

NEVADAMAGAZINE.COM | MARCH/APRIL 2014  
EARLY 1900S BOOMTOWNS | WOMEN'S HISTORY | JOURNEY TO JARBIDGE

SESQUICENTENNIAL SPECIAL EDITION

# NEVADA

MARCH/APRIL 2014

MAGAZINE

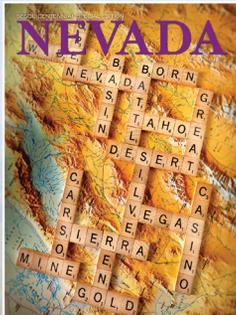
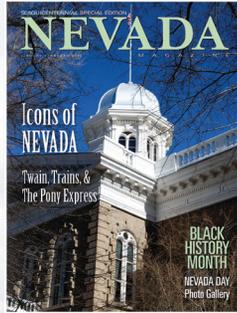
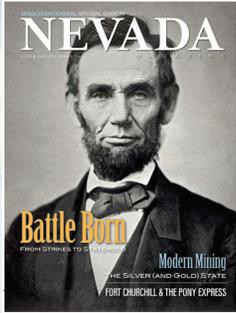
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# NEVADA

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Scrabble pieces on a Raven Maps & Images wall map act as an homage to Nevada's 150th anniversary of statehood.

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An image of a mining shaft captured in 1907 Tonopah gives a glimpse into miners' day-to-day lives in the early-1900s boomtown.

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INTO THE NEW CENTURY

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WOMEN'S HISTORY IN NEVADA



**68** In March, as a nation we celebrate Women's History Month, which gives us the chance to pay tribute to the generations of women whose commitments have proved invaluable to society. We honor several influential women from different eras of Nevada's

history and recap two Nevada Women's Legacy events that occurred in January.



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# NEVADA

M A G A Z I N E

MARCH/APRIL 2014  
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## WEB EXTRAS

► Find out from a certified Reno photographer how Google Business Photos and street-view technology is changing the landscape for how businesses market themselves. **By SueAnn Tomlinson**

### COMMENT

Share your thoughts and opinions on stories at [nevadamagazine.com](http://nevadamagazine.com).



## On NEVADAMAG.BLOGSPOT.COM

- Orders for the second of four commemorative **sesquicentennial medallions** are now being accepted.
- Reno's **Whitney Peak Hotel** and **SLS Las Vegas** hotel announced 2014 opening dates.

### FOLLOW OUR BLOGS

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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

[stateconstitutions.us](http://stateconstitutions.us)

Don Merrill of Oregon has built a website that houses all 50 of the U.S. state constitutions. Click on the Silver State—literally—from the map on the homepage to read or listen to Nevada's nearly 50,000-word constitution.

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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.

# Embrace the Ides of March

It is written in William Shakespeare's *Julius Caesar*, "Beware the Ides of March." History buffs know that this is in reference to Caesar's assassination on March 15, 44 B.C. Thankfully, in Nevada, the Ides of March have a much happier connotation, as there are two monumental anniversaries in the state's history that fall around the notorious date.

The first is Nevada's creation as a territory on March 2, 1861 by the United States Congress. Nevada Territory was a federal territory, a part of the Union, and consisted of nine original counties. President Abraham Lincoln appointed Governor James Warren Nye to lead and guide the territory in its pre-statehood days.

Nye, a former Police Commissioner in New York, helped quell any and all Civil War demonstrations in support of the Confederacy. Although the tax system was much less effective than it is today, what little that could be collected in Nevada went to support the Union cause.

Nye held down the Nevada fort for three years before Congress approved the Enabling Act for Nevada on March 21, 1864. The Civil War was winding down, and Lincoln was looking for support to win reelection. If Nevada were a state, it would supply crucial electoral votes and help ratify the 13th Amendment, which ultimately abolished slavery.

Lincoln proclaimed Nevada a state on October 31, 1864, a week before national election, and went on to win the presidency in decisive fashion. Interestingly, Nevada is not the only "Battle Born" state; Virginia was admitted to the Union on June 20, 1863.

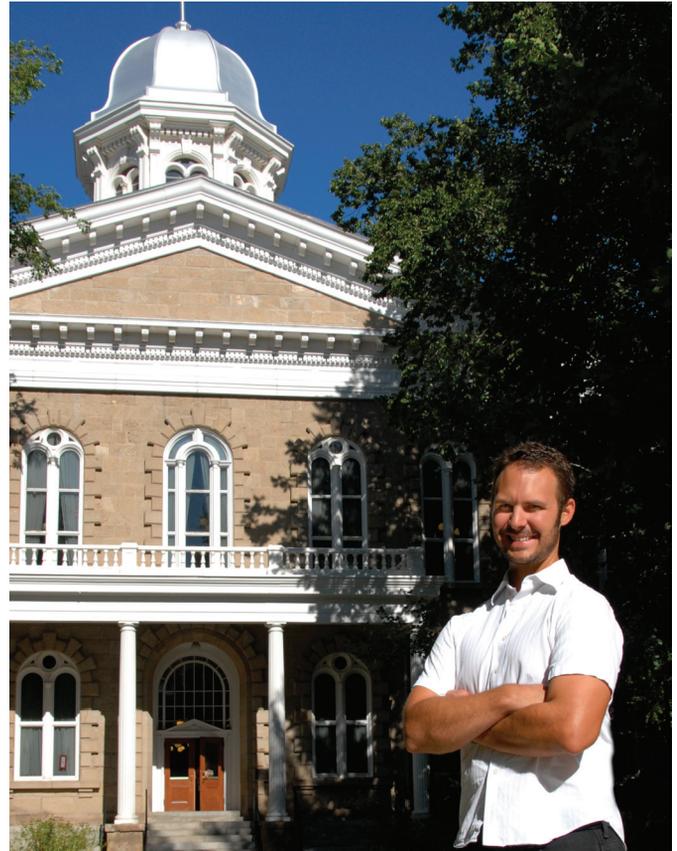
So there you have it: two more legitimate excuses to celebrate Nevada's sesquicentennial in 2014. If you're looking for one day to party on account of both anniversaries, March 15 is a Saturday this year. Just saying.

## IN OUR CURRENT ISSUE

On March 21, 2014, Nevada will celebrate the 150th anniversary of the Enabling Act with a Battle Born Birthday Cake Celebration in Carson City. A 1,300-pound cake, in the shape of the Silver State, will be served as part of the festivities. This will not be the state's first colossal cake, as the 1964 centennial was heralded in similar fashion. Turn to page 44 for more information.

March also happens to be Women's History Month, and so we've dedicated one of our feature stories to this important subject. Nevada Women's Legacy events have been held, and will be held, throughout the state to honor these phenomenal females. Refer to Janet Geary's Publisher's Note on page 5, then flip to page 68 for more on women's history.

This is our fourth of eight Sesquicentennial Special Editions.



Author and historian Ron Soodalter continues his eight-part sesquicentennial series with Part IV, which explains how copper, gold, and silver booms helped rescue Nevada from a late-1800s statewide depression.

Also in this issue are stories on the new Downtown Container Park in Las Vegas, the northeastern Nevada hamlet of Jarbidge, and the fascinating Southern Nevada ghost town of St. Thomas. 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  
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# HISTORY BECOMES HER STORY

In January, I attended the First Ladies First event in Las Vegas, one of the signature events in Nevada's yearlong sesquicentennial celebration. Five former First Ladies—Kathryn List (1979-1983), Bonnie Bryan (1983-1989), Sandy Miller (1989-1999), Dema Guinn (1999-2006), and Dawn Gibbons (2006-2010)—kept the audience in stitches with hilarious stories about life in the Governor's Mansion.

I was struck by all the important causes these women championed during their respective tenures as First Lady. From high school scholarships to senior citizens' issues and everything in between, these women all used their high-profile platform to better the lives of Nevadans.

Guinn considers her most important project to be the Mammoth, where she led the effort to secure a mobile breast exam laboratory that raised awareness and improved access to preventative health care for rural Nevada women.

This event got me thinking about the many women who are revered in Nevada's history, including Native Americans Sarah Winnemucca and Dat-so-la-lee. Or Hannah K. Clapp, a renowned

lobbyist who in the early 1860s successfully elicited the support of the Territorial Legislature to establish the state's first private educational institution. You can read more about Clapp in the feature starting on page 68.

The most prominent early political arena for Nevada women was their battle to obtain the right to vote. Suffrage was a hotly contested issue from 1869 until the voters approved the constitutional amendment in 1914. It would be five years before the 19th Amendment was ratified. It didn't take long before women's influences were felt throughout Nevada. That same year, 1919, Nevada Clara Crowell was appointed Sheriff of Lander County.

The history of women in Nevada is fascinating and makes me proud to be counted among them.



**Janet Geary**, Publisher  
jmgear@nevadamagazine.com

## FLOOD VICTIMS NOT FORGOTTEN

Your [January/February 2014] article about Eldorado Canyon told so much of the positives about it, and I am grateful you chose also to mention the flood that swept through the area in 1974. That tragedy is very much a part of the canyon's history now.

My husband, Jim, was the National Park Service ranger on duty that day when a black cloudburst sent a 30-foot wall of mud and torrential floodwaters rushing through the canyon. It took several lives and virtually destroyed the tiny vacation village.

When he was able to get back to the scene of the disaster, he found he had lost everything except what he was wearing. His losses included not only his home and vehicle, but also his first wife, five-year-old son, and three-year-old daughter. The lives of all the people lost there should never be forgotten.

**Carole W. Modlin**, Tennessee

## SEEING THE SEARCHLIGHT

In your [January/February 2014] article on Black History in Nevada, on page 38, the gentleman [in the top photo] third from right is Ray Sheffer, the youngest Chief of Police in the nation at that time. He was a product of Searchlight and Las Vegas High School who served in the Navy in WWII.

**Gail Andress**, Searchlight

## SNOWBIRDS FLOCK TOGETHER

I have been getting *Nevada Magazine* since 1989, and it has changed our lives. Because of the stories, photography, and points of interest, my wife and I have relocated to Mesquite during the winter months from Alaska. But we are not the only ones who are snowbirding in Nevada. We were responsible for eight other couples buying winter homes in Mesquite. We especially love the stories about the people and places of Nevada's past and present. Keep up the good work.

**John Stallone**, Anchorage, Alaska

## TEXAS-SIZED LOVE FOR NEVADA

Our appreciation of the state has been enhanced with our subscription to your magazine, and I don't know that we would have seen some of these places without your articles.

We have visited many places but cannot think of another one that holds the appeal of Nevada. Whether it is the crisp, cool mornings of the desert, or the beauty of the mountains and lakes, my wife and I—as well as our grown kids now—love the state, and it is always in our vacation-planning conversations.

Thanks for a great state and a wonderful, informative magazine!

**Joe Pelletier**, Plano, Texas

### WE VALUE YOUR INPUT

Write to [editor@nevadamagazine.com](mailto: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](http://nevadamagazine.com). Letters and comments are subject to editing.

# KNOW YOUR NEVADA



## Cowboy and Women's History Take Center Stage



BATTLE  
BORN  
NEVADA  
PROUD  
150<sup>th</sup>

Spring Creek cowboy poet Waddie Mitchell accepts the *Historical Nevada* book from Lieutenant Governor Brian K. Krolicki.

Dear Friends,

We are almost at the halfway point of our yearlong 150th-birthday celebration and still going strong. January and February were chock full of events celebrating our state's history, people, and culture.

I had the distinct pleasure of kicking off the 30th annual National Cowboy Poetry Gathering in Elko in January. The program was titled "Home Means Nevada," and what a tribute it was. The evening was particularly special because I had the privilege of introducing Waddie Mitchell as Nevada's Honorary Poet. Waddie regaled the crowd with his poem, "Dame Nevada," a beautiful and moving tribute to Nevada's birthday. To see Mitchell perform the poem, visit the [nevada150.org](http://nevada150.org) website.

Another fabulous event was First Ladies First, held in Las Vegas and sponsored by Women of Diversity Productions, Inc. This was the inaugural event of Nevada Women's Legacy - 150 Years of Excellence, and what an afternoon it was. Five of our former First Ladies told stories, answered questions, and entertained a sold-out crowd about life in the Governor's Mansion and the unique role First Ladies play. Women of Diversity is producing and sponsoring additional events around the state celebrating the important role women have played in our state's past.

I was honored and fortunate to have the opportunity to work for one of those important Nevada women: the late Barbara Vucanovich. As many of you know, she was the first woman elected to Congress from Nevada, but she achieved extraordinary things even before she even went to Washington, D.C. She was a successful businesswoman and tireless volunteer. First and foremost, she was a wife, mother, and grandmother, and those things always came first. She set the bar high and paved a path for other

women to achieve and succeed and was always there to mentor others and lend a helping hand. She definitely goes down in history as one of Nevada's excellent women.

There are some very interesting upcoming events that will also focus on the history and contributions of women in Nevada. In March, there will be a "History Tea: Celebrating 150 Years of Nevada Women" event held in Carson City; "Women in History: 100th Anniversary of Women's Suffrage" in Gardnerville; and in Las Vegas at the Old Las Vegas Mormon Fort, the Friends of the Fort will throw a birthday party for Helen Stewart.

Be sure to mark your calendars. Also, visit [nevada150.org](http://nevada150.org), and check out all the exciting and wonderful programs, forums, concerts, and events being held around the state. There is definitely something for everyone, and this is an anniversary year you don't want to miss.



**Lt. Gov. Brian K. Krolicki**

**Brian K. Krolicki**  
Lieutenant Governor  
Chairman—Nevada Commission on Tourism & Nevada 150 Commission  
[ltgov.nv.gov](http://ltgov.nv.gov)

*Editor's Note: For more information about Nevada 150 happenings, turn to page 49.*



**PLACES HIGHLIGHTED IN THIS ISSUE**

- Beatty (pg. 56)
- Cal Nev Ari (pg. 68)
- Carson City (pgs. 44, 56, 80)
- Ely (pg. 56)
- Fallon (pg. 21)
- Gold Hill (pg. 20)
- Goldfield (pg. 56)
- Jarbidge (pg. 26)
- Las Vegas (pgs. 5, 10, 14, 22, 37, 46, 56, 68)
- Laughlin (pgs. 51, 68)
- Reno (pgs. 38, 52)
- Rhyolite (pg. 56)
- Searchlight (pg. 68)
- Sparks (pg. 18)
- St. Thomas (pg. 40)
- Tonopah (pg. 56)
- Virginia City (pgs. 36, 49)
- Washoe Lake (pg. 21)



Above, a military drone rests at an unspecified Nevada location. With an FAA-stated goal of introducing small, unmanned vehicles into the airspace by 2015, Nevada has begun recruiting companies to test at its sites. Right: A small drone houses a digital camera. Middle & Bottom: Catherine Schell and Eric Knight test a radio-controlled Century Helicopter Predator Gasser, also equipped with a camera.



## ECONOMY

### Nevada selected as UAV development center

The Federal Aviation Administration recently announced that Nevada has been selected as one of six locations in the country to be a center for Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) development. Likely benefits for Nevada include job creation, billion of dollars in economic impact, and an estimated \$125 million in annual state and local tax revenue.

"[This] is a historic moment for Nevada," Governor Brian Sandoval says. "With the climate and airspace of Nevada, we are uniquely equipped to help expand the development of UAVs. Our state has been preparing for this selection, and we are ready to enter this new era of aviation history."

Nevada submitted its application to the FAA in May 2013. Key players included a 28-member team consisting of the Nevada System of Higher Education, Nevada National Guard, Bowhead Systems, Navigator Development, and Drone America.

"This is wonderful news for Nevada that creates a huge opportunity for our economy," Senator Harry Reid says. "Nevada has long been a leader in the [Unmanned Aircraft Systems] Industry, and no state makes a better candidate than ours. Nevada will continue to lead in new and innovative technologies of the 21st century."

Reid led passage of the FAA Modernization and Reform Act of 2012, establishing the FAA program to begin testing for the integration of UAVs—commonly referred to as drones—into the National Airspace System. Awarding Nevada FAA test sites should have far-reaching implications on the state's economy. The range of jobs created includes teachers, machinists, aircraft mechanics, software developers, and electrical engineers. [diversifynevada.com](http://diversifynevada.com), 800-336-1600

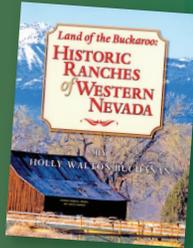


## NEVADA BOOKS

### *Land of the Buckaroo: Historic Ranches of Western Nevada*

By Holly Walton-Buchanan, Mt. Judah Consulting, hollywaltonbuchananbooks.com, 775-772-2086, 192 pages

Walton-Buchanan traces the exploration and settlement of the western edge of the Great Basin, where bountiful water from the Sierra Nevada attracted the first ranchers to the verdant pastures along the base of the mountains. This book is a tribute to those families who are still involved in ranching or farming in some manner in western Nevada and have succeeded in surviving despite the advent of subdivisions and freeways. Many descendants of those pioneer ranches assisted with this book.



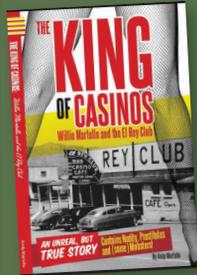
### *The King of Casinos: Willie Martello and the El Rey Club*

By Andy Martello, Just A Martello Books, andymartello.com, 702-465-5604, 304 pages

After eight years of research, interviews, collecting, and fundraising, *The King of Casinos* is now available for Nevada history buffs. The publication unearths the unreal, but true story of Searchlight's entertaining and notorious El Rey Club.

After a horrific fire destroyed Willie Martello's El Rey Club in 1962, nearly 50 years would pass before anyone knew of how the casino and one-time brothel provided a template

for present-day gambling resorts, upset the Las Vegas mob, and inadvertently launched the career of Francis Ford Coppola.



IN THE EARLY  
1910s, GOLDFIELD  
AND TONOPAH—  
RECOGNIZING THAT  
**THE  
AUTOMOBILE  
PRESENTED  
A POTENTIAL  
DANGER TO  
CITIZENS—**  
ESTABLISHED SPEED  
LIMITS OF SIX MPH  
AND FOUR MPH,  
RESPECTIVELY.

## AGRICULTURE

### Nevada Department of Agriculture creates Buy Nevada program

Buy Nevada, a newly established Nevada Department of Agriculture program, promotes food and agriculture businesses in the state such as food processors, small farmers, large growing operations, restaurants, retailers, and distributors.

A recent study on the economic impact of the agriculture industry to the state—estimated at \$5.3 billion—demonstrated the importance of recognizing Nevada's diverse agriculture sectors and the long-standing contribution to the state's economy.

Buy Nevada has tiered memberships ranging from free to higher-level sponsorships. [buynevada.org](http://buynevada.org), 775-353-3603



Lost City Farm, Reno

MATTHEW B. BROWN

# NEVADA news

◆ **Nevada's Big Give**, a day of online giving that benefits nonprofit organizations and charities across the state, will be held on Friday, April 25. [nvbiggive.org](http://nvbiggive.org)

◆ Through March 31, visitors to historic **Virginia City** can purchase a \$10 "Comstock Lift Ticket"—which includes a Trolley Ride and the Ponderosa Mine Tour—at the Visitors Center and receive 20 percent off at participating hotels, motels, restaurants, and merchants. [visitvirginiacitynv.com](http://visitvirginiacitynv.com), 775-847-7500

◆ The U.S. Department of Agriculture has designated nine Nevada counties as primary natural disaster areas because of **drought**: Churchill, Lander, Mineral, Pershing, Clark, Lyon, Nye, Washoe, and Humboldt. The rest of Nevada's counties are classified as contiguous disaster areas. [fsa.usad.gov/nv](http://fsa.usad.gov/nv), 775-857-8500

◆ The Nevada Department of Wildlife announced the full implementation of the **Aquatic Invasive Species Watercraft Decal Program**, developed more than a year ago to fund prevention efforts against invasive species such as quagga and zebra mussels. NDOW will now enforce the decal requirement for all watercraft. [ndow.org](http://ndow.org), 866-703-4605

◆ A new 448-kilowatt renewable energy project on **Desert Research Institute's** Las Vegas campus, combined with a new 498-kilowatt project on DRI's Reno campus, is part of a statewide effort that will save DRI more than \$160,000 in electricity costs annually and will significantly reduce CO2 emissions. [dri.edu/renewable-energy](http://dri.edu/renewable-energy), 775-673-7300

## SESQUICENTENNIAL

### Nevada 150 Harley to be raffled off in 2014

Governor Brian Sandoval signed a custom Nevada sesquicentennial-themed motorcycle at Las Vegas Harley-Davidson's groundbreaking event on the Las Vegas Strip on January 23. The bike will make appearances at events celebrating Nevada's sesquicentennial throughout 2014 until it is raffled off at the grand opening of the new Las Vegas Harley-Davidson store this fall. Raffle tickets (cost to be determined) benefit the Nevada 150 Foundation and will be purchased at [hdnv150.com](http://hdnv150.com). The winner will be selected at Las Vegas Harley-Davidson's grand opening on the Strip this fall. [lasvegasharleydavidson.com](http://lasvegasharleydavidson.com), 888-218-0744



LAS VEGAS PHOTO & VIDEO, INC.

Las Vegas Harley-Davidson Vice President Timothy Cashman, Governor Brian Sandoval, and Las Vegas Harley-Davidson President Don Andress pose around the Nevada 150 motorcycle.

### Inaugural Nevada State Balloon Champion Series lifts off in Mesquite

January's Mesquite Balloon Festival kicked off the inaugural Nevada State Balloon Champion Series. A special trophy will be awarded to the pilot who finishes with the most points from hot-air balloon races held throughout the state during 2014. Through October 31, series points will be gathered and determined by a representative from each race. The five remaining 2014 races include:

- The Pahrump Invitational Balloon Rally, Mar. 7-9 in Pahrump
- The Winnemucca Balloon Festival, Apr. 26-27 in Winnemucca
- The Great Reno Balloon Race, Sept. 5-7 in Reno
- Ruby Mountain Hot Air Balloon Festival, Sept. 26-28 in Spring Creek
- RE/MAX Nevada Day Balloon Launch, Oct. 31 in Carson City

➔ For more information, visit [nevada150.org](http://nevada150.org).

For more Nevada 150 happenings, turn to page 49.

