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NEVADA

The Magazine of the Real West

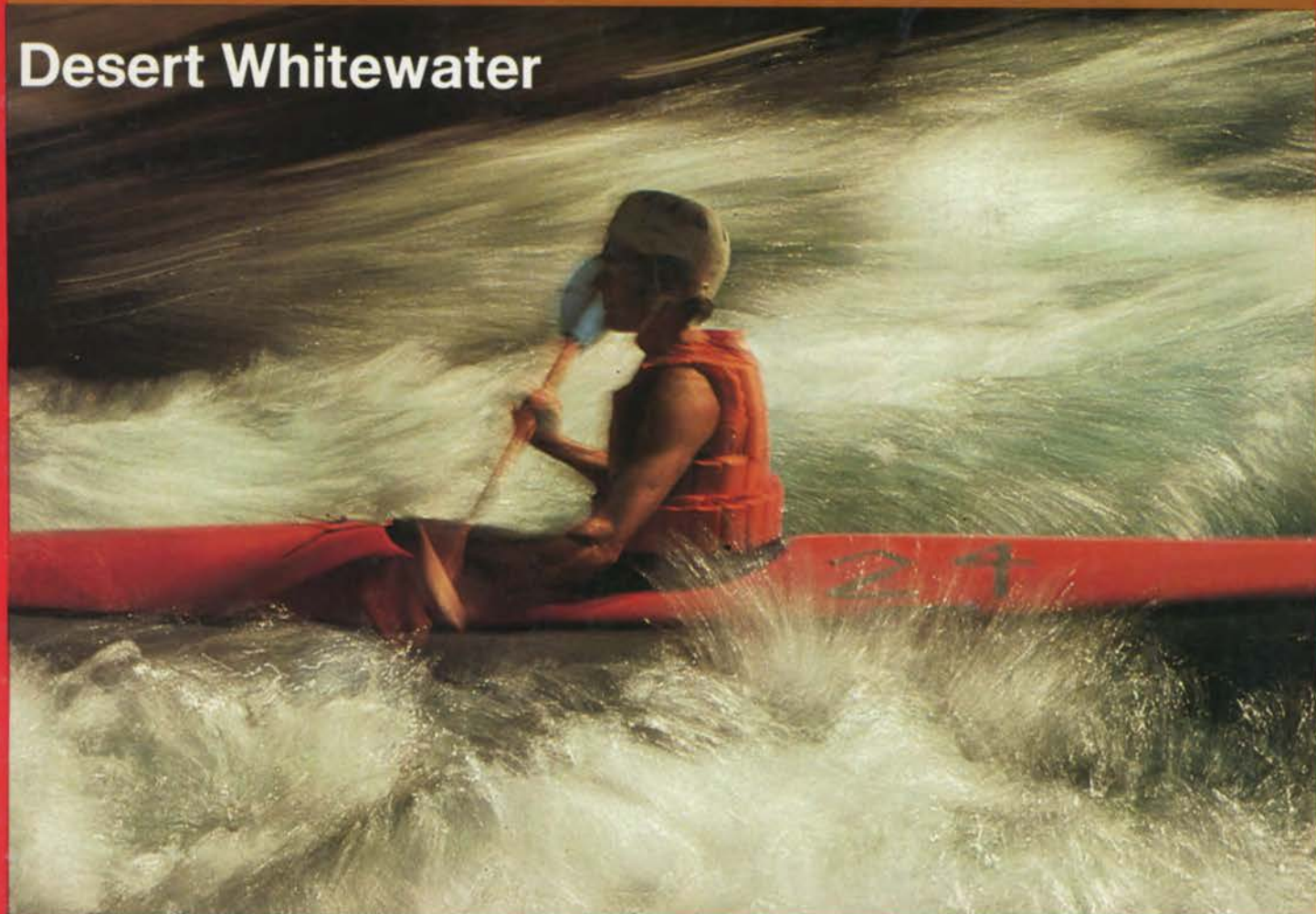
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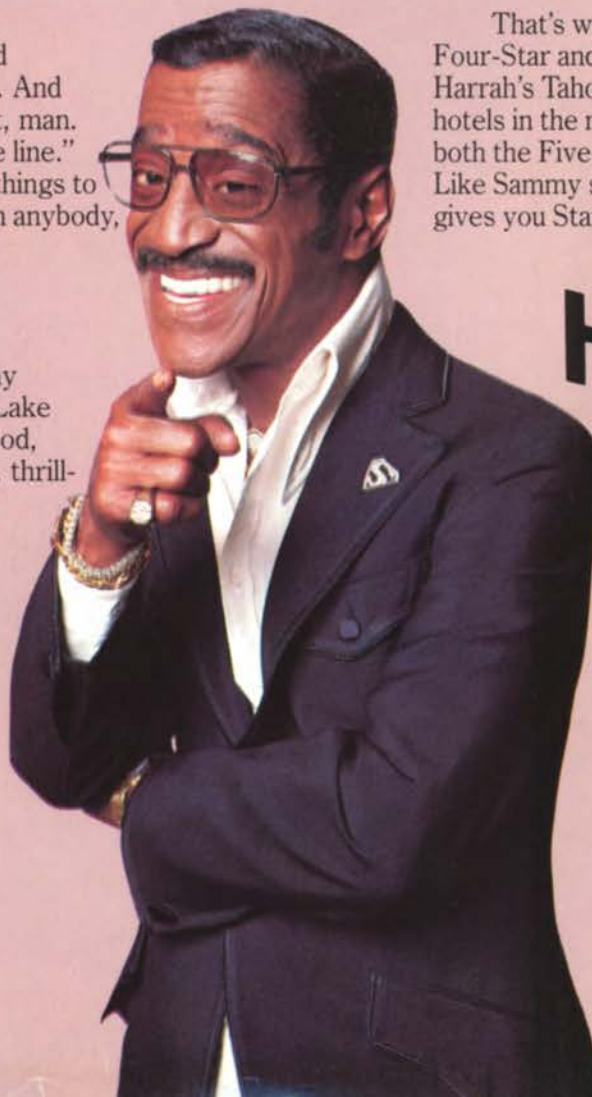
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Speaking of Wilderness

Nevada has grown quickly in the last decade—an observation so obvious that everyone agrees to it immediately. Funny how it characterizes our attitude toward the state. We don't mean the state's boundaries have expanded or, by some geologic upheaval, there is more land mass within the old borders; we simply mean more people and buildings.

Certainly we're missing a lot of Nevada if we fail to acknowledge the land that lies beyond human habitation—the wilderness. We should pay more attention to it.

Our definition of the wilderness—the vast desert, the waves of mountains—tends to be simple and nervous. A friend once said, "I'm proud there's so much unpopulated space in Nevada, but I wouldn't want to live in it." Illogical as that statement may sound (no one, not even in Marin County, can live on unpopulated space), it shows how uneasily we live on the land. Wherever we don't want to or can't live, that's wilderness. If the land is green, full of minerals, skiable or next to a right of way, we set up for business. It's human nature to survive where the surviving's good.

When we use the wilderness, we do so for our convenience. We like to relax in its solitude, marvel at its spectacles, stalk its game. This issue of *Nevada* is proof. It contains a series of features and guides on hiking, camping, rafting, fishing and even where to ski when the snow disappears. But when the trip's over, most of us would just as soon close the front door, take a shower and hope nature will leave us be.

But the wilderness is not just a recreational convenience. Recreation, like mining, ranching, real estate and other enterprises, brands the land and changes it. That should happen; we must accommodate the environment to our aspirations. But those aspirations need not touch everything. We have enough room in Nevada that we can afford to keep the wilderness free of the whims of development and haphazard entertainment. We should let some of the land alone, if only to prove we have the wisdom of restraint.

An excellent opportunity awaits Nevadans and out-of-staters who love the desert. In 1976 Congress passed the Federal Land Policy and Management Act, which instructed the Secretary of the Interior to identify and study areas that should be left as natural as possible. The

Bureau of Land Management has been responsible for the actual studies. In Nevada, where the BLM administers more public lands—49.1 million acres—than in any other state except Alaska, it has located 5.147 million acres in 112 little clumps sprinkled throughout the state for possible "designated wilderness areas." That's a bit over 10 percent of Nevada's federal land, including such curiosities and wonders as the Black Rock Desert, Blue Lake and the Worthington Mountains. By 1991, the BLM must decide which areas should remain wilderness and submit recommendations for approval by the president and Congress.

Tight restrictions will govern lands designated as wilderness. No roads, no motorized vehicles, no aircraft, no buildings or commercial enterprises. Recreation will be permitted, but the BLM will prohibit many activities—riding dune buggies or dirt bikes, for instance. Whoever wants, or doesn't want, such restrictions had better say so soon.

The process of choosing wilderness areas is just beginning. The BLM has worked up a set of guidelines and published them in the *Wilderness Study Policy*, available at BLM offices. So far all areas identified for detailed study are only potential sites. It's theoretically possible no lands will be set aside in Nevada.

The public, however, has some say in the matter. This May the BLM will invite public comment on its environmental impact statement for the Tonopah Resource Area. The meetings, workshops, hearings, open houses and written comment periods to be announced in local media, for it and 11 subsequent regional studies, will allow us all to demonstrate that we live on or visit Nevada because we like it and think the land's future—and not just ours—is worth planning carefully. If our ancestors had to struggle to survive on the land, we should be willing to struggle to see that some of the land survives us.

Only the worst arrogance would suggest that humankind can destroy the wilderness completely. Nature only lends us the land and the materials to build; a few centuries, a few catastrophes, and real estate is nature's again. But the workings of nature do not fit our scale of time, and if we don't work to preserve some of the wilderness, it could be lost to us—and, more shamefully, to our children.

—Roger Smith

Letters

Good-bye TV

I didn't know there was such a magazine until a friend dropped off last year's. The hell with TV, *Nevada Magazine* comes first.

Earl Schmidt
Sonoma, CA.

I fully enjoy *Nevada Magazine*. The pictures and stories are the greatest. Your stories dealing with atomic tests (Jan/Feb '82), MX Missile and other subjects that the government would like just to forget about are eye openers. The stories on old ghost towns are what I enjoy the most. I love to travel through the desert when I visit your state at different times of the year.

Pat Maguire
Sacramento, CA.

Thank you for a wonderful magazine, which has gotten better and better throughout the years. How about a lifetime subscription offer?

Iris F. Goldman
Los Angeles, CA.

I am impressed with your magazine, and the students are finding it a useful resource in their study of the community in the Great Basin.

Patricia H. Spahr
Vassar College
Poughkeepsie, NY

Pahrump Moving Up

This past weekend I had a chance to thoroughly review the March/April issue and it really was beautifully done. We were quite pleased with the rundown on golf in the state, the full-color picture of Calvada, and the commentary on the club.

In review of the reaction from people who play at Calvada, I think that when the voting is repeated in another year or two, you'll find us moving rapidly up the ladder.

Phil Field
Preferred Equities Corp.
Las Vegas, NV

The Truth About Cats

My favorite feature is Harry Webb's Horse Sense & Nonsense not only because of Harry's salty, yarn-spinner style of writing, but also because his stories are so true to the West as I have known it through many of my 87 years. I most especially enjoyed "A Tale of Two Cats" because I have done a little trapping myself in my younger days, and I can vouch for the fact that ol' Harry

knows what he is talking (writing) about. Please keep the series running.

S. Omar Barker
The other Las Vegas, NM

Nope, It's 25

I'm certain that Hank Dufurrena, being a good sharp man, used the standard way to count antelope: count the legs and divide by four.

I did that too, but when I look at the heads (page 56, March/April '82), I get 25. From left to right, #6 and #7 heads overlap. There are two does to the right of the buck looking at Hank, and a doe in front of the second one looking to the left.

Keep up the good work.

Leverett Alford
Reno, NV.

Who Was First?

It seems Georgia Lewis has beaten me into your pages with a story on Nevada's first woman mayor, giving the credit to Dorothy Howell Porter of North Las Vegas.

Since March of 1981 I've left no stone unturned in an attempt to ferret out Nevada's first woman mayor for a book now in progress on early woman mayors and all-woman governments of the West. My experience in 17 other states is that as soon as I've about decided on a candidate for the honor, an earlier one turns up. This could well be the case now.

If one of your readers does indeed come up with an earlier woman mayor in Nevada, I will appreciate your courtesy in passing on the information to me.

Wallace E. Smith
Little River, CA.

I read with interest your article on artist Jim Rozzi in the February 1982 issue. I would like to know more about Mr. Rozzi and where his art is exhibited so that I may see some of his work next time I'm in Nevada. Could you please furnish me with the names of Reno or Lake Tahoe galleries who display his work?

James B. Chaplin
Fort Lauderdale, FL.

They're on their way.—Ed.

I wonder if an editor realizes what a powerful force she wields in the articles which go into an issue?

I received a phone call regarding the location of the building portrayed on the March/April cover before I even knew the magazine was out; another call in-

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quiring if the painting of the Mayberry Barn was still available; and while attending the Associated General Contractors Convention this weekend I received many, many congratulations.

Please convey my thanks to Roger Smith and also to Dale Smith for their labors in making this article a standout. And if there is ever anything I can do for you, please feel free to ask.

Lyle V Ball
 Reno, NV.

Thanks, Lyle, we love you too.—Ed.

Fish Story Fit for Davis

I enjoyed reading "The Mystery of the Savage Sump" in your April mag. It reminded me of when I was at high school in South Lake Tahoe around 1960. A strange prehistoric-looking fish was found in Lake Tahoe and brought into the biology class for inspection. It was the first one known to be found from Lake Tahoe, but had been found occasionally from the depths of Pyramid Lake.

Sam P Davis could have blown this up into one of his stories—or was he on the right track about the underground channels streaming from Lake Tahoe?

M.J. Melton
 Dayton, NV

I must advise that Badwater in Death Valley is not the lowest spot in the United States and that its elevation is not 282 feet below sea level but 279 BSL. The lowest of 282 feet is out in the salt bed 4½ miles to the northwest.

Arthur Davis
 Reseda, CA.

Atlantic City Magazine?

Go to Atlantic City more now. It is much closer for me. Is it possible for you to incorporate information about Atlantic City casinos in your magazine? You might have a special Atlantic City section in your magazine. I'm quite sure there must be others who feel like I do.

George Manus
 Ada, MI.

Why do you avoid Vegas, Vegas casinos, Vegas ads, Vegas shows etc? It has most people, most income, etc.

Tom Darmody
 Glendale, AZ

Darmody, if you look through the past issues you'll find Las Vegas and environs are featured constantly, with a good geographical mix in each issue.—Ed.

Your magazine gets better every issue. I'm glad you are not centering in on Vegas, Reno and Tahoe but on rural Nevada unlike any place on earth I've ever seen. The people the weather the solitude every vacation I take is different and better than the previous one.

Dan Reilly
 Enfield, CT.

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Sand Mountain:

The Dune

that Booms

Sand Mountain near Fallon is one of only three 'booming' dunes in the U.S., and when conditions are just right, you can hear it sing.
By John F. Maloney

It can be incredibly silent in the desert country east of Fallon. The area is a vast dry lakebed—the remains of ancient Lake Lahontan—that seems as lifeless as the moonscape it so closely resembles. The silence is disturbed only by the sound of passing cars on the highway or the rumble of dune buggies romping across the terrain.

But wait. There's another sound to be reckoned with. When conditions are just right, you can hear it in the vicinity of a certain mound of clean white sand located 30 miles east of Fallon, just off U.S. Highway 50.

This mound, known as Sand Mountain, is not an ordinary sand dune. It has the uncanny ability to produce its own music, a low humming noise that is one of nature's strangest songs.

Sand Mountain is a seif, or sword-shaped dune, and it is one of only three "booming" sand dunes located in the

A lone bedouin looks across Sand Mountain. Dune buggysts and geologists are more typical visitors.

that the grains of "singing sands" are more perfectly rounded than normal grains. They produce a high-pitched noise, or squeak. But scientists still cannot agree on just what conditions are required to produce the noise. Usually the sand must be kicked, scuffed or pushed before it will perform.

Ted Snyder, a retired government geologist who now lives in California, spent a number of years studying the origin and dynamics of Sand Mountain. He explains that "sand has to cascade down a slope before it'll boom." When the sand is dry, "it's a vibration of the crystals which produces the noise," he says. "I've never heard any better explanation."

Snyder tried to record the booming noise of Sand Mountain a few years ago, but the results were disappointing. "All we got was a lot of sounds of geologists panting, a certain amount of grunting and the noise of an aircraft passing overhead," he says. But he has been present when the seif decided to sing. Snyder says it sounded like the "deep resonant notes from the far side of an electronic organ."

As recently as 1965, Alonzo W. Pond, author of *Deserts: Silent Lands of the World*, labeled booming sand "an unsolved mystery." Science abhors an unsolved mystery, but even the high-quality tape recordings made at Sand Mountain by scientists from Houston's Lunar and Planetary Science Institute did little to explain how a sand dune could be a one-note Wurlitzer.

The real progress in deciphering the dune's music was made with the scanning electron microscope, an instrument so refined it can produce a clear photograph of a mite hitchhiking a ride on the

back of a termite. Electron microscope images revealed that Sand Mountain's grains have smoother surfaces than non-booming sand but not as smooth as those in squeaking sands. The continuous humming noise probably comes from the impact of grain upon grain, millions in unison, as planes of sand move or slide in a given direction. How the grains are packed together also seems to be a factor, and air pressure within the mass of flowing sand may change rhythmically, with the noise amplified by a stationary layer of sand underneath. Ordinarily the noise can be heard about 50 to 100 yards away, but large avalanches from dunes in China and the Mideast reportedly have produced thunderous noises heard for miles.

Reports of booming sand dunes date back centuries. Such dunes were reported in the Mideast in the 6th Century and in China in the 9th Century. Marco Polo encountered them on a journey through the vast Gobi Desert; Charles Darwin was perplexed by booming sands he found in Chile.

British physicist R.A. Bagnold described his encounter with a booming dune in southwestern Egypt in these words: "It happened on a still night, suddenly—a vibrant booming so loud that I had to shout to be heard by my companion. Soon other sources, set going by the disturbance, joined their music to the first with so close a note that a slow beat was clearly recognized. This weird chorus went on continuously for more than five minutes before silence returned."

Complicating the riddle is the confusion of names given to musical dunes. They've been described variously as booming, roaring, squeaking, whistling, singing, barking, ringing and acoustic. But the rare booming dunes have a characteristic deep sound. Sand Mountain's low-frequency hum is about 50 to 100 hertz, or cycles per second. It is not

HARRY UPSON PHOTOS

continental U.S. The other two are Crescent Dune in Nevada's Nye County and Kelso Dunes in southeastern California.

Booming sand dunes?

That's right—and they are not to be confused with the far more common "singing sands" that occur on scores of ocean and lake beaches, especially along the Atlantic seaboard.

How a sand dune booms has puzzled scientists for decades, but in recent years much has been learned about the mechanics that cause the noise. Field geologists have even made tape recordings that prove some dunes indeed do make their own kind of music. But different kinds of sand produce different kinds of sounds.

More than a hundred sandy sites in America emit squeaking noises under certain conditions. John Lindsay of the University of Texas discovered in 1976

Despite the barren appearance of ancient Lake Lahontan's dry beds, life persists amid the humming, wind-rippled dunes.



heard by everyone who visits Sand Mountain. It wasn't until my third visit that conditions were right, and the "boom" I heard was really not very loud—"audible hum" might be a better description than "boom."

But even if Sand Mountain is reticent, it's a nice place to visit. A plaque by the side of Highway 50 suggests that the remote area has more history than meets the eye. Captain James H. Simpson, one of the great government explorers, surveyed a wagon trail in the area back in 1859, cutting 200 miles off the distance

required by those traveling along the older Humboldt trail. Just south of Sand Mountain was the Sand Springs pony express station, which was involved in the troubles between Indians and settlers in the 1860s. Since the 1870s salt has been mined from the dry lakebed flats, and the first transcontinental telegraph line was strung nearby.

Today Sand Mountain is used mostly for recreation. The pristine mountain of sand has lured thousands of dune buggies and recreational vehicles over the years. On one of my visits I watched sand-skiers

struggle up the 500 feet to the dune's peak only to find that their snow skis wouldn't slide down the sand as well as they would on snow. The trio eventually gave up in despair and carried their skis back down the slope. (For successful skiers, see accompanying story.)

Travelers who visit Sand Mountain might also want to visit the petroglyph trail at nearby Grimes Point Archeological Area, operated by the BLM and marked by a tiny sign on the road between Sand Mountain and Fallon. Thousands of years ago, this boulder-



ERIC MCCLARY

Desert Downhill

It's a coarse course, but skiers find Sand Mountain's slopes smooth going. By Robin Holabird

No snow, no skiing. The formula seems simple enough. But some skiers think they can enjoy schusses in the middle of the Nevada desert in the middle of summer. They have discovered that it doesn't take special equipment or even snow to get high-speed runs down the slopes of Sand Mountain, the great white dune east of Fallon.

