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# NEVADA

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# Editorial

*Nevada Magazine* published brush and ink drawings by famous Nevada artist Craig Sheppard as illustrations for stories in the September/October issue. By doing so, the magazine violated the copyright on the drawings, which the artist's widow, Yolande Sheppard, holds for the Sheppard family and heirs. Her permission should have preceded publication, but it did not. Additionally, the magazine printed only part of one drawing and violated the work's artistic spirit as well as its copyright.

*Nevada Magazine* regrets the violations, which were committed in error. The drawings form part of a portfolio of Sheppard's sumi drawings published by the University of Nevada Press in Reno, where he led and inspired the Art Department for many years. The University Press furnished a copy of the portfolio to *Nevada Magazine* for in-house review, a normal procedure for newly published works, but no drawing in the portfolio should have been used without permission from the copyright holder.

Sheppard's former colleague, UNR art professor James C. McCormick, notes in his excellent commentary that the portfolio's 12 drawings have seldom been exhibited. "While his public painting style often took dramatic turns," McCormick writes, "his sketchbook studies of western subjects served a private, more reflective role in his artistic life They reveal Sheppard's lifelong affection for the working ranch, horses, and the open range."

*—Caroline J. Hadley & The Editors*

*"Craig Sheppard: Western Drawings in Brush and Ink," with commentary by James C. McCormick, is available from the University of Nevada Press, Reno, NV. 89557. Edition limited to one thousand sets. $25 per set.*



**Five Horses by Craig Sheppard**

# Letters

### Pass the Chicken

Article in Sept/Oct Nevada Magazine on Plankinton ill-timed, inappropriate, inexcusable and possibly illegal. Suggest editor would be more comfortable working for Hustler or Stag.

Jim Clark, President
Pahrump Valley C of C

Congratulations on printing "Rooster of the Chicken Ranch" (Sept/Oct). It deals with an issue that should be in every state, re: legalized prostitution. While you only described Walter Plankinton's operations in Pahrump, there are others in your great state that should be highly praised. Their businesses contribute significantly to the reduction of VD, rape and unwanted pregnancies. The Silver State has a history of legalizing good laws and this is one of them. I hope Nevada Magazine has a wide enough circulation so that other state legislators can read it and get their laws started. Keep up the good work with your wonderfully diversified articles and photos and especially those of that writer Harry Webb.

Frank Phillipson,
Los Angeles, CA.

I liked the Sept/Oct issue better than others for several reasons. It was about a breed of men I can appreciate—cowpokes. You had a story called "Old Spook," by Harry Webb, that was the best I've ever read about a man and a horse. Next I enjoyed "The Rooster of the Chicken Ranch," mainly because it faces up to the facts of life and is not afraid to say it like it is.

Good for you! We need more people with the guts to tell truth about life! Keep up the good work and a damn fine magazine.

Jim Britt
Glendale, CA.

George Larson's article of the world's oldest pastime was amusing and informative. Come on, you remaining 49 states, let's legalize "public convenience" and help clean up the spread of venereal disease.

Lorraine Thims
Arcadia, CA.

Please cancel my subscription to your magazine. I thought we were ordering a family magazine instead we get pages of a brothel this we don't need.

Chas. Belz
Las Vegas, NV

### True Journalism

Congratulations on your refreshing and thoroughly decent story on the Chicken Ranch (Sept/Oct). When we first came to Nevada forty-odd years ago, things were casual, unselfconscious and wide-open and with a nice backcountry, frontier feeling. We liked it that way, and so did our friends. Mention of houses of prostitution had no different an emphasis than mention of casinos. Your Chicken Ranch story recalls those long-lost days, and we believe it is handled with dignity and understanding, humor and humanity. Thank you.

E. W. W. Greil
Washoe County

We have been a subscriber to Nevada Magazine since 1954 off and on. We have seen great changes in the development of the state, and the advancement of the casinos, both in Tahoe and Las Vegas. But of late your articles of pioneer men and women sure hold our interest. A.D. Hopkins' story of Benny Binion's struggle, and of the life-style and philosophy of Fred Dressler's self-reliance by Warren Lerude (Sept/Oct) sure warmed the cockles of our hearts. This is true journalism.

Hurley A. Luke
Morro Bay, CA.

### Harmony, East & West

It was a total delight to see the sumi drawings of Craig Sheppard scattered throughout your Sept/Oct issue, especially "Old Spook." This Japanese art form blended so harmoniously into a Western setting that I was amazed.

Strictly as a retirement hobby, I have begun to study and practice Sumi-E, "One Brush Ink Painting," and find it most fascinating. Would it be possible to find out more about Craig Sheppard? I wish I could have seen his show at Stremmel Galleries in Reno. Is it still possible to obtain a brochure or program from them which might give his background?

Thank you from a devoted and admiring reader.

Mrs. Dorothy H. Gill
San Francisco, CA.

*Gill, your best bet is to buy the portfolio, "Craig Sheppard: Western Drawings in Brush and Ink," which can be ordered direct from the University Press in Reno (see page 4)—Ed.*

Some of the letters you print don't know


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a good magazine when they see it. I think it's great.

T. R. Pinnell
Fallon, NV

### White Pine Cowboy

On page 11 (Sept/Oct) entitled "The Legend" appears a photo of an early day cowboy from the UNR Special Collections Library.

I was amazed at how much the photo resembled my father, but it wasn't until I received a letter from my cousin, Lyndon Crane Allen in Gunter, Texas, in which he told me it was my father, Clarence Leslie Rowe, that it was confirmed! He has an identical photo given him by our



Uncle Charles D. Gallagher. The picture was taken about 1900 on the W. Crane Gallagher Ranch, also known as the Duck Creek Ranch, about 5 miles north of the present town of McGill. My father was just a "tender-foot" who had come to his uncle's ranch from the East because of his health.

The collection of early photographs of State Senator Charles D. Gallagher was presented to the UNR Special Collections Library. He was a photographer in Ely for many years. He died in 1977 at the age of 90.

Ruth Rowe Duffy
Goldfield, NV.

### Two For '82

I'm ordering two 1982 calendars as gifts for friends. Since there's no way you'll send the calendars as gifts under my name, I'll hafta do it me'self.

Walt Thayer
Wenatchee, WA.

*If you will enclose their names with your full name and address, with a check, we certainly will mail the calendars.—Ed.*

### Rag Scandalous: Deport The Editor

For some time it has occurred to me that Nevada's image, indeed, its future depends on what people outside the state think of us. When I refer to "us," I mean just that.

It would appear the pomp and outrageous hard-sell (at our expense) ap-

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proach of the state's only "industry" has systematically taken over the magazine, and primarily since there has been encouragement to a conspiring English exile from Birmingham are we forever embarrassed as the magazine has turned from a simple, straightforward commentary on Nevadans (sans the casino clowns), to a scandalous rag devoted to showgirls, so-called entertainers, M-M-Mel, and others devoted to our state's "only" industry.

I'm sure you actually believe you are doing a bang-up job, jolly well and all that. Old girl, I will certainly do everything in my power to help you on your way back to Great Britain. A Nevadan you are not!

Martin Bonetti
Dayton, NV.

### Heavenly Reader

This letter is written to ask a favor. My mother passed away last November and enjoyed your magazine very much. I lived with her the past seven years and we had a race as to who got your magazine first. My mother now reads it over my shoulder and is watching us both. So now the favor: please change the sub from Ellen Holler to:

Gerald Danielson
Sacramento, CA.

### Truckee Riverboats

I've often thought it would be nice, if possible, to use the Truckee River as a waterway or unique transportation to MGM or Harrah's Car Show. I enjoy the river and would not want to see it spoiled from its beauty. A boat ride to those destinations would be a tourist delight. Another thought is an outdoor sidewalk cafe in a quiet inconspicuous but convenient location for a relaxing cup of coffee. We have been vacationing in Reno for the last 15 years and enjoy the town very much.

Mrs. R. J. Duxbury
Seattle, WA.

I couldn't find a decent picture of a Mountain Blue Bird while I was teaching for 20 years. The State Museum had none. As it is our state bird, I would appreciate a page size picture of one in color, in your publication.

Thelma Flike
Reno, NV.

*Sorry, we haven't found one good enough either.—Ed.*

On page 15 of your Sept/Oct issue there is a picture I would love to have. The photo was taken by Linda Dufurrena, is in the center of the page, and is of a little lamb. I love lambs and take a lamb to 4-H every year. Would you please send me this photo? Thank you a whole lot.

Tracy List
Lovelock, NV

*Linda is sending you the photograph.—Ed.*

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PEOPLE

# The Duke of Nevada

**Norman Biltz, supersalesman and Nevada political power, knew how to make the best of every hand he was dealt.**

**By Guy Shipler**

At the age of 25 Norman Biltz had already made enough money to drive to his new job at Lake Tahoe in his own Rolls-Royce. And his instincts told him northern Nevada in 1927 was ripe for marketing. He proved himself right. During the next five years, as head of a real estate force for a San Francisco promoter, Biltz demonstrated a masterful sales touch, selling scores of shoreline lots at $500 a pop.

But he was determined to make good on his own. By 1932 he had bought up some 45,000 acres along 27 miles of the Nevada side of the lake, intending to resell and earn himself another fortune. That same year, however, saw the Great Depression hit bottom, dragging down such luxury items as Lake Tahoe lots with it. Even supersalesman Biltz was having a bad year. And when he was reduced to selling one block of lots at $6 each, Norman Biltz got mad: he would make the Depression work for him. For Biltz, challenges invigorated life and made it worth living. He'd succeed no matter what.

He managed so well in the next few years that he became not only a multi-millionaire but also an economic and political kingpin in Nevada. He wielded such power that he and a group of friends were able to curb growth in northern Nevada and get their taxation theories written into the state constitution. Even today, Biltz receives credit—or blame—for Reno's slow growth while Las Vegas boomed into a virtual synonym for Nevada.

It wasn't just his determination and a genius for making money that got Biltz to that stage; it was also his warm, attractive personality. His stepson John Nash, who worked closely with Biltz, says that Biltz was skilled at keeping his enemies to a minimum and his profits to a maximum: "Norm knew how to make the best of every hand he was dealt."

**Biltz and real estate partner Henry F. Bennett stand in fields of plenty. Biltz loved ranching and persuaded friends to buy many of the ranches he had gotten cheap during the Depression.**



PHOTOS COURTESY UNR SPECIAL COLLECTIONS LIBRARY

In the dark year of 1932 Biltz reasoned that despite the economic doldrums there still were plenty of rich people in the land. He knew, too, that the world's wealthy would seek ways to keep as much of their money as they could. One way would be to find a tax haven, and Norman Biltz had one ready-made—the state of Nevada. At that time, Nevada did not have a sales tax. More important for Biltz's strategy, it had no inheritance tax, no gift tax and—above all—no tax on such important intangibles to the wealthy as securities and bank accounts.

On that foundation Biltz constructed a careful recruiting plan. His ultimate goal was to sell property in Nevada not as real estate, but as legal residences. He drew up a select list of names—about 200 Americans known to have personal fortunes exceeding $5 million. He made his pitch to the people on that list by showing them how they could save impressive amounts of money by making Nevada their legal home.

His first catch came hard. His first visitor—Chicago advertising executive Robert L. Stack—turned out to be crip-



**Pin-striped and all smiles, Senator Pat McCarran and Biltz beam at each other. McCarran guarded the state's interests in Washington, D.C., while Biltz managed affairs at home.**

pled. Biltz wanted him to see firsthand property that was a mile from the road. Undaunted, Biltz carried Stack on his back through late winter snows. "I needed the dough," Biltz later recalled. "I wasn't going to stop at anything."

It worked. Impressed with Biltz's silver-tongued spiel, Lake Tahoe and the property itself, Stack shelled out $35,000 for a couple of those $6 lots and established legal residence in Nevada.

Biltz never had to resort to such strenuous measures again. Over the next few years, he brought between 50 and 60 millionaires to the northern part of the state. Extensive research gave him an encyclopedic knowledge of tax laws of other states and a thorough knowledge of the foibles and preferences of his prospects.

"When any of these people were persuaded to look at Tahoe," Biltz said later, "I already knew their likes, dislikes, whims and secret needs. And after making the sale, I worked even harder to keep them happy."

Among those he kept happy enough to remain as permanent residents were such millionaires as Jello heir O.F. Woodward, A.K. Bourne of the Singer Sewing Machine family, yeast king Major Max C. Fleischmann, auto magnate E. L. Cord and the *Salt Lake City Tribune's* Kearns family.

Not all the land he sold them was at Lake Tahoe. Biltz lured some of his millionaires with the romance of ranching until they bought the thousands of acres of Nevada ranchland that he had acquired almost for nothing during the Depression. Among the purchasers were Fleischmann, Hugh Auchincloss, Cord and Nevada banker Carl Wente. Biltz even sold Bing Crosby a 100,000-acre spread in Elko County for $300,000.

Before he was through with this massive bit of business, Biltz had disposed of 90 percent of the ranches that had been in receivership and got them back on the tax rolls. Some of the ranches flourished beyond even Biltz's always high expectations. One example was the conversion of some 15,000 acres of Lovelock Valley land. That alone, in mid-Depression, raised the per-acre value from $4 to $400.

In his early days Norman Biltz seemed destined to become a drifter rather than a businessman with the Midas touch. Born in Bridgeport, Connecticut, on July 6, 1902, Biltz grew up as an only child and a rebellious student. His contractor father shipped him off to Peekskill Military Academy on New York's Hudson River, hoping to shape him up. Instead, young Biltz played hooky so often that he was kicked out. In defiance of his angry father, the 17-year-old promptly got married and moved to New York City, where he took a job as a skating instructor at the Iceland Rink.

Neither the job nor the marriage lasted, so he headed west.

Biltz reached California broke. He held a string of pocket-money jobs—dishwasher in a cafeteria, movie extra, stevedore, strikebreaker on the waterfront, salesman for Rubberset shaving brushes. Two other jobs turned out to be of special significance. One was as a wiper and fireman on Dollar Line steamships, where Biltz made up his mind to meet the owner, Stanley Dollar. He did—and many years later they became partners in the building of Reno's Holiday Hotel.

The other big job was as a selling agent for a number of high-quality products, including Caron perfumes. At age 20, Biltz found a partner and set up shop in San Francisco. A year later, in 1923, Biltz and his partner employed 120 salesmen along the West Coast. By the end of that year the two men had cleared $200,000. Biltz bought his first Rolls-Royce, using it to commute to work.

Then one day Biltz stepped out of his Rolls, walked into his office and found that his partner had blown the firm's funds at the races—and the company owed the bank $40,000. Biltz paid off every cent within five years. He had settled down enough to appreciate his natural abilities. With the partnership debacle behind him, he went to work for a San Francisco real estate agent. Through this contact he eventually got to Lake Tahoe. From then on, Nevada was his home and his fortune.

Biltz came to love more than the land. In 1930, he married Esther Auchincloss Nash, granddaughter of one of the founders of Standard Oil and an aunt of Jackie Kennedy Onassis. Esther was in Reno for a divorce when she met Biltz, who had been freed of his second marriage two years earlier. Theirs was a happy marriage, with two daughters, and it lasted until Biltz's death 43 years later.

In the 1930s his interests and influence continued to expand. He built the Crystal Bay Lodge and later acquired the Cal-Neva near the California border at Tahoe's north shore. When the Cal-Neva burned in 1937, Biltz and associates had the resort ready to reopen in just 35 days.

In 1939, Biltz helped found Security National Bank. In 1948, he sold his interest in the bank and bought more than half of Donner Lake. By the early 1950s, he had become one of Nevada's biggest ranchers with land along the Humboldt River near Lovelock and leased land in California. He was running 14,000 head of cattle and was a large producer of alfalfa and other crops.

This activity brought him national attention. A 1953 *Time* Magazine story described Biltz as "self-made, baronial-

minded Mr. Big." A year later *Fortune* came out with a feature entitled "Norman Biltz, Duke of Nevada." Calling him "by far the most important businessman in Nevada," *Fortune* explained: "What makes Norman Biltz so important is not what he has, or even what he can call on; it is his enormous personal influence over all sorts of business enterprises, conducted by all sorts of people, practically everywhere in Nevada. Biltz can call the tune."

Biltz knew how to handle people. John Nash recalls an example: "Norm didn't believe in the 'hand-out' type of loan. You know, $50 here, $100 there. When his secretary would announce that so-and-so wanted to see him for a moment, Norm instinctively knew what it was about, and he would call me in from the adjoining office to be with him until the fellow left.

"It never took long. The fellow would see me, pass the time of day for five minutes and leave. When I realized what he was doing, I understood one of Norm's great qualities. He never made an enemy by saying no, because the question was never asked."

But he did make enemies in other ways. An early adversary was *Las Vegas Sun* publisher Hank Greenspun, who told *Fortune* that "Norman Henry Biltz has the habit of talking as if he owned this state—as if it were his own little duchy, which he has to protect, for which he has to plan, and scheme, and work."

**"Critics still believe Reno could have grown like Las Vegas if it hadn't been for Norman Biltz."**

Much criticism came from the belief that Biltz was selfish and undemocratic. He wanted the state to grow only in a slow, orderly manner, and that rankled many Nevadans—especially those who could see a lot of gold in growth. By refusing to sell key areas of real estate, no matter how great the offer, Biltz could prevent even mild growth. Now, eight years after his death, critics still believe Reno could have grown like Las Vegas if it hadn't been for Norman Biltz.

Biltz's power derived not just from wealth and economic diversity, but from political strength. Biltz developed it over the years more as a logical outgrowth of his expanding financial empire than as a deliberate effort. By the 1950s he had such political clout that many felt he controlled the state from behind the scenes.

In those days Nevada's top politician was white-haired, ultra-conservative U.S. Senator Pat McCarran. Although from the nation's least-populated state, this parochial patriarch enjoyed remarkable power in Washington. Hated and feared by Eastern liberals, McCarran was idolized by Nevada's conservative majority. He kept his constituents aware that he was dedicated to the principle of keeping Nevada "a nice place to live."

Norman Biltz agreed perfectly. Although he was a Republican and McCarran a Democrat, they made a formidable team. "Their combined economic and political power in Nevada is close to absolute," *Fortune* said. While McCarran worked on the national scene, Biltz promoted their views on the state level, keeping growth slow, stable and selective. His influence went a long way. He befriended one of his millionaire imports, E.L. Cord, who had bought ranch property in Esmeralda County. Biltz and his co-workers got Cord elected as one of the 17 state senators. With the help of Biltz's friend John Mueller, a powerful lobbyist, Cord was more influential than any other senator.

Through such connections, Biltz fulfilled a promise he had made long before to his millionaire customers: the state's taxation laws would always be favorable to legal residents. The Biltz group persuaded the legislature to streamline the state's tax laws and write the most im-

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portant ones into the state constitution, where they remain today.

Norman Biltz seemed never to experience a serious setback, no matter what business he entered. He bought up Nevada oil leases and Utah lands that he figured (correctly) would yield uranium, owned hot springs near Reno and dabbled in gold and borax mines.

Whenever disaster loomed, Biltz's genius for business found a way to turn it into success, just as he had done during the Depression. When he was almost ready to open Reno's $5 million Holiday Hotel, his partner, Stanley Dollar, announced that he would not have his name associated with gambling. The loss of Dollar's backing threatened to ruin the project.

John Nash recalls, "Norm immediately saw an opportunity to benefit from this devastating development. He let the newspapers know from coast to coast that he was opening a hotel in Reno, Nevada, which would not have gambling. The columnists shouted, 'The fool, he'll never make it!'

"Six months or so later, Norm found a lessee for the gambling in Newt Crumley of Elko. He convinced Stanley Dollar that this arrangement would remove both their names from gambling. He then let the newspapers know that gambling was going into the hotel. The same columnists shouted in glee, 'See, we told you you couldn't make it!'

"Norm smiled. He had benefited from a million dollars' worth of publicity at no cost."

But his continual success, his ability "to make the best of every hand he was dealt," finally took the challenge out of life. And when challenge was gone, life lost its appeal for Biltz.

"There were no more mountains to climb," one friend remembers. "He ran out of things to do." So despite success and a happy marriage, Norman Biltz ended his own life with a shotgun on July 3, 1973, at the age of 71.

But a man like Norman Biltz is not remembered so much for beginnings or endings as for his conduct during the height of his career. And Biltz was known as a decent, scrupulously honest, personable man whose sense of humor could include himself.

John Nash recalls such an instance:

"An acquaintance of Norm's from Idaho came into his office one day and asked a rather amazing question. He said, 'Norm, what is your secret of success? I'd like to use the same formula in Idaho.'

"Norm looked at him, more amused than annoyed, and answered, 'Be right 51 percent of the time.'" □

*Guy Shipler of Carson City is a Time/Life correspondent, newspaper columnist and frequent Nevada contributor.*




Julia Bulette by Angie Whitson. Approximately 15" plus base.
Edition of 25 Bronze with Sterling Silver Appointment Book.

Julia Bulette, born in England of French parentage, at an early age moved to New Orleans with her family; but in 1859 she migrated to Virginia City, Nevada. She quickly became one of the most popular and expensive "Ladies of the Evening" the West ever had. Her clients consisted of bankers, wealthy silver miners, mayors and big time cattlemen; but her steady boyfriend was the Chief of the Volunteer Fireman's Brigade # 1. Julia had another side and she donated heavily to charitable organizations; they made her an honorary fireman, and when a fever epidemic fell upon the town, she turned her brothel into a temporary hospital; she even sold her prized furs and jewels to purchase food and clothing for the stricken. However, misfortune struck, and in 1867 she was murdered by a thief. The women of the town would not permit her to be buried in hallowed ground: So she was interred 200 yards from the cemetery, on a hill, in a conspicuous spot where her grave could be seen from a local saloon. Two thousand persons attended her funeral, all of them men and her tombstone marker was the head of her bed.

(This engraved plaque is on the back of each headboard)

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HARRY UPSON

# PYRAMID'S CUTTHROAT MYSTIQUE

**While legal storms howl over the famous desert lake, the fishing remains spectacular. Old timers say the casting is best when it's cold enough to snow. By Michael Greenan**

Thirty miles north of Reno on State Highway 33 lies one of the most startling sights in the State of Nevada: Pyramid Lake. Often called the most beautiful desert lake in the world, Pyramid doesn't get your attention—it demands it. After a 40-minute drive through a high desert area whose beauty is generally lost to the highway traveler, the sudden appearance of over 160 square miles of brightly colored water is astonishing.

But Pyramid is much more than a huge body of water in an unlikely setting; it is an area rich in history, abundant in wildlife, and embroiled in controversy.

The lake's history, in geologic and human terms, is relatively short. It is one of a few remaining puddles that were once part of Lake Lahontan, formed in the Pleistocene epoch about 70,000 years ago by the last glaciers of the Ice Age. At times ancient Lake Lahontan covered over 8,000 square miles; it may have dried up completely.

Archeologists believe that at least three different prehistoric cultures inhabited the area in the last 11,000 years. The most recent of these, the people of the Lovelock Culture, arrived about 4,000 years ago and lived in caves above the lake. Wearing clothes made from pelican skins and mammal pelts, they stored food, constructed stone piles and breakwaters, made fishnets and designed jewelry. It is possible that the Lovelock Culture people are the direct ancestors of the Northern Paiutes, who have lived in the area for the last several hundred years.

Pyramid Lake was named by John C. Fremont, who stumbled upon the lake in January 1844. Fremont was looking for the Buenaventura River, which was thought to cross the Great Basin from the Rockies to the Pacific, and his log shows that he was impressed by at least three features: First, there was the lake itself, which "broke upon our eyes like the ocean." Then a few days later he refers to a "very remarkable rock in the lake which presented a pretty exact outline of the great Pyramid of Cheops." And, after eating "salmon-trout" (Lahontan cutthroat) two to four feet long, he judges their flavor to be "superior to that of any fish I have ever known."

The Lahontan cutthroat that Fremont found so tasty have long been the desert lake's most famous product. These fish and the cui-ui, a large sucker found only in Pyramid, have been a staple of the local Indians' diet for hundreds of years. After the white men arrived, the cutthroat were harvested commercially, and in the early part of this century as much as 10 to 15 tons of trout were being shipped out each week. During the '20s Pyramid was a favorite fishing spot for celebrities such as Clark Gable and Herbert Hoover, and in 1925 the world record Lahontan cutthroat was caught by a Paiute name John Skimmerhorn. It weighed 41 pounds.



The wind kicks up dust and shoves water-laden clouds over Pyramid. The lake's weather can be serene one moment, wild the next.



DAVID MUENCH





BOB GOODMAN PHOTOS

Three white pelicans patrol in tight formation as a dozen more land on Anaho Island, a 750-acre wildlife refuge. A 500-foot no-boating zone protects the island from human disturbance. But the rest of the lake is open for fishing or lazy drifting.

Fish up to 60 pounds were caught but not officially recorded.

Today the fish are neither as large nor as plentiful, but Pyramid still delights and challenges all types of fishermen. Trollers are probably most successful because they cover more territory and they can fish year-round. During the summer the surface temperature of the lake reaches 78 degrees, forcing the fish to the deeper, cooler parts of the lake. According to Stan Williams, Tribal Game Warden, summertime trollers fishing depths of 100 to 110 feet have some success. But Pyramid is at its best during the colder months of the year when the fish come closer to the surface and the shoreline. The best months—for trollers, spincasters and fly fishermen—seem to be from October through April, and this is consistent with the Pyramid Lake Oldtimer's Rule: the fishing is good if it's cold enough to snow.

Trollers can put their boats in at the

# Anaho Island's Pelican Sanctuary

**The island is home to white pelicans, crested cormorants and great blue herons—unless it becomes a peninsula.**

Anaho Island lies a few hundred yards off the southern shore of Pyramid Lake, near the Pyramid. In 1913, President Woodrow Wilson set it aside as a preserve and breeding ground for birdlife. It is now a barren, sandy 750-acre National Wildlife Refuge that is home for white pelicans, crested cormorants and great blue herons. Gulls, ducks, hawks, owls, hummingbirds, sparrows, mountain bluebirds, marbled godwits, loggerhead shrikes and even dark-eyed juncoes have also been observed on the island.

The island and a no-boat zone within 500 yards of the shoreline have been closed to the public to protect the colonies of nesting birds. Even the noise of a passing boat can frighten a nesting white pelican, causing it to leave its nest. The eggs and young birds can then die from overheating in the summer, or they may be eaten by the voracious gulls which also inhabit the island.

The greatest danger to the birdlife on Anaho is the declining water level of Pyramid Lake. The lake's surface has dropped more than 70 feet since the turn of the century. If this continues, the shallow channel of water between Anaho and the eastern shoreline will dry up, making Anaho a peninsula. Predators such as coyotes and bobcats would then have access to the nesting colonies and it is unlikely the birds would survive.—*MG*




**Catching strings of 20- to 40-pound cutthroats was child's play in the 1920s. The huge trout were so common that people referred to them as "them damn things." The cutthroats are not as plentiful or large as they once were, but the fishing is still great.**

Sutcliffe landing on the west side of the lake. During the winter months most boat fishermen work close to shore and troll in approximately 40 feet of water. Only artificial lures can be used by non-tribal members at Pyramid, and torpedoes and flatfish on 14-pound line are the most popular.