# THE RIVER NEVER KNEW WHAT HIT IT.

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◆ In February, after years of being absent, slot machines returned to the historic **Mizpah Hotel** in Tonopah. [mizpahhotel.net](http://mizpahhotel.net), 775-482-3030

◆ Reno's only electric indoor kart racing facility debuted in December. **Need 2 Speed** offers kids karts that are capable of 25 mph and adult karts capable of 45 mph. [n2sreno.com](http://n2sreno.com), 775-851-RACE

◆ Nevada-based contractor PENTA Building Group was set to begin renovations at Sparks' **JA Nugget Casino Resort** in mid-February as part of a planned \$50-million property-wide renovation program. [janugget.com](http://janugget.com), 800-648-1177

◆ The **Desert National Wildlife Refuge's** new visitor center opened in December. The facility is located at Corn Creek, north of Las Vegas, and is open on Fridays and weekends from 8 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. The 11,000-square-foot facility provides information and exhibits, educational classrooms/meeting rooms, and a bookstore. [fws.gov/refuge/desert](http://fws.gov/refuge/desert), 702-879-6110

◆ **Washoe County Regional Parks** announced it will replace the memorial plaque dedicated to the victims of the 1985 Galaxy Airlines crash that was stolen from Reno's Rancho San Rafael Regional Park in November. [washoecounty.us](http://washoecounty.us), 775-328-2182

## CONSERVATION

## Statewide collaboration protects people and nature

More than 3,800 acres of the Fairfield Ranch in southern Douglas County are now protected via conservation easement—a tool that prevents inappropriate development and voluntarily limits some uses of private land in order to protect its natural values.

The Nature Conservancy and local ranch owners have worked with the Nevada Department of Wildlife, Natural Resources Conservation Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and others for more than four years on this project.

“Ranch owners and longtime environmentalists Alan and Cindy Horn donated the conservation easement along with a stewardship endowment to The Nature Conservancy,” says Duane Petite of the Conservancy’s Eastern Sierra Nevada Program. “Patience, perseverance, and the generosity of the ranch owners made this shared dream a reality.”

Fairfield Ranch straddles the West Walker River for nearly three miles, and the new conservation easement will help protect important habitat for sage grouse. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service recently proposed listing the bi-state population (Nevada and California) of sage grouse as threatened under the Endangered Species Act.

“Fairfield Ranch has important wet meadows that are one of the most critical habitats to sage grouse in this arid environment,” says Nevada Department of Wildlife Director Tony Wasley. “This easement has significant conservation value and is important to the long-term viability of sage grouse in the bi-state area.” [nature.org/nevada](http://nature.org/nevada), 775-322-4990



JOE KIESECKER

According to the Nevada Department of Wildlife, sage grouse populations in Nevada and throughout their range in the West have displayed a significant downward trend in both numbers and distribution.

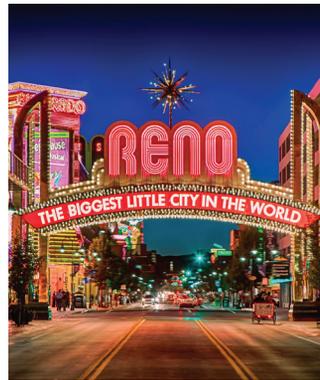
# 17th Annual READERS' POLL



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# NEVADA news

◆ **El Loco**, Las Vegas' newest roller coaster and only the second of its kind in the U.S., opened at The Adventuredome at Circus Circus Las Vegas in January. The open-carriage cars, each accommodating four passengers, are smaller than average, allowing the vehicle to make tighter, faster turns. [adventuredome.com](http://adventuredome.com), 800-634-3450

◆ **Jerry's Nugget Casino** in downtown Las Vegas is celebrating its 50th anniversary throughout 2014. Dozens of festivities will be held through November 9, and property-wide canvas wall art chronicles momentous occasions throughout Jerry's Nugget's history. [jerrysnugget.com](http://jerrysnugget.com), 702-399-3000

◆ **O'Sheas Casino** reopened its doors recently at a new location inside The Quad Resort & Casino. After a 23-year reign on the Las Vegas Strip, the original O'Sheas closed in spring 2012 to make room for The LINQ district. [osheaslasvegas.com](http://osheaslasvegas.com), 702-697-2711

◆ In January, **The D Las Vegas Casino Hotel** and **Golden Gate Hotel & Casino** in downtown Las Vegas became the first casinos to accept Bitcoin. [bitcoin.org](http://bitcoin.org)

◆ The neon and incandescent lights of the "**Welcome to Fabulous Las Vegas Nevada**" sign are now energized by solar trees, marking a new era in the region's clean-energy history.

## TOURISM

### Jubilee Tower at Bally's Las Vegas opens, among other revitalization efforts



ERIK KABIK

It is shaping up to be an exciting year for Bally's Las Vegas with an abundance of revitalization efforts underway. Recently, the Strip resort celebrated the opening of its renovated 756-room Jubilee Tower, with Regional President David Hoenemeyer and Jubilee! showgirls taking part in a ribbon-cutting ceremony. Following the event, the Jubilee! showgirls made themselves at home in one of the new Jubilee Tower Celebrity Suites.

The Jubilee Tower rooms and suites, situated right in the heart of the Las Vegas Strip, encompass 450 square feet and offer unrivaled views of iconic Vegas landmarks, including the Paris Eiffel Tower and Bellagio fountains. Modern designs meet stylish and contemporary furniture and fixtures, at a fraction of the price of comparable Strip accommodations. Rates start at just \$79 per night.

Indigo Lounge, a nightlife and entertainment venue, debuted recently, showcasing a socially inviting venue with plush furniture, live music, and handcrafted cocktails.

Also underway is the Grand Bazaar Shops at Bally's, expected to open this fall. The outdoor shopping plaza will be situated on two acres, offering more than 150 shops and unique merchandise. A major transformation is also in store for the Strip's longest-running show, Jubilee! [ballyslasvegas.com](http://ballyslasvegas.com), 877-603-4390

## GREEN BUILDING

### DesertSol module craned into permanent home at Springs Preserve

DesertSol, the University of Nevada, Las Vegas' multiple award-winning entry in the U.S. Department of Energy's Solar Decathlon, was placed in its permanent home in the Springs Preserve Botanical Gardens on January 14 by a coalition of local builders. The process of preparing the foundation for the home began late last year and culminated with the lifting of DesertSol onto its new foundation by a 350-ton crane, the largest in Las Vegas, donated by Dielco Crane Service.

The DesertSol exhibit was set to open to the public in mid-February, offering an up-close look at a sustainable, solar-powered home. [springspreserve.org](http://springspreserve.org), 702-822-7700



UNLV PHOTO SERVICES

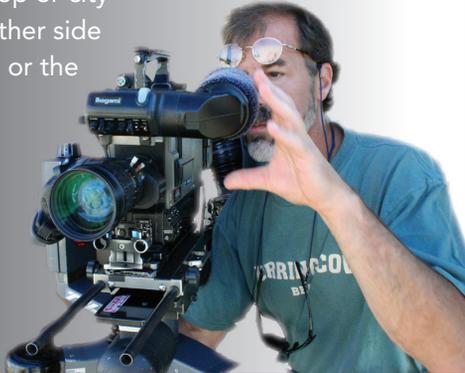
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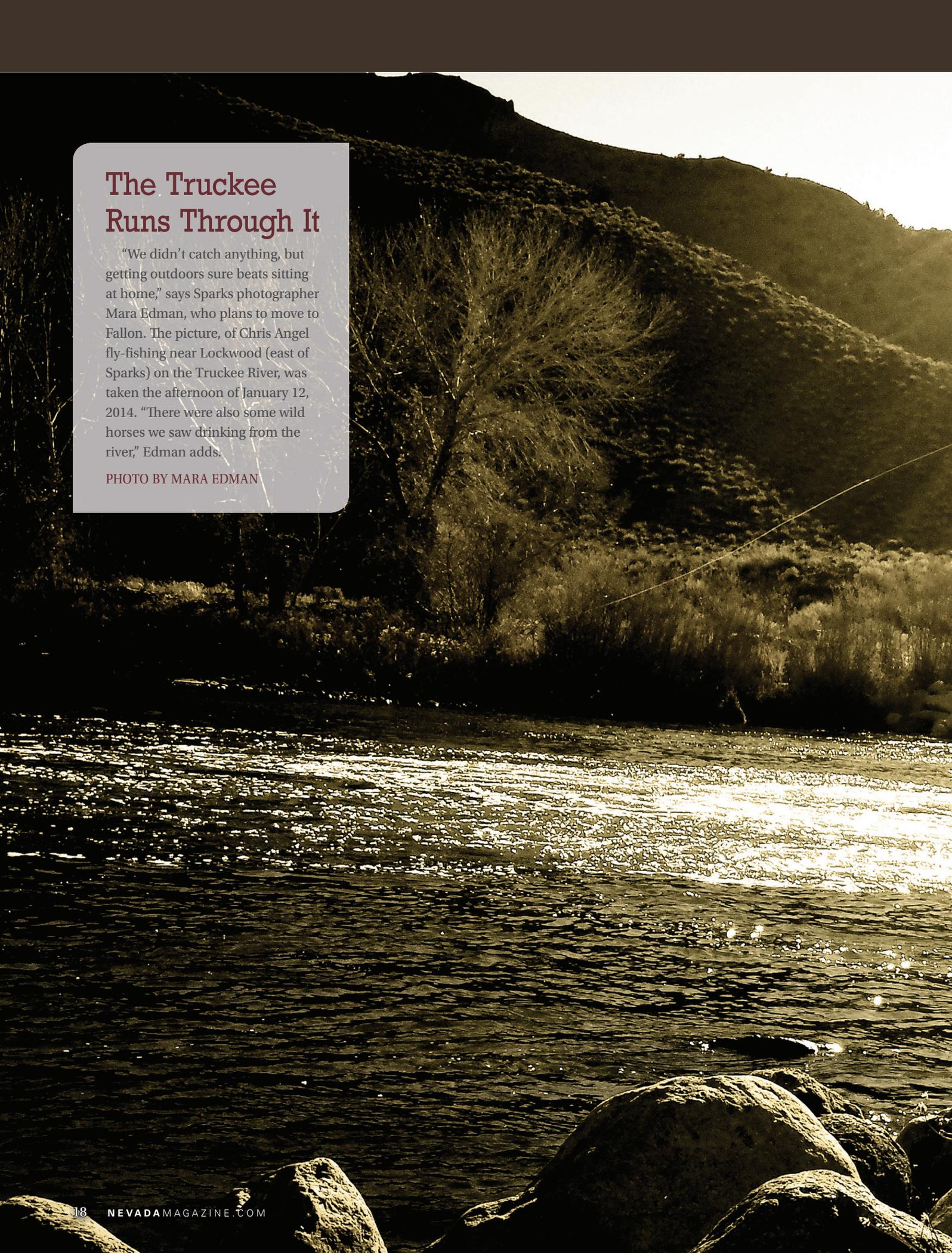
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## The Truckee Runs Through It

"We didn't catch anything, but getting outdoors sure beats sitting at home," says Sparks photographer Mara Edman, who plans to move to Fallon. The picture, of Chris Angel fly-fishing near Lockwood (east of Sparks) on the Truckee River, was taken the afternoon of January 12, 2014. "There were also some wild horses we saw drinking from the river," Edman adds.

PHOTO BY MARA EDMAN



## STOGY ON SAX

Carson City photographer John Riherd captured Stogy, who plays saxophone in the band The Localz, "laying down some licks" on New Year's Eve 2013 at the Gold Hill Hotel & Saloon in Gold Hill.

PHOTO BY JOHN RIHERD

➤ See more of Riherd's work at [johnriherdphotography.com](http://johnriherdphotography.com).





## STILL MORNING

This picture, which earned rave reviews from Annie Coeur's peers when she posted it on our Nevada Photographers Facebook group, was taken December 30, 2013 between Fallon and Stillwater. "It was shot on one of the mornings that the fog was so thick," says Coeur, who lives in Fallon.

PHOTO BY ANNIE COEUR

See more of Coeur's work at [pixoto.com/annie/recent](http://pixoto.com/annie/recent).

### 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](mailto:snebeker@nevadamagazine.com).

## EAGLE EYE

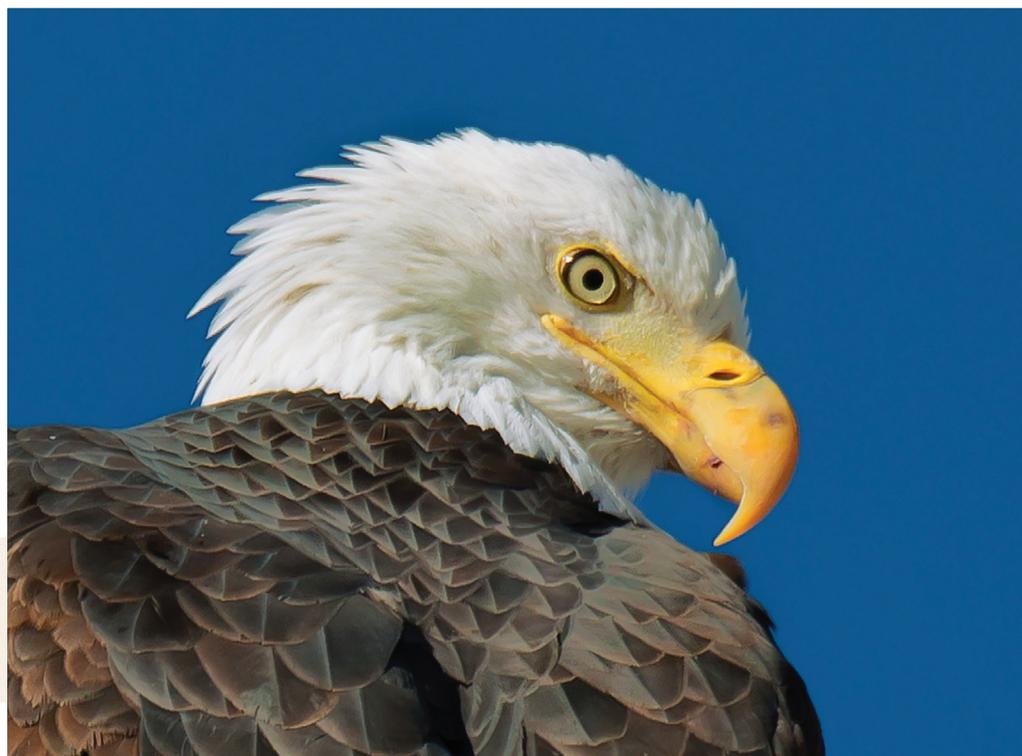
"Bald eagle...being followed by paparazzi everywhere," was Reno photographer Dianne Phelps' way of introducing this image on Facebook. Phelps was referring to an eagle that was wintering in Washoe Valley and therefore became a favorite subject of area photographers. "This was my gift from nature on Christmas day!" Phelps says.

PHOTO BY DIANNE PHELPS

See more of Phelps' work at [diannehelpsphotography.com](http://diannehelpsphotography.com).

### GROUP CHOICE

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





LAS VEGAS NEWS BUREAU

A 40-foot-long Mantis, once an art project built for the annual Nevada counterculture festival Burning Man, welcomes visitors to Las Vegas' Downtown Container Park. It's one quirky element of the new dining and shopping center that houses its businesses inside of repurposed shipping containers and Xtreme Cubes.

# DOWNTOWN CONTAINER PARK

Innovative social hub and retail space supports Las Vegas entrepreneurs.

BY JOANNA HAUGEN

Before they happen upon the outdoor dining tables or quirky play area made of a maze of slides, visitors to Downtown Container Park in Las Vegas are greeted by the Mantis—a 40-foot-long, fire-breathing art project that debuted at Burning Man two years ago. The Mantis may have been born in the desert of Black Rock City in Northern Nevada, but its permanent home is in downtown Las Vegas at the entrance to one of the city's newest tourist attractions.

Located on the corner of Fremont and Seventh Streets, Container Park is the latest addition in the downtown expansion and revitalization process. The park is made up of 45 repurposed, different-sized shipping containers. The park also features 43 Xtreme Cubes, courtesy of Las Vegas' Xtreme Manufacturing. The containers and cubes house a variety of small businesses; hence the park's distinctive name.

This shopping, entertainment, and community area contains a mix of retail and dining options including a leather designer, kettle corn and jerky retailers, and a variety of accessories outfitters. Art galleries include Disney-related collections and works by local artists. An outdoor performance space features everything from live shows by classic rock and folk artists to boot camp fitness classes and motivational speakers. Kids are entertained by a multilevel play area that includes a NEOS Playworld System, and a smattering of public art pieces beyond the aforementioned Mantis round out the experience.

Because businesses are located in shipping containers, in-store space is limited, and tables for dining are located outside, creating an open-air pedestrian mall of sorts. "We really think of this as a backyard barbecue, where parents can sit, have a glass of wine, and visit with their friends while their kids play in a safe environment," says Kim Schaefer, communications coordinator



JOANNA HAUGEN



LAS VEGAS NEWS BUREAU

Winky Designs (above), known for its fun and fashionable wristwatches, and 702dtlv boutique (left) are two of the eclectic businesses at Downtown Container Park.

for the Downtown Project.

Funded by the Downtown Project—a revitalization organization privately funded by Zappos.com CEO Tony Hsieh—Container Park serves as a retail and dining complex for locals and visitors as well as a support network for business owners. “We really think of the park as a small-business incubator, where people can come, grow their businesses, and possibly move into a larger space somewhere else after they’ve grown their businesses here,” Schaefer says. “It’s got a tech incubator feel in that everyone here is a new small business owner. They can work together and support each other. We want to help these folks be successful.”

## TAKING CARE OF BUSINESS

This time last year, Brandi Allen was selling handmade jewelry at First Friday—downtown Las Vegas’ monthly festival—with fellow artist and friend Melissa Lemon. Now she’s a legitimate business owner, standing behind a counter at 702dtlv—a Downtown Container Park retail shop. “It all happened so fast,” Allen says. “This

was really just a hobby, and then my husband suggested we look into getting a storefront at Container Park.”

In summer 2013, Allen and Lemon received the news they were going to be among the inaugural tenants. Downtown Container Park celebrated its soft launch that November, and suddenly the jewelry designers were catapulted into a whole new realm of business ownership. “There’s been a learning curve,” Allen says.

She’s discovered that it’s best for vendor partners to drop off goods before or after store hours, and she’s surprised by which goods have been most popular with customers. In most instances, taking a chance on a new business can be particularly risky, and while Allen and other shop owners at Container Park are certainly investing money, time, and manpower into their ventures, there’s also some comfort and support inherent in their efforts.

With a few exceptions, 702dtlv is one of approximately 30 retail and dining owner-operated businesses at Container Park opening brick-and-mortar storefronts for the very first time. So far,



LAS VEGAS NEWS BUREAU

In the few months since Downtown Container Park has been open, it has proven popular among downtown employees on their lunch break, parents who are looking for their children to burn energy in the play areas, and, of course, shoppers.

business owners are optimistic. “It has been busy, especially right before Christmas,” says Estephania Solis, manager of BluMarble, which repurposes glass bottles from Strip hotels into one-of-a-kind gifts ranging from cocktail glasses to pendants. “In the morning and afternoon we have families; as the day goes on, we see more couples.”

## VISITORS AND BUSINESS OWNERS REACT

Nightly live music provides entertainment for those who want to hang out for a while, but some casual visitors contend that there aren’t a lot of options at Container Park if you’re not a downtown employee enjoying lunch, on a specific shopping mission, or a parent sitting idly by while their kids play on the park’s tree house and 33-foot slide.

One of those parents is Erika Washington, who lives within walking distance of Container Park. A mother of three, she brings her daughters here often. While the two older girls wander through the shops, the youngest explores the play space. “I think it’s cute,” Washington says. “I liked being here at dusk when the lights were coming on. It felt like we were on a cute urban street.”

However, people have expressed concerns about how a mostly outdoor space will cope with Las Vegas’ sometimes-intense summer heat. Despite these doubts, Container Park’s opening has kept the spark alive for a more prosperous and welcoming downtown area in Las Vegas. “There used to just be a couple bars down here, but things have changed,” Solis says. “I see the vision. They’re attracting locals and tourists here, but a different kind of tourist: tourists who are looking for something different than

what’s on the Strip.”

That, of course, is part of the overarching vision for the Downtown Project. “We think this location is going to be a game changer for the work we’re doing downtown to attract more people,” Schaefer says.

As a downtown resident, Washington agrees. “I think Container Park is going to define some of the business downtown. I see it as a place where entrepreneurs can take a chance.” That’s exactly what Allen has done. “Business has been good,” she says. “I can’t complain.”

### PLAN YOUR TRIP

#### Downtown Container Park

707 Fremont St., Las Vegas, NV 89101

[downtowncontainerpark.com](http://downtowncontainerpark.com)

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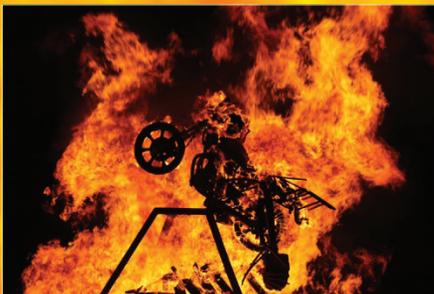
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PHOTOS: MATTHEW B. BROWN

A line of off-road vehicles parked in front of the Outdoor Inn hotel, bar, and restaurant is a common sight in Jarbidge during the summer months. The area is renowned for its hundreds of miles of dirt roads that weave throughout the Jarbidge Wilderness.

# Journey to Jarbidge

One of Nevada's more unique mining camps holds a past as colorful as the scenery that surrounds it.

BY ERIC CACHINERO

Many Nevada towns owe their origins to a prospector, a pickaxe, and the discovery of gold. Though these elements are certainly entwined in its roots, the story of Jarbidge begins a bit more eccentrically; it begins with a legend. Shoshone Indian lore told of a man-eating giant that frequented the area that would become Jarbidge Canyon, ensuring a grisly demise to anyone who dared to brave the region. However, nothing—including the viciousness of a mythical cannibal—could deter the prospectors whose only compass was the allure of glittering gold.

## THE LEGEND OF TSAWHAWBITTS

According to Shoshone legend, a giant cannibal named Tsawhawbits (pronounced “tuh-saw-haw-bits”) roamed the can-

yon looking for unsuspecting souls to devour. Shoshones avoided the region for fear of the evil giant, who they believed would capture men, toss them in a large basket, and take them back to his camp before consuming them. The area was uninhabited by the Shoshone for many years, before the quest for gold led to activity in the region.

Because of its remoteness, Jarbidge Canyon originally saw minimal traffic by prospectors. Folklore tells of several substantial finds in the area that ended up lost forever, including a discovery of rich ore circa 1883. A sheepherder by the name of George Ishman is said to have discovered ore in the area that assayed for \$1,200 per ton, but he was stricken by illness before he could relay the location of the riches.

Prospector's efforts almost proved futile until 1909, when a man by the name of Dave Bourne discovered gold in the canyon and didn't keep quiet about his finds.

## THE TONGUE-TWISTER TOWN

Bourne quickly spilled the beans, claiming that more than \$27 million worth of gold was visible in what would come to be known as Jarbidge Canyon. Drawing major interest from newspapers across the country, the discovery triggered a gold rush, causing hopeful prospectors to swarm to the region.

The rush for riches led to the formation of the Jarbidge Mining District, and by 1911, the town had a population of approximately 1,500 and boasted a new school, improved roads, a variety of businesses, and a community hall, which still stands. The young town's future looked hopeful, and there was even talk of forming a new county once Jarbidge's population became large enough.

Though at the time of its discovery the settlement should have been called Tsawhabitts, mispronunciation resulted in an unusual moniker. Settlers began to incorrectly refer to the town as Jahabich (pronounced "jah-hah-bich"). The muddled name continued to evolve until a sign, which read "Jarbidge," was hung in the town.