While other skiers moan about melted snow, a group of Reno residents are on the slopes, racing down sand with all the speed and style you'd expect on a tradi-

tional ski surface. They got the idea after seeing some pictures of Frenchmen skiing on gravel. If that worked, the Reno skiers believed, Nevada's sand dunes would be even better.

And Sand Mountain, about an hour's drive east of Reno, is perfect. With a height of 500 feet and a slope angle of about 45 degrees, the mountain would be steep for snow skiing. But sand isn't as slick as snow, so the skiers' first ride wasn't the 70 mph snow would allow. Still, it was fast enough, and more

importantly, exciting enough. It was also safe.

"For one thing, you can't run into trees and there are no lift lines," skier Tom Nelson says. Also, the sand resembles powder snow, which calls for the skier to lean back, rather than forward, on the skis. "When you fall, you don't skid like you do on snow. You stop absolutely."

Or, if the steep slopes make the speeds seem too spooky, the skier can head right or left. "Any turn will slow you down very quickly," Nelson says. "There's a higher coefficient of friction, and in order to build up speed, you have to stay in the steepest line down."

He and his friends also discovered the need for wide skis. Cross-country skis don't work as well as downhill skis. "The narrowness of cross-country skis doesn't allow you enough flotation," Nelson explains.

Besides downhill skis, the sand skier uses standard snow equipment and calf-covering gaiters to keep sand out of boots. Nelson finds it helps to have access to a dune buggy for rides up the mountain. "Otherwise, you get tired too soon and can only make about three runs." The number of runs can also be limited by the desert heat. "Out there you're talking about 112 in the shade, and there is no shade," he says. "Also, as the sand starts to heat up, the air in the sand expands. Consequently, it's softer and more difficult to get speed and flotation. Dune buggies find this too."

As a result, the hotter part of the day is usually spent in sideline activities such as picnicking or going to Fallon for a swim. Summer's intense heat leads the skiers to believe that spring and fall are probably the best, or at least most comfortable, times of the year to try the sport.

Making that effort doesn't require much grit. "From a beginner's standpoint, you don't have to ski real aggressively," says Nelson, who with his friends—Bob Bowles, Erick McClary, Pete Turner and Jim Jensen—has learned how to execute fancy turns on the sandy slopes. The skiers are thinking about setting up gates for a slalom race, and Nelson emphasizes that a sand skier doesn't need much experience to make maneuvers on sand that are possible on snow.

strewn hillside looked out over a vast lake. Ancient Indians carved petroglyphs here, some dating back 7,000 years or more, and they are another mystery to scientists, who have yet to interpret fully the meaning of the strange symbols.

The Nevada desert may be a silent domain, but with booming sand and artful rocks it certainly knows how to raise some provocative questions. □

John F. Maloney of Martinez, California, is an editor at American Collector and a freelance writer and photographer.

"If you've been out snow skiing a couple of times and have the absolute basics, like making a snowplow turn, you can ski on sand," he says. "The main thing to overcome is fear. It's frightening when you first stand at the top of the slope because it's so much steeper than what you use for snow skiing. But it's not as dangerous as it looks. Once you push off and get rid of your fear, it's just fun."

Robin Holabird of Reno is a publications specialist with the Washoe County School District and a freelance writer.

The Miracle of Four Mile Flat

To travelers, especially those seeing it for the first time, Sand Mountain is an astonishing sight. Contrasting sharply with the dark sagebrush mountains behind it, the ghostly white hill stretches for miles along the desert floor. And then there's the mystery—how did all that sand pile so neatly in one place?

Based on studies of wind and climate patterns, geologists recently have advanced several theories about Sand Mountain's origin. One holds that the sand has moved about four miles northeast from Four Mile Flat. Another states that the sand comes from the area of Weber Reservoir, located 36 miles southwest near Schurz. According to that theory, for thousands of years the sand was carried through Rawhide Flat and across the Blow Sand Mountains to its present site at the Stillwater Range. There it has met a dead end, and a back wind helps pile up the sand.

Sand Mountain, according to recent calculations, is about 500 feet high, a mile wide and four miles long.

—Phillip I. Earl



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Jean Harlow and Howard



Walter with Alice Faye and Margot
Graham

WALTER KANE COLLECTION



Howard

Walter and Howard

The world knew Howard Hughes as an elusive billionaire, but Walter Kane knew him differently—as a friend.

By Guy Shipler

Had he been the Bashful Billionaire or the Reluctant Recluse as a young man, Howard Hughes never would have met the vaudeville performer who became his closest friend for life. But in those early days Hughes was a dashing ladies' man, a swinger, a traveler in the fast lane of the Roaring Twenties. It followed naturally that he would run into Walter Kane.

"It was in Billy Lahiff's Tavern," the 82-year-old Kane, now entertainment director for Summa Corporation, recalls. "Since I was in vaudeville at the time, I went regularly to the Tavern, like the rest of 'the sporting crowd,' as the Broadway actors, star athletes and beautiful women were called. Because it was their favorite hangout, it also attracted the young millionaires who liked the glitter and excitement of mingling with these famous people."

Walter Kane had no idea that one of those fascinated millionaires not only would become "the best friend I ever had in my life," but also would change the course of his career. In the process, the one-time New York street urchin (see box), vaudeville straight man and singer came to know Howard Hughes better than anyone else. And he knew him not as the legendary Man of Mystery but as a warm, likable and quite natural human being of gifted intelligence and capability.

Soon after the two men met at Billy Lahiff's in the early twenties, Hughes left for California. When the vaudeville circuit took Kane to Hollywood, they met again and "became good friends almost instantly."

The first result of their association was not auspicious. Hughes took such a liking to Kane's apartment that he virtually took

it over. At first the millionaire used it as an office—but that was almost full-time. Recalls Kane: "Hughes would be in my apartment no less than 20 hours a day, using it then just to work in. But one day he told me he was sick to his stomach. 'I don't think I can make it to my hotel,' he said. So I asked him if he wanted to stay in the apartment that night, and he said yes."

"Well, my apartment had only one bedroom and a kitchen, and another little room I called a bamboo room. So I told Hughes I'd go to the Bel Air Hotel for the night."

"I didn't get back into that apartment on a permanent basis for a year," Kane says. "He was crazy about it. He was also crazy about my cook, Robert, a Frenchman, who lived near the apartment with his family. Since he showed up every day, I had to make Robert a delivery boy."



Hughes, record-setting pilot



Wayne Newton



Howard, the Duke of Catalina and Walter, 1947



Walter, Fatty Arbuckle and friends



Mae West, 1934



Walter's first in Vegas, 1971

I figured I'd never get back in myself if I took all my clothes to the hotel with me, so I had Robert bring me fresh clothes from the apartment every day."

It was the only way Kane could keep a figurative foot in the door. He finally was able to get back in his own home by showing Hughes a bill from the Bel Air. The bill reminded Hughes that his friend, not nearly as well off as he, was carrying a huge financial burden. "So he moved out and let me back in."

Probably because of Kane's remarkable patience, their friendship not only survived; it grew and strengthened. More than that, their careers began to mesh in a big way. Kane had given up the stage to be a theatrical agent. Hughes was backing and producing motion pictures, and he worked closely with Kane in the areas of talent and business. In 1948 Kane negotiated the deal by which Hughes acquired

control of RKO, one of Hollywood's most prestigious studios. Kane had become such a trusted ally that Hughes put him in charge. Kane takes a modest view of that job: "I was the boss of the studio only because I represented Mr. Hughes. He was the real boss. I carried messages back and forth to him. I was the messenger boy."

In truth, Kane had become a great deal more. On the talent side, he recruited and helped develop some of the biggest names in Hollywood history. The walls of his present office in Las Vegas are literally covered with autographed photographs of stars—ranging from Pola Negri and Clark Gable to Wayne Newton and Robert Goulet—with countless more in storage (see box).

Surrounded by Hollywood glamour, Howard Hughes relished the role of movie mogul. "The only thing Hughes

liked as much as airplanes was motion pictures," Kane says. As Hughes plunged into movie work, he helped choose his own leading actors and actresses, usually by following his instincts. "He loved entertainers, and he loved stars," Kane recalls. And when Hughes got stars, he wanted them to never leave.

One example of the Hughes creative process was Jean Harlow, Hollywood's first platinum blonde. Kane recalls that Hughes "took her from nothing, absolutely nothing" but sensed she had the elements of stardom. He believed the main thing was "to do something with her hair, which was just ordinary dark hair," according to Kane. Hughes got a hairdresser to experiment, to see what could be done. Harlow's mother was on hand and expressed some anxiety over the process. It turned into much more than anxiety when the hairdresser's first

try turned Harlow's natural hair purple.

"I thought Jean's mother was going to kill both of us right there," says Kane. "But Hughes said, 'Now wait a minute. This is just the first stage. Hughes bought some time with that comment, but the next treatment turned Jean's hair almost

white. This time I knew for sure her mother would kill us. But again Hughes jumped in and saved us. 'This is really going to be something,' he said. 'She's going to be a platinum blonde. He ad-libbed that, right off the top of his head, and it worked.'"

The Street Kid and the Stars

His early days held no glimmer of the color and excitement that life had in store for Walter Kane. Born in Dallas, he was nine when his mother died, and he spent the next five years with his grandmother. By then his father had remarried and moved to New York City, and Walter was sent there to live with him.

"But my stepmother and I got along for about 10 minutes," Kane recalls, "so I left home." Therefore, at age 14, Walter had to make it on his own. "Thank heavens the Good Lord had given me a respectable voice," he says. "I would go out and sing on street corners, and people would drop pennies, nickels or dimes in a little box I had there. I had to learn to fight, though, because the tough guys would come over from the Hell's Kitchen area and try to grab my box. I turned out to be all right as a street fighter."

It wasn't long before Kane promoted his talents to less violent precincts. "New York used to have restaurants where, if they knew you and you were any good, they'd let you come in and sing. It seems to me I performed every place in New York like that."

Kane developed a good enough reputation as a ballad singer to get him some real work in vaudeville. That was the big time in those days; vaudeville provided an outlet for performers on the way up. Walter Kane soon knew them all, and worked with a good many. For instance, in 1919 he worked with a hoofer named Walter Winchell, who would later become famous as a gossip columnist and radio commentator. Kane's association with this broad spectrum of performers, ranging from radio stars Amos 'n Andy to orchestra leader and singer Rudy Vallee, made him a part of that glamorous New York sporting crowd and led to his meeting Howard Hughes at Billy Lahiff's Tavern.

From there it was a quick leap to Hollywood. As an agent, Walter Kane worked with an endless procession of stars, producers and directors.

Today, in his modest office overlooking the Las Vegas Strip, the 82-year-old Kane delights in reliving those relationships through scores of

photographs, some of them priceless, with fond, handwritten expressions of friendship and gratitude from stars. From the early days are photos of Mary Pickford, Clark Gable, Jean Harlow, Carole Lombard, Bing Crosby, Barbara Stanwyck and scores of others. From the recent past and the present, the names, faces and admiring comments of stars like Lola Falana, Nipsy Russell, Robert Goulet and Kane's favorite, Wayne Newton, adorn his walls. But because there isn't room for all of them on his office walls, many lie stored nearby so he can show the photos to visitors on a moment's notice.

And he likes to talk about them. For instance, there's a picture reaching way back to the early twenties of the late actor, Fatty Arbuckle, who was caught in a scandal that ruined his career. His onetime friend, Walter Kane, says it was a put-up job. "He had no more to do with murdering a girl than you or I did," Kane scoffs today.

Then he shows a letter, from Edie Gorme and Steve Lawrence, accompanied by a chip from Atlantic City. "Dear Walter," it reads. "I was the first to throw the dice in Atlantic City. The enclosed chip is from the first \$100 cashed. Edie and I wanted you to have this one, Walter. Warmest regards, Steve."

Wayne Newton occupies the most special place in Walter Kane's heart. "Wayne adopted me as his grandfather," he says with pride.

"Some day I hope to make a motion picture about Howard Hughes, the way he was when he was in action. Wayne Newton would play the part. He is the same size as Howard, and their attitude about life is exactly the same. You could believe that they were related to each other."

Maybe it's that similarity that keeps the memory of Howard Hughes so real, as Walter Kane thinks back across the long reach of time and tumult that brought him from those New York street corners to the entertainment director's chair at the Summa Corporation, the Las Vegas monument to Howard Hughes.—GS

Hughes "discovered" and promoted other stars, like bosomy Jane Russell, whose most famous picture was her first, "The Outlaw." Kane reports that in those carefree days women occupied a big part of Hughes' personal life, too. "He wanted the ladies to pay attention to him. The gals would always get stuck on him because he was very attractive. That man had more girl friends than anyone in the world. He wanted them all."

That was still true when Hughes first came to Las Vegas, a long time before he began buying every casino in sight and went into hiding. "Hughes loved this town. He wanted to own it. And had he not died, he would have found a way to own it." So believes Walter Kane, although many observers would dispute that assumption, pointing out that Kane, like practically everyone else, did not see his secretive friend Hughes after he arrived in Las Vegas in 1966.

But in the early days the two had spent



Walter Kane, entertainment director of Summa hotels, started his show business career nearly 70 years ago.

a lot of time in southern Nevada. "Hughes and I came up here to live in 1950," Kane recalls. And they had been there often before. Early in World War II, Hughes had wanted to expand Hughes Aircraft to Vegas; the federal government wanted companies with defense plants on the coast to move inland as a protection against enemy attack. Although the project didn't come off, in 1950 Hughes decided to follow through, Kane says. "But the government didn't want him to build a plant in Las Vegas because it didn't want the workers going home—this was their language—broke on Saturday night. So he built the plant in Tucson, Arizona."

The final move to Vegas came 16 years later. On November 27 1966, Howard Hughes arrived by train from Boston. He took over the top floor

of the Desert Inn, which he bought a few months later. His dashing public life had vanished; he had cut himself off from open, personal contact with the world. But he had not cut himself off from his old friend, Walter Kane. Even though he did not see Hughes in person again, Kane became an integral part of Hughes' hotel operations in Vegas.

"He didn't bring me up here to be entertainment director," Kane explains, although that is what he finally turned out to be. "Rather, he wanted me to help in the transition of authority from Robert Maheu as chief of operations, to Chester Davis, Raymond Holliday and Bill Gay."

By that time Hughes owned the Sands, the Frontier and the Landmark in addition to the Desert Inn. "When I got here to work on the transition job," Kane says, "I found that each one of these hotels had its own entertainment director. The problem with that was that they were bidding against each other for the same acts. I could see right away that that was no good. So I persuaded the board of Hughes Tool Company to put Jack Entratter in charge of entertainment for all of them."

Entratter had been long involved with Las Vegas as entertainment director and part-owner of the Sands. When the Hughes board decided to hire him, he was in Beverly Hills. Kane went there to tell Entratter that he had been offered the job—only to find that he had been taken to the hospital with a stroke.

"I came right back to Las Vegas," Kane relates, "and Jack died the next morning. I stayed here to try to get somebody else, but couldn't find anyone the board would approve. Before I knew it, I was in the job myself, and I'm still here."

The job, he says, has been highly satisfying. Kane believes one of the best things that has happened to him in Nevada has been "seeing Mr. Hughes' company after it was changed to Summa—seeing it prosper. I'm still part of the company, which I know I helped develop. It's a part of the help I gave Mr. Hughes in the development of his whole empire. I made some deals for him that brought him many millions of dollars."

And there was another benefit to the move to Vegas—Kane could continue his association with the big names in entertainment. As at RKO, his job has allowed him to discover and mold and promote the stars. His favorite is Wayne Newton, whom he regards as a virtual grandson—and who he hopes someday will play the part of Howard Hughes in a movie that Kane dreams of producing.

These are good things. But behind them lingers the shadow of sadness and tragedy, the decline and demise of his closest friend. What gnaws Walter Kane most of all is that he believes Howard Hughes became a victim of a conspiracy, that he didn't have to die when he did—

(Continued on page 23)

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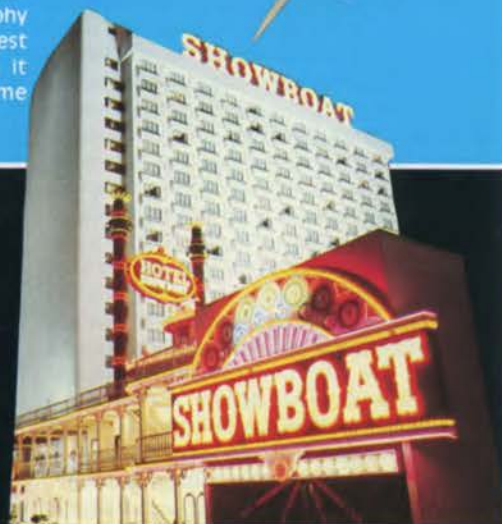
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Type, Tripe and the Granite Times

**Frank Bugbee wrote his mining camp newspaper the hard way.
By Phillip I. Earl and Eric N. Moody**

Homemade, handwritten newspapers were a noble tradition in Nevada's pioneer days. In 1854 Joseph Webb defied writer's cramp to put out the *Gold Canyon Switch*, Nevada's first known newspaper, and three years later Stephen Kinsey painfully limned the *Scorpion* at Genoa. A few other handwritten papers appeared in following years, but the best may have been the last: Frank Bugbee's *Granite Times*.

The mining camp of Granite was located seven miles west of Schurz in present-day Mineral County. Granite was founded when mineral locations were made in the area in March 1908. Shortly thereafter, the Mountain View Mining District was established, attracting 200 to 300 speculators, merchants, boarding house operators, saloonkeepers, prostitutes and drifters of every stripe. Among them was Frank Bugbee.

A native of Ohio, Bugbee had taught school in Kansas before arriving in Nevada around the turn of the century. He turned up in a number of mining camps before joining the rush to Granite and starting the *Times*. Bugbee's enterprise did not survive beyond seven issues, judging by surviving copies, but it was a lively journal while it lasted, providing insight into the life of the

obscure camp and the outlook of an ingenious editor.

The Easter edition of April 17, 1908, featured drawings of a colored egg, a chick, a rabbit and a scene entitled "Single Jacking in Granite." The issue reported that a Mr. Burroughs had struck placer gold while digging the foundation for a building and that Raleigh Baker had recently returned from Yerington with a new pair of shoes—both for the left foot.

**Bugbee wrote that
no preacher should
move to Granite
'unless he can
handle a shovel.'**

A new well was being dug just north of town. There was progress on the auto road to Schurz, and the Schurz String Band had played at Granite's "Second Ball."

Bugbee's readers learned that a local steam laundry operator had made a trip to Yerington to purchase a parrot, which he was teaching to say, "Hand and steam laundry." Ads appeared for Dry Hide Louie's Shaving Parlor, the J.J. Lunch

Room ("cement floors a specialty"), and for a man named Butterfield, "Real Estate and Chickens."

Bugbee even reported on himself. He had ordered a carload of type to print his paper properly, but through an error he received a mess of tripe. Bugbee was equal to the situation, however. He offered "a bar of soap and a pound of tripe" to those who solicited others for new subscriptions to the *Times*.

Bugbee liked to print aphorisms and pithy advice:

- "Don't argue politics on the street, better try religion."
- "Monotony and rust eat out ambition—we don't blame people for being just a little wicked once in a while just for a change."
- "Being a big husky man saves a great many from getting a good licking."
- He advised against marriage "when you couldn't buy a doughnut for an engagement ring."
- He remarked that young girls often wondered who their husbands would be, while those who had them wondered where they were.

Bugbee pushed for culture in Granite. He supported an effort to import a preacher, but he warned anyone considering the position not to come "unless

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he is a good hammerman and can handle a shovel." The Easter issue included a poem by a local miner, M. L. Ruef, who occasionally helped out at the *Times* office:

*"Granite, Granite, Granite,
you are the wonder of the day,
And you'll always be remembered
in a good old-fashioned way.
A town of jolly fellows
and pretty girls a few,
Granite, you are a wonder.
We take our hats off to you."*

In the May 1 issue, Bugbee reported that Dry Hide Louie had amassed so much wealth from panning miners' whiskers that he had retired and moved to Yerington. There was a plug for the town's physician, Mrs. Dr. Carpenter; Bugbee recommended that his readers go to her for sulphur and molasses, since spring had arrived. His own mother had given the remedy to him, he wrote, and he could still taste it 20 years later.

The May 1 issue is the last surviving for the *Granite Times*. In it Bugbee summed up his philosophy: "Stop grumbling. Get up two hours earlier in the morning and do something out of your regular profession. Mind your own business and with all your might let other people alone. Live within your means. Give away or sell your dog. Go to bed early. Talk less of your own peculiar gifts and virtues and more of those of your friends and neighbors. Be cheerful. Fulfill your promises. Pay your debts. Be yourself all you would see in others. Be a good man and stop grumbling."

As a mining camp, Granite never got beyond the leasing stage, and when its fortunes waned, its inhabitants began to depart for newer, richer diggings. Among those who took their leave was Bugbee. Moving on to Dayton, where he acquired some mining properties, he later became a Lyon County deputy sheriff and served in the Nevada Assembly in 1931, 1933, and 1935. In the early 1940s, he moved to Yerington. He died there on April 4, 1943, just after his 73rd birthday.