Although Pyramid has a reputation for being a dangerous lake, it is no more dangerous than any other large body of water. Weather conditions should be watched carefully, though, because high winds and high waves can come up quickly. And remember to dress warmly: thermal underwear, wool socks, gloves and cap, down parka, handwarmer—anything that can keep you warm in subfreezing weather while sitting in a boat waiting for the big one to hit.

Shore fishermen generally try anywhere from Sutcliffe down to the delta at the south end of the lake where the Truckee River trickles in. Both spin and fly fishermen cast out to where the lake bed drops off into the deeper water. Although it is sometimes possible to reach this area from shore, insulated chest waders give the shore fishermen much more range. Spin-casters find torpedoes and flatfish to be the most effective lures.

> **"The big fish were so common people would say, "Oh, them damn things."**

The dean of northern Nevada fly fishermen, Mid Lipera, recommends a nine-foot rod with sinking line and a wooly worm or a white streamer jerked along the bottom for fly fishers. Lipera, who lives in Sparks in the house he was born in 71 years ago, has been fly fishing the Truckee River and Pyramid Lake for over 50 years. He is well known in the area for his hand-made fly rods and hand-tied flies, including the original Truckee River Special. Recalling the days when Indians with a horse and buggy would come through his neighborhood selling 10- to 20-pound trout for a dollar apiece in the morning and 50 cents in the afternoon, Lipera says the big fish were so common that people, instead of being impressed by their size, would scoff, "Oh, them damn things."

Lipera says conditions are right at Pyramid when "a little ice forms on your line and there's a slight ripple on the lake." On a good day he'll catch and release 15 to 20 fish.

Fishing and boat permits can be purchased at the Tribal Ranger Office at Sutcliffe. Fishing permits cost $4 per day

NEVADA HISTORICAL SOCIETY




or $12 for the season, which runs from June 1 to May 31. (A Nevada state fishing license is also required.) Fishing limits are two trout or five Sacramento perch. Trout must be at least 18 inches long to keep. Boat permits are $3 daily and $20 for the season, which runs from December 1 to November 30.

Permits to camp anywhere along the lake can also be bought at the Ranger Office for $3 per vehicle. At Warrior Point, a few miles north of Sutcliffe, there is a developed campground with showers, restrooms and barbecues. Washoe County operates the facility with no charge for day use and $3 per vehicle per night for camping.

Readers who want to learn more about Pyramid should read *The Desert Lake* by Sessions Wheeler (Caxton Printers, Ltd. Caldwell, Idaho). □

*Michael Greenan of Reno is a freelance writer and dedicated fisherman.*

# The Incredible Shrinking Lake

## Fish make a comeback while the water stays in court.

Pyramid Lake changed permanently in 1905 when Derby Dam was constructed on the Truckee River between Wadsworth and Sparks. The dam was built as part of the Newlands Project by the Bureau of Reclamation to divert water from the Truckee to Lahontan Reservoir for agricultural purposes. Unfortunately, the dam also prevented the cutthroat and cui-ui from going upstream to spawn. Before Derby Dam the cutthroat had been able to swim all the way up the Truckee River and into Lake Tahoe and the streams that feed it. This vast system of streams and gravel beds allowed the great fish to spawn successfully.

But the dam reduced the flow of the Truckee, and the fish could not get up the river except during extremely wet years. Even then they couldn't get past Derby Dam since it had no fishways. The cui-ui, tough old fish that they are, survived, but by the 1930s the original Lahontan cutthroat were gone.

Now, because of the efforts of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Pyramid Lake Indian Tribal Enterprises, both the cui-ui and the cutthroat —close relatives to the original Pyramid cutthroats—are becoming common once again. Marble Bluff Dam and the Pyramid Lake Fishway were constructed to provide the fish with access to the river without having to negotiate the shallow delta area where the Truckee originally flowed into the lake. Hatcheries have been built at Sutcliffe and on the Truckee between Wadsworth and Nixon. The success of these operations, however, depends upon a guaranteed flow of water in the river. The Truckee has been dammed and diverted several times along its 100-mile journey from Lake Tahoe to Pyramid Lake, and now only a trickle reaches Pyramid Lake.

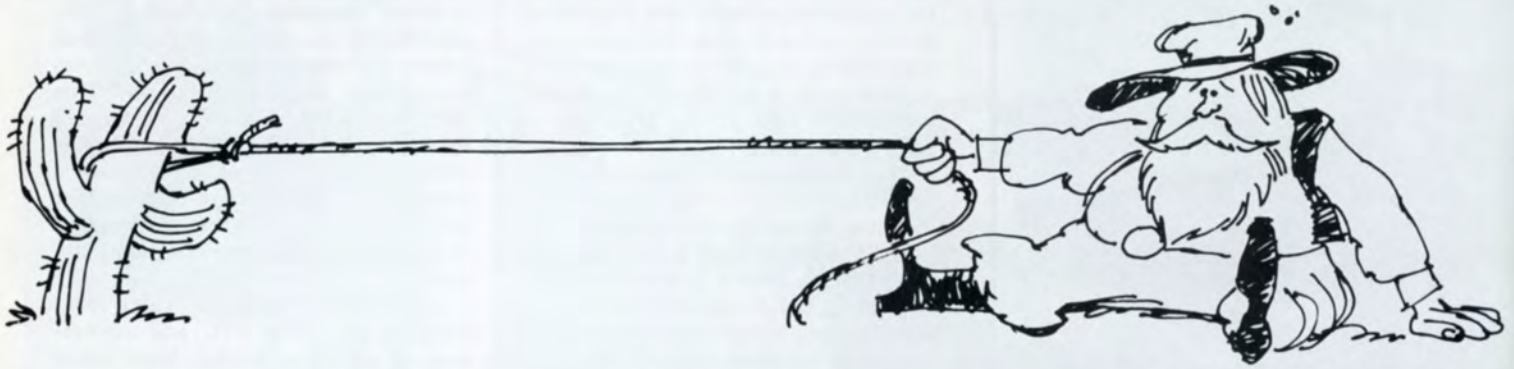
What happens to a desert lake deprived of its regular inflow of fresh water? Results can be seen at Winnemucca Lake, just east of Pyramid. This lake was a well known waterfowl hunting area in the 1800s and early 1900s. In fact it was designated a National Wildlife Refuge in 1936. But in 1938, 33 years after the construction of Derby Dam, it became permanently dry.

Since 1904, Pyramid's water level has dropped 73.4 feet, and several lawsuits involving Truckee River water rights are being argued currently in court. The Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe, the Department of the Interior, the Truckee Carson Irrigation District, the Carson Truckee Water Conservancy District, Sierra Pacific Power Company and other downstream users are all trying to establish water rights. The outcome of these cases will be critical to the survival of Pyramid Lake.—*MG*

BILL GERMINO



# A Nevada Christmas Roundup



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**By Roger Smith**

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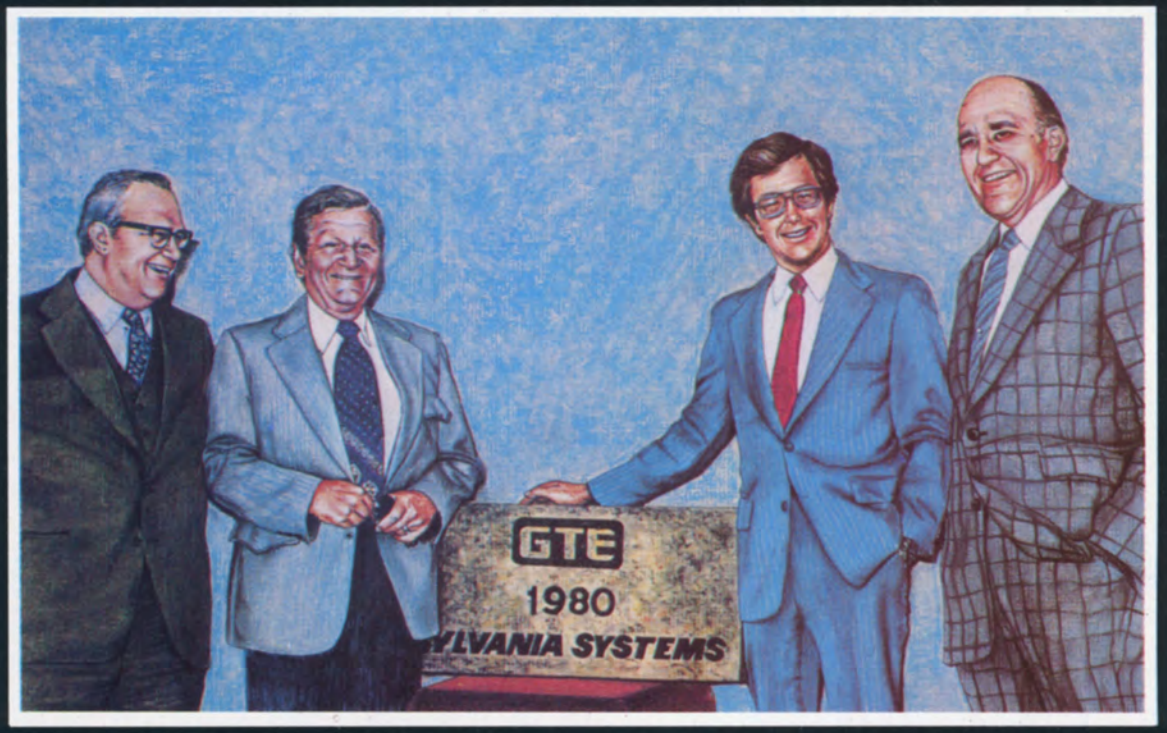
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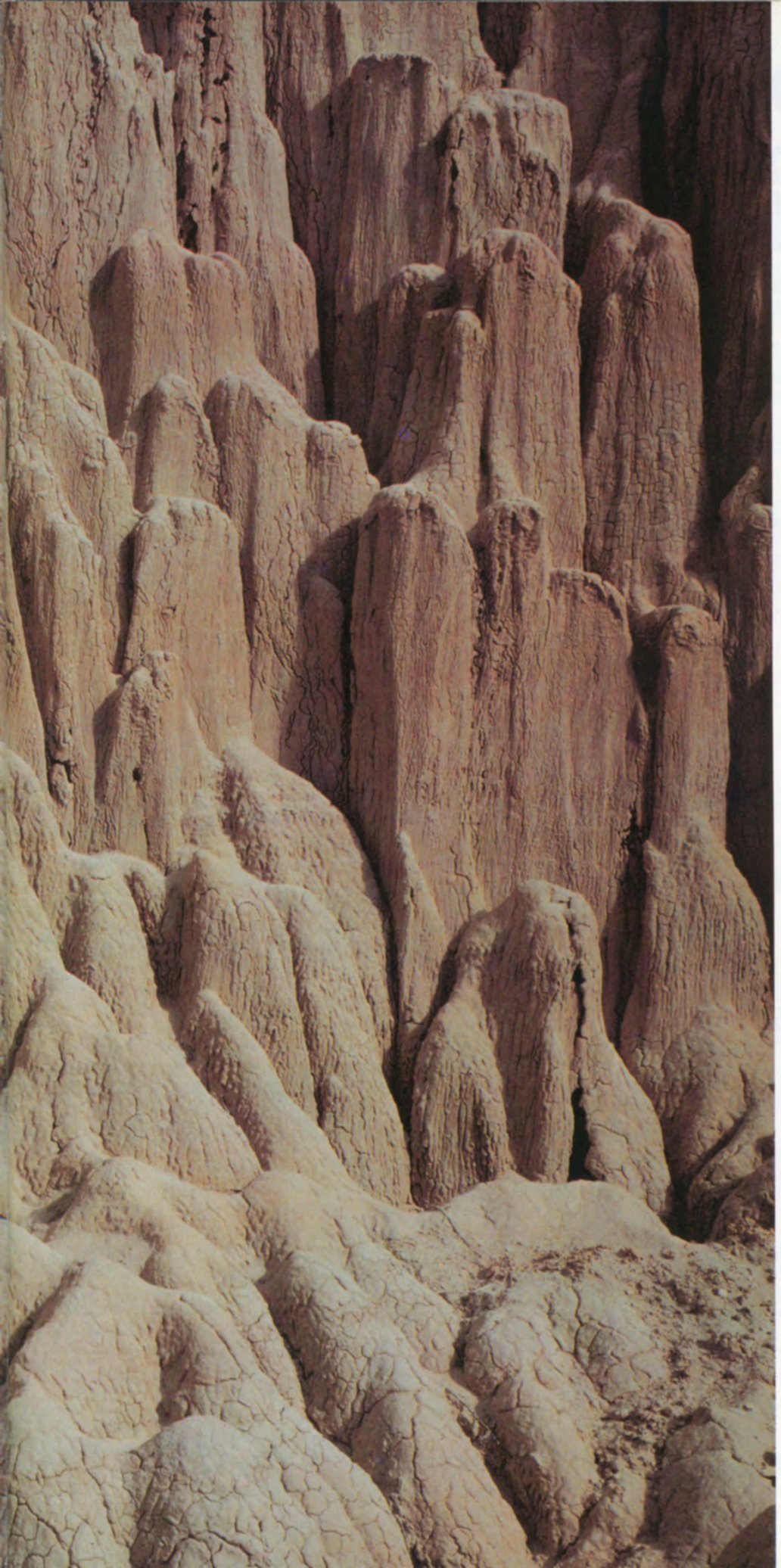
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# Muench's Gallery

The relentless erosion of wind and water moulds monuments. In Cathedral Gorge State Park, west of Panaca, a cast wall of tan bentonite clay bakes in the sun. Grooved and spired, the rock formations resemble the pointed arches and rib-vaulting of a Gothic cathedral. But the earth's towering walls are far more ancient and monumental than any human architecture.

The park's panoramic overlooks and shaded campgrounds afford visitors a comfortable view of the rocks of ages.—*RS*

*David Muench enjoys showing what he calls "a spirit of place" in his work. Muench, one of the West's great landscape photographers, presents selections from his Nevada portfolio in each issue.*

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YESTERDAY

# The Six-Week Cure



**Fifty years ago Nevada struck gold with its innovative divorce law, and Easterners flocked west to get Reno-vated.**
**By Susan Horton**

The Overland Limited grinds to a halt in Reno on a cool summer night. A well-dressed woman steps down from the train, hoping to be unnoticed. Other passengers walking up and down the platform wonder aloud if she is "one of them." She feels as if she has a contagious disease. Anxious and a little embarrassed, she looks around and finally spots the handsome, suntanned cowboy who will whisk her away to a dude ranch. She will spend the next six weeks there trying to forget her marital woes while taking the cure.

The cure was divorce and the scene a familiar one in Reno during the 1930s. In March 1931, the Nevada legislature shocked the nation when it not only legalized gambling in the state, but reduced the residency requirement for divorce from three months to six weeks. The combination of wide-open gambling, a short waiting period and sympathetic judges was a powerful magnet. Men and women were drawn to Nevada from around the country, lured by the promise of quick and easy divorce.

Nevada began to realize the possibilities of establishing a divorce trade in 1906, when Mrs. William Ellis Corey, wife of the Pittsburgh steel millionaire, sued for divorce in Reno. When Mrs. Corey revealed that her husband's attentions had been directed toward a young actress, the ensuing scandal attracted worldwide publicity. Actress Mary Pickford's 1920 divorce from Owen Moore in Minden focused more attention upon the state. The Corey and Pickford decrees gave a fashionable tone to Nevada divorce. Wealthy Easterners who made the trek found their domestic difficulties could be ended after establishing a residency of only six months. Nevada was the only state to offer such a quick relief.

> **"One wife complained that her husband caused her great embarrassment when he bounced a tennis ball off her head in the presence of friends."**

The Silver State basked in the dubious limelight until 1927 when Mexico and France threatened to reduce their residency requirements, hoping to attract American divorcees. That year the legislature responded by passing a three-month residency bill, encouraged by financier George Wingfield, whose new and expensive Riverside Hotel was conveniently located just a few brisk paces from the Reno courthouse.

By 1931, however, Idaho and Arkansas had reduced their residency requirements to three months. Nevada had to act fast. On March 19, with little fanfare and virtually no opposition, Governor Balzar signed a six-weeks residency bill, and the rush was on to Reno and Las Vegas and easy divorce.

The America of 1931 remained staunchly conservative in its views, and the passage of the six-weeks bill was not without its opponents. The *Reno Evening Gazette* believed the action taken by the legislature would only degrade Nevada's image in the eyes of her sister states. Business would surely suffer as short term residents would not be inclined to purchase homes and automobiles or become permanent citizens. National magazines called Reno "a city of women who have failed," a town made beautiful as bait for divorce-seekers. The Interna-



NEVADA STATE MUSEUM PHOTOS

**For many years the six-week vacation at a dude ranch was the chief attraction of a Reno divorce. At ranches in Verdi, Washoe Valley and Pyramid Lake, guests could spend their time horseback riding, swimming, playing tennis and getting a good tan.**

tional Society of Christian Endeavor declared that Reno was "a blot on civilization, a menace to the American home and national prestige." By passing the six-weeks residency bill, Nevada had all but forsaken her rights in the American Commonwealth.

Many Nevadans bristled with indignation when they heard such remarks. Nevadans were proud of their state and resented the accusation that they thrived on other people's marital problems. One Reno resident told a national reporter that Nevada might be making a profit on domestic affliction, but every hospital in the country was committing the same offense by accepting fees from patients.

While most of the nation expressed shock over Nevada's seeming lack of respect for the institution of marriage, members of cafe society were extolling the virtues of a Reno divorce. Wealthy Easterners were mesmerized by the thoughts of days spent horseback riding and swimming at a local dude ranch, followed by glorious nights of gambling and dining in elegant casinos. Divorce seekers were also attracted by a "travel feature" which had been added to the six-weeks bill. Petitioners could travel freely around the state, for residency need not be established in one county. Just maintaining residence in Nevada was sufficient.

Obtaining a divorce was surprisingly simple. Extreme cruelty was the most common ground, and the term was stretched to mean just about anything, from a poor sense of humor to keeping too many Persian cats. One woman alleged that her husband threatened to go to the South Sea Islands if she did not leave him. Another wife complained that her husband caused her great embarrassment when he bounced a tennis ball off her head in the presence of their friends.

Women did not always have the last word. The grandson of a steel millionaire described how his wife, in a fit of anger, would pull his hair out by the roots. During one of her more excited moments, she had even driven a nail file into his ankle while the two were vacationing in Switzerland.

Reno judges gained a reputation for being sympathetic, if not downright accommodating. Uncontested divorces were heard on Monday and could be over in as little as 15 minutes. Frequently a teary-eyed female plaintiff would be seen leaving the Reno courthouse, clinging to her lawyer's arm. Taking a few steps to the Truckee River Bridge, also known as the Bridge of Sighs, she would toss her wedding ring into the cold waters below. Some divorcees couldn't resist getting a little revenge, like the woman who sent her divorce decree to her husband with a farewell gift of silk underwear, in which she had concealed black widow spiders.

Reno's attractions were many, and the divorce seeker was rarely at a loss for amusement. Two-thirds of Nevada divorces were granted to women, and the state worked hard to assure them that coming to Nevada would be a pleasant and safe experience. Dude ranches offered a desert haven for those wishing to escape journalists and photographers. The Flying ME at Franktown and the Pyramid Lake Ranch catered to an elite clientele who spent their days basking in the sun, swimming and taking riding lessons. Nights were a whirlwind of dining and dancing at the posh Willows Inn and the French Room of the Reno Country Club. The Pyramid Lake Ranch became a favorite spot for women who brought their children for the six-week stay. It was well known as a place where kids would be looked after during that kind of vacation.

The dude ranches were a novelty to Easterners, who quickly learned that their couturier riding outfits were definitely out of place in the Nevada desert. It didn't take them long to blend in, however, and most found their stay to be great fun. A divorcee could expect to end her residency in love with at least two handsome cowboys. Once Reno-vated, she would return to her Park Avenue penthouse, the envy of her friends, disgustingly healthy and suntanned.

After receiving their divorces, the majority of men and women returned to their homes to pick up the pieces of their disrupted lives. Some fell in love with Nevada and stayed. Others quickly remarried while in the state, taking advantage of Nevada's easy marriage laws, which required no waiting period.

In Nevada, 1931 was a banner year for divorce with more than 4,000 decrees granted. The state managed to stave off depression for nearly two years. When divorces dropped off around the country in 1932 and 1933, Reno suffered. In order to keep business going, the city catered to those whose pocketbooks preferred boardinghouses to dude ranches. Reno was no longer fashionable, but many remembered how it was once the talk of London and Paris. □

*Susan Horton, an historian specializing in the Middle Ages and Nevada history, is a teaching assistant at University of Nevada-Reno.*



WIDE WORLD PHOTOS

Clark and Ria, before the divorce.

# Gable vs. Gable

## Frankly, Clark didn't give a damn about the excitement surrounding his divorce from Ria in 1939. But the people of Las Vegas did.

**By Guy Louis Rocha**

Ria Langham Gable turned to Judge Orr. Her husband, Clark Gable, she explained, had abandoned her in October 1935 without cause or reason on her part and without her consent. "He said he wanted more freedom." Two witnesses then stepped forward and testified that Ria had resided in Las Vegas the previous six weeks. The judge nodded and said, "The decree may be entered." Clark and Ria Gable were no longer man and wife.

That 1939 divorce decree was the signal to begin the finest publicity gimmick that Las Vegas had ever seen.

And Las Vegas needed it. The city's 8,000 inhabitants were desperately seeking to regain the national recognition and income that Boulder Dam had brought in the early 1930s. Gambling had been legalized in 1931, and so had six-week divorce, but upstate rival Reno was enjoying most of both trades. When workers left the area in 1936, Las Vegans suddenly realized that the city would return to its pre-dam doldrums unless something was done. So the Chamber of Commerce launched promotional campaigns advertising Vegas as the Last Frontier, a Desert Oasis and the Gateway to Boulder Dam.

But the arrival of Ria Gable in January 1939 to divorce the King of the silver screen eclipsed everything else. The nation's movie fans buzzed over the Gables' split, and Las Vegas suddenly was attracting just the kind of publicity its citizens had been craving.

Clark Gable had reached the height of his career in 1939. He was a real film star's star, an American hero. He had won an Oscar for his lead role in the 1934 comedy, "It Happened One Night." He had dated practically every actress in Hollywood despite his marriage to Ria. When David O. Selznick cast Gable as Rhett Butler in "Gone With the Wind" in 1938, America's movie-goers worshipped him.

Ria loved him too, but could not keep him. The widow of a wealthy Houston contractor, Ria was a member of the city's social elite when she first saw Clark. He was acting in his first good role in her home town. Although 17 years older than he was, she decided she had to have him. She followed him to New York and inspired him to leave his first wife and acting coach, Josephine Dillon, in 1928. Clark grew dependent upon Ria's encouragement and instruction in the social graces during the slack period in his acting career that followed their marriage. It was Ria who talked him out of a plan to give up acting and open a haberdasher's shop.

Yet Ria's money, emotional support and upper-crust connections did not prevent the lusty Gable very long from tasting all the forbidden fruit he could get his hands on. Carole Lombard, a young actress known for her zany humor and racy language, was the last straw. Clark had fallen for Carole in 1936 after spending an evening with her at a Hollywood party. They soon decided to live together and bought a cottage overlooking Los Angeles. He called her "Ma," and she called him "Pa."

Even then, Ria spent two years hoping Clark might tire of Carole and return to her. The affair made for good copy in every Hollywood trade magazine. Everybody seemed to be asking when Ria would divorce her husband so the King could marry his sweetheart, Carole Lombard.

Events climaxed late in 1938 while Clark was filming "Gone With the Wind." According to Gable's biographer, Lyn Tornabene, "Clark made a strategic error in dealing with Ria. Responding to studio hysteria over a *Photoplay* article listing Gable and Lombard as one of several pairs of 'Hollywood's Unmarried Husbands and Wives, Clark permitted the publicity department to release an announcement for him that he was going to ask Ria for a divorce. It was one too many public insults for Ria, who had assumed that when the inevitable happened, she would do the announcing and the divorcing." Clark apologized publicly for the story. No matter; Ria finally saw the light and made plans to get a divorce in Las Vegas.

Traveling by car from her Beverly Hills home, Ria Gable arrived in Las Vegas on a rainy day in mid-January 1939. The long, dreary drive may have conjured up memories of the time in 1932 when she and Clark, along with actress Mary Astor and friends, had stopped in the desert oasis en route to southern Utah for one of Gable's periodic hunting trips. The newly opened Apache Hotel and Casino had thrown open its doors to the Hollywood aristocrats, who spent most of their time in the Apache's private speakeasy.

Now, almost seven years later, she decided to take the six-week cure in complete isolation. "I have a lot of reading I have wanted to do for a long time," Ria told reporters, "and I expect to spend some of my time catching up. I also will knit, do some needlework and take short walks. You may say I am very happy here in my little house, and I expect to entertain some of my Los Angeles friends over the weekends." She also praised the delightful climate and was careful to point out that she and Clark had often stopped over in Las Vegas in the past.

But the Las Vegas Chamber of Commerce would foil her plans completely. Ria had chosen young Frank McNamee, Jr., as her attorney, and that was the first setback in her plans for isolation. McNamee was a member of an old southern Nevada family, and he had grown up with Las Vegas. Moreover, he was a close friend of local newspaperwoman Florence Lee Jones. McNamee told Jones that Ria Gable was his client and would be leasing his residence at 700 South Seventh Street during her stay. Jones, on the front page of the *Las Vegas Review-Journal*, told the world about the town's famous guest in a story that went out over the wire services accompanied by photographs.

Ria came to enjoy the attention. Las Vegas liked it even better, since the city was desperately trying any gimmick that might lead to a national dateline. For the next six weeks she was Las Vegas' first citizen. She dealt craps and blackjack at the familiar Apache Casino as a guest dealer for Pop Housky and Tommy Thebo, operators of the gaming establishment. She went for boat rides and fishing trips on Lake Mead courtesy of Housky and Thebo, who owned a luxury yacht. In short, she joined in whatever festivities the citizens of Las Vegas could devise for her pleasure. Her stay, she said later, was "the finest and shortest vacation I ever had in my life."

While Mrs. Gable was engaged in these pastimes, she allowed photos to be taken of her which were not to be released until the divorce was final and she was on her way to wherever she might be going. Ria was vague about her future plans, although she claimed that she would maintain a residence in Las Vegas following her divorce from Clark.

