other fruit. Most vocal at dawn, its song is a clear, short warble similar to the caroling of a robin.

Tourist Tidbit: The male is azure blue with a white belly, while the female is brown with a bluish rump, tail, and wings.

NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE

Berlin-Ichthyosaur State Park

MATTHEW B. BROWN

ICHTHYOSAUR

Nevada Relevance:
State Fossil

This fossil was found in Berlin, east of Gabbs. Nevada is the only state to possess a complete skeleton (approximately 55 feet long) of this extinct marine reptile. Ichthyosaurs (meaning "fish lizards") were predatory reptiles that resembled, in body form, modern dolphins.

Tourist Tidbit: Visit Berlin-Ichthyosaur State Park in central Nevada to learn more about this ancient sea creature—and see a ghost town. A 40-minute Fossil Shelter Tour is available most days of the year.

U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

DESERT TORTOISE

Nevada Relevance: State Reptile

The desert tortoise *(Gopherus agassizii)* lives in the extreme southern parts of Nevada. It spends much of its life in underground burrows to escape the harsh summer heat and winter cold. It can live to be more than 70 years old.

Tourist Tidbit: The Live Exhibits at Las Vegas' Springs Preserve give guests a firsthand view of how animals such as the desert tortoise have adapted to the harsh climate of the desert.

WILD HORSES

Nevada Relevance: State is home to nearly half the nation's wild horses

These majestic animals move with the seasons within more than 80 Herd Management Areas on nearly 15 million acres of public Nevada land managed by the Bureau of Land Management.

Tourist Tidbit: Mustang Monument, Madeleine Pickens' Wild Horse Eco-Resort and preserve near Wells in northeastern Nevada, is projected to open in June of this year.

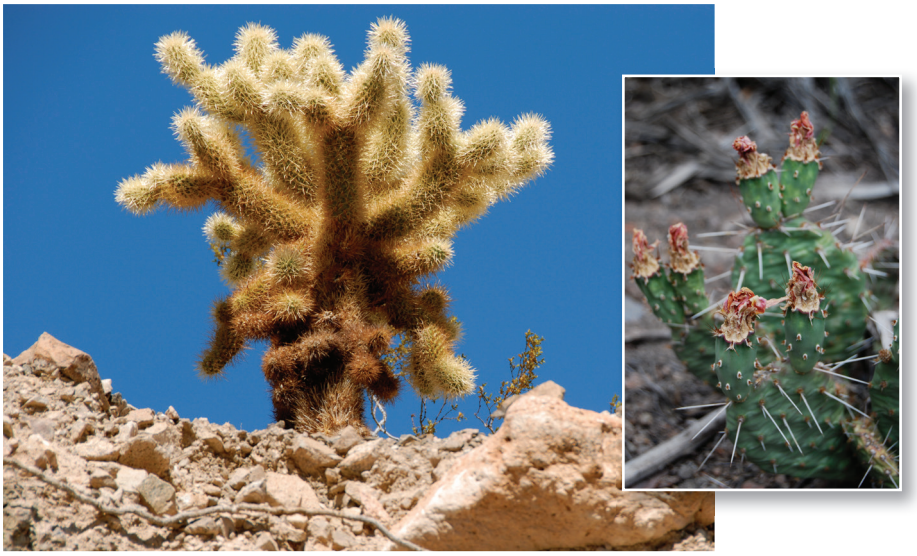
NEIL LOCKHART

CACTUS

Nevada Relevance:
Thrive in Nevada's desert environment

The cactus at right is a Golden Cholla, spotted near the Southern Nevada community of Nelson, but the cacti family is vast in Nevada. From the Mojave Desert to the high mountains of central and northern Nevada, you can spot cacti just about anywhere in the Silver State.

Tourist Tidbit: Henderson's Ethel M Chocolate factory is home to the Ethel M Botanical Cactus Garden, open seven days a week for self-guided tours. The Cactus Garden is decorated special for the holidays.



PHOTOS: MATTHEW B. BROWN

RACHID DAHNOUN

BRISTLECONE PINE

Nevada Relevance: State Tree

The Bristlecone Pine is the more celebrated of Nevada's State Trees (the other is the Single-Leaf Pinyon) because of its uniqueness—and its age. It's the oldest-living organism on Earth, with some specimens in Nevada more than 4,000 years old.

Tourist Tidbit: Hundreds of bristlecones exist in Great Basin National Park in three major groves: Mount Washington, Eagle Peak, and Wheeler Peak. The Wheeler Peak Grove is the most accessible and can be reached via a 2.8-mile round-trip hike starting at the end of the Wheeler Peak Scenic Drive.

JOSHUA TREE

Nevada Relevance:
Thrive in Nevada's desert environment

The Joshua Tree *(Yucca brevifolia)* is native to the states of California, Arizona, Utah, and Nevada, where it is confined mostly to the Mojave Desert ranging between 1,000- and 6,000-foot elevations.

Tourist Tidbit: Travelers on U.S. Highway 95—from roughly Goldfield to Las Vegas—will be treated to a steady dose of Joshua Trees. For more of a rural-highway experience, consider the State Route 160 diversion to Pahrump.

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NEVADA MAGAZINE

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HOOVER DAM

Nevada Relevance: Second-tallest dam in the U.S.

Since its dedication in 1935 and official completion in 1936, this behemoth hydroelectric power producer has been one of Nevada's most photographed and visited landmarks.

Tourist Tidbit: The recent construction of the Mike O'Callaghan-Pat Tillman Memorial Bridge offers tourists spectacular views previously only seen from aircraft (the inset photo is taken from the bridge). Regular tours conducted by the Bureau of Reclamation explore the dam inside and out.

LAS VEGAS STRIP

Nevada Relevance: One of the only nighttime scenic byways in the U.S.

Known around the world, to say that the Strip is iconic would be an understatement. It's downright legendary. Drivers and walkers of Las Vegas Boulevard are treated to a world within a city, from the pyramid at Luxor to the mock Eiffel Tower at Paris Las Vegas.

Tourist Tidbit: The Strip is ever growing and evolving. One of the more recent additions, with a planned "phase one" opening around New Year's, is The LINQ retail, dining, and entertainment district, which will include the world's tallest observation (Ferris) wheel.

YEVGENIY ZAKHARKIN

MATTHEW B. BROWN

STATE CAPITOL

Nevada Relevance:
Nevada's Capitol building

Located in the capital of Carson City, this historic Italianate-style building was completed in 1871, seven years after Nevada became a state. According to the Carson City Convention & Visitors Bureau, it's the second-oldest Capitol building west of the Mississippi River.

Tourist Tidbit: Residents and visitors can take the Kit Carson Trail, a 2.5-mile walking path that showcases the city's historic buildings, among them the state Capitol. Click on "Kit Carson Trail" at visitcarsoncity.com to hear 16 different "Talking Houses" podcasts.

"WELCOME TO FABULOUS LAS VEGAS NEVADA" SIGN

Nevada Relevance:
The state's most famous sign

The flashy sign at 5100 Las Vegas Boulevard South is among the most photographed and visited signs on Earth. No trip to Las Vegas is complete without striking a pose beneath the 1959 symbol.

Tourist Tidbit: In November, Clark County officials, partners from the Clean Energy Project, and representatives from NV Energy broke ground for the installation of a solar tree to power the iconic sign starting in early 2014.

"RENO: THE BIGGEST LITTLE CITY IN THE WORLD" SIGN

Nevada Relevance: Northern Nevada's most famous sign

Also known as the Reno Arch, the city has sported its iconic downtown sign, which spans Virginia Street, for many years. Reno's first arch was erected in 1926 to promote the Transcontinental Highways Exposition, and the slogan "The Biggest Little City in the World" was adopted in 1929.

Tourist Tidbit: If you have time, be sure to walk a few blocks southeast to Lake Street near the Truckee River where the original arch resides.

CHARLIE JOHNSTON

SPECIAL COLLECTIONS, UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES, UNIVERSITY OF NEVADA, LAS VEGAS

James B. McMillan (middle) leads the March 1960 meeting at the Moulin Rouge coffee shop that ended segregation on the Las Vegas Strip. The mayor at the time, Oran Gragson, is to McMillan's left. City officials and NAACP members met to desegregate public accommodations and jobs and discuss quelling demonstrations on the Strip. Below, entertainers at the Moulin Rouge pose in 1955. Top row: Anna Bailey (far left) and Bob Bailey (far right), wife and husband, were active and outspoken advocates of equal rights in Las Vegas.

BLACK HISTORY IN NEVADA

We honor African-Americans, past and present, who have shaped our state.

BY MATTHEW B. BROWN

On Monday, January 20, we celebrate Martin Luther King Jr. Day in Nevada and the rest of the country. King is the recognizable face and symbol of the mid-1900s civil-rights movement, even making a trip to Las Vegas in 1964 in support of his friend and local activist Bob Bailey. In fact, Vegas was so segregated a half a century ago that it carried the unenviable moniker of the "Mississippi of the West." Like their Southern Nevada counterpart, most hotels and restaurants in Carson City and Reno also refused service to blacks at the time.

In February, we celebrate Black History Month, which gives us the chance to reflect on a culture that has had a positive and profound influence on Nevada and our nation. Below are the stories of seven influential African-Americans from different eras in the state's history.

BOB BAILEY

Born: February 14, 1927 in Detroit

Nevada Contribution: As members of the Nevada Equal Rights Commission, he and his wife fought alongside other activists in the 1950s and '60s to desegregate Las Vegas.

SPECIAL COLLECTIONS, UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES, UNIVERSITY OF NEVADA, LAS VEGAS

In May of last year, Dr. William H. "Bob" Bailey and his wife, Anna, were honored as Distinguished Nevadans at University of Nevada, Las Vegas' commencement ceremonies. The Southern Nevada university's highest honor couldn't have been bestowed upon two more deserving individuals.

Born in Detroit and raised in Cleveland, Bob (he adopted the nickname to avoid confusion with his cousin, William) came to Las Vegas in 1955. The Baileys were hired to work—Anna as a dancer, Bob as a singer and emcee—at a newly opened casino

called the Moulin Rouge. The casino-hotel welcomed blacks with open arms during a time when most Nevada casinos took the polar opposite business approach. Financial woes forced the Moulin Rouge's closure after just five months, but the Baileys' short time there motivated them to stay in Las Vegas and fight for equality.

Bob went on to produce and co-host a variety show called "Talk of the Town," spurring him to develop a radio training school for black youths. He also initiated the first group-training program for black card dealers at Las Vegas casinos and installed the first on-the-job training program for minorities at Circus Circus Hotel and Casino. He continued to advocate for minority small businesses through the years.

In the early 1960s, with the civil-rights movement at its height regionally and nationally, Governor Grant Sawyer appointed Bailey chairman of the Nevada Equal Rights Commission. In 1990, President George Bush named Bailey deputy director of the U.S. Department of Commerce's Minority Business Development Agency. As recently as 2005, the William H. "Bob" Bailey Middle School opened in Las Vegas.

JAMES B. McMILLAN

Born: January 14, 1917 in Aberdeen, Mississippi

Died: March 20, 1999 in Las Vegas

Nevada Contribution: As president of the Las Vegas chapter of the NAACP, he challenged the city's discriminatory practices, as well as the racial policies of the state as a whole.

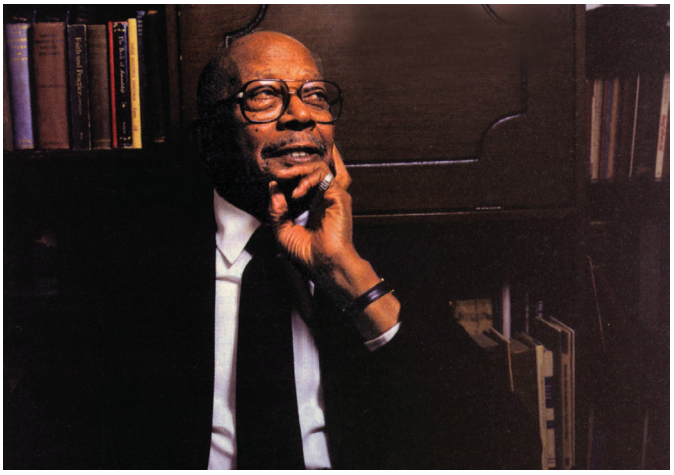
At the tender age of 5, Dr. James B. McMillan witnessed Mississippi members of the Ku Klux Klan horsewhip his mother. When most people might have taken such a horrifying experience as a telltale sign to submit, McMillan instead used it to fuel a lifetime dedicated to improving the lives of his people.

McMillan's family moved to Chicago for a short time before settling in Detroit. He was the first black football player at the University of Detroit and went on to earn his Doctor of Dental Surgery degree from Meharry Medical School of Dentistry, the country's first black medical college. Dr. Charles I. West, Nevada's first black doctor, convinced McMillan to move to Las Vegas in summer 1955.

Interestingly, McMillan and his wife, Mickie, were married in a poolside ceremony at the short-lived Moulin Rouge (see Bailey's bio). His dentistry practice was popular from its inception, and it wasn't long before McMillan became president of the Las Vegas chapter of the NAACP. He also established a local Black Chamber of Commerce, for which he also served a stint as president.

Breaking down segregation was a frightening prospect at times. "I started receiving calls from mob people, who at the time owned casinos," McMillan said in the January/February 1997 issue of *Nevada Magazine*. "They told me to stop what I was doing or they would drop me in Lake Mead." McMillan joined his fellow activists to challenge segregation in the military town of Hawthorne, as well as during the march on the Capitol in 1961.