The two surviving issues of the *Granite Times*, kept at the Nevada Historical Society, were donated by Bugbee himself in 1909. They can be viewed on microfilm or in their original full-color glory at the museum and research library in Reno.

These two issues seem to belie, but do not disprove, the spirit of optimism that brightened his editorials: "Take courage, my brothers, take courage," he wrote. "Do not get discouraged because you have not the tools and equipment you should have to run your lease. The editor has only three lead pencils, but he gets out a paper every week." □

Phillip I. Earl and Eric N. Moody are both historians and Reno residents. Earl is Curator of Exhibits at the Nevada Historical Society, and Moody is Curator of Manuscripts at the society.

CAPITAL IMPRESSIONS

The famous impressionist finds springtime excitement in Victorian Carson.

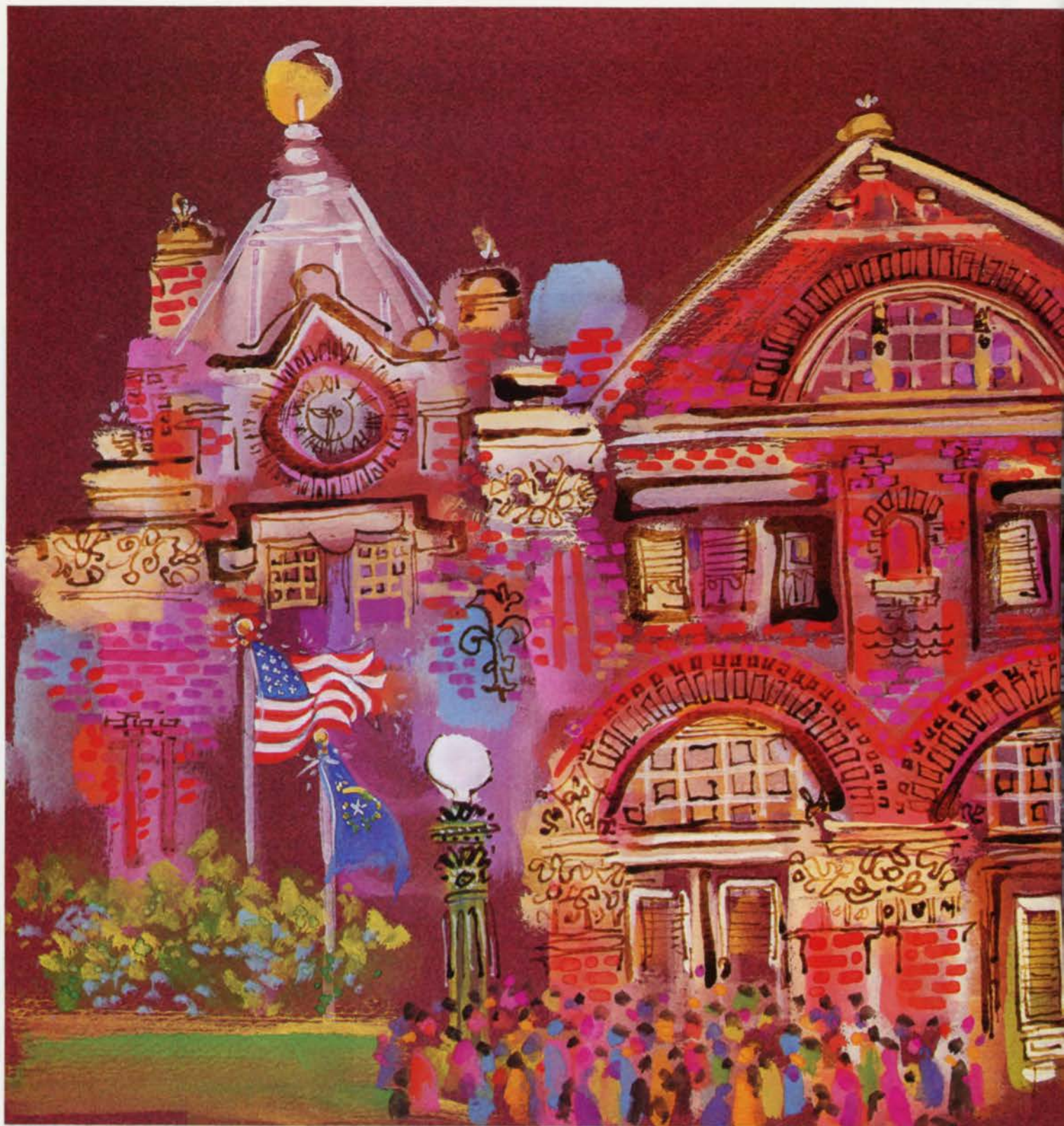
Artist Erni Cabat came to Carson City last spring to explore the capital's Victorian byways and to paint. It's an urge that has taken the well-known watercolorist to 27 countries, where he has taught and tried to capture scenes of local life and heritage in his work. Luckily, Nevada is one of his favorite outposts. The Tucson artist has painted gambling scenes in Las Vegas and Reno and also the other-era atmosphere of Virginia City for *Nevada Magazine*.

In Carson City he prowled the city's historic sections. "The Victorian homes are marvelous," Cabat says. "It's surprising to find so many stately buildings in the town. I felt as if I should be walking home from the old V&T station when the trains were running.

"It's wonderful to see places like the capitol and state library. They give the town character, no matter how modern it becomes."



Cabat finds the state capitol in a colorful springtime mood. The capitol was built in 1870, when Nevada was six years old.



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Bugsy and the Boys

There will always be talk that the underworld—"the boys," as Walter Kane calls them—have at least some influence in Las Vegas. But Kane thinks that the mob just doesn't count in Nevada's legalized gambling anymore.

"Las Vegas could never have advanced the way it has if the boys were still here," he says. "Look how the authorities are trying to uncover things every day." Kane thinks those efforts have been successful, pointing to last year's indictments involving one hotel. "I don't know of anything since."

Walter Kane ought to know; he was acquainted over the years with "a lot of the fellows," ranging from Al Capone in Chicago to Benjamin (Bugsy) Siegel in Hollywood and Las Vegas. "There was a time in the twenties," he recalls, "when if you were an entertainer you must know some of them because they owned most of the theaters and the shows and everything else. If you were playing in Chicago and you had a good show, Al Capone liked you and he'd invite you up to his hotel to a party. He was a nice host. Very good. Very attentive. Soft spoken."

But Kane hastens to point out that "the boys," including Capone, were attentive mainly to "their own family," and anyone who broke the rules was in trouble. "I think it was Benny Siegel who told me once, 'We only kill each other.'"

"That was the way it was here in Las Vegas at one time. If a dealer got caught cheating, do you know what

they did to him? They took him in the kitchen some place and they got him to lay his hands down and a guy would take a baseball bat and break both of his hands. Well, that was a deterrent, believe me."

One of Kane's closest contacts with "the boys" was Siegel, the gangster who really started the Las Vegas boom by opening the Flamingo in 1946.

"I used to work out with him in the gym every day," says Kane. "We were both in great shape because we worked hard. But one day I really got in trouble with him. I always called him Benny, because he detested the name Bugsy—so much so that he'd kill you for mentioning it."

"Well, one afternoon there were three of us in the gym. We used to hold the big bag for each other. How this happened to come out, I don't know, but I said, 'Hey, Bugsy, will you hold the big bag for me?' The minute I said it I knew I was wrong. Thank heavens there was another person in the gym, because that probably saved me. But finally the other fellow left, and I just sat down on the table. I didn't know if Siegel was going to hit me in the head with an Indian club, or what. He came up behind my left side and said: 'Don't ever call me Bugsy again. And I said, 'I apologize. I don't know how it slipped out. You can bet I'll never say it again. He said, 'O.K. Come on, I'll hold the bag for you.'"

"I was so relieved I hit that bag so hard I thought I would go right through it."—GS

WALTER AND HOWARD

(Continued from page 15)

or even be so entirely cut off from old friends like himself.

The bitterness and sadness become evident as Kane talks. "They wouldn't let me come and see him. I knew he was there, but I didn't know what was happening to him at the time. Had I known, I would have tried to do something about it."

"I think it all started in 1966, when he had a nervous breakdown, when he was in Boston. They started giving him dope, and brought him back here." Kane says some people then around Hughes wanted Kane to go to Mexico and make a contact to get narcotics. He says that when he refused, they said they would tell Hughes about it. "Better than that, I said, 'is to let me go upstairs and I'll tell him myself. But they said, 'Oh, no, you can't see him.'"

Walter Kane never saw his old friend again. On the day Hughes died in 1976,

he says, "an attorney associated with Mr. Hughes called me up and said a client of his in New York wants me to get in touch with you and he wants you to write a book and he agreed to give you a million dollars up front if you'll sign a contract."

"Well, the shock of Mr. Hughes dying was just so great that I could not talk any business. I just couldn't get over the shock of Mr. Hughes dying, you know, because he was somebody that we thought of as indestructible."

In a sense, he still is indestructible in the eyes of Walter Kane. Kane had been one of the few people, toward the end, who deeply resented the speculation that Hughes didn't exist. Kane couldn't really counteract that illusion until it was too late. Then he said, quite simply, "It seems a shame that Howard Hughes had to die to prove that he was alive." □

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



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The Unthinkable *Moll*

The Great Prison Imbroglia: An 1870s Melodrama By Terri Sprenger-Farley

Starring:



Mollie Forshay: Convicted murderess who swore that she, the only woman in the Nevada State Prison, was disgraced and held for "immoral relations" by;



Warden P.C. Hyman: Respected for his efforts to employ convicts outside the prison and fill empty cells with inmates from the insane asylum, he insisted The Scandal was a plot headed by;



Governor Lewis "Broadhorns" Bradley: Instigator of an earlier, fruitless investigation of the warden, he swore his only concern was for helpless Mollie, whose plight had been revealed to him by the brave young Virginian;



Samuel Miller: A guard at the prison and sometime spy, he claimed the warden was stealing, keeping Mollie as his mistress and starving the prisoners.

Featuring:

Lieutenant Governor Jewett Adams: A member of the anti-warden crowd.

Trusty Hiram McComas: He was promised his freedom and the hand of fair Moll for implicating the warden.

Convict Henry Hickman: Proponent of a poison plot, he said *he* was betrothed to Mollie.

Mollie Forshay

Mollie Forshay was an unlikely heroine for a melodrama. No ringleted preacher's daughter, she was a "soiled dove," a prostitute who toted a knife—and used it.

Mollie, her man Bill Allen and a female friend had settled in for a late dinner in Reno one Sunday in 1871. They were having a drink or two to celebrate a profitable evening when they were upbraided by a surly and foul-mouthed waiter. He used such "inhumane language" that Allen was forced to defend the ladies' delicate sensibilities. A fight ensued and the waiter, a man named Kelly, was accidentally stabbed.

At least that was Mollie's story. The *Territorial Enterprise* and several witnesses saw it differently:

"The woman went into the restaurant drunk and made herself generally disagreeable by ordering Kelly about and abusing him. He had told her that she must either behave herself or leave and upon this she poured forth such a torrent of abuse that he refused to wait upon her. She then swore that she would go to another restaurant. As the pair passed out, Mollie suddenly twisted upon Kelly, who had followed her to the door, and struck him with a poignard."

For a moment Kelly kept his senses. "The d----- has cut me," he was reported to have said. Then, assessing her womanish lack of skill, he continued, "But, I guess it don't amount to much, as I am not bleeding."

He fell to the floor, dead, stabbed through the heart.

Although they fled the scene, Mollie and her lady friend soon were arrested. Allen could not be found, but his whereabouts were considered unimportant. Talk on the streets said this was not Mollie's first murder.

In court, Mollie changed her plea from innocent to justifiable homicide. Threatened by Kelly, a "mere waiter, servant and nothing more," she had had to defend her honor. For a while it looked as if her defense would work. The citizenry was impressed by her self-possession.

"The accused not only exhibited no symptoms of insanity either before or after the arrest, but is as cool and collected as the most innocent and

virtuous and unsuspected woman in the State," commented the *Reno Crescent*.

Unfortunately for her, Mollie's character witnesses were not of the highest caliber. A man named Stevens was all but laughed out of the courtroom. The *Crescent* described Stevens' encounter with two "gentlemen" after the trial. Calling him a lying "gimlet-eyed son of a b---," the two men accosted Stevens. When he reached into his coat for a gun, a "brawny fist attached to a masculine arm" forced him to reconsider, leaving the gun "where it would not likely cause any outside harm."

Mollie was convicted of second degree murder and sentenced to 27 years in the state prison in Carson City.

Reno's soiled dove seemed to sink from sight. When Warden P.C. Hyman was asked by the *Carson City Appeal* a year later about his only female inmate, Hyman chose to comment instead on his prisoners' taste in books and on his plans for a shoe factory. The *Appeal* praised his "clear notions of system, resources and availabilities of hitherto wasted labor" and applauded his proposal to employ prisoners outside the system and convert empty cells into a state insane asylum.

But on Valentine's Day two years later, Mollie exploded back into the headlines.

From highly-placed sources in the capital came the news that a special committee had been appointed to investigate the "Sensation at Carson." Warden Hyman's entire prison administration was under suspicion.

The press went wild. Rumor and hearsay shared front page space with letters from Governor Bradley and Warden Hyman. Not only had Mollie been kept as Hyman's mistress for 18 months, swore one source, but she'd given birth to his child. Not only had she given birth, another witness added, she had been seen suckling twins in Hyman's private quarters.

It was a "conspiracy between convicts and a ring of State officials," the warden told the *Territorial Enterprise*.

Hyman, long suspicious that prison guard Samuel Miller was a spy, had his employee watched. Miller bungled a secret exchange of a package intended for the governor, allowing the warden to

intercept it. The parcel contained correspondence written by Miller, Miss Forshay and two other prisoners—Hiram McComas, a trusty and former stage robber, and Henry Hickman, who was serving time for assault. The letters showed clearly that the governor was conspiring with the prisoners, the *Enterprise* said, for "the disgrace if not the death" of the warden.

As the charges multiplied, the entire state chose sides. The only uncontested issue seemed to be poor Mollie's plight. "Warden P.C. Hyman has taken advantage of the helpless condition of the only female prisoner under his charge," Governor Bradley wrote in a letter to the *Enterprise*.

Northern Nevadans concurred. Petitions circulated calling for Mollie's rescue from "that pestilential hole." Public outcry against her treatment grew into a demand for a pardon. Mollie had returned to center stage once more. In an even more demanding role, she was a wronged innocent.

A fine buggy team called for her at the prison and conveyed her, all downcast eyes and dipped head, to the courtroom door. Once inside, she had little trouble taking charge. Hesitantly, Mollie admitted being forced to accept Hyman's "embraces at his own will and pleasure," although she was pledged to another. To bolster this admission, her most intimate correspondence with her betrothed, one-time stage robber McComas, was revealed. Although the *Enterprise* found them "too affecting" to be published, the six-page love letters contained "billion and cooing" references to the vine-covered honeymoon cottage that McComas wanted for "my baby Mollie."

Poison was the subject of less tender but equally intimate letters from Hickman. In these, Hickman urged Mollie to end their problems by spending a discreet 25 cents for poison at a pharmacy.

Next, the warden and the governor moved their battle to the courts, and Samuel Miller, the spy, became the rope in their tug of war. Miller was "an active, intelligent young man," the governor maintained. He was "a young Virginian of good family" whose flagging fortune had sent him west.

(Continued)

At this, Hyman's forces waved yet another sheet of intercepted correspondence. "Could I blot out my life from my memory, I would gladly do so," Miller had written to McComas, "for I have seen more crime than I can tell you in many months."

Hurriedly dismissing the note, the pro-Bradley team pressed for a quick pardon for Mollie and a deeper inquiry into Hyman's other misdeeds.

The governor's forces were successful. Mollie was freed. Joyously she wrote McComas that she had been received by Carson's best hostesses and, not surprisingly, was welcomed at the governor's mansion. Bolstered by the attention of the capital's concerned ladies and gentlemen, she opened a dressmaking shop in Carson.

Meanwhile, however, Hyman's trial had produced charges that the governor was simply trying to discredit a potential political opponent. Pursuing that story, an *Enterprise* reporter confronted Lieutenant Governor Jewett Adams on the street. Was it not true he had sworn to do "what he could by fair means or foul to oust Hyman"? Had he not met several times with Mollie Forshay?

"I have had no connection with her," Adams declared.

When the persistent reporter sought her verification, the reformed Miss Forshay couldn't resist a sweet double

entendre:

"I have laid everything bare before Mr. Adams."

The audience was seated once more, but this time it watched Mollie begin a backslide that would take her straight to the bottom. First there was the tawdry seduction of a Pennsylvania family man, newly arrived in Carson and feeling flush with his first paycheck. After an expensive oyster dinner and a romp in her room, Mollie relieved him of his money. When the *Carson City Appeal* printed a step-by-step account of the evening, he was fired, and his wife took their children east.

"This woman Forshay is simply a prostitute and a murderess," the *Enterprise* charged. "She is cruel in all her instincts and depraved in all her thoughts. It was wrong to pardon her from the penitentiary."

Ignoring the men involved in each episode, the public began to dog its former darling. People sneered that Mollie Forshay was the cause of knife fights and barroom brawls. Those who had applauded her as an injured Magdalen now booed her as Bathsheba.

Finally, Mollie was the target of vigilantes who bombed and burned her Reno "hurdy house" in November 1877. Bewildered, she fled.

By December she had established the Shebang de Forshay in Winnemucca. In a

call for "such places" to be closed, the *Winnemucca Register* noted that the Christmas festivities at the Shebang included a series of fights that featured not only the usual pimps and bums but also a number of prominent citizens, printers and railroad boys.

When things got too hot in Winnemucca, Mollie, middle-aged now, tried her luck in Tuscarora. Grudgingly, the town's citizens accepted her as that staple of small Nevada towns: a local character. But she still got into trouble. She was jailed for selling whiskey to Indians, for assault and contempt of court.

Mollie's days of glamorous infamy were paling. In 1896, her name appeared on Tuscarora's indigent roll.

But Mollie's come-hither hussy ways weren't completely over. Even in the days before her death in 1900, according to Tony Primeaux, who still lives in Elko, the old girl must have had a way about her. Primeaux's grandfather, Roy Primeaux, remembered helping Mollie with her grocery bill when she'd overrun her county allotment. And once, he admitted, when she'd had too much whiskey to navigate her way, she was still lady enough to be offered a ride home—even if it was in a wheelbarrow. □

Terri Sprenger-Farley of Verdi is currently at work on Heroines and Hussies, a collection of biographies of little-known historical women.



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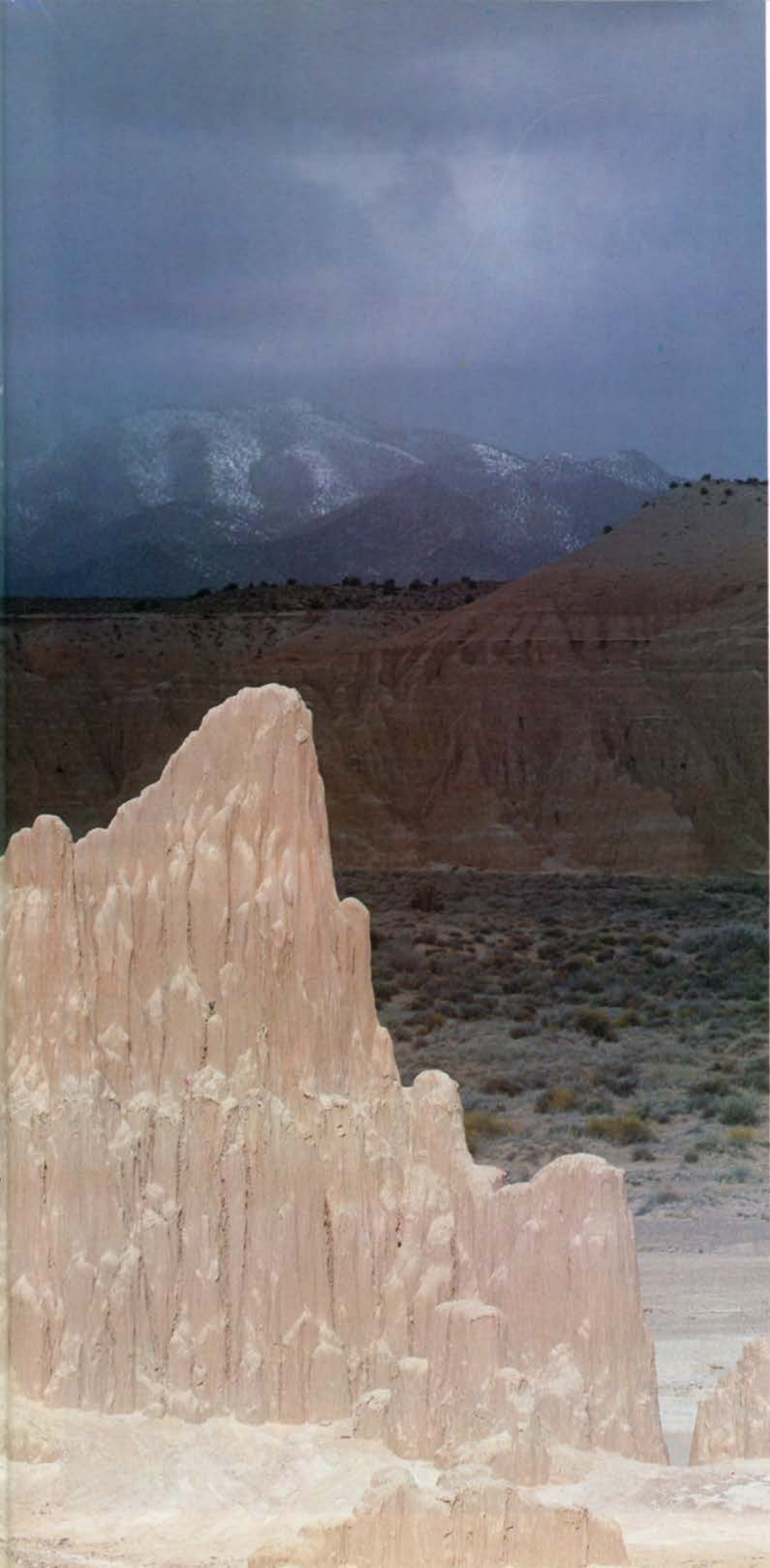
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Muench's Gallery

It is the photographer's art to find something familiar in nature's oddities. Camera angle and lighting make this scar of tan bentonite clay appear if ever so briefly, to be a remnant of human construction: a moldering Spanish galleon, perhaps, or a gingerbread chapel. But visitors to Cathedral Gorge State Park, west of Panaca, discover that, if it is neither ship nor church, the striking formation encourages the imagination to turn a fact of nature into a metaphor of design.