The great day finally arrived on March 7 1939. The trial itself was anticlimatic. It lasted barely five minutes. Clark did not even show up, instead sending a docu-



WIDE WORLD PHOTOS

**Newlyweds Clark Gable and Carole Lombard relax away from the movie studios at their 20-acre ranch at Encino, California. Domestic life came easy for them.**

ment which stated his agreement to the proceedings. Ria was proclaimed free with a settlement of $286,000.

Rumors began to fly about what she would do next. Some were silly. She scoffed at reports that she might marry her first husband, stating, "He has been dead since 1922." But Ria beamed under the nation's attention and pretended to be overjoyed with her freedom. She immediately celebrated at the roulette tables, always betting on 35. Whether to commemorate the year Clark had left her or chosen at random, the number apparently did not prove lucky. Both Ria and the game's dealers refused to comment on the outcome of her betting.

In Hollywood, Clark's reaction was less animated. Informed by reporters of the divorce decree, he simply shrugged. The next day Carole Lombard announced their marriage plans.

In Las Vegas, the Gables' divorce set the city's publicity machine in full motion. Most Americans knew about Las Vegas only as an adjunct to the Boulder Dam saga, but the story of Ria, Clark and Carole was top feature material that involved Vegas intimately. Film fans across the country had been waiting years for the big event, and the nation's press played it up big.

Jones, the *Review-Journal's* John F. Cahlan and Ed Phillips, a newsman in town for a divorce himself, put together a special feature story, telling of Ria's exciting stay in Las Vegas and the popular attractions one could find in and around the desert town. The story emphasized the great reception Ria had received from local citizens, and photographs showed her enjoying the city's hospitality. But the story was really less about the Gables than about Las Vegas. Mixed into it was a good deal of anti-Reno propaganda. The article claimed that Reno had grown aloof and cool toward visitors—even in the Biggest Little City's churches. Vegas, of course, was friendlier: "Mrs. Gable passed up the northern divorce capital with the suave remark that she 'always liked Las Vegas and welcomed the opportunity to meet some of its nice local people.'"

The story was prepared as a full-page, illustrated blurb which was sent out to 85 newspapers all over the country. Of them, 50 published the piece. Las Vegas' boosters had scored a publicity coup of the first magnitude.

Then the three—Ria, Clark and Las Vegas—parted company. In appreciation for her unselfish cooperation, the Junior Chamber of Commerce presented Ria with a silver cigarette case and made her a lifetime member. She returned to Hollywood, where she lived for a few years, and then moved to Houston. She died there in 1966, having never remarried.

Clark left the set of "Gone With the Wind" on March 29 and drove to Kingman, Arizona, with Carole Lombard. They were married there in the house of a Protestant minister. To his fans' delight and wistful sighs, the King had finally married his true love. A reception by John Cahlan and friends at Boulder Dam failed to materialize. The newlyweds sped back to Hollywood instead of taking their honeymoon in the fine dry climate of Boulder City or Las Vegas as they had led the press to believe.

Their movie careers continued busily. But they were serious about domestic developments; they wanted children. It was not to happen. While Clark was serving in the Army Air Corps during World War II, Carole, along with her mother and 20 others, died in a DC-3 which crashed near the top of Mt. Potosi just minutes after leaving the Las Vegas airport. She was returning to Hollywood from a war bond drive.

Gable never quite got over the loss of Carole. For a while, he was gaunt and hypertense. His doctor ordered him not to drink. For a month he stopped working and ate alone, brooding. He did not marry again until 1949, and that marriage—to Lady Sylvia Ashley—lasted only a little over a year. In 1955, he married Kay Williams, who had once been the wife of sugar czar Adolf Spreckels. She gave him his only child in March 1961, a son he never knew. Gable had died quietly in his sleep five months earlier following complications from a severe heart attack. Gable was 59 and had just finished making "The Misfits," filmed in and around Dayton, Nevada.

Las Vegas, meanwhile, was alive and well. Paul Ralli, former city attorney and author of *Nevada Lawyer* and *Viva Vegas,* wrote that "Mrs. Ria Gable, wife of the screen's No. 1 movie star, Clark Gable, put the town on the map as a divorce competitor to Reno." Following the divorce, Ralli continued, "a building boom was launched, with new night clubs opening and the old ones beginning extensive re-decoration Vegas has never looked back."

In July 1939, Las Vegas' first large-scale haven for prospective divorcees, the Boulderado Dude Ranch, opened, and others soon followed. A record number of divorces, 738, were granted in Las Vegas that year, including a new record in the month of the Gable divorce, and then again two months later. Everyone, it seemed, wanted to get a divorce where the Gables had gotten theirs: Las Vegas. The gap between the number of Reno and Las Vegas divorces began to narrow significantly. By the early 1950s, Las Vegas surpassed its rival to the north in the number of divorces granted and had inherited the title it had long coveted, "divorce capital of the nation."

At the same time, entrepreneurs like Tom Hull, R.E. Griffith and Bugsy Siegel were raising resorts on a sandy plain now known as the Strip. Between 1940 and 1950 the community's population tripled to nearly 25,000. Thanks to *Gable vs. Gable* and some enterprising journalists, Las Vegas was becoming the desert oasis its promoters had dreamed it would be. □

*Guy Louis Rocha, director of the Nevada State Archives, is an historian and a frequent contributor to Nevada Magazine.*

# The Lens

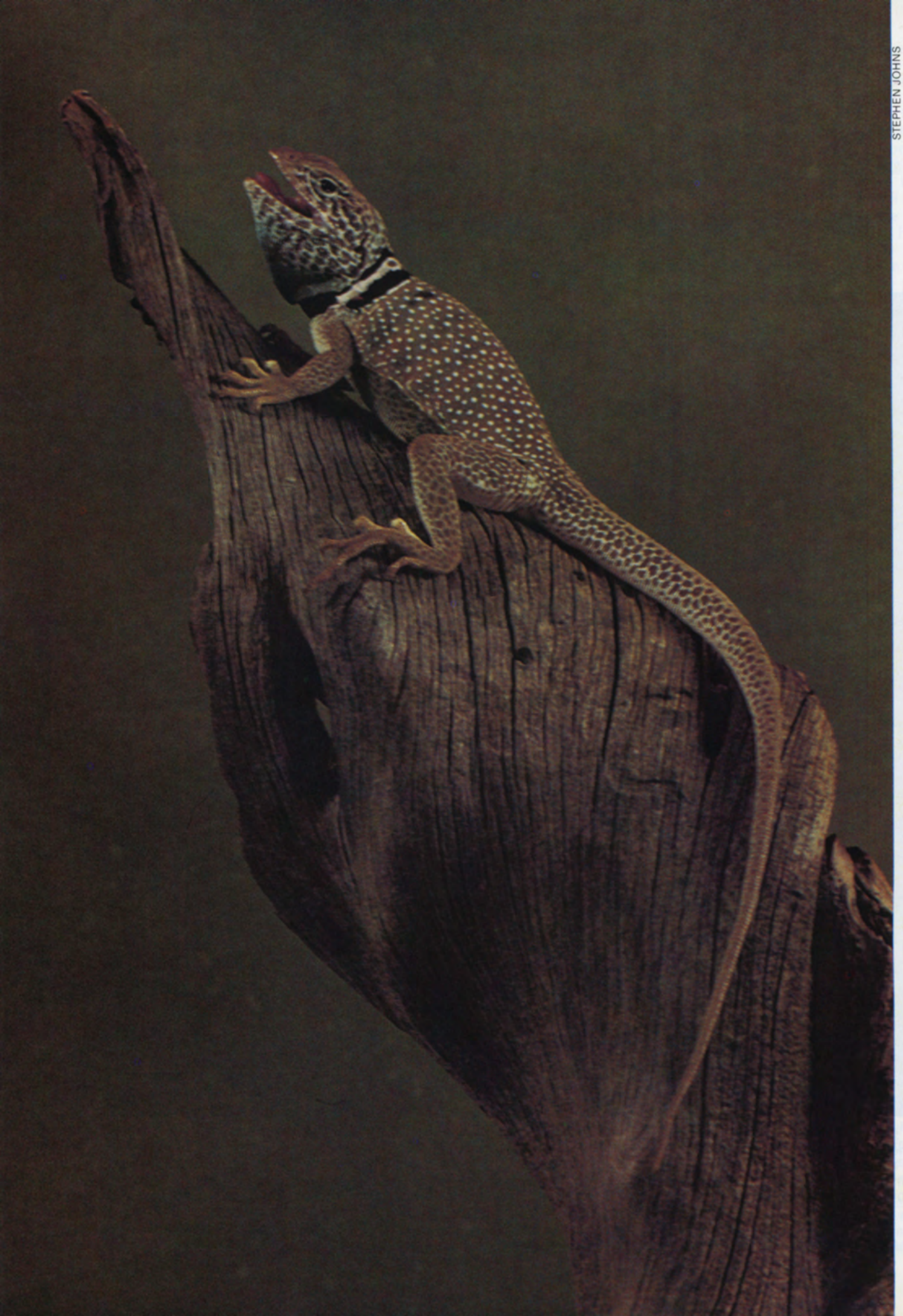
Readers' photographs on Nevada subjects are regularly featured in The Lens. Submissions are welcome: either color transparencies, color prints or black and white prints. Prints must be glossy and 8x8" to 11x14" in size. Send with self-addressed stamped return envelope to Nevada Magazine, Capitol Complex, Carson City, NV. 89710.

ALAN BITTLER



After a snowfall, morning mist rises above the ducks and geese of Reno's Virginia Lake. It's a year-round home to the mallards, while the Canadian geese are just visiting.

Overleaf:
The collared lizard can be found resting in the sun or scampering over the desert with hind legs and tail held high, in pursuit of insects and small lizards. Its black-and-white collar and spotted face are unique in the lizard world.



STEPHEN JOHNS

# University of Nevada Press

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# SAMMY!

**After nearly 40 years on the Nevada stage, Sammy Davis, Jr. talks about the Rat Pack, gunslinging and early-day struggles of black entertainers in the white casino world.**

**By Ann Henderson**

One night at Harrah's Tahoe, Sammy Davis, Jr. stunned his audience. He stopped midway through his show and told the roomful of people that he was picking up the tab.

"I didn't feel I was giving them the kind of show I should give them," he explains. "I wasn't performing like I felt I should, so I said, 'You're all my guests.' It wasn't a grandstand play. It's what I believe. The man who pays his money to come see me deserves the best I got. If I give them the best show I can, it's up to them to like it or not. At least I know I've put the best foot forward, which is important to me."

The incident reveals a fundamental, life-long concern of Davis—individual dignity. He has had to work hard to win it. His race, his Jewish faith, his early reputation as a playboy, even his versatile talent often blocked his efforts. The story of his success in show business, of his freedom to perform on stage as his sense of artistry demanded, and of his opportunity to live as he wished is also a Nevada story, intimately involving the racial policies of the day, and the place of a black entertainer in the white casino world.

In 1945, when Davis was appearing at the El Rancho in Las Vegas with his uncle and father as the Will Mastin Trio, he was not allowed to do anything but perform. "Offstage we were colored again," he says. "I had to stay on the West Side. Black performers couldn't walk through the clubs. We had to go out the back way."



In his 1965 autobiography *Yes, I Can,* Davis wrote, "Night after night I had to pass [the front] door to get a cab. Once, between shows, I stood around the corner where nobody would see me, and waited for the door to open so I could catch the short burst of gaiety that escaped as people went in and came out listening and wondering what it must be like to be able to just walk in anywhere."

But changes came, if slowly. By 1954 Nevada gaming was in its adolescence, and after 26 years in show business Davis found his career was on the move. He was one of the stars that gamblers were flocking to Las Vegas and Reno to watch. Breaking the long-standing rule against blacks, the Last Frontier in Las Vegas gave him a room while he was performing there. In Reno, Charlie Mapes and Bill Harrah also were humanizing show business.

Since 1929, when Sammy was three, show business has been his life. In the late '40s (opposite) he performed with his father and uncle in the Will Mastin Trio.



"Charlie Mapes was crazy anyway," Davis says. "He didn't care what anybody said. And when I told him I wanted to play blackjack, he told me it was okay to play. Bill Harrah set the tone treated performers as human beings. It was very much appreciated."

Davis credits black entertainers like Lena Horne and Billy Eckstein with helping to break down the barriers. "They were very important because of their demeanor," says Davis. "To hell with onstage—all colored guys can dance and sing, you know. But it was how they carried themselves offstage that counted.

"Lena came to Vegas as a motion picture star. One day her child went swimming in the hotel pool and they drained it. She handled it with dignity—just like it never happened—and then she just didn't play there for about two years."

During his 50 years in show business Davis has heard or seen vituperative expressions of bigotry from both whites and blacks. But in the face of prejudice and in poverty, Davis has tried to maintain his dignity, as has long been the tradition among black entertainers. "Bojangles," a song that has been Davis' trademark, captures that need for dignity, and he still cannot sing it without thinking of his forebears.

"'Bojangles' has a lot of meaning for me because I go back to that period. There was a great mystique about the black entertainers of the late twenties and early thirties. They were minstrels in the traditional sense; wherever the coin of the realm was being passed around they would dance—whether it was on the corner, a little bar.

"I know at least 30 men who were Bojangles. [Tap dancer Bill Robinson was the most famous.] They had frayed cuffs, but always had one good pressed suit, and they ironed their shirt on the lightbulb. They'd pass the hat, but always maintain their dignity."

White performers also helped greatly in breaking the color barriers. In the 1960s, Davis knew he was making history when he began to appear onstage as a member of the Rat Pack. The Pack was an alliance of Davis, Frank Sinatra, Dean Martin, Peter Lawford and Joey Bishop, and the Sands in Las Vegas was headquarters for their shenanigans.

*(Continued)*



LAS VEGAS NEWS BUREAU

**Davis lost the sight in one eye in a 1954 car accident near Vegas. A year later (above) he was back at the New Frontier.**

"It was one of the most exciting periods in show business," says Davis. "They were filming 'Pepe' in Vegas and at the same time we were doing 'Oceans Eleven, and at night all five of us appeared at the Sands.

"And it was fun. We made it up—a lot of ad-libbing. Celebrities came to see the show because they knew it was one of those things that couldn't happen again. It was wild, and it could only happen in Nevada."

He starred with the Pack in movies like "Oceans Eleven," "Sergeants Three" and "Robin and the Seven Hoods." He was accepted everywhere as a singing and dancing star. But in many ways, he was an exception—a successful black in a white industry.

"I was always under the impression that money and position would eliminate the walls of prejudice," he says now. "But the only thing success did was grease the way for me as an individual and did nothing to help the guy behind me.

"In Nevada there were still some rotten people who tried to stop it [equality] any way they could—the old school that was entrenched in gaming, who still believed that colored people brought you luck if you rubbed their heads."

Davis says he listened to his contem-

*(Continued on page 87)*

# Las Vegas

**Aladdin,** 736-0111 Mickey Gilley, Johnny Lee, 10/21-11/4; Wayne Newton, 11/5-12/12 & 12/26-2/6. *Theatre for the Performing Arts* (phone 736-1738): Peking Opera, 10/26-11/1; Jose Greco & Mexicana Dancers, 11/23-12/2

**Barbary Coast,** 737-7111 Royal Dixie Jazz Band, indf.

**Caesars Palace,** 731-7333: Sammy Davis Jr. thru 11/4

**Circus Circus,** 734-0410: Round the World Circus Acts, 11am-midnight, free

**Desert Inn,** 733-4444: "The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas," Broadway musical, thru 12/19

**Dunes,** 737-4110: Casino de Paris. Dinner show 7:45pm, from $15; cocktail show 11:45pm, $14 includes 3 drinks

**Flamingo Hilton,** 733-3333: City Lites, revue. Dinner show 8pm, from $14.50; cocktail show midnight, $10 includes 2 drinks

**Four Queens,** 385-4011: Nightly entertainment

**Frontier,** 734-0110: Beyond Belief, starring Siegfried & Roy, opening 11/5, 8pm & midnight, Sun. & Tues.-Thurs.; 8pm, midnight & 2:30am Fri. & Sat., $18

**Hacienda,** 739-8911: Nightly entertainment

**Holiday Casino,** 732-2411 Wild World of Burlesque, 10pm & 12:30am, Mon.-Fri., 8pm, 10pm & 12:30am, Sat; dark Sun.; $6.95 includes 2 drinks

**Imperial Palace,** 731-3311: Bravo Vegas, indf. 6:30pm, 9:30pm & 12:30am Sat., 9pm & midnight Sun.-Fri. *Geisha Lounge:* Continuous entertainment

**Landmark,** 733-1110: Continuous entertainment

**Las Vegas Hilton,** 732-5111: Bill Cosby, Juliet Prowse, thru 11/2; Engelbert, Stewie Stone, 11/3-16; Liberace and A Cast of 60, 11/17-12/7; Neil Sedaka, 12/8-16; Showroom dark, 12/17-25. Dinner show 8pm, from $17.50; cocktail show, midnight, $14.50

**Las Vegas Inn & Casino,** 731-3222: Entertainment Tues.-Sun.

**MGM Grand Hotel,** 739-4567: *Ziegfeld Room:* Jubilee! 8:15pm & 11:45pm Sun.-Fri., 6:30pm, 10pm & 12:30am Sat.; *Celebrity Room:* Rich Little thru 11/18; Mac Davis, 11/19-12/2

**Marina,** 739-1500: 24-hour entertainment

**Maxim,** 731-4300: Olde Tyme Burlesque, 8pm, 10:15pm & 12:30am, $9.75 includes 2 drinks

**Riviera,** 734-5110: Neil Sedaka, Joan Rivers, thru 11/11; Loretta Lynn, 11/12-25; Melissa Manchester, Larry Gatlin and the Gatlin Brothers Band, 11/26-12/2; Liza Minnelli, 12/3-12; Buddy Hackett, 12/13-16; Shirley MacLaine, David Brenner, 12/26-1/6

**Royal Americana,** 734-0711 Dondino, indf.

**Royal Hotel Casino,** 733-4000: Burlesque Burlesque, indf.

**Sahara,** 737-2111: Wayland and Madame, thru 11/14; George Carlin, 11/14-22; Don Rickles, 11/23-12/2; Wayland and Madame, 12/3-23; Jerry Lewis, 12/25; Jerry Lewis, Flip Wilson, 12/26-1/1. Show times 8pm & midnight

**Sam's Town,** 456-7777: 24-hour entertainment

**Sands,** 733-5000: *Copa Room:* Dark. *Lounge:* Continuous entertainment

**Silverbird,** 735-4111 The 5th Dimension, 11/6-12/3 & 12/26-1/8, 9pm $10, midnight $8

**Silver Slipper,** 734-1212: Boy-Lesque, indf., 8pm, 10pm & midnight Fri.-Wed.; Branded, 9pm, 11pm Thurs.-Tues., 1am Fri. & Sat., $4.95

**Stardust,** 732-6325: Lido de Paris 81

**Tropicana,** 739-2411: *Tiffany Theatre:* Folies Bergere '81. *Cabaret Theatre:* Let Me Off Uptown, tribute to jazz

**Union Plaza,** 386-2444: Broadway plays, 8pm & 11:45pm nightly except Mon.; Mickey Finn Show, 2pm & 4pm daily except Sun.

**If you like money, Dick Shawn is trying to give some away. Members of the audience get a chance to win a million dollars at Sahara Tahoe's "Great American Dream," a risque musical revue with a gimmick.**





**Bravo Vegas continues its indefinite run at the Imperial Palace this winter.**

# Reno, Sparks, Carson City

**Carson City Nugget,** 882-1626: The Jaguars, 11/3-12/20; Invaders, 12/22-1/3

**Circus Circus,** 329-0711: Round the World Circus Acts, 11am-midnight, free

**Eldorado,** 786-5700: Dae Han Sisters, thru 11/1; Family Portrait, 11/3-29; Freddy Powers, 12/1-31

**Fitzgerald's,** 786-3663: Esquires, thru 11/15; Opus, 11/17-29; Westport Junction, 12/1-20; Ink Spots, 12/22-1/2

**Harrah's Reno,** 329-4422: Melissa Manchester, thru 11/4; Bill Cosby, 11/5-18; Dionne Warwick, 11/19-25; Mickey Gilley, Johnny Lee, 11/26-12/9; The O'Jays, 12/10-16; Smokey Robinson, 12/17-23; Charo, 12/24-31

**Mapes,** 323-1611: *Sky Room:* Ballroom dancing Fri. & Sat.; "Fiddler on the Roof," 11/19, 21-22, 26, 28-29

**MGM Grand Hotel,** 789-2000 (800-648-3568 toll free CA, AZ, OR, ID, UT): *Ziegfeld Theatre:* Hello Hollywood Hello; *Lion's Den:* Gold Fever, Eileen Valentino, thru 11/3; Spun Gold, 11/4-12/1; Liz Damon's Orient Express, Gary & Sandy, 12/2-1/5

**John Ascuaga's Nugget,** Sparks, 358-2233: *Celebrity Room:* Dark. *Casino Cabaret:* Nightly entertainment

**Onslow,** 786-7310: Nightly entertainment

**Ormsby House,** Carson City, 882-1890: *Mark Twain Lounge:* Motifs, thru 11/8; David Proud, 11/9-29; The Matys Brothers, 11/30-12/13; The Links, 12/14-1/1. *Supper Club:* Eddie and Nancy, thru 11/8; Ban and Lee, 11/9-29; Esquires, 11/30-12/31

**Riverside,** 786-4400: Dancing to the music of the '40s

**Sahara Reno,** 322-1111: *Opera House Theatre:* Bal Du Moulin Rouge, revue, indf.; *Guilded Cage:* Sonny Turner, thru 11/8; Lelands, 12/1-20; The Best of Burlesque, thru 12/31

# Rural Nevada

**Elko:** Commercial Hotel, 738-3181 and Stockmen's Hotel, 738-5141

**Ely:** Hotel Nevada, 289-4414

**Fallon:** Fallon Nugget, 423-3111

**Gardnerville:** Sharkey's, 782-3133

**Hawthorne:** El Capitan, 945-3322

**Jackpot:** Cactus Pete's, 755-2321 and Horseshu Casino, 755-2331

**Tonopah:** Mizpah, 482-6202

**Wendover:** Stateline Casino, 668-2221

**Winnemucca:** Winners Inn, 623-2511

**Yerington:** Casino West, 463-2481 and Lucky Club, 463-2868

# Coming Attractions

"Fiddler On the Roof," with Herschel Bernardi at the Theatre for the Perfoming Arts, Aladdin, Las Vegas, 2/5-3/13

Cornell Gunther and the Coasters at Cloud's Cal-Nevada Hotel, Lake Tahoe, 1/5-1/31

All dates, performers and prices are subject to change. At press time, many casinos had not completed Nov.-Dec. bookings, so we recommend calling ahead to confirm entertainment schedules. For readers phoning from outside the state, Nevada's area code is 702.

# Lake Tahoe

**Caesars Tahoe,** 588-3515: Continuous entertainment

**Cloud's Cal-Neva Hotel,** 832-4000: Zolo Taylor & the Original Platters, thru 11/1; Belmonts, 11/3-22; Ink Spots, 11/23-30; The Showcase Show, 12/1-13; Ray Paul Show, 12/15-1/4

**Harrah's Lake Tahoe,** 588-6611: Charlie Daniels Band, thru 11/5; Sammy Davis Jr., 11/6-10; Al Jarreau, 11/11-12; Sammy Davis Jr., 11/13-19; Peggy Fleming, 11/21-12/26; Tony Orlando, 12/27-1/3

**Harvey's,** 588-2411: *Top of the Wheel:* Ink Spots, 11/1-8; Tunes Plus One, 12/21-1/2. *Casino Lounge* (Harvey's Inn): Kelly & the Kid, 11/10-29; Family Portrait, 12/1-20; Whiskey Ridge, 12/22-1/10

**Hyatt Lake Tahoe,** 831-1111: Kureks, thru 1/10; Kelly and the Kid, thru 11/8; Jerry Sun Show, 11/10-11/22; Martha's Children, 11/24-12/6; Garfin Gathering, 12/24-1/10

**Sahara Tahoe,** 588-6211 The Great American Dream, musical production, indf.

**Judy Garland first played Nevada as part of the Gumm Sisters' show in the '30s. Her daughter, Liza Minnelli, carries on the tradition at the Riviera December 3-12.**



# Hawthorne's First Hundred

**The desert town by Walker Lake has battled to survive ever since it was railroaded into existence in 1881. By Jack McCloskey**

Unlike most Nevada towns, Hawthorne came into being a century ago by design and not by accident. Carson & Colorado Railroad Company superintendent H. M. Yerington and his sidekick W. A. Hawthorne had made sure the C&C owned the area lot, block and acre when the first train rolled in on April 7 1881.

The public sale of town lots a week later marked Hawthorne's official birth. The new division point south of Walker Lake was to be modeled after Sacramento, California. To this day all original streets are designated by letters (west to east) and by numbers (south to north).

Hawthorne never boomed, but the community was strong enough to win away the Esmeralda County seat from failing Aurora in 1882. Goldfield, in turn, stole the seat away in 1907 Four years later Hawthorne's state senator (and future Nevada governor) Fred B. Balzar convinced the legislature to create Mineral County, with Hawthorne as its seat.

The town needed it. The railroad had closed its station in 1905. Sporadic mining at Rawhide, Dutch Creek, Lucky Boy, Aurora and other nearby camps was barely keeping Hawthorne alive as a supply town. But the county seat didn't help enough. By 1920, the town had petered down to 244 residents.

Construction of the Naval Ammunition Depot in 1930 began the town's slow and uncertain revival. After World War II, businessmen and depot employees banded together to find new sources of business. The most successful of these efforts has been the El Capitan Club's promotion of tourism centered around the casino's gambling and the fishing at Walker Lake.

But Hawthorne still has its share of hardy souls who look for the silver lining, and their faith was rewarded in the 100th year with two new mining ventures south of town. Candelaria Partners has reopened the old mining camp of Candelaria, and Houston International Minerals is developing a gold mine at Borealis.