According to Penny Eggen, director of tourism and public relations with the Jarbidge Community Association, the Elkor Mining Company came to Jarbidge in 1913 and bought numerous claims. The mining company is believed to have removed approximately \$10 million in gold by the time the company closed in the 1930s. "The mine was, at one time, the largest-producing gold mine in Nevada," Eggen says.

Like many mining camps in Nevada, Jarbidge had its share of law intervention. The town was the location of the last stage robbery in the United States. That is stage, not stagecoach. According to a vignette published by the director emeritus of the Northeastern Nevada Museum in Elko, Howard Hickson, "stages were wagons that carried the mail and small shipments including bank deposits and other financial transactions."

In 1916, a man by the name of Fred Searcy was driving a horse-drawn stage

into Jarbidge when he was attacked and killed. The culprit, a man by the name of Ben Kuhl, and his accomplice, Ed Beck, fled with several thousand dollars, but were apprehended and quickly tried. In the process of the murder and robbery, Kuhl apparently left a bloody handprint on a piece of mail, which, according to an article published on the official website for the community of Jarbidge, was "the first time a palm or fingerprint had ever been admitted as evidence in a court trial in the world." See page 32 for an account of the robbery from the December 14, 1916 edition of *The Elko Enterprise*.

As mining in Jarbidge continued over the years, the town continued to build and expand. Then came the fire.

## DWINDLING RICHES & THE WHISKEY CALAMITY

According to Hickson, the Elkor Mining Company installed power lines in Jarbidge in 1919, but refused access to town residents; a decision that would come to

haunt the company.

"A barrel of homemade whiskey blew up in the basement of the Success Bar," Hickson writes on his website, [gbcnv.edu](http://gbcnv.edu). "With the help of open gas lamps and an explosion, the fire quickly spread. Burning tar paper floating in the wind spread the fire to the other side of the street."

In all, more than 20 business establishments and log cabins succumbed to the inferno, including a telephone office, movie house, and dance hall. According to Hickson, residents of Jarbidge were bitter. They claimed that gas lamps wouldn't have fueled the fire had Elkor allowed residents to hook into their power lines. Eventually the company conceded and allowed people to connect to its lines.

Jarbidge reached its pinnacle as a productive mining camp between 1916 and 1933, before all major mining operations were suspended in 1941. Though several small mining operations continue today, the millions of dollars in gold that Bourne once reported have since been removed.



The area surrounding Jarbidge is a favorite destination for Nevada anglers, who catch several different kinds of fish in the area's rivers, creeks, and alpine lakes. Photographed here is an area pond during summer, when the vegetation typically is still lush.



NEVADA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

This 1917 photograph shows a group of town residents dressed in celebratory attire assembling in front of the Jarbidge Community Club on the Fourth of July. The celebration featured a Red Cross information table.

## MODERN DAY MINING CAMP

Laying legitimate claim to the title of most isolated town in the lower 48 states, Jarbidge sits neatly tucked amongst rivers and tall peaks, surrounded by miles of spectacular scenery. Located more than 100 miles north of Elko, the area is renowned for bubbling brooks full of trout; flourishing populations of Rocky Mountain elk, mule deer, and other wildlife; and miles upon miles of remote dirt roads which weave throughout the Jarbidge Wilderness.

In the summer months, the quaint town attracts the eye of both trekkers and tourists. Cozy bed-and-breakfasts, an RV park, and several primitive campgrounds make Jarbidge an attractive location to experience the atmosphere of a historical Nevada town.

Fishermen are drawn to the area because of the surrounding rivers and alpine lakes, which hold an abundance of mountain whitefish and redband trout. The town becomes a popular big game hunting camp during the late-summer and fall months when hunters from across the state flock to try their luck in the vast wilderness area.

The town is home to a couple dozen year-round residents,

drawing larger crowds during its various annual celebrations, including the Labor Day Corn Feed, Fourth of July parade, and its largest celebration of the year, Jarbidge Days. The annual festival is comprised of a craft fair, parade, community yard sale, live music, and more.

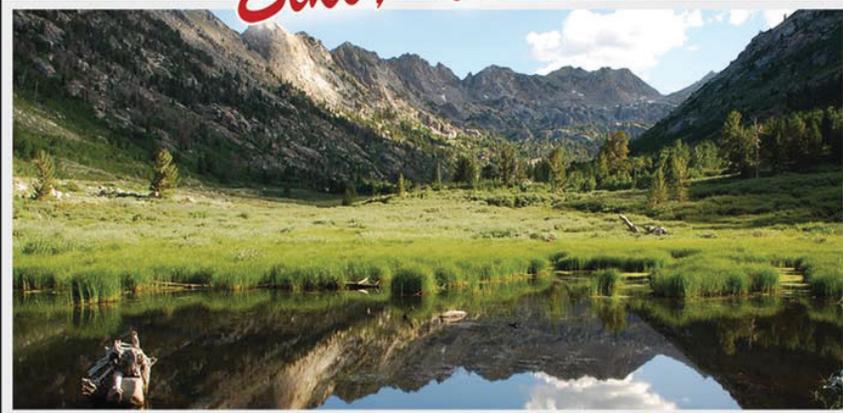
Jarbidge offers an assortment of amenities and services, including the Trading Post, which sells groceries, souvenirs, and supplies; and the North Star Mine Gas and Gifts, which sells gas year-round. The town site also includes a look at old miners' cabins, the old Jarbidge Jail, and former brothels. The Jarbidge Community Hall is still used for meetings, dances, church services, weddings, and more. The original stage curtain in the hall depicts a Venetian gondolier and ads for early businesses, all of which are no longer there.

According to Eggen, a common misconception, though, is that the town becomes completely inaccessible during the winter months. "I've lived here for 10 years and have always been able to get in and out," Eggen says. "It really is a 12-month year here."

So if you find yourself with a yearning to explore one of Nevada's isolated treasures, the town of Jarbidge awaits. Just keep an eye out for ol' Tsawhawbits.

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DAVID QUANDT

The Trading Post (above) is one of the few shops in Jarbidge where visitors can purchase supplies. Referred to as the “best little storehouse in Jarbidge, Nevada,” the shop sells groceries and a collection of souvenirs. Below: The Jarbidge River carves through the wilderness area before ultimately flowing north into Idaho.



MATTHEW B. BROWN

## 2014 JARBIDGE EVENTS

- Memorial Day celebration, May 24-26
- Fourth of July celebration
- Jarbidge Days, Aug. 8-10
- Labor Day Corn Feed, Aug. 30-Sept. 1
- Halloween Pig Feed



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**Another hot tip:** If you're at Spencer Hot Springs, nearby Toquima Cave Rock Art Site is a great place to explore.

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# THE ELKO

Thursday, December 14, 1916

## DETAILED REVIEW OF THE

The last stage robbery in the United States occurred nearly a century ago outside the northeastern Nevada mining town of Jarbidge. Following is an excerpt from the December 14, 1916 edition of *The Elko Enterprise*.

BY W. W. FISK

For the past two days our little town has been in a sizzle of great excitement and nervous tension, caused by the extreme cold-bloodedness of the murder that accompanied the hold-up of the mail stage on last Tuesday evening, December 6, [1916]. Not for many years has anything so atrocious been recorded in the criminal annals of the hold-ups through the country.

To deliberately crawl up behind an innocent young man, driving an open wagon in a snowstorm blizzard, and who was probably nearly stiff and numb with the cold, and then without warning or any chance for the helpless bundled-up driver to protect himself or to surrender in order to save his life, to place a big gun against the back of the defenseless head and snuff out a human, and then coolly drive the team through the lower part of town and off into a thicket of willows in the river bottom and leave the team and corpse to be buried in the falling snow; it was surely enough to influence the last spark

of manhood in the men and to cause the women to keep very close to the house. Short shrift would have been made of him had the inhumane culprit been found that night. The ground was gone over with flashlights, but the new fall of snow made it very hard to follow any trail. Guards were out on the roads and trails going out of town, and they have been well guarded ever since and no man allowed to leave the camp.

The body of the driver, F. M. Searcy, was left on the seat where he usually sat to drive, on the right hand side next to the brake, with the body leaning over to the left and resting partly on the seat, in which position, he had remained for about five hours, during most of which time it had been snowing and there was nearly three inches of snow on the body. The wagon was worked out of the brush and driven up to the post office. Near the wagon buried in the snow was found two of the second-class mail sacks, which had been opened and part of the papers and small packages scattered about the ground. There were tracks barely visible under the snow leading from the wagon off into the brush, but they could not be followed in the night, although some men kept at it most of the night. There was one large track that seemed to be accompanied by a dog's track, and in places there seemed to be a smaller track.

The next morning early there were many men on the trail and hunting for evidence. It was found that the trail after wandering around through the brush and into several extra thick bunches, in one of which he evidently cut open the first-class sack and removed the registered letters and packages. There were tracks leading to the river, where he had evidently gone

to wash his hands, then he went back into the brush again and afterwards went up a little further to where there is a trail leading into town across a footbridge. Later the first-class sack was found near this trail, about 100 feet from the bridge, near Meyer's cabin, and almost across the river from the post office a dog led the searchers to his sack which was about 20 feet from the trail in the edge of the brush. Most of the bundles of letters had not been molested, but the Rogerson letters had been looked over and all those from the bank had been opened and read, and several of them had bloody fingerprints on them. The seal had been cut open and all the packages of money were missing. Crumley & Walker, who ran the Success Bar and café, had two packages of bills containing \$3,000 and one package of silver containing \$300. Mrs. Walker was also expecting several hundred dollars in change for the café. A few other parties who had been expecting small sums of money do not know yet whether it was in this mail or not. H. Braunhand reported to have lost \$1,000, but it was later learned that this was in Cashier's checks and therefore will not be a loss.

Monday afternoon several big freight teams left Jarbidge, and they met some freight teams on the Crippen grade and worked all that night and half the next day to get past each other. So that when the mail did not arrive on time it was at first supposed that it was held up by this block on the grade, but about 6 o'clock the loaded team got into town and about the same time the empty teams arrived at Rattlesnake station and one of the drivers telephoned in that he met the mail near the top of the grade. Then it was thought that possibly the mail stage had some

# ENTERPRISE

Elko, Elko County, Nevada

## JARBIDGE STAGE ROBBERY

trouble on the grade and the postmaster hired Frank Leonard to take a pack horse and go meet the stage and bring in the first-class mail, but he did not find anything of the stage.

About 9 o'clock, one of the freighters, Mr. Campbell, who had camped across the river in the lower town, came up town and mentioned that the stage passed his camp about 6:30. About this time Mrs. Dexter, who lives in the first house in lower town, having heard some way that the mail had not arrived at the post office, telephoned to the postmaster that she saw the stage pass her house about 6:30 and that she spoke to the driver, who was all humped up on the seat, but who did not reply, she said that it was blowing and storming so badly that she could not see clearly although the stage passed within 15 feet of her.

Then Mr. Campbell said that the stage passed within a few feet of him as he was unhitching his team and that knowing Fred, the driver, he sung out to him, "Hello kid," as he went by, but did not receive any answer, so he said perhaps the poor lad was so nearly frozen that he had driven right on to the barn, and some of them went over to the stage barn but did not find the team there. Then a bunch of men started out to look for him, but yet having any suspicion of foul play, they went to the bridge, about 1,200 feet north from the post office and looked over the brush-coved bottom from the bridge to where the freighters were camped without finding any signs of the team. They then came back up the road and spread out across the bottom to work and had not gone but about 200 feet when then found the team with the driver on the seat and appar-

ently dead. At first it was thought that he was stiff with the cold and the team had wandered off the road, but when they thought the matter over they came to the conclusion that the horses would not have left the road when so near their barn; then it was discovered that the first-class mail sack was missing and someone saw some blood, at which point it was forced upon them that there must have been foul play.

The postmaster, Scott Fleming, then told them not to touch anything and left part of the men there to guard the outfit while the rest went to town to get the officers and lights. Justice of the Peace J. A. Yewell, Constable J. C. Hill, Deputy Dave Marquardson, and many others went back to the place and it was found that it had been a sure enough hold-up and that the poor lad, Fred Searcy, had been shot through the head and had been dead for some time. The team was taken to the post office and the body taken care of.

Wednesday morning the signs that were in evidence told the horrible details of the inhuman affair. There are so many holes around a mining camp and every once in a while someone will shoot off a gun, that a gun shot does not attract much attention, but after it was learned that this man had been shot there were several people who recalled hearing a shot. The signs indicate that the murderer went down the road about a half a mile, just around the point beyond the residence of Mrs. Dexter and just outside of the townsite limits; that he left the road and got behind a clump of brush near the road and must have run out as the stage passed his place of hiding and climbed up off the brake team and then up on the load and about the driver from behind without saying a word, the

bullet entered the head just above the left ear, and later at the autopsy it was found that it passed clear through the head and out through the mouth, knocking out two of his lower front teeth.

When the fatal shot was fired death must have been very sudden, and the assassin must have caught the body with one hand and eased it into the bottom of the wagon while with the other hand he grabbed the lines. When the shot went off it evidently startled the horses enough for them to swerve a little from the road and the wheel track went out almost four feet, which brought it very near the edge of the grade. It went along the edge for about 76 feet and all along this distance there is a solid stream of blood, which would indicate that Searcy's head was hanging over the edge of the wagon; at this point the hold-up had obtained control of the team and directed them back into the road, while at the same time he had probably pushed the body back into the wagon under the seat and with a great show of nerve he proceeded to drive the team high along passing the house of Mrs. Dexter who was on the porch and spoke to him, on by several houses and right alongside the freight teams, where Mr. Campbell hailed him, then a few hundred feet further where he turned off the present road and took the old road which had to ford the river, and then as soon as he was well into the brush he sat the body back on the seat and leaned it over so that it would remain on the seat, turned the horses off the old road into a big clump of willows where they would be likely to stand, as they did, for five hours, and then took the sacks out from the front of the wagon and opened the second-class sacks and went through

them, but apparently without finding anything that he wanted, after which he started off with the first-class sack to find a thick bunch of brush in which he could use a light to look over the mail, which he did with considerable thoroughness. Then he must have gone to his tent or cabin and changed his clothes and probably came up town and joined in the hunt for the guilty fiend.

There are only a few large dogs in camp, and Mr. McCormick, who is somewhat of a hunter, had a theory that it would be a good idea to watch these dogs and he picked out one in particular which is a sort of tramp dog. Mr. McCormick thought very likely that the dog might go back over the trail he had been down and carefully examined the dog tracks in the snow, blowing out the light new snow and obtaining a very good print in the old snow underneath and from this he thought he had the right dog spotted. About 10 o'clock this dog started for the footbridge with his nose on the ground as if he was following a trail, and Mr. McCormick and several others went after him, the reasoning seemed to be good as the dog went directly to where the first-class sack lay covered up with snow. Then they began to figure who the dog had probably been following and soon decided on a young man to whom the dog had been quite attached and one who had previously been in some trouble here over jumping a lot for which he is new under bonds on appeal from a \$400 fine. This lot is next to the one which the post office sits and was bought a few weeks ago by Oscar and Ernest Hayes.

There was a small cabin on it which was moved off one morning and the lot graded a little for a larger building, but owing to a lack of lumber work of building was not started the next day but a sign was put up that a building was to be built as soon as the rest of the lumber arrived, that night the lot was jumped and a tent put on it by Ben Kuhl. He was arrested for trespass and acted as his own lawyer. During the trial he was fined \$50 for contempt of court for remarks that he made to the judge about it being a Kangaroo court.

Mr. Kuhl was arrested about 1 o'clock, given a short hearing at which he denied

the charge and brought witnesses to try to prove that he was in town all the evening, but his witnesses were not very sure about the time and he was placed in jail. Later the searcher found a long black overcoat stashed under the bridge here in town and came up for the officers to go and see it. When they arrived there and looked around some more the sack of silver stolen from the mail sack was found, but it had been opened and \$18 taken out, leaving \$182. A package of registered letters was also found there.

When the coat was shown to him, he said it was not his and denied having had any coat, but later in the day his partner who is working at the Long Hike mine came down and identified the coat as one that belonged to Kuhl and said that Kuhl had given it to him some time ago but that it had remained in their cabin. There was a jack-knife in the pocket of coat, but Mr. Kirby could not say for sure whether it was one that belonged to Kuhl, although he thought it looked very much like one that Kuhl had.

A search of Kuhl's cabin did not reveal much. Later a shirt was found in the river with a stone tied in the sleeve to sink it; there was no blood on the shirt, but then the cold water would have washed out any blood. The shirt was similar in make and material to one that Kuhl was wearing, and some of the laundry marks were similar. There was a gun in his house that had one cartridge that had been snapped and did not explode while the next cartridge was empty. Kuhl said this gun did not belong to him.

Today it was learned that the gun mentioned above belonged to a gambler, but he said that he had not had it for over a month. The last party known to have borrowed this gun is a small man known as Billy McGraw, and he has a partner named Jennings who is a large man and the officers—after thinking this evidence over and the fact that there appeared to be two tracks near the wagon, a large and a small—got out warrants and arrested McGraw and Jennings. A great many are quietly working and looking around for evidence, and it is very likely that other arrests may be made as a safeguard until the

whole ground shall have been thoroughly examined by more experienced men from the outside. Probably some of Uncle Sam's best will be here unless the right man is found and he confesses. But who would want to confess to such an uncalled-for and cowardly crime? And yet the very awfulness of it might cause him to break down and make a full confession.

As yet it is impossible to say whether there was one or two concerned in it, but it is possible that several were knowing to it, or it may be that the guilty one is trying to throw the evidence on to an innocent party. It may take considerable work to prove who was the active party, but it is pretty sure that he is still in the camp and there is very little chance for him to get away.

Meanwhile the body of Fred Searcy lays here a mute appeal for action. As soon as possible the body is to be shipped to his family. Mr. Searcy was in his prime; about 22 years of age, he had been driving the parcel post wagon for some time, but about two weeks ago he took the first-class mail stage. He was a steady worker and had many friends. Before coming here he worked for a while in Twin Falls for a Mr. Waters. He had no family, although he had at one time been married. His mother and sister lived in Washington, but his sister now lives in Independence, Missouri, where his body will be sent. His sister expects to come out to accompany the body home.

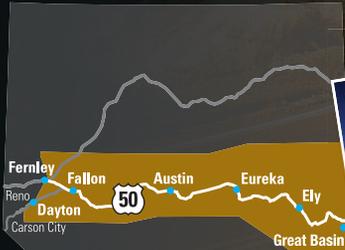
The whole camp trembles with indignation for the cowardly act and sorrow for the unfortunate victim. ▽



MATTHEW B. BROWN

The Jarbidge Jail was used to detain unruly miners and hold suspects for the arrival of a Sheriff's Deputy.

A sign of good things to come ...



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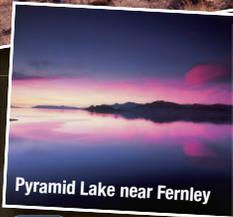
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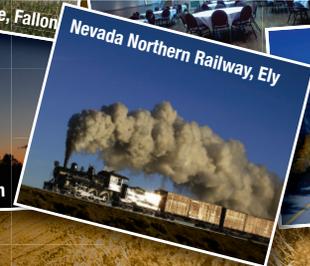
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jamesleereeves.com

## JAMES LEE REEVES IS NEVADA PROUD

Virginia City musician follows up “I’ll Take Nevada” album with three new songs.

You would be hard pressed to find anyone more passionate about Nevada than Virginia City musician James Lee Reeves. All you have to do is search his name on iTunes, and you’ll discover his 2012 album, “I’ll Take Nevada,” which contains seven can’t-get-’em-out-of-your-head country songs about the Silver State. You can also purchase his single, “Shiny Side Up (Dirty Down),” a veritable anthem for Nevada’s mass motorcycle culture that shows up in droves at such annual events as Reno’s Street Vibrations.

Reeves is a Nevadan through and through. Before he settled into his handmade log home in the Virginia City Highlands, he made a name for himself 25 years ago on the Las Vegas Strip. “I lived in Mount Charleston for four years, and then I moved to Vegas. I worked there as an entertainer/comedian,” says Reeves, who performed under the stage name Milo Tremley from 1990-2012. Tremley’s hilarious redneck musical act would have made Larry the Cable Guy envious.

Luckily for Nevadans and Nevada lovers, Reeves continues to write and record Nevada songs. Before 2013 came to a close, he wrote “Battle Born, Nevada Proud,” an homage to Nevada’s sesquicentennial (150th anniversary) year of 2014. He also wrote “Nevada Magazine,” which salutes the official state publication’s nearly 80 years of service.

The third new song is a *Nevada-ized* version of Hank Snow’s Classic “I’ve Been Everywhere,” made famous of course by Johnny Cash. Reeves’ version, based on a 2010 Editor’s Note by *Nevada Magazine’s* Matthew B. Brown, is titled, “We’ve Been Everywhere (in Nevada).” Listen to the songs by searching “James Lee Reeves” at [nevadamag.blogspot.com](http://nevadamag.blogspot.com).

### NEVADA MAGAZINE

By James Lee Reeves

Abandoned old stations of the Pony Express  
Overgrown trails through the Wild West  
Mustangs are grazing along suburban streams  
You’ll find ‘em all in Nevada Magazine

Tunnels once dug out by candlelight  
Robbers and wranglers and gamblers at night  
Old iron horses bursting with steam  
Jump from the pages of Nevada Magazine

Neon caverns and canyons of light  
Jugglers and singers and dancers in flight  
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Six times a year in Nevada Magazine

# Jeffrey A. Hinton Earns Teacher of the Year Honors

Southern Nevada man makes the Clark County School District proud.



Northwest Career and Technical Academy history instructor Jeffrey A. Hinton has been named Nevada's Michael Landsberry Teacher of the Year for 2014. He has taught in the Clark County School District his entire 12-year career. Hinton engages his students with outside-the-box strategies that include using music, art, and historical costumes to awaken their passion and interests. His advanced-placement U.S. History students went from a pass rate of 60 percent

in 2010 to 86.9 percent in 2013. In addition, Hinton teaches a social studies methods course to pre-service teachers at Nevada State College.

Hinton's past teaching awards include the Gilder Lehrman Nevada History Teacher of the Year and the Nevada Daughters of the American Revolution Teacher of the Year. Born in Oregon and raised in Connecticut, he is a former Marine, devoted husband, and father of three girls. Hinton has lived in the Las Vegas Valley since 1994.

The Teacher of the Year award was recently renamed in honor of Michael Landsberry, a math teacher who died in October 2013 while trying to stop a shooter at Sparks Middle School.

---

"Some people spend an entire lifetime wondering if they made a difference in the world, but the Marines don't have that problem. In my mind, neither do teachers."

—Jeffrey A. Hinton, quoting former President Ronald Reagan, and adding a wrinkle of his own.

#### WORTH A CLICK

Hinton's "The Reform Minded Teacher" Blog  
[thereformmindedteacher.blogspot.com](http://thereformmindedteacher.blogspot.com)

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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.