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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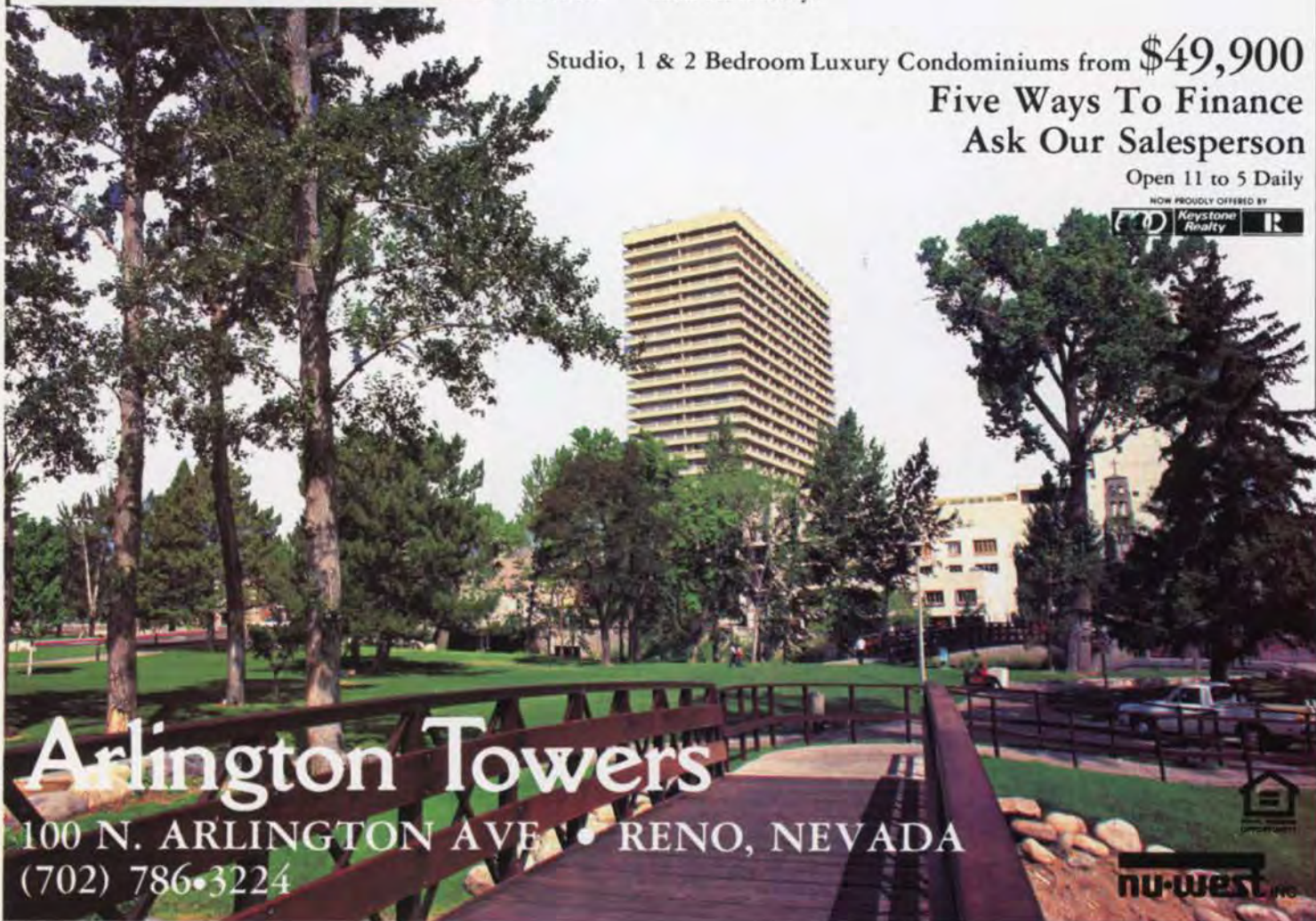
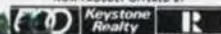
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PHOTOS: STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION & ARCHEOLOGY

Greiner's Bend and the north rim of Houston's pit. Mining caused the road to crack—and tempers to erupt.

Showdown at Greiner's Bend

Gold Hill residents feared losing their homes when a monster mining company threatened to gobble the town for the gold beneath.

By Jim Crandall

Fear plagued Diane Gordon. Not the kind that comes from dark, cloaked strangers with glinting steel. It was the fear that comes from knowing something dreadful might happen—and being powerless to stop it.

Gordon and friend Dorothy Colley were independently wealthy artists. They had moved to Gold Hill, Nevada, just south of Virginia City, to establish an art center in 1972. The solitude of the town coupled with the austere beauty of the crumbling remains of the Comstock Lode, the largest gold and silver strike in the history of the world, seemed a perfect blend.

The sun-bleached brick walls of the two-story Gold Hill Hotel, the sagging rock face of the Bank of California building, and the abandoned Virginia and Truckee railroad depot all stood in quiet testimony to an opulent past.

But of particular charm was Greiner's Bend, the tightest, steepest curve in the state. This is where the highway, which climbs north through town, switches east, south, east and then north again in a double hairpin turn before it straightens out over the Divide and enters Virginia City. The bend is a bane to campers, trailers and tour buses.

To Gordon and Colley it was home. They had bought the stately Victorian house on the first curve of Greiner's Bend. It had belonged, years before, to Old Man Greiner himself. They took pride in restoring the place, adding a bay window, a large glass-encased sun room and greenhouse and finally a thick coat of brilliant white paint.

The house featured a large front yard held back from the street by a four-foot stone wall. Gordon landscaped the yard with fruit trees, shrubs and flowers,

which enhanced the charm of the stone wishing well with its peaked shingle roof.

Gordon and Colley also bought the Bank of California building and refurbished that as a studio and art gallery. They invited artist friends to come and visit, and some stayed to practice their crafts in the quiet tranquility of Gold Hill. Now that tranquility was threatened.

Gordon had been following the activities of Houston Oil and Minerals Corporation. The company had leased most of the old mining claims in Gold Hill and had set up a base of operations in the old Overman Mine building at the south end of town. And now, in this late summer of 1978, she heard Houston was planning a massive mining assault on the old Con-Imperial open pit mine.

The edge of that mine was a stone's throw from Gordon and Colley's wishing well.

Houston Oil and Minerals' Comstock Project Manager Don Hopkins was pleased. He had spent two years probing the underbelly of Gold Hill for silver and gold, logging core samples, drawing maps, leasing mining claims and writing feasibility studies for his bosses back in Texas. And now, finally, his efforts were rewarded. He'd just been granted a special use permit from the Storey County Commissioners in Virginia City allowing him to begin mining the Con-Imperial pit.

August 23, 1978. Gold, \$200.45 per oz., silver, \$5.34 per oz., and rising.

With the okay from Storey came the corporate go-ahead to build a \$15 million mill at American Flat, a valley two miles southwest of the pit. The mill would be capable of processing 1,500 tons of ore per day.

Houston had already approved Hopkins' plan of attack on the Con-Imperial, although it posed a few engineering problems. The pit, at the head of a box canyon, was cramped on the west by a sheer mountain. The north also met a steep mountain, at the top of which ran the only water line to the towns of Virginia City, Gold Hill and Silver City. Just below the water line ran the Ophir Grade road, used for fire access and line maintenance.

The southern end of the pit opened naturally to Gold Canyon, providing easy access to the new millsite. To the east of the pit was Greiner's Bend and several old homes and businesses. The ore body lay buried near the center of the pit. It was large and weak, about three ounces of silver and one-tenth of an ounce of gold per ton.

To follow the ore down deep in the earth, Hopkins would widen the sides of the pit to the maximum, cutting steep 20-foot steps into the west and north walls. He would also cut as close to the Greiner's Bend roadway as possible. It would be better to mine through Greiner's Bend, but that posed too many problems. The Storey commissioners had limited the pit's size to 20 acres.

Once the pit was widened, Hopkins could begin mining the ore. Starting at the southern end, explosives would be set in an arc across the floor, and after the blast his dynamite team would move back about 20 feet. While they set the next arc of charges, huge shovels would load 35-ton haul trucks with waste dirt and ore. They would work their way across the pit floor, and the ore would be stockpiled at the site of the soon-to-be-built mill.

With permit in hand, Hopkins set his plan in motion. He'd have to move a lot of dirt fast to make it pay.

For the next few months Gordon and Colley and other upper Gold Hill residents lived with the screech of steel tractor treads and the groan of



The Con-Imperial, left, is on the site of early Comstock claims. The first miners' union west of the Mississippi was formed in Gold Hill in 1866.

powerful diesel engines. Dust choked the formerly crystalline air. Work began each morning at six o'clock, continued into the night, and finally stopped at 2 a.m.

Gordon pleaded with the Storey commissioners to get the company to reduce the hours. Hopkins said he had deadlines to meet, but did cut the work schedule to 6 a.m. to 10:30 p.m., seven days a week.

Then the blasting began. With each explosion the windows shivered in Gordon and Colley's sun room. Plants and flowers withered.

October 22, 1979. Gold, \$392 per oz., silver, \$17.15 per oz., and rising.

In the spacious Victorian chambers of the Storey County courtroom a handful of spectators watched as Houston condemned and claimed the Gold Hill property of Fred and Dorothy Imoor. The mining outfit had dumped a few tons of waste dirt on the property and said it was needed for mining.

When the Imoors, who also owned the Gold Hill Hotel, complained, company attorney Ross de Lipkau said the right of condemnation was granted to private mining companies by the state's 100-year-old eminent domain law. The law stated that owners of condemned property would be paid fair market value for their land. District Judge Mike Griffin reviewed the law and expressed dissatisfaction with the corporation's approach, but he ruled in Houston's favor. The

Imoors' attorney, Bob Perry, said he'd take the case to the Supreme Court.

Word of the condemnation quickly spread through Gold Hill and into every bar and novelty shop in Virginia City. Comstock residents speculated on the awesome power of eminent domain. Would the company condemn all of Gold Hill and then mine right through C Street in Virginia City? What was next?

November 13, 1979. Gold, \$387.45 per oz., silver, \$16.16 per oz., and rising.

Diane Gordon, dressed in robe and slippers, walked down to the street to get her morning paper. When she picked it up, she noticed a crack running 100 feet down the highway on the pit side of Greiner's Bend. She returned to the house, sat down at the kitchen table, and cried.

November 21, 1979. Gold, \$396.40 per oz., silver, \$15.30 per oz., and rising.

Commission Chairman Lora Del Carlo took her seat at a table in the front of the Storey County courtroom and banged her gavel in an effort to silence 300 outraged Comstock residents. She then called on the company to explain the cracked road.

Attorney de Lipkau said Houston had run into some unstable material below the roadway. Houston's solution: mine Greiner's Bend. He said Houston would either buy the homes or condemn the property via eminent domain and kick

the residents out.

Hopkins told the crowd of some more unstable material. He said two million tons of earth on the north wall of the pit was cracking and would soon cave in. He didn't think the water line would be affected, but he said the Ophir Grade road might be wiped out.

The residents demanded the commissioners stop Houston. The commissioners, unsure of their ability to fight the multi-million-dollar corporation and the eminent domain law, scheduled an injunction hearing before Judge Griffin two weeks later.

While Storey sued for injunction, the State Department of Transportation ordered Houston to back off 50 feet from Greiner's Bend, severely limiting operations in the pit. And Imoor's attorney, Bob Perry, filed a writ with the Supreme Court to test the eminent domain law and prepared to file suit against the corporation on behalf of Gordon, Colley and other Gold Hill residents on grounds that included creating a public nuisance, trespassing and emotional distress.

November 25, 1979. Gold, \$395.25 per oz., silver \$16.32 per oz., and rising.

Houston's president, Fox Benton, was awakened in his Texas home at 6 a.m. by a phone call from Nevada Congressman Jim Santini. Santini had spent the night fielding phone calls from Comstock residents and Nevada miners. The residents were appalled at Houston's actions in Gold Hill. The miners were miffed about Houston's use of their precious eminent domain law. The law usually was used more discreetly to claim properties in remote desert areas or when owners couldn't be located. The law cut through a lot of red tape and barbed wire.

"You've got a public relations disaster on your hands out here in Nevada," Santini told Benton. "There are inexcusable blunders that demand immediate attention. The fuse is lit and this bomb is ready to explode."

The price of silver and gold soared.

Fox Benton's priority was to keep the pit open and the ore flowing. If gold and silver continued to rise in price—they had almost tripled since exploration began—he'd also need to mine Greiner's Bend. Benton chose his best PR man, Head of Governmental Relations Allen B. Cluck, and sent him to Nevada.

Cluck met with Santini, the Storey commissioners and residents. Cluck promised that Houston would *not* use the eminent domain law on Greiner's Bend. He also said the company would stockpile 500 feet of water line near the projected slope failure; donate \$15,000 to the Storey Fire Department; donate and install two 200,000-gallon water storage tanks to ensure uninterrupted service should the line fail; reduce mining hours

(Continued on page 86)



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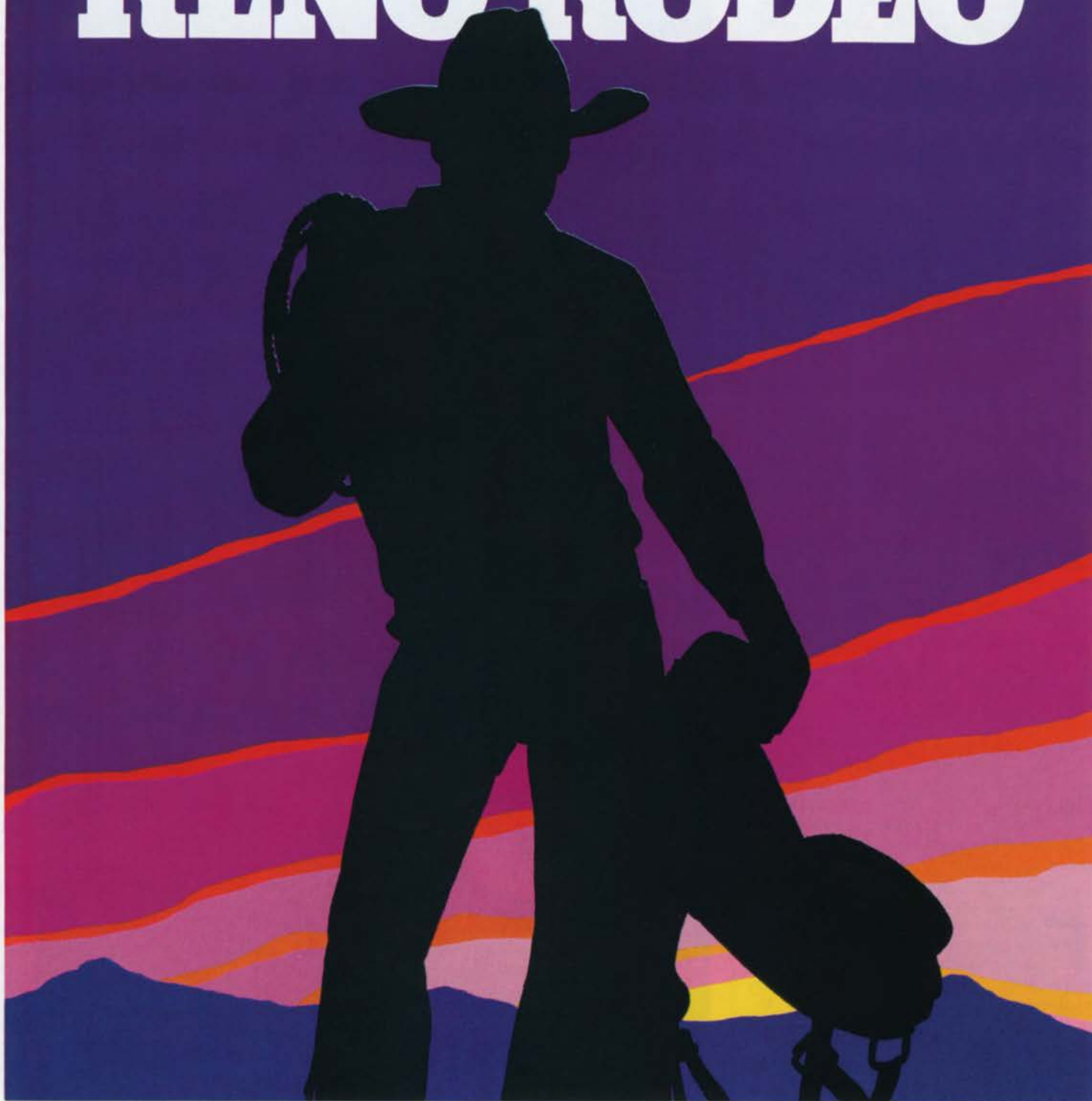
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Rodeo:

The Greatest Show on Earth, Twice

When Nevada puts on a show, it's the biggest, best and richest. Will it be Vegas or Reno?

By Julian Stone

Rodeo is big-time. It's the best darned sport in the world. It's cowboys and cowgirls, some of them the real thing right off Nevada's own range country.

And, for the winning riders, rodeo is also highly paid.

Perhaps not by big-league baseball standards, but in rodeo the big purses are there. Last year's all-around champion, the top money winner in the Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association, was Jimmy Cooper, the 25-year-old son of a rancher from Monument, New Mexico. He took home \$105,861.93, a world's record for money won in a single year.

In 1981 Tom Ferguson, a six-time all-around champion from Miami, Oklahoma, broke the record for career earnings—

more than \$700,000 at last count. Ferguson broke another record in Houston early this year by winning the most cash ever at a single rodeo, \$17,500.

In 1981, the record prize money (including cash from sponsors, bonuses and entry fees) was \$419,000 at Cheyenne, Wyoming. In 1982, Cheyenne and the Calgary Stampede each will pay cowboys close to half a million dollars. Even so, Las Vegas and Reno still have high hopes of becoming the "world's richest rodeo" based on total purse.

Early this year, Reno was ranked as the richest rodeo in the world in "added money" by offering \$102,000. (Added money refers to the purse and does not include entry fees, which also go to contestants.) A few months later, Las Vegas

was offering the most added money—\$105,000—in PRCA history. Reno's estimated total purse will be more than \$300,000, which means each event could pay \$50,000 for saddle bronc, bareback and bull riding, steer wrestling, calf and team roping—with the best of the rough stock riders, wrestlers and ropers each taking home \$15,000 first-place money for a few seconds' work.

All these big pay-offs are great for the cowboys. Problem is, none of the sponsors will really know which rodeo is the "world's richest" until the last tally is in at the end of 1982.

The Elks Helldorado Rodeo in Las Vegas and the Reno High Roller Round-up are sanctioned by the PRCA. The two events will be important to professional

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cowboys because a win could mean an enormous cash and point boost toward the National Finals Rodeo held in Oklahoma City each December. Only the top 15 cowboys in each event—based on money won each year—will be invited to the finals. Just to win at either of Nevada's rich rodeos will mean a good chance at the NFR and a possible world champion's buckle. Battle Mountain's Joe Marvel placed in Las Vegas in 1978 and ended the season as Nevada's first World Champion Saddle Bronc Rider.