Like Bailey, McMillan also has an elementary school named for him, and he was the founder of the Las Vegas Human Rights Commission. His threat to march on the Las Vegas Strip in early 1960 forced hotel owners to open their businesses to black customers on March 26, 1960.



NEVADA MAGAZINE ARCHIVES

David B. Meadows was a key orchestrator of the civil-rights march on the Carson City Capitol in early 1961.

DAVID B. MEADOWS

Born: January 3, 1912 in Texas

Died: April 21, 1998 in Sparks

Nevada Contribution: Instrumental in the struggle to integrate Nevada's casinos in the 1950s and '60s.

Former associate pastor of Second Baptist Church in Reno, Reverend David B. Meadows was a leader in the struggle for equality in Northern Nevada. "With a smooth, eloquent speaking style, he inspired people to attend meetings, participate in marches, and organize fundraising rallies," wrote Verita Black in the January/February 1997 issue of *Nevada Magazine*.

Meadows and his colleagues and supporters put so much emphasis in the 1950s and '60s on integrating casinos because that's where the jobs were. Through fundraisers in Hawthorne, Las Vegas, and Reno, Meadows was able to hire Charles Kellar—one of the few black attorneys to practice law in Nevada in the 1900s—to draft civil-rights legislation. Meadows also served as a delegate to the Democratic National Convention in 1964.

The height of Meadows' fight in Nevada was a march on the Capitol that he helped organize in early 1961. Members from various Nevada chapters of the NAACP gathered on Reno's Virginia Street before ultimately assembling in Carson City during the legislative session. "We only had to march one time," Meadows said in the same 1997 article. "...I only hate that now so many young people don't realize how hard we worked for the things they take for granted."

NEVADA MAGAZINE ARCHIVES

Nevada was Utah Territory when rancher Ben Palmer (above) claimed more than 300 acres of Carson Valley land in 1853. He is buried today (below)—sometimes Palmer's last name was misspelled Parmer—in the community of Mottsville, south of Genoa and west of Gardnerville.

NEIL LOCKHART

BEN PALMER

Born: 1826 in South Carolina

Died: 1908 near Mottsville

Nevada Contribution: Pioneer 1800s Nevada rancher and one of the first black settlers in the state.

Ben Palmer and his sister, Charlotte—who was married to white settler D.H. Barber—were among the original settlers of Carson Valley. Barber and Palmer were bound for California in the early 1850s, but, upon reaching lush Carson Valley, they decided to settle and raise cattle to sell to other emigrants on the California Trail.

Palmer claimed 320 acres of grassland south of Genoa in 1853, 11 years before Nevada was granted statehood, when it was still part of Utah Territory. Barber's family settled next door on 400 acres of land that same year. Charlotte's son, Benjamin, born in November 1853 as one of the Barbers' seven children, is believed to be the first non-Indian born in Carson Valley.

By the 1860s, Palmer (sometimes misspelled Parmer in the annals of Nevada history) had become one of the most successful ranchers in the valley. In 1867, he was described in Virginia City's *Territorial Enterprise* as one of the heaviest taxpayers in Douglas County. Palmer worked hard to maintain his ranching lifestyle; in 1857, he drove 1,500 head of cattle from Washington state to Carson Valley to replenish his stock.

Palmer promoted equal rights well ahead of its time. It has been written that Palmer, Barber, and another black Carson Valley ranching family—the Millers—employed black, Indian, and white ranch hands. Palmer even served on the Douglas County Grand Jury in the 1870s. In 1878, he participated on the Douglas County central committee for the Greenback and Workingmen's Party, joining some of the area's prominent residents.

In the community of Mottsville, south of Genoa, Palmer and family are buried in the town cemetery.

ALICE SMITH

Born: November 4, 1902 in Bay St. Louis, Mississippi

Died: August 6, 1990 in Reno

Nevada Contribution: Along with her husband, Alfred, she established the Reno-Sparks branch of the NAACP in 1945.

Photo credit: Special Collections, University of Nevada, Reno, Library

Born to parents who were children of slaves, Alice Smith defied the odds and earned her teaching credentials at Mississippi State University in Hattiesburg. She taught for several years, mostly in small Southern towns.

When she moved to Reno in 1938 with her husband, Al, she found work as a maid. At this time, the typical restaurant sign in The Biggest Little City read "No Colored Trade Solicited" or "No Negroes Allowed." The Smiths didn't need much more prodding to establish the Reno-Sparks branch of the NAACP in 1945. Prior to Al's untimely death in 1946, the couple was instrumental in founding the Robert H. Brooks Post of the American Legion for black veterans.

Chosen as a Nevada delegate to the United Nations Conference in San Francisco in 1974, Alice also made it a point to support her fellow senior citizens. She was a delegate to the President's White House Conference on Aging in 1971. In addition, she was appointed to the State Welfare Board, State Advisory Committee for Older Americans, State Advisory Board on Home Nursing, and the Nevada Foster Grandparents Board.

For 25 years she volunteered her time and energy to the American Red Cross in Reno and served as a member of their board of directors. A charter member of the Nevada League of Women Voters and active in her church, Alice served three years as legislative chairperson for the Northern Nevada and California organization of Church Women United.

An elementary school in Golden Valley, north of Reno, was named for her in 1989. "Let's not throw away our lives," Alice once said. "Let's do something constructive. I always feel like I want to climb up a little bit, and maybe I can take someone with me."

CLAYTEE WHITE

Born: November 8, 1947 in Ahoskie, North Carolina

Nevada Contribution: One of five founders of the Las Vegas Black Historical Society Inc.

While the other four founders of the Las Vegas Black Historical Society lived the history, Claytee White developed an interest in the area's African-American history in graduate school, where she did her thesis on the subject. She chronicles the history of the area's black community going back to 1905.

White is the inaugural director of the Oral History Research Center for the University of Nevada, Las Vegas Libraries. She collects the history of the city and surrounding area by gathering memories of events and experiences from longtime residents. Her projects include early health care in the city, the history of the John S. Park Neighborhood, and a comprehensive study of musicians.

She is currently serving as chair of a collaborative of community advisors, UNLV Libraries, and seven other entities throughout Las Vegas to compile a comprehensive history of the black community through interviews, panel discussions, and other research. This collaborative effort involves gathering stories from African-Americans, while rounding up resources that already exist at libraries, historical foundations, professional organizations, and other groups.

The ultimate goal is to create a web portal that allows access to all the available information about African-Americans in the Las Vegas Valley, via documents, photographs, and stories.

White is an active member of the Center for Spiritual Living Greater Las Vegas and National Oral History Association. She serves on the Las Vegas Historic Preservation Commission and the board of Nevada Humanities and is past president of the Southwest Oral History Association.

WORTH A CLICK

Documenting the African American Experience in Las Vegas
digital.library.unlv.edu/aae

BERTHA WOODARD

Born: January 25, 1916

Died: September 16, 1999 in Sparks

Nevada Contribution: Dubbed the matriarch of the Reno-Sparks branch of the NAACP.

An active member of the Sparks United Methodist Church, Bertha Woodard was the local president of the NAACP from 1971-76. She was also involved in the organization on a national level. She played such an influential role that Governor Sawyer invited her to be present when he signed Nevada's first civil-rights law in 1961.

Over the years, other Nevada governors appointed her to serve on various state advisory boards. The University of Nevada Board of Regents presented her with the 1981 Distinguished Nevadan Award. She received her nursing degree at Washoe Western School of Nursing and was employed at Washoe Medical Center for more than 17 years.

Woodard spent much of her life fighting racism and negative social and political attitudes. Her 1950s charge against the El Capitan Casino in Hawthorne was critical to raising public consciousness and confronting the barriers that needed to be broken down in Nevada's march to establishing civil rights for all.

In 1959, Woodard petitioned the Reno City Council to lift a ban on minorities in local casinos and helped lead an effort to remove bigoted signs—such as "No Indians, Negroes, or Dogs"—from city stores. Around that same time, blacks were not allowed in most casinos. Woodard organized picket lines in front of the Overland Hotel and Harold's Club, pushing for equal access for blacks who were not permitted as customers at most downtown establishments.

Read about more black history at nevadamagazine.com. Special thanks to Our Story, Inc., Shayne Del Cohen, Dave Moore, Rich Moreno, Jacquelyn Sundstrand, and Claytee White for their assistance with this article.

OUR STORY, INC. PRAISES THE UNSUNG HEROES OF NEVADA

Reno-based Our Story, Inc. is a nonprofit established to preserve and exhibit the accomplishments of Northern Nevada's black community. Under the direction of Kenneth Dalton, Our Story's mission is to provide a map—quite literally—for folks to follow in the footsteps of the state's black heroes. For instance, OSI's brochure includes a map of Reno and its outlying areas, with historic sites to see such as Beckwourth Trail and Pat Baker Park.

On the website, readers can learn the oral histories of several Northern Nevadans. On May 23, 2013, Dalton received the 2012-2013 National Association of Secretaries of State (NASS) Medallion Award for his leadership and dedication in the area of Civic Education as founder of Our Story, Inc.

ourstoryinc.com, 775-747-3007

THE METROPOLIS THAT WASN'T

PHOTOS: MATTHEW B. BROWN

North of Wells lies one of Nevada's more intriguing ghost towns, with zero ties to the state's mining past.

BY GREG MCFARLANE

Many of Nevada's ghost towns boomed, prospered, and faded in the 1800s, when the state was largely undeveloped and had no major population centers. It's hard to believe that a city that existed in the 1940s—an era of jet engines and color television—has all but vanished.

Metropolis ghost town, north of Wells in central Elko County, is distinctive in other ways, too. Unlike Candelaria, Delamar, Rhyolite, and every other Nevada ghost town, the grandiloquently named Metropolis was never a mining center. Rather, its reason for being was equal parts farming, proselytism, and hope.

Similar to present-day Hadley in Nye County, Metropolis was a company town. It was founded in 1910 by the Pacific Reclamation Company of New York, which envisioned a layout in which 7,500 people could live in harmony, supporting themselves by growing wheat in a region grossly unsuitable for doing so. Pacific Reclamation's ambitious plan for Metropolis included a central business district, amusement hall, and other amenities. The Southern Pacific Railroad even built a spur from Wells, in hopes of transporting more goods and passengers. However, the local climate had other plans.

In the 1930s, Metropolis was ravaged by plagues straight out of the *Book of Exodus*. First, jackrabbits arrived and devoured the crops. Next was typhoid—sanitation on the remote flats not as advanced as it is today. That was followed by a wholesale invasion of millions of Mormon crickets, Nevada's unofficial state pest. Then came a devastating fire, which burned down the town's hotel in 1936.

Worse than any of those, and ultimately proving fatal to Metropolis, was relentless drought. The survival of a farming community is contingent on access to water, and Metropolis could never find a consistent source to sustain its population. The closest approximation of such a source, Bishop Creek, is a tributary of the Humboldt River. The Pacific Reclamation Company attempted to harness the creek's power by constructing an earthen rockfill dam seven miles east of Metropolis, along with a diversion canal. Interestingly, the dam was built from brick remnants of the 1906 San Francisco earthquake.

Due to a protracted water-rights dispute with the downstream town of Lovelock (more than 200 miles away), the area available for irrigation dwindled. Dryland farming is difficult enough with modern conservation and rotation methods, but in 1930s Metropolis it was essentially impossible. As for the dam itself, it still stands and impounds a small reservoir but hasn't been maintained since the mid-1980s.

Census records of the time are spotty, often attributing a city's population to the encompassing county. But an educated guess is that Metropolis's population maxed out at around 2,000 in the 1920s. That's slightly less than modern-day Tonopah and slightly more than Caliente.

Stately in its decrepitude, at one time Metropolis boasted all the trappings and features of a modern, self-contained American town: multiple schools, a lumberyard, and a church to serve the town's overwhelmingly Mormon population. Time and neglect have since combined to erase almost every trace of Metropolis, with two notable exceptions.

The Lincoln School—erected in 1919—is the most conspicuous site in Metropolis today. The school is visible for miles, which has less to do with its size than with its prominence on an otherwise flat, empty landscape. Most of what remains of the brick structure is its tall entrance arch, which continues to carry some weight of the wall above it while the upper floors lay in ruins.

The entrance arch (this page), or what's left of it, of the Lincoln School—built in 1919—is the dominant feature at the northeastern Nevada ghost town of Metropolis. What visitors don't realize, at first glance, is that just inside the arch are two parallel staircases (opposite page) that lead to a roomy underground basement area that is well lit during the day.

MATTHEW B. BROWN

GREG MCFARLANE

The ruins (top) of the former Hotel Metropolis (above) are practically camouflaged in their desert surrounds. At right, the 1919 Lincoln School is shown when it still stood. The Valley View Cemetery (above right) is the resting place for some of Metropolis' bygone residents.

HISTORY PHOTOS: COURTESY OF NORTHEASTERN NEVADA MUSEUM

When visiting Metropolis, proceed with caution and pay close attention. The school's basement is accessible via concrete stairs, enticing day explorers into its depths. What they'll find is a mass of ruins and some colorful graffiti. Much of the ground floor has yet to collapse, although it's pockmarked with treacherous holes large enough for an adult to fall through to the basement below. The rest of the floor seems somewhat solid; an impromptu field test demonstrated that it could easily hold a foolhardy 200-pound photographer/writer on assignment for *Nevada Magazine*.