Zomboo poses with Miss Transylvania (above), a co-host of his TV show. Left: Miss Transylvania, Governor Brian Sandoval, Zomboo, and First Lady Kathleen Sandoval celebrate Halloween at the Governor's Mansion in Carson City.

## ZEALOUS ZOMBOO AND HIS HAUNTING HORROR FLICKS

WORTH A CLICK   
[zomboo.com](http://zomboo.com)

Late-night television host has deep roots in Nevada happenings.

If you live in northwestern Nevada, you probably recognize the signature face paint, cosmic-patterned overcoat, and black top hat. Whether he's generating smiles at the Nevada Day Parade in Carson City or hosting his late-night television show, "Zomboo's House of Horror Movies," this iconic character has solidified his presence in the community. The show debuted in September 1999, and Zomboo (pronounced "Zom-bo") can now claim the longest continuously running hosted horror movie show on broadcast television.

The man behind the mask is Reno resident Frank Leto. After creating the character Zombozo (which later became Zomboo) in the early '70s, Leto's premiere television appearance as Zomboo came when KOLO-TV was looking for a new late-night show. "I thought it was only going to last six to 10 shows," Leto says. "I never knew how successful it would become."

Beyond the weekly television show, Leto participates as Zom-

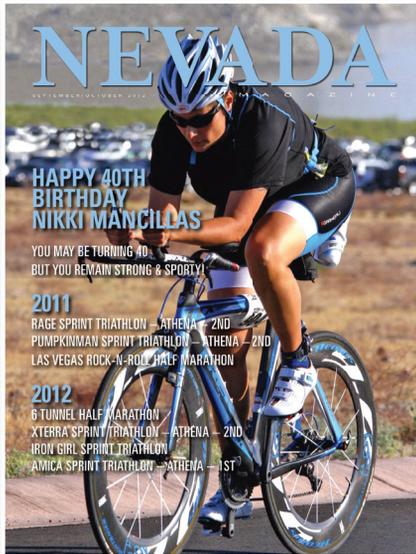
boo in numerous charity events in the community, including the JDRF Walk to Cure Diabetes and Walk MS (an event that raises money for Multiple Sclerosis research), and he acts as a guest bell ringer for the Salvation Army during the holidays. "I've always considered myself fortunate to be able to do projects that are fun," Leto says. "I have a soft spot in my heart for charities."

Leto also makes appearances as Zomboo at many holiday events, including the Sparks Hometowne Christmas Parade and Halloween at the Governor's Mansion in Carson City.

Beyond handing out candy with Governor Brian Sandoval on Halloween, Zomboo has other fans working for the State of Nevada. Leto says the Secretary of State, Ross Miller, is a big fan. "I plan on having him on the show," Leto says. "It amazes me that he watches."

"Zomboo's House of Horror Movies" airs every Saturday on KOLO-TV at 11:35 p.m.—*Eric Cachinero* 

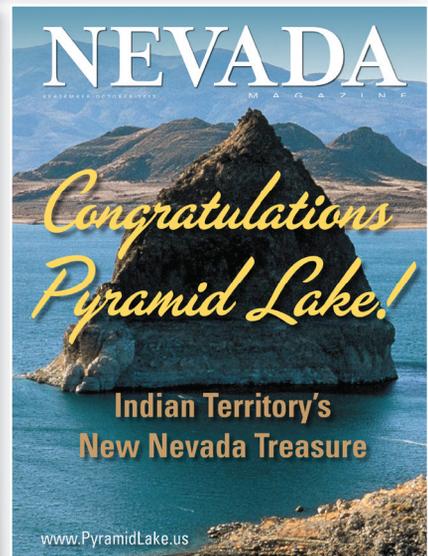
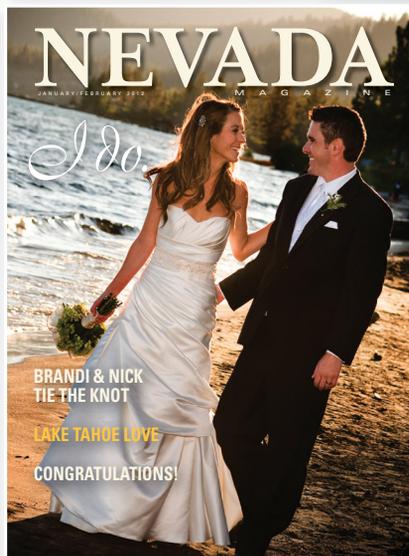
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**NEVADA**  
MAGAZINE



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

Founded in 1865, the Southern Nevada town of St. Thomas and its residents endured many hardships, yet persevered until 1938, when newly formed Lake Mead submerged the town. Today, a 2.5-mile loop trail (opposite page) gives visitors access to structures that have emerged in recent years as Lake Mead continues to recede. One of the prominent buildings in the town's heyday was the public school (above).

## St. Thomas, Nevada: A History Uncovered

New University of Nevada Press book explores the unique story of a town that went under—literally.

The history of St. Thomas, the remains of which today lie under the high-water mark of Lake Mead, begins in 1865 with Mormon missionaries sent by Brigham Young to the Moapa Valley to grow cotton. In 1871, the boundary of Utah Territory was shifted east by one degree longitude, and St. Thomas became part of Nevada. New settlers moved in, miners and farmers, who interacted with the Mormons and native Paiute.

The building of Hoover Dam in the early 1930s doomed the small settlement, yet a striking number of people still have connections to a town that ceased to exist three-quarters of a century ago. Today, the ruins of this ghost town, located 60 miles east of Las Vegas, are visible due to the low water levels of Lake Mead. The National Park Service preserves and interprets the remains of St. Thomas, located in Lake Mead National Recreation Area, as a significant historical site.

Following is an excerpt from *St. Thomas, Nevada: A History Uncovered*, by Aaron McArthur.

## Chapter Seven: *Coup de Grâce?*

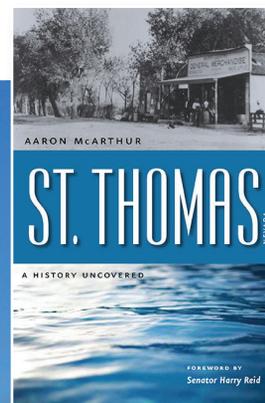
St. Thomas resident Hugh Lord did not believe that the waters of Lake Mead would ever actually reach St. Thomas. In early June 1938, Lord went fishing, driving his car down the Muddy Valley and parking about 100 yards from the water on a gentle slope. He had some success fishing, spending several hours out of sight of his car. About nightfall, he decided to pack up and go home. He went to where he thought he had parked his car, but it was gone. Looking out into the water, he discovered his car with the water swirling around his running boards. Driving back to St. Thomas, he began to reconsider his position on leaving.

We have previously discussed the decree of death for St. Thomas. Now, its execution: the disbanding of their ward, the salvage of buildings and railroad, as well as ongoing legal battles over land valuation. Plans for Lake Mead killed St. Thomas, but it took several years before the reservoir filled and delivered the finishing blow. As journalist Jori Provas later described it, “St. Thomas did not die. It was murdered. Not maliciously, but definitely with aforethought. St. Thomas was surrendered, given up, sacrificed, if you will, for the good of the many.” For some, their suffering was greater because the element of surprise was absent. They could sit and watch the water inexorably engulf their beloved homes.

Before the water arrived, there were things that needed to be done. One took place on May 14, 1933, when the St. Thomas Ward [a local unit presided over by a bishop], which had once recovered from virtual extinction, permanently disbanded. The program for the meeting called for that purpose included Bunker, Syphus, and other significant area names. At the end of the meeting, the members present raised their right hands to consent to the dissolution of the ward. Many tears fell as the meeting ended and people returned to the business of leaving.

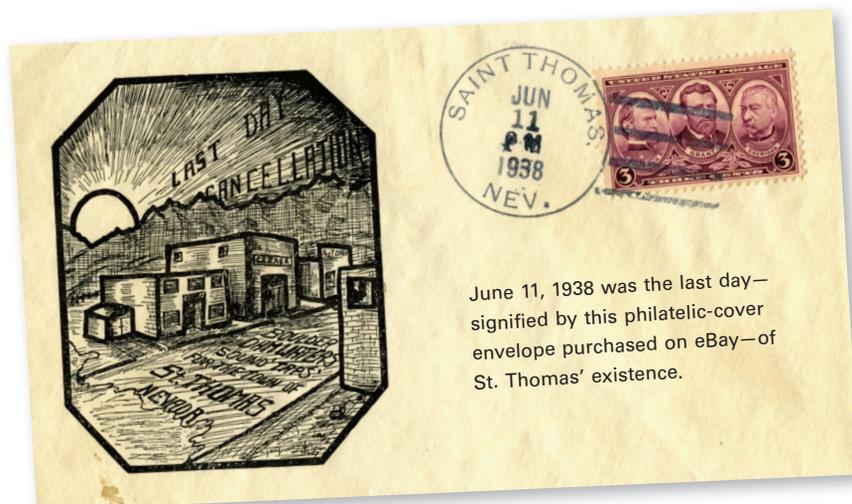
Other more mundane, earthly matters required attention before water came as well. Valley residents and Civilian Conservation Corps workers of the Overton camp cut down trees. A few of those who stayed leased farmland from the government and grew crops up through 1937. Nevertheless, by 1935 the town was a virtual ghost town, leaving only a handful of people who believed that the water would not actually ever reach them.

As St. Thomas residents evacuated, it was not just the living that made good their escape. In 1934, the government began preparations to move the cemetery in St. Thomas, as well as smaller burial grounds in Kaolin and Rioville. Though the federal government moved the bodies, they still needed permission from Clark County to open the graves and transport them. After obtaining permission in late December, the government’s mortician,



### ORDER THE BOOK

**St. Thomas, Nevada:  
A History Uncovered**  
By Aaron McArthur  
University of Nevada Press  
\$24.95 / paper / 184 pages  
unpress.nevada.edu,  
800-621-2736



June 11, 1938 was the last day—signified by this philatelic-cover envelope purchased on eBay—of St. Thomas’ existence.



PHOTOS: MATTHEW B. BROWN

Howell C. Garrison of Boulder City, moved the few bodies in Rioville, being the closest to the Colorado and subject to inundation earlier. Garrison moved the St. Thomas and Kaolin cemeteries in February and March 1935. The last graves, including Harry and Ellen Gentry's, arrived at their new final resting place on March 4. The most recent grave belonged to June Syphus, who died in Las Vegas in 1931.

Completion of Hoover Dam in 1935 began the final deathwatch of the town. One front page of the *Las Vegas Review-Journal* stated Lake Mead's waters were "only" 16 miles away from St. Thomas. Another front-page article a year later reported that the town would remain dry for at least another year since the water level was 78 feet below the contour that would begin the flooding of the site. In 1937, 12 miles separated the water from the town, and the fields were still in use to grow crops. The railroad, whose arrival was heralded in 1912, was taken up by crews to save the valuable rails from the lake. In June 1938, the clock for St. Thomas ran out.

Bureau of Reclamation engineers watched the water rise with great attentiveness. Recognizing the interest the public had in the story, they estimated the town's submergence as June 17, 1938. Heavier-than-expected runoff from snowfall in the Rockies made it clear that the town would not make it that long. The last few holdouts finally admitted that the flooding was going to happen.

John Perkins, one of those who believed the water would never reach the town, spent several days trying to save as much as possible from the houses he bought from the government for salvage. By June 8, Perkins realized that he would not have time to save at least three or four residences he had planned to raze or move elsewhere.

About the same time, Lord was rethinking his wager against the arrival of the water. Arriving back in town, he sought out his friend and fellow holdout, Leland "Rox" Whitmore, and told him that the time had probably come for them to leave. Despite the fact that he once gave 10-to-1 odds that the water would not come, he spent the next several days getting every worker he could lay hands on to help him move his shop and vehicles to higher ground. On June 11, Lord awoke to water swirling around his bed. The day to leave had come. Loading his last few possessions into a rowboat, he lit his house on fire and rowed away.

Lord, Whitmore, and Perkins were not the only ones forced out by rising waters. Frank Guetzill stayed with his herd of burros. The Bunker brothers—Brian, Berkeley, Wendell, Martin, and Vernon—all left on the last day of the town's existence, though they had already moved their belongings to Las Vegas. Berkeley later served as a U.S. Senator from Nevada. Interest in the event was so keen, one reporter considered the fact that two of the holdouts were abandoned dogs newsworthy enough to warrant a front-page story in the *Review-Journal*.

Whitmore and his wife were the only other holdouts. Whitmore was the postmaster and spent the last day of the town's existence busily canceling letters and postcards. In June 1935, stamp collector H. D. Sterling made note of editorials in several newspapers saying that St. Thomas was going underwater soon.

Because last-day covers are valuable to stamp collectors, he hatched a plan. He designed a postcard showing the town going under and placed ads in philatelic papers and magazines, announcing the last-day covers. Within a few days, Sterling's mailbox overflowed with dimes, quarters, checks, dollar bills,

money orders, and requests for credit. He carefully made out the orders to wait for the last day stamp and sent them to St. Thomas for a long vacation. When the town did not go under that year, more orders poured in.

Sterling began receiving mail of a different sort. One said, "I want my 'ghost town' covers. If you can't deliver at once, then send my dime back." Another read "I sent you one dollar for covers from the Nevada ghost town...where are they? Either send me the covers or my dollar. The government takes care of cases such as yours." By June 1936, Sterling answered 240 letters and refunded \$23. The next year the letters got even angrier. "My little boy sent you a dime for a ghost town or submarine cover and he didn't get either. I am going to report your activities to the post office department."

And, "You send my half-dollar back or you'll be up there with the rest of the fish. You can't stall me any longer. The dam is full of water and I know St. Thomas is underwater."

Refund or no refund, the letters stayed in St. Thomas, where some of them ended up being chewed on by mice who had taken up residence in the post office. Sterling must have been mightily relieved when the day to cancel the mail that had been waiting for three years finally came.

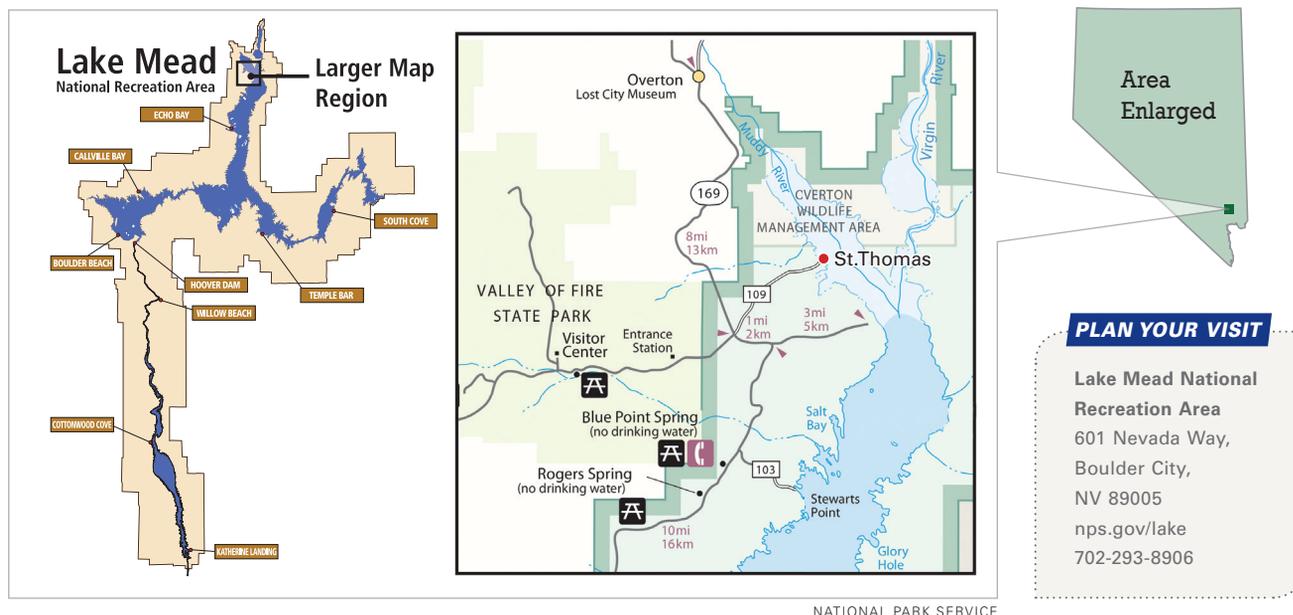
Sterling may have been happy, but it must have been a daunting task for the postmaster and his wife. They spent the entire day canceling nearly 5,000 postcards and letters sent to them by Sterling and other philatelists around the world. When they finished, they had to wade with the mailbags to

their waiting vehicle to take the mail up the valley. To put a note of finality on the affair, Whitmore threw the canceling stamp out into the advancing waters of Lake Mead.

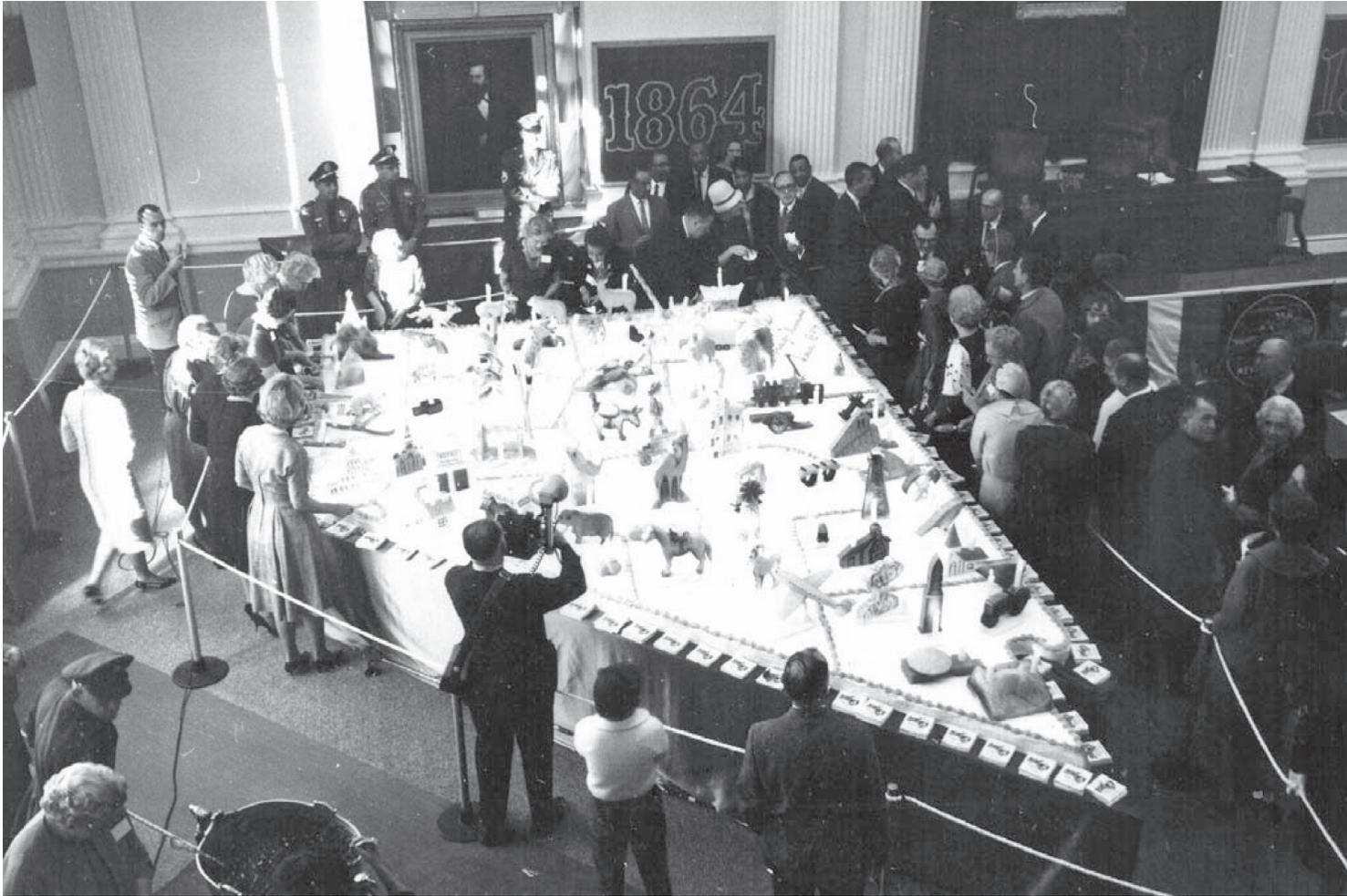
When the sun rose on Moapa Valley on June 12, 1938, it did not rise on St. Thomas. Buried by water and progress, the town was no more. In the 73 years of the town's existence, it died twice. This time, however, it appeared permanent. The death was even harsher for some by the fact that they still held legal title to land now underwater. The next several years saw legal wrangling that refused to let St. Thomas rest in peace. ▽



Fast-forward 76 years, and the drought has provided an opportunity to explore the ghost town of St. Thomas. The maps below give one a good idea of how far the waters of Lake Mead once stretched. A 2.5-mile loop trail (opposite page) leads to the ruins from a gravel parking lot. The dirt byway (109 on the map) to St. Thomas is accessible from State Route 169 and Northshore Road. Foundations (above), walls, and grated cisterns dot the site, along with numerous alkali-crusted trails branching in all directions.



NATIONAL PARK SERVICE



PHOTOS: NEVADA STATE LIBRARY &amp; ARCHIVES

Proud Nevadans gather around the centennial cake on January 4, 1964 in Carson City. The colossal cake was made by Sewell's Bakery (opposite page).

# Battle Born Birthday Cakes

In 1964, Nevada celebrated its 100th birthday in 'stupendous' fashion. It plans to do the same in 2014.

BY MATTHEW B. BROWN

The Nevada Centennial Commission Final Report of 1964 declares, "It's unlikely that anyone will soon attempt to repeat the feat of making so gigantic a cake." If they could only see the Silver State now...

On January 4, 1964, Nevadans "held what was probably the most stupendous birthday party in the state's history in the Assembly chambers at Carson City," the centennial report continues. On March 21, 2014, a similar party will occur in Carson City at Carson-Tahoe Hospital's Sage Café. The Nevada 150 signature event is free and open to the public.

## CENTENNIAL BIRTHDAY PARTY

Nevadans who were not able to physically attend the 1964 celebration in the Assembly chambers were able to enjoy it courtesy of the new-at-the-time Silver State Century radio and TV network. Those that were on hand were elected officials, legislators, chairmen of various committees, and celebrities such as Jack Benny and Ray Eberle.

Nevada native Ben Alexander, known for his role in the "Dragnet" TV series, read a brief history of each of Nevada's 17 counties. As the stories of each county were narrated, Miss Carson City Jackie Darrigrand directed a group of young "map makers," who

## BATTLE BORN BIRTHDAY CAKE

put 17 cake segments together to form a huge shape of Nevada.