But rodeo isn't just money. It's an exciting spectator sport with superb individual contests. One way to follow the action is to pick a favorite event, a favorite cowboy or cowgirl. Check the riding events: saddle bronc riding, which demands skill with a horse, perfect timing, style and a little luck. Or bareback riding, in which flashing spurs and wild leg movements impress the judges. And bull riding, as the cowboy tests his skill and daring against an enormously powerful and dangerous animal.

You can see how cowboys competing in the timed events must have horse savvy and long hours of practice. Watch the calf ropers, whose horses are trained so well they'll help with the catch and the hold of the calf. Follow the hazer, as he moves a 700-pound steer into position for the bull dogger, who then jumps on the beast's horns and wrestles it down. Girls' barrel racing is also a fast and exciting event in which contestants and their superbly trained horses race against the clock.

Beyond contests and prize money, rodeo is also ambience: the smell, the feel, the look of the West. The atmosphere spills over into side events like parades, buckaroo breakfasts, dances and carnivals.

Where to Find Nevada's Rodeos

There's big-time rodeo in Las Vegas and Reno this year, but there's also lots of excitement at all the rodeos held in the Silver State in 1982. Some rodeo facts and Nevada specifics follow:

Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association
Elks Helldorado Days & Rodeo takes place May 28-June 9 at the Convention Center in Las Vegas, "Home of the Richest Rodeo." The 48th annual celebration features a giant parade on the Strip at 9 a.m. on May 29, with marching bands, floats, the Budweiser Clydesdales and "the largest carnival midway ever to be staged in Nevada." Special booths and the carnival are open from 4 p.m. to midnight weekdays, noon to midnight weekends. Rodeo performances are May 29-June 6 at 8 p.m. For tickets call 702-385-1221.

Reno's High Roller Roundup will be held June 18-27 at the Nevada State Fairgrounds. Known as "the wildest, richest,

outdoor, daytime rodeo in the summer-time in the West," the rodeo has a buckaroo breakfast before the parade downtown on June 26. There will be a carnival midway, booths and special western events. One special event on the rodeo agenda is a preliminary heat for the year-long Wrangler Rodeo Clown Bull Fighting Competition, where three clowns will compete in Reno to see who has the most style and courage when facing a bull. The purse is \$4,600. Rodeo performances are on June 22-25 at 7:30 p.m.; June 26 at 1 and 7:30 p.m.; and June 27 the finals, at 1 p.m. For tickets call, 702-329-2771.

Winnemucca Rodeo is September 4-5 at the fairgrounds. The event is a PRCA sanctioned, western-style rodeo, staged in the middle of cowboy country in north-central Nevada. The annual mile-long parade is held September 4 on Winnemucca Boulevard. The PRCA rodeo is on September 4-5 at 7 p.m., starting with Indian dancing and a wild horse race. On Labor Day, you can see an authentic Mexican Rodeo, featuring wild horse roping, trick roping, and two-handed bull riding at 1:30 p.m. Produced by Cotton Rosser and Winnemucca's own Bob Tallman, the Winnemucca rodeo is the smallest PRCA rodeo in the state but guarantees some of the world's best cowboys and a real western good time. For tickets call 702-623-2225 or 623-5045.

High School Buckaroos

Many Nevada teenagers compete under the National High School Rodeo Association. The boys can enter saddle bronc, bareback, bull riding, calf and team roping and steer wrestling. The girls' events are barrel racing, pole bending, breakaway roping, goat tying and team roping and cutting. Here's where the action takes place this year:

May 1-2, Wells
May 8-9, Winnemucca
May 15-16, Reno
May 22-23, Owyhee
May 29-30, Eureka
June 5-6, Elko
June 12-13, Lovelock
June 17-20, Finals, Gardnerville

Another Reno Rodeo

An important rodeo on the college level is the National Intercollegiate Rodeo Association event in Reno on May 1-2. It's open to college students throughout the West. The boys will compete in saddle bronc, bareback, bull riding, steer wrestling and calf and team roping. Girls' events are calf and breakaway roping, goat tying and barrel racing.

The rodeo starts at 1 p.m. each day at the Nevada State Fairgrounds. Tickets are \$1 for UNR students and ages 12 and under, and \$3 for all others. Tickets can be purchased at the UNR ticket office, from area western stores or by calling Liz Elwood at 348-6088 or 784-6731. □

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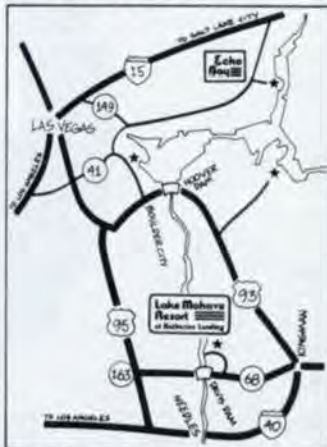


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LAS VEGAS NEWS BUREAU

Where to Catch the Big Ones

The lunkers are lurking at these 12 Nevada fishing holes.

By Miles Ottenheimer

Nevada may be a desert state, but, as well-schooled anglers know, it has boundless opportunities for fishing. You can deep-line for huge mackinaw trout in Lake Tahoe or use flies to stalk trout in clear, shaded mountain streams. You'll find striped bass too big for your freezer at Lake Mead and marvel at the trophy cutthroats of Pyramid.

Here are 12 of Nevada's best-known fishing holes. They include the state's Big Four—Tahoe, Pyramid, Mead and Mohave—and eight other lakes, streams and reservoirs where the lunkers are lurking this summer.

Lake Tahoe: Fishermen who visit Lake Tahoe share an incredible visual and sensual experience. There's the crystal clear azure lake set in the mountains, towering pines and firs stretching straight up into the blue sky. And if the scenery isn't enough to create a mental high for the fisherman, then the sensation of having a lunker on his line certainly is.

There are three basic ways to fish Lake Tahoe. You can fish from the shore for rain-

bow, brown or brook trout; in a boat, trolling shallow waters for kokanee salmon; or deep-lining it, trolling the depths of the lake for mackinaw trout.

Fishing from shore is practical and fairly easy. All you need is a rod, reel, hook, bobber and bait. Live minnows are the best bait. Remember that only those taken from the lake are legal. They can be purchased at local sporting goods shops or taken right from the lake with a minnow trap. With bait on the bobber five to six feet above the hook, just cast the line out and wait. The trout will do the rest.

Tahoe rainbows hit those minnows like a ton of bricks. The bobber disappears below the surface in an instant and the fight is on. Rainbows are famous fighters, especially at Tahoe where the icy water seems to give them added strength—not to mention great flavor when eaten. The fish can head for the bottom or explode into the air, dancing and thrashing across the water. They can run and dart, their silver sides flashing as they try to spit out the

hook and be gone just as quickly as they appeared.

Most fishermen find that the fish usually hit better when there are wind and ripples on the water. Virtually any public, accessible shore area is fishable. There are hot spots like Cave Rock and Sand Harbor on the east shore, where the Nevada Department of Wildlife releases its planter trout. Experienced fishermen tend to keep their specific hot spots a secret, talking only in generalities about where they go.

If you use a boat and fish near the rocky shore you'll find brook (rare in Tahoe) and brown trout as well as rainbows. You can troll with lures or with minnows in the same manner as on shore.

Another fish sought by boating anglers is the kokanee salmon. These fish were introduced primarily as food for the mackinaw, but have become a fairly good sport fish. Kokanee aren't huge — catches average under two pounds—but they are scrappy. You'll find

kokanee primarily at the south end of the lake, especially near Emerald Bay, and can take them by trolling with lures.

The kokanee and rainbows are fine sport fish, but the unchallenged underwater giants of Lake Tahoe are the mackinaw trout. Only the cutthroat trout, which have all but disappeared from the lake, come close to matching them in size. The Nevada and Lake Tahoe record for mackinaw is 37 pounds, 6 ounces and 44 inches, caught in 1974. Catches average two- to four-pounds, but 10-pounders are not uncommon.

Stalking the big macks requires determination. Veteran anglers usually fish at an average depth of 120 to 200 feet, letting out as much as 1,000 feet of braided steel line (the steel being necessary to keep the lure moving along the bottom). Many fishermen use depth finders to follow the contour of the bottom and then use a 5 to 1 ratio of line to depth. A large, deep sea-type reel is used on a stiff seven-foot pole and mackinaw fishermen say that if you aren't on the bottom you won't catch fish.

When a mackinaw hits you must get the fish up off the bottom in a hurry because mackinaw will head straight for rocks where they can foul the line and get away.

There are many legends about monster fish at the bottom of Lake Tahoe. Some anglers say there are fish as big as a man down there, but no one has caught one—yet.

Pyramid Lake is a blue jewel set in the stark desert country 30 miles north of Reno. Pyramid is home to the mighty Lahontan cutthroat trout and its cousin, the cutbow trout, a cross between a rainbow and a cutthroat. There are also Sacramento perch and the cui-ui, which is illegal to catch. The cui-ui, a primitive sucker, is found nowhere else in the world.

The trout at Pyramid are legendary. Herbert Hoover and celebrities like Clark Gable, a regular, fished the lake in the 1920s and 1930s. The world-record cutthroat, 41 pounds, was hooked there in 1925 by a local Paiute, John Skimmerhorn. The Lahontan cutthroat, however died out in the 1930s because of



There's excellent stream fishing in the Rubies, where snowmelt turns creeks clear as air. Here Joe Royer stalks a trout.

damming and diversion of the Truckee, the fish's spawning ground. The fish has since been replanted, and a modern record was set in 1977 with a cutthroat weighing 23 pounds, 8 ounces and measuring 36 inches.

Fishing at Pyramid is best in winter when it's cold and the fish begin to spawn. At those times you can see fishermen in waders standing in waist-deep water, in a blizzard, casting for cutthroat.

Only artificial lures are legal on the lake, and fish shorter than 19 inches must be released. Also, because the lake is part of the Pyramid Lake Indian Reservation, a special Indian fishing permit is required. Permits are available at the tribal ranger office at Sutcliffe. The cost is \$4 per day or \$12 for the season, which runs from June 1 to May 31. A Nevada license is also required.

Shore fishermen favor the western shore because of its easy access. On the east side, large cutthroats have been caught near the pyramid at Hell's Kitchen.

Lake Mead: When Hoover Dam was completed in 1935, Man's Greatest Project did more than get power to L.A. and revitalize Las Vegas. It backed up the Colorado, Virgin and Muddy rivers to create Lake Mead, a giant reservoir with 550 miles of shoreline. Today a large variety of fish—including bass, trout, catfish and crappie—prowl the former river channels and the tamarisk-lined coves where the water meets the desert.

For the past few years the big fish in Mead's pond has been the striped bass. First

planted in 1969, the stripers were the favored game fish by the mid-1970s. The most-honored lunker of all was the 47-pounder caught in 1979 by Jim Brady of Henderson. Stripers can be caught all year, from shore or boat, with lures used in shallow waters and bait—anchovies are good—in deeper areas.

Largemouth bass, once the king of the lake, suffered after the building of Glen Canyon Dam in the 1960s and with changes in the lake level, but bass have recently made a comeback. Most catches come in the spring when the bass are spawning in the shallow areas of the lake. Anglers also may catch rainbow and cutthroat trout, although, except for the occasional 17-inch, most are pan-size and caught soon after shore releases. Other popular game fish are channel catfish and black crappie.

Many areas of Mead and the surrounding national recreation area are remote and wild. But, besides being close to Vegas, the lake has six full-flight marinas with provisions, rentals and campgrounds. During the summer, mid-day temperatures often top 110° but winter is mild, and spring and fall usually are balmy, perfect for getting outdoors.

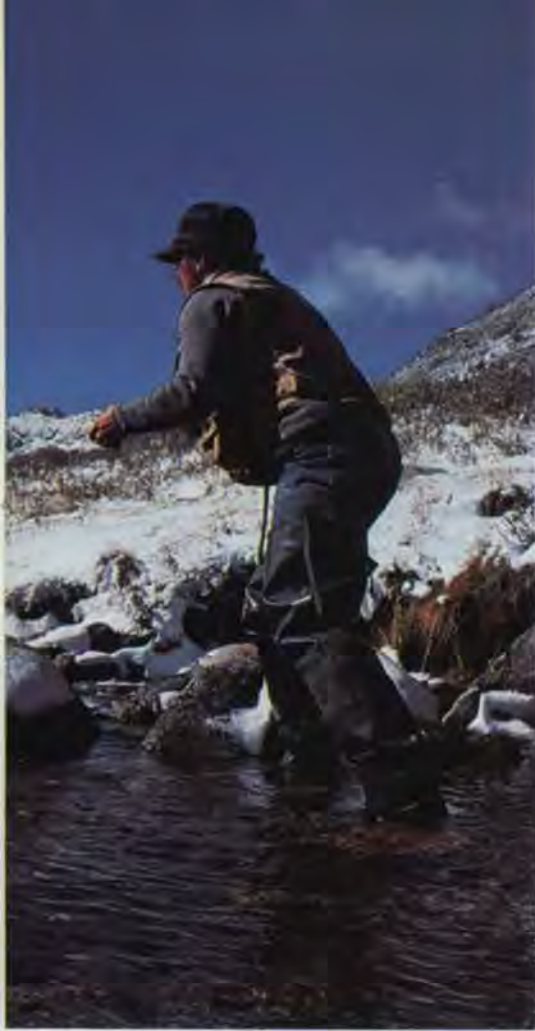
Lake Mohave: This southern lake is also known as "the river." The upper half of Mohave, which runs 67 miles from Hoover Dam down to Davis Dam, is narrow canyon-land, with more open water in the lower stretch.

Mohave may be narrow, but its fish are big. Large trout, many in the 10- to 15-pound class, are taken near Willow Beach, where the

A string of stories from Robinson Lake in the Rubies near Elko.



ADDISON MILLARD



JOE ROYER

Fishing is allowed all year, although it's not worth the effort when the river is high and muddy during runoff.

Topaz Lake: Topaz straddles the Nevada-California border, as you can tell from the urgent signs and cluster of casino-lodges near the state line 21 miles south of Gardnerville on U.S. 395. Topaz is set in a bowl surrounded by mountains on the edge of the Sierra. The views are good, and so are the rainbows that attract anglers from both states.

The season at Topaz runs from January 1 to September 30. The heaviest fishing is usually from mid-February to June, with anglers casting from shore or trolling. The trout average about 14 inches. In summer most activity is at the south end where the West Walker River enters the lake. Topaz has a campground and boat ramps.

Walker Lake: Like Pyramid a remnant of ancient Lake Lahontan, Walker is another large cutthroat fishing hole. The best time to fish Walker is from February to the end of May. By early summer the algae bloom makes fishing difficult.

The favored shore fishing areas are by the cliffs on the west side of the lake, below the highway between Schurz and Hawthorne. The eastern side usually is fished by boat.

The cutthroat average 14 to 18 inches, and they are scrappy fighters. To propagate the Walker Lake cutthroat, Wildlife has begun netting the fish to obtain the eggs and sperm. The program will produce a strain of cutthroat unique to Walker.

At Cliff House, on the west shore 12 miles north of Hawthorne, anglers will find a boat ramp, provisions and fuel. Ramps and campsites are a few miles north at Sportsman's Beach and Tamarack Point.

Rye Patch: About 20 miles east of Lovelock you can see from Interstate 80 the long, blue shape of Rye Patch, a reservoir and state recreation area on the Humboldt River.

The chief object of Rye Patch fishermen is the walleye. This member of the perch family is a tenacious fighter with large, sharp teeth that can cut through fishing line.

Last year a new state record was set by David Bjorlin of Reno, who hooked a 12-pound, 13-ounce walleye a couple of hundred yards downstream from the dam. Rye Patch also has crappie, black bass, white bass, channel catfish and Sacramento perch. Spring and early summer are the best seasons, with fall a good time for catfish.

Most fishing is done from shore near the dam and at the opposite end of the lake. Otherwise you should fish from a boat. A state park boat ramp and campground are near the dam, and you can find provisions, gas and meals at the interstate turnoff.

Wildhorse Reservoir: Sixty miles north of Elko, at the base of the rugged Independence Mountains, is Wildhorse reservoir. An impoundment of the Owyhee River, it has the best trout fishing in northeastern Nevada.

Most longtime Wildhorse fishermen will tell you the trout aren't as big as they were 10 years ago, but 14- to 18-inches are still being caught from shore and boats. The Department of Wildlife stocks Wildhorse during the spring and fall with more than a million trout, which don't reproduce in the man-made lake. This year Wildlife also is going to resume stocking kokanee salmon, a small salmon usually

caught in deep water and averaging a pound or two in size. Fishing is year-round, with good ice fishing in winter.

When the fishing is hot, and that is often, limits of five fish come quickly, and there may be the temptation to take more. For this reason Wildlife wardens keep a close eye on fishermen at Wildhorse. So quit at five fish.

At the reservoir you'll find two small stores for supplies, a boat ramp, campgrounds, propane and gas.

Owyhee River: This is northeastern Nevada's big-fish stream. Trout weighing three to five pounds are not uncommon in the river, which flows from Wildhorse down through the Duck Valley Indian Reservation on its way to Idaho.

The main reason for the trouts' size is the reservoir: they grow big in Wildhorse and then go either over the spillway or through the dam's outlet into the Owyhee.

North of the reservoir the river follows a high-walled canyon and passes through the small town of Mountain City. There is some posted private property to be avoided, but the river is very fishable along this route. Once inside the reservation, which starts north of Mountain City, you'll need an Indian permit to fish besides a Nevada license.

Ruby Marshes: At the base of the Ruby Mountains, south of Elko are the Ruby Marshes, which are formed by dikes, channels and open water, and are open to fishing year-round. Winter ice fishing for trout is good, although the bass don't bite.

In the spring, though, the Ruby Marshes are at their best. The area is alive with nesting waterfowl, such as majestic white swans, Arctic Terns, Canadian geese and a wide variety of ducks. Thousands of other birds nest in the marshes, and their nasal calls fill the air from sunrise to sunset. At dusk, bullfrogs add their baritones to the serenade.

What makes the marshes so attractive to fishermen isn't just the scenery—it's the fishing. On one cast an angler can nail a hefty largemouth bass. On the very next cast, using the same lure, he can hook a large rainbow, brook or German brown trout. The best fishing is after the first week of warm weather in spring, when the bass population stirs to life. Also, the air is filled with insects, so it is a perfect time for fly fishermen. As summer approaches, algae grows rapidly and shuts off much of the shore fishing, so in summer most fishing is done from boats.

The marshes have two boat launching areas, and limited supplies and gas can be purchased at the small store in Shantytown. There is also a good campground with tables and running water.

To reach the marshes from Elko, take Nevada 46 to Jiggs, about 35 miles. Then take the good dirt road over Harrison Pass (elevation 7,247 feet) into Ruby Valley and then south into the Ruby Lake National Wildlife Refuge. The route offers great mountain scenery, especially in the spring when wildflowers carpet the meadows.

Cave Lake: This is a cool, clear, 7,000-foot-high reservoir 15 miles southeast of Ely in the Success Summit wilderness. You can fish Cave Lake all year—ice fishing is increasingly popular there—but most anglers prefer warm-weather fishing. From April to September the Department of Wildlife stocks the lake with

water's temperature remains between 50° and 60° year-round because of the cold water released by Hoover Dam. Generally the trout seek the cooler depths in summer and move into shallow areas in the winter.

The largemouth bass, on the other hand, like the warmer, shallow water around points and rocky shorelines in summertime, and then you have bass fishing at its best. Catfishing is excellent in summer with some anglers bringing in channel catfish of 20 pounds or more. Crappies are best in winter, but bluegills can be caught year-round.

Like Mead, Mohave is part of the Lake Mead National Recreation Area. There are marinas and campgrounds at Willow Beach, Cottonwood Cove and Katherine.

Truckee River: The Truckee travels 100 miles as it cuts down the Sierra from Lake Tahoe, through Reno and across the desert to Pyramid Lake. It is Pyramid's lifeblood. It makes Reno green. And it has trout. The deep holes that dot the river have some big browns and rainbows. If you're fortunate enough to hook one, you'll enjoy a memorable battle.

This year the Department of Wildlife has begun a program it hopes will help establish a trophy fish area. From the Verdi power diversion dam to the California border, only artificial lures can be used and only trout 14 inches or longer can be kept. There's also a limit of two trout per person.

The Truckee is regularly stocked with trout, but there are some natives in the river as well as another game fish, the mountain whitefish.

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rainbows, and after each planting the fishing is hot. Bait fishermen usually use corn or salmon eggs, and spinners are favored lures. When the fish are feeding in early morning and evening, it's good fly fishing.

A second season takes place in October and early November, when the lake's brown trout start their spawning run up Cave Creek.



License to Reel

Besides fishing gear and appropriate maps, you'll need a license to fish in Nevada if you're over 11 years old.

For residents 16 years or older, the general license is \$14. A junior license for ages 12-15 is \$3, and anglers 65 or older can get a license for \$2.

A fisherman who is a nonresident and 16 or older can purchase a license for \$30, with junior license (12-15) \$6.50. The 10-day pass is \$10, and a three-day permit is \$7.50.