One block east of the school is its lone counterpart that completes the civic "skyline." Hotel Metropolis once stood three stories high, but now there's nothing left of it save a foundation and a block. Without the benefit of records and old photographs, it's difficult to tell that dozens of guests used to spend the night here. Many of them undoubtedly wondered how they'd ended up in untamed rural Nevada and how a town with so majestic a name could look so unassuming.

Befitting a ghost town, the graveyard is one part of Metropolis that sees a good bit of activity. However, it's also easy for a visitor unfamiliar with the area to miss. Valley View Cemetery is immediately southwest of town, sitting behind a cattle gate, which is closed with a carabiner but unlocked. While a rear-wheel-drive passenger car can easily make the trek from pavement to Metropolis, the short drive past the cattle gate can be treacherous for even a high-clearance vehicle, especially when wet. It's better to park, get out, and walk the few hundred feet.

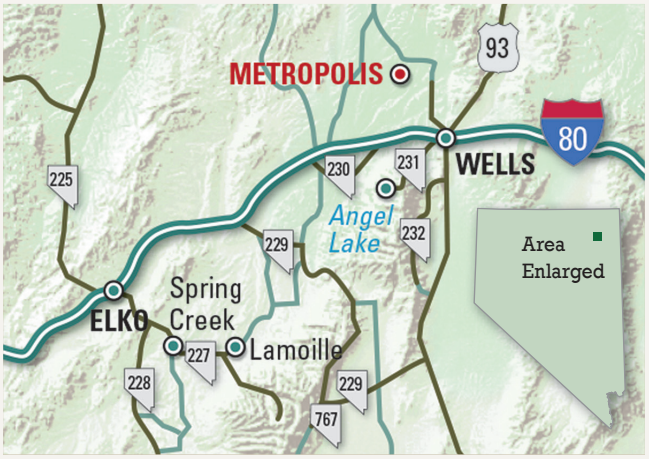
The cemetery contains the names of several generations of pioneer families—Bake, Hammond, Hepworth, Hyde, and Uhlig—with some interments as recent as the mid-2000s. Many of the families' descendants ranch in the vicinity and will one day be laid to rest beside their ancestors in this serene and starkly quiet locale.

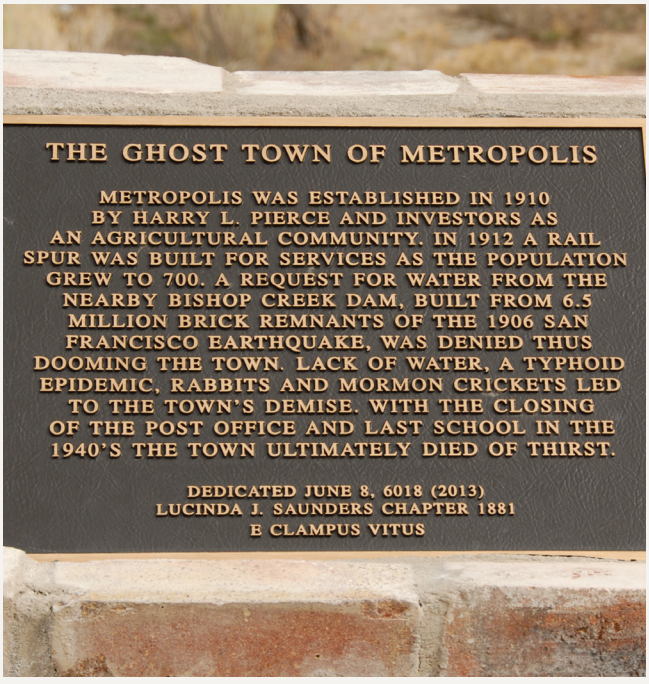
Most days, the intermittent moos of distant cows are the only sounds to break the silence at Metropolis. Plinkers, geocachers, off-roaders, and those armed with metal detectors typically have the place to themselves. Eight decades past its prime, Metropolis continues to fascinate and inspire.

HOW TO GET TO METROPOLIS

Start in Wells at Exit 352 off Interstate 80. One block north is 6th Street. Turn left on 6th. One mile later, turn right on Lake Avenue. Once you're over the train tracks, turn left on 8th Street, which becomes County Road 754. This road is paved. After 12.5 miles, the pavement ends. Half a mile beyond that, turn left (south) at Botts Homestead. From there it's 1.8 miles to Metropolis.

Rather than retrace your route, return to Wells by continuing for another 5.7 miles past several ranches. The dirt road is well maintained, but unmarked, and eventually meets up with County Road 754.





MATTHEW B. BROWN

Two monuments with informative plaques (one is shown to the right) about the history of Metropolis greet those who visit the ghost town. The monuments are adjacent to the former three-story hotel, located walking distance from the arch shown on page 43. There is also a guestbook next to the larger of the monuments.

REJUVENATED JUBILEE!

ICONIC BURLESQUE SHOW RECEIVES CONTEMPORARY FACELIFT.

WHERE
Bally's Las Vegas

WHEN
Showtime: Sun.-Wed. at 7 & 10 p.m.; Thu. at 7 p.m.; Sat. at 10 p.m.
Dates TBD

TICKETS
ballyslasvegas.com,
702-777-2782
Starting at $65

ALSO AT BALLY'S

SHOWS

Dancing Just Like the Stars,
Sun. at 7 p.m.

L.A. Comedy Club,
Tues.-Sun. at 9:30 p.m.

Rocky Horror Picture Show,
Fri.-Sat. at midnight

Tony n' Tina's Wedding,
Mon., Wed., Fri.-Sat. at 7 p.m.

VÉRONIC Voices,
Thu. at 9:30 p.m.;
Fri.-Sat. at 7 p.m. thru Jan. 18

Jubilee!—the longest-running show on the Strip—is set to undergo a major transformation in early 2014, bringing a fresh new twist to Bally's Las Vegas. Since debuting in 1981, Jubilee! continues to bring iconic headdress-clad showgirls to the stage. With the addition of bold new features—while staying true to the spirit of the original show—this Las Vegas classic promises to keep guests entertained for years to come.

Spearheading Jubilee!'s conversion into the contemporary age is one of the most celebrated creative directors and choreographers in the world—Frank Gaston Jr. With more than 30 years of experience under his belt, Gaston Jr. gained his expertise while providing direction for commercials and movies, as well as his long-time working relationship with R&B superstar Beyoncé.

Gaston Jr. is working closely with the cast and crew of Jubilee! to ensure the production is as celebrated as the original. At the same time preserving the show's main elements of the past—including signature costumes and a number of the traditional sets—the choreography, staging, and music is refreshed for today's audience.

las vegas shows

DON'T MISS

THE PIXIES
Hard Rock Hotel
Feb. 23
hardrockhotel.com, 702-693-5000

As one of the most influential bands of the late 1980s alternative rock movement, the Pixies take the stage at the Hard Rock Hotel for one night only. The Boston-based group announced that a coast-to-coast leg has been added to its 2013-14 world tour, featuring five new songs. The show features a fresh stage set and production and gives the band a chance to play one of its most diverse set lists to date. The Pixies influence on alternative rock has inspired bands such as Nirvana, David Bowie, Radiohead, The Strokes, and U2.

Showtime: 8 p.m.

ALSO AT THE HARD ROCK HOTEL

Lita Ford, Jan. 10
Zac Brown Band, Jan. 11-12
AVN Adult Entertainment Expo, Jan. 15-18
New Politics, Feb. 12

Zac Brown Band

NEWS

Nevada Ballet Theatre has named singer, spokeswoman, humanitarian, and Broadway star Florence Henderson as its 2014 Woman of the Year for the 30th anniversary of the Black & White Ball—one of the organization's most highly attended social events. The Black & White Ball is scheduled for Saturday, January 25 at the ARIA Resort & Casino. **nevadaballet.org, 702-243-2623**

Harrah's Las Vegas has announced it plans to continue the Tony Award-winning musical **Million Dollar Quartet** in 2014. The show features hits by Elvis Presley, Johnny Cash, Jerry Lee Lewis, and Carl Perkins. Tickets are now available for performances through May 4. **harrahslasvegas.com, 702-369-5000**

SHOWS OF INTEREST

STEVEN WRIGHT
The Orleans
Jan. 3-4
orleanscasino.com, 702-365-7075

MAMA MIA!
The Smith Center for the Performing Arts
Jan. 7-12
thesmithcenter.com, 702-749-2012

GABRIEL IGLESIAS
The Mirage
Jan. 17-19
mirage.com, 702-791-7111

STYX
Palms Casino Resort
Jan. 19
palms.com, 702-942-7777

SHANIA TWAIN
The Colosseum at Caesars Palace
Jan. 22-23, 25-26, 28-29, 31;
Feb. 1, 4-5, 9, 11-12, 14-15
thecolosseum.com, 866-227-5938

ROB SCHNEIDER
South Point
Jan. 30
southpointcasino.com, 702-796-7111

DANIEL TOSH
The Mirage
Jan. 31 & Feb. 1
mirage.com, 702-791-7111

ZEPPELIN USA: AN AMERICAN TRIBUTE TO LED ZEPPELIN
The Smith Center for the Performing Arts
Feb. 7
thesmithcenter.com, 702-749-2012

THE EAGLES
MGM Grand
Feb. 15-16
mgmgrand.com, 702-891-7800

GEORGE THOROGOOD AND THE DESTROYERS
The Smith Center for the Performing Arts
Feb. 27
thesmithcenter.com, 702-749-2012

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775-827-8900

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Live Streaming

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101.3 FM, Renegade Radio
99.1 FM TALK, FOX News Radio, KKFT
102.5 FM & 1300 AM Cowboy Country
Native Voice One Network - Nationwide

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Fearless • Flying For Liberty • Gastro Gab • Health Matters • Ken's Bulls and Bears • Money Matters
Mustang Matters • National Freedom Forum • Nevada First • Nevada Magazine • Nevada Matters • Nevada Real
Estate Review • On Location • Profiles In Business • Reno-Tahoe Tonight Magazine • Sit Rep • State Your Case
Tales of Nevada Past & Present • Talking Sports •The Warrior • Veteran Matters • Uncommon Sense

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112 Nevada Commission on Tourism
114 Las Vegas Territory
117 Winnemucca Convention & Visitors Authority
121 Town of Pahrump
122 Las Vegas Convention & Visitors Authority
133 City of West Wendover
135 Nevada Silver Trails

B&B
401 Nevada B&B Guild

ATTRACTIONS, GALLERIES, & MUSEUMS
604 National Cowboy Poetry Gathering, Elko
638 Nevada Historical Society

EVENTS/SHOWS
704 Nevada's Cowboy Country

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1007 Cactus Creek Prime Steakhouse
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REAL ESTATE
1102 SUHBA Parade of Homes

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1210 Scheels
1217 Scolari's Food & Drug Company

BUSINESS SERVICES
1407 THS-Visuals Motion Pictures

TRANSPORTATION
1606 Amtrak

RADIO
2401 America Matters/Fox News

NEVADA SPORTS

NBA D-LEAGUE SHOWCASE

From January 5-9, the NBA Development League Showcase returns to the Reno Events Center—home of the Reno Bighorns—for its third consecutive year. The showcase features 17 NBA D-League teams competing during the five-day event. Basketball operations executives from all 30 NBA teams are set to attend the games, scouting top NBA prospects. The 2014 schedule is as follows:

SUNDAY, JAN. 5
Delaware 87ers vs. Reno Bighorns, 2:30 p.m.
Bakersfield Jam vs. Sioux Falls Skyforce, 5:15 p.m.

MONDAY, JAN. 6
Idaho Stampede vs. Canton Charge, 10 a.m.
Fort Wayne Mad Ants vs. Santa Cruz Warriors, 12:45 p.m.
Austin Toros vs. Erie BayHawks, 3:30 p.m.
Sioux Falls Skyforce vs. Los Angeles D-Fenders, 6:30 p.m.

TUESDAY, JAN. 7
Canton Charge vs. Texas Legends, 10 a.m.
Iowa Energy vs. Bakersfield Jam, 12:45 p.m.
Maine Red Claws vs. Austin Toros, 3:30 p.m.
Los Angeles D-Fenders vs. Tulsa 66ers, 7 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 8
Erie BayHawks vs. Idaho Stampede, 10 a.m.
Rio Grande Valley Vipers vs. Maine Red Claws, 12:45 p.m.
Tulsa 66ers vs. Fort Wayne Mad Ants, 3:30 p.m.
Reno Bighorns vs. Springfield Armor, 7 p.m.

THURSDAY, JAN 9
Texas Legends vs. Delaware 87ers, 10 a.m.
Santa Cruz Warriors vs. Rio Grande Valley Vipers, 12:45 p.m.
Springfield Armor vs. Iowa Energy, 3:30 p.m.

PLAN YOUR TRIP

NBA D-League Showcase
Reno Events Center
Jan. 5-9
renobighorns.com, 775-853-8220

USA SEVENS RUGBY TOURNAMENT

Boasting 45 matches over three days, the USA Sevens rugby tournament returns to Las Vegas' Sam Boyd Stadium January 24-26. Celebrating its fifth consecutive year at the stadium, the tournament features 16 of the top international rugby teams battling for points in the 2013-14 Sevens World Series. The event also features a fan festival, which offers live musical performances, international cuisine, and rugby clinics for children.