Hawthorne is determined to stick around, even if it has to start its second century in much the same way it was put on the map in 1881. □

*Jack McCloskey is owner and publisher of the Mineral County Independent in Hawthorne.*

**On April 7, 1881, agents of the Carson & Colorado Railroad threw together a tiny tent town (below) to provide "services" for the potential buyers who arrived a week later in a free train party. Among the visitors were Governor John Kinkead and Carson City and Reno speculators.**



PHOTOS COURTESY MINERAL COUNTY INDEPENDENT

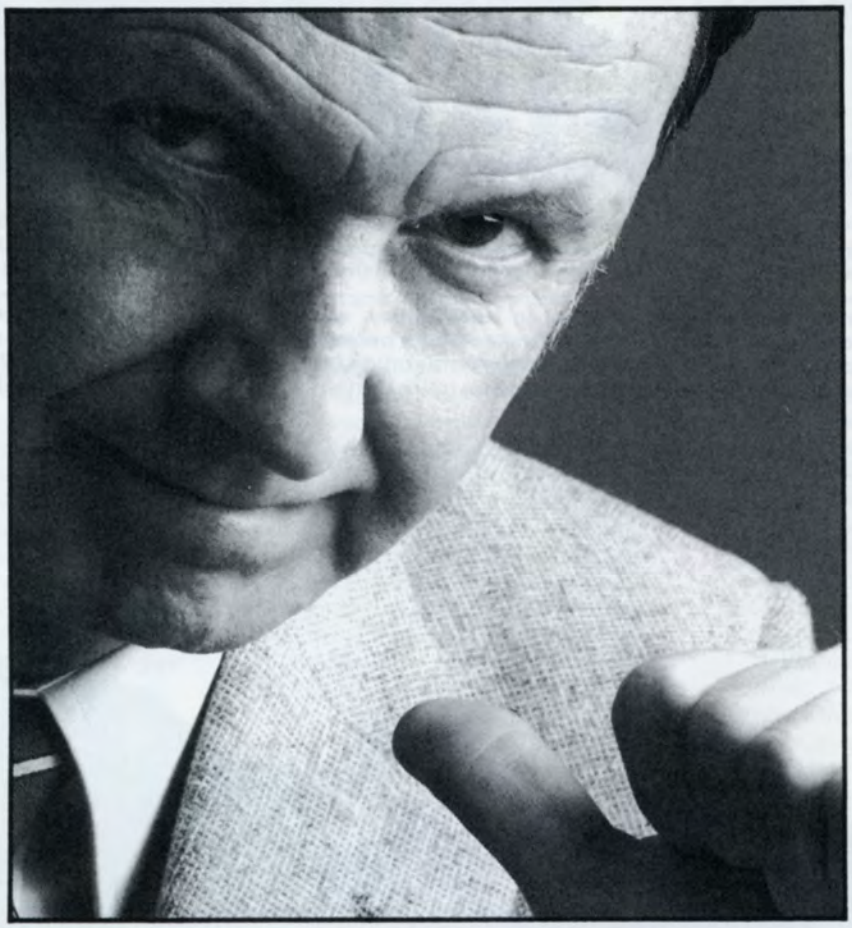


In 1886, five years after the Carson & Colorado Railroad founded Hawthorne, residents erected a two-room school on North 6th Street. It served as the town's educational center for 50 years. A staff of two was adequate until 1930, when two more teachers were hired to accommodate an enrollment increase following establishment of the Naval Ammunition Depot.

Following a 1926 explosion at an ammunition depot in New Jersey, a clamour arose in Washington, D. C. to move such dangerous facilities to remote areas. Nevada Senator Tasker Oddie persuaded the Navy to build near Hawthorne, and ground-breaking ceremonies took place July 24, 1928, for the Naval Ammunition Depot. Well-appointed brick officers' quarters, rows of wooden barracks and scores of earth and cement bunkers were built. During World War II, the influx of military personnel swelled Hawthorne's population to more than 13,000.



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# Discover the Real West

# NEVADA

## SPECIAL VISITORS' GUIDE




Division of Tourism
Department of Economic Development



DAVID MUENCH
















# WELCOME TO NEVADA !

It is a pleasure to provide you with this official Nevada vacation guide. Whether you are planning a long or short visit, I am sure your stay will be an enjoyable and memorable one. Nevada has long been a favorite destination for travelers for years, offering an endless array of entertainment, dining and gambling, amidst sunny desert valleys and breathtaking alpine mountains.

No other place in the world offers as wide a variety of recreational opportunities. If you are interested in skiing, boating, fishing, camping, rodeos, desert sun, and the most glamorous hotels and casinos in the world, Nevada is the place to visit.

Nevadans are friendly and hospitable and we look forward to making the Silver State a part of your annual vacation tradition.

I know you will find our state to be beautiful and exciting and I encourage you to visit us often.

Sincerely,

*ROBERT LIST*
Governor

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for the Division of Tourism



RICHARD MENZIES

*RECREATION*

# PREPARE TO ENJOY YOURSELF

Warning: If you visit Nevada, prepare to enjoy yourself—completely. You don't even have to step into a big city. Or a town. Or a building, for that matter. Outdoors Nevada challenges sportsmen and nature lovers of every ilk and itch to the time of their lives.

Fiercely beautiful, grandly rugged, the land changes from icy peak to high mountain meadow and lake, from craggy foothill to green valley and then to desert and playa—and back again almost before you can take it all in. And for every type of landscape and climate, there's recreation to match.

For backpackers, snow campers, and rock climbers, few areas are more challenging or compelling than the rocky tors and cliffs of the Sierra Nevada, the Toiyabe Range near Austin, and the Ruby Mountains near Elko.

Down the slopes, the ski runs wait. Skiing in the Tahoe Basin or on Mt. Charleston near Las Vegas, and heli-skiing in the Rubies can test the skills of beginner and expert alike. The east side of the Sierra is famous for its especially dry powder. Maybe that says it all. Imagine yourself swishing down a slope, veering between moguls, pines flashing by in a green-white blur and an arch of glistening snow trailing you. Or if you prefer cross-country, think of the silence only a snow-cushioned forest floor can hold, watch the tips of your skis plow a trail through untouched fields, feel downy wisps of snow brush your face. That's skiing in Nevada.

For kids, snowplay areas like Fox-tail Canyon on Mt. Charleston, Spooner Summit and Tahoe Meadows in the Sierra and almost anywhere in the Rubies provide plenty of room for sledding, tobogganning, tubing, snow-castle building or battalion-level snow fighting. Hardy families can snowshoe into the back country and see the wilderness at its purest.

Now it's summer, and the snow has vanished. But the mountains still promise excitement. Sparkling streams and limpid pools, rivers and alpine lakes are fishing heaven. German browns, rainbow and brook trout roam the clear waters. Bass and cutthroat lurk in the depths. At lower elevations, catfish splash through the shallows.

Nevada's bigger lakes—Mead, Tahoe, Lahontan, Pyramid, Rye Patch, Cave Lake and Walker—offer more varied recreation. Canoes, catamarans with multicolored sails, houseboats and power boats with skiers skipping in their wakes share the water with room to spare. Underwater there's more room yet—room for snorklers and skin divers to explore a flooded factory or ghost town, shipwrecks and unique tufa rock formations or simply to watch the flora and fish.

In Nevada's mountains and valleys hunters can stalk mule deer, antelope, bighorn sheep, elk and mountain lion. Or, if your taste runs to fowl, there are sage grouse, chukar, quail, dove, pheasant, duck and geese.



EVAN UNGAR



RICHARD MENZIES

Content to watch the wildlife? There's more yet. Golden and bald eagles. Barn owls and bluebirds. Beavers and bobcats. Mustangs and wild burros. There's no better place to introduce children to nature.

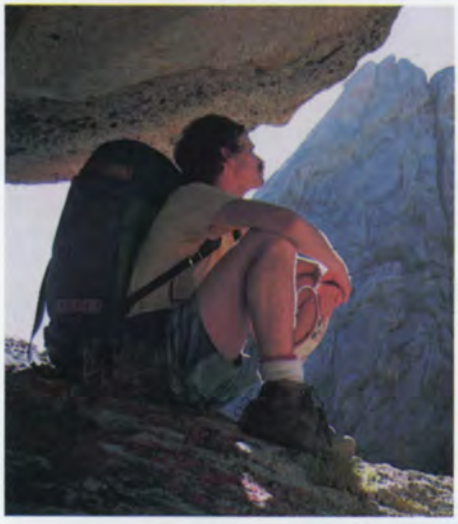
Finally, the desert floor. Miles of alkali playa alternate with rock-strewn, sagebrush covered rises. Forbidding? Not if you're a rockhound. Nevada is known for its wealth of minerals—turquoise, fire opals, beryl, cinnabar, garnets, thunder eggs and other lapidary treasures. If your pleasure in minerals comes from profit, the opportunities are golden for weekend prospecting.

A top bet for Nevada visitors is the state's extensive system of campgrounds, parks, and historic monuments. Twenty state parks dot Nevada. Most offer camping, fishing, picnicking and exploring. In many, park officials conduct tours regularly to inform visitors of the facts, legends, and lore behind Nevada's natural and cultural history. You can step back over a century and see Nevada's first settlement at Mormon Station Historic State Monument in Genoa, an early spread at Spring Mountain Ranch outside Las Vegas or an army outpost at Fort Churchill. Or leap back to the Mesozoic Era and examine 180-million-year-old fossils at the Berlin-Ichthyosaur State Park.

But the glory of the park system is the land's scenic attraction. In southern Nevada, Cathedral Gorge State Park, a long narrow valley cut into tan bentonite clay formations, and Valley of Fire State Park, with the battlements and spires of its red sandstone mountains, defy comparison.

Nevada's beauty extends underground too. At the Lehman Caves National Monument, a federal preserve, stalagmites and stalactites and wavy sheets of calcium carbonate crowd the labyrinthine caves and chambers.

We repeat: warning! If you love the outdoors and come to Nevada, you run the risk of enjoying yourself too much to leave. □



ALVIN McLANE



BUTCH PADILLA

*EVENTS*

# SPARKLING CELEBRATIONS COME WITH THE TERRITORY

Pop the cork on Nevada celebrations and you'll find a state bursting with events as numerous and diverse as bubbles in pink champagne.

Whether your taste is for high-class, big city productions or down-home cow county jubilees, Nevada is sure to satisfy with festivities for the whole family. And there is no better way to explore the heritage of the Silver State than to partake in them.

You can race on a camel during the Virginia City Camel Races in September, or the next month run against a mule at the Man-Mule Race in Elko. If you're musical you can whistle your heart out at the Whistle-Off in Carson in October. And if food is your forte, you can cook your favorite bean bonanza at chili cook-offs in Carson City in October and Las Vegas in December.

You might not want to climb down onto the back of a snarling brahma bull, but watching a rodeo is just as much fun and a darn sight safer. Crowds throng to the three Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association (PRCA) rodeos in Nevada each year that draw top-notch cowboys from all over the country. Las Vegas opens the season during its annual Helldorado Rodeo in May. The Reno Rodeo takes place in June, and the oldest rodeo in the state is held in Winnemucca on the Labor Day weekend.

There are also two all-Indian rodeos (including powwow dancing),




C. J. HADLEY



C. J. HADLEY



USAF

one at Fallon in July and another at Schurz during the pinenut festival in September. Town sponsored rodeos are held in almost every town in Nevada during the summer season.

If high flying bull riding isn't for you, maybe low flying aircraft is. You can get an eyeful at the Reno Air Races in September as ace pilots race at top speeds in super modified flying machines. Or you can watch a fleet of multicolored hot air balloons take flight during the North Las Vegas Fairshow in October. Or you can join in on the slickest festival around—the Winter Carnival at Lake Tahoe in January. Build a snow sculpture, slip and slide through one of the many races—all for prizes!

There are many other family-oriented town celebrations. There are two full-fledged state fairs, the Jaycees' in Las Vegas and the Nevada State Fair in Reno (both in September). Halloween is also Nevada Day, the state's admission day celebration. The parade, mining competitions and firefighters' waterfights in Carson City draw the biggest, showiest and most talented Nevadans from every county each October 31.

Most rural towns also hold annual parties to celebrate their heritage, like Jim Butler Days in Tonopah on Memorial Day weekend, Santa Maria Day in Dayton in August and Pioche's Labor Day town party. Each has a special meaning and reflects the cultural and ethnic background of the residents.

Basque festivals revive the old country traditions of a rugged people from the Pyrenees, some of whom came to Nevada poor and later built cattle and sheep empires. Four towns —Winnemucca (June), Elko (July 4th weekend), Ely (mid-July) and Reno (August)—hold Basque festivals each year. You are welcome to join them in their feasts, washing down the spicy chorizos with cold beer or with wine shot in arching streams from bota bags. There's folk dancing, strongman competitions and sheep-shearing contests.

Bring your family to Nevada and have fun. It comes with the territory. □

## *THE OTHER NEVADA*

# SOUNDS OF THE FRONTIER

Strangers flying high over rural Nevada hardly think it possible. From the jet's window, all you can see are the long, brown wrinkles of mountain ranges running north and south. Between are chalk-white patches: dry lakes. Here and there is a swash of green, a speck of blue. It looks inhospitable.

People live down there? Yes they do. And proudly. "Welcome to *our* Nevada," they'll say to visitors. Theirs *is* different. The music of the town names has nothing of gambling in it. Instead, you hear Indians, miners, and buckaroos looking for water. Winnemucca. Goldfield. Thousand Springs, Indian Springs, Goodsprings, Warm Springs.

Their Nevada preserves the pioneer spirit of fierce independence, hard work and love for the land. Put it another way: anyone who wants to learn the history and personality of Nevada goes to a small town first.

In some areas, farming and ranching touch everything. On the highway, every 10 miles or so you'll see signs warning you to watch for livestock. They mean it. It's not unusual



LINDA DUFURRENA

to see a herd of cattle plodding across the road and mounted cowboys hurrying them on.

Miners still search the Nevada hills for mineral wealth. The methods are much more scientific and efficient than 100 years ago, but often the original spirit lives. Some mining towns still host rock-drilling competitions and mule races.

County fairs, rodeos, horse racing (and some stranger animals), strongman contests—they're all taken seriously here, seriously enough to be uproariously fun.

There are casinos, too, with all the



C. J. HADLEY




LINDA DUFURRENA

modern amusements. But they're not thought of as glamour gulches. They are social havens, where ranchhands, railroad workers and miners relax by the bar or enjoy a slow game of stud. There's no hurry. Local folk like to ask a stranger where he's from, where he's heading and whether he'd like to hear about the area. It's old fashioned western hospitality, and it's on the house. □

*HISTORY*

# GOLD, GAMBLING AND GHOST TOWNS

In the mid 1940s, Bugsy Siegel looked across a wind-swept stretch of sand outside Las Vegas and said, "This is gonna be the world's greatest resort town. Wait and see." People laughed and said he was nuttier than an old sourdough who had spent too much time prospecting in the desert.

But Siegel was absolutely right.

Gambling had been legalized in 1931 to help the state's sagging economy during the Great Depression, and Reno became the center of action. William Harrah opened his casino doors so people could look in. Harold and Pappy Smith furthered the cause by planting their "Harolds Club or Bust" signs all over the world —even at the North Pole. Families began to arrive in the Silver State, lured by rumors of cheap lodging and food.

Before gaming, the state's major industry had been mining, and a fickle industry it was. Nevada was part of Utah Territory in 1859 when two Irish prospectors discovered the Comstock Lode, one of the richest concentrations of silver and gold ever found. California miners rushed back over the Sierra to the new town of Virginia City. As the Comstock boomed, Nevada Territory was created in 1861, and miners and merchants pushed eastward across the mountains. Mark Twain, who witnessed Nevada's early days as a Virginia City reporter, later wrote, "Every few days news would come of the discovery of a brand new mining region; immediately the papers would teem with accounts of its richness, and away the surplus population would scamper to take possession."

The Comstock produced for decades, until the 1880s. Other boom towns were not so lucky. In 1908 the largest city in Nevada was Goldfield at 20,000 residents. But its gold and silver mines finally gave out. Today it is a peaceful town of 500. Such is the fate of other such "living ghost towns" as Austin, Pioche and Eureka, where you'll find old hotels, courthouses, antique shops and saloons with their reminders of Nevada's early days.

But Nevada's "early days" began centuries before Europeans arrived to extract the mineral wealth. A highly developed Pueblo culture thrived in the Moapa Valley before 100 A.D., and then vanished. You can see their traces at the Lost City Museum in Overton. Contemporary Washoes, Paiutes and Shoshones descend from the Indian hunters and fishermen who met the first white explorers.

In 1850 a trail station was established at the foot of the Sierra. Now commemorated by Mormon Station State Park in Genoa, the old fort was the nucleus of the first permanent settlement in the state.

As Mormons were farming the Carson Valley, they also set up a fort at Las Vegas in 1855 and mined lead at nearby Mt. Potosi. Both operations were abandoned in 1857, making Potosi the state's first ghost camp.

But when miners poured in two years later, although they were to make many more ghost towns, they put Nevada on the map permanently. In 1864, Abraham Lincoln enlisted Nevada in the Union cause by declaring it a state, even though the population, about 20,000, was far too small for statehood. Later the transcontinental railroad crossing northern Nevada created the towns of Reno, Sparks, Winnemucca, Battle Mountain and Elko. Las Vegas was incorporated in 1905 as a rail station on the San Pedro, Los Angeles & Salt Lake Railroad, and other lines reached Ely, Hawthorne and Goldfield.

While mining careened between bonanza and depression in the late 1800s, agricultural production had grown steadily after ranchers and farmers settled in Carson, Mason and Moapa valleys in the 1860s. Greater economic diversity came in 1930 when ground was broken for a project that brought in thousands of workers—Hoover Dam. The great reclamation project created Boulder City, a giant reservoir named Lake Mead and national publicity for the dusty desert town of Las Vegas. □



NEVADA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

*Virginia City in the 1870s*


DENIO
McDERMITT
JACKPOT
The world's last stage coach robbery occurred in Jarbidge on December 5, 1916.
JARBIDGE WILDERNESS AREA
SHELDON NAT'L WILDLIFE REFUGE
95
Butch Cassidy and the Wild Bunch robbed Winnemucca's First National Bank of $22,000 on September 20, 1900.
WINNEMUCCA
WELLS
Led by Peter Skene Ogden, trappers of the Hudson's Bay Company explored the Humboldt River area in November 1828.
ELKO
CARLIN
WENDOVER
GERLACH
Rye Patch Res.
14
BATTLE MOUNTAIN
Explorers John C. Fremont and Kit Carson "discovered" Pyramid Lake on January 10, 1844, while searching for the mythical Buenaventura River, believed to flow from Great Salt Lake to the Pacific Ocean.
In the summer of 1846 the Donner Party wasted precious time negotiating the Ruby Mountains, and that fall the pioneers were trapped by early snows in the Sierra.
Ruby Matshes
Pyramid Lake
LOVELOCK
80
Samuel Clemens took the name Mark Twain when he worked as a reporter in Virginia City and prospected in Unionville in 1861
395
RENO
SPARKS
FALLON
AUSTIN
50
EUREKA
McGILL
VIRGINIA CITY
SAND MOUNTAIN
10
Lahontan Res.
INCLINE
18
5
8
ELY
WHEELER PEAK El. 13,061'
4
17
CARSON CITY
11
95
Lake Tahoe
12
MINDEN
GABBS
20
2
LEHMAN CAVES NAT'L MONUMENT
6
STATELINE
YERINGTON
Walker Lake
19
HAWTHORNE
EMPORIUM


NEVADA
THE REAL WEST
Camping Areas
Watersports
Fishing
Scenic Area
H Historic Site
S Skiing
R Rock Hounding
Nevada State Parks
1. Beaver Dam
2. Berlin-Ichthyosaur
3. Cathedral Gorge
4. Cave Lake
5. Dayton
6. Echo Canyon Res.
7. Floyd Lamb
8. Fort Churchill
9. Kershaw-Ryan
10. Lahontan Res.
11. Lake Tahoe
12. Mormon Station
13. Red Rock Canyon
14. Rye Patch Res.
15. Spring Valley
16. Valley of Fire
17 Ward Charcoal Ovens
18. Washoe Lake
19. Walker Lake
20. Belmont Courthouse
BOUNDARY PEAK El. 13,140' HIGHEST POINT IN NEVADA
TONOPAH
Jim Butler discovered a silver bonanza on May 19, 1900, when he picked up a rock to throw at a stubborn mule, and the town of Tonopah was born.
GOLDFIELD
The mining town of Goldfield was the largest city in Nevada (20,000) in 1907. Today its population is about 500.
The federal government chose the Frenchman's Flat area for testing nuclear weapons in 1950. The first detonation of an atomic bomb on the site took place on January 27, 1951, in secret. The area is closed to the public.
PIOCHE
CALIENTE
Jedediah Smith became the first known white man to enter Nevada when he passed through the state's southern tip in 1826. Near the Virgin River he discovered an ancient Indian salt mine.
BEATTY
DEATH VALLEY
DESERT BIG HORN SHEEP REFUGE
CHARLESTON PEAK El. 11,918'
OVERTON
VALLEY OF FIRE
NORTH LAS VEGAS
LAS VEGAS
RED ROCK CANYON
HENDERSON
BOULDER CITY
HOOVER DAM
Lake Mead
Lake Mohave
93
95
15

# AMERICA'S MOST DAZZLING RESORTS







When bandleader Ted Lewis stepped onstage at Elko's Commercial Hotel on April 26, 1941, raised his silk top hat and asked his famous question, "Is everybody happy?" he started two landmark trends. Gambling started on the path to respectability, and one of the world's greatest entertainment industries was born. Nevada soon became the nation's hottest vacation spot.

Frontier gambling may have been left behind when Ted Lewis tuned up his orchestra in Elko, but casino owners are still vying for your attention. Today they offer the loosest slots, the cheapest food and the most star-studded shows anywhere. For a two-drink minimum, you can sit by a lounge stage as singers, comedians, dancers, musicians and animal trainers dazzle you. For only a slightly larger investment, you can watch musical extravaganzas like the MGM Grand in Reno's "Hello Hollywood Hello," burlesques, Broadway shows or some of the biggest names in show business—Frank Sinatra, Sammy Davis Jr., Ann-Margret, Cher and many others. It's all an attempt to make tourists feel special, because they are special to Nevada.




When gaming became legal in 1931, faro and poker were the most popular games. The modern casinogoer finds blackjack is the king, with plenty of excitement around the craps, roulette and baccarat tables. Poker is undergoing a strong revival. Keno's top prize is now $50,000, and the slot machine stakes include cars, airplanes and million-



dollar jackpots.

But at today's resorts you can enjoy a 24-hour marathon of fun without even going near the gaming areas. If it's a 3 a.m. game of bowling you crave, your wish is granted. A noon round of golf on a championship course without waiting to tee off is also possible. Or tennis, or movies. And children can have as much fun in the special entertainment centers most casinos set aside for them with video games, pinballs and rides galore.

The menu is just as varied in the casino restaurants. Casinos compete to offer lower prices, more varied buffets, more elegant dining rooms and more polite service. Where else can you get a great breakfast for 99 cents?

If you like to relax and spectate, the casinos host some of the most watchable events there are. Since Goldfield's Gans-Nelson prizefight in 1906, Nevada has been famous for its boxing matches. Besides championship prizefights, you'll find plenty of action watching professional golfers, tennis players and bowlers in tournament play. Competition is just as fierce among professional gamblers, too, at tournament time.

And best of all, most casinos are near commercial centers. So if you want to go shopping, you can walk. If you want to sightsee, the drive is short.

In the finest tradition of Ted Lewis, casino bandleaders can still ask confidently, "Is everybody happy?" If you're not too busy to answer, you're sure to say you are. □

## *LAS VEGAS*

# GLITTERING CASINOS AND FLOURISHING ARTS

Las Vegas has been called the city without clocks or conscience. It thrives on activity. It's where the action begins, and never ends. Stars are born, fortunes won and lost, and reputations made almost daily. Big money and glamour are its basic fare. Downtown and on the Strip, the lights pulse, crowds fill the sidewalks, and excitement braces the air.

That's one Las Vegas. There's another.

It is a more sedate, graceful Las Vegas. The Old West lingers. Sports and the arts flourish. A spectrum of nature's beauty lies within an hour's drive. Shopping cannot be finer than at the city's many malls, where such stores as Neiman-Marcus, Bullock's, and Saks Fifth Avenue await the discriminating buyer. And there are places—dimly lit and elegant, or full of the raw western spirit—where a visitor can unwind and have fun in the midst of this metropolitan area of 460,000.

Las Vegas' success story is all the more amazing because the city had a slow start. It was just a spring-fed meadow in a desert valley 150 years ago when Spanish traders named it. Mormons farmed the area briefly. Ranchers followed later. In 1905, the City of Las Vegas was incorporated after a railroad line had been laid through the meadows. But the sleepy town grew little for decades.

Like the rest of Nevada, Las Vegas was shriveling under the Great Depression in 1931 when news came from the state capital that gambling had been legalized. But gambling alone didn't change Vegas. Most of the big action was staying up north in Reno.

At the same time, however, the construction of Hoover Dam on the nearby Colorado River was underway. Workers poured in for the federal project, boosting the area's population 50 percent to nearly 6,000. As casinos sprang up on Fremont Street and later on the Strip,



LAS VEGAS NEWS BUREAU



Las Vegas found itself. A new capital of entertainment began to emerge. By 1960, Las Vegas had become a world famous playground.

Now, with 40 major casinos and resorts, Las Vegas attracts around 12 million people yearly. And its joys are not only for adults. Visitors can enjoy the city's heritage in reconstructed Old West towns and in a variety of historical museums. Spring Mountain Ranch, preserved as it was a century ago, occupies a part of the Red Rock Canyon Recreation Lands 15 miles west. Only 30 miles east is Hoover Dam, one of this country's most spectacular engineering feats. A longer drive brings the ambitious history buff to ghost towns like Rhyolite and Delamar or to Death Valley.

Opportunities for outdoor recreation surround the city as well, many of them involving little or no expense. There is skiing on Mt. Charleston. The Lake Mead National Recreation Area offers swimming, water skiing, scuba diving, boating, sailing, and fishing. Valley of Fire State Park, with its rugged red sandstone mountains and ancient Indian petroglyphs, is a mysterious and beautiful setting for camping and hiking.

And there are sports in Las Vegas—an explosion of sports. Thirteen golf courses, dozens of facilities for raquetball and tennis, and races of all kinds await the weekend athlete. Compared to facilities elsewhere of equal quality, the fees are low.

For spectators, no western city of its size offers a greater number of top professional events. Three major golf tournaments bring in the best of the pro circuit. Bjorn Borg, Jimmy Connors, and John McEnroe have played in the Alan King Tennis Classic. Boxers Muhammad Ali, Ken Norton, Roberto Duran, Larry Holmes, and Sugar Ray Leonard have fought for world championships in the city. Add to those auto racing, pro rodeo, championship blackjack and poker, and jai alai, and you still have only a part of Las Vegas' sports panorama.