On lakes Mead and Mohave, Nevada residents can fish from Nevada soil with a regular license; and by purchasing a special \$3 stamp, they can fish from a boat or on the Arizona shore, too. Arizonans can fish from the Nevada shore on the same system.

Nonresidents can buy a Nevada license for Mead, Mohave and the Colorado River for \$14.50. They, too, can then purchase the special \$3 stamp to fish from a boat.

The browns, seldom caught in summer, are big. Last October a state record for brown trout was set: 14 pounds, 8 ounces by Clifford Tanaka of Ruth. In the winter a 13-pounder was pulled up through the ice.

Besides fish, barbecues, campsites and great scenery, Cave Lake has a boat ramp. Boaters, however, may not travel more than 5 mph or create a wake.

The Ely area has several other good lakes and reservoirs, like Silver Creek, Comins, Basset, Illipah and the Kirch wildlife area.

Miles Ottenheimer of Reno is a printing and publishing executive, freelance writer and year-round fisherman.

Truckee River Specialist

Mid Lipera is the dean of Truckee River anglers.

By Michael Greenan

"I know I'll catch fish." Mid Lipera makes this statement with the assurance and delight that come from more than 60 years of fly fishing on the Truckee River. A resident of Sparks for all his 72 years, Lipera is famous for his skills with rod and fly both in his workshop and on the stream that rolls through Reno on its way from Lake Tahoe to Pyramid Lake. "I wouldn't give the Truckee for anything," he says firmly. "It's my river."

During the summer he's on the Truckee nearly every evening. The struggle that goes on between Lipera and the trout (browns and rainbows, also shrewd natives of the area) is fascinating—a delicate game of tag or fluid three-dimensional chess played by intelligent carnivores.

It is a struggle of illusions. The trout is offered an artificial fly, in this case a Truckee River Special, a particularly effective bit of trickery that Lipera designed in 1931 while he was working in his father's sporting goods store, F. Lipera & Son, on B Street in Sparks. Mid learned to tie his own from a woman who made flies for the Webber Fly Company, and after several years of trial and error he had the fly he wanted. It resembles a caddis, a fly that hatches on the river in early summer, but is not a precise imitation of any bug. Tied on a dry fly hook, the fly can be used at any time of day in all kinds of water. The Special and its mass-produced imitations are still found in sporting goods stores, fly boxes and creels throughout the Truckee Meadows.

The illusion that Lipera tries to create with his fly is that of a dead bug being carried downstream by the current. "I look for the run in the river, the current, that I want and I cast across to it, to the 'cast area.' The current brings the fly into the 'strike area,' where it looks to the trout like a dead bug floating towards it."

Then comes the essence of fly fishing, the strike, the moment when the fish takes the hook and the fisherman sets it. "I see the fly and the fish, I see the rise and set the hook on the rise," he explains gently, precisely. "If you feel it hit, you'll miss it. They don't hook themselves."

The fish is then played out. Trying to bring in a good-sized trout too abruptly or too quickly will result only in broken tippets and extreme frustration. Lipera releases virtually everything he catches, using the same soft touch he uses to cast and set the hook.

When Lipera started learning the subtleties of the Truckee and its inhabitants, the only fly rods built were bamboo. His first good rod was a 9-foot Heddon Black Beauty that he built himself and used until 1948, when he built his



GARY ELAM

Mid Lipera, inventor of the fly called the Truckee River Special, prepares for an evening on the river. He also frequently fishes Pyramid.

first glass rod. Now he uses and makes graphite rods. It is surprising that a man who began fishing with a bamboo pole over 60 years ago, a man who lives in the house he was born in, would use and recommend something as high-tech as graphite.

But Lipera doesn't feel the allegiance to the old bamboo poles that many old-timers feel. "Bamboo looks nice," he says, "but the graphite rods are stronger, faster, and lighter." The rest of his equipment includes an automatic reel, about thirty yards of weight forward floating line, and 7 or 8 feet ("one foot shorter than the rod I'm using") of leader tied in the following manner: 30 to 36 inches of 10-pound test line tied to 30 to 36 inches of 6-pound line tied to an 18-inch tippet of 2- or 4-pound test. And at the end, of course, is a Truckee River Special.

According to Lipera, fishing on the Truckee is best on evenings when temperatures and water levels are neither too high nor too low, and particularly those summer evenings when there is a hatch and the fish are feeding greedily on the surface. "I usually fish the riffles to start, then move to the deeper water near dark. I avoid people and disturbed water, and I work down the river and then walk back up the shore."

Recently Mid sold me one of his graphite rods, an incredibly light eight-footer with porcelain guides. Putting an elegant and delicate instrument like this in my hands is not unlike leaving a Ferrari with a driver's ed student, but, after listening to Mid's enthusi-

astic descriptions of hooking four-pound German browns, there was no choice. The first day with the new rod was as productive as most of my fishing days: several pleasant hours on Mid Lipera's favorite river and hamburger for dinner. It obviously takes more than a good rod to be able to say something as bold as, "I know I'll catch fish." □

Michael Greenan of Reno is a freelance writer and fisherman.

Hooked on Stripers

Repaying an old debt, John Kimak shows others how to catch them at Lake Mead.

By Charles E. McManis

Few among us remember the solemn promises we made to ourselves long ago. Rarer still is the individual who not only remembers the promise but also has done something about it.

John Kimak, an English teacher at Chaparral High School in Las Vegas, is one of those rare people. As a fatherless boy growing up in the coal country of Pennsylvania, he had a special mentor: his biology teacher, Zoltan Antol, who took the time to introduce young John and his friends to the art and joy of fishing. Times

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John Kimak and the collection of lures he's found on Lake Mead's shore.

were hard in Appalachia, and he knew that having someone who cared was important. "I said if I ever got a chance to repay that debt, I'd do it," he says.

Kimak, now 46, has fished all over the United States and in the Atlantic and Pacific. Since 1964 Las Vegas has been his home, and Lake Mead National Recreation Area his giant fishing hole. Many mornings he's up long before dawn, casting into Mead's dark blue waters. Unlike most fishermen, Kimak nearly always fishes from shore, and he doesn't own a boat. He doesn't like them.

"They break down at the most inconvenient times, and when the wind blows on Lake Mead, you have to head for home," he says. "When the wind is blowing is just the time you ought to be out there fishing for stripers."

Fortunately, on both Lake Mead and Lake Mohave there are many places where he can drive down to the shore or walk into coves where the striped bass are found. Fishing from the bank, Kimak favors a 10-foot Shakespeare Ugly Stick surf rod coupled with a Penn 650-SS spinning reel. With 20-pound test monofilament, his favorite lures are Pencil Poppers, Rainbow Rebels, Smoky Joe Spots and Bucktail Jigs.

Remembering his pledge to his old mentor, Kimak frequently gives fishing clinics and takes special groups of Las Vegas to the lake. He began taking sightless fishermen from the Blind Center to Mead about 10 years ago. At first there were problems with equipment and licenses. But various clubs donated poles, reels and tackle, and the Sunrise Hospital Auxiliary offered an annual contribution to repair and replace the gear.

The licensing problem, however, was harder to solve. Working with Assemblywoman Karen Hayes, Kimak was able to get the state law changed to permit organizations like the Blind Center to get up to 30 transferable, pin-on tags. The new law has allowed many groups, including the Variety Club for Handicapped Children and, most recently, a group of deaf children, to go fishing with John Kimak.

Before he takes a group out, Kimak scouts the lake to be reasonably sure that the selected spot will produce. He has a basic rule for finding fish: "Stripers feed on shad, and wherever the shad are, you will also find good fishing. The seagulls and grebe also feed on the shad, so wherever the birds are, you will probably also find the fish."

Although Kimak seems to find stripers

anytime he wants to, he says the best time is about sunrise. The best months for stripers on Mead? He likes September, October and November, with January and February being the worst months.

One of these days, some of the 3,000 anglers who have attended a free Kimak fishing clinic will head out to Lake Mead. It will be a windy day in spring or fall. Everyone will converge on a cove that is easy to spot because of the seagulls flying overhead. It will be best to be early, however, because John Kimak will probably already be there with a group from the Blind Center, a bunch of handicapped kids or another group that needs someone to take them fishing. □

Charles E. McManis of Las Vegas is a freelance writer and an avid Lake Mead sailor.



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The Contest

Judges for this year's photo contest are looking for Nevada's essence.

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Nevada is perfect. It offers everything. To photograph it well is to do it justice. There are many reasons why Nevada is one of the most popular tourist resorts (and the best place to live) in the world. Contest winners will show the reasons why. They will do her justice.—CJH

The Rules

Contest open to all photographers. All rules must be followed exactly, or entries will be disqualified.

Entry Blank: Completed entry blank must be signed and included with photos.

Note: All photos submitted must be previously unpublished.

How Many: Up to 5 black-and-white and 5 color photos allowed per entrant. There is no minimum entry, but maximum number of photos is 10 per person. (No, you can't submit 10 color photos.)

Labels: Each individual photo must bear entrant's name and address, plus brief description and location of where taken.

Color: Transparencies must be 35mm or larger. Color prints must be 8x8" to 11x14", glossy or matte (no silk finish) and unmounted. If possible, present slides in a see-through sleeve for easy handling. Please do not use metal or glass slide holders.

Black & White: Prints must be 8x8" to 11x14", glossy or matte (no silk finish) and unmounted.

For Return: Entrants must enclose Self-Addressed Stamped Envelope (no checks or loose stamps) and proper packing materials such as cardboard to assure safe return.

Packaging: Entries should be sent in packages no larger than 12x16"

The Judges

Cliff Segerblom of Boulder City is an artist and photographer who has traveled the state many times since his college days at the University of Nevada in the '30s. His photos have appeared in *Time*, *Life*, *Sunset*, *Arizona Highways*, *U.S. Camera* and *Nevada*. He established the photography curriculum at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Segerblom, a past Picture Hunt jurist, is asked to judge things all the time: he's the justice of the peace in Boulder City.

Howard Hickson, also a professional artist and photographer, is director of the Northeastern Nevada Museum in Elko. He is the originator and chief of Nevada 82, the museum's annual photo contest and show that visits 11 Nevada cities and towns this year (see March/April '82 issue). Hickson, a judge of past Picture Hunts, is also a former chairman of the Nevada State Council on the Arts.

Caroline J. Hadley, editor and publisher of *Nevada Magazine*, is a long-time professional photographer. Her photos have appeared in *Car and Driver*, *Cycle*, *Newsweek*, *Motor Trend*, *Persimmon Hill*, *TWA Ambassador*, *Delta Sky* and, of course, *Nevada*. She also trains horses and dogs on her Gardnerville ranch.

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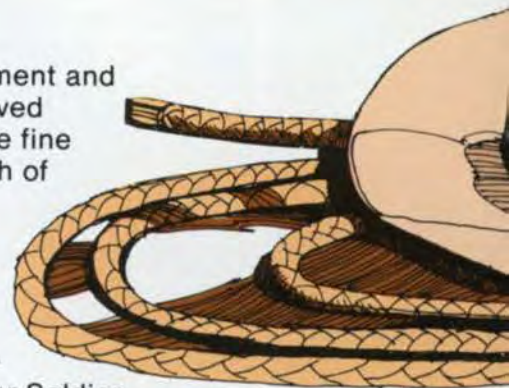
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Tim Carlson, Executive Director

The Nevada Forager



Blackberries

Wild or escaped-domestic, Nevada's plantlife can be a gourmet's delight—if you know where to look. Here are the seven top picks.

By Christine Cendagorta

Foraging for wild plants can be one of life's greatest pleasures. Gathering is partly a search for tradition, a return to simple pleasures when a day's berry picking inspired not only a pie unequalled by Marie Callendar's but also provided hours of entertainment. You don't have to tally your harvest by pints of fruit or pounds of nuts; instead, count sunny autumn hours when scratched, purple-stained hands can't work fast enough to fill a bucket with plump elderberries.

There is historical precedent for partaking of natural foods; they don't grow just to feed starving backpackers. Nevada's Indians were the first to make use of native fruit, and settlers quickly picked up some of their knowledge. The plants

were abundant then, and there were more than enough to go around. Our needs are not the same today, so please remember wild foods are for nibbling, not gorging.

The following Nevada natural food sampler will tell you what to look for, where to start searching, and what to do with the fruits of your labor—and labor it will be. The seven plants listed below aren't easily damaged by over-zealous gatherers and are not of the "I don't think I could eat this even if I were starving" variety. Each is fairly easy to indentify and find, but you will need a good, clear field guide to avoid confusion. The basic rule of foraging is to be absolutely certain that you have identified your plant correctly.

But before you identify them, you have to find them. Here are some tips.

Many wild foods are "escaped domestics." The escapees can often be found near old settlements or ranches, where their ancestors were cultivated. Other wild plants can be found along ditches and roadsides, the seeds having been carried by livestock or water.

Another trick is to recognize the plant during each season so you can spot its flowering stage in May, note the location and return to pluck the fruit in September. Some of the seven are easier to find in the winter, when just a tall, empty stalk remains.

Asparagus is a good example.

Wild Asparagus

I had my first taste of wild asparagus at a ditch bank near Pyramid Lake. The young shoot was so tender it could be eaten raw, unlike its harder commercially-grown relatives, which need long steaming. This member of the lily family (a reminder to start looking at Easter time) likes moist, alkaline soil and inhabits irrigation ditches



Wild Asparagus

ILLUSTRATIONS BY KIM NICHOLS

near farmland. Prime areas include agricultural lands near Fallon, Yerington, Overton and Logandale.

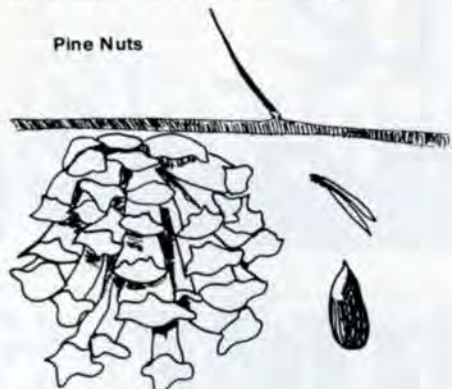
Wild asparagus is ready for picking when the shoots are five to eight inches long in April, May or June, before the summer heat sets in. To find the tasty young shoots, you should scout the plant's locations during other seasons. In summer the plant is several feet high, lush with fern-like foliage and small red berries. The foliage turns yellow in the fall. If you miss that stage, look for the rusty brown winter phase, in which the thick white stalks of last year's crop will be prominent.

There is a hitch to asparagus hunting in farm areas. One former Fallon resident says she never went gathering there because the ditches were on private property. Not all foragers are that considerate. If you find a likely spot, ask the property owner before you stalk the wild asparagus.

Pine Nuts

A gourmet addition to any salad is a few pine nuts sprinkled on top. Luckily, Nevada has an abundance of pinyon

trees, and they are easy to find and identify. But you should be well prepared for gathering and then eating the pinyon's slippery seeds. Natives tend to snicker at neophytes who either swallow the nut shell and all or exhaust their tongues trying to crack it between their teeth—all for a seed one-half inch long.



The pinyon pine is found between 5,000 and 7,000 feet in ranges throughout Nevada and much of the West. When the

tree's seed-bearing cones ripen in the fall, you'll find gatherers staking out pinyon groves, perched on ladders and swinging at the tree's laden branches. After the cones are collected, some experts let the cones dry naturally and then boil or roast the loose nuts. Other gatherers prefer to toss the cones into a fire, burning away the cone and pitch, and then pull the nuts out after a couple of minutes.

One easy method for roasting is to spread the nuts on a foil-covered baking sheet and bake at 350 degrees until golden brown, watching carefully to prevent burning. The roasted nuts can be used in stuffings or nutbreads or eaten raw with a little salt. The seeds are 14.6 percent protein and one pound contains 3,205 calories.

The pine nut is a traditional food of American Indians in the West. They ground the nuts for meal or stored them for winter. Pine-nutting is now a rite of passage for new Nevadans, who head to the hills in near-religious fervor each fall. When asked if you like pine nuts, it's always safest to say yes, even if you don't.

After you have gathered wild fruits from the stream or berry patch, it's time to get cooking. Here are some tips on storing wild foods and some delicious recipes.

Asparagus is somewhat like corn. The old line, "don't pick the corn until the water's boiling in the pot," applies here. Asparagus is best eaten as soon as possible—it's delicious raw—but it can be refrigerated for a few days.

Steamed Asparagus: Snap off any tough ends, place upright in a steamer basket (or raise the asparagus tips on crumpled aluminum foil in a skillet) and steam lightly for 2-3 minutes until barely tender. Don't overcook! Lemon-butter is a good light sauce.

Pine nuts were stored underground by the Washoe Indians, but today most gatherers store their harvest in covered containers after dry-roasting or boiling. Roasted nuts are a wonderful addition to any salad, but try this idea for a special lunch.

Spinach Pine Nut Pita: Mix a handful of fresh spinach leaves, washed and patted dry, with 1 hardcooked egg (chopped), 3 slices bacon (fried then crumbled) and ¼ cup roasted pine nuts (chopped or whole). Pour just enough French or Italian salad dressing over the salad to coat lightly, then pile everything into open pita (pocket) bread.

Rose hips are best stored by drying in a food dehydrator or cooking into syrups or jellies. Dry rose hips can be crushed for tea or tossed into salads or quick breads. Here's a recipe for a syrup that is delicious on waffles or

Wild Cookery



pancakes, and it's high in Vitamin C, too.

Rose Hip Syrup: Split each fruit lengthwise and pull out the inner seed. Remove the blossom end and keep only the pulp. Place the cleaned fruits in a saucepan and cover with water (don't add more water than necessary to cover or you'll dilute the mixture). Boil the fruit until it's soft and strain off the juice and reserve juice in a separate container. Boil the hips again with just enough water to keep them from burning. Strain again and combine the two juices. Discard the pulp. Add ¾ to 1 cup of honey for each 2 cups of juice. Cook slowly until thick (because rose hips are in the same family as apples, they are high in pectin, a thickening agent). Preserve the syrup by pouring into hot, sterilized jelly jars. Seal and store in a cool place.

Raspberries, Blackberries and Elderberries are best eaten fresh, but they can be frozen for longer storage.

One easy method is to wash, dry and sort the berries and then place them in a single layer on a cookie sheet. Freeze uncovered until firm, then put them into a freezer bag or plastic container. Berries are interchangeable in most recipes, as in this one for Blackberry Buckle.

Blackberry Buckle: Mix ⅔ cup regular white flour, ⅓ cup whole wheat flour, ½ teaspoon salt, and ½ teaspoon cinnamon. Set aside. In a middle-sized mixing bowl beat ¼ cup (½ stick) butter or margarine with ¾ cup sugar till creamy. Beat in 1 egg and 1 teaspoon vanilla. Beat until fluffy and light, then add ⅓ cup milk alternately with the flour mixture to make a cake-like batter.

Butter a shallow 8- or 9-inch-square pan. Spread half the batter and sprinkle it with half the berries. Smooth the remaining batter over, then scatter the rest of the berries. Sprinkle with 2-3 tablespoonfuls of sugar. Bake at 350 degrees for 45 minutes. Serve warm with whipped cream or sweetened yogurt.

Wild strawberries almost never present a storage problem; they go from hand to mouth quickly without regret or guilt. If by some miracle you get to a good patch before the birds and your will power holds out, you can use wild strawberries as you would the store-bought variety except you won't need a sweetener. But why anyone would want to do anything other than just pop them into the mouth, one at a time, is beyond me.

—CC

Rose Hips

Another natural food that requires patience gathering is the rose hip. The fruit of the wild rose, it has a good reputation as emergency food. In war-rationed England, National Rose Hips Syrup was used as a high potency vitamin C supplement; a single tablespoon of rose hips has the Vitamin C of six oranges.

In Nevada, wild roses are found above 5,000 feet, mostly along streams and roadsides. The individual plants vary from low shrubs to woody vines, but the thorns and flower are common to all. Look for a sweet-smelling five-petaled pink flower blooming during May and June. The bright orange or red fruit, or rose hip, grows behind the flower. The hips usually are ready for picking in August or September, and sometimes last into December. Inside the waxy hip a seed is surrounded by whitish hairs.



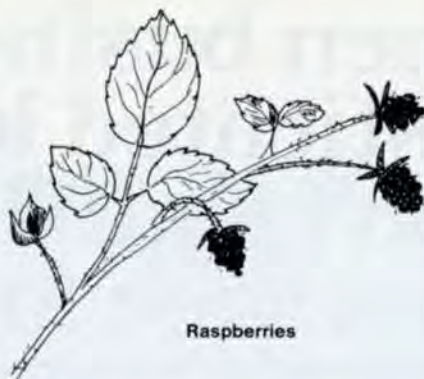
Rose Hips

After the seed is removed, the hips can be dried and then tossed into teas, breads or salads, or the pulp can be crushed and made into jelly or syrup. The hips are particularly good when combined with their close relative, the apple.