PLAN YOUR TRIP

USA Sevens
Sam Boyd Stadium, Las Vegas
Jan. 24-26
samboydstadium.com, 702-895-3761

LAS VEGAS PROSOCCER CHALLENGE

The Colorado Rapids and Chivas USA soccer teams return to Sam Boyd Stadium Sunday, February 16 at 7:30 p.m. for the second annual Las Vegas ProSoccer Challenge. Following a 3-0 win in 2013, Chivas USA hopes to keep the ProSoccer Challenge title in its possession.

New to the event in 2014 is the Fútbol Fiesta—an engaging experience featuring soccer-themed activities and contests, live music, and food and drink vendors—located just outside the stadium.

PLAN YOUR TRIP

Las Vegas ProSoccer Challenge
Sam Boyd Stadium, Las Vegas
Feb. 16
samboydstadium.com, 702-895-3761

EVENTS

NEW YEAR'S DAY HIKE
Lahontan State Recreation Area
Jan. 1
parks.nv.gov, 775-577-2235

USA BMX NATIONAL SCHEDULE
Livestock Events Center, Reno
Jan. 10-12
usabmx.com, 480-961-1903

NATIONAL WINTER TRAILS DAY
Tahoe Meadows
Jan. 12
tahoerimtrail.com, 775-298-4485

CONTINENTAL CUP OF CURLING
Downtown Las Vegas
Jan. 16-19
curling.ca/2014continentalcup-en, 775-622-3345

WHITE PINE FIRE & ICE SHOW
Cave Lake State Park
Jan. 17-19
elynevada.net, 800-496-9350

ICE HOLE GOLF TOURNAMENT
Eagle Valley Reservoir
Jan. 18
parks.nv.gov, 775-728-4460

BREW HAHA
John Ascuaga's Nugget, Sparks
Jan. 24
janugget.com, 800-648-1177

TEDXUNIVERSITYOFNEVADA
University of Nevada, Reno
Jan. 24
tedxuniversityofnevada.org

ROTARY ICE-FISHING DERBY
Cave Lake State Park
Jan. 25
elynevada.net, 800-496-9350

MESQUITE BALLOON FESTIVAL
Mesquite
Jan. 25-26
mesquitegaming.com, 877-438-2929

RENO-TAHOE SENIOR GAMES
Various locations, Reno
Feb. 2-14
reno.gov, 775-334-4636

BRANSONFEST OUT WEST
CasaBlanca Resort, Mesquite
Feb. 3-5
casablancaresort.com, 877-438-2929

LAUGHLIN COIN, CURRENCY, STAMP, & JEWELRY EXPO
Colorado Belle, Laughlin
Feb. 7-9
visitlaughlin.com, 866-226-0507

LOVER'S ALOFT WEEKEND
MacDougal Sports Complex, Lovelock
Feb. 13-15
loverslock.com, 775-273-1800

VALENTINE'S DAY BALL & GALA
The Resort on Mount Charleston, Las Vegas
Feb. 15
veteransinpolitics.org, 702-238-5134

EAGLES & AGRICULTURE
Carson Valley
Feb. 21-23
carsonvalleynv.org, 775-782-8144

White Pine Fire & Ice Show

NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND NATURAL RESOURCES

MARDI GRAS VEGAS
Springs Preserve, Las Vegas
Mar. 1
springspreserve.com, 702-822-7700

SHOWS

SHEEP DIP
John Ascuaga's Nugget, Sparks
Jan. 17-18
janugget.com, 800-648-1177

BOOKER T. JONES
Harrah's, Stateline
Jan. 18
southshoreroom.com, 800-745-3000

BEATLES VS. STONES
Harrah's, Reno
Thru Jan. 19
harrahsreno.com, 775-786-3232

MAMA MIA!
Pioneer Center, Reno
Jan. 24-26
pioneercenter.com, 775-686-6610

PABLO CRUISE
Harrah's, Stateline
Jan. 25
southshoreroom.com, 800-745-3000

ICE FANTASY
Eldorado, Reno
Thru Jan. 26
eldoradoreno.com, 800-648-5966

BILL ENGVALL
Silver Legacy, Reno
Jan. 31
silverlegacy.com, 775-325-7401

CHIPPENDALES FEATURING IAN ZIERING
Harrah's, Reno
Jan. 30-Feb. 1
harrahsreno.com, 775-786-3232

THE GAME SHOW SHOW
Good Luck Macbeth Theatre, Reno
Jan. 31-Feb. 22
goodluckmacbeth.org, 775-322-3716

BILLY GARDELL
John Ascuaga's Nugget, Sparks
Feb. 1
janugget.com, 800-648-1177

TOAD THE WET SPROCKET
Harrah's, Stateline
Feb. 1
southshoreroom.com, 800-745-3000

CLINT BLACK
Grand Sierra Resort, Reno
Feb. 14
grandsierraresort.com, 800-648 3568

RING OF FIRE
Eldorado, Reno
Feb. 22-Apr. 20
eldoradoreno.com, 800-648-5966

PENTATONIX
Grand Sierra Resort, Reno
Feb. 23
grandsierraresort.com, 800-648-3568

Clint Black

NATIONAL COWBOY POETRY GATHERING

ELKO'S REVERED WESTERN CELEBRATION ENTERS ITS 30TH YEAR.

MATTHEW B. BROWN

From January 27 to February 1, Elko hosts a celebration of western people, lifestyles, and traditions during the 30th annual National Cowboy Poetry Gathering. The gathering pays homage to rural life in the West, immersing attendees in cowboy culture. After 29 successful years, thousands of urban and rural folks alike continue to make the pilgrimage to northeastern Nevada to experience the festival that includes poetry, music, culture, art, film, crafts, and cuisines.

The gathering offers lively performances by an array of poets and musicians—including singer and songwriter Kristyn Harris, vocal duo Big Harmonies, and western music and comedy group Riders in the Sky. The event also features renowned animal welfare advocate, professor, and author Dr. Temple Grandin, who will be delivering the keynote address.

Besides poetry and music, guests can expect myriad activities including a silent auction and various workshops and classes. Rawhide braiding, Dutch-oven cooking, and even a hat-making workshop can all be enjoyed during the gathering.

PLAN YOUR TRIP

National Cowboy Poetry Gathering
Elko
Jan. 27-Feb. 1
westernfolklife.org, 888-880-5885

ALSO IN ELKO

GREAT BASIN COWBOY GEAR SHOW & SALE

The Great Basin Cowboy Gear Show & Sale presents the finest quality items available from contemporary artists and craftsmen in the trades of saddle and spur making, silversmithing, and rawhide braiding. Cash prizes are awarded for the top three items as voted on by attendees. The show includes a category for boots, chaps, and other custom-crafted items.

PLAN YOUR TRIP

Great Basin Cowboy Gear Show & Sale
Northeastern Nevada Museum, Elko
Jan. 21-Feb. 9
exploreelko.com, 775-738-4091

AREA 51: MYTH OR REALITY

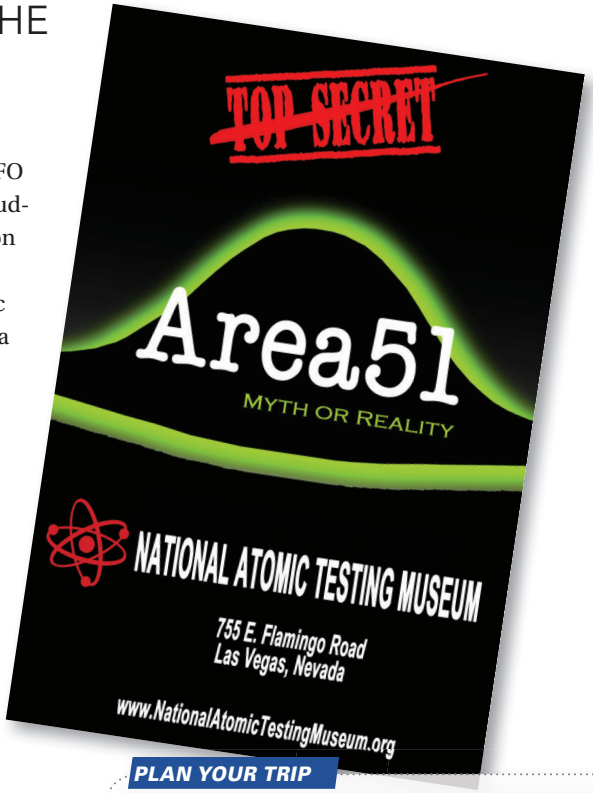
UNEARTHLY EXHIBIT MATERIALIZES AT THE NATIONAL ATOMIC TESTING MUSEUM IN LAS VEGAS.

One of the most illustrious and cryptic focuses of conspiracy theorists, UFO enthusiasts, and curiosity seekers for decades, Area 51 continues to be shrouded in mystery. Located adjacent to the Nevada Test Site, this secluded section of desert has become synonymous with alien spacecraft, beings from other planets, and impenetrable security. However, visitors to the National Atomic Testing Museum in Las Vegas can now explore the highly classified world via the award-winning exhibit "Area 51: Myth or Reality."

Organized in coordination with former CIA officers, military aviators, Area 51 workers, and respected members of the UFO community, the interactive exhibit gives an inside look at the mysterious base.

Visitors receive an authorization badge and secret instructions before passing through a "Q clearance" security checkpoint. They are then greeted by a "man in black" before learning about the Roswell crash, viewing UFO crash site debris, witnessing an alien autopsy, and exploring the science behind space travel.

Guests also have a chance to discover the origins of the nation's MiG reverse engineering program, learn about the trials and tribulations of getting the U-2 spy plane program off the ground, view authentic artifacts from the different spy-plane programs developed in the Nevada desert, and find out about other formerly top-secret technologies tested at Area 51.



PLAN YOUR TRIP

Area 51: Myth or Reality
National Atomic Testing Museum, Las Vegas
Ongoing
nationalatomictestingmuseum.org, 702-794-5151

EVENTS & EXHIBITS

ART ENCOUNTER
The Forum Shops at Caesars, Las Vegas
Ongoing
forumshops.com, 702-893-4800

EMPTY MANSIONS
Nevada State Museum, Las Vegas
Ongoing
museums.nevadaculture.org, 775-687-4810

50 GREATEST PHOTOGRAPHS OF *NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC*
The Venetian, Las Vegas
Thru. Jan. 13
venetian.com, 702-414-1000

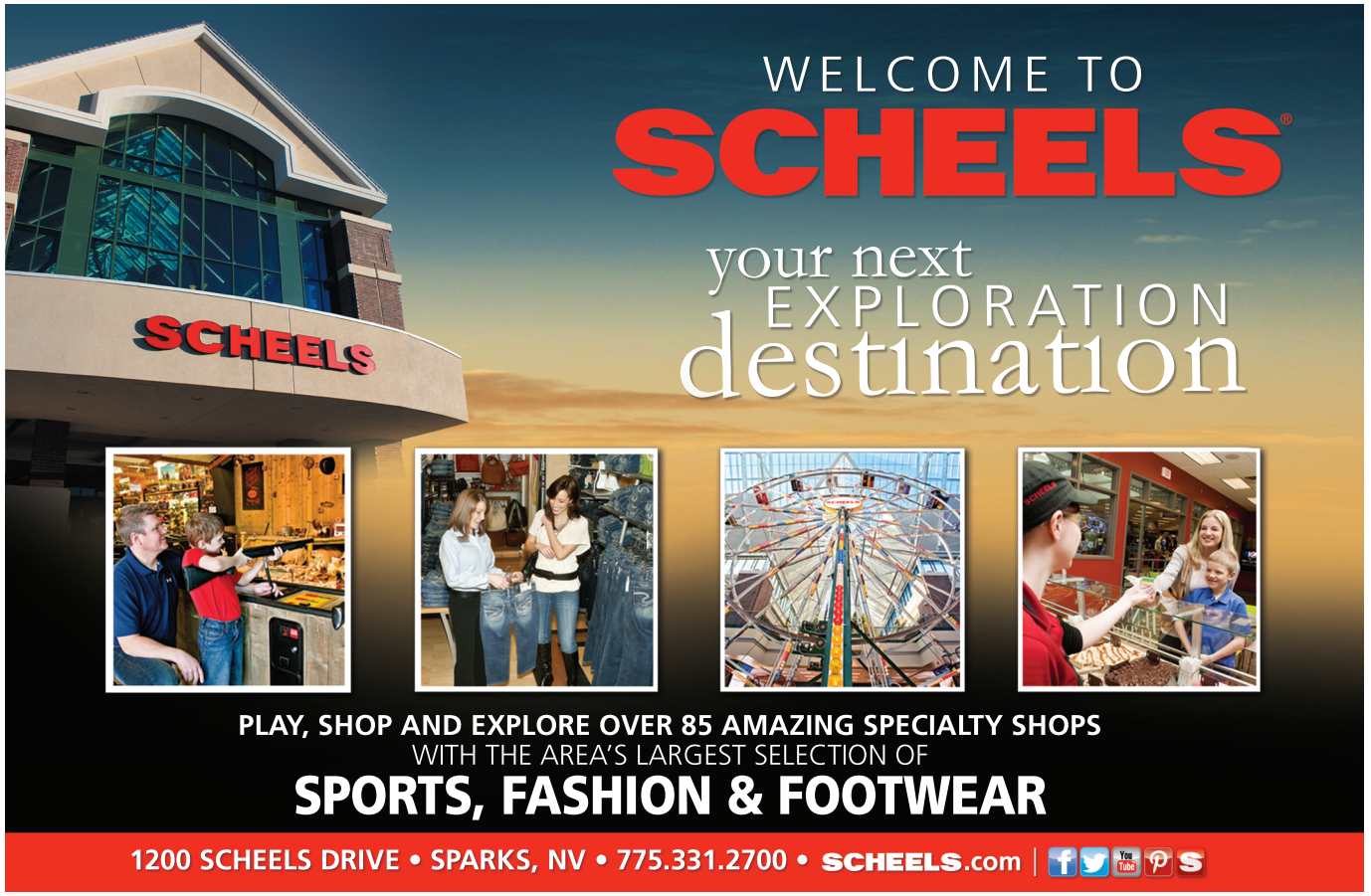
TOULOUSE-LAUTREC & LA VIE MODERNE: PARIS 1880–1919
Nevada Museum of Art, Reno
Thru Jan. 19
nevadaart.org, 775-329-1541