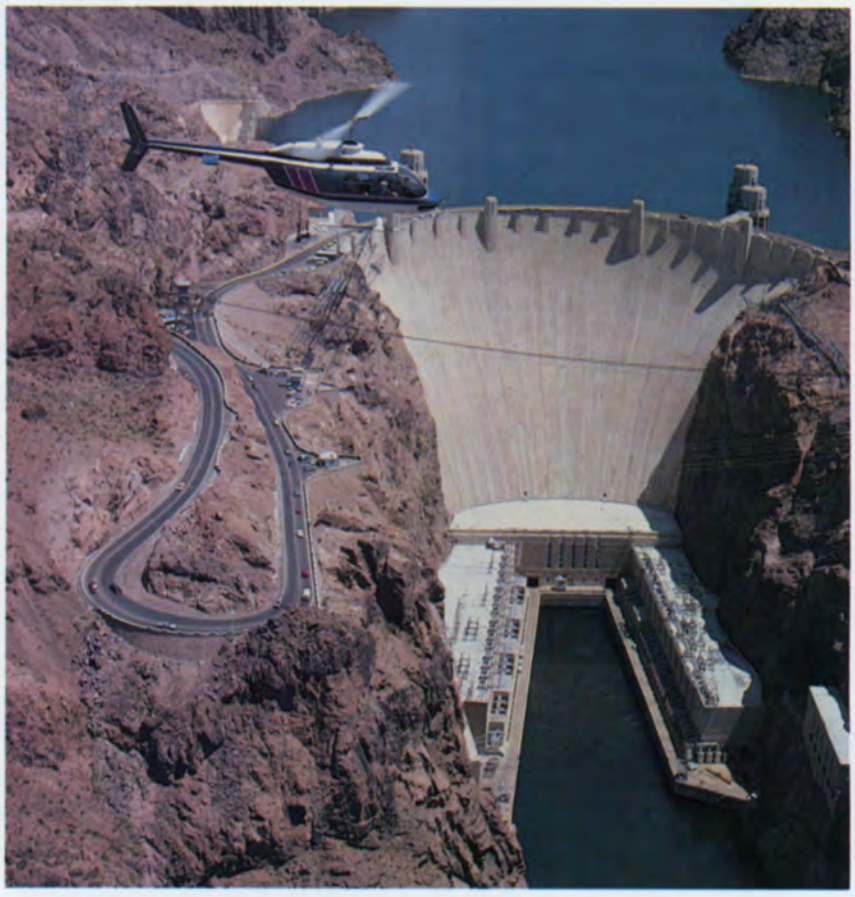
The future promises even greater economic and cultural growth. Gaming and tourism facilities continue to expand. Major corporations are moving in to take advantage of the low taxes and Nevada's Freeport Law, which exempts material stored for later shipment from tax. Nellis Air Force Base and the University of Nevada-Las Vegas (famous for its basketball team) bring in temporary residents who often stay after their term of duty or schooling.

And Las Vegans are committed to making their city a cultural center as well as an entertainment capital. The Las Vegas Allied Arts Council sponsors or promotes a large number of smaller organizations of visual artists, writers, actors and dancers. Most notable though, is the city's music. Many musicians who make their living on casino stages perform in community groups too. As a result, the city offers an impressive range of classical and popular music, including some of the best jazz on the West Coast.

So if Las Vegas is really two cities—the neon-bright, star-studded gaming mecca and the more relaxed recreational haven—both work together to make a grassy spot in the desert one of the most dynamic and irresistible of the world's major cities. □







C. J. HADLEY

*RENO*

# BRIGHT LIGHTS AND TREMBLING LEAVES

Like Las Vegas, Reno first came to life as a railroad town. There the similarity ends. Its history, climate and appearance distinguish Reno.

"The Biggest Little City in the World." Those words, on a neon arch at the city center, have introduced Reno to visitors for more than 50 years. Everything seems to confirm that motto. From behind the sign rise skyscraper casinos. From their cars, visitors can glimpse long rows of slot machines and clusters of blackjack and crap tables. Beyond the city center, more casinos tower in the distance, the scene dominated by MGM Grand, the largest casino in the world. Everywhere, the city is moving. The amount and variety of activity seems more than possible for a metropolitan area of 200,000.

Reno has another motto, however. In the 1920s, a songwriter christened it "The City of Trembling Leaves." Later, Nevada author Walter Van Tilburg Clark used the phrase to title his famous novel about Reno. Many residents still enjoy using the second motto.




HARRY UPSON

They have good reason. Trees anywhere in the high, arid northern Nevada desert deserve mention, and from the Truckee River's banks to the city outskirts, Reno is shaded by long rows of trees—cottonwoods, elms, willows, elder, pine and fir. The trees are a matter of civic pride. In the fall, as leaves die, streaks of gold and red weave through the city, and cupped between the tawny Virginia Range and the snow-capped Sierra, Reno and the Truckee Meadows make a rare desert spectacle.

Reno's roots are as deep and far-ranging as those of its trees. Originally the site of a river crossing for freight teams traveling between California and the Comstock Lode, Reno was established as a supply point for the Central Pacific Railroad in 1868. The community soon saw farming, ranching and lumbering prosper. Later, orchards were planted, a university built. A theater brought culture to the area. And a new community was created when Sparks—now a thriving city of 40,000—was established as a Southern Pacific division point in 1903.

In 1931, liberalized divorce and gambling statutes attracted droves of America's wealthy—and national attention—to Reno. But the ranches and farms were still there, and today they continue to lend the area a tranquil, pastoral air with their lush green fields and white rail fences.

Renoites treasure their connection to the land. The Reno Rodeo celebrates the role of the western cowboy every year. Only 35 miles away, Lake Tahoe's alpine beauty, pure water and snowy slopes provide recreation year-round. The record-setting cutthroat trout of nearby Pyramid Lake and the antelope, deer and chukar of the region make Reno/Sparks a famous hunting and fishing center.

But the city caters to more modern interests as well. The Reno Air Races fill the air above Stead, 10 miles north, with growling planes in astonishing sizes and shapes. The Reno International Jazz Festival and For the Love of Jazz, a club of aficionados, have brought in premier soloists and bands, including Lew Tobakin and Dizzy Gillespie. With the help of the umbrella Sierra Arts Foundation and the University of Nevada-Reno, the arts are entering a bonanza era.



HARRY UPSON

So visitors can walk away from the bustling verve and flair of casinos, if they wish, and minutes later stroll alone along the sparkling Truckee, listening to music drift faintly in the air from a band playing in a nearby city park.

No wonder the leaves in Reno are trembling. ☐

*LAKE TAHOE*

# GEM OF THE SIERRA

"As it lay there with the shadows of the mountain brilliantly photographed upon its still surface, I thought it must surely be the fairest picture the whole earth affords," wrote Mark Twain of his first look at Lake Tahoe.

Famous for the clarity of its water, the reviving freshness of its air and the beauty of its alpine setting, Tahoe still causes visitors to gasp when they first see it. A crown of mountain peaks enclose the 6,200-foot-high lake, and in spring and early summer, white mountaintops, green pine and deep, deep blue water make the Tahoe Basin a vision of paradise.

Early explorers named the lake to honor others—Lake Bonpland, for a French explorer, and Lake Bigler, for a California governor. The present (and oldest) name honors the lake itself. "Tahoe" is believed to combine two Washoe Indian words for water and snow.

Logging was thriving around the lake by the late 1860s, but before the end of the century recreation had become the biggest attraction. Fishing came first—and still does for those fishermen who dream of hooking a 20-pound mackinaw trout or a 16-inch kokanee salmon.

Today the lake supports more than fishing. Sailboats, cabin cruisers, and speedboats ply the water with plenty of spare room. Large excursion boats, including a vintage paddlewheeler, tour the lake daily.

The sandy beaches of Nevada's Lake Tahoe State Park and other public areas are perfect for swimming, snorkeling and scuba diving. But many people prefer to hike down to the undeveloped, boulder-clogged shores, where mottled rocks shimmer under gentle waves.

The mountains around the lake abound with adventure for hikers and backpackers. On established routes like the Sierra Trail, the whole family can enjoy an outing together.







ED COOPER



In winter, Tahoe means snow skiing. With 21 resorts, the opportunities for downhill, cross-country, ski jumping and snow camping are unmatched in the Sierra. Heavenly Valley is the largest ski area, with the longest run, in America. At night, at the bottom of the slopes, lodges offer everything from dinner and dancing to intimate conversation around the fireplace.

Big-time gaming came to the lake not long after Nevada legalized it in 1931. Today, crowding the California borders on the north and south shores are some of Nevada's newest and most luxurious casinos. You can walk from the beach or the mountain slopes into a glittering showroom or sumptuous restaurant for an evening's relaxation.

And there is sightseeing everywhere, for the lake's natural magnificence dominates everything. □

## NEVADA FACTS

**Nevada**
The name Nevada was chosen over other candidates such as Sierra Nevada and Washoe by Congress in 1861, when it established Nevada Territory. The name means snowcapped in Spanish. Nevada was admitted to the union on October 31, 1864, as the 36th state.

**Topography**
The state lies almost entirely within the Great Basin, which is characterized by inward-draining rivers and a rugged, north-south system of basins and ranges. The southern part of the state is in the Mohave Desert. The highest point is Boundary Peak, 13,140 feet, in Esmeralda County, and the lowest is 490 feet, on the Colorado River in Clark County.

**Climate**
Nevada has a semiarid, high-desert climate with an average annual precipitation of nine inches. Temperatures vary widely from south to north and also from valleys to mountains. For instance, in January daily temperatures in Las Vegas may range from a high of 55°F to a low of 32°F. The same month Reno's range may be 47° to 17° In July, Las Vegas will normally hit 105° to 76°, while Reno reaches 90° and drops as low as 45°

**Area**
Nevada covers 110,540 square miles, making it the seventh largest state in the nation. The only larger states, in order, are Alaska, Texas, California, Montana, New Mexico and Arizona. In Nevada 86 percent of the land is owned and administered by the federal government. Only Alaska has more federally controlled land.

**Population**
Nevada's population in 1980 was 825,461, or 7.47 persons per square mile.

**1980 U.S. census figures:**
Clark County: 461,816
Washoe County: 193,623
Las Vegas: 164,674
Reno: 100,756
North Las Vegas: 42,739
Sparks: 40,780
Carson City: 32,022
Henderson: 24,363
Boulder City: 9,590
Elko: 8,758
Ely: 4,882
Fallon: 4,262
Winnemucca: 4,140

**Major Industries**
Nevada's top industry is tourism; gaming alone provided nearly $170 million in taxes and fees in 1980, about 48 percent of state revenues. Other important industries are mining, agriculture, transportation, utilities, manufacturing and wholesale and retail trades.

**State Capital**
Carson City is the state capital. The Nevada Legislature meets there every other year.

**State Seal**
Adopted in 1866, the state seal depicts railroading, mining and agriculture and has the motto, "All For Our Country."

**State Flag**
With blue body, the state flag features two sprays of sagebrush framing a large silver star, which is circled by the letters "Nevada" and topped by a golden scroll that reads "Battle Born."

**State Bird**
The mountain bluebird, the state bird, lives in the high country and feeds on wild fruit and insects. Its song is a clear, short warble like the caroling of a robin.

**State Animal**
The bighorn sheep is the official state animal. The bighorn is well-suited for Nevada's mountainous desert country, being agile on steep slopes and able to go without water for several days.

**State Tree**
The single-leaf pinyon was declared the state tree in 1959. This aromatic pine, which grows to about 15 feet in height, produces delicious pinenuts in the fall.

**State Flower**
Known for its musky fragrance, the sagebrush is Nevada's state flower. Sagebrush is found above 4,000 feet and has gray-green leaves and pale yellow flowers that bloom in fall.

**State Slogan**
Nevada is most popularly known as the Silver State or the Sagebrush State. The official slogan, adopted in 1937, is the Battle Born State.

**Ms. Leslie Sluman**
**Director of Tourism**
**Dept. of Economic Development**
**Capitol Complex**
**Carson City, NV. 89710**
**(702) 885-4322**

**Nevada Department of Economic Development**
**Capitol Complex**
**Carson City, NV 89710**

## NEVADA CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE

*(Addresses and phone numbers subject to change.)*

**CARSON CITY**
Carson City
1191 S. Carson Street
Carson City, NV 89701
(702) 882-1565

**CHURCHILL COUNTY**
Churchill County
30 W. Williams Avenue
Fallon, NV 89406
(702) 423-2544

**CLARK COUNTY**
Boulder City
1497 Nevada Highway
Boulder City, NV 89005
(702) 293-2034

Henderson
100 E. Lake Mead Drive
Henderson, NV 89015
(702) 565-8951

Las Vegas
2301 E. Sahara Avenue
Las Vegas, NV 89104
(702) 457-4664

Latin Chamber of Commerce
829 S. 6th Street, Suite 3
Las Vegas, NV 89101
(702) 385-7367

Moapa Valley
P.O. Box 361
Overton, NV 89040
(702) 397-2160

North Las Vegas
1023 E. Lake Mead Boulevard
North Las Vegas, NV 89030
(702) 642-9595

**DOUGLAS COUNTY**
Carson Valley
P.O. Box 1200
Minden, NV 89423
(702) 782-2172

Tahoe-Douglas
P.O. Box 401
Zephyr Cove, NV 89448
(702) 588-4591

**ELKO COUNTY**
Elko
P.O. Box 470
Elko, NV 89801
(702) 738-7135

Jackpot
P.O. Box 508
Jackpot, NV 89825
(702) 755-2321

Wells
P.O. Box 307
Wells, NV 89835
(702) 752-3421

**ESMERALDA COUNTY**
(No Chamber)

**EUREKA COUNTY**
Eureka City Library
P.O. Box 21
Eureka, NV 89316
(702) 237-5307

**HUMBOLDT COUNTY**
Humboldt County
48 W. Winnemucca Blvd.
Winnemucca, NV 89445
(702) 623-2225

**LANDER COUNTY**
Austin
P.O. Box 212
Austin, NV 89310
(702) 964-2341

Battle Mountain
P.O. Box 405
Battle Mountain, NV 89820
(702) 635-5397

**LINCOLN COUNTY**
Caliente
P.O. Box 553
Caliente, NV 89008
(702) 726-3399

Pioche
P.O. Box 127
Pioche, NV 89043
(702) 962-5842

**LYON COUNTY**
Mason Valley
P.O. Box 327
Yerington, NV 89447
(702) 463-3721

Dayton Historical Society
P.O. Box 220
Dayton, NV 89403
(702) 246-0144

Fernley
P.O. Box 1606
Fernley, NV 89048
(702) 575-4459

Silver Springs
P.O. Box 8
Silver Springs, NV 89429

**MINERAL COUNTY**
Mineral County
P.O. Box 1337
Hawthorne, NV 89415
(702) 945-5896

**NYE COUNTY**
Tonopah
P.O. Box 408
Tonopah, NV 89049
(702) 482-3558

Pahrump Valley
Hwy. 160
P.O. Box 42
Pahrump, NV 89041
(702) 727-5800

**PERSHING COUNTY**
Pershing County
P.O. Box 238
Lovelock, NV 89419
(702) 273-2356

**STOREY COUNTY**
Virginia City Visitors Bureau
P.O. Box 489
Virginia City, NV 89440
(702) 847-0177

Virginia City Chamber
P.O. Box 464
Virginia City, NV 89440
(702) 847-0311

**WASHOE COUNTY**
Incline Village/Crystal Bay
P.O. Drawer CS
Incline Village, NV 89450
(702) 831-4440

Latin Chamber of Commerce
640 N. Sierra Street, Suite 101
Reno, NV 89503

P.O. Box 6030
Reno, NV 89513
(702) 329-6006

Greater Reno-Sparks
P.O. Box 3499
Reno, NV 89505
(702) 786-3030

Sparks
P.O. Box 1776
Sparks, NV 89431
(702) 358-1976

**WHITE PINE COUNTY**
White Pine County
636 Aultman
P.O. Box 239
Ely, NV 89301
(702) 289-8877



LINDA HAAS

# 35 HOT TIPS ON WOOD STOVES

**How to build your woodpile, save money and live happily with a 500-pound monster. By Jim Crandall**

When heating the home, everyone wants to hog-tie the oil barons. No one wants to do it by following the thermostatic commands of over-insulated Washington lawmakers. We freeze; they weekend in Bermuda.

Thus the chilling facts of home heating have resurrected an old fixture of frontier winters: the wood stove. Today stove store showrooms are packed with gleaming heat machines. In many American living rooms the TV's mesmerizing hues have been replaced by an orange glow flickering through the glass doors of an airtight wood stove.

But the switch from thermostat dialing to tending a 500-pound heat-breathing monster requires work and planning. There's wood to obtain, chimneys to clean and fires to build.

For each phase, there's an easy way. Whether buying a new stove or tending an old one, you can make wood-burning a warm, safe, money-saving venture. Just stoke the coals, down your dampers and enjoy *Nevada Magazine's* "Hot Tips on Wood Stoves," a collection of tips from Nevada stove makers, wood cutters and seasoned wood burners.

## New Stoves: How Not to Get Burned

The best way to pick your stove is to visit every stove store in town (see listing), read each manufacturer's brochure, talk to everyone you know who owns a stove and then make a decision. Here are some items to keep in mind:

- Most stove stores feature two kinds of stoves: plate steel and cast iron. You'll find plate steel models in abundance, because plate or sheet steel is easier for the manufacturer to work with. These stoves should have firebrick linings since even good quarter-inch plate steel can warp.
- Don't buy a poor quality stove to save a month's fuel bill; you'll never wake up in a warm house.
- Make sure the stove has a solid guarantee, is from a popular stove company, and passes building code requirements in your area.
- Consider the size of the door and firebox for ease of loading logs. It's frustrating to get a log halfway into a roaring fire and find it stuck in the door. It's more frustrating to pull it out and find it aflame.
- Make sure the doors swing easily and seal snugly. A stove is only as airtight as its doors, and the fit won't improve with age.
- Examine the welds on plate steel stoves for cracks and sloppy workmanship. The quality in the crannies will reveal the builder's level of pride.
- Beware of the backyard stove builder who tells you he can make a stove that's "just as good" as anything on the market. Stove building is an exact science.
- Some stoves are equipped with forced-air fans, which work well to circulate warm air but can cause problems if they malfunction. Some wood-burning naturalists prefer to use ceiling fans. You can also purchase room-to-room fans that mount in walls.
- Some stove sellers claim a 14-hour burn time because of bi-metal thermostats. These are heat-sensitive coils that work on the outgoing damper. You set the thermostat to the temperature you desire, and the coil regulates the amount of air fanning the flames.
- Look for secondary combustion chambers. The smoke and gas produced from a fire (initial combustion) is also flammable.

Some stoves are designed to route the smoke back over the flames for secondary combustion.

## Hooking Up Right

Imagine standing barefoot in the cold street, a blanket draped around your shivering shoulders, the night sky illuminated by the brilliance of the fire consuming your home.

Now imagine your insurance man telling you that your policy doesn't cover fires caused by improperly installed, uninspected wood stoves.

The most important factor in stove use is proper installation. To pass fire and building codes—and insurance company requirements—you must start with a stove approved by Underwriters Laboratories (UL), Building Officials Code Administration (BOCA), or Southern Building Code Congress (SBCC), and install it to exact specifications.

General rules are:

- Stoves must be positioned 36 inches from a combustible wall and stand on a non-combustible surface at least three-quarter inches thick. The firebed must be 18 inches from the floor. The distances may be decreased by using asbestos panels offset from the wall.
- Never connect a new stove to an old stove flue pipe. Many older homes have decorator pie plates covering old clay flues in the ceiling. One creosote fire and such a flue melts like wax.
- Use a high quality double or triple wall flue system to carry heat, smoke and flames safely through the ceiling and roof. The systems are expensive, but the safety is worth it.
- A good draft and the law require the flue pipe to extend two feet higher than the surface of the roof at any point 10 feet away, measured on a level line.
- Always connect the flue of a fireplace insert stove directly to the fireplace damper hole. Make sure you have a good seal. Some inserts feature false fronts that may hide poor connections. If the insert is improperly fitted, the smoke and gases produced by initial combustion can collect in the old fireplace and explode.
- Avoid angled stove stacks. Some stove books show sketches of stovepipe sculptures designed to restrict the loss of heat through the chimney flue and keep the maximum amount in the home. But when you find those elbows clogged with smoke-produced creosote crust, you'll realize a good straight shot through the ceiling works best.

## How to Live With It

Heating with a wood stove means work—hauling, cutting and stacking wood, splitting kindling, cleaning out ashes, scrubbing chimney flues and building countless fires. But a well-kept stove will reward your efforts by brimming with

*(Continued on page 61)*

ALBANY INSTITUTE OF HISTORY AND ART



# ODE TO AN OLD STOVE

**Thanks to Ben Franklin and the Arabs, antique wood-burners can be blue-chip investments. By Buddy Frank**

Ben Franklin is no stranger to Nevadans. His portrait on the $100 bill has made him a celebrity on crap tables from Boulder to Jackpot. But these days, Franklin is being praised by northern Nevadans for a different accomplishment.

In 1740, five years before his famous kite-flying experiments, he spent a chilly winter at his studies. He noticed that only a portion of the heat being generated by the burning wood in his fireplace was entering the room. Instead, most of the heat was going up the chimney, creating a cool breeze as it went.

The problem, he reasoned, was to retain the radiant heat, yet control the draft. His answer was a baffled iron box that he dubbed a "Pennsylvania Fireplace." It closely resembles today's popular fireplace inserts. With added refinements, the stove Franklin described in a 1744 pamphlet is remarkably similar to today's stylish 1980 models. Many bear the name Franklin Fireplaces, a well-deserved tribute to the man who refused to patent his discovery. "As we enjoy the great advantages from the inventions of others," he said, "we should be glad of an opportunity to serve others by any inventions of ours."

From those colonial days until the 1930s, the heating stove reigned as the dominant domestic appliance. Houses were designed from the stove outward; buildings with large stoves became community centers; and work schedules revolved around the stoking of the firebox.

Society, too, was reflected in the glow of the stove. The potbellies and "airtights" served the masses, while the upper crust

warmed their feet in front of porcelain magazine and ornate parlor models. In the end, all came together in the scrap heaps and junk yards.

Oil and gas took over in the 1940s. Modern heaters offered the advantages of instant heat and centralized systems. For comfort and convenience, the fossil-fueled, forced-air heater of the 20th century is without equal. Stoves were gone overnight.

A new factor spawned a rebirth. The Arab oil embargo of 1973 not only revolutionized the automotive industry, but also set Americans in search of heating alternatives. As natural gas and fuel oil tripled in price, wood burners made a comeback. Foundries resumed production. Retail stove outlets began to populate shopping centers. Today there are over 600 manufacturers specializing in stoves, even more in after-market products ranging from creosote brushes to thermostatic dampers.

The return to wood and coal also meant rescue for those stoves prematurely cast aside. They were revived by both the antique craze and the energy crunch. Connoisseurs found their heating plants turning into blue chip investments. A nickel-plated base burner, the king of the parlor stoves, could be had in 1970 for under $700. Today they're a bargain at $4,000. The plain and simple Vigilants and Shakers are becoming rare below $1,000. As sales of contemporary models continue to climb, it appears the antiques will maintain their economic potential.

Apart from the cost, the biggest obstacle toward buying an old stove is simply finding one. Once slow-movers in antique shops, they're literally a hot item today even at the premium prices. Although rare, the best buy is to pick up a junker in some forgotten backroom or farmer's field. Refurbishing is easy compared to some antique restorations—cast iron is hard to destroy. Disassembly, sandblasting, plating and reassembly will turn a rough derelict into a like-new stove. Even on a large stove, this can usually be done for under $200.

A word of caution when buying a well-worn stove: make sure it's all there. Mica glass and fasteners can be replaced, but original castings are impossible to find.

Once restored, an antique heater is much the same as more recent designs. However, the inscription "airtight" on an old stove is a misnomer. By present standards, they leak like sieves. A good chimney draft will ensure a smokeless living room, and paying the price of a few BTUs for the nickel-plated bosoms and ornate thighs of an antique is worth it.

As wood stoves have gained popularity, ordinances regulating their installation and operation also have flourished. Some laws could turn older stoves back into conversation pieces and planters. Clark County simply requires antique stove owners to follow standardized installation rules. But in Washoe and Elko counties and Carson City, building codes prohibit installation of any stove that has not been tested by a national laboratory. Their concern involves proper separation between stove and wall, yet the wording of the law indirectly bans antiques. Factories can overcome the problem, but an individual would find the $2,000 fee and six-month waiting period required for a lab test too much to bear.

If you're determined to have an illegitimate heater, you needn't worry about a building inspector kicking in your front door and taking an ax to the stove. But you could run afoul of your homeowner's insurance in the event of a fire.

Murphy's Law grants no exception to wood burners, and things do go wrong. Burned fingers are commonplace and hot logs often land where they're not supposed to land. First aid kits and fire extinguishers should be considered important accessories. Add the problem of coal dust in your living room and creosote-caused chimney fires, and you'll understand why electricity gained the upper hand.

But when things work well, you can laugh at the cold. There's no feeling in the world like throwing open your door on a sub-zero night because it's too hot around the stove. Ask Ben Franklin. He knows. □

*Buddy Frank is managing editor of KTVN-TV news in Reno.*

## The Lady and The Fern

Ever since I can remember, a drop in body temperature was accompanied by the forward click of the thermostat. I grew up thinking that God gave us the sun in the morning and the Honeywell at night. A warm house was one of life's contractural commitments—like death and income taxes.

Now all of a sudden the president was asking the nation to turn back the heaters to 68 degrees. My fuel bill was already more than the rent, and I wasn't sure I could afford to *boost* the dial to 55 degrees.

It was a trip to Virginia City one cold and snowy day that provided a solution. Oddly, one restaurant had its front door propped open. The blast of hot air coming out of the place was melting the ice on the sidewalk. The only explanation for this incredible energy seemed to be a rather ugly potbelly stove perched near the back wall. Its once-black bottom had turned gray over the years, while its midsection glowed reddish-orange as if it might at any moment transform itself into a pool of molten slag on the floor.

While three-quarters of the Comstock was hiding from the cold under layers of wool and whiskey, the folks in this eatery were waiting for window seats to beat the heat. I resolved to buy a stove before the next hard freeze.

After a brief search, it was evident that new stoves were in short supply. The only option, in those days before Buck Stove franchises, was to find a survivor of the last Wood Age.

In a week of hunting, my only discovery was a 1920 Royal Oak in an antique shop. I wasn't sure at first that it really was a stove. It had been painted from legs to cookplate with Krylon Spray silver. Where the mica glass once flickered with flames, yellowed SaranWrap plugged the holes. I found the top ornament nestled among the grates, and in its place was a bouquet of plastic flowers.

The sales clerk, who admitted her real speciality was paperweights, assured me this was a fine stove and that real flowers would do even better. "We had a fern in it last spring that looked just fabulous," she said.

When I told her my begonia had recently passed away, she felt sorry and dropped the price to $125. Since that amount was a third of the December oil tab, I wrote her a check and hauled the stove away.

Two days with a wire brush and 14 pints of Liquid Sandpaper later, my suspicions were confirmed. This was a stove. There were even traces that some of the curlicue mouldings had once been nickel-plated. The fellow at the bumper repair shop agreed and plopped the parts into his vat of electrolytes. My stove emerged like Cinderella in silver slippers. Before it was even dry, the fellow at the chrome shop offered me a $400 profit for the unassembled pieces.

When I told the antique dealer of my good fortune, she cursed and angrily admitted that she'd lied about the fern.