Raspberries and Blackberries

Two fruits that are easily recognized—and much appreciated once you've priced them at the grocery store—are the raspberry and blackberry. Both grow wild in northern and central Nevada in damp wooded areas, steep canyons or talus slopes that get good run-off. The escaped domestic varieties can be found near old settlements or ghost towns.

Wild berries were used by the Indians in a type of jerky called pemmican. The berries were dried, crushed and combined with melted fat. Although pemmican is a good survival food, it doesn't compare with fresh berry pie.



Raspberries

Look for arching vines that wind around and over the dead branches of past years. The white five-petaled flowers appear in the spring, and the dark red to black fruit develops in mid-summer. The berries ripen in the fall at most Nevada elevations; a taste that puckers your lips tells you to come back in a couple of weeks. Picking time is usually late August or September; when the berries are gone, it's time for the pine nut harvest.

You can distinguish the two berries by the way they pull from their cup-shaped holders. The blackberry's holder comes off with the fruit; the raspberry lifts free of its cup more easily. The berries can be used interchangeably in any recipe.

Wild berries, like most wild fruit, are smaller than their cultivated counterparts, and it will take more to fill a quart container. But their taste makes up for the small size. Berry-picking's age-old problem is getting enough berries into the container because they seem to pop uninvited into your mouth.

Blue Elderberries

Another choice find is a member of the honeysuckle family, the blue elderberry. This "medicine chest of the common man" has the distinction of being edible, medicinal and toxic at the same time. The leaves, bark, roots and shoots are poisonous, but the flowers and fruit are edible. Each part of the common elder yields some use: the bark has been boiled and used as a diuretic or purgative, the flower can be ground into flour or fried as a fritter, the leaves can be cooked into an insect-repelling ointment, and the berry itself can be eaten raw or cooked.



Blue Elderberries

Because the elderberry has some troublesome doubles, it needs careful identification. The red variety has been

known to cause stomach disorders. So it's best to stick with the blue elderberry. The safest plan is to identify the plant during its flowering stage and then return when the fruit is ripe.

The plant, which is found above 5,000 feet, blooms in the spring with creamy white flowers that grow in distinctive clusters three to eight inches across. In mid-summer the flowers are replaced by tiny round blue-black berries, which will be ready by late August or early September. The tall shrub has a warty bark and opposing compound leaves. A field guide will help distinguish the safe from the unsafe.

Elderberries are one of the few wild foods that can be gathered in quantity. They are easy to pick but messy. The berries make good wine and they can be used like raspberries for syrup or jam or baked in muffins or crisps.

Strawberries

The last and rarest is the wild strawberry, the tastiest of the lot. Found in northern and central Nevada, the plant is ground-hugging and sports white flowers before developing bright red fruit. The fruit is used just like its larger domestic relatives, but the chances of finding enough to bring home are slim.



Strawberries

Izaak Walton once declared, "Doubtless God could have made a better fruit than the strawberry, but doubtlessly God never did." And when man tried to improve on the wild strawberry, the berries just got bigger and less sweet.

Maybe that's why people gather wild foods when markets are full of their cultivated cousins. Scarcity, too, seems to make the fruit taste better. Foraging is fun, and the rules are simple: identify carefully, keep watch during all seasons, and nibble—don't gorge. □

Christine Cendagorta of Reno is a freelance writer with interest in the outdoors.

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GREG HENRY

The Trails of Tahoe

Six great day or overnight hikes in the Sierra wilderness.
By Kerry Drager

In 1844 John C. Fremont, with Kit Carson as his scout, led the U.S. Army's first exploratory expedition across the Sierra Nevada. During that trek Fremont saw Lake Tahoe, and his journal entry was the first written record by a white man of the great Sierra lake.

The Washoe Indians called the lake Tahoe, which apparently means "the lake in the sky."

Tahoe is a lofty place, both in elevation—6,220 feet—and in the esteem of hikers. The mountains surrounding the lake have some of the finest hiking trails in the country, with gentle-to-treacherous trails and spectacular scenery. From many peaks and ridges you can look down upon Lake Tahoe just as Fremont did nearly 140 years ago.

Although the most popular paths skirt Tahoe's west shore, there are fine trails on the east side as well. The best of those Nevada trails are near Mount Rose and Marlette Lake.

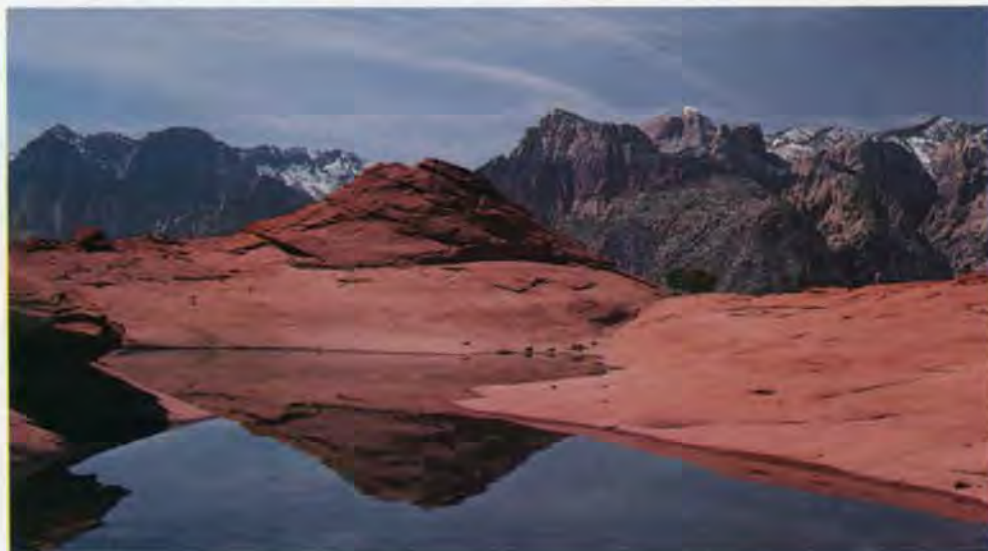
Most hikers, however, head for the west shore and Desolation Wilderness, where back-country "freeways" often take the place of tranquil mountain paths. Because of the crowds, the Eldorado National Forest has established a quota system that limits the number of overnight visitors, but not day hikers, to 700 between mid-June and Labor Day. Forestry officials say they have been able

to accommodate everyone by diverting hikers to other trailheads after quotas are reached.

Because of the Tahoe area's beauty and closeness to Nevada and California cities, lines may form at any trailhead during the summer.

(Continued on page 59)





BILL SERNIUK

Red Rock Rambler

Exploring the trails of Red Rock, where the brilliantly-colored desert canyons make their own climate. By John Hart

The Spring Mountains, their southern base only 20 miles away from the fringes of Las Vegas, serve almost as a gigantic city park. Few cities in the world can claim anything to match.

Charleston Peak, 11,918 feet and the third highest summit in Nevada, hangs almost 10,000 feet above the desert city. The peaks are wet enough to support dense forests of fir and pine. Yet the range has no flowing streams to speak of, except at the thaw. The porous limestone of its upper slopes swallows the abundant water and releases it only at the edges of the lowland valleys. The springs for which the range is named are on its borders. Up high, the few issues of water are surprising, lovely, and important to travelers and wild animals alike.

The 10,000-foot ascent of the range takes one through several different zones of vegetation. Below about 5,000 feet, you're in the Mojave Desert: creosote bush, blackbrush, cacti, and the Joshua tree. These give way to sagebrush and the pinyon-juniper woodland. Above about 7,000 feet, ponderosa pines, white fir, and aspen thickets make a montane forest. And above that, the elegant bristlecone pine takes over, mixed with lesser amounts of limber pine.

Ponderosa pine in these mountains is thought to be a "relict" species, left over from a cooler, moister period. Some of the stands are reproducing poorly. The bristlecones, by



contrast, seem to be doing very well, forming a broad and vigorous forest.

The area right around Charleston peak is bare of trees and has what botanists call a "pseudoalpine" vegetation — though what makes this struggling mat of plants different from genuine tundra isn't clear to an untrained eye. The upper reaches of the Spring Mountains are famous for endemic species, those found nowhere else. Twenty-seven plants occur only here, a larger number than in any other Great Basin range.

To the south of Charleston, the range subsides but becomes if anything more spectacular. Here, in what is called the Red Rocks country, the Aztec sandstone under the limestone cap is exposed in a tremendous canyon-cut escarpment 2,700 feet high; the BLM has

designated this section the Red Rock Canyon Recreation Lands. The sandstone scarp and the limestone peaks above it are both especially important as bighorn range. In fact, prior to a boundary change in the 1960s, this country was a portion of the Desert National Wildlife Range. How well the bighorns can survive in an area of heavy recreation use will be tested here.

To the north of the highest peaks, farther from Las Vegas, the landscape changes again: quartzite and other metamorphic rocks mingle with the limestone. This northern end of the range, around Mount Stirling, is gentler, lower, and less visited.

For all its proximity to the city, this whole mountain range remains wilder than most. Roadless areas on Forest Service and BLM land add up to some 230,000 acres. The Forest Service has resisted proposals for a designated Wilderness around Mount Charleston, but its management seems designed to keep the landscape pretty much intact. North and south of the national forest section, the BLM has large Wilderness study areas. Only one jeep road, which the BLM has considered closing, separates the Mount Charleston roadless area from Red Rock. A large, unified Wilderness may yet be designated in the Spring Mountains.

The Forest Service maintains several trails in the central part of the range; the BLM, as yet, has virtually none. Off-trail travel is somewhat difficult in this country of cliffs and canyons; most cross-country routes follow

ridges. The summer hiking season ordinarily begins in May, though snow can linger well into July. Though winter travel is certainly possible, the range is far too rugged for extended cross-country skiing. In the high country, July is the best month for flowers.

Red Rock Canyon: Pine Creek

On maps of the southern Spring Mountains appears this quiet legend: Sandstone bluffs. The words in no way prepare you for the first sight of the Red Rock escarpment, plunging almost 3,000 feet from a wooded limestone ridge to the open desert floor. The size and steepness of that drop—in some spots, 2,000 feet near vertical—would alone make it magnificent. Add to that color, not just a conventional sandstone red but every color and mixture of colors in the range from red to yellow, from cream to purple burgundy. Then cut into that stone, from the eastern base, a row of tremendous canyons, wandering far back into the roots of the hills.

The sandstone here is known as the Aztec formation; it is contemporary with the Zion and Navajo formations of the Colorado canyonlands. The limestone cap above—actually built of older stone—is part of the vast sheet thrust over this region from the west 50 million years or so ago. The contact between them, at the top of the great escarpment, is the Keystone Thrust fault, exposed as precisely here as in a textbook illustration.

The value of this landscape is not only in its stone. The huge gashes of the canyons make their own climate: downdrafts of cold air cool even the desert opposite their mouths. Ponderosa pines, unexpected below 6,000 feet, grow at 4,000 feet outside the mouth of Pine Creek Canyon. Within the canyons is a moister, cooler world. Because sandstone does not swallow water as limestone does, this country is rich in springs, which make it vital summer range for the desert bighorn.

If Red Rock occurred in any other state it might well be a national park. Even in Nevada, it has received a special designation: a 62,000-acre tract is classified as the Red Rock Canyon Recreation Lands. Under agreement with the state, the Nevada Division of State Parks and

Red Rock Reminders

Hikers and other visitors to Red Rock are encouraged to stop at the new BLM visitor center at the loop road entrance. There you'll find exhibits, tape shows and helpful advice on trails, conditions and maps.

Day hikes generally are advisable because of the one-way nature of the canyon network. Camping areas on the sandstone bluffs can be reached from Willow Spring, off the loop road about two miles north of Pine Creek. The only authorized camping below the bluffs is an extremely primitive area on Oak Creek; the turnoff is south of Pine Creek on the Blue Diamond Road, and a rough dirt road (pickups and four-wheel-drives advised) leads a mile and a half west to the campsite.

Water is scarce, so hikers and campers must carry their own. An important warning: don't climb where you can't get out. Rescue teams are called out frequently to save stranded hikers. One official explains, "People come out on Sunday afternoon with tennis shoes on and start climbing and climbing, always looking above. Pretty soon they find they're on a ledge and can't get down."

For information on safety, maps and good hiking:

- BLM, Las Vegas District, Stateline/Esmeralda Resource Area, Box 7834, Las Vegas, NV, 89125; for Red Rock Visitor Center, call 702-877-6720.
- Nevada State Parks, Spring Mountain Ranch, Box 124, Blue Diamond, NV, 89004; 702-875-4141.

the BLM share responsibility for managing portions of Red Rock.

In most of the canyons, the hiker reaches a dead end. You can walk and scramble a mile into the hills, or maybe two; but sooner or later you find yourself staring up a headwall accessible only on climber's terms. These headwall barriers divide Red Rock into two zones. You can hike up the canyons; you can hike around the back of the main ridge and

climb up to the rims; but you can't do both in one trip unless you're willing to make a project out of it. (People who do make a project of it—the technical climbers—consider this area very fine indeed.)

All the canyons are similar in plan and all are worth exploring. One, the North Fork of Pine Creek, has been set aside as a reserve for scientific research, closed to hiking. (Please respect that special zone.) More or less at random, I chose to go up the South Fork of Pine Creek.

To reach the area, begin at Las Vegas. Head west on Charleston Boulevard near the center of town. In about 14 miles, you'll reach the prominently signed boundary of the Red Rock Canyon Recreation Lands. Here turn right on a one-way scenic drive. This takes you past the vividly colored Calico Hills and several other signed attractions. At mile 7.4, a road goes right to the Willow Spring Picnic Area; this is the road you take for a hike to the rims. At mile 8, there's a pullout opposite the mouth of Icebox Canyon. At mile 10.5, another pullout on the right is the access to Pine Creek Canyon.

In two more miles, the one-way loop rejoins the main highway. To the south, more canyons—Oak Creek, First Creek, and others with no names—penetrate the escarpment. The ones south of First Creek are somewhat less accessible; the highway swings several miles east past the extensive Blue Diamond mining area before returning to cross the southern end of the Springs just south of the sandstone section.

Back at the Pine Creek pullout, the actual trail begins plainly (no sign) at the parking area and angles left down a slope to join an old rubbly road. Follow this toward the escarpment. Ahead, the canyon mouth is a precipitous V; just within, a tremendous pinnacle stands between two branches. Around the track grow spiny cholla (to be carefully avoided); agave with fleshy, spiky leaves; and other typical desert species. Mixed with them are plants belonging to a higher, cooler desert: sagebrush, juniper trees, and Mormon tea. In the wash to your left, along with familiar streambank trees, grow some startling ponderosa pines.

The road becomes a path and then peters out inside the canyon mouth. The walls, meanwhile, have closed in: rises, ledges, ramps, and then huge outright precipices. Black streaks of "desert varnish" mark the vivid stone.

When the trail ends, scramble down over boulders to the streambed. Keep left at the canyon division. Shortly a trickle of water appears in the wash, and then a real stream. The water, tumbling and pooling, is just cool; it is good to drink but has a curious bitter tang.

So on into the hills. The rocks in the streamcourse are marvelous, every shape and color and size. They run from almost white to darkest red. The colors are not solid: there are bands, streaks, spots, and swirls. Sometimes dark circles appear in the light rock, sometimes the reverse. Above the detail of the water-rounded stones, the walls, never less than huge, repeat the colors.

The best going, in general, is right up the streambed. On the banks grow live oak, silk

(Continued on page 61)

Lake Mead is another good hiking area. Here a knot of hikers begin ascent to the rim of Black Canyon after visiting Indian petroglyphs.



DAVID HUNTZINGER



ALVIN McLANE

Wheeler Peak: The High Country

Challenging the 13,063-foot summit with two accomplices and innertubes.
By Richard Menzies

My introduction to Wheeler Peak came one spring day in 1967 when I was invited to tag along on an outing to be undertaken by Ron Crouch and his fiancée Robin Anderson, both from the nearby religious commune of Eskdale. Ron's idea was that we would hike to the 13,063-foot snow-clad summit, eat our sack lunches and slide back down on inner tubes. At the time we were young and innocent, and the science of backpacking was still in its infancy. Our equipment consisted of lightweight jackets and wing-tipped oxfords, a kapok comforter, inner tubes and a bicycle pump. By decree of her church's dress code, Robin wore a dress.

From Baker we drove west to Lehman Creek Trailer Camp, then turned onto a dirt road that wound upward through the sagebrush and junipers into the alpine zone. Although it was April, snowdrifts still covered the road in places, and slow-moving mud slides licked at the spoke rims of Ron's vintage Austin Healey. At about the 8,000-foot level the wheels began to spin, so we hauled out the inner tubes and began to walk.

As it turned out, Wheeler Peak remained unconquered that day. By mid-afternoon her granite spires still loomed as distant as Xanadu, and the ragtag Crouch expedition had begun to look more and more like the Donner Party. Under gathering storm clouds the crew turned mutinous and voted to turn back. This time Robin and I led the way, Ron reluctantly following and muttering something about "namby-pambies."

Fortunately for us namby-pambies, the winding road to Wheeler Peak has since been paved. Christened the Asilo Verde Drive, it's 12 miles of breathtaking overlooks leading to the Wheeler Peak Campground, 10,000 feet above sea level. The campground is furnished with tables, fireplaces, outhouses and running water, and also serves as a trailhead for backpackers and day hikers.



The most frequented trail is a well-marked path that leads to Stella and Teresa lakes, thence upward to an ancient forest of bristlecone pines that have clung tenaciously to life at the timberline for millennia. For the more ambitious, there's the Highland Ridge Trail that runs the length of the Wheeler Peak Scenic Area via Baker and Johnson lakes.

The tourist season officially opens on Memorial Day and runs till Labor Day, but in my opinion the best time of all is late September and early October, when the aspens turn gold and the air is as mellow as fine wine. Snowdrifts persist year-round, and cradled in the uppermost end of Wheeler's rocky cirque is the only active glacier in the Great Basin. So come prepared with warm clothes, good boots and, if you wish, an inner tube. Myself, I generally prefer to go tubeless. □

Richard Menzies is a Great Basin explorer and frequent Nevada contributor.

Wind Up Wheeler

The Wheeler Peak area has many possibilities for backpackers, campers, photographers, glacier nuts and spelunkers. The altitude is high—most areas are near 10,000 feet—and the season is short—May to October for lower areas and July to September for the peak itself. But the mountain scenery is spectacular.

You can reach Wheeler via Baker, a small Nevada town 63 miles east of Ely. From Baker it's six miles to Lehman Caves National Monument and its beautiful caverns. You're strongly advised to stop at the visitor center, where the Forest Service has maps and advice for hikers and campers. Overnight backpackers should register there.

Among the area's trails is a series of paths that lead to 13,063-foot Wheeler Peak from Wheeler Peak Campground. The campground is at 10,000 feet. Because of the high elevation and 3,000-foot gain, only hikers in excellent shape should attempt an assault on the summit. The trails pass bristlecone pine forests, and one route visits the active glacier near the peak.

Fortunately, hikers can enjoy natural encounters on other, easier trails near the peak. The Solace Loop Trail is a three-mile path that circles back to the campground, and the Stella Lake Horse Trail is a loop for those who bring their own horses.

For information, maps and details:

- Humboldt National Forest, Box 7 Baker, NV. 89311; 702-234-7311. Forest visitor maps are available for \$1 each.
- U.S. Forest Service, 350 E. 8th St., Ely, NV 89301; 702-289-3031.
- Baker Guard Station, 702-234-7307

THE TRAILS OF TAHOE

(Continued from page 55)

But you can still find your piece of the outdoors on some lightly-used trails that take a bit more effort to discover. Here is a selection of several good hikes. With guidebook, maps and a little experience, you can design your own day outings and overnight trips at Tahoe.

Mount Rose Trail: This hike, mostly within the Toiyabe National Forest near Tahoe's north shore, culminates atop Mount Rose, which at 10,776 feet is one of the highest peaks in the Tahoe region. And the walk up Rose's face offers splendid views.

Because the hike begins at a high elevation, 8,850 feet, and is relatively short, you can walk easily to the top and back again in a single day if you're in good shape. For overnights, a few miles from the peak, a trail branches west toward the headwaters of Bronco Creek. Many good campsites are along that path.

The first portion of the Mount Rose hike is fairly easy, following a closed road. At various points, Lake Tahoe and Pyramid Peak, the highest peak in Desolation's Crystal Range, can be seen to the southwest. To the southeast lie the peaks of the Virginia Range, visible through the frame of Ophir Creek Canyon.

Later, as the path switchbacks up the west side of Mount Rose, the views become even more striking. Lake Tahoe and Desolation Wilderness are to the south. Donner Lake and Interstate 80 can be viewed to the west. To the northeast are Reno and the distant desert ranges.

From the Mount Rose summit are vistas of Lake Tahoe and the southern part of the Carson Range, the Sierra's barrier between the



RICHARD JUNG

Wilderness, tumbling streams and panoramic vistas are found at Tahoe.

Tahoe Basin and the Nevada desert. You also can see Pyramid Peak and Donner Pass, which trapped the Donner Party during the heavy snows of 1846-47.