FRANCES HUMPHREY LECTURE SERIES: THE NEVADA DISCOVERY RIDE
Nevada State Museum, Carson City
Jan. 23
museums.nevadaculture.org, 775-687-4810

ART OF THE WEST RECEPTION & GREAT BASIN GEAR SHOW
Northeastern Nevada Museum, Elko
Jan. 31
museumelko.org, 775-738-3418

DEMONSTRATION OF COIN PRESS NO. 1
Nevada State Museum, Carson City
Jan. 31
museums.nevadaculture.org, 775-687-4810

FINDING FRÉMONT: PATHFINDER OF THE WEST
Nevada State Museum, Carson City
Thru Oct.
museums.nevadaculture.org, 775-687-4810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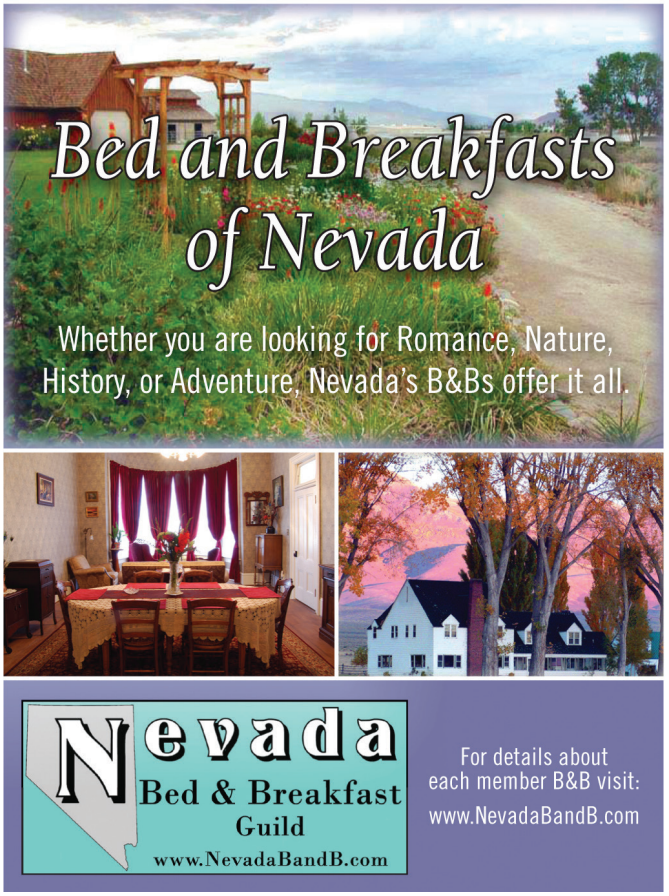
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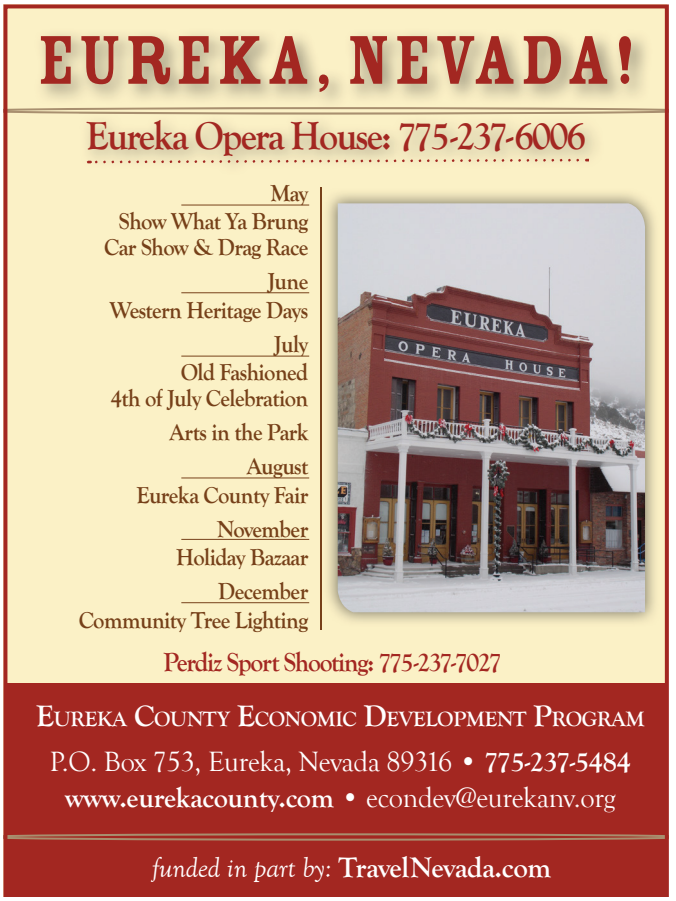
EUREKA, NEVADA!
Eureka Opera House: 775-237-6006
May
Show What Ya Brung
Car Show & Drag Race
June
Western Heritage Days
July
Old Fashioned
4th of July Celebration
Arts in the Park
August
Eureka County Fair
November
Holiday Bazaar
December
Community Tree Lighting
EUREKA
OPERA HOUSE
Perdiz Sport Shooting: 775-237-7027
EUREKA COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM
P.O. Box 753, Eureka, Nevada 89316 • 775-237-5484
www.eurekacounty.com • econdev@eurekanv.org
funded in part by: TravelNevada.com

Looking for more Nevada events & shows?

We invite you to visit our Nevada tourism partners.

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

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
exploreelko.com, 800-248-3556

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

Mesquite Balloon Festival

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

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

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

Genoa (Town of)
genoanevada.org, 775-782-8696

The Greater Austin Chamber of Commerce
austinnevada.com, 775-964-2200

Hawthorne Convention Center
visitmineralcounty.com, 775-945-5854

Jackpot (Cactus Petes)
jackpotnevada.com, 800-821-1103

Jarbidge
jarbidge.org

Lovelock
loverslock.com, 775-273-7213

Mason Valley Chamber of Commerce
masonvalleychamberofcommerce.com, 775-463-2245

Minden (Town of)
townofminden.com, 775-782-5976

Pyramid Lake Indian Reservation
pyramidlake.us, 775-574-1000

Sparks (City of)
cityofsparks.us, 775-353-5555

Spring Creek (Association)
springcreeknv.net, 775-753-6295

Virginia City Tourism Commission
visitvirginiacitynv.com, 800-718-7587

Wells Chamber of Commerce
wellsnevada.com, 775-752-3540

West Wendover (City of)
westwendovercity.com, 866-299-2489

White Pine County Tourism and Recreation Board (Ely)
elynevada.net, 800-496-9350

Winnemucca Convention & Visitors Authority
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Part III: Twain, Trains, & The Pony Express

BY RON SOODALTER

During the mid- to late-1800s, Nevada passed in record time from unsettled wilderness, to the nation's premier gold and silver mecca, to its 36th state. In the process, it underwent a number of improvements designed to bring it up to par with its sister states and to ease its passage into the modern world. These changes occurred largely in the crucial areas of communication, transportation, and education.

Bombastic journalists such as Mark Twain, the rise of the railroads, and the birth of Nevada's university system all merged to make Nevada prosperous in its early years of statehood. However, a depression overwhelmed the state at the end of the century, leaving its once-hopeful future in doubt.

TWAIN AND THE TERRITORIAL ENTERPRISE

Since our earliest colonial days, Americans have relied on the local newspaper for the accurate and timely delivery of current events. It has kept us connected to our community and the world around us. Arguably, never in the history of America has the reporting of the news been as loosely interpreted and presented as during the settlement of the West, where everyday stories were deliberately "growed" to match the scope of the vast country in which the events occurred.

And nowhere was this trend more religiously observed than in Nevada, specifically in boisterous and booming Virginia City. A combination of a reading public both desperate for news and willing to take some playful ribbing, and a gaggle of gifted, irreverent journalists more than willing to customize—and sometimes, simply invent—local events, combined to create a unique approach to journalism that strayed far from objectivity.

The *Territorial Enterprise* was founded in 1858 as Nevada's first newspaper. After a brief life in Genoa, it was moved to Virginia City, where for decades it pumped out the news, colored with the strong views, verses, and wit of its editors and writers—and a salty lot they were. So unique were the journalists of the Comstock that they earned for themselves a unique sobriquet; they were called the "Sagebrushers." From 1860 to the turn of the 20th century, they lived large, drank to excess, and wrote uninhibited prose, poetry, and outright lies.

One of the most notorious—and gifted—of the Sagebrushers was William Wright, who wrote under the pen name Dan DeQuille. He began work as local editor of the *Territorial Enterprise* in 1862—two years before Nevada achieved statehood—and remained, off and on, for the next 30 years. Not content with simply reporting the news, DeQuille manufactured a number of "hoaxes" that he foisted on his reading public. The two most famous relate the story of the Traveling Stones of Pahranagat Valley and the tragic account of the Solar Armor.

According to DeQuille's pseudo-scientific treatise, which was published on October 26, 1867, the small stones in question—which a prospector had recently discovered in the Tonopah Basin's Pahranagat Valley—possessed an unusual property: "When scattered about on the floor, on a table, or other level surface, within two or three feet of each other, they immediately began traveling toward a common center, and then huddled up in a bunch like a lot of eggs in a nest. A single stone removed to a distance of a yard, upon being released, at once started off with wonderful and somewhat comical celerity to rejoin its fellows; but if taken away four or five feet, it remained motionless."

Soon the story was picked up by newspapers in countries around the globe,

A marker just off of Nevada's U.S. Highway 50 pays homage to the short-lived Pony Express Trail. While financial hardship played a role, it was the completion of the transcontinental telegraph line in 1861 that ultimately doomed the Pony Express. Nevada's roughly 400 miles of trail were among the toughest and most dangerous of the nearly 2,000-mile mail route.

RACHID DAHNOUN

including Germany, where the bemused author was referred to as "Herr Dan DeQuille, the eminent physicist of Virginiastadt, Nevada." Try though he might, he could not convince his international readership that the story was pure fiction, and for years to come he continued to receive letters of inquiry from readers, some with impressive scientific credentials.

Six years after the article first appeared, DeQuille responded to a reader's request for five pounds of the miraculous stones: "We have none of said rolling stones in this city at present but would refer our Colorado speculator to Mark Twain, who probably has still on hand fifteen or twenty bushels of assorted sizes."

Finally, in November 1879—15 years after he first imagined the stones—DeQuille published a heartfelt plea to his readers, begging them to drop the "rolling stones" story: "We have stood this thing about 15 years, and it is becoming a little monotonous. We are now growing old, and we want peace. We desire to throw up the sponge…[T]herefore we solemnly affirm that we never saw or heard of any such diabolical cobbles as the traveling stones of Pahranagat—though we still think there ought to be something of the kind somewhere in the world."

His Solar Armor tale enjoyed a similarly long life. On July 2, 1874, under the heading, "Sad Fate of an Inventor," DeQuille reported the story of the Solar Armor, a self-cooling system made up of sponges soaked in chemicals. As DeQuille told it, the suit of sponges would deflect the rays of the sun, leaving the wearer cool and comfortable. The problem was, the device worked so well that the inventor—a "Mr. Jonathan Newhouse"—froze to death while wearing it, 20 miles within the Nevada desert in the middle of the summer.

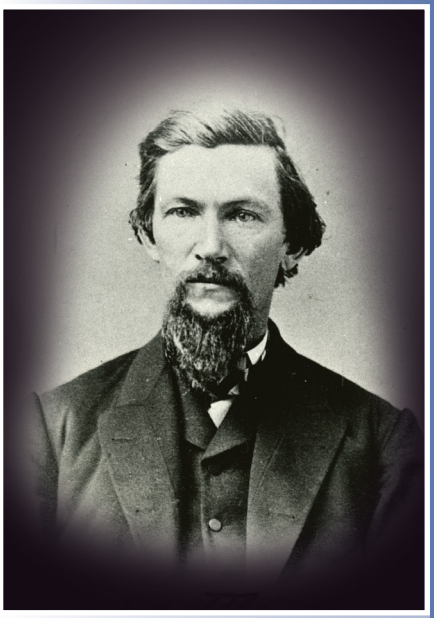
When Newhouse was found by an Indian the next day, "his beard was covered with frost and—though the noonday sun poured down its fiercest rays—an icicle over a foot in length hung from his nose." The story grew legs and was soon run in the *San Francisco Examiner* and *New York Times*. The following month, it was published in the *London Daily Telegraph*, touted at the time as having the world's largest circulation. When the British journal had the temerity to doubt the story's veracity, the author merely wrote a follow-up article that was even funnier—and more "scientifically" credible—than the original.