Once Alexander finished, a committee of hostesses—women chosen from pioneer families in the state with last names such as Guild, Lampe, Settelmeyer, and Winters—began serving one of the largest birthday cakes the world had ever seen. But not before First Lady Bette Sawyer cut the first slice of the gargantuan cake with a sword once owned by Henry Blasdel, Nevada’s first governor. Punch was served, appropriately, from a bowl that once made its home on the *U.S.S. Nevada*.

The 13-foot-wide, 21-foot-long cake, adorned with 100 long brightly burning candles, was baked and donated by Sewell’s Bakery of Reno. Ball Sign Company, also of Reno, produced the county segments and symbols (woodcuttings in the form of a bullet or wagon, for example) that topped the cake.

Lieutenant Governor Paul Laxalt, stepping in for an ill Governor Grant Sawyer, gave the first reading of the Centennial Proclamation. “It was a wonderful party, one worthy of the dignity and promise of a state that was just about to become officially 100 years of age,” the centennial report concludes.

Following tradition to a tee, the cake that is to be served on March 21 in honor of Nevada’s 150th birthday will also be 13-by-21 feet. “That equates to about a 1,300-pound cake,” says Heidi Englund of the Nevada Historical Society in Reno. She is overseeing the logistics of the Battle Born Birthday Cake, but her husband, Eric, may be under the most pressure. A professional chef, Eric runs the Sage Café kitchen. He is largely responsible for making sure the estimated 1,600 sheet cakes come together successfully in the shape of the Silver State.

Englund is quick to point out the significance of March 21. That’s the day, 150 years ago, that Congress approved an Enabling Act for Nevada, which set in motion an official state constitution and government. “March 21 is the marker for the very beginning of when we came to be, so I think it’s a great birthday,” she says. Nevada became a state during the Civil War on October 31, 1864, helping lead Abraham Lincoln to reelection shortly thereafter.

While Englund’s husband is in charge of the baking, the vision of the Nevada 150 cake belongs to Misti Gower of Carson City. “She is experimenting with different cake mixes, and we’re going to see which one is going to hold up best,” Englund says. “We’re still working out the flavor, too.”

According to Englund, an estimated \$1,800 worth of cake mix is to be used. Like the centennial cake, she is under the impression the Nevada 150 cake will be organized by counties. She also envisions incorporating the state constitution, as well as the official Nevada 150 “Battle Born, Nevada Proud” logo. Expected during the daylong March 21 celebration are Civil War re-enactors, a flag salute, a Sesquicentennial Proclamation read by Mark Twain impersonator McAvoy Layne, an appearance by Sarah Winnemucca impersonator Dianna Borges, and a rendition of “Home Means Nevada” by The Reno Philharmonic.

Also, just as Mrs. Sawyer did 50 years ago, First Lady Kathleen Sandoval is expected to cut the first piece—only this time around with former Nevada Governor Charles Stevenson’s sword. Stevenson, the fifth Governor of Nevada, died of Typhoid fever in 1890 while still in office.

Those interested in donating to the Battle Born Birthday Cake Celebration can do so via an account that has been established through Greater Nevada Credit Union. Contact Englund at [henglund@nevadaculture.org](mailto:henglund@nevadaculture.org) or 775-688-1190, extension 224, for more information. ▀

### 1964 CENTENNIAL CAKE

#### By the Numbers

- 13** feet wide x **21** feet long
- 70** working hours to make
- 1,152** eggs
- 200** pounds of sugar
- 600** pounds of icing
- 21,000** ounces of cake
- \$1,400** (estimated cost)



#### PLAN YOUR TRIP

##### Battle Born Birthday Cake Celebration

When: Friday, March 21, 2014

Time: 11 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.

Location: Carson-Tahoe Hospital’s Sage Café.

1600 Medical Parkway in Carson City

Admission: Free

More Info: [nevada150.org](http://nevada150.org), 775-687-0608

*Thanks to the Nevada Historical Society for its assistance with this article.*

# CRISS ANGEL MAGICjam

ILLUSTRIOUS ILLUSIONIST UNVEILS TEMPORARY SHOW AT THE LUXOR.



## WHERE

The Luxor

## WHEN

Showtime: Tue.-Sat., 7 & 9:30 p.m.  
(7 p.m. only Wed. & Fri.)  
Thru March 29

## TICKETS

luxor.com, 800-557-7428  
Starting at \$59

## ALSO AT THE LUXOR

### SHOWS

Carrot Top, dark Tue.

FANTASY, nightly

Jabbawockeez, dark Tue. & Wed.

Menopause The Musical, nightly

### ATTRACTIONS

BODIES...The Exhibition, daily

SCORE!, daily

Titanic: The Artifact Exhibition, daily  
(photo shown below)



**A**claimed magician and illusionist Criss Angel is debuting his newest act, **CRISS ANGEL MAGICjam**, on stage at The Luxor through March. As headliner of one of the best-selling magic shows in Las Vegas, **CRISS ANGEL BeLIEve**, Angel is bringing a variety of acts and some of the world's most celebrated musicians together for a limited time.

Created and hosted by Angel, the new show features an anthology of his greatest acts and illusions. Joining him on stage are several cast members from Angel's hit TV show—also titled **CRISS ANGEL BeLIEve**—including magician Krystyn Lambert, comedian-illusionist Nathan Burton, and Banachek, the world's premier mentalist. The lineup also includes master manipulators Jason Byrne and Tony Clarke, the hilarious Russ Merlin, and one of the world's best slight-of-hand magicians, Armando Vera.

"**MAGICjam** is something I have wanted to do for years, and I'm so excited to bring the most talented artists in their respective disciplines, all of whom I'm so fortunate to call my friends, to Luxor," Angel says.

The limited-time show is hosted in the 1,533-seat theater at Luxor. **CRISS ANGEL BeLIEve** will return to the showroom in April.

# las vegas shows



## DON'T MISS

### JERRY SEINFELD

The Colosseum at Caesars Palace  
Mar. 21-22  
[thecolosseum.com](http://thecolosseum.com), 866-227-5938

Best known for his role on NBC's "Seinfeld"—one of the most popular and successful sitcoms in the history of American television—comedian Jerry Seinfeld returns to Las Vegas' The Colosseum at Caesars Palace for two nights of his acclaimed stand-up comedy. This Emmy Award-winning icon has become a leader of observational comedy over the years and continues to entertain audiences with his characteristic brand of humor. As one of the nation's most esteemed comedy stars, Seinfeld brings his classic act to the 4,300-seat Colosseum.

Showtime: 7:30 p.m.

### ALSO AT THE COLOSSEUM

Celine Dion, Mar. 1, 4-5, 7-8, 11-12, 14-15, 18-19  
Elton John, Mar. 29-30;  
Apr. 1, 3, 5-6, 9-10, 12, 16, 18-19, 22-23, 25-26  
Rod Stewart, Apr. 30



Elton John



**The Chelsea**—The Cosmopolitan of Las Vegas' new 40,000-square-foot performance and event space—celebrated its grand opening in December. Grammy Award-winning recording artist and performer Bruno Mars kicked off the New Year's Eve debut of the venue, which offers space to house a variety of live performances, group meetings, sporting events, and more. [cosmopolitanlasvegas.com](http://cosmopolitanlasvegas.com), 877-763-2267

On March 21, artists from eight **Cirque du Soleil** shows are performing at the Michael Jackson ONE Theatre inside the Mandalay Bay Resort and Casino during the second annual One Night for ONE DROP global philanthropy event. Proceeds from the show are donated to ONE DROP, an organization that works globally to provide clean, safe water to people in need. [onedrop.org/onenight](http://onedrop.org/onenight), 702-778-3772

## SHOWS OF INTEREST

### BILL COSBY

Treasure Island  
Mar. 14  
[treasureisland.com](http://treasureisland.com), 800-392-1999

### KATHY GRIFFIN

The Mirage  
Mar. 15  
[mirage.com](http://mirage.com), 702-791-7111

### FLOGGING MOLLY

The Cosmopolitan  
Mar. 15  
[cosmopolitanlasvegas.com](http://cosmopolitanlasvegas.com),  
702-698-7000

### JO KOY

Treasure Island  
Mar. 21  
[treasureisland.com](http://treasureisland.com), 800-392-1999

### LADY ANTEBELLUM

Mandalay Bay  
Mar. 21  
[mandalaybay.com](http://mandalaybay.com), 877-632-7800

### DAVID SPADE

The Venetian  
Mar. 21-22, 28-29  
[venetian.com](http://venetian.com), 702-414-1000

### REVEREND HORTON HEAT

Hard Rock Hotel  
Mar. 28  
[hardrockhotel.com](http://hardrockhotel.com), 702-693-5000

### DIANA KRALL

The Smith Center for the  
Performing Arts  
Apr. 9  
[thesmithcenter.com](http://thesmithcenter.com), 702-749-2012

### EMPIRE OF THE SUN

The Cosmopolitan  
Apr. 9  
[cosmopolitanlasvegas.com](http://cosmopolitanlasvegas.com),  
702-698-7000

### JAY LENO

The Mirage  
Apr. 12  
[mirage.com](http://mirage.com), 702-791-7111

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- 109 Fallon Convention & Tourism Authority
- 110 Elko Convention & Visitors Authority
- 112 Nevada Commission on Tourism
- 114 Las Vegas Territory
- 115 Virginia City Tourism Commission

- 117 Winnemucca Convention & Visitors Authority
- 119 Pony Express Territory
- 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

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- 2401 America Matters/Fox News

## AUTOMOTIVE

- 2501 Bob's Performance Center

# ROCKY MOUNTAIN OYSTER FRY

HISTORIC DISTRICT DISHES UP CURIOUS CULINARY CREATIONS.



JERAMIE LU

Virginia City celebrates its nuttiest festival—the 23rd annual Rocky Mountain Oyster Fry—on March 15. This zany tradition summons more than 20 cooks dishing up an abundance of livestock testicles during one of Northern Nevada’s most popular tasting contests. The Nevada 150 official event coincides with the Virginia City St. Patrick’s Day Parade, ensuring a celebration not lacking in fun or fervor.

Though most commonly deep-fried, participant chefs are always fixing up fresh and innovative twists on traditional festival dishes. Testicles are ground up to make chili and meatballs; they are even wrapped in bacon before they are served to patrons with a hankering for the pseudo mollusks.

This year’s testicle festival features live Irish music, a beer garden, and individual and team Rocky Mountain Oyster-eating contests. The St. Patrick’s Day Parade begins at noon and ensures an abundance of Irish dancers and floats. The evening is topped off in Virginia City’s pubs during the Leprechaun Bar Crawl. ▾

## MORE NEVADA 150 EVENTS

**NEVADA TAXPAYERS BIENNIAL LUNCHEON & 92ND ANNUAL MEETING**  
The Orleans, Las Vegas  
Mar. 4  
nevadatatxpayers.org, 702-457-8442

**SHOOTING THE WEST WINNEMUCCA CONVENTION CENTER,**  
Winnemucca  
Mar. 4-9  
shootingthewest.org, 877-623-3501

**EXECUTIVE KIDNAP**  
CARE Chest of Sierra Nevada, Reno  
Mar. 6  
carechest.org, 775-829-2273

**BATTLE BORN BIRTHDAY CAKE CELEBRATION**  
Carson Tahoe Hospital Cafeteria,  
Carson City  
Mar. 21  
nevada150.org, 775-687-0608

**EMANCIPATION PROCLAMATION CELEBRATION**  
Various locations, Las Vegas  
Mar. 24-30  
nevada150.org, 702-331-5511

**THE DESERT WINDS IN CONCERT**  
Community Lutheran Church, Las Vegas  
Mar. 29  
thedesertwinds.org

**WEEK OF THE YOUNG CHILD**  
Clark County Government Center  
Amphitheater, Las Vegas  
Mar. 29  
nevaeyc.org/snaeyc, 702-278-6911

**HOUSE HISTORIES 101 WORKSHOP**  
Nevada Historical Society, Reno  
Apr. 5  
historicroeno.org, 775-747-4478

**NEVADA 150 PAST, PRESENT, & FUTURE**  
Northwest Career & Technical Academy,  
Las Vegas  
Apr. 10  
nwctahawks.net, 702-799-4640

**HALLECK BAR PARTY**  
Northeastern Nevada Museum, Elko  
Apr. 11  
museumelko.org, 775-738-3418

**NATIONAL HISTORY DAY IN NEVADA**  
Statewide  
Apr. 26  
nevadanhd.weebly.com

**SYMPHONIC CELEBRATION**  
Carson City Community Center,  
Carson City  
Apr. 27  
ccsymphony.com, 775-883-4154

## EVENTS

## MAYHEM IN MESQUITE

CasaBlanca Resort Casino, Mesquite  
Mar. 1  
casablancaresort.com, 877-438-2929

## SILVER STATE CHILI COOK-OFF

Petrack Park, Pahrump  
Mar. 1  
pahrumphchamber.com, 775-727-3665

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Bartley Ranch Regional Park, Reno  
Mar. 1, 8  
washoecountyparks.com, 775-828-6612

## LAKE TAHOE WINTERFEST

Lake Tahoe  
Mar. 2-9  
laketahoewinterfest.com, 877-777-4950

## PINTS &amp; PADDLES

Zephyr Cove Resort  
Mar. 5, 12, 19  
zephyrcove.com, 800-238-2463

## ADVANCE AUTO PARTS MONSTER JAM

Reno-Sparks Livestock Events Center,  
Reno  
Mar. 7-9  
monsterjam.com, 775-688-5751

## NASCAR WEEKEND

Las Vegas Motor Speedway, Las Vegas  
Mar. 7-9  
lvms.com, 800-644-4444

PAC-12 MEN'S BASKETBALL  
CHAMPIONSHIP

MGM Grand, Las Vegas  
Mar. 12-15  
mgmgrand.com, 855-275-5733

## ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARADE &amp; FESTIVAL

Henderson Events Plaza, Henderson  
Mar. 13-16  
hendersonlive.com, 702-267-2171

## MOPAR MIDNIGHT MAYHEM

Las Vegas Motor Speedway, Las Vegas  
Mar. 14  
lvms.com, 800-644-4444

## RUN AWAY WITH CIRQUE DU SOLEIL

Springs Preserve, Las Vegas  
Mar. 15  
springspreserve.org, 702-822-7700

## FULL MOON HIKE

Spring Mountain Ranch State Park  
Mar. 16-17; Apr. 16-17  
parks.nv.gov, 702-875-4141

## MONSTER JAM WORLD FINALS

Sam Boyd Stadium, Las Vegas  
Mar. 20-22  
unlvtickets.com, 702-739-3267

NIGHTCLUB AND BAR CONVENTION &  
TRADE SHOW

Las Vegas Convention Center, Las Vegas  
Mar. 24-26  
ncbshow.com, 888-966-2727

## RED ROCK RENDEZVOUS

Red Rock Canyon National Conservation  
Area  
Mar. 28-30  
redrockrendezvous.com, 800-829-2009

USGBC NEVADA & WRANGLERS  
FUNDRAISER

Orleans Arena, Las Vegas  
Mar. 30  
lasvegaswranglers.com, 702-952-2468

MICHAEL JORDAN CELEBRITY  
INVITATIONAL

Shadow Creek Golf Course, Las Vegas  
Apr. 3-6  
mjcgolf.com

HENDERSON HERITAGE PARADE &  
FESTIVAL

Henderson Events Plaza, Henderson  
Apr. 5  
hendersonlive.com, 702-267-2171

## RENO JAZZ FESTIVAL

University of Nevada, Reno  
Apr. 10-12  
unr.edu/rjf, 775-784-4046

## BOULDER CITY FINE ARTS FESTIVAL

Bicentennial Park, Boulder City  
Apr. 12-13  
bcfineartsfestival.com, 702-293-2138

## EASTER EGG HUNT

Silver Springs Picnic Area, Silver Springs  
Apr. 19  
parks.nv.gov, 775-577-2235

## EASTER EGG HUNT

Spring Mountain Ranch State Park  
Apr. 20  
parks.nv.gov, 702-875-4141

## NEVADA TRIBAL TOURISM CONFERENCE

Incline Village  
Apr. 22-24  
nevadaindianterritory.com

SERTOMA CHILI COOK-OFF  
& CRAFT FAIR

Carson Valley Inn, Minden  
Apr. 26-27  
carsonvalleysertoma.org

## SHOWS

## FOREIGNER

Silver Legacy, Reno  
Mar. 1  
silverlegacy.com, 775-325-7401

## WALK OFF THE EARTH

Harrah's, Stateline  
Mar. 1  
southshoreroom.com, 800-745-3000

## BLUE ÖYSTER CULT

Peppermint Concert Hall, Wendover  
Mar. 7  
wendoverfun.com, 800-217-0049

## LADY ANTEBELLUM

Reno Events Center  
Mar. 14  
visitrenotahoe.com, 775-335-8800

## THE MAGNOLIA SISTERS

Yerington Theatre for the Arts  
Mar. 14  
yeringtonarts.org, 775-463-1783

## KENNY ROGERS

Silver Legacy, Reno  
Mar. 21  
silverlegacy.com, 775-325-7401

## CALL ME MADAM

Carson Valley Community Theatre,  
Minden  
Mar. 21-30  
carsonvalleycommunitytheatre.com,  
775-292-0939

## BRUCE IN THE USA

Harrah's, Stateline  
Mar. 22  
southshoreroom.com, 800-745-3000

## PAUL THORN BAND

Oats Park Art Center, Fallon  
Mar. 22  
churchillarts.org, 775-423-1440

# LAUGHLIN RIVER RUN

## MOTORCYCLE RALLY RUMBLES THROUGH SOUTHERN NEVADA TOWN.

### G. LOVE & SPECIAL SAUCE

Grand Sierra Resort, Reno  
Mar. 28  
grandsierraresort.com, 800-648-3568

### ONE: THE ONLY TRIBUTE TO METALLICA

Cactus Pete's, Jackpot  
Mar. 28-29  
ameristar.com, 866-667-3386

### PICNIC

Las Vegas Little Theatre, Las Vegas  
Mar. 28-Apr. 13  
lvlt.org, 702-362-7996

### FOGHAT

Boomtown Casino, Reno  
Mar. 29  
boomtownreno.com, 775-345-6000

### JEFF DUNHAM

Reno Events Center, Reno  
Mar. 29  
visitrenotahoe.com, 775-335-8800

### CHRIS BOTTI

John Ascuaga's Nugget, Sparks  
Apr. 5  
janugget.com, 800-648-1177

### SWEET TALK

Montbleu Resort, Stateline  
Thru Apr. 5  
montblueresort.com, 888-820-7630

### JULIO IGLESIAS

Peppermill Concert Hall, Wendover  
Apr. 12  
wendoverfun.com, 800-217-0049

### THE FAB FOUR

Harrah's, Stateline  
Apr. 12  
southshoreroom.com, 800-745-3000

### BARENAKED LADIES

Silver Legacy, Reno  
Apr. 25  
silverlegacy.com, 775-325-7401

### THE FIXX

Boomtown Casino, Reno  
Apr. 26  
boomtownreno.com, 775-345-6000

### RING OF FIRE

Eldorado, Reno  
Thru May 4  
eldoradoreno.com, 800-648-5966



As the largest motorcycle event in the West, the 32nd annual Laughlin River Run returns April 23-27. The five-day event attracts more than 50,000 motorcycle enthusiasts and features an abundance of stunt shows, exhibits, custom bike shows, live entertainment, food vendors, and gaming in the area's various casino-resorts. Attendees can enjoy clothing and motorcycle vendors and the popular Miss Laughlin River Run pageant.

#### PLAN YOUR TRIP

**Laughlin River Run**  
Laughlin  
Apr. 23-27  
laughlinriverrun.com

### ALSO IN LAUGHLIN

#### ZZ TOP

Often referred to as "That Little Ol' Band From Texas," legendary bluegrass band and Rock and Roll Hall of Fame inductee ZZ Top is performing live at the amphitheater at Don Laughlin's Riverside Resort on March 29 at 8:30 p.m. Join the trio and rock out to hit songs including "Legs," "Gimme All Your Lovin'," and "Sharp Dressed Man."

#### PLAN YOUR TRIP

**ZZ Top**  
Don Laughlin's Riverside Resort,  
Laughlin  
Mar. 29  
riversideresort.com, 800-227-3849

# PEDAL CARS: KIDS CLASSIC RIDES

IMAGINATIVE EXHIBIT ROLLS THROUGH RENO MUSEUM.

Through May 22, visitors to the National Automobile Museum in Reno are treated to an exhibit that is miniature in size, but substantial in impact. During its 24th-anniversary celebration, the museum is paying tribute to iconic toys and prize collectables during its newest exhibit, "Pedal Cars: Kids Classic Rides."

The exhibit features an array of pedal cars, most notably Nellybelle—a miniature version of the Jeep from television's "The Roy Rogers Show"—along with the Casey Jones Cannonball Express locomotive. All pieces of the exhibit are from the private collection of Sandy and Ralph Theiss of Sparks.

Originating as toys for wealthy families, pedal cars reached heightened popularity in the 1920s and early 1930s. Production lost momentum during The Great Depression before stopping during WWII, when manufacturing focused on the war effort. Popularity ramped up in the 1950s and '60s, when pedal cars began to mimic their full-sized counterparts.