But this story has a happy ending. I eventually married the antique clerk, we bought an even bigger stove (an 1889 Cole Hot Blast), and haven't had a chimney fire yet. On romantic weekends we still sneak away to Virginia City and peer at the beautiful custom-made stove in the window of Grant's General Store, dreaming of the day when we can afford a silver and gold-plated base burner.—*BF*

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(Continued from page 58)

warmth, and you'll laugh with satisfaction at the small numbers on your formerly bloated fuel bill. Here are a few ideas on living with your wood stove:

• To build a fire, fill the bottom of the stove with crumpled newspaper. Place two or three layers of kindling sticks varying in thickness from a quarter to three inches on top of the paper, placing the smaller sticks on the bottom and the larger on top. Make sure to keep air spaces between the sticks so the fire can circulate through the wood. Open the dampers, light the paper and close the door. Wait five minutes or until the kindling is well lit and the paper is burned away. Open the door and place some logs on the flames, maintaining air spaces.

## The Inverted Sack

The horror of awakening in December to a house like a meat freezer and a woodpile covered with snow spurred the invention of the inverted sack. You just build a fire (minus the flame) upside down in a bag.

Any good sized heavy duty shopping bag will work. Fill the bottom third with sticks the thickness of chair legs. For the middle use smaller kindling. Make sure the wood is crisscrossed so the fire will breathe. Fill the remaining third to the brim of the bag, with crumpled newspaper. Set this package beside the bed before retiring.

When you wake up in the morning, just jump out of bed, grab the bag, run to the stove, stuff it in upside down, light the crumpled paper, close the door, run back to bed, get under the covers and pray that it burns.—*JC*

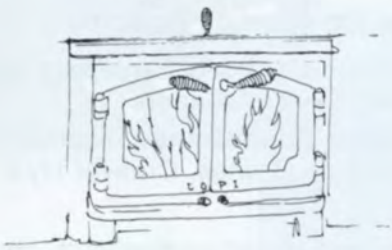
• To regulate the fire, learn to use your dampers properly. When you first light your fire, open all dampers to allow the maximum amount of oxygen to fan the flames. Once the fire is well lit, shut the stack damper down until the fire purrs instead of roars. When the logs are baking on a bed of hot coals, close the door dampers. This fire will burn for hours, perhaps all night.

• The dreaded bi-product of heating with wood is creosote. This collects within the flue stack in two forms—a sticky tar and a brittle crust. Both forms clog your chimney and can cause creosote fires. Creosote burns extremely hot, and a fire in your flue will sound like launch time at the Cape. Creosote can melt any steel chimney, and airtight stove flues should be checked at least twice a year. There are two ways to eliminate creosote: (1) hire a chimney sweep or buy a flue cleaning kit and scrub it

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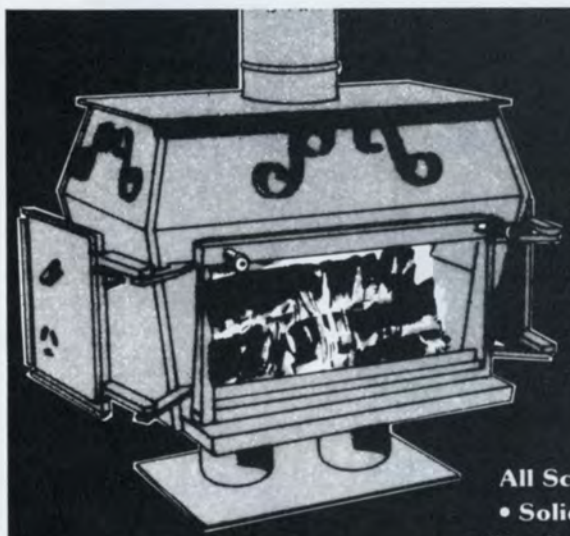


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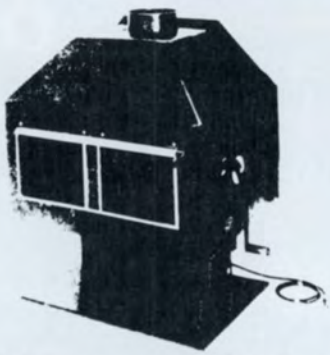
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yourself; or (2) try the creosote burn-out method. This is done in new flues by stoking the fire and opening the dampers wide for about 15 minutes, twice a day, morning and evening. The fire roars up the chimney and burns the daily buildup of creosote.

- For home comfort and stove longevity, try the one-fire winter. Swedish lore has it that you should light your fire in the fall and let it die down in the spring. Besides keeping the home cozy all winter, this method will add years of life to the stove since the metal never experiences the constant molecular shock of expansion and contraction. The one-fire winter can be accomplished only in a good, airtight wood stove. Load it to the brim before retiring, making sure the dampers are closed. When you awaken, simply throw some kindling on the coals and start it up again.
- Whether you go with the Swedes or light your fire every morning, you'll have to clean your ashes out about once a week. Be sure to use a heavy metal container; there are always glowing coals embedded in the ashes. Set the filled container outside in a safe place and let it cool overnight before dumping. Ashes are great for a garden, providing alkaline, phosphorus, potash and mulch.
- Always leave some ashes in the stove. A one- to two-inch bed of ashes will insulate the coals, promoting a longer burning fire, and also protect the firebox from the heat.
- Green, wet wood is impossible to light, but you may want to throw a hefty, wet log on a good bed of coals at night or when you leave your fire unattended during the day. The log may not burn all the way, but it's sure to burn long and slow.

**The Morning Call stove, 1861**



## Burning Those BTUs

Every stove seller will drop the phrase "BTU" like an oak log on your foot. A BTU is a British Thermal Unit, the amount of heat needed to raise the temperature of one pint of water one degree Fahrenheit.

The BTU ratings (in millions per cord) for Nevada's most available wood are: white oak (imported), 29.1; pinyon pine and tamarack, 22.7; Utah juniper, 21.9; jeffrey, lodgepole and ponderosa pine, 17.1; white fir, 16.7; aspen, 16.3; cottonwood, 14.6; western red cedar, 13.7 (and smells great).

If you know your stove's BTU rating, you can determine how much wood (and money) it should take to heat your home. For instance, figure your stove puts out 20,000 BTUs per hour. You're burning pinyon, which, with 80 solid cubic feet in a cord, produces 289,000 BTUs per cubic foot. Therefore one cubic foot of pinyon will burn for 14.5 hours. At the stove's lowest damper setting, the 14.5 hours could represent one day.

Thus, in theory, the cord should last about 80 days. If it cost $100, then your per-day cost would be about $1.20. Of course, if you cut your own, the savings can be even greater.—*JC*

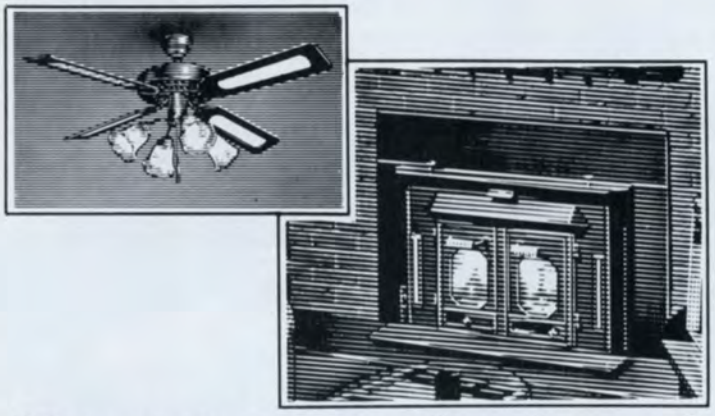
### Log Lore

Wood stoves have an incredible appetite and a strong argument—feed them or you freeze. You'll find yourself lusting after your neighbor's woodpile, scanning the road's edge for wounded trees, and even intimidating your favorite chair. Party conversations will turn from politics and religion to wood—who's got it, and who's selling it cheap.

Here are some tips on building your woodpile:

- When buying wood, be sure you get a full cord. A cord should measure 4x4x8 feet (128 cubic feet). When stacked, the gaps should be filled with smaller sticks, to make it as solid as possible. A cord will provide about 80 solid cubic feet of fuel.
- Check every aspect of the sale with the supplier. Is the wood split and cut? Will it fit your stove? Is it well-seasoned (dried)? Does he deliver *and* stack it for you?
- The drier the wood, the greater the output of heat. The best seasoned wood will have been air-dried for at least 12 months.
- You'll never have enough kindling. When you buy wood, ask your supplier how much kindling comes with the cord. If you cut your own, tie as many small branches as you can atop your truck. You can get kindling at construction jobs,


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dumps, landfills, mills, cabinet shops and lumber yards.

- If you want to take full advantage of heating with a wood stove, cut your own wood. You can buy a bow saw and avoid the piston-pounding roar of a chain saw. If you go with a chain saw, beginners should buy one with a 10-inch to 14-inch blade. Just remember a chain saw is the most dangerous power tool around. Be sure to memorize the owners manual and learn saw etiquette from an experienced wood cutter.
- You can obtain a wood-cutting permit from the U.S. Forest Service or the Bureau of Land Management in your area. They will direct you to public wood-cutting areas.
- Avoid driving downhill to a wood-cutting area. Half a ton of wood may make the trip back out impossible.
- Take a friend along, both as a safety margin and to help load that wood.
- Look for trees that are "standing dead." These will have brown needles or leaves. This indicates the tree has been dead for no longer than one season so the pitch is still intact. Pitch is messy, but burns hot.
- Keep an extra chain and spark arrestor and a chain file with your saw. A two-hour drive into California to get wood can be foiled by a dull or broken chain or by the U.S. Forest Service if you have a one-inch hole in your spark arrestor screen on the saw's exhaust.
- Jeffrey, ponderosa and pinyon pine, aspen and Utah juniper are the most common fuelwoods in Nevada. Cottonwood, which lines the rivers and lakes, is also plentiful, but the U.S. Forest Service, BLM and conservationists discourage cutting cottonwood, which acts as a cover for game.
- Oak burns hotter than pitch-filled pinyon which burns hotter than jeffrey pine. Nearly everything burns better than cottonwood. Energy content is measured in BTUs (see box for wood heat ratings), and high-energy wood usually costs more per cord because it produces more heat. Beware the slightly blemished jargon of some wood sellers. In Oregon the word "tamarack" means exactly that (22.7 million BTUs per cord); in Nevada "tamarack" usually means lodgepole pine (17.1).

The switch from conventional heating systems to wood stoves takes some adjustment. Each new stove has a personality of its own. The whole family has to learn to live with it. After all, it's a heavy hunk of steel, it sits right in the living room, and it's hot.

Once you've grown accustomed to the stove's ways, you'll never regret the purchase. It is efficient to its blackened core, and will last for years with proper care. □

*Jim Crandall is associate editor of Nevada Magazine.*

# Heat Shops

**You can find new and custom-made wood stoves in these 41 Nevada establishments.**

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**ABC Concrete Products**—40 Kietzke Ln., 329-4281. 7-5 Mon.-Fri., 8-4 Sat. Timberland fireplaces and furnaces, eight sizes and models. Manager Jim Misfeldt.

**Buck Stove and Fan Center**—4898 S. Virginia St., 825-9251. 9-6 Mon.-Fri., 9-8 Thurs., 9-5 Sat., 12-4 Sun. Buck stoves, freestanding or fireplace inserts, wood and coal burning forced-air systems. Stovepipe, tools, chimney brushes, ceiling fans (six brands). Installation, service. Owner Steve Maxoutopoulis.

**C & M Enterprises**—4900 Mill St., 786-7222. 9-5 Tues.-Sat. Fisher and Ashley stoves, Paloma hot-water heaters. Metalbestos, stovepipe, prefab hearths and inserts. Owners Mary Anne and Jack Healy.

**The Cinder Box**—1041 S. Virginia St., 323-0700. 9-5 Mon.-Fri., 9-4 Sat. Heat King, Sweet Home, Lopi, Northland. Glass doors, tools, grates, gas logs, fire lighters, log baskets, coal hods, chain saws, log splitters, wood hot-water heaters. Installation, service. Owners Sher and Jerry Hardin.

**Commercial Hardware**—500 E. 4th St., 329-0231. 8-5:30 Mon.-Fri., 9-5 Sat. Schrader, Ashley, Metalbestos, cast iron. Stovepipe, insulated pipe, flue brushes and cleaners, grates, tool sets. Some repair. Owner Paul S. Urrutia.

**Fireplace Distributors of Nevada**—125 Woodland Ave., 747-1346. 8-5 Mon.-Fri. Fireplaces: Majestic, Marco, Superior. Stoves: Earth Stove, Alaska, Kodiac, Malm, Ranger. Variety of inserts. Flue pipes, glass doors, ceiling fans, ventilators, chimney brushes, tools. Installation. Owner Larry Lundgren.

**Kelley's Kountry Antiques**—11450 S. Virginia St., 853-3223. 10-5 Sat.-Thurs. Antique pot belly stoves: Round Oak, Riverside, Caboose, Ideal, U.S. Army Cannon Heater. Completely restored, ready for hookup. Owner Johnny Kelley.

**Lundgren's Energy Systems**—3334 Kietzke Ln., 825-6395. 10-6 Mon.-Sat. Fireplaces: Majestic, Marco, Superior. Stoves: Earth Stove, Alaska, Kodiac, Malm, Ranger. Variety of inserts. Flue pipes, glass doors, ceiling fans, ventilators, chimney brushes, tools. Installation. Owner John Lundgren.

**Orley's Custom Stoves**—1207 California Ave., 322-8604. 9-5 daily, 10-4 Sat. Orley's custom stoves. Hearth rugs, trivettes and other accessories. Free installation of fireplace models within 100 miles. Repairs. Manager, L. H. Larson.

**Overland Construction Co.**—Call 825-4871, 9-6 Mon.-Sat. Full line of wood burning stoves, stovepipe and accessories. Installation of stoves and fireplaces. Owner Earl Barbey.

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**Fire & Floor Shop**—Silver State Plaza, 358-3410. 8-7 Mon.-Fri., 12-6 Sat., Sun. by appoint-


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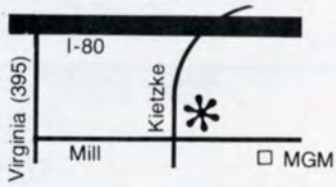
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**Glass Mountain Block**—355 Greg St., 358-1200. 8-5 Mon.-Sat. Fisher, Jotul, Freeway, Garrison, Craft, Arrow and others. Tile, stovepipe and energy conservation items. Retail Manager Doug Houston, Store Manager Ellen Atwood-Kenny.

**Roy's Energy Savers**—1949 Prater Way, 356-1093. 9-5:30 Mon.-Thurs. and Sat. Silent Flame, Discovery 2400. Stovepipe. Installation. Owner Roy Daz.

**Schrader Stoves of Sparks**—15 Glen Carren Circle, 359-5203. 9-5 Tues.-Fri., 10-4 Sat. Schrader stoves and inserts. Fireplace accessories. Owner Donald S. Van Horne.

**Tolotti Mfg. Co.**—670 Dunn Circle, 359-5661. 9-5 Mon.-Fri., 9-2 Sat. Tolotti inserts, flush and cooktop models. Owner Greg Tolotti.

## Carson City

**Carson-Tahoe Fireplace Distributors**—328 Fairview Dr., 883-7043. 9-6 Mon.-Fri., 10-5 Sat. Wood stoves, mobile home stoves, clearance fireplaces, cook stoves. Complete flue kits, glass doors, tools, hearths, chimney brushes, cleaning products, brass and copper accessories. Owners Art Maffei and Jim Carter.

**Chas-C-Meek-Lumber-Co.**—2869 N. Carson St., 882-5555. 7:30-5:30 Mon.-Fri., 8-2 Sat. Heat King, Blaze King, Earth Stove, Frontier, Hilander, Heatilator, freestanding and insert models, zero-clearance models. Metalbestos and Dura-Vent chimneys, grates, tools, accesies. Representative Charles D. Keller, Manager Ken Walsh.

**M. C. Manufacturing**—3160 Deer Run Rd., 883-6773. 8-4:30 Mon.-Fri., 8-12 Sat. Custom built Elco inserts and freestanding stoves. Installation of inserts. Owner Merrit J. Olmstead.

**Meyers Hardware**—202 N. Carson St., 882-1317. 8-5:30 Mon.-Sat., 9-3 Sun. Earth Stove, Franklin. Owner Ladd Furlong.

**Schrader Stoves of Nevada**—4750 Highway 50 East, Unit 3, 882-8685. 9-5 Mon.-Fri., 10-4 Sat. Schrader stoves, 16 models and sizes. Stovepipe, chimney systems, wood holders, tools and flue brushes. Owners Donald W. and Marion Van Horne.

**Sierra Iron & Mfg.**—4847 E. Nye Ln., 882-0222. 8-4:30 Mon.-Fri., V&T wood stoves, fireplace inserts, freestanding, mobile home stoves. Installation of inserts. General Manager LeRoy Wickham.

## Las Vegas

**Desert Fire & Brick**—614½ E. Sahara Ave., 737-5142. 9-6 Mon.-Sat. Fuego inserts and fireplaces, Superior, Firemagic, Temco, Heatilator, Zero Clearance. Heatforms, dampers, drains, grates, anchors, glass doors, ceiling fans and accessories. Installation, repairs. General Manager Jim Walklin.

**Fireside Customs**—3242 E. Desert Inn Rd., 733-9532. 9-6 Mon.-Fri., 10-4 Sat., 11-3 Sun. Malm, and Timberline, all models of free-

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**Elko County Farm Supply**—147 Commercial St., 738-4055. 8-5:30 Mon.-Fri., 8-4 Sat. Earth Stove and Ashley. Triple wall stovepipe, roof jacks, chimney tops. Manager Joe Barber.

**H & J House of Fireplaces**—1042 Commercial St., 738-5935. 11-5 Tues.-Sat. Centennial, Heat King, Fisher, All Nighter, Malm, Palor and Earth Stove. Stovepipe, bellows, brooms, grates. Installation. Delivery within 100 miles. Manager Mark Newman.

## Ely

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**Buck's Supply Co.**—2143 Aultman St., 289-2110. 8-5 Mon.-Fri., 8-12 Sat. Fire View. Insulated stovepipe, chimney kits, tools, glass doors, blower kits. Delivery in Ely. Owner Ron Baker.

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**Tahoe Tile Center**—919 Incline Way, 831-5130. 8-5 Mon.-Fri. Schrader stoves and inserts. Custom hearth pads, grills, complete accessories. Installation and repair. Owner Peter Demolski.

## Lovelock

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**Tahoe Stove Company**—290 Kingsbury Grade, 588-4159. 9-5 Tues.-Fri., 9-2 Sat. Schrader, Shire Wood Stove, Sun Fire and Fuego. Full line of accessories. Installation and repair. Fuel: pine, oak, tamarack. Owner Jim Fosdick.

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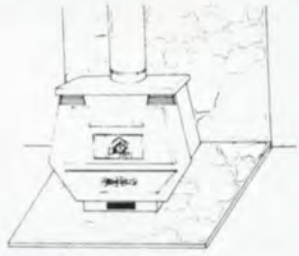

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DEACON CHAPIN

WINTER SPECIAL

# Ski Resorts & Wilderness Sports

**When the snow flies in Nevada this winter, snow-bound athletes may have to dodge an avalanche of innertubes, snowmobiles and trash-can lids.**
**By Roger Smith**

In winter at Lake Tahoe, alpine skiers swish through packed powder over some of the world's most rugged and beautiful landscape. Mirror-goggled, clothed in brilliant colors, tanned a creamy brown, the youthful crowds congregate near the ski lifts discussing snow quality, moguls and techniques for difficult runs. In the evenings, they rest by a resort's hearth and trade stories, while romances bloom and brandy snifters empty. The skiers' existence seems exclusive, athletic, almost idyllic.

That's the traditional picture of Tahoe skiing. Change it. It is becoming obsolete.

The snow and landscape are still there, but the character—and characters—of the resorts has been changing. The Billy Kidds and Tamara McKinneys remain, but they no longer ski in so exclusive a crowd. Plowing uncertainly by them will be Joe Blow from Buffalo or Wanda Waxenbrawder from Walla Walla. Lines of kids, bundled up and fidgety, will be taking lessons or falling all over themselves by the rope tows. Further down the slopes will be sports and play areas for those curmudgeons who refuse to ski (see sidebar).

"Skiing is becoming less of an athletic endeavor and more of a social endeavor," says promoter and ski industry analyst Don "Snowshu" Thompson of Reno. "More and more families are taking winter vacations in the Reno-Tahoe area."

Thompson thinks this trend holds great promise. "The future of the area is to attract winter tourists," he says. "Forget the term 'skier.' " The principal attraction for winter tourists is savings. In western Nevada, winter is the slack season for the state's biggest industry—gaming. Prices drop accordingly. Just the opposite is true in areas devoted to skiing alone—Sun Valley or Aspen, for instance, where prices rise when the snow falls.

> **"Lines of kids will be taking lessons, and there'll be sports areas for those curmudgeons who refuse to ski."**

To accommodate the greater variety of clientele, the Sierra ski resorts now offer package vacations, tours, clinics and classes for every skiing style and fad. But there's much more than casual skiing.

Ski races abound. For sports fans and professionals, there are grand prix, slalom and freestyle competitions. For amateurs, races are reserved for bartenders, firemen, children and skiers of all abilities. A Special Olympics is devoted to mentally retarded athletes. Cross-country skiers and mogul maniacs have competitions of their own.

On holidays, special events appeal to the spirit of the season. At some resorts, Santa and the Easter Rabbit ski in to visit the children each year. St. Patrick's Day sees a host of adult festivities, including a green beer slalom at Kirkwood. The South Lake Tahoe Winter Carnival in January and the University of Nevada-Reno Winter Carnival, held at the lake in February, involve both Tahoe residents and skiers. Even the casinos pitch in to sponsor races for alpine and cross-country skiers, barrel stave skiers, snowmobilers, pie eaters, rafters and runners.

For those interested in history, the Auburn Ski Club operates the Western America Skisport Museum at Boreal Ridge. At Squaw Valley, visitors can still see many of the facilities used during the 1960 Winter Olympics.

When snow and snowfun become wearying, tourists can relax over a meal or at a floor show in casinos on Lake Tahoe's shores or make the short drive down to the gambling palaces of Reno or Carson City.

The ski crowd may be changing at Tahoe resorts, but the change is bringing more winter fun in more ways to more people.

*(Continued)*

**Skier Larry Prosor flies over a mogul at Tahoe, an area world-famous for its panoramic and challenging runs.**


ALLSOP





J. WALLEY

**Winter fun extends to extremes. Above a beginner teeters over snow. Below a veteran relaxes in a mineral pool at one of Nevada's many hot springs.**



TOM LIPPERT

**A skier chases her shadow downslope at one of the 21 resorts near Lake Tahoe and Mt. Charleston. Most ski areas charge less for children and offer discounts during weekdays on lift tickets and rentals. Spectators can pass the entire ski season watching professional and amateur competitions.**

But what about winter people who prefer to stay away from downhill skiing, or the busy resorts, or even the whole Reno-Tahoe area? There is still a lot of Nevada and a great many sports to enjoy. Following is a review of the non-downhill choices in Nevada snow sports.

## Nordic Skiing

Although, admittedly, you still must use skis, cross-country skiing takes you away from the crowded slopes and into the backcountry. There, undisturbed, you can savor the scenery while exercising yourself to exhaustion over fields no ski has marked.

At Tahoe, Incline Nordic Center offers maintained trails around the Incline golf course and throughout the surrounding woods. Tours and instruction are available. Nevada State Parks has four miles of beginner and intermediate trails starting just north of the intersection of State Route 28 and U.S. 50 in the Spooner Lake area. There is also a 10-mile trail to Marlette Lake for experts. An 11-mile Blackwood Canyon trail begins four miles south of Tahoe City on Highway 89 at Kaspian Recreation Area. The cross-country run along Whiskey Creek, Five Lakes and Bradley Hut, a seven-mile loop, starts in Squaw Valley on the saddle between the KT22 lift and Squaw Peak.

Many of Nevada's mountain ranges, although undeveloped, provide excellent

*(Continued on page 74)*

# Confessions of a Reluctant Skier

I hate to ski. It is a prejudice, I admit—but not without cause. As a youth, I suffered a terrible trauma while skiing that cured me forever of such precipitous entertainments.

Family friends, who practiced the sport fanatically, once invited me on a skiing vacation. Although I had never before skied, I advertised to the family's pretty daughter an exaggerated estimation of my abilities. It seemed a harmless white lie, especially since it made me rise in her esteem. I convinced myself that any sport referred to as "downhill" could not require great intelligence to master. Having no great intelligence at the time, I was confident I could get the knack of skiing without undue embarrassment. So off I went with them.

We arrived at the slopes, and I slyly watched and aped their preparations. Whenever they noticed an irregularity in my costume, I simply laughed and pretended to be joking. They were simple people, even as skiers go, and thought me riotously funny. I went undetected. Soon I was on the chairlift with the pretty daughter at my side. She chattered happily about the quality of snow and the beautiful panorama. I let her rave, affecting an air of profound sleep. But finally she shook me until I opened my eyes and looked around: a wistful vista, white as death.

The lift deposited me at the top of the run without incident. As I maneuvered to face downward, misgivings ballooned inside me. Several times I commented upon the beauty of the scene, then several times more. I spoke enthusiastically and at great length. The pretty daughter grew impatient. But I was not to be hurried. I scraped up every adjective I knew to expand my praise of the panorama. At last she gave me a shove, and down I went.

I have no precise recollection of what followed. I believe I developed tremendous speed, for I didn't know how to turn and zigzag down the slope. I imagine now that I cut a startling figure as I hurtled down with both my poles in one hand, standing





C.J. HADLEY



JENNIFER A. BROWN

**All snowmobilers need is a layer of snow and room to zoom. At 10,000 feet, the Lamoille Canyon-Liberty Lake area in the Rubies gives them plenty of both. Skiers in the Ruby Mountains enjoy unsurpassed powder snow and rugged mountain scenery.**

bolt upright, a grimace of horrible intensity locked into my face. Other skiers made way for me. Slack-jawed, they watched me whizz past, a human comet with a powder snow tail. Some seemed to speak, but their messages had no chance to catch up with me. I was like an incumbent congressman riding a wave of popularity, perfect in my direction, untouchable in my momentum, innocent of my destiny.

The run suddenly doglegged. Cautiously at first, but then urgently, I experimented with turning. I put both poles into one hand and extended it to shift my ballast. The results were disappointing. So I began to lean into the turn. The trees at the side of the run blurred into a green-white fence inches away from me. But the collision I was bracing myself for never occurred.

Instead, other obstacles appeared. Ahead, the snow looked like boiling cream of wheat. Small mounds lay everywhere. But I had no time to develop indignation at so poorly leveled a surface, for the velocity of my descent brought me to the mounds at once. By luck I skittered between the first few groups of them. And I was thinking I would avoid them all when one popped up and gave me a push. I had the foresight to lean forward as I became airborne, and the vision of the earth receding below froze me in that position.