Sadly, DeQuille was a hopeless alcoholic. Year upon year, his fellow writer and drinker, Alfred Doten, repeatedly wrote in his diary, "Dan is in the station house very sick with the delirium tremens." At various times, he was fired for drinking, but always rehired for his remarkable talent.

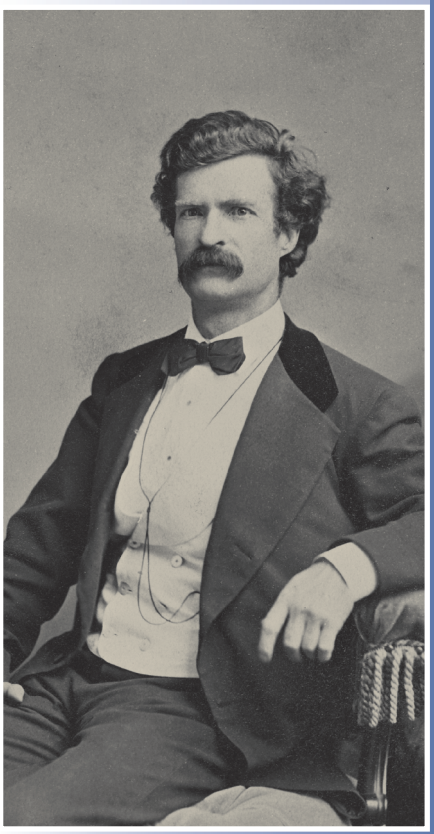
DeQuille's roommate, understudy, and fellow journalist was a former Missourian named Samuel L. Clemens. Starting work at the *Enterprise* a year after DeQuille, Clemens first used the pen name "Josh," but quickly chose a more lyrical nom de plume: Mark Twain. In his classic, *Roughing It*, Twain recalls how he came to work for the paper:

"Now in pleasanter days I had amused myself with writing letters to the chief paper of the Territory, the Virginia City *Territorial Enterprise*, and had always been surprised when they appeared in print. My good opinion of the editors has steadily declined; for it seemed to me that they might have found something better to fill up with than my literature. I had found a letter in the post office as I came home from the hillside, and finally I opened it. Eureka! (I never did know what Eureka meant, but it seems to be as proper a word to heave in as any when no other that sounds pretty offers.) It was a deliberate offer to me of $25 a week to come up to Virginia City and be city editor of the *Enterprise*."

He developed his own brand of "hoaxing," famously reporting on a petrified man who turned to stone while winking and thumbing his nose. Twain could be caustic in his humor, however, and at one point he nearly fought a duel with a member of a rival paper over an offensive editorial he had reportedly written while intoxicated. Although no blood was drawn, the altercation caused him to leave



UNR SPECIAL COLLECTIONS



NEVADA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Authors William Wright (Dan DeQuille; above) and Samuel Clemens (Mark Twain; below) were journalists in the most liberal sense of the profession, even making up some stories entirely during their years with the *Territorial Enterprise*, a Virginia City newspaper.

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his position—and Virginia City—for safer climes.

Other local Nevada newspapers adopted a less-than-reverent approach to the news as well. Not surprisingly, some of the papers' most colorful work was political in nature. In March 1877, Governor L.R. Bradley vetoed a bill that had the support of some of Nevada's newspaper editors. The journalists went on the attack, and they made it uncomfortably personal. The *Enterprise* zeroed in on the governor's age, stating, "He is old and decrepit, and it would be cowardice to abuse or insult him…But would to God he was a young man that we might publish how much we wish that he was dead."

The *Virginia Evening Chronicle* settled for merely calling Bradley "our boss lunatic," suggesting that a commission be assembled to assess his sanity, and adding, "[P]ending the inquiry, pen and paper [should] be kept out of his way. In his hands they are as dangerous as a razor in the hands of a maniac." Bradley lost his bid for reelection the following year.

Despite the frequent liberties taken with the truth, the newspapers of Nevada managed to keep their readers informed of the more important local and national events. If writers such as DeQuille, Twain, Doten, Rollin Daggett, and "Lyin' Jim" Townsend digressed from time to time, it was in the interest of what for want of a better term might be called "creative journalism." And for all its bombast and irreverence, it was well suited to the booming, wide-open territory and state that fostered it.

THE SHORT-LIVED PONY EXPRESS

The challenge of delivering the mail to Nevada's citizenry in a timely manner had been so since the time of the earliest settlers. With the fantastic gold and silver booms taking place in Nevada and California, the population on the West Coast swelled dramatically—and with the growing population came an increased demand for efficient and reliable communication with the East.

National and regional newspapers, however dated by the time of arrival, were treasured, as were letters and packages from home. Nonetheless, the tremendous gap between sending and receiving letters, newspapers, and parcels was a constant frustration—especially with the looming threat of a civil war—and inspired innovative thinkers to create bold and daring systems of delivery that defied distance, danger, and hardship.

In 1860, at the time Nevada was preparing itself for statehood, the process of sending a letter or package to or from the East Coast was time-consuming and uncertain. One option was to send the mail via steamship around Cape Horn to Panama, thence to Nicaragua and Mexico, and finally to San Francisco. From there, it would be transported overland to Sacramento, Nevada, and eventually points north and east. The other choice was to send mail cross-country via stagecoach. Since 1857, the Overland Mail Company's six-horse Concord coaches had been hauling mail, parcels, and passengers on a month-long journey from St. Louis south through Texas, and up into San Francisco.

Then came the brilliant, if short-lived, system that captured the popular imagination, while shaving weeks off the conventional mail routes. In early 1860, three enterprising partners in the freight company—Russell, Majors, and Waddell—launched an enterprise for the fast transcontinental delivery of the mail. It was officially known as the Central Overland and Pike's Peak Express Company, but hardly anyone could handle such a mouthful, so the company was simply called the Pony Express.

The founders' plan was to send relays of courageous and durable young men mounted on fast horses across some 2,000 miles of mostly trackless wilderness, carrying letters, news, and small packages. Each rider would stay in the saddle for 100 miles, changing horses every 10 to 15 miles. 175 way stations were built at intervals along the route and stocked with 400 good horses; it was here the relief riders waited to pick up the next leg of the journey. They rode round the clock, and

PHOTOS: RACHID DAHNOUN

History buffs can get a great feel for the state's early newspaper era by paying a visit to the Eureka Sentinel Museum (above), which includes a vintage 1800s pressroom. Sand Springs Pony Express station (below) is one of Nevada's more obvious remnants of the legendary 1860-61 mail route.

if Indians destroyed a station—a rather common occurrence—the rider would simply have to continue on until he found a fresh horse.

One rider, discovering that station after station had been compromised, reportedly covered the staggering distance of 300 miles on the same horse. No matter how many miles each carrier rode, the trip was perilous, as reflected in the ad the partners placed in various newspapers. It read, in part, "WANTED: Young, skinny, wiry fellows…Must be expert riders. Willing to risk death daily." One poster was said to have further narrowed the qualifications by adding, "Orphans preferred."

The operation was launched on April 3, 1860. As one rider galloped out of St. Joseph, Missouri toward California, another spurred east from Sacramento. Their cargo was locked inside four small pouches on their saddles, and they were told to sacrifice their mounts—and themselves—before losing the mail. Weight was minimized, beginning with the size of the rider, and including his saddle and equipment.

During the course of what was advertised as a 10-day trip, they would follow the routes established earlier by surveyors and westering immigrants, including the Central Nevada Route (roughly the route of present-day U.S. Highway 50) blazed by the Corps of Topographical Engineers in 1859. The "pony riders" galloped across the heart of country, bisecting the Great Basin and the Utah-Nevada Desert to Carson City; and from there crossing the Sierra Nevada to California. It was an impossible ride, only made possible by the men in the saddle.

The nation was captivated by the image of courageous, buckskin-clad young centaurs, defying distance, terrain, elements, and the prospect of a terrible death in order to deliver the mail. Some of the station agents and superintendents were legends in their own right. One superintendent, Joseph A. "Jack" Slade, reputedly shot and killed an agent for stealing stock, cut off the man's ears, and wore them on his watch chain as a keepsake.

Legends and romance aside, sending mail via the Pony Express was a costly proposition. For a letter weighing half an ounce or less, the going rate was $5—an amount equivalent to roughly $130 in today's currency. Still, in the end, the venture was far from profitable. The Pony Express lasted only 18 months and lost a staggering $110,000 in the process. On October 24, 1861, the Transcontinental Telegraph—one of a number of the new telegraph lines stretching across America—reached Salt Lake City, connecting Sacramento and Omaha. Messages could now be sent across the continent in minutes, rather than days and weeks. Two days later, the Pony Express closed.

That same year, with the coming of the Civil War, the Overland Mail Company shifted to a more central route, to avoid the newly formed Confederacy. Its stagecoaches followed the old Pony Express trail through the Great Plains, across the Rockies and Nevada's Great Basin, then over the Sierras to California. Laden with mail and passengers, they made the rugged cross-country trip in 25 days. The company also offered a network of coaches that ran from San Francisco to Virginia City, and from there to Salt Lake City and Denver and east to the Mississippi. Nevada was now connected to both the east and west coasts, just in time for statehood.

By 1866, Wells, Fargo & Co. had bought up all the other major stage lines, to become the largest stagecoach empire in the world. But within a short time, another more modern form of transportation would render the horse-drawn transcontinental coaches obsolete. To anyone who watched and listened, the clang of nine-pound hammers on spike heads, the tamping down of roadbeds, the alignment of steel rails over countless miles of track, and the piercing wail of an engine's whistle—trains—announced the death of the cross-country stagecoach.

Wells Fargo would continue to provide service from the points where the trains stopped, and they would contract to haul treasure boxes and express packages for decades to come; but the driving of that

JOEL JENSEN

The Nevada Northern Railway in Ely (above) keeps chugging along as one of the country's best-preserved short-line railroads and rail facilities. A display at the Nevada State Railroad Museum in Carson City (below) uses a James W. Hulse quote to emphasize the importance the tracks have played in Nevada's makeup.

MATTHEW B. BROWN

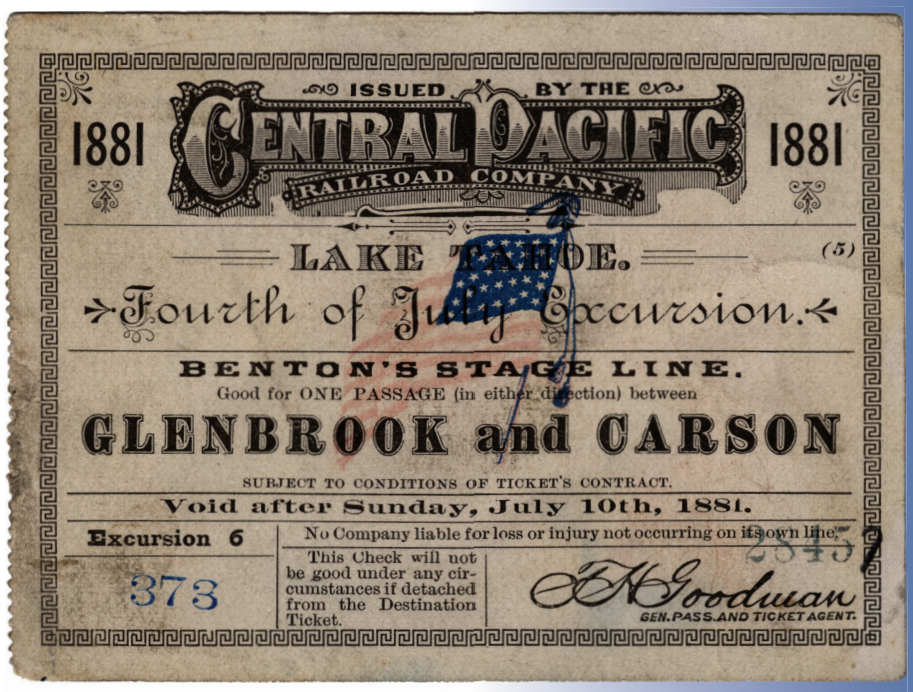
golden spike at Promontory, Utah in 1869 made coast-to-coast train travel in only eight days a reality and ushered in the new era of the railroad—an era of which Nevada would take full advantage.

HEAR THAT LONESOME WHISTLE

Of all the technological developments to grace Nevada during its early-statehood days, none was more dramatic or significant than the coming of the rails. It pertained as much, if not more, to commerce as it did to basic transportation. Nearly from the beginning of the first major gold and silver boom, there had been a demand for a rail system to convey ore from the Comstock to the Carson Valley mills. Initially, the Comstock had been using a freighting system that at times required up to 2,000 men and between 12,000 and 15,000 animals. It was costly and unwieldy at best, and by the 1860s the building of a railroad from the mines to Carson City became inevitable.

The Virginia and Truckee (V&T) Railroad was granted a charter in 1865, but lacked the money to start construction. It took another four years, but the crews finally broke ground in February 1869. Nearly a year later, the last spike on the 21-mile-long road from Virginia City to Carson City was driven. Freighting rates dropped immediately, reaching a reduction of 27 percent by year's end. Coincidental with the completion of the V&T, the U.S. Mint opened a branch in Carson City, and the combination of the two effectively eliminated the need to ship ore to San Francisco, which for years had been a costly but unavoidable facet of Nevada's mining business. Carson City remained a hub for the V&T until well into the 1950s.