In addition to the new exhibit, the museum features more than 200 classic automobiles. ▾



## PLAN YOUR TRIP

Pedal Cars: Kids Classic Rides  
National Automobile Museum, Reno  
Thru May 22  
automuseum.org, 702-333-9300

## EVENTS & EXHIBITS

### MAURICE SENDAK: 50 YEARS, 50 WORKS, 50 REASONS

Nevada Museum of Art, Reno  
Mar. 1-Apr. 27  
nevadaart.org, 775-329-1541

### SECOND SATURDAY AT THE MUSEUM

Northeastern Nevada Museum, Elko  
Mar. 8, Apr. 12  
museumelko.org, 775-738-3418

### TO SWERVE OR NOT TO SWERVE: HOW LITERATURE NAVIGATES THE PAST

UNLV Student Union Theatre, Las Vegas  
Mar. 13  
blackmountaininstitute.org, 702-895-5542

### MAYUMI AMADA: ETERNITY IN MORTALITY

CSN Fine Arts Gallery, Las Vegas  
Thru Mar. 14  
csn.edu, 702-651-4146

### LECTURE: MURDER AT THE MINT

Nevada State Museum, Carson City  
Mar. 15  
museums.nevadaculture.org, 775-687-4810

### PLEIN AIR LANDSCAPE PAINTING WORKSHOP WITH PHYLLIS SHAFFER

Nevada Museum of Art, Reno  
Mar. 15  
nevadaart.org, 775-329-3333

### FRANCES HUMPHREY LECTURE SERIES: COMETS

Nevada State Museum, Carson City  
Mar. 27  
museums.nevadaculture.org, 775-687-4810

### LEONARDO DA VINCI: MACHINES IN MOTION

Springs Preserve, Las Vegas  
Thru May 4  
springspreserve.org, 702-822-7700

### PHYLLIS SHAFFER: I ONLY WENT OUT FOR A WALK

Nevada Museum of Art, Reno  
Thru May 11  
nevadaart.org, 775-329-3333

### FINDING FRÉMONT: PATHFINDER OF THE WEST

Nevada State Museum, Carson City  
Thru Oct.  
museums.nevadaculture.org, 775-687-4810



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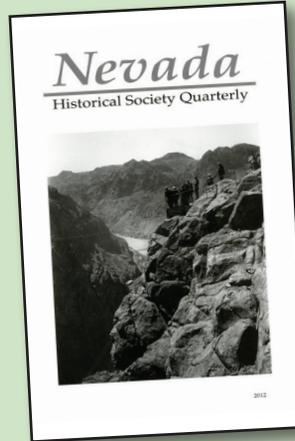
Safe Haven Rescue Zoo



2014 Events:  
Annual Fundraiser Dinner: May 17  
Wolf Run Golf Outing: Oct. 17

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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**  
tahoessouth.com, 530-544-5050

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

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## NORTHERN NEVADA

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



LANCE BUSCH

**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

**Jarbridge**  
jarbridge.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**  
winnemucca.nv.us, 800-962-2638

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## SOUTHERN NEVADA

**City of Las Vegas**  
lasvegasnevada.gov, 702-229-6011

**Las Vegas Convention & Visitors Authority**  
lasvegas.com, 877-847-4858

**Beatty Chamber of Commerce**  
beattynevada.org, 866-736-3716

**Biking Las Vegas**  
bikinglasvegas.com, 702-430-1638

**Boulder City Chamber of Commerce**  
bouldercitychamber.com, 702-293-2034

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St. Patrick's Day Parade, Henderson

**Goldfield Chamber of Commerce**  
goldfieldnevada.org, 775-485-3560

**Henderson (City of)**  
hendersonlive.com, 702-267-2171

**Las Vegas Welcome Center at Primm**  
Located at the Fashion Outlets of Las Vegas, 702-874-1360

**Laughlin Visitor Information Center**  
visitlaughlin.com, 800-452-8445

**Lincoln County**  
lincolncountynevada.com, 877-870-3003

**Mesquite (City of)**  
mesquitenv.gov, 702-346-5295

**Moapa Valley Chamber of Commerce**  
moapavalleychamber.com, 702-398-7160

**Nevada Welcome Center at Boulder City**  
visitbouldercity.com, 702-294-1252

**Nevada Welcome Center at Mesquite**  
visitmesquite.com, 877-637-7848

**Pahrump**  
visitpahrump.com, 866-722-5800

**Primm (Valley Resorts)**  
primmvalleyresorts.com, 888-386-7867

**Rachel**  
rachel-nevada.com, 775-729-2515

**Tonopah (Town of)**  
tonopahnevada.com, 775-482-6336



**TERRITORIES**

**Cowboy Country**  
cowboycountry.com

**Indian Territory**  
nevadaindianterritory.com, 775-687-8333

**Las Vegas Territory**  
lvterritory.com, 702-348-4708

**Nevada Silver Trails**  
nevadasilvertrails.com

**Pony Express Territory**  
ponyexpressnevada.com, 888-359-9449

**Reno-Tahoe Territory**  
renotahoe.com, 775-687-7410

**ART/PERFORMING ARTS**

**Arts Las Vegas**  
artslasvegas.org, 702-229-6511

**Brewery Arts Center, Carson City**  
breweryarts.org, 775-883-1976

**Brüka Theatre, Reno**  
bruka.org, 775-323-3221

**Eureka Opera House**  
eurekacounty.com, 775-237-6006

**Goldwell Open Air Museum**  
goldwellmuseum.org, 702-870-9946

**Oats Park Art Center, Fallon**  
churchillarts.org, 775-423-1440

**Pioneer Center, Reno**  
pioneercenter.com, 775-686-6600

**Piper's Opera House, Virginia City**  
piperslive.com, 775-847-0433

**Reno Little Theater**  
renolittletheater.org, 775-813-8900

**The Smith Center for the Performing Arts**  
thesmithcenter.com, 702-749-2012

**Western Folklife Center, Elko**  
westernfolklife.org, 775-738-7508

**Yerington Theatre for the Arts**  
yeringtonarts.com, 775-463-1783

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**NATIONAL PARKS**

**Great Basin National Park**  
nps.gov/grba, 775-234-7517

**Death Valley National Park**  
nps.gov/deva, 760-786-3200

**Lake Mead National Recreation Area**  
nps.gov/lake, 702-293-8691



**STATE PARKS**

**Nevada State Parks**  
parks.nv.gov, 775-684-2770

# Part IV: Into the New Century

Nevada booms out of a depression, and women's suffrage highlights a progressive movement in the state.

BY RON SOODALTER

From its earliest days as a part of Utah Territory, Nevada was known as a veritable mineral mecca. First gold, and then silver, were washed, gouged, and blasted out of Nevada's rock, generating hundreds of millions of dollars. Its treasure made moguls of the intelligent and the lucky. It helped propel the Union's victory during the Civil War and was at least partly responsible for Nevada's fast track to statehood.

A seemingly reliable pattern emerged early on; when one claim busted, another would boom, causing a mass migration of fortune hunters to the new strike, but no appreciable lessening of ore output. Nowhere was this trend more evident than the Comstock. For years, the fabulous Virginia City-area strike yielded its riches, followed by a periodic bust, and then a rise from the proverbial ashes. It seemed that Nevada's glittering bounty was limitless. Its citizens viewed any depletion in the state's output as only a temporary inconvenience—a conviction validated by the next discovery...and the next.

## THE DEPRESSION OF 1880-1900

Then came the Depression of 1880, and with it, the bitter realization that Nevadans had relied entirely on mining for their economic wellbeing. The decline of the mining industry presaged a two-decade dry spell. Over the next 20 years, there would be a number of attempts to regain financial stability, all of them doomed to

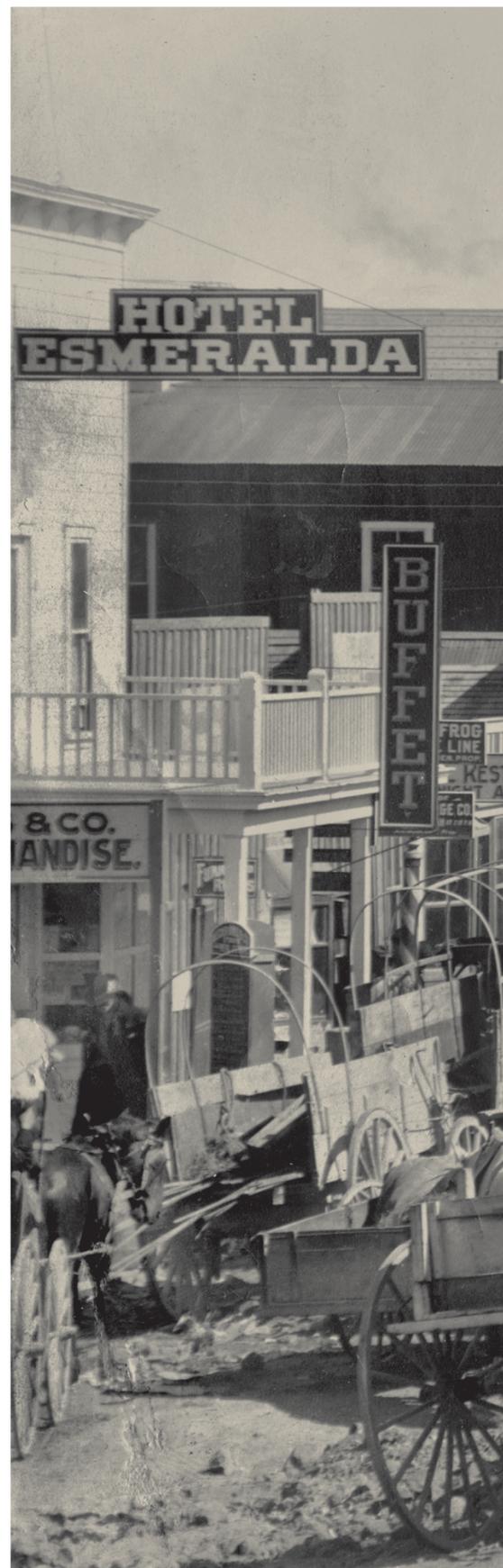
failure. The most immediate and time-proven step, and one that had always worked in the past, was to search for a new, untapped source of mineral wealth.

The results were universally disappointing, and the focus shifted to a re-examination of promising sites that had been explored in the previous two decades, such as Austin, Tuscarora, Pioche, and Candelaria. Again, this proved a false hope. Perhaps most disappointing of all was Eureka, touted by many as the new Comstock. The promising boomtown had yielded an impressive \$30 million in ore during the 1870s, but in the '90s produced less than \$2.5 million.

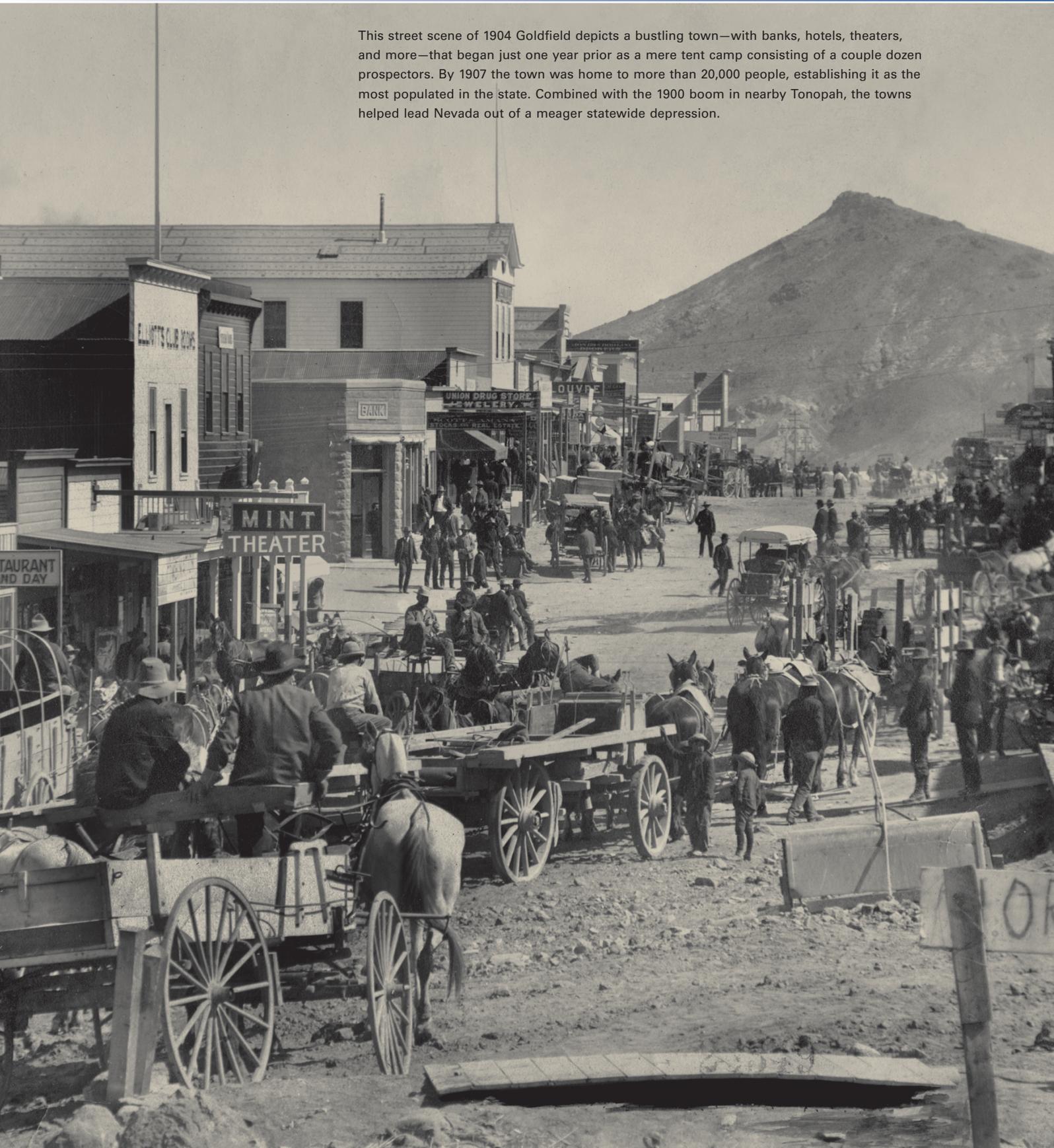
What initially promised to be a significant gold strike was made in Delamar, Lincoln County, in 1891. Although it provided a temporary boost, generating around \$9 million in the last five years of the century, it was not sufficient to stabilize the state's economy. It was becoming painfully apparent that this time mining would not provide an immediate solution to Nevada's fiscal woes.

The disappointing results in the mines caused many Nevadans' thinking to turn to other possible resources. The most obvious was agriculture—including the breeding of horses, sheep, and cattle—as a potential means of revitalizing the economy. There was certainly enough grazing land, provided sufficient water could be made available to accommodate an increase in livestock. The timing, however, could not have been worse. By the early 1880s, the fluctuation in the price per head of stock dropped well below the levels needed to rescue the state. Hoping to compensate for the shortfall by a dramatic growth in herd size, and realizing this would be impossible without more water, stock growers looked to irrigation as their only salvation.

Water reclamation was certainly not a new topic. Lack of water had plagued



This street scene of 1904 Goldfield depicts a bustling town—with banks, hotels, theaters, and more—that began just one year prior as a mere tent camp consisting of a couple dozen prospectors. By 1907 the town was home to more than 20,000 people, establishing it as the most populated in the state. Combined with the 1900 boom in nearby Tonopah, the towns helped lead Nevada out of a meager statewide depression.



the residents of Nevada since prehistoric times, and over the centuries had inspired various crude systems of irrigation. The equation was simple: Without water, crops and animals would perish. None of this seemed to matter much while the mines were booming; but by the 1880s, the need for alternate forms of commerce had gone from desirable to essential, with agriculture heading the list.

In 1889, the state legislature passed two related laws that addressed the water issue. The first confirmed the public ownership of the unclaimed water from natural springs, and permitting its use for irrigation. The second law created the Board of Reclamation and Internal Improvements, with the authority to establish districts within the state to oversee the building of canals and reservoirs.

In Washington D.C., at the urging of Nevada Senator William Stewart, Congress formed the Senate Committee on Irrigation, whose members toured the West's dry states in 1889, and held fact-finding hearings in their major cities, including Carson City. From a joint meeting of the Senate Committee on Irrigation and the Board of Reclamation came a report virtually begging for federal assistance for Nevada: "Can the [government] refuse to render assistance or will it allow one of its sovereign states to languish?"

Unfortunately, the act that had created the Board of Reclamation and Internal Improvements was repealed two years later. Nevadans made repeated attempts to initiate water reclamation projects, and held a series of irrigation congresses, but to no avail. By the beginning of the new century, it had become clear that agriculture and husbandry were not the answers to Nevada's problems.

## THE SILVER ISSUE

As Nevada's citizens struggled through the last two decades of the 19th century, an issue of national significance imposed additional strain, and—as one of the country's major silver-producing states—Nevada played a significant role. In 1837,

Congress established a standard fixing the official ratio of silver to gold at 16-to-1; by law, 16 ounces of silver would be the equivalent of an ounce of gold. At the time, and for years after, it was understood that nearly all the silver mined in the nation would be sold to the government. However, with relatively little silver being mined through the Civil War years, the selling price rose dramatically, and the mining interests began seeking higher profits by selling their silver privately.

Then, in 1873, Congress passed a controversial piece of legislation known as the Mint Act, or the Coinage Act. While its touted purpose was to revamp and stabilize the country's monetary system, it emerged from Congress with no provision whatsoever for the coining of silver dollars. This removal of silver from the nation's currency was designed specifically to increase the demand for—and the value of—gold, and to place the country exclusively on the gold standard.

The law also provided for the establishment of four national mints, one of them in Carson City. The men behind the act—which its detractors labeled the "Crime of '73"—were roundly accused of self-interest and corruption, a reasonable assumption considering the Grant administration was among the most corrupt in the nation's history. However, it is probable that the authors of the bill were merely trying to protect the country from an impending depreciation of silver.

Many of the senators from the silver-producing Western states, including Nevada, were ignorant of—and, to a large extent, indifferent to—the true nature of the bill and consequently failed to vote against it. Although their lack of resistance to the passage of the new law was attributed by Virginia City's *Territorial Enterprise* of February 4, 1873, to "Senatorial stupidity," in fairness—despite a nationwide depression—Nevada at this time was in good financial shape. The Comstock was producing at its highest rate in years, and there was enough silver coming out of the mines to quiet Nevadans' concerns.

However, by 1876, with silver selling at



NEVADA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

William Stewart (above), a U.S. senator for 28 years, was an advocate of the remonetization of silver, a dominant political issue of the 1890s. The historic 1870 Carson City Mint (below) survives today as the Nevada State Museum.



CHARLIE JOHNSTON



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a market value that was dictated by supply and demand, the price dropped radically. Coincidentally, the passage of the Mint Act had coincided with a number of new silver discoveries, and as silver production increased, prices fell. Depreciation reached 21 percent by mid-1876, creating a furor in the silver-producing states—including Nevada. The “Silverites,” as advocates of a return to the old system were called, pointed to the Mint Act as the culprit—a gross oversimplification—and shouted for its repeal and the reinstatement of silver coinage as the cure-all.

The new law hurt another group as well—the farmers. It favored the creditors and hurt the debtors, and farmers were clearly in the latter class. Every year, in order to purchase their seed and equipment, they depended on the banks for loans—advances on what they hoped would be a bountiful harvest. However, as the nation experienced fiscal panics in the 1870s, '80s, and '90s, farm prices continued to drop, and farmers—suffering from deflation and overproduction—sank deeper into debt. They joined with the mining interests in their fight for a return to the old system.

Several attempts were made to repeal the law, and to put the nation back on a “double-coin” standard. Perhaps the most dramatic was the creation of a third political party—the Silver Party—which was born in Nevada, and whose candidates and policies handily carried the state, but not the nation. In a sense, the campaign for the “remonetization” of silver was very much a western battle—and a losing fight. As a sop to the mining interests, Congress passed two compromise measures, in 1878 and 1890, providing for the government purchase of silver in quantity and at prices above market value.

However, President Grover Cleveland—in response to the nationwide Panic of 1893—forced their veto. The old 16-to-1 ratio was a thing of the past. Its death knell was officially rung in 1900, with the passage of the Gold Standard Act, establishing gold as the sole standard for the nation’s currency. America was not alone;



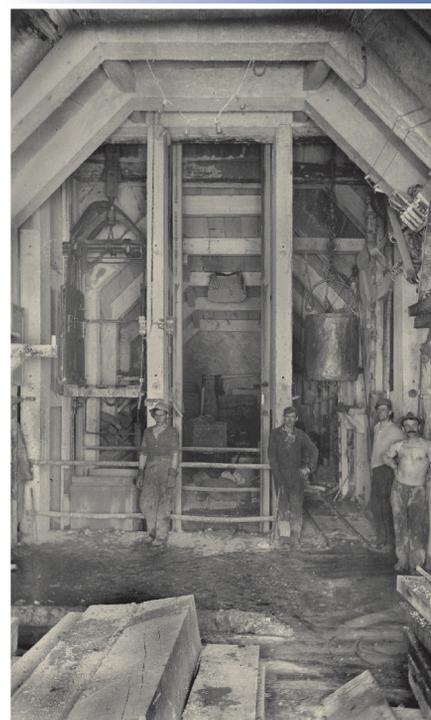
nearly every nation in the world—with the exception of China—had gone on the gold standard by this time. Although the bimetallic system was, for all intents and purposes, dead on the national level, it continued to resonate in Nevada politics for years to come.

This double-jack drilling contest (above) was a staple event of Tonopah’s Railroad Days celebration on July 26, 1904. An image of a mining shaft (below) captured in 1907 Tonopah gives a glimpse into miners’ day-to-day lives in the early-1900s boomtown.

## NEW CENTURY, NEW HOPE

After struggling through the final dark decades of the 1800s, Nevada finally embarked on a period of prosperity. As if awaiting the coming of the new century to reveal itself, the first of a number of gold and silver strikes occurred in 1900, initiating a boom that would soon end the state’s fiscal woes.

The finds were made the old-fashioned way—by prospectors leading their burdened burros across the remote moonscapes of Nevada. With the first strike, made in May 1900 by an enterprising miner named Jim Butler, the discovery of a promising outcropping soon gave rise to the fabulous Tonopah strike, and the resultant Tonopah Mining District. The area was so remote, however, that excavation and transportation were major issues.



With no timber or water readily available, Butler and his partners used picks and shovels to extract the first two tons of gold and silver, which they shipped north to Austin by freight wagon, and thence to Salt Lake City.

Within a short time, more than 100 veins and deposits were found in Southern Nevada, with two particularly rich strikes rivaling Tonopah—Goldfield and Bullfrog. Both were as inaccessible and difficult to mine as Tonopah and required major investments of capital to maximize the holdings. In December 1900, Butler—lacking the funds needed to fully develop his strike or to “prove up” on other likely locations—initiated a system of leasing. He and his partners would receive 25 percent of production after expenses, in exchange for allowing lessees to mine their holdings. This system proved highly successful.

Word spread, and soon a group of financiers from Philadelphia appeared on the scene. In July 1901, they paid Butler a third of a million dollars for his holdings, which they incorporated into the Tonopah Mining Company. In short order, the company controlled the entire Tonopah Mining District. In a series of developments that mirrored those at the Comstock decades earlier, they brought in milling and water companies to maximize production, and introduced banks to the new district.

The Eastern moneyed interests soon moved into other Nevada districts. The pattern in Tonopah had begun with leasing and soon developed into consolidation. It repeated itself in the Goldfield Mining District, which soon proved to be richer than anyone could have anticipated. One carload of ore alone, sent to the smelter in San Francisco, brought a return of nearly \$600,000. In early 1907, Eastern investors incorporated the Goldfield Consolidated Mines Company and soon controlled all the Goldfield mines but one. For its part, the newly formed Bullfrog district saw its major company, Montgomery-Shoshone, purchased in 1905 by Charles Schwab, president of the U.S. Steel Corporation.



PHOTOS: NEVADA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Whether a burro played a role at all in the discovery that kicked off Nevada’s 20th-century mining boom is a legend still hotly contested by historians. But it’s a fact that Jim Butler (above) was responsible for the significant find in May 1900 that inaugurated Tonopah’s gold/silver rush.

The corporate investors were masters of efficiency. In order to maximize their investments, they faced four major challenges: sufficient water, a reliable source of power, adequate capital, and transportation. They hired—and then purchased—private companies to find water and build supply systems that could handle the demand of the mills and mines. Power was provided by a number of small companies throughout the state, most of which were soon acquired by the Nevada-California Power Company. By 1912, the mega-outfit soon boasted three hydroelectric plants capable of putting out 16,500 horsepower, which they delivered to a number of mining sites, including Tonopah, Goldfield, Rhyolite, Beatty, Lida, Gold Center, and Manhattan.