I doubt I stayed in the air very long—perhaps only a mile or two—and I landed with a tremendous explosion of snow. In the writhing and convulsions that followed, I lost my poles but remained upright. My worries had hardly ended, however. The ski lodge, and a crowd of people in front, came rushing up to meet me. Concerned with their well-being, I spread my arms, hoping to wave them aside. But immediately I was among them, and I embraced half a dozen or so on my way through.

The impacts changed my course. I caromed off the side of the lodge and into a parking lot, missing all but one of the cars in it. The one was enough. I ended my skiing career in the spacious back seat of an Edsel convertible. However, I did not rest there long. A mob of skiers was following my tracks toward the car, and I sensed that their opinion of my run would find violent and painful expression on my body. Hobbling like Quasimodo, I escaped to the cabin of my friends and held no interviews. My reputation as an athlete suffered a permanent setback, and complete strangers began to refer to me as a more comprehensive and destructive threat than an avalanche. The experience has soured me on skiing forever.

But skiing still plagues me. I have new friends now, and they often ask me to go on a skiing trip with them. It is their only derangement, and I find it difficult to refuse always. So I accompany them, declining to ski because of winter vertigo. But boredom has become a problem recently, and to relieve it I am planning to take up snowmobiling, ice skating and snow cave construction—as a single sport. I will rescue my reputation yet.—*RS*



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and challenging cross-country opportunities. The Old Mill Picnic Area in Lee Canyon on Mt. Charleston, 44 miles northwest of Las Vegas, is the best area in southern Nevada, but nearby Macks Canyon Road is also popular. In central Nevada, the Toiyabe and Humboldt National Forests near Austin and Ely are excellent Nordic areas. Angel Lake, southwest of Wells, and Abode Summit, the Jarbidge Range and the Ruby Mountains near Elko attract skiers in the state's northeastern wilderness.

But when cutting trails in undeveloped areas, skiers should remember that an avalanche or an abandoned mine shaft can quickly end their fun, and that remoteness from medical help makes a broken limb or hypothermia all the more dangerous. Experience, caution, basic training in first aid and an emergency kit are necessities.

## Ice Fishing

The State Department of Wildlife estimates that up to 10 percent of fishing in Nevada occurs during ice fishing season. It's cold recreation at best, but every shiver on the ice will be rewarded later when plump trout sizzle over the campfire.

Wildhorse Reservoir, 55 miles north of Elko, is the most frequented ice fishing area. But other areas in Elko County have fine angling—Wilson Creek, Crittendon and Sheep Creek reservoirs to the north, and Jiggs Reservoir and the Ruby Marshes to the south. Southwest of Ely, Cave Lake and Comins Lake are both good, as are Eagle Valley Reservoir, east of Pioche, and Rye Patch Reservoir, between Lovelock and Winnemucca. In the coldest weather Lake Lahontan, west of Fallon, also has ice fishing.

## Snowmobiling

A snowmobile will take you almost anywhere cross-country skis will—but without irksome exercise. Speeds are greater, thrills come faster and there's great opportunity to see more landscape more quickly.

Any area with a good snow cover and gentle slopes will do, but Tahoe Meadows on Mt. Rose, Hinkey Summit and the Ruby Mountains are snowmobiling favorites. The Schell Creek Range, near Ely on the Utah-Nevada border, is also excellent. Mt. Charleston, specifically the McWilliams Campground area in Lee Canyon, is the place in southern Nevada. Spooner Summit and Kingsbury Grade follow Tahoe Meadows closely in popularity in the Sierra.

## Sledding, Tobogganing, Tubing

A snow-covered slope will provide hours of excitement for people who enjoy sliding, but a few simple precautions will



NORTHSTAR-AT-TAHOE PHOTO

**Beginners learn nordic skiing on the labyrinth of trails near Tahoe resorts before making tracks in the wilderness.**

ensure safety. Avoid breathtaking scenic views along the run. Make sure the run does not empty onto a busy highway. Speeds over 50 mph should be attempted only by professionals or the feeble-minded. Also, beware of snowmobilers.

Located near Lee Canyon Ski Area on Mt. Charleston, Foxtail Canyon is the only area in Nevada reserved for snow-play. But Spooner Summit, Galena and Davis creeks and Tahoe Meadows have room for long runs. So do the Sonoma Range south of Winnemucca, the Schell Creek Range and Scott Summit west of Austin.

No fancy equipment or slopes are really necessary. On a snowbound winter afternoon, you can see mining town kids scooting down steep slag piles, sometimes literally flying by the seats of their pants, sometimes sliding along on dinner trays or trash-can lids.

## Igloos, Caves and Sculptures

Many non-skiers love snow construction as a way to pass the time around ski areas. With a square-point shovel and a trowel, you can spend hours shutting out the world of skiers. Both caves and igloos must be assembled with thick, carefully packed roofs to avoid cave-ins. But once built, with a poncho covering the floor, they are safe and comfortable, especially if stocked with brandy. Snow sculptures require only imagination and patience, but the effort also can bring prizes at the South Lake Tahoe and University of Nevada-Reno winter carnivals.

## Snow Camping

Probably the best way to leave the crowds behind is to snowshoe into the backcountry and pitch a tent. But snow camping takes special skills and excellent physical conditioning. It is not a sport for beginning hikers or lone wolves. Besides snowshoes (or cross-country skis), warm clothes and sunglasses, you must carry a down sleeping bag, reliable backpacking stove, first-aid kit, extra clothes, compass, nylon rope, tent with sealed entry ways and vestibule, space blanket and lots of food. Most importantly, take a friend who is an expert.

## Ice Skating

The only maintained outdoor skating area in Nevada is the two-acre pond in Davis Creek Park, located a mile west of U.S. 395 in Washoe Valley between Reno and Carson City. But any body of water that freezes four inches thick will support skaters safely. Two indoor rinks—Reno's Meadowood Ice Arena and Henderson's Iceland—are open year-round.

## Heli-Skiing

For the connoisseur of powder, heli-skiing in the Rubies compares to nothing else. Ruby Mt. Heli-Ski, operated out of the Stockmen's Hotel in Elko, will fly you to an otherwise inaccessible peak where you can start off on miles of skiing through light, dry powder. The desert mountain scenery spreads out magnificently before you, and chances are you will have it all to yourself. □

*Roger Smith is associate editor of Nevada Magazine.*

# Tahoe Ski Resorts: When, Where and How Much

## The Ski Areas of Lake Tahoe




| Area | Phone | Vertical | Rating Beg-Inter-Adv | Rentals Adult/Child | Lift Prices Adult/Child | Lifts/Night |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Alpine Meadows** | 916-583-6914 | 1700 | 25-35-40 | $14/$10 | $19/$10 | 13/no |
| **Boreal Ridge** | 916-426-3666 | 600 | 20-60-20 | $10/$7 | $13/$7 we<br>$10.50/$7 mw<br>$9/$7 hd | 9/yes |
| **Deer Park** | 916-583-7236 | 850 | 10-40-50 | n/a | n/a | 3/no |
| **Donner Ski Ranch** | 916-426-3578 | 800 | 30-30-40 | $10<br>$7 we | $12<br>$9 we | 4/no |
| **Echo Summit** | 916-659-7154 | 575 | 40-40-20 | $12/$6 | $12/$7<br>$8/$6 hd | 3/no |
| **Granlibakken** | 916-583-4242 | 250 | 50-50-0 | mbr/guest | mbr/guest | 2/no |
| **Heavenly Valley** | 916-541-1330<br>916-541-7544 | 4000 | 25-50-25 | $11/$8.50** | $18/$12**<br>$12/$12 hd** | 26/no |
| **Homewood** | 916-525-7256 | 1650 | 20-50-30 | $9/$8 | $13/$9/$5***<br>$9/$6/$3 hd | 9/no |
| **Kirkwood** | 209-258-6000 | 2000 | 25-50-25 | $13/$9 | $19/$9 | 9/no |
| **Mt. Rose** | 702-849-0704 | 1450 | 30-40-30 | $12/$8 | $15/$7 | 5/no |
| **NorthStar** | 916-562-1010 | 2200 | 33-50-17 | $13/$8 | $18/$8 | 8/no |
| **Papoose** | (up to age 12) | 250 | n/a | n/a | n/a | 2/no |
| **Sierra Ski Ranch** | 916-659-7453 | 1585 | 20-50-30 | $11/$11 | $14/$10 | 8/no |
| **Ski Incline** | 702-832-1122 | 900 | 30-40-30 | $12/$8 | $16/$10 | 7/no |
| **Slide Mountain** | 702-849-0303 | 1450 | 30-30-40 | $10/$6 | $10/$7* | 4/no |
| **Soda Springs** | 916-426-3801 | 700 | 40-50-10 | $10/$7 | $12/$6 | 3/no |
| **Squaw Valley** | 916-583-0121 | 2700 | 30-40-30 | $12/$8 | $20/$5<br>$12/$5 hd | 25/yes |
| **Sugar Bowl** | 916-426-3651 | 1500 | 20-30-50 | $12.50/$8.50 | $17/$12<br>$15/$10 hd | 9/yes |
| **Tahoe Donner** | 916-587-6046 | 600 | 50-50-0 | $12/$8 | $10/$7<br>$7/$5 hd | 3/no |
| **Tahoe Ski Bowl** | 916-525-5224 | 1630 | 40-40-20 | $9/$7 | $12/$8 | 5/no |

## . . . and on Mt. Charleston

| | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Lee Canyon** | 702-872-5462 | 1000 | 10-80-10 | $10/$10* | $12/$7* | 3/no |

*—tentative **—1980 rates ***—children under 10 we—weekend mw—midweek hd—half day

# 161 Good Times & Great Events in November & December.



ILLUSTRATION BY BILL DRULIAS

## Scrumming in Vegas

Contrary to popular American opinion, rugby is not a loosely organized riot of demented athletes who have been blacklisted from American football. Rugby requires finesse, agility, and as much endurance as basketball. But it's a riot to watch, and spectators can learn all about the rough-and-tumble sport when the Las Vegas Rugby Club holds its first annual Las Vegas-Michelob Invitational Rugby Challenge on December 5 and 6 at Sunset Park.

Twenty teams from the U.S. and British Columbia will knock heads in two divisions, Open and Sport, and then celebrate at a post-game rugger banquet in the Hacienda Hotel.

Rugby is the English parent of American football and has been played in the U.S. since the 19th century. In 1920 and 1924 the U.S. won two of the three gold medals the Olympics have offered in rugby. Today, the sport is flourishing in American colleges, community organizations and private clubs. In Nevada, clubs are active in Reno, Fallon and Las Vegas.

Rugby resembles its offspring, American football. The object is to carry the ball across the goal line for a "try" (four points) or to dropkick the ball through uprights (three points). But in rugby the field is the same size as a soccer field, the ball is larger and any one of the 15 men on each side can carry it. Players must toss the ball backwards, so success depends upon skillful open-field running and accurate kicking. The action never stops unless the ball goes out of bounds or the referee calls a penalty. Usually, only two substitutions are permitted per game—and then only after a player has been injured.

Most penalties are settled in the scrum, a formation which looks like an over-zealous huddle in American football. The eight forwards from each team lock arms, shoving and pulling one another. When the referee rolls the ball into the center of this flailing knot, the players try to "hook" the ball back with their feet to one of the seven running backs on their team.

When a back finally gets the ball, he and his teammates use the whole field to scamper away from opponents, breaking tackles, passing back and forth and kicking. The flow of action changes quickly and constantly, and at first rugby can be bewildering. One simple rule helps—never take your eye off the ball, if you can find it.




Nevada's events, shows and celebrations are listed by region as a speedy reference for weekend trips and vacations.

# South

## ONGOING EVENTS

**Las Vegas Mormon Fort Tours,** Tues.-Sun.
**Historic and Cultural Focus Tours,** Las Vegas, info. 382-7198
**Historic artifacts on display,** Southern Nevada Museum, Henderson, and UNLV Museum of Natural History, Las Vegas

## NOVEMBER

**Nevada 81 Exhibit,** thru 2, Las Vegas Art Museum
**Art Exhibit,** Rita Abbey, thru 12, Grant Hall, UNLV, Las Vegas
**International Model Pylon Racing Championships,** thru 2, model aircraft racing, Circus Circus, Las Vegas
**Nevada String Quartet,** 1 Flamingo Library, 2pm, Las Vegas
**"Life with Father,"** 1, Judy Bayley Theatre, 8pm, UNLV, Las Vegas
**Friends of the Library Book Sale,** 1 Meadows Mall, 12noon-5pm, Las Vegas
**Art Exhibit,** 1-30, oils and acrylics by Dorothy Hawkins, Las Vegas Art Museum
**Art Exhibit,** 1-30, works by Twin Lakes Elem. School students, Las Vegas Art Museum
**Fall Art Roundup,** 1-30, Las Vegas Art Museum
**Merv Griffin TV Show Taping,** 2-6, Riviera Hotel, Las Vegas
**Miss Clark County Pageant,** 3-5, Las Vegas Convention Center
**Nevada Dance Theater,** 6, Judy Bayley Theatre, 8pm, UNLV, Las Vegas
**United States v. China,** 6-7 gymnastics, Caesars Palace, Las Vegas, info. 731-7110
**Doll Show,** 6-8, Las Vegas Convention Center
**Schlactfest,** 7 German-American Clubhouse, North Las Vegas, info. 649-8503
**European Style Flea Market,** 7-8, Las Vegas Convention Center, 9am-6pm
**Nevada Dance Theater,** 7-8, Judy Bayley Theatre, 2pm & 8pm, UNLV, Las Vegas
**Hare Scrambles,** 8, motorcycle race, Las Vegas, info. 457-0343



LINDA DUFURRENA

### High Flying Cowboys

**Buckaroos from Nevada, Utah and Idaho ride high for big stakes when the Wilderness Circuit Rodeo comes to the Spring Creek Horse Palace November 6, 7 and 8. The PRCA event determines the tri-state champions in the major rodeo events. The indoor arena at Spring Creek is located 17 miles southeast of Elko on Nevada Route 225.**

**UNLV v. Wyoming,** 8, football, Silver Bowl, 7:30pm, Las Vegas
**Roman Catholic Diocese of Nevada 50th Anniversary Celebration,** 9, Rotunda, Las Vegas Convention Center
**"Close Encounters of the Third Kind,"** 10, captioned film for the deaf, 7pm, Flamingo Library, Las Vegas
**Master Series: Utah Symphony,** 11 Ham Hall, 8pm, UNLV, Las Vegas
**Coin Exposition,** 13-14, Las Vegas Convention Center
**Nevada 81 Exhibit,** 13-26, Community Center, Overton
**Boy Scouts Fun Fair,** 14, Las Vegas Convention Center, noon-6pm
**UNLV v. Hawaii,** 15, football, Silver Bowl, 7:30pm, Las Vegas
**The Allegro Trio,** 15, Charleston Heights Arts Center, 2pm, Las Vegas
**Las Vegas Chamber Players,** 15, with violinist Kalman Banyak, 8pm, Ham Hall, UNLV, Las Vegas
**Art Exhibit,** 16-Dec. 3, drawings by Bill Wareham, Grant Hall, noon-4pm, UNLV, Las Vegas
**Nite of Stars Benefit,** 19, for St. Jude's Ranch for Children, 6:30pm, MGM, Las Vegas, info. 293-2034

### All-American Melodies

**Do you yearn for the robust harmonies Americans used to sing around the barber chair? If so, you can delight in old-time mellow tunes when the Chorus of the Comstock Barbershoppers presents its annual show, "Songs That America Sings." The show, which features four quartets and a chorus, takes place November 7 at the Carson City Community Center.**

**Contemporary Dance Theater and Ensemble,** 19-20, Charleston Heights Arts Center, 8pm, Las Vegas
**Fall Flower Show,** 20-22, Las Vegas Convention Center
**Opening of Fasching,** 21 German-American Clubhouse, North Las Vegas, info. 649-8503
**Hare Scrambles,** 22, motorcycle race, Las Vegas, info. 457-0343
**Las Vegas Chamber Players,** 23, with pianist Thomas Ungar, 8pm, Ham Hall, UNLV, Las Vegas
**UNLV v. China,** 24, basketball, 8pm, Las Vegas Convention Center
**UNLV v. Russian Nationals,** 25, basketball, 8pm, Las Vegas Convention Center
**Matador Arena Fights,** 26, professional boxing, Hacienda Hotel, Las Vegas, info. 739-8911
**UNLV v. Pan American Univ.,** 28, basketball, 8pm, Las Vegas Convention Center
**World Wide Flea Market,** 28-29, Las Vegas Convention Center, 9am-6pm
**UNLV v. Brigham Young,** 29, football, 7:30pm, Silver Bowl, Las Vegas

## DECEMBER

**"Buried Child,"** 3-13, Judy Bayley Theatre, 8pm, UNLV, Las Vegas
**Christmas Parade,** 5, Boulder City, 10am, info. 293-2034
**Town & Country Flea Market,** 5, Las Vegas Convention Center
**Night Lighted Christmas Parade,** 5, North Las Vegas, info. 642-9595
**Doodle Bug Bazaar,** 5, Recreation Center, 10am-5pm, Boulder City
**Las Vegas-Michelob Invitational Rugby Challenge,** 5-6, Sunset Park, Las Vegas
**State Championship Hare Scrambles,** 6, motocross, Las Vegas, info. 457-0343
**UNLV v. UC Irvine,** 6, basketball, 8pm, Las Vegas Convention Center



## Cracking Good Footwork: The Prince Returns

**The Sugar Plum Fairy, the Mouse King, Clara and the Nutcracker Prince will return from dreamland when the Nutcracker Ballet plays in Nevada this holiday season. Performances will be held December 18-20 in Las Vegas at UNLV's Judy Bayley Theatre, December 18-21 at the Pioneer Theatre in Reno, December 10-14 at Caesars Tahoe and December 12 at the Civic Auditorium in Elko.**

**Festival Chamber Players,** 6, classical music, 2pm, Charleston Heights Arts Center, Las Vegas
**Nevada String Quartet,** 6, Flamingo Library, 2pm, Las Vegas
**Art Nouveau Posters Exhibit,** Anita Pihl, 7-17 Grant Hall, UNLV, Las Vegas
**UNLV v. Texas-El Paso,** 8, basketball, 8pm, Las Vegas Convention Center
**"Paper Tiger,"** 8, captioned film for the deaf, 7pm, Flamingo Library, Las Vegas
**UNLV v. UNR,** 10, basketball, 8pm, Las Vegas Convention Center
**Merv Griffin TV Show Taping,** 11-15, Riviera Hotel, Las Vegas, info. 734-5110
**Children's Christmas Parade,** 12, Henderson, info. 565-8951
**Parade of Lights,** 12, Lake Mead Resort, 6pm, to Boulder Beach
**Nevada Championship Chili Cookoff,** 12-13, Circus Circus, Las Vegas



## Tribute to a Nevada Artist

**Robert Caples was raised in Reno and lived in northern Nevada much of his life, becoming one of the West's most important artists. Famous for drawings of Nevada Paiutes and Shoshones in the 1930s, Caples also earned critical acclaim for desert landscapes and studies of such rural Nevada towns as Virginia City and Austin. The Sierra Nevada Museum at 549 Court Street in Reno is presenting an exhibition of the late artist's paintings and drawings from its Great Basin Collection December 11 through January 17**

**World Wide Flea Market,** 13, Silver Bowl, Las Vegas
**Sahara Blackjack World Championship,** 13-16, Sahara Hotel, Las Vegas, info. 737-2715
**Master Series: Orchestre National De France,** 15, Ham Hall, 8pm, UNLV, Las Vegas
**Tropicana Table Tennis Championships,** 16-23, Tropicana Hotel, Las Vegas, info. 739-2546
**"Nutcracker Suite,"** 18-20, Judy Bayley Theatre, 8pm nightly, also 2pm on 19-20, UNLV, Las Vegas
**Nevada Rally,** 18-20, auto race through southern Nevada desert, Las Vegas, info. 732-3559
**Christmas Party,** 19, German-American Clubhouse, Las Vegas, info. 649-8503
**European Style Flea Market,** 19-20, Las Vegas Convention Center
**Christmas Party for Children,** 20, German-American Clubhouse, Las Vegas, info. 649-8503
**European Scrambles,** 20, motorcycle race, Las Vegas, info. 457-0343
**Rebel Round-up Basketball Tournament,** 22-23, Las Vegas Convention Center
**Live Nativity Scene,** 24, North Las Vegas City Hall
**UNLV v. New Mexico,** 26, basketball, 8pm, Las Vegas Convention Center
**Las Vegas Holiday Classic Basketball Tournament,** 29-30, Las Vegas Convention Center

## Kids' Night on the Strip

**Tony Orlando will join host Ed McMahon for the Nite of Stars at the MGM Grand in Las Vegas November 19 to help support St. Jude's Ranch orphanage. The annual benefit draws top performers from Vegas showrooms. Tickets for the dinner show are $65 and $125 per person.**

**Fireworks Display,** 31, Union Plaza Hotel, Las Vegas
**New Year's Eve Party,** 31 German-American Clubhouse, Las Vegas, info. 649-8503

# North

### NOVEMBER

**Registered A.T.A. Shoot,** 1, Spring Creek Trap/Skeet Range, Elko, info. 738-7135
**Wilderness Rodeo,** 6-8, Spring Creek Horse Palace, Elko
**Keith & Rusty McNeil in Concert,** 12, Elko Civic Auditorium, 8pm

### DECEMBER

**Roger Wagner Chorale Concert,** 9, Elko Civic Auditorium, 8pm
**"Nutcracker Suite,"** 12, Elko Civic Auditorium, 8pm
**Children's Christmas Party,** 24, Jackpot, info. 755-2259 or 755-2321

# Central

### NOVEMBER

**Nevada 81 Exhibit,** 7-21 White Pine County Library, Ely, info. 289-3737

### DECEMBER

**Charity Ball,** 5, Tonopah Convention Center Ballroom, info. 482-3558



### Harbor Lights

**Glittering from stem to stern with veils of colored Christmas lights, a fleet of sailboats, cabin cruisers, commercial vessels and houseboats leaves Lake Mead Resort on December 12 at 6p.m. for the annual Parade of Lights. During the 12-mile round trip to Boulder Beach and back, the flotilla transforms the night-blackened lake into a swirl of brilliant color. Spectators are welcome. For skippers there is no entry fee, and trophies will be awarded for the most glamorously adorned boats.**

# West

## ONGOING EVENTS

**Dayton Flea Market,** weekends
**Nevada State Museum,** 8:30-4:30 daily, special 50 years of gaming exhibit, Carson City
**Nevada Artists Assn. Gallery,** 10-4 Mon.-Sat., 449 W. King St., Carson City
**Art exhibitions,** 2-6 Wed.-Mon., St. Phillip's Center Gallery, Hawthorne
**Atmospherium-Planetarium,** open daily, UNR, Reno, show info. 784-4811
**Photographs & Memories,** 9-5 Mon.-Sat., noon-5 Sun., Churchill County Museum, Fallon
**Art Exhibit,** Reno Tahoe Visitors Center, 10-2 Tues.-Sat., 135 N. Sierra, Reno
**Historic Artifacts,** Lyon County Museum, 10-4 Sat., 1-4 Sun., Yerington

## NOVEMBER

**Art Exhibits,** 1-Dec. 31 paintings and Native American baskets, Sierra Nevada Museum of Art, Reno
**"Uncommon Music of Common People,"** 1-29, exhibit of antique musical instruments, Sierra Nevada Museum of Art, Reno
**Reno Gem and Mineral Society,** 3, Clubhouse, 8pm, Sparks, info. 329-1324
**Chamber of Commerce Wine Tasting Party,** 6, Virginia City, info. 847-0311
**Christmas Festival,** 6-8, Coliseum, Reno, info. 825-2100
**"Devour the Snow,"** 6-8, 12-14, Reno Little Theater, 8:30pm except 2:30pm & 7:30pm on 8th
**Art Exhibits,** 6-Dec. 2, photographs by Kathy Hoff, watercolors by Bill Peterson, sculpture by Larry Williamson, Sheppard Gallery, UNR, Reno
**Carson City Barbershoppers Annual Show,** 7 Community Center, 8pm, Carson City
**Body Building Clinic,** 7 Pioneer Theatre, 7pm, Reno
**Marce Herz Christmas Festival,** 7-8, bazaar, Fri. 10am-8pm, Sat. 10am-5pm, Lake Mansion, Reno





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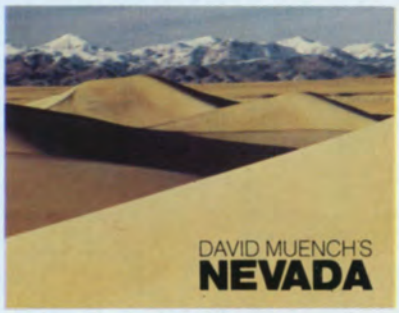
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## Dirt Road Racers

**Top dirt-road racing drivers from around the world will be tuning their engines to Nevada altitudes this December when Reno and Las Vegas hold back-to-back rallies sanctioned by the Sports Car Club of America National Pro Rally Series.**

**In the north, on December 11-14, Harrah's will be the starting point as the Reno International Rally Association hosts its first 1,200 kilometer (744-mile) run through the sagebrush and pines of the High Sierra. By SCCA rules, the exact routes are announced at starting time.**

**The next week in the south, on December 18-20, is the Nevada Rally, one of the largest in the world. Last year the grueling 800-mile race through the desert was awarded second place in the Pro Rally of the Year competition and also decided the year's overall champion car and driver. The Nevada Rally will be hosted by Team Nevada, with headquarters at the Sands Hotel in Las Vegas.**

**UNR v. Univ. of Alberta,** 18, basketball, 7:30pm, Coliseum, Reno
**Calliope,** 18, Renaissance music, 8pm, Church Fine Arts Theater, UNR, Reno
**Craft Festival,** 20-22, Coliseum, Reno, info. 825-2100
**Firemen-Sheriffs Basketball Game,** 21 Virginia City, info. 847-0311
**Christmas Fair,** 21-22, Community Center, 11am-6pm, Carson City, info. 882-1565
**Reno Chamber Orchestra,** 22, Masonic Theater, 3pm, Reno
**World Wide Flea Market,** 22, Coliseum, 9am-6pm, Reno
**Sierra Ski Show,** 27-29, Caesars Tahoe, info. 588-3515
**UFO,** 29, rock concert, 7:30pm, Coliseum, Reno
**"Messiah,"** 29, choral symphony, 2pm, Pioneer Theatre, Reno