Meanwhile, in 1871, the raw-edged railroad town of Reno, which went from a bridge and hotel on the south bank of the Truckee River to a major station on the Central Pacific line in only eight years, clamored for an extension of the Virginia and Truckee to facilitate sending freight to and from Virginia City. The Carson City-to-Reno line was finished the following year.



NEVADA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

An 1881 "Fourth of July Excursion" ticket would have taken a passenger from Carson City to Glenbrook, or vice versa. At the time, before the automobile, Benton's Stage Line also connected travelers with steamers that plied Lake Tahoe.

While many towns dependent on the mining and processing of ore eventually dried up and blew away, Reno continued to thrive. By the beginning of the next century, it had become a gambling mecca and was known as the "divorce capital" of the nation. Today, the city's reputation for fast action is overshadowed by its status as an attractive cultural center, with 21st-century ratings by *Fortune 500* magazine as one of America's three "Top Booming Towns" and by Cities Ranked and Rated as one of the country's 10 best places to live.

Although vital to the economy of the Comstock, the V&T was only one of the pioneer railroads laid out in Nevada's early-statehood days. The narrow-gauge Carson and Colorado, from the time its first engine steamed down the track in the summer of 1883, ran 300 miles from Mound House to the silver-, lead- and zinc-rich mines around Keeler, California. It continued to operate for the next 77 years.

The most notable and impressive of Nevada's early-day railroads, however, was the behemoth Central Pacific itself, which had crossed the continent from California to Utah, meeting the westbound Union Pacific and forever joining the nation's distant coasts. And as the CP moved East toward Utah one tie at a time, roughly laying out the route for what would one day become I-80, towns such as Battle Mountain, Carlin, Elko, Wells, and Winnemucca grew along the tracks.

THE GREAT TRAIN ROBBERY

The Central Pacific also had the distinction of being the victim of the West's first train robbery. It was referred to in the *Territorial Enterprise* as the "Great Railroad Robbery"—and this time the story was not a hoax.

Just after midnight on November 5, 1870, in a scene right out of a western movie, eight masked and heavily armed men boarded a Central Pacific Overland Express train as it steamed out of the tiny station at Verdi, 11 miles west of Reno. It had left San Francisco the previous day,

JACK CHASE COLLECTION

Only 25 head of cattle or horses were allowed at one time on the Lake's Crossing Bridge—shown here about 1875—which spanned the Truckee River in Reno. The bridge was named for Myron Charles Lake, considered Reno's founding father.

transporting gold in the care of Wells, Fargo & Co., for Virginia City's miners.

According to the news report: "Six stepped on the express car, which they detached from the main train by cutting signal rope, etc.; two jumped on the engine, placing pistols to the engineer's head, commanding him to move on, which he did. Two brakemen endeavored to keep the masked men off the express car, but pistols, placed at their heads, compelled their retreat. The conductor rushed forward, but pistols stopped him; finding a hatchet, he came forward again, in time to see the engine and express car separated from the train and flying down the track. The robbers then placed the fireman, express and mail messengers in a mail room and locked them up; when within six miles of this city [Reno], they stopped their train, broke open the express boxes, and robbed them of $41,600 in gold coin."

The robbers, under the leadership of Jack Davis, crammed the gold coins—worth nearly $750,000 in today's money—into old boot tops, cut the Western Union telegraph wires to the west, and fled to the mountains. Rewards totaling $30,000 for the recovery of the gold and the capture of the bandits were immediately offered by Wells Fargo, Washoe County, the Central Pacific, and the State of Nevada. The *Enterprise* reported on November 6, "All the talk upon the streets today is of the great robbery on the railroad, between Reno and Verdi…"

For nearly a week, readers followed the events of the robbery in their local papers. Finally, on November 11, the *Nevada Transcript* reported that all eight outlaws had been captured. Apparently, the gang had escaped into California, but diligent law officers spotted and arrested them, a few at a time. Undersheriff James H. Kinkead of Washoe County crossed into California and arrested two of the perpetrators, one of whom he had skillfully tracked for miles by the narrow heels of the outlaw's "gambler's boots."

Kinkead subsequently wrote a full account of the affair, modestly referring to himself in the third person. As it turned out, the gang had built a notorious reputation as successful robbers of Wells Fargo stagecoaches; but when Wells Fargo, out of desperation, put an extra guard on each coach, along with "guards who traveled behind the coaches on horseback," the gang was "forced to change their base of operations." Without intending it, they had established train robbery as a future standard among western outlaws, with some states creating new laws to fit the crime, citing it as a capital offense.

Two of the band turned informers, and eventually, most of the gold was retrieved

from the various mountain hideaways where the robbers had cached it. With the exception of the two who had "peached" on their comrades, and who were subsequently released from custody, the gang members received sentences ranging from five to 23 years.

In the end, two facts were unavoidable: Trains had now become likely targets for bandits—a fact of which such bad men as Jesse James, "Black Jack" Ketchum, and Butch Cassidy would take full advantage—and Nevada had hosted, albeit unwillingly, one of the earliest forays into the period that would come to be known to history as the Wild West.

HALLOWED HALLS OF ACADEME

In July 1862, with the Civil War raging around him, President Abraham Lincoln took time out to sign the Land-Grant College (or Morrill) Act. Its title gives a clear indication of its purpose: It was "An Act Donating Public Lands to the Several States and Territories which may provide Colleges for the Benefit of Agriculture and the Mechanic Arts." And what better state than Nevada for the establishment of a college dedicated to farming and the "mechanic arts"—i.e., mining?

In 1873, Nevada Governor Lewis R. Bradley and his nine-year-old legislature took advantage of the Morrill Act to establish a new state university. They selected Elko, a bustling Central Pacific-built railroad town that had grown to become the seat of newly formed Elko County. They also decided, however, that the new institution was not yet ready to serve as a full-fledged university, and instead mandated that it would act merely as a training center, teaching courses "required for admission into the freshman class in colleges." It would serve as the handmaiden to other, "real" universities. Officially designated the "University Preparatory School," it opened its doors in 1874—to a total enrollment of seven students.

Not surprisingly, the response to the new school over the next several years was less than overwhelming. In 1885, with enrollments and public opinion disappointingly low, the governor signed a bill relocating the school to another thriving railroad town—Reno. It would have been difficult to find a city that had enjoyed a more meteoric rise. In 1871, the Nevada Legislature named Reno the Washoe County seat—the same year the city requested and received its own Central Pacific line from Carson City. In short order, Reno had become a major commercial center, as well as what the official city website describes as a "transfer point for the immense wealth coming out of the Comstock Lode."

After voting to move the school to Reno, the Board of Regents purchased 10 acres north of the city and broke ground. On March 31, 1886, although the physical structure had not yet been completed, the first school term commenced, with a 75-student population and a new principal and professor of mining. The university substantially expanded its list of subjects to include metallurgy, surveying, chemistry, French, assaying, and mechanics, among others. Five years later, the school's first mining laboratory was built. As a result, it would never again be defined as a "preparatory school."

True to the original mandate established by the Land-Grant Act, the university also focused its coursework on agricultural education. Instruction was given that addressed improvements in all aspects of farming and animal husbandry. In 1887, the Hatch Act provided federal funds for the creation of agricultural "experiment stations," and the University of Nevada proceeded to build its own experiment station.

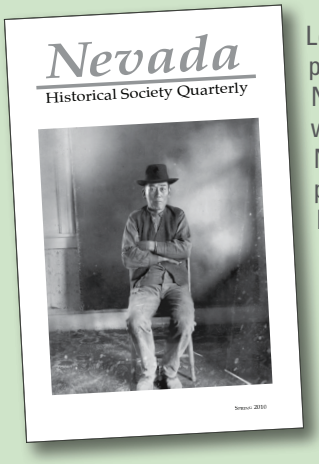
The same year that marked the passage of the Hatch Act, a third school was created within the university, for the training of teachers, and by 1902, it offered a full three-year program of courses, with a teaching certificate at the end. By so doing, the school gave women in the state the opportunity to acquire a higher education and apply it in a viable working environment.

In the interest of providing a well-

PHOTOS: NEVADA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Morrill Hall, shown above circa 1925, was the first building constructed on campus when the University of Nevada was moved from Elko to Reno in 1885. At about that time, miners in Virginia City (below) were dealing with the harsh reality that the Comstock Lode was finally playing out.

What will the next 150 years bring?



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rounded education, students in all three schools were required to take a variety of courses in addition to those related to their majors. In addition to coursework, all "able-bodied" male students were obligated by both the Morrill Act and the State of Nevada to receive military training and instruction in tactics, as members of the school's Cadet Corps. The three top members of each class would receive a recommendation to the War Department for the awarding of a commission.

The three students in the university's first graduating class received their Bachelor of Arts degrees in May 1891. By 1899, the student body swelled to an impressive 400. The school that started off as a struggling training center had come into its own as a respected, degree-granting university.

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS/TIMOTHY O'SULLIVAN

During one of his western photo expeditions, Timothy O'Sullivan documented this Nevada group of Paiute Indians in 1875. Most members of the tribe are wearing non-traditional clothing, evidence of their assimilation into western society.

INDIAN RELATIONS & EDUCATION

There was a stark contrast between the burgeoning state university and Nevada's attempt to educate, and assimilate, its Native Americans via Indian boarding schools. Since the first hopeful miners moved into the territory, the history of white relations with the Indians was checkered at best. It reflected a pattern that began with the Pilgrims in Massachusetts more than 200 years before and repeated itself throughout the settlement of the West.

When the settlers were too few in number to object to the prior rights of the original occupants, tolerance prevailed, albeit uncomfortably at times. However, once the white population grew sufficiently, and there was an objective to be gained—a mining claim, potentially rich farm land—the local tribes were faced with the inevitable choices: move or be moved. In Nevada, things came to a head in what has come to be known as the Pyramid Lake War.

By 1860, word of the rich strikes at the Comstock had attracted thousands of silver- and gold-hungry settlers to Washoe County. Inevitably, there were incidents between them and the local Paiutes, Bannocks, and Shoshones. The spark that ignited the powder keg was struck when two brothers, owners of a stagecoach station, kidnapped and raped two Paiute girls—children, really. When they heard about it, the warriors of the tribe—the girls' father among them—brought their fury down upon the station, killing between three and five white men and burning the buildings to the ground.

Word soon spread among the mining camps, and in short order a vigilante band of more than 100 men from Genoa and Carson, Virginia, and Silver cities rode out, seeking revenge. The Paiutes trapped them on the banks of the Truckee River, southeast of Pyramid Lake. Before the whites could flee, 76 were killed outright—including their nominal leader, Major William Ormsby—and most of the others were wounded.

Panic ensued, as all mining activity ceased, towns forted up, and a number of settlers fled. Cries were raised for the extermination of the Paiutes, as nearly 550 well-organized volunteers marched from California to Washoe County, commanded by the legendary former Texas Ranger captain John Coffee "Jack" Hays.

More than 200 army regulars joined Hays' party, and on June 2, 1860, a second engagement took place near Pyramid Lake, resulting in few casualties on either side, but the withdrawal of the outnumbered Indians. The regulars built a temporary post, dubbed Fort Haven, on Pyramid Lake. Henceforth, the area—and the treasure to be found therein—remained in the hands of the whites, although the Indians continued to raid stations and threaten the settlements and travel routes well into the 1870s, despite the construction of more than two dozen military posts throughout the state.

It was not surprising, therefore, when the time came to provide education to the state's Indians, that the approach would be less than benign. The federal government opened some 100 Indian boarding schools from California to Pennsylvania, both off and on reservations. The first such institution in Nevada—the Stewart Indian School—was established south of Carson City in 1890. The boarding schools provided vocational training, with required uninterrupted attendance ranging from four to eight years.

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS/TIMOTHY O'SULLIVAN

The iconic pyramid of Northern Nevada's Pyramid Lake is shown in 1867. The tufa rocks paint a peaceful picture here, but earlier that decade Indians and settlers clashed in the bloody Pyramid Lake War of 1860. After two defined battles, a cease-fire was agreed to later that year. The lake is now the centerpiece of the Pyramid Lake Indian Reservation, northeast of Reno.

Underlying the curriculum was an organized program specifically designed to eradicate all Indian cultural traces. Countless children were taken from their families, sometimes forcibly by armed police, and lodged in the schools. Often the treatment was brutal, and native names were erased and replaced with Anglo names. Indians were not allowed to attend public schools in Nevada until the 1930s.

A DEPRESSING FINISH TO THE CENTURY

As Nevada entered the last quarter of the 19th century, there was no reason to suspect that the future held anything but continued growth and prosperity. The mining industry that was the state's mainstay appeared healthy. In a matter of a few decades, Nevada had emerged from the mud and dust of the shafts and ore seams to take her place among the other states of the nation.

Then, in 1875, Nevadans received a foreshadowing of what was to come, as disaster struck. Virginia City, arguably the most important mining community in the state, caught fire. The town had suffered fires before, but this time winds from the west drove the fire out of control in a matter of minutes. The devastation to the central business district was complete. For the most part, the shafts themselves were spared; however, the fire claimed a number of the actual mine buildings. Damage to Virginia City was estimated at between $5 million and $10 million. Most costly of all, however, the California, Ophir, and Consolidated-Virginia—the district's three most productive mines—temporarily closed.