Sufficient water and power enabled the owners to develop the most efficient processing methods available. Through experimentation, they oversaw the construction of sophisticated milling systems, and within four years, they could claim

an astounding average recovery rate of 93 percent and a cost that had dropped to an incredible low of \$2.50 per ton.

Capital was never a problem for these eastern investors, leaving only one challenge to answer—transportation. Ultimately, the ore had to be conveyed to a railroad depot. The remoteness of the various strikes had initially dictated a system similar to that used in the early days of the Comstock: large freight wagons, drawn by teams of nearly two-dozen horses or mules.

A freight line was first established between Tonopah and Sodaville, and expanded into the other gold camps, including a line running from the Bullfrog to a small, unassuming town to the south—Las Vegas. Soon, however, the wagons, despite a 20-ton capacity, proved incapable of handling the growing demand of hauling goods, tools, machinery, lumber, and timber into the camps, and carrying the sacked tons of ore from the mines to the railroad. Clearly, what was required was a

network of railroad lines.

The moneyed interests went into high gear and, beginning in 1903, soon had three major railroad lines connecting the gold camps to the outside world. The first two, the Goldfield line and the Tonopah line, merged in 1905 into the Tonopah and Goldfield Railroad. Along with the Bullfrog and Goldfield Railroad, it soon tentacled out to Beatty, Las Vegas, Rhyolite, and a number of other camps. With the building of dedicated broad-gauge rail lines, all major challenges had been met and answered, and the gold and silver ore rolled from mine to destination efficiently and economically.

Meanwhile, the rapid “gentrification” of the larger camps paralleled that of the boom days of Virginia City, with fine restaurants, elegant hotels, theaters, and bordellos springing up in Tonopah and Goldfield. During the first decade of the century, a number of boomtowns could boast electric lights, water mains, telephones, newspapers, and schools.

Wild West legends Virgil and Wyatt Earp decided to try their fortunes in Nevada’s boomtowns. In 1905, Virgil—despite the fact that his left arm had been permanently crippled as a result of an earlier shotgun attack in Tombstone, Arizona—was hired as deputy sheriff for Esmeralda County, and assigned to Goldfield, where he also served as a “special officer” at the National Club, a high-end saloon. His reputation had preceded him; an article in the *Tonopah Sun* of February 5, 1905, referred to “Verge” as “one of the famous family of gunologists.” Virgil’s health was in decline, however, and he died of pneumonia that same year.

Wyatt moved to Tonopah in 1902, where he and a partner operated a saloon called the Northern, which advertised itself as “gentleman’s Resort” with “courteous mixologists and kind treatment to all patrons.” He also served as a deputy U.S. marshal, and as the head of a private police force, hired to “discourage” claim jumpers. Even in his 50s, the soft-spoken Wyatt enjoyed a reputation as a man “with the bark on,” as the saying went.



PHOTOS: NEVADA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

A highly attended 1907 drilling contest in Goldfield—notice the men literally hanging from the electric poles—is an intriguing account of what the town looked like during its peak years. The 1907 Goldfield Directory lists 49 saloons.

Ultimately, he left Tonopah to try his luck at prospecting, but the “big strike” was always over the next hill.

As the mines continued to produce, Tonopah was named the seat of Nye County in 1905, and Goldfield of Esmeralda County in 1907. By the end of the first decade of the new century, a curiosity began to appear in the mining camps, as a symbol of status and progress: the automobile. Soon, prospectors were using it as a replacement for the burro. By 1913, cars were traveling over the road-less desert from camp to camp. The town fathers of both Goldfield and Tonopah, recognizing that the new horseless device presented a potential danger to the citizenry, established speed limits of six mph and four mph, respectively. Goldfield also passed an ordinance specifying “vehicles drawn by horse, at all times, have the right of way.”

Not everyone was content with the status quo, however. Inevitably, the monopolies’ control of all aspects of mining gave rise to worker abuses, and with them, a dramatic growth in organized labor. In 1905, the Western Federation of Miners,

formed in the ’90s, merged with other groups to create the Industrial Workers of the World (IWW)—the “Wobblies.” Difficulties were most prevalent in Goldfield, culminating in a November 1907 strike over the miners’ refusal to accept scrip instead of cash as a form of payment.

The mine owners wasted no time in contacting the governor, who approached President Teddy Roosevelt, who sent in federal troops to break the strike and neutralize the union. In January, the owners dropped the miners’ pay a dollar a day, and—using scabs who worked under the protection of the army—re-opened the mines. By March, at Roosevelt’s insistence, a state police force was formed to replace the soldiers. Left with no options, the union soon voted to return to work.

## COPPER REIGNS SUPREME

The spate of new discoveries dramatically rescued Nevada from its economic slump. All that remained for continued fiscal stability was for the boomtowns to keep booming—which, as history had



Nevada's copper legacy tends to fly under the radar a bit in the annals of the state's history, but it kept the boom going when mining production began to peter out in Goldfield, Tonopah, Rhyolite, and other places. Here, a copper pit train carries dirt in and around the company town of Ruth, circa 1910. Such towns sprang up in what became known as the Robinson District.

proven time and again, they could not. As with all strikes, the pattern of discovery, boom, and bust was predictable and unavoidable. It was simply a matter of time. All the trappings of elegance, the ambitious building projects, the pretensions of permanence, counted for nothing once the ore began to play out.

Bullfrog was the first major camp to decline, and its fall was precipitous, as was Goldfield's. Tonopah, slower to rise than the others, had a much slower decline, and it still survives today aided by its halfway-point location between Las Vegas and Reno. Rhyolite fell fastest of all, in what one historian described as a "short but rapid journey into oblivion," eventually leaving nothing but a few shells of buildings where there had once been a thriving community. Its 1908 population numbered 8,000; 12 years later, only 14 people remained.

However, just as the gold and silver output slowed, an unexpected development occurred that would once again place the state on solid footing. In 1900, a pair of enterprising young men named Dave Bartley and Edwin Gray entered White Pine County in the Robinson Mining District, staked two copper claims, and drilled a tunnel that soon revealed a tremendous strike.

It had been no secret that copper could be found in Nevada; in fact, as early as the 1870s, low-grade copper ore had been discovered in White Pine County. But the lack of demand, combined with the difficulty of mining, shipping, and reducing it, made its extraction unfeasible. Now, however, demand had increased, and mining technology—as well as the prevalence of rail transportation—made the extraction of copper a highly attractive proposition. Admittedly, it would take years to perfect

the methodology before the investment would pay off, but for those who knew what they were about, there were fortunes to be made.

In 1902, a Comstock engineer's son, Mark Requa, paid \$150,000 for the options on Bartley's and Gray's claim, which he dubbed the White Pine Copper Company. He soon bought up a neighboring claim and combined his holdings into the Nevada Consolidated Copper Company.

Requa set about seeking investors whose capital would finance the building of a reduction plant, as well as the construction of the requisite railroad. He soon joined forces with the Guggenheim family of Philadelphia, which had been buying up large copper deposits around the globe. In 1906, they formed a jointly held new company, with the Guggenheims buying half-interest in Requa's Nevada Northern Railroad.

Apparently, Requa was naive when it came to choosing his business partners. In short order, the Guggenheims edged Requa out altogether and proceeded to build an industry around the Gray-Bartley find. Ruthless though they might have been, the Guggenheims knew copper. By summer 1908, the reduction plant was completed, and the first copper shipped, after a massive capital outlay of more than \$4 million. The investment, however, was more than warranted; within a year, production was at \$6.5 million and climbing.

As it increased year after year, production from the claim made the Robinson District the richest in the state's history and would contribute to the fabulous wealth accumulated by the Guggenheim family. Decades later, when the Guggenheims hired Frank Lloyd Wright to construct the New York City art museum that bears their name, a disc was set into the floor at the entrance. It is made of copper and represents the ore type that endowed one of the world's foremost repositories of modern art.

The mine was located a short distance from Ely, a faltering community that served as the seat of White Pine County. Although the copper boom initially promised to give Ely a new lease on life, the mine officials opted to build their own company towns, in order to maintain a more permanent work force. As a result, four communities—Ruth, McGill, Veteran, and Kimberly—sprouted, initially taking on all the characteristics of typical boomtowns. Soon, however, their uniqueness became apparent. Building all the houses on the same pattern and in neatly ordered rows, the company controlled every aspect of government, business, and development. It acted as a benevolent landlord, renting the houses to the miners, and charging them for their coal, wood, and electricity—albeit at reasonable rates.

Residents received water, garbage collection, and police and fire services at no charge. They were provided with state-of-the-art hospitals, for which all residents paid a monthly fee. Emphasis was placed on clean living, with the towns' activities



NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

The Nevada Copper Belt Railway Company was incorporated in 1941 and operated from 1942 until it was abandoned in 1947. The 40-mile railroad was mainly used to haul freight from Ludwig (near Yerington) to the smelter at Thompson.

limited largely to sports and dancing. For those residents wishing more visceral forms of entertainment, satellite communities—with such names as Ragdump, Smelertville, Riepetown, and Steptoe City—sprang up outside the perimeters of the company towns, offering women, saloons, and gambling.

Always with an eye toward saving money and enhancing profits, the Guggenheims began importing unskilled laborers from abroad—Greece, Britain, Japan, Serbia, and Austria—whom they paid lower wages than those paid to Americans for the same work. Relations between various ethnic groups among one another, and with the American miners already in place, were initially tense, and resulted in the company building separate communities along cultural lines. In time, however, the disparate groups assimilated through work, sports, social activities, and the schools.

Despite the company's best efforts at labor management, inevitably there was occasional unrest. In 1912, a sympathy strike was staged in Ruth and McGill in protest over poor working conditions at a Guggenheim property in Utah. The recently formed state police—many of whom

were simply gun thugs—were called in by management and, in the ensuing dust-up, killed two miners. The company settled the strike by granting the miners a small wage increase. There would be no more union actions until the end of the decade, when workers struck at virtually every Nevada mine in response to the post-World War I drop in metal production, and the widespread unemployment that resulted.

## GOING PROGRESSIVE

As did the Comstock Strike decades earlier, the 20th-century boom introduced a new age of political life for Nevada. During the 1860s, the mining interests virtually ran the state, but not without the influence of California, on which they were economically dependent. This time, however, the mine owners were not reliant on California for their markets and supplies, having found Salt Lake City, as well as other cities to the east, more convenient. This time, the focus of the men who controlled the state would be exclusively on Nevada. And in the first two decades of the century, politics—reflecting what was going on in the nation at large—took a decided turn toward reform.



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- A sleepy little boy in my lap
- Sun sinking behind the waves
- Playing games with other kids

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- Let's get some snacks, Kiddo
- Yes, a real live train

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This was largely the result of the efforts of politicians and statesmen of the stripe such as Francis G. Newlands. A politically ambitious former Mississippian, Newlands had gained prominence by championing the fights for free silver and irrigation. His stance was not purely altruistic, recognizing these to be the issues on which he could climb in order to achieve popular support for his political goals. But politician or not, he was a major force in bringing reform legislation, and in forwarding the cause of populism in the state. He became a staunch conservationist; not content with simply forwarding Nevada's progressive agenda, as a U.S. senator he supported various national environmental causes.

In 1902, with the help (and political maneuvering) of President Roosevelt, Newlands sponsored the Newlands Reclamation Act, a federal law that funded irrigation projects in a number of Western states, and resulted in redeeming thousands of acres of Nevada's desert, and creating two new communities, Fallon and Fernley.

One political phenomenon of the early 20th century was the rise of the Socialist Party. Surprisingly, the first major foothold of Socialism in America was established in Nevada, beginning in 1906. Membership in the party quickly swelled, largely with working men. The strong-arm tactics employed at Goldfield and later at McGill, through the use of federal and state troops, convinced thousands of miners of the efficacy of joining the Socialist Party.

With support from many of the state's Democrats, the Socialists' popularity in the state gained increasing momentum right up to America's involvement in World War I. By 1916, they had built their own colony, Nevada City, on reclaimed land in Churchill County. However, the party's vehement anti-war philosophy, at a time when the nation's sons were off fighting and dying in the fields of France, eventually turned off most of their supporters and rang the party's death knell in the state.



PHOTOS: NEVADA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

This banjo and guitar band, circa 1910 and predominantly made up of females, is reflective of a time when women were gaining confidence in their collective place in society. In Nevada, women were granted the right to vote in 1914—five years before the 19th Amendment was ratified, giving all U.S. women the right to vote.

Progressivism was sweeping the nation in the early 20th century, and Nevada passed its share of reforms on behalf of its citizens. As far back as 1885, Nevada legislators had pushed for the direct election of senators; their goal was finally achieved in 1913, with the passage of the 17th Amendment. At a time when labor issues were on the rise, Nevada also addressed the subject of labor legislation. In 1903 and 1908, laws were passed guaranteeing an eight-hour workday for specific jobs. In 1909, the state created the position of mine inspector, to improve and safeguard conditions; and in 1911, a workers compensation law was enacted.

## WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE

The history of Nevada's efforts on behalf of progressive legislation and reform makes it hard to understand why the state was so consistently resistant to the concept of women's suffrage. This is not to imply that the cause had no advocates. As early as 1869—the same year in which Wyoming passed a law allowing women to vote—the Honorable Curtis J. Hillyer,

a Storey County legislator, introduced a resolution to a joint session of the Nevada State Legislature on behalf of women's suffrage. His lengthy speech, of which this is a brief excerpt, was a masterwork of reason:

"The women of our land are human beings. They are, I presume, intelligent human beings. Moreover, sir, they are citizens of the United States. They are subject in every respect to the laws of the United States. Their lives and their fortunes are held and secured under the conditions imposed by those laws....Shall we continue to live in and breathe the foul vapors of this political dungeon, or shall we open the portals and bid enter, with women, the sweet light and pure air?"

The resolution passed both houses. However, by the next session of the legislature two years later, the bill mysteriously disappeared, never to surface again. To this day, no one knows what became of it.

Further attempts to secure the vote for women were made in the legislature in 1883, 1885, 1887, and 1889, all in vain. In 1895, the legislature again passed a resolution amending the state constitution—



The Lahontan Dam is shown during its construction in 1915. The dam, situated on the Carson River between Carson City and Fallon, was built by the Bureau of Reclamation as part of the Newlands Project. The Newlands Reclamation Act paved the way for the founding of the communities of Fallon and Fernley.

only to vote it down at their next session two years later. Meanwhile, a women's suffrage convention was held, and such luminaries as Emma Smith DeVoe and Susan B. Anthony visited the state. Mrs. C. B. Norcross, mother of State Supreme Court Chief Justice F.H. Norcross and a brilliant woman in her own right, had one of her pieces printed in the *Reno Gazette* of 1897. It read, in part:

"The Creator never intended woman to take a subordinate place on this planet earth, for He gave to her the power to decide the physical and mental capacity of the human race in its pre-natal life... This old belief in the divine right of kings to rule nations and the divine right of men to rule women is a relic of barbarism... For one-half of the nation to make all the laws for the government of the whole can never be just to the other half."

The bill was defeated again in 1897, after which surprisingly little was done to further the cause until 1911, when a

professor, Jeanne E. Weir, established and helmed the Nevada Equal Franchise Society. She and Anne Martin, the society's next president, campaigned vigorously throughout the state. In 1912, Governor Tasker Oddie advocated suffrage for women in his biennial address. Again a resolution passed the legislature, as a growing army of suffragists lobbied both lawmakers and voters for support.

Two years later, the resolution passed both houses for the requisite second time. The bill was signed by Governor Oddie and placed on the ballot for the upcoming elections. All that remained was for the voters to ratify the law. In the four months before the election, the pro-suffrage advocates stepped up their campaign among the voters, while those opposed brought in prominent nationally known anti-suffragists to squash the measure.

Finally, in 1914—after a 45-year-long struggle—Nevada approved the amendment by a vote of nearly 11,000 to 7,258.

The victory had been long and arduous. When the law passed, it did so five years before the ratification of the 19th Amendment, which gave all American women the right to vote. ▽

### COMING UP MAY/JUNE 2014

In Part V, we will explore Nevada from the early 1900s to the 1930s and paint a picture of war, whiskey, and wild times! We will highlight early Las Vegas and come to understand Nevada's role in supporting America's World War I efforts. Then, we will span the period from Prohibition to Depression and, along the way, discover what made the '20s roar.

# WOMEN'S HISTORY IN NEVADA

We honor the ladies, past and present, who have helped shape modern Nevada.

COMPILED & EDITED BY NEVADA MAGAZINE

This year—2014—has garnered a lot of attention in the Silver State, and for good reason: it's Nevada's 150th birthday. But the year should also be known for another important anniversary. One hundred years ago, on election day—November 3, 1914—the women's suffrage resolution won in the state by a decisive margin.

Determined women such as Anne Martin campaigned vigorously to earn the victory in Nevada, five whole years before the 19th Amendment granted suffrage on a national level. In fact, March 3, 2014 marks 100 years since suffragists marched on Washington D.C.

In March, as a nation we celebrate Women's History Month, which gives us the chance to pay tribute to the generations of women whose commitments have proved invaluable to society. This year's theme is "Celebrating Women of Character, Courage, and Commitment." Following are the stories of several influential women from different eras of Nevada's history.

H. TREAT CAFFERATA



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Clockwise from top left: Bette Sawyer, Barbara Vucanovich, Kathleen Sandoval, Sandy Miller, Thelma Catherine "Pat" (Ryan) Nixon, and Anne Martin. Nixon, an Ely native, was U.S. First Lady from 1969-74. Read about the other five women in the following pages.

NEVADA HISTORICAL SOCIETY



## MARLENE ADRIAN

**Born:** Sept. 3, 1933 in Milwaukee

**Nevada Contribution:** As president of Women of Diversity Productions, a non-profit in Las Vegas, she is an advocate for women's history in Nevada.

Marlene Adrian built the Great Wall of Women. Well, it's not called that exactly,

but one doesn't have to look hard in her Las Vegas home to find evidence of her passion for Nevada women's history. Her Las Vegas Centennial Wall of Women, consisting of four 10-foot-long nylon panels, tells the story of more than 250 women who shaped the city's first 100 years. "Without women, we [Las Vegas] would not have grown like we have," Adrian says. "Women have been underrepresented in all of the histories."

When Las Vegas celebrated its centennial in 2005, 800 people attended an opening reception at the Las Vegas Museum of Art that featured the wall. Adrian has not rested since becoming president of Women of Diversity Productions, Inc., the motto of which is "respect everyone." Now, she has set her sites on the state as a whole. "It's the sesquicentennial year, 150 years of statehood, and we need to let people know that women have been a very important part of that history," Adrian says.

According to Adrian, she and others will videotape women in every county of the state through August. She also has plans to produce a commemorative book called *Nevada Women's Legacy*. Adrian, who has lived in Las Vegas since 1996, is also an accomplished athlete and holds a doctorate from Springfield College. A former professor, she has spearheaded leading research efforts on women's fitness and sports.—*Matthew B. Brown*

### WORTH A CLICK

Women of Diversity Productions  
womenofdiversity.org

Nevada Women's Virtual Center  
nevadawomensvirtualcenter.org



## HANNAH CLAPP

**Born:** 1824 in Albany, New York

**Died:** 1908 in Palo Alto, California

**Nevada Contribution:** She organized the first private school in Nevada and was the first instructor and librarian at Nevada State University in Reno. She was also one of the founders of the Twentieth

Century Club, a progressive Reno women's organization.

Hannah Keziah Clapp was 36 years old, and already an experienced teacher, when she settled on Nevada—where she spent 41 years—as her home. In the early 1860s, she recognized the need

for schools in the growing Nevada Territory capital of Carson City. By the time Nevada was granted statehood, in 1864, her Sierra Seminary was a smashing success.

Clapp hired Eliza C. Babcock, a Latin and English teacher from Maine, as her assistant principal. They built a home together in Carson City, and their relationship lasted 35 years, until Babcock died in 1899. The two women made the Sierra Seminary one of Nevada's most outstanding schools, graduating many students who went on to influential positions around Nevada, as well as to prominent national universities.

In 1877, they opened the first kindergarten in Nevada, located in the basement of Sierra Seminary. In 1895, after moving to Reno, they persuaded the fledgling Twentieth Century Club to organize the Reno Kindergarten Association. Reno's first kindergarten soon followed. One of the duo's most famous business transactions was the construction of the wrought iron fence around Carson City's Capitol grounds.—*unr.edu/nwhp*



## ANNE MARTIN

**Born:** Sept. 30, 1875 in Empire City

**Died:** Apr. 15, 1951 in Carmel, California

**Nevada Contribution:** She was a leading figure in the women's suffrage movement, as well as an outspoken advocate

of international peace and women's and children's rights.

From a young age, Anne Henrietta Martin proved she was extremely ambitious. The daughter of a Nevada senator (father) and teacher (mother), she earned a B.A. degree from Reno's Nevada State University at the age of 19. She founded the Department of History at Nevada State University and was on the faculty from 1897 to 1901.

From there, a decade of international travel and study brought Martin to the cause of feminism. In England, she associated with the Fabian Socialists and affiliated with the Women's Social and Political Union (WSPU).

Meanwhile, in 1910, the Nevada Equal Franchise Society was established with the aid of professor Jeanne Weir, and the first suffrage legislation was passed by the Nevada Legislature. Martin returned to Nevada, was elected president in 1912, and organized the campaign that won women's suffrage with the popular vote in Nevada on November 3, 1914.

Martin became the first female member of the Nevada Educational Survey Commission in 1915 and was president of the Nevada Women's Civic League. Never one to rest on her laurels, Martin was an Independent candidate for the U.S. Senate from Nevada in 1918 and 1920. She did not win the vote, but her powerful rhetoric supported the adoption of the Sheppard-Towner law for protection of maternal and infancy cases.—*unr.edu/nwhp*



## FLORENCE (JONES) MURPHY

**Born:** Dec. 13, 1911 in Fernley

**Died:** Jan. 23, 2006 in Las Vegas

**Nevada Contribution:** She was the first woman in Nevada to receive her commercial pilot's license, in 1944.

Born into a family of six siblings—five of them boys—Florence Murphy was admittedly a tomboy. “Whatever my brothers could do, I could do, too,” she said in a 1999 article in the *Las Vegas Review-Journal*. “I played with trains and boys’ toys.” In the early 1900s, planes were viewed as “boys’ toys,” too, but ultimately Murphy would become a pilot pioneer among women.

She attended the University of Nevada, Reno for two years before meeting and marrying John Murphy, a State Highway Department employee, in 1930. After John was transferred to Las Vegas, both became interested in flying, earning their private licenses by 1938. Murphy received her instructor's license in 1941 and her commercial pilot's license in 1944—the first woman in Nevada to do so.

After WWII put their plans on temporary hold—John was thrust into service—the Murphys were introduced to Edmund Converse, who with partners had established Bonanza Air. Bonanza's first home base was the Murphys' Sky Haven Airport. Bonanza soon built up a fleet of nine planes, and Murphy found herself as the only female airline vice president in the country. She would also pilot many of the runs to Reno. “Believe it or not, I was afraid people would jump out if they saw me flying,” she said. “It was a man's world.”