## DECEMBER

**UNR v. Univ. of the Pacific,** 1 basketball, 7:30pm, Coliseum, Reno
**Reno Gem and Mineral Society,** 2, Clubhouse, 8pm, Sparks, info. 329-1324
**Youth Symphony and Junior Orchestra,** 2, Pioneer Theatre 8pm, Reno
**UNR v. South Dakota State,** 3, basketball, 7:30pm, Coliseum, Reno
**Christmas Concert,** 4, Sierra Nevada Chorale, 8:15pm, Pioneer Theatre, Reno
**UNR v. UC Santa Clara,** 4, basketball, 7:30pm, Coliseum, Reno
**"One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest,"** 4-6, 12-13, Carson City Arts Alliance, 8pm except 3pm on 6th, info. 883-1976
**"Luv,"** 4-5, 11-13, comedy, Church Fine Arts Theater, 8pm except 2pm on 13th, UNR, Reno

*(Continued)*

**Interfaith Gospel Concert,** 8, Pioneer Theatre, 3:30pm, Reno
**Romanian Folk Festival,** 10, Pioneer Theatre, 8:15pm, Reno
**Roman Catholic Diocese of Nevada 50th Anniversary Celebration,** 11 Pioneer Theatre, Reno, info. 323-6894
**"Ski in the Sun,"** 12, Dick Barrymore film, Pioneer Theatre, 8pm, Reno
**National Jr. Elite Girls Gymnastics,** 12-15, MGM, Reno
**Blind Organist Candy Carly,** 13, benefit concert, 8pm, Pioneer Theatre, Reno

### Circus Circus Chili Chili

**Take a pound of hamburger, rattlesnake or groundhog, add anything you like, call it chili and you can enter the Chili Cook-off December 12-13 at Circus Circus in Las Vegas. You're welcome to sample the various concoctions, share secret recipes and enjoy the festivities.**

**Sahara Blackjack World Championships,** 13-16, Sahara Reno and Sahara Tahoe
**"The Three Cuckolds" and "The Mandrake Root,"** 13-14, 20-22, Church Fine Arts Theater, UNR, 8pm except 2pm & 8pm on 22nd, Reno
**Firemen's Christmas Fund Dinner,** 14, Virginia City, info. 847-0311
**UNR v. Montana State,** 14, football, 1pm, Mackay Stadium, UNR, Reno
**Silver State Cat Fanciers Cat Show,** 14-15, Coliseum, Reno
**Reno Philharmonic,** 17 Pioneer Theatre, 8:15pm, Reno
**"The Black Pirate,"** 18, film, 6:45pm, Washoe Library, Reno

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**Art Exhibit,** 4-30, jewelry by Jeanne Keefer, Avigail Upin and Gail Larson, paintings by Lynda Yuroff, Sheppard Gallery, UNR, Reno
**Genoa Christmas Fair,** 5, Town Hall, 10am, info. 782-2172
**St. Teresa Fashion Show and Bazaar,** 5, Ormsby House, bazaar 9am, fashion show 11am, Carson City, info. 882-2079
**Festival of the Trees,** 5-6, Coliseum, Reno, info. 825-2100
**For Kids Only,** 6, shopping bazaar, 10am-4pm, YWCA, Reno
**Furniture Fine Arts Craft Show,** 8, by John Ratts, Nevada Western Gallery, Reno
**Reno Philharmonic,** 8, Pioneer Theatre, 8:15pm, Reno
**"The General,"** 9, film, Washoe County Library, 6:45pm, Reno
**"Nutcracker Suite,"** 10-14, Caesars Tahoe, info. 588-3515
**Reno International Rally,** 11-14, pro auto racing, Reno, info. 323-7446
**Annual Great Basin Exhibition: Artist Robert Cole Caples,** 11-Jan. 17, Sierra Nevada Museum of Art, Reno
**UNR v. UC Berkeley,** 12, basketball, 7:30pm, Coliseum, Reno
**Christmas Fair,** 12, Park and C.V.I.C. Hall, Minden, info. 782-2172
**Reno Chamber Orchestra and UNR Choir,** 13, Pioneer Theatre, 3pm, Reno
**Pianist Robert Sutherland,** 14, Church Fine Arts Theater, 8pm, UNR, Reno
**"Nutcracker Suite,"** 18-21 Pioneer Theatre, 2:15pm, Reno
**Wolf Pack Classic,** 21-22, basketball, 7:30pm, Coliseum, Reno
**Reno Christian Fellowship Candlelight Services,** 24, Coliseum, 10pm, Reno
**American Contract Bridge Convention,** 26-31 Pioneer Theatre, Reno
**UNR v. Humboldt State,** 28, basketball, 7:30pm, Coliseum, Reno

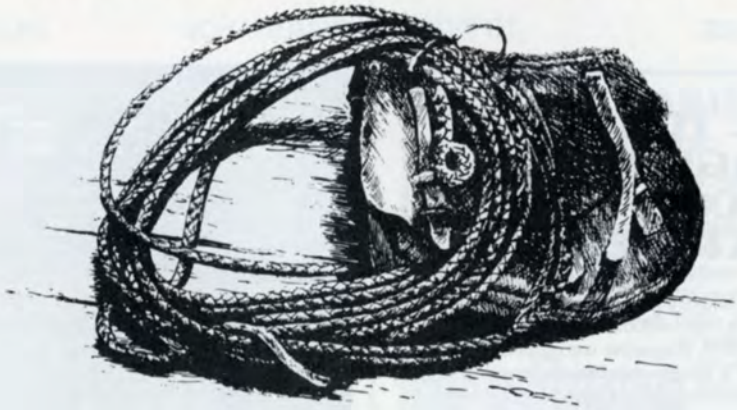
### Hooping It Up

**When UNLV's Runnin' Rebels meet the UNR Wolf Pack December 10 at the Las Vegas Convention Center and March 2 at the Coliseum in Reno, the fur is likely to fly as the two in-state rivals tangle on the basketball court. For detailed game information for both teams this season, see listings.**

## Coming Events

**Cantor String Quartet,** Jan. 10, Charleston Heights Arts Center, Las Vegas, info. 386-6383
**South Lake Tahoe Winter Carnival,** Jan. 22-24, info. 916-541-5255
**Reno Chamber Orchestra,** Jan. 24, Masonic Theater, Reno, info. 786-1222
**Susan Duer Forte Piano,** Jan. 31 Charleston Heights Arts Center, Las Vegas, info. 386-6383
**"Fiddler on the Roof,"** Feb. 2-March 13, with Herschel Bernardi, Aladdin Theatre for the Performing Arts, Las Vegas, info. 736-1738
**Arirang Korean Folk Festival,** Feb. 3, Community Center, Elko, info. 738-7135
**Invitational Chariot Races,** Feb. 6-7 fairgrounds, Elko, info. 738-7135
**Holiday on Ice,** Feb. 18-21, Coliseum, Reno, info. 825-2800
**"The Marriage of Figaro,"** Feb. 26-28, Mozart opera, Pioneer Theatre, Reno, info. 786-4046 □


Diamond Sims



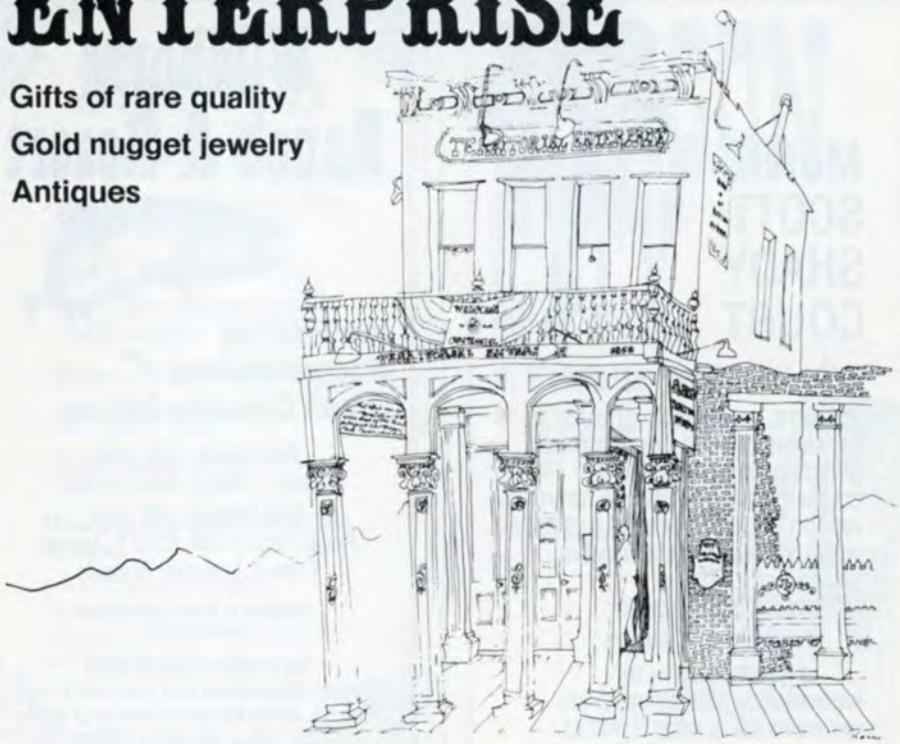
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STATEWIDE

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Denny Flannery was. The Tuolumne, California man discovered his copies of NEVADA Magazine were becoming collector's items -- his friends kept trying to collect them from his coffee table.

"Every time my chili cooking friends would come over we'd have a lend-lease disagreement. Once I even caught my latest issue going out the door," he says.

The solution? Flannery called and ordered 20 copies of the January/February issue for his friends. "That ought to keep them satisfied," Flannery declares.

If you find your copies of NEVADA Magazine are disappearing, you can order extras by writing or calling Betty Govorchin at the magazine (702/885-5416).

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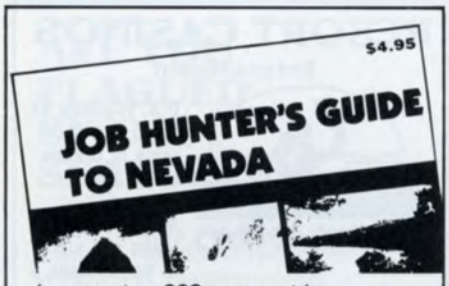
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*(Continued from page 36)*

poraries who were concerned, like Sinatra and Jack Benny. "Frank said the first place we've got to change is our own joint [the Sands], and we had a ready ear in people like the owners, Jack Entratter and Carl Cohen."

There were many other understanding whites, he adds. "Black people didn't create civil rights. White people and black people working together created it."

Today Davis can relax in the palatial Star Suite at Harrah's Tahoe, with its spectacular view of the Sierra, and reflect upon the changes he has seen. "As I look back on it, and I see this state—what it has grown into—the advancements are so marked. I think everyone who lives in Nevada should feel proud of what they've accomplished. It's go for the gold." So entrenched are the advancements, according to Davis, that they are no longer noticed. "The contribution to the state of Nevada that the black performer has made is taken for granted now because it is a reality."

As bigotry became less a problem for him, Davis discovered a new obstacle to his quest for individual dignity. Fans and critics stereotyped him.

His first movie roles alienated black movie patrons, according to film historian Donald Bogle. "In 'Oceans Eleven,'" writes Bogle, "Davis portrayed the agreeable lackey sidekick. In an era in which token niggers were popping up in offices throughout America, he became the 'showcase nigger' for the white stars." But to Davis the roles were a chance to continue the fun and excitement of working with people he respected, and who respected him.

Even away from the movies, Davis' talents have burdened him. Dancer, singer, actor, comedian, player of umpteen instruments, impressionist—Davis became known as "Mr. Versatility." And 15 years ago an important part of his act was the fast draw, which came about because of his role as TV's first black cowboy. His appearance on the "Zane Gray Theatre" caused a lot of talk. Viewers wondered what he could know about cowboying. In defense, Davis says he began to collect single action Colts and became gunslinger perfect on the draw. Some people still think of him only as one of show business' fastest guns.

The problem is that Davis doesn't want to be known as a fast draw specialist or a show business jack-of-all-trades. He prefers to be thought of as a serious artist, a creative performer who invests himself in his act. Consequently, he has changed his show over the years—less dancing, more concentration on perfecting and varying his singing. He does more of the standard challenging tunes and, of course, his hits. "I ain't got but four hits," he jokes, "so that rules out a medley." But no matter what song he sings, he seldom fails to win ovations and yells of "Bravo!" from an audience.

Recently, Davis has directed his energy toward an off-beat area of acting—soap operas. Not only did he become addicted to the soaps when he was hospitalized five years ago, but now he plays a character for two weeks a year on "One Life to Live." He believes that for the most part the acting on the soaps is better than it is on evening TV. "The subject matter is better too," he says. "They deal with subjects that they won't even touch in prime time." Davis claims the soaps challenge him to work on serious acting, but the controversial subjects are probably just as great an attraction to him.

The individual dignity and artistic freedom that he worked for he has now. But he realizes the achievement would not be sufficient if he were to forget the past. And so he hasn't forgotten. Referring to his tendency to chain-smoke and the troubles that it causes on public conveyances, Davis likes to quip, "Took me 20 years to get on the bus, and now I gotta worry about where I smoke." □

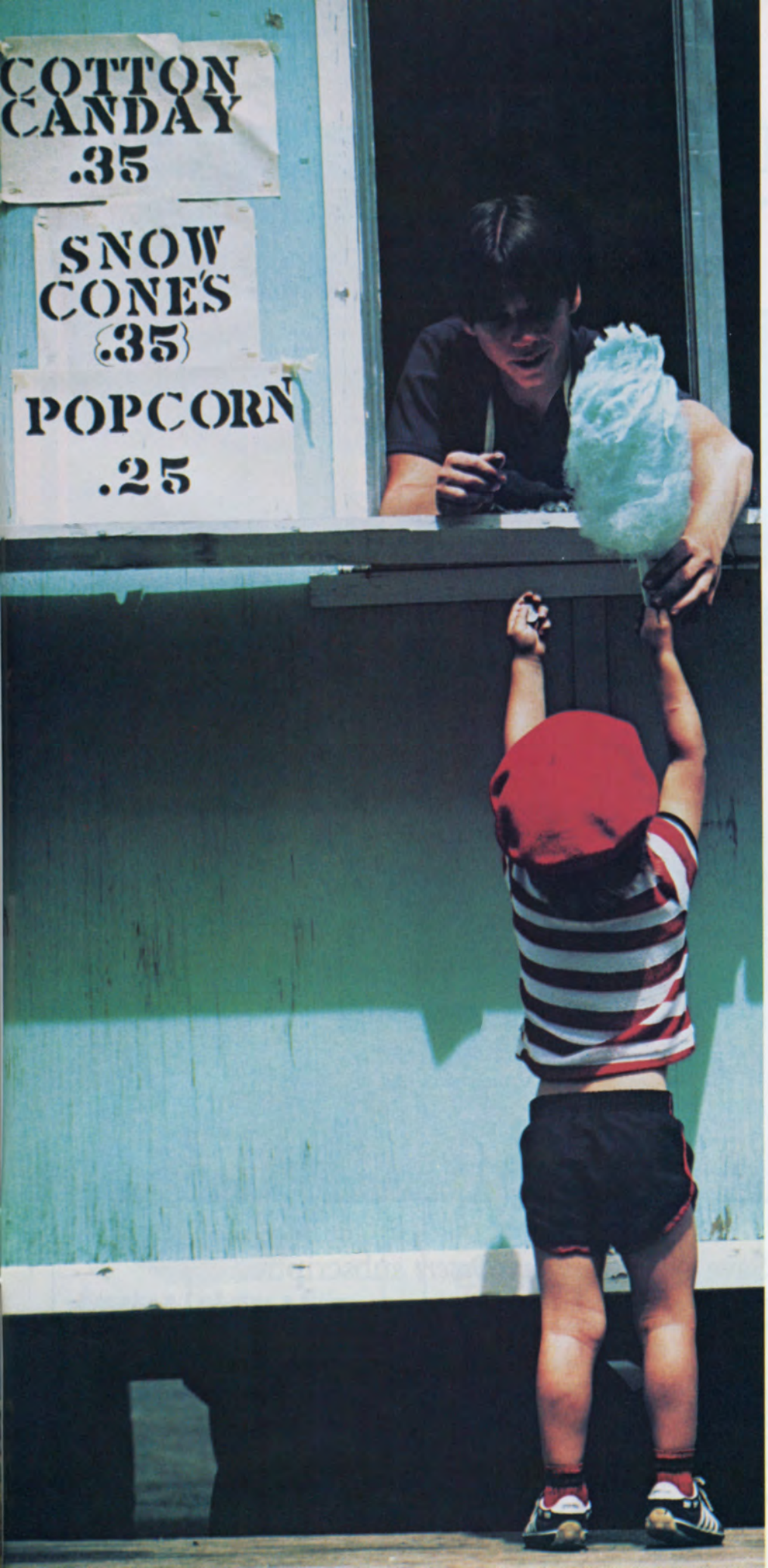
*Photos on pages 34 and 35 of Sammy Davis, Jr. as a child and a young man are from "Yes I Can: The Story of Sammy Davis, Jr." by Sammy Davis, Jr. and Jane and Burt Boyar. Copyright © 1965 by Sammy Davis, Jr., and Jane Boyar and Burt Boyar. Reprinted by permission of Farrar, Straus and Giroux, Inc.*










# nevada 82 Photo Contest

From Overton to Lovelock the most-seen art event in the Silver State this year has been Nevada 81, the annual photo contest and show of Elko's Northeastern Nevada Museum. During its 12-city tour, the show has been seen by an estimated 60,000 residents and visitors.

Now it's time for Nevada 82—and another chance for photographers to shoot for $1,000 in prizes and have their work admired by thousands.

For photographers there are two important deadlines. The first is December 20, the last day to order rules and entry blanks. Then all entries and fees are due at the Elko museum no later than January 15, 1982.

Awards will be given in three categories: color slides, color prints and black and white prints. Best of Show winners are purchase prizes and become part of the museum's permanent collection.

"This is a juried show for serious photographers," says museum director Howard Hickson. "We look for subject matter, technique, imagination and whether it has that Nevada quality."

Judging the 1982 contest will be Hickson; Dick Snyder, city editor of the Elko Daily Free Press; and Caroline Hadley, publisher/editor of Nevada Magazine. The show is partially funded by the National Endowment for the Arts and is cosponsored by Nevada Magazine.

For Nevada 82 rules and entry blanks, write to the Northeastern Nevada Museum, Nevada 82, Box 503, Elko, NV 89801, or call 702-738-3418. □

**Four winners from Nevada 81, clockwise from top left:**

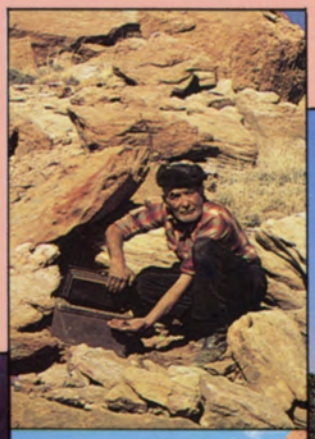
**"Day's End"**
**Chad Smith, Elko**
**Third (Tie), Black and White**

**"Cotton Candy"**
**Chad Smith, Elko**
**Second (Tie), Color Print**

**"They're All Here"**
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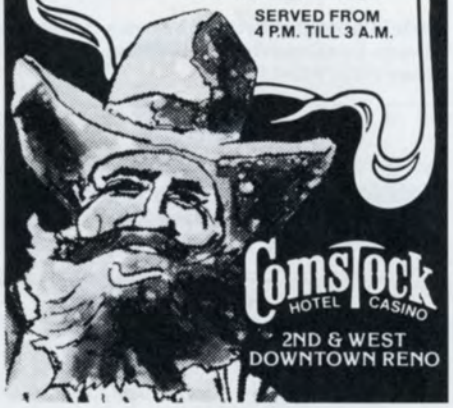

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# Horse Sense & Nonsense

# A LUCKY SHOT

**If Eddie's 'citified' bride ever goes hunting again, you can bet he'll load her gun with blanks.**
**By Harry E. Webb**

My rancher friend, Eddie "So and So," tells this one on his wife, but being as I don't want Eddie goin' around with knots on his head, I'll leave his last name off.

Now, every deer hunting season Eddie always joined a couple of cronies and had fun in the high country away from the ranch for a few days' hunting. But this particular fall he had just gone in double harness with a cute little city girl from California and that sort of created a problem. She insisted on going along.

Kathy wouldn't take "No" for an answer, which time and again was "No!" But after she'd cried and sniffled awhile Eddie threw up his hands and gave in.

Naturally he knew where the best deer spots in northeast Nevada were and also the easiest crags and gullies to prowl. But was Eddie about to take his bride to one of those easy hunting spots? Not by a long shot!

The ornery cuss left his pickup a good mile from the worst spot he could think of. Oh, there were deer there sometimes, but no seasoned deer hunter would wallow through and fight the thick, shirt- and Levi-tearing brush for all the deer in Elko County.

"I'll teach Miss Smarty a lesson in deer hunting that'll cure her once and for all," he told himself. He handed her an 11-pound Sharps and a couple of 45-90 cartridges. Then, holding his 30-06, a slight five or six pounder, Eddie said, "Let's git goin'!"

"Why don't you let me have the little gun and you take this heavy thing?" Kathy asked.

"This one'd kick your head off," he replied, almost busting inside he was so tickled at her complaint. He was even more pleased with his plan when at last they reached his chosen gully and he saw plenty of moisture running down her cheeks.



**The newlyweds, before the hunt.**

"Now, Kathy," he instructed, "you work down this side of the hill ('this side' being thick brush interlaced with mountain holly) and I'll be right over the ridge from you." Eddie then said he would meet her about half a mile down the gully.

"How do I put these brass bullets in the gun?" she wanted to know, "and when I kill a deer, what shall I do?"

Eddie almost felt sorry for his little wife, but breaking her of wanting to tag along when he went hunting called for drastic measures.

"By golly, that's right," he said grudgingly as he shoved a three-inch cartridge in the old relic. "Can't kill deer with an empty gun. But *if* you kill a deer I'll hear the shot and come a runnin'."

With this he mosied through the scrub mahogany where walking was easy. "No use to hurry," he told himself. "She won't get very far in that brush."

He was sitting on a rock scanning the lower reaches with his 'scope when he heard the boom of the Sharps. "Oh, Lordy!" he thought. "She's been packin' that gun cocked and maybe fallen and Oh, Lordy," he repeated and started running.

Of course, there was the slim chance that a deer had jumped out and she had fired. But that was grasping at any straw.

As Eddie ran over the brow of the hill, he stopped short and breathed a "Thank God!" though it was hard to believe his eyes.

As Eddie tells it, "I was plenty happy to see her alive, and from her angry voice I was sure she had had 'beginner's luck' and had got herself a deer. But backing away with his palms outspread was a young cowpuncher I knowed, an' I couldn't blame him. Kathy had the muzzle o' that ol' cannon rammed in Jim's belly a foot.

"O' course I was real proud o' that little wife of mine, but I was also scairt she had somehow got another shell in the gun and might blow him in two.

"As he kept backin' away in that brush he thought the same thing, I reckon, because he kept sayin' 'Okay, okay, lady, if you say you shot it an' it's yourn, *then it's yourn!* But it looks like you ort o' at least let me take my saddle and bridle off his carcass.'" □

*Harry E. Webb, who once rode with Buffalo Bill's Wild West Show, has been a cowboy, trapper, actor and author. In 1972 he received the Gold Spur Award of the Western Writers of America for his story "Call of the Cow Country." His Nevada stories are proudly presented in each issue.*

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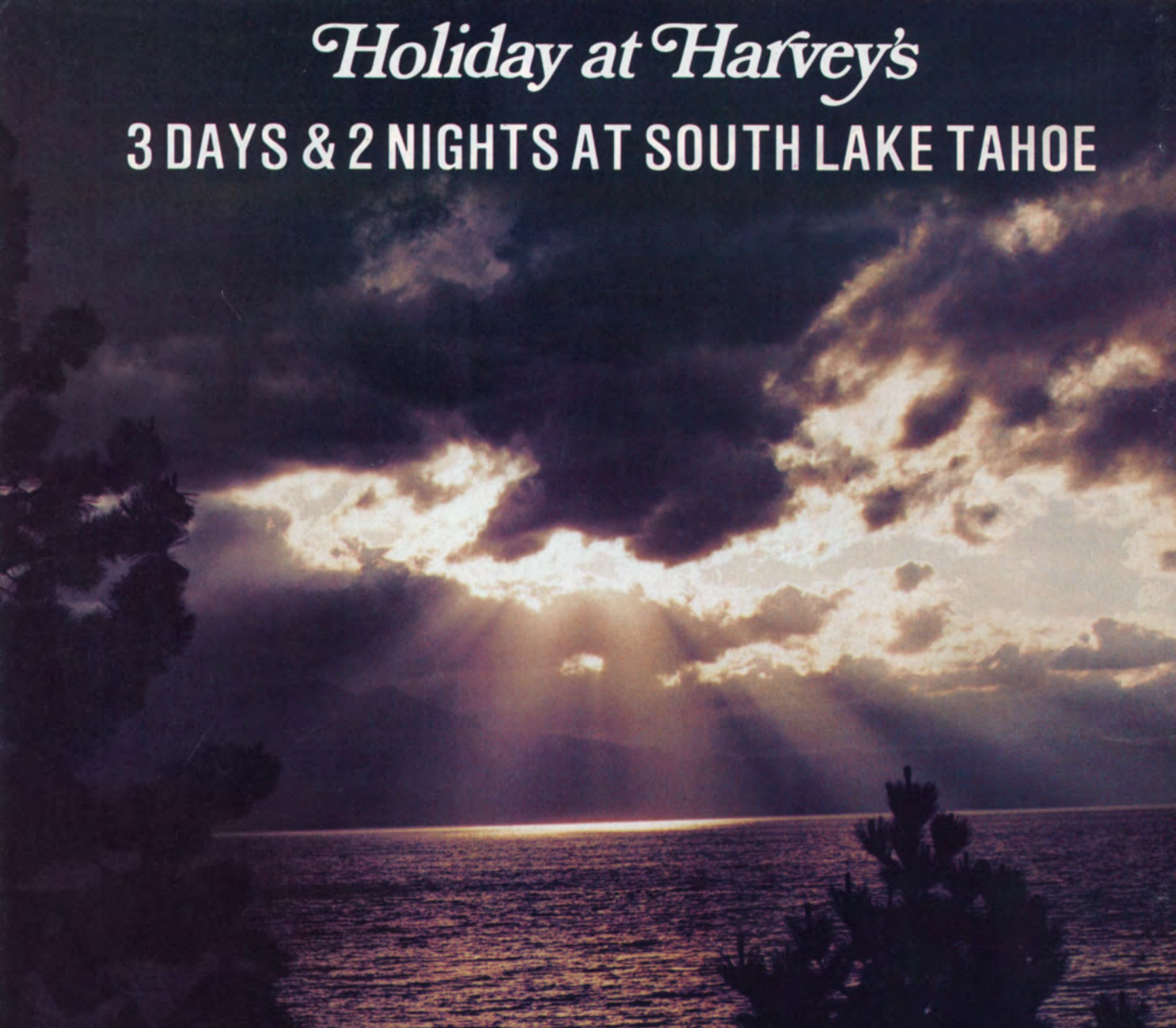
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