Despite the scope of the damage, the city's businessmen and mine owners immediately set about rebuilding. After months of effort and expense, Virginia City was back on line—with a more efficient water system—and ready for business. Then, the unthinkable happened. Production at the Comstock began to fall rapidly, and it remained that way into the next century.

In 1880, just five years into the Comstock's downward slide, Nevada's boom-and-bust economy—which had been the defining characteristic first of the territory, then the state—failed, plummeting the state into a genuine depression. There had been dips in the economy before, but, as Nevada chronicler Russell R. Elliott points out, "The Comstock…gave Nevadans a false sense of security, for each successive depression was followed by a bonanza greater than the previous one." This time, however, the desperate efforts to find new and bigger bonanzas brought only frustration, as the bill for a near-total statewide reliance on the mining industry for its wellbeing finally came due.

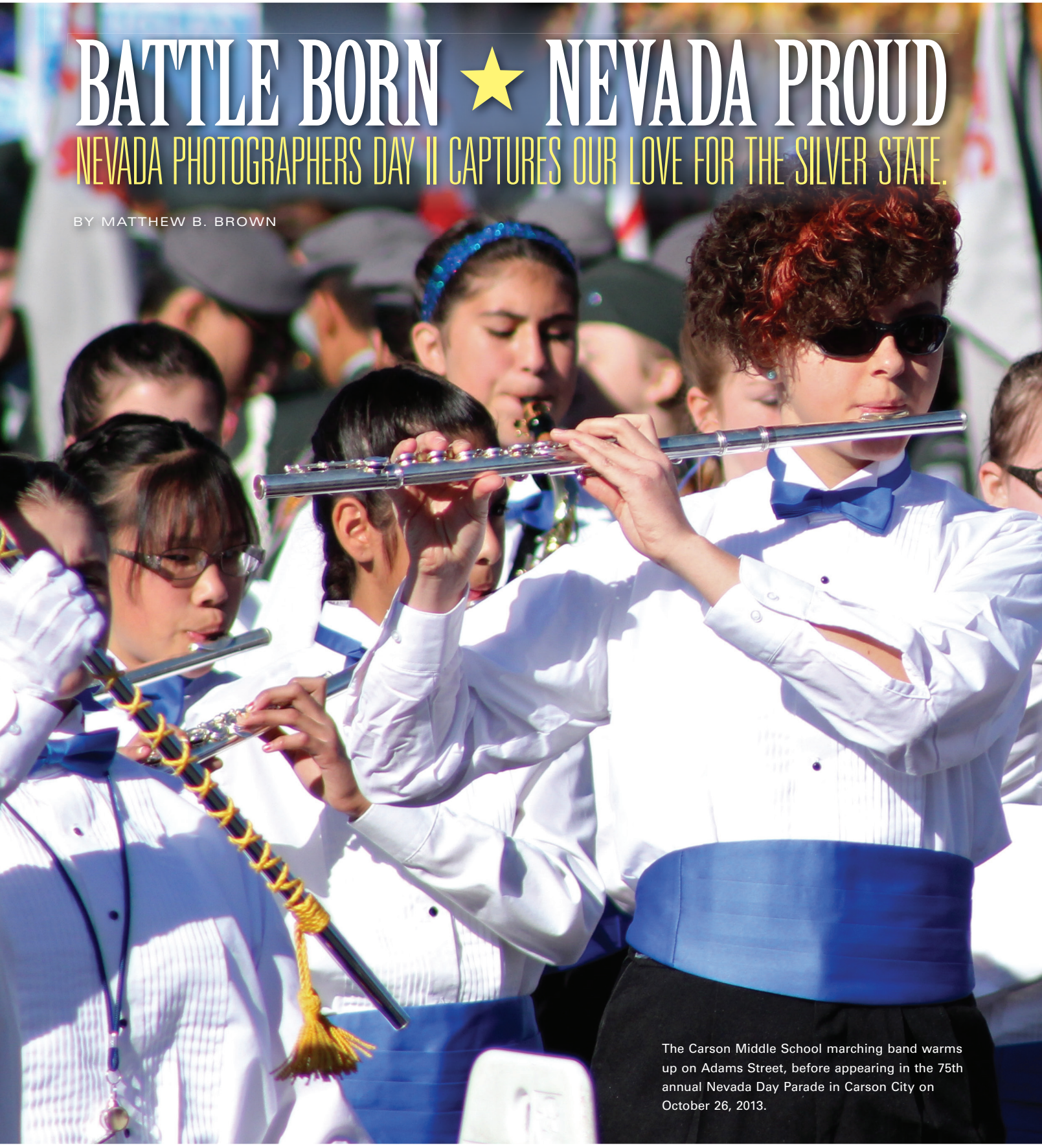
COMING UP MARCH/APRIL 2014

In Part IV, we will look at the various desperate attempts to rescue Nevada from the brink of financial disaster. We will analyze Mormon influence on early Nevada, witness the fabulous Tonopah and Goldfield booms that literally saved the state in the dawning days of the new century, the beginning of the labor movement, and the startling discovery of "king copper." Finally, we will examine the courageous crusade for Women's Suffrage in the state.

BATTLE BORN ★ NEVADA PROUD

NEVADA PHOTOGRAPHERS DAY II CAPTURES OUR LOVE FOR THE SILVER STATE.

BY MATTHEW B. BROWN



The Carson Middle School marching band warms up on Adams Street, before appearing in the 75th annual Nevada Day Parade in Carson City on October 26, 2013.

Photo by BRUCE MCDANIEL

Photo by NEIL LOCKHART

When we hosted our inaugural Nevada Photographers Day in Virginia City on March 16, 2013, we knew we wanted to hold a truly statewide photography event at a later date. What better way to challenge our talented pool of photographers than by sending them out to document the state's 149th-birthday celebrations? We asked lovers of the lens to capture our Nevada pride during Nevada Day Weekend, October 25-27.

From Beatty to Carson City, and Las Vegas to Reno, the submissions poured in. We were treated to a smorgasbord of images ranging from historical re-enactors to hot-air balloons. "Participating in both Photographers Days has been a great opportunity for me," says Carson City's Sandi Whitteker. "It stimulated me to think outside the box to capture photos that would really bring the events to life for *Nevada Magazine* readers."

Photo by DENNIS DOYLE

Good Ol'-Fashioned Fun

Photo by BRUCE MCDANIEL

Photo by MAUREEN MCMULLIN

Photo by MARK RAYMOND

THIS PAGE: Clockwise from top left: A Reno Bighorns cheerleader smiles during the Nevada Day Parade in Carson City on October 26. Governor Brian Sandoval and his daughter, Marisa, wave to the capital crowds. Below are the strong and steady hands of Tom Donovan, who won $2,000 in the Nevada Day World Championship Single Jack Drilling Contest with a distance of 14.25 inches. "We love going to Beatty Days," photographer Maureen McMullin says. "The amazing ladies holding the Ms. Senior Nye County sign actually tap danced for the [parade] judges."

OPPOSITE PAGE: This long-exposure shot (top) captures the hustle and bustle prior to the March from the Arch parade on downtown Reno's Virginia Street on October 25. "The camera's shutter was open for 10 seconds, allowing the vehicles to turn into colorful streaks of light," photographer Neil Lockhart says. The star of "Zomboo's House of Horror Movies" (bottom) participates in Carson City's Nevada Day Parade.

Photo by BRUCE MCDANIEL

THIS PAGE: Members of the Nevada National Guard march down Carson Street in Carson City on October 26. "This group of active-duty soldiers walked the parade route with their families to show us all how connected we are here in the Silver State," says Dennis Doyle, who photographed the scene.

OPPOSITE PAGE: Proud members of the ROTC display the American flag (top) during the Nevada Day Parade. "The size of the flag was pretty impressive," photographer Tracy Herbert says. Re-enactors (bottom) celebrate a very relevant time in Nevada's history—it became a state during the Civil War on October 31, 1864.

Photo by DENNIS DOYLE

Patriotism

Photo by SANDI WHITTEKER

Nostalgia

Photos by SANDI WHITTEKER

THIS PAGE: Clockwise from top left: Sharron Land Gegenheimer (left) and Jeanette Rowland are proud members of Virginia City Living Legends, a volunteer group that dresses in period attire from 1850-90. "It is our goal to keep history alive," Rowland says. Laurette Locke, a member of the Merced County Sheriff Posse organized in 1948, hoists an American flag. The Karson Kruzers are an active classic-car club in Carson City. The Western Nevada College mascot and softball team show their Silver State spirit. All photos on this spread were taken at Carson City's Nevada Day Parade on October 26.

OPPOSITE PAGE: "Cowboy Comic" Ted Neal (thecowboycomic.com), who sometimes impersonates famous explorer and guide Kit Carson, is shown in Carson City. "My goal is to bring the past to life in a hilarious, original, and authentic way," says Neal, who participated in the "best-groomed" category of the Nevada Day beard contest.

Personalities

THIS PAGE: Clockwise from top: The Pine Nut Tiny Tots Princess from the Walker River Paiute Tribe enjoys the spotlight. Lorren Sammaripa of Schurz is a member of the Walker River Paiute Tribe's *Agai-Dicutta* dancers. Representatives of the *Association de Charros Del Norte de Nevada* display their cultural pride. All were participants in Carson City's Nevada Day Parade on October 26.

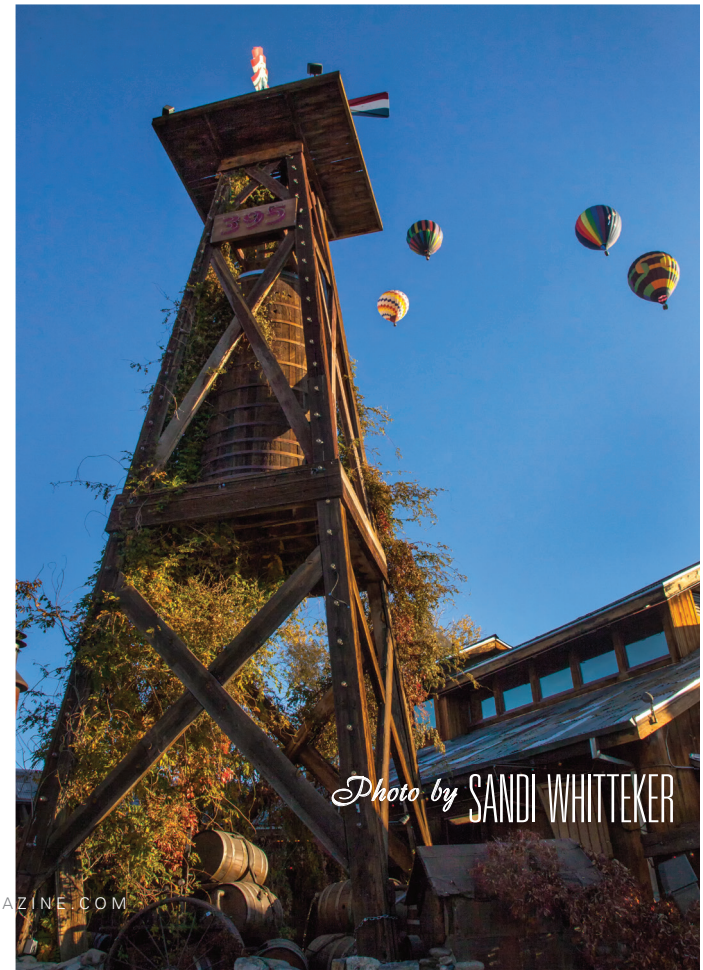
OPPOSITE PAGE: The Zipper was one of the more popular rides at the Nevada Day RSVP Carnival at Mills Park in Carson City. This photo was taken on October 25.

Photos by MARTIN GOLLERY

Photo by NEIL LOCKHART

Family Fun

Photo by SANDI WHITTEKER



TOP LEFT: The Thomas family's silhouette is captured at the Las Vegas Balloon Festival on the morning of October 26. Gorden and Sarah Thomas are with their children: Steven, Spencer, Miriam, Nathan, and George.

TOP RIGHT: Whit Landvater (standing in basket) owns Balloon Nevada, based in Gardnerville. In this photo, the Moya family—Eli, Dora, and Dyllon (boy)—prepares to take flight in Carson City on October 26.

ABOVE: Balloons take to the Carson City skies. "My kids and I got there before take off," photographer Tracy Herbert says. "We were lucky enough to get close to the balloons; it was a real treat!"

LEFT: A different view of the Carson City balloons from the Red's Old 395 Grill parking lot.

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Winter Wonderland

"On November 23, 2013, my husband and I headed out for breakfast, but as we turned west our plans abruptly changed," says Las Vegas photographer Lucy Cox. "Mount Charleston was shrouded in an amazing low cloud formation, and I immediately asked him to return home so I could retrieve my camera. My goal was to capture the mystical feeling I had as a child on the morning of a first winter snow. As we ascended further, the clouds began to part to reveal a wonderland."

Just as Cox and her husband passed the Lee Canyon cutover (State Route 158) traveling west on S.R. 157, they pulled over. Cox jumped out of the car and captured this amazing shot.

The photo of Fletcher Peak (right) was captured on the same day near—appropriately—Kris Kringle Street. Mount Charleston, a community on S.R. 157, and the surrounding area received more than a foot of snow during a two-day period. "A wonderful start to the ski season!" Cox adds. "The mountain had the peaceful stillness that only comes with a large snowfall."

PHOTOS BY LUCY COX

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