After she left Bonanza Air, she went on to a successful career in real estate.—*Matthew B. Brown*



## BERTHA (EATON) RAFFETTO

**Born:** Mar. 15, 1885 in Bloomfield, Iowa

**Died:** Sept. 6, 1952 in Reno

**Nevada Contribution:** Her composition, “Home Means Nevada,” is the official state song.

Bertha Eaton gave her first poetry recital at age three from her grandfather's pulpit. Two years later, she wrote her first poem. It's no surprise she blossomed into an independent, freethinking woman in an era when the woman's place presumably was in the home.

Her Nevada connection begins when she married Fiore Raffetto, the man she had selected as her Reno divorce attorney to

end her first marriage. They were married for 30 years and had one daughter, Frances. “In view of all the places my mother visited and lived in for varying lengths of time, I have no doubt mother felt and meant it when she said ‘Home Means Nevada,’” Frances said upon her mother's death in 1952.

Frances was referring to her mother's classic “Home Means Nevada,” made the official state song by an act of the legislature on February 6, 1933. In addition to her musical talents, Raffetto was a renowned poet and writer in Nevada and was active in club and civic work. She was a fluent speaker and participated actively in Republican politics in numerous campaigns. During the 1930s, she conducted a popular feature, the “Poet's Corner,” in the *Nevada State Journal*.

Raffetto was a 25-year member of the Reno Branch of Pen women, for whom she served as treasurer, vice president, and president. She was poet laureate of the Nevada Federation of Women's Clubs and was awarded the Poet's Parchment by the General Federation of Women's Clubs for outstanding work in poetry. She was also a member of the Reno Civic Club and Nevada and General Federation of Women's Clubs.—*unr.edu/nwhp*



## FERMINIA SARRAS

**Born:** July 1840

**Died:** Feb. 1, 1915

**Nevada Contribution:** Her success as a prospector earned her the moniker, “Nevada Copper Queen,” and the town of Mina was named in her honor.

Ferminia Sarras came to Nevada some time in or before 1881, which was the date she was first listed on Esmeralda County tax records. Much of her story had been lost until author Sally Zanjani worked with Sarras' great-grandson to reconstruct her past.

In her native country of Nicaragua, Sarras was married to Pablo Flores and gave birth to four daughters. When she arrived in Nevada, Sarras evidently felt her two youngest daughters would be safer in the Nevada Orphans Asylum in Virginia City than at the mining camps of Belleville and Candelaria. Sarras' husband is thought to have worked in those rough mining towns, but he did not remain in her life.

Sarras began prospecting in the Candelaria area in 1883 and went on to file a number of claims on copper mines in the Sante Fe district. She spent a few years prospecting in Silver Peak, but didn't have much luck during the 1890s, a time when Nevada was in an economic depression. She returned to the Sante Fe district in 1899, and it was there that she made her fortune. She often prospected alone wearing pants, boots, and a backpack. By the time she died in 1915, she had made several fortunes on her copper mines, often stashing the gold coins from her sales in her chicken coop where she believed it would be safer than in the banks.

Each time she made a profitable sale, Sarras would travel to San Francisco, stay in the finest hotels, shop for elegant clothes, and enjoy fine dining and young men until her money ran out. Then she would return to Nevada's mountains and resume prospecting. Sarras lived mostly at Luning, between prospecting trips.—*unr.edu/nwhp*



## HELEN J. STEWART

**Born:** Apr. 16, 1854 in Springfield, Illinois

**Died:** Mar. 6, 1926 in Las Vegas

**Nevada Contribution:** A successful rancher and businesswoman and respected historian, she is known as “The First Lady of Las Vegas.”

On April 6, 1873, Helen Jane Wisner married Archibald Stewart in Stockton, California. After the wedding Archibald moved Helen to Lincoln County; they settled on a remote ranch at Pony Springs, north of Pioche, and eventually in Pioche. They had three children together during this stage in their lives.

In 1879, Stewart, a successful businessman, loaned \$5,000 in gold to Octavius D. Gass, taking the isolated Las Vegas Ranch as collateral. By 1881, Gass defaulted on the loan, and Stewart foreclosed. In 1882, Archibald moved his family to the ranch in the Las Vegas Valley until he could sell it. Stewart profitably operated the ranch, selling beef, vegetables, fruit, and wine to the mining camps in Southern Nevada. The ranch also served as a way station for travelers. Another daughter was born on the ranch.

Then Helen's life took a drastic turn. Archibald was murdered at the nearby Kiel Ranch on July 13, 1884. With four children, and pregnant with her fifth, she had no choice but to learn to operate the ranch until it could be sold. Stewart became extremely proficient as a rancher and a businesswoman. Realizing that some day the land in Las Vegas Valley would be valuable, she began buying land adjacent to her ranch. By 1890, she was the largest landowner in Lincoln County, which at that time included present-day Clark County.

She was appointed the first postmaster of Las Vegas in 1893. The name was spelled “Los Vegas” until 1903. In 1902, Helen sold the Las Vegas Ranch to the San Pedro, Los Angeles, and Salt Lake Railroad. She and her family went to Los Angeles for a period to await the building of a new house. While in Los Angeles, Helen married her second husband, Frank Roger Stewart.

Once she returned to Las Vegas, Helen remained there for the rest of her life, playing an active roll in the community. She helped to found Christ Episcopal Church and was a charter member of the Mesquite Club, formed in 1911. She suggested the name for the club noting the hardiness and usefulness of a tree native to the area. The club is still active today and involved in supporting city initiatives.—*unr.edu/nwhp*

## WORTH A CLICK

Mesquite Club

[mesquiteclublasvegas.com](http://mesquiteclublasvegas.com)

## BARBARA VUCANOVICH

**Born:** June 22, 1921 in Fort Dix, New Jersey

**Died:** June 10, 2013 in Reno

**Nevada Contribution:** She was the first woman elected to Congress from Nevada and the first Nevadan to rise to a position of leadership within the U.S. House of Representatives.



H. TREAT CAFFERATA

Barbara F. Vucanovich, the first Nevada woman to be elected to federal office, was an Army brat. She spent her early years at various Army posts where her father, Tom Farrell, was stationed. Her school years were spent in Albany, New York.

Elected in 1982, Vucanovich was the first woman member of Congress from Nevada and the first female to represent the Second Congressional District. Vucanovich served on the defunct Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs, important to Nevada because it decided public policy on resource issues, such as mining and grazing.

When she was elected Republican Conference Secretary, she became the first Nevadan to serve in a leadership position in the House. Vucanovich served seven terms from 1983 to 1997, the second longest of any Nevada member of the House. After her death last year, Governor Brian Sandoval said, “Today the Silver State has lost its Silver Lady. Barbara will perhaps forever be remembered as a gracious, personable leader with her feet on the ground and her priorities where they belonged: right here in Nevada.”

Vucanovich's daughter, Patty Cafferata—who interviewed her mother for a story in the September/October 2008 issue of *Nevada Magazine*—is a noted historian and author of seven books, including *The Goldfield Hotel: Gem of the Desert*.

**Editor's Note:** American Indian women's history will be addressed in our upcoming November/December 2014 issue.

# First Ladies First



PHOTOS: © SJODIN PHOTOGRAPHY

Five former First Ladies of Nevada pose in Las Vegas on January 11 prior to the First Ladies First panel event. From left to right: Dema Guinn, Dawn Gibbons, Sandy Miller, Bonnie Bryan, and Kathryn List. Learn more about the women in the following pages.

Five women come together in Las Vegas to share their experiences living in the Governor's Mansion.

On January 11, First Ladies First—the inaugural event of Nevada Women's Legacy – 150 Years of Excellence—was held at Caesars Palace in Las Vegas. The conversation with five former First Ladies of Nevada was spirited and engaging. "From official hostess, influential confidant, suffrage leader, moral flag bearer, historian, activist, and mother, each First Lady of Nevada has impacted the state in immeasurable ways, to which the citizens, men and women, have benefited," reads Kim Russell's introduction in the First Ladies First brochure.

The bios that follow are courtesy of Women of Diversity Productions, Inc.



## BONNIE (FAIRCHILD) BRYAN

Born: June 24, 1939 in Lodi, California

Years as First Lady: 1983-89

Bonnie Bryan, wife of Nevada's 25th Governor and former United States Senator Richard H. Bryan, served as Nevada's Official Ambassador for Tourism, one of her husband's top policy priorities, and was Chairman of the Dedication Ceremonies of Great Basin National Park.

She was also a member of the State DUI Task Force, State Literacy Board, and functioned as spokeswoman for CALL, Computer Assisted Literacy in Libraries program, for the Las Vegas Clark County Library District.

While a student at the University of Nevada, Reno, she met Richard, and they were married on September 1, 1962. They have six grandchildren and three children; Richard Jr., born May 10, 1964, a cardiologist residing in the Reno area; Leslie, born November 15, 1965, an attorney in Reno; and Blair, born February 5, 1967, an elementary teacher living in Eden Prairie, Minnesota.

8 News NOW Las Vegas anchor Paula Francis (opposite page, far left) emceed the First Ladies First event on January 11 at Caesars Palace. The panel of five former First Ladies (see picture on page 73) entertained the crowd with stories from their tenures in the Governor's Mansion.



### DAWN (SNELLING) GIBBONS

Born: Mar. 9, 1954 in Atlanta  
Years as First Lady: 2007-11

Dawn Gibbons moved to Nevada from Atlanta with a few hundred dollars and a few dreams of her own. However, none included becoming First Lady of Nevada. Dawn graduated

from the University of Nevada, Reno and became an admired entrepreneur with five successful companies operating at the same time. Her interest in community and natural leadership qualities led her into politics where she served the people of Nevada.

Gibbons served in the Nevada Legislature for six and a half years where she advocated for important causes including autism, children's issues, domestic violence, human trafficking, drug addiction, veterans, health, and the military.

Gibbons is the Senior Vice President of Communication and Government Relations for Intermountain West Communications Company that owns NBC affiliates. Dawn's recent media accomplishments include her own radio talk show "Inside Scoop" with Fox News 1270, and the "Dawn and Jim" news segment at KSNV with owner Jim Rogers.



### KATHRYN SUE (GEARY) LIST

Born: April 7, 1940 in Indianapolis  
Years as First Lady: 1979-83

Kathryn List was First Lady of Nevada from 1979-1983. She noticed there were few paintings on the walls of the Governor's Mansion and started the Friends of the Mansion, composed of

people from all over Nevada. They raised money to buy paintings and art objects of Nevada, all from Nevada artists and of Nevada scenes. Until they raised enough funds to decorate the Mansion, various Nevadans would display their paintings for approximately three months. In addition to her official role of entertaining and attending many state functions, Kathy made the Governor's Mansion available for tours and various charitable events.

Kathy obtained her real estate license in 1986 and her broker's license in 1990, and was a member of the Association of Realtor's Top Producers Club. Kathy was active in numerous community activities, including the American Red Cross, being a director of the Nevada Women's Fund, a director of the University of Nevada Reno Foundation, and she was on the Friends of the University Library Board of Directors.



### DEMA LEE (LANE) GUINN

Born: 1938 in Olathe, Kansas  
Years as First Lady: 1999-2006

Dema Guinn was born in Kansas in 1938 and moved to Nevada from Exeter, California. She married Kenny Guinn in Reno on July 7, 1956.

The Guinns moved to Las Vegas in 1964 when her husband Kenny was hired by the Clark County School District. Motivated by her intense interest in the education of her two young sons, she quickly became active in volunteer programs designed to improve the educational opportunities for young people.

Mrs. Guinn worked to increase the awareness of many important issues, especially those concerning women's health. She sponsored an annual First Lady's Conference on Women's Health Issues, which brought together women's advocates from across the state. She led the effort to secure a mobile breast exam laboratory, the Mammovan, to raise awareness and improve access to preventive health care measures for women in the rural areas of Nevada.



### SANDRA ANN (SEARLES) MILLER

Born: 1949 in Denver  
Years as First Lady: 1989-99

Sandy Searles was raised in Las Vegas and attended the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, where she graduated in 1971 with a degree in education.

Sandy spent four years as a speech therapist with the Clark County School District. Sandy and Bob Miller married in November 1973. Mrs. Miller was First Lady for a decade, longer than any other Nevada First Lady.

Sandy Miller served on many boards and commissions, including the National Advisory Council for School-to-Work Opportunities; President Clinton's nationwide support plan for educational reform; the White House Commission of Presidential Scholars; the Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research National Science Foundation; McCaw School of Mines; Sunrise Hospital, Las Vegas; and Desert Research Institute.

Mrs. Miller has always given her highest priority to children and improving the education of children. Today she continues to read to children and tells stories to schoolchildren.



PHOTOS: © SJODIN PHOTOGRAPHY

## CURRENT FIRST LADY



### KATHLEEN SANDOVAL

Born: July 13, 1965 in Reno

Years as First Lady: 2011-present

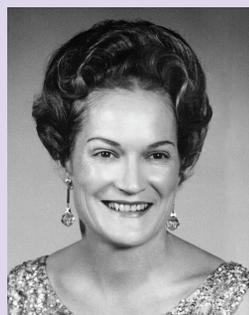
A native Nevadan, Sandoval has dedicated her career to improving the lives of others. Mrs. Sandoval's career has included work as a speech language pathologist with a focus on

traumatic brain surgery and as a rehabilitation program director for extended care facilities.

Today, an important part of Sandoval's life centers on her work as a program director with the Children's Cabinet in Reno. As the FYI (Family and Youth Intervention) Program Director at the Children's Cabinet, Sandoval works closely with children and youth to reduce school truancy; evaluate mental health issues; support homeless, runaway, and abused children; and prevent family violence.

Sandoval has been married to Governor Brian Sandoval since 1990. They have three children: James, Maddy, and Marisa. Mrs. Sandoval grew up in Reno and graduated from Wooster High School.—*firstlady.nv.gov*

## THE MATRIARCH



### BETTE NORENE (HOGE) SAWYER

Born: May 22, 1923 in Baker, Oregon

Died: Sept. 11, 2002 in Las Vegas

Years as First Lady: 1959-67

In 1945, the Hoge family moved to Reno, where Bette's father, Earl, became purchasing agent for Harold's Club. He held that position

for the next 30 years. Bette was working in Reno when her cousin asked her to go on a blind date with a friend of his who had returned to Reno after WWII. That blind date resulted in a nearly 50-year marriage between Bette and Grant Sawyer.

In 1958, Grant was elected governor and served two terms. The Sawyers moved to Carson City in January 1959.

The project for which Bette will most be remembered will be her tireless research and photographs of all the wives of Nevada's governors. The photographs still hang in the mansion and have been added to as each new governor's wife comes into office. Bette opened that door, and most First Ladies have continued this practice.—*unr.edu/nwhp*



# RECOGNIZING RURAL GREATNESS

A number of women are recognized for their service at a recent event in Searchlight.

STORY & PHOTOS BY NANCY GOOD

What do a teacher, pilot, casino operator, opera singer, beautician, and childhood fan of Circus-Circus all have in common? They are the women recently recognized for their historic and community-changing contributions to three small Nevada towns.

During a year when Nevada celebrates its 150 years of statehood, a humble celebration took place in Searchlight on the afternoon of January 25. Sponsored by Women of Diversity Productions, Inc., this Nevada Women's Legacy - 150 Years of Excellence event honored Women's Contributions to Cal Nev Ari, Laughlin, and Searchlight.

When it comes to the metropolises of Las Vegas and Reno, it's generally easier to spot the women who are making a difference. They're mayors, city council members, congressional representatives, judges, CEOs of major corporations, and the like. But what about the groundbreaking actions of women in the vast rural expanses of this rough and tumble state?

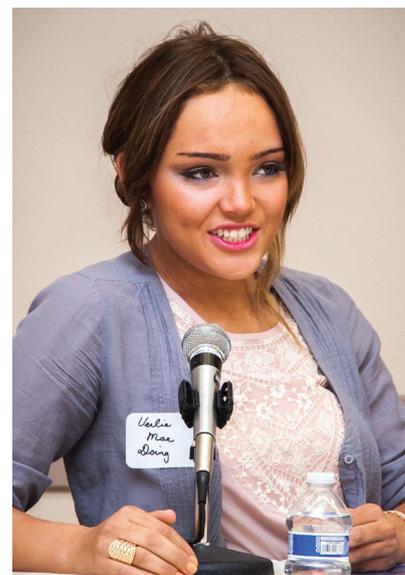
Nancy Kidwell, Verlie Doing, Jane Overy, Cheryl (Crow) Ellis, Dottie Lewis, and Deb Dauenhauer are representative of this special group of women. The list of accomplishments by these women is impressive: founding a town; spearheading the construction of community and senior centers, museums and libraries; developing and running a rural transit system (considered the No. 1 rural system in the country); creating programs for children to help them stay fed, clothed, educated, and healthy; building a church; providing legal help to get clear title for people with property claims; development of sewer, electricity, and water systems; creating pedestrian and equestrian trails; and supporting the elderly, the disabled, military, fire, and police departments.

To say this list is merely the tip of the iceberg is no exaggeration. And these women do it with a refined sense of stoicism and humor. Quoting Verlie Doing's granddaughter and namesake who attended the event on her behalf: "Even though she's in rehab for a recent injury, she told Jane Overy, 'Don't worry, I'll be there!'"

This response was in regards to attending the event to honor these dynamic women. This "can do" attitude has been key to every contribution. Rather than asking "why" something needed to be done, they saw what was needed and simply did the work.

Nevada thanks you.

Clockwise from top right: Jane Overy, Deb Dauenhauer, Verlie Mae Doing, Denise Gerdes, and Nancy Kidwell. The elder Verlie Doing was unable to attend, so her granddaughter (and namesake) spoke on her behalf. The other two ladies originally being honored, Dottie Lewis and Cheryl (Crow) Ellis, were also not in attendance.





## UPCOMING WOMEN'S HISTORY EVENTS

HISTORY TEA:  
CELEBRATING 150  
YEARS OF NEVADA  
WOMEN

**Governor's Mansion, Carson City**

Mar. 15 • [nevada150.org](http://nevada150.org), 775-883-1082

WOMEN IN HISTORY;  
100TH ANNIVERSARY  
OF WOMEN'S  
SUFFRAGE

**Carson Valley Museum & Cultural Center,  
Gardnerville**

Mar. 22 • [historicnevada.net](http://historicnevada.net), 775-782-2555

MESQUITE CLUB'S  
NEVADA  
SESQUICENTENNIAL  
CELEBRATION

**Mesquite Club, Las Vegas**

Apr. 6 • [mesquiteclub.com](http://mesquiteclub.com), 702-648-9415

HELEN STEWART  
BIRTHDAY TEA

**Old Las Vegas Mormon Fort, Las Vegas**

Apr. 12 • [friendsofthefort.org](http://friendsofthefort.org), 702-486-3511

Helen Stewart (background), whose legacy will be honored at the Old Las Vegas Mormon Fort on April 12, once lived in a ranch house that was rooted in an 1855 Mormon settlement. The original foundation and walls were used in the construction of the house that still stands today on the historic fort grounds. ▀



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## Phantom Photographer

I have a friend in Southern California, Tom Mahood, who has been involved in the radio-controlled model aircraft field for some time. A few years ago, he started to experiment with the use of multi-rotor unmanned aerial systems (UAS), or drones, to help him with his search-and-rescue efforts and other projects.

Tom would send me reports and images of his successes with these drones, and I saw how they would be another fantastic item in my collection of photography tools. I thought that having my own UAS would greatly supplement my land-based photography.

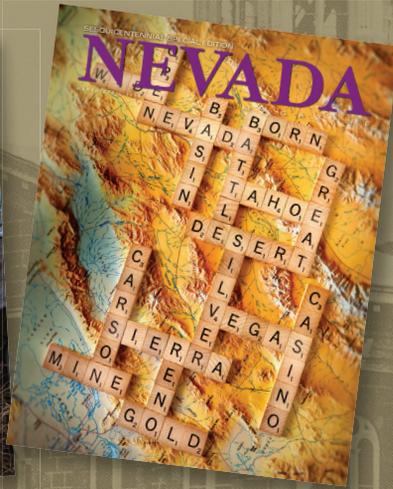
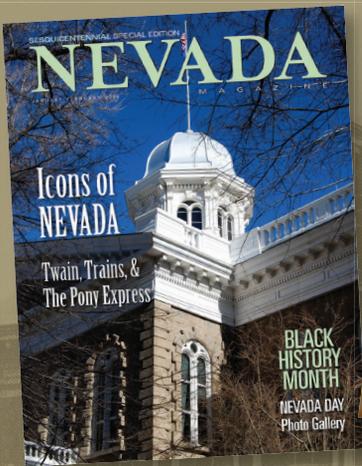
After researching the civilian drone market, I selected an entry-level quadcopter that can be successfully adapted to capture professional-quality aerial images. There was no major assembly or programming of the components. All I had to do was attach a camera, and suddenly I was taking stunning aerial photographs. Eighty-two flights later, I am still thrilled and amazed with the results.



Gardnerville photographer Jack Freer captured the large aerial image of The Paul Laxalt State Building in Carson City (home to *Nevada Magazine*) in January. To take such images, Freer uses a DJI Phantom drone (inset). He also utilized the Phantom to capture images of the Bison Fire in Carson Valley in summer 2013.

STORY & PHOTOS BY JACK FREER

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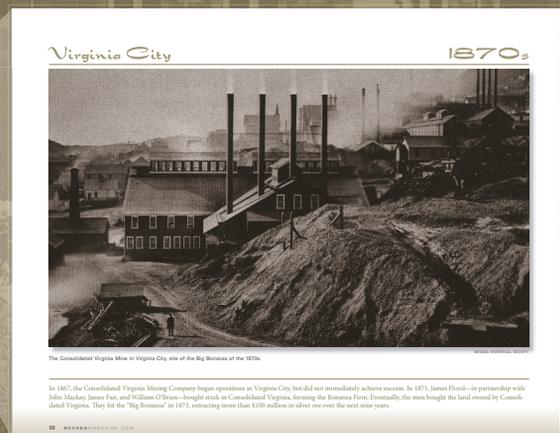
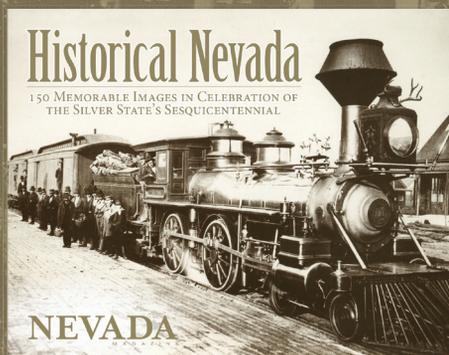
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MAGAZINE

A man in fishing gear is casting a fly rod in a river. He is wearing a green long-sleeved shirt, brown waders, a brown cap, and a patterned neck gaiter. The background is a blurred riverbank with trees. The text "DON'T FENCE ME IN." is overlaid on the image.

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