Trailhead: Half a mile southwest of the Mount Rose Campground entrance, off Nevada 431 north of Incline Village. **Length:** 12 miles round-trip. **Difficulty:** Nearly 2,000 feet gain. **Water availability:** Poor (halfway to the summit is a creek, the last dependable source of water).

Marlette Lake: Another excellent hiking area in the Carson Range is the Marlette Lake backcountry, which can be reached from

Spooner Lake. The trail, located in Lake Tahoe Nevada State Park, allows easy day hikes and overnight camping high in the forests above the lake's eastern shore.

At Spooner Lake you'll find a marked trail circling the lake, a pleasant one-hour walk. The trailhead is there, too, leading along an old road up North Canyon to Marlette Lake. There are good views to the south on this tranquil hike, with wildflowers, pines, firs and many aspen groves along the path. The last quarter mile is steep, but you can reward yourself with beautiful views of Tahoe from the dam on Marlette's west side. From the lake you can return to Spooner.

There is no fishing allowed at Marlette because the lake is a brood stock pond for the Lahontan cutthroat trout. Each spring the eggs are taken, fertilized and sent to hatcheries for later planting.

With some advance planning, you can continue north to Hobart Reservoir, part of the system that pipes water down to Virginia City and Carson City, and Red House, the area's only overnight camping spot. Then you can continue west down the mountain to Hidden Beach, another trailhead, just south of Incline Village (have a car waiting for you).

Campers must make advance reservations and register at the park's Sand Harbor headquarters (702-831-0494). Rangers will be happy to suggest routes and picnicking spots.

Trailhead: Spooner Lake, at junction of U.S. 50 and Nevada 28. **Length:** 10 miles round-trip to Marlette; 16 miles one-way to Hidden Beach. **Difficulty:** Moderate gain to Marlette; overall strenuous hike to Hidden Beach. **Water:** Take your own.

General Creek Trail: This trip includes a lake perfect for swimming and sunbathing and some good fishing opportunities along General Creek. The stream is named after "General" William Phipps, a self-styled Indian fighter who in 1860 became Tahoe's first white settler. His log cabin still stands on the lake shore near the mouth of General Creek at Sugar Pine Point.

Phipps was well known as an expert marksman, fisherman and hunter. After staking out the 160-acre homestead claim, he "apparently took great pleasure in the solitary life of a backwoodsman," according to park officials.

The trail follows General Creek, which is stocked with rainbow, brook and brown trout. A side trail to Lost Lake and Duck Lake—just outside the northern Desolation boundary in Eldorado National Forest—makes for a pleasant day or overnight outing. As one of the Tahoe region's warmest lakes, beautiful Lost Lake is ideal for swimming and has a giant rock slab for sunbathing.

Trailhead: General Creek Campground in Sugar Pine Point State Park just north of Meeks Bay on California 89. The trail begins on a closed road near Campsite 150. **Length:** 12 miles round-trip. **Difficulty:** Little elevation gain. **Water availability:** Good.

Meeks Bay: Although one of the most popular Desolation trailheads, this is well worth hiking. The path follows the first portion of the Tahoe-Yosemite Trail and takes you by one picturesque lake after another.

Beginning with Lake Genevieve, about 4½ miles from the trailhead, you pass six alpine

(Continued on page 62)

Planning Your Trip

Your own common sense is the best weapon to prevent a backcountry emergency. But it helps to plan your hiking trip beforehand and to be prepared.

Know the backpacking area you'll be visiting. Consult trail guides and maps. Check the weather forecast and tell a responsible person where you're going, when you're due back and whom to contact if you fail to return.

On any wilderness outing, take these essentials along with your other gear: map, compass, flashlight, extra socks and food, knife, first aid kit, extra matches, water purification tablets (Tahoe rangers recommend treating or boiling all backcountry water), equipment repair kit, Thermos emergency blanket (a possibility for shelter), insect repellent, snakebite kit, sunglasses, hat with brim and sunscreen.

Because of Tahoe's popularity, proper trail etiquette is essential: Camp away from the fragile shores of lakes and creeks. Locate toilets far from water sources and bury solid wastes. Never wash dishes, clothes or yourself in streams or lakes. And leave your campsite cleaner than you found it.

Remember to obtain a visitor's permit if you intend to hike in Desolation Wilderness. Pick it up free in person, or order it by mail or phone from the nearest forestry office or ranger station. For the Toiyabe,

Eldorado and Tahoe national forest trails, you'll need a campfire permit.

For further information, the following books and trail guides are available at many outdoor shops and bookstores:

- *Backpacking Basics*, by Thomas Winnett, Wilderness Press; *Walking Softly in the Wilderness*, by John Hart, Sierra Club; and *The New Complete Walker*, by Colin Fletcher, Knopf.

- *The Tahoe Sierra and Desolation Wilderness and the South Lake Tahoe Basin*, both by Jeffrey P. Schaffer, and *The Tahoe-Yosemite Trail* by Thomas Winnett. All published by Wilderness Press, Berkeley.

Each of these agencies can provide permits, maps and information on trails and equipment:

- Desolation Wilderness, Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit, 1052 Tata Lane, South Lake Tahoe, CA. 95731; 916-544-6420.

- Toiyabe National Forest, 111 North Virginia St., Reno, NV. 89501; 702-784-5331. Carson Ranger District, 1536 South Carson St., Carson City, NV. 89701; 702-882-2766.

- Tahoe National Forest, Truckee Ranger District, Truckee, CA. 95734; 916-587-3558.

- Lake Tahoe Nevada State Park, Box 3283, Incline, NV. 89450; 702-831-0494.

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RED ROCK RAMBLER

(Continued from page 57)

tassel, single-leaf ash, and other brushy plants, occasionally forming real thickets. In the spring, the redbud or Judas tree blooms with a red to match the walls. An occasional ponderosa rises out of the brush. Boulders are covered with wild grape; the grapes, ripe in September, are tart but flavorful.

When I hiked Pine Creek in late summer, the Las Vegas temperature stood at 100 degrees; the canyon was almost cool. The stream at that time of year comes and goes, flowing at times under the gravels. Eventually it disappears altogether. From time to time, the watercourse plunges in dryfalls, mostly with big wedged chockstones; sometimes ferns and false Solomon's seal grow in the shady alcoves. There is always a way to scramble around.

The walls never diminish, only change color and texture. Sometimes a stretch is riddled with little holes like termites wood or fractured vertically like basalt. Always, whatever the color, it is streaked with the vertical black layers of "desert varnish."

The canyon divides a number of times. Choosing the larger branches, I kept left at the first two junctions, right at the last. The last branch followed runs up into living pink rock, water-smoothed in the streamcourse, slaty and edgy in the walls. The strata tilt in such a way that steplike ledges and catchments are formed; a couple have water (with rims of noisy frogs). The watercourse is marked by a dark, slightly bluish stain. Moss and lichen, green and orange, spot the stone. A few ponderosas grow on the banks. The valley, though only water has worked it, is perfectly U-shaped, like a glaciated landform.

Above the staircase, the canyon splits for the last time. Both branches lead to sheer walls within a few hundred yards. It is not too difficult, however, to follow the left branch till it steepens, then climb rocky and brushy slopes to a ridge dividing this branch of the canyon from the next one south. The rock up there is creamy pink; you look down on the burgundy layer and the lowest light layer under that. At sunset, a red light deepens all the shades of red already there. The wall above is climber's country. □

John Hart is a poet and author of several popular guidebooks, including *Hiking the Bigfoot Country* and *Walking Softly in the Wilderness: The Sierra Club Guide to Backpacking*. He lives in California's Marin County.

Hiking the Great Basin

The preceding story on Red Rock Canyon is an excerpt from *Hiking the Great Basin*, a 1981 Sierra Club totebook by John Hart. This guide describes in detail the fine hiking in 22 mountain areas of Nevada and along the state's borders. Besides providing good maps and trail descriptions, the book explores the regions' geology, history and plant life in a clear, vivid style. The 369-page guide is 4½ by 6 inches in size for easy carrying.

Hiking the Great Basin (\$9.95) is available at bookstores or direct from Sierra Club Books, Box 3886, Rincon Annex, San Francisco, CA. 94119. When ordering by mail, include \$1.75 for postage and handling.

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THE TRAILS OF TAHOE

(Continued from page 59)

lakes in just three miles. In addition, from the sixth lake, Rubicon, you can take a short side jaunt to Grouse Lakes or proceed up and over Phipps Pass (named after the general) to Velma Lakes.

Each lake offers good camping and picnicking sites in a beautiful mountain setting. Granitic Crag Peak, for example, looms high above Crag Lake and green meadows border Shadow Lake. Although not a loop, the route offers plenty of variety. Merely walk in as far as you wish, lunch or camp next to a pretty lake, and return.

Trailhead: North end of Meeks Bay Stables, just north of the Meeks Bay Campground entrance on California 89. **Length (round trip):** Lake Genevieve, 9 miles; Rubicon Lake, 15 miles; Velma Lakes, 26 miles. **Difficulty:** Genevieve-Rubicon route, little elevation gain; Velma Lakes, 2,200-foot elevation gain, including steady hike up Phipps Pass. **Water availability:** Good.

Vikingsholm: Many visitors consider Emerald Bay the lake's most scenic stretch of shoreline. And, while all Tahoe beaches are congested during summer, Emerald Bay's west shore, in the Vikingsholm area, is a bit less crowded because it's accessible only by foot.

This short hike within Emerald Bay State Park leads you to Vikingsholm, a reproduction of a 9th century Norse fortress, which is open to the public through Labor Day. From Vikingsholm you also can walk to scenic Eagle Falls.

Vikingsholm, according to park officials, is

considered the finest example of Scandinavian architecture in the Western Hemisphere. The 38-room castle was built in 1929 and used by its owner, a wealthy Santa Barbara woman, as a summer "cottage."

Trailhead: Parking lot on east side of California 89 just north of the Eagle Falls Picnic Area entrance at Emerald Bay. **Length (round trip):** Vikingsholm, 2 miles; Eagle Falls, 2.4 miles. **Difficulty:** Some uphill. **Water availability:** Take your own.

Grass Lake: The walk to Grass Lake, near Fallen Leaf Lake in Desolation Wilderness, makes a pleasant day outing. Rock and forest border this serene lake—at 7,200 feet in elevation. And, while there are no beaches, you can soak up the sun while lying on huge boulders next to the water's edge.

The trail follows Glen Alpine Creek. Along the route lies Glen Alpine Spring, once the site of a popular resort, whose founder in the 1870s bottled the carbonated water. A few primitive picnic tables mark the site where much of the resort once stood. This clearing, by the way, makes a good rest stop before heading up the path.

While the hike to Grass Lake is best as a day outing (environmentally better, too, since the lake is quite popular), you also can backcountry camp there.

Trailhead: Fallen Leaf Campground, southwest of Fallen Leaf Lake (off Highway 89). **Trailhead parking** near Lily Lake. **Length:** 5 miles round-trip. **Difficulty:** About 600 feet gain. **Water availability:** Good. □

Kerry Drager of Sacramento is a freelance writer and photographer and a longtime Sierra backpacker.

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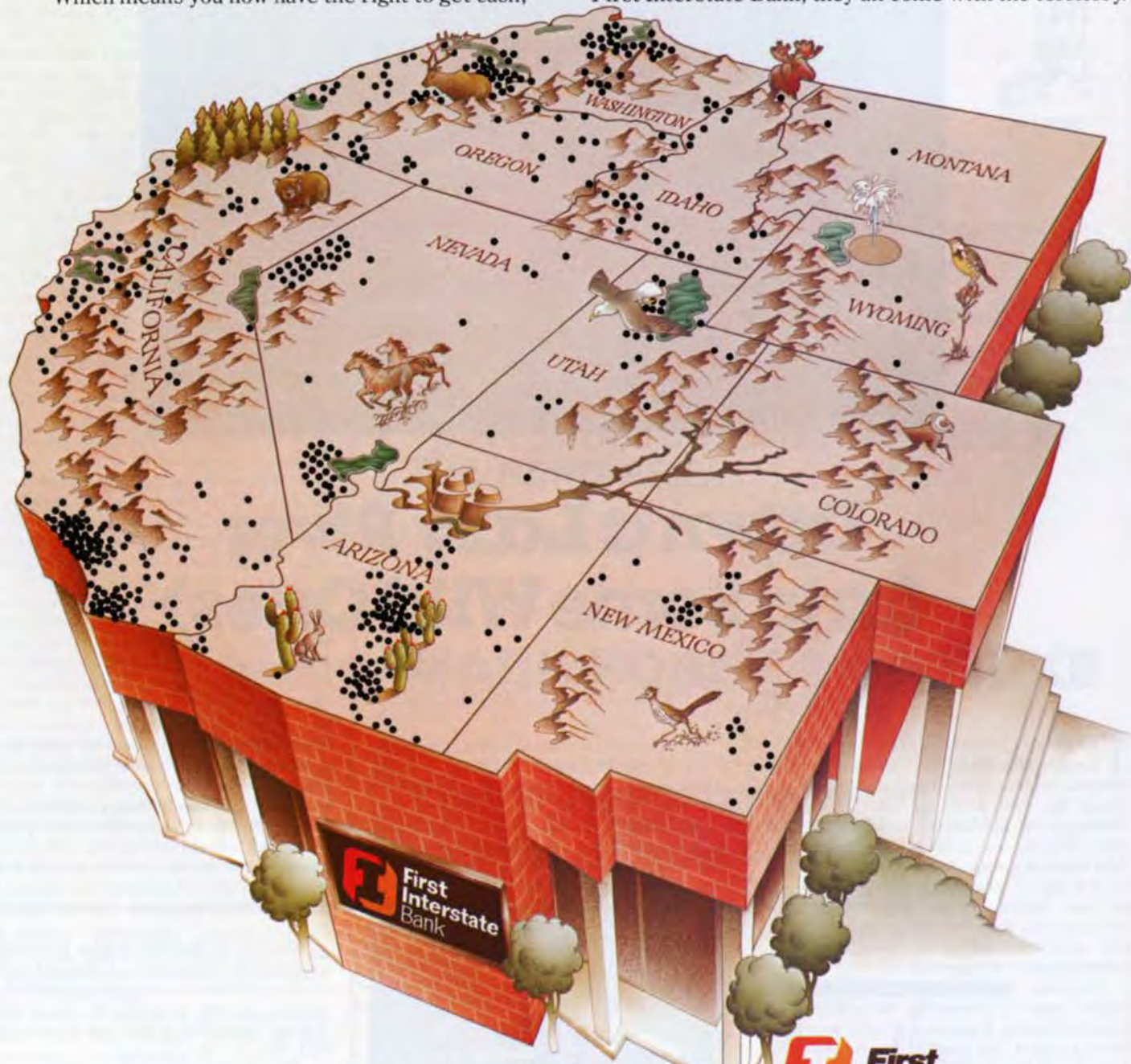
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VANCE FOX

Down a Lazy River (and Some Wild Ones)

Rafters can find a river to suit their drifting pleasure in Nevada. By Roger Smith

The wooden boat ahead of us pivoted sideways helplessly in front of a partly submerged boulder and was swept against it. In an instant the boat broke in half, spilling its writhing crew into the East Carson's chilly water. Dale, the tour guide in my raft, laughed. "The slammer got another one," he said. It was my first time in whitewater. The second time, my boat jammed in a narrow chute, and everyone was catapulted into a chaos of rapids, falls, undertow and rocks. Gear and crew scattered miles downstream.

Everyone survived both mishaps and laughed about it afterwards. River rafting is great excitement, if you have a little nerve and like to rough it. The sport is also dangerous—that's part of the attraction, to be sure—and no one should brave whitewater without preparation.

The best introduction to riding the rapids is to go with an experienced outfitter. The reputable ones have earned special permits from the BLM and Forest Service because they

Rafting can be a serene affair on the Truckee, but on the Carson you can't forget the lifejackets.



G. ANDERSON

know rafting techniques and the rivers as well as most of us know how to start our cars and drive to work.

Outfitters make rafting convenient. They provide the basic equipment—rafts, paddles, lifejackets, waterproof bags—and cook meals besides. And shuttle service—no matter how much you enjoy whitewater, the prospect of a 20-mile hike upstream to your car dims the fun.

Most of all, the river guides know safety: everyone on a tour wears a lifejacket and receives instruction on launching, paddling and landing and what to do in case you're spilled into the river. The guides are also skilled in first aid.

The rougher and more exhilarating the river, the wiser it is to go with a tour led by experienced guides. The East Carson is the

best example. From Silver Creek to Markleeville, California, the river cavorts devilishly among boulders and through narrow channels. Rapids wrinkle the entire stretch, but if you know what you're doing and don't mind getting wet, it's runnable during peak flow in May. From Hangman's Bridge, above Markleeville, to Ruhenstroth Dam in Nevada, the river is tamer and can be enjoyed as late as mid July. The rapids are normally mild and the scenery magnificent; it's a good family trip.

But a warning—even mild rapids can upset a raft, and it takes an experienced rafter to avoid being swept over the falls at the dam at the end of the trip. Brunswick Canyon, below Carson City, makes a fine historic outing; old mines, mills, and roads dating from the Comstock era lie near the river's banks. A one-day excursion with an outfitter on the East Carson costs between \$25 and \$85.

The Truckee River provides more sedate fun but is more accessible to inexperienced rafters. Outfitters generally find the river too shallow and slow for whitewater tours, so you have to rent a small boat yourself or squeeze into an innertube. From Tahoe City to River Ranch, 3½ miles, is the most popular run. Rentals are available in Tahoe City at Mountain Air Sports (916-583-5605) and Truckee River Raft Rentals (916-583-9724); a shuttle service runs from the ranch back into town. In Reno you can rent rafts at the Boat Shop (702-358-7211). A good time to raft near Reno is in early July when the Truckee River Raft Race practically dams the river with rafters in a wide assortment of crazy rigs. It's crowded but hilarious.

In southern Nevada, Black Canyon, below Hoover Dam on the Colorado River, is a beautiful rocky gorge that almost any rafter or canoer can enjoy. The 21.5-mile stretch between the dam and the mouth of Black Canyon near Chalk Cliffs is open year-round, but in summer the difference between high air temperatures and cold water can dangerously shock rafters who are spilled into the water.

No outfitters take tours on the river yet, although the National Park Service is considering opening Black Canyon to commercial use. But anyone can rent a raft and drift on the canyon's smooth waters after taking two steps: calling for a permit from the Bureau of Reclamation in Boulder City (702-293-8351, and they also have maps that identify points of interest) and taking a safety inspection at the Park Service's visitor center on U.S. 93 between Boulder City and the dam (702-293-4041). Werly's Wilderness Boats in Boulder City (702-293-7526) offers the only rentals in the immediate area, but the Boy Scouts of America in Las Vegas (702-736-4366) rents canoes very reasonably on the infrequent occasions they are not full of scouts.

Tour Guides for the East Carson:

Sandpiper Whitewater Guides, Zephyr Cove. Upper East Carson, main East Carson and Brunswick Canyon. Shuttle Service. Reservations, 702-323-4434.

Whitewater Expeditions & Tours, Sacramento. Main East Carson. Shuttle service. Reservations, 916-446-3058. □

Roger Smith, Nevada associate editor, says two runs on the Carson whetted his interest.

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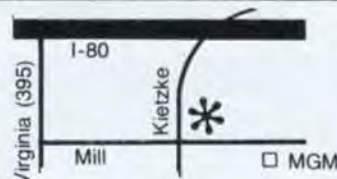
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Ah Wilderness: A Guide for Casino Camping

How to get hooked up on the Strip and at Reno and some rural casinos. By Jean Reid and Marie Ramsey

Camping on the Strip

When Al Sachs decided in 1973 to build an RV park on the back property of the Stardust Hotel, the reaction along the Strip was negative. "The majority said, 'How can you lower our standards by letting all those trailers in?'" recalls Dick Odessky, Stardust publicity director and one of the planners of the park.

It turned out to be a move that, rather than lowering anyone's standards, opened a new market to Las Vegas casinos and made the gambling mecca an inviting stop for a new breed of vacationer.

RV owners can pay anywhere from nothing to \$10 per night to stay within earshot of a Las Vegas slot machine. And they can park their homes-away-from-home close to the action. Seven resorts provide some measure of luxury

for wheel-bound vacationers while saving RVers more than half the price of rooms in the same areas.

"Just because a person is traveling in an RV doesn't mean he's a camper who wants to rough it," observes Odessky. And the bargains RV parks provide aren't everything, either. "It's a convenient way to travel," he says. "If a person spends many thousands of dollars on an RV, it's not because he wants to save money. He wants luxury."

Stardust: The idea at the Stardust, of course, is to provide both savings and luxury. The hotel's Camperland opened in 1973 with 200 spaces, and quickly expanded to 500. Until recently, it ran 92 percent full, according to Odessky, but since gas prices started skyrocketing, RV traffic has dropped, and the Stardust management has decided to replace all but 138 of the spaces with hotel rooms.

The spaces left still have all the amenities—

full hook-ups with propane available, men's and women's comfort stations with six showers each, a pool for the park, as well as use of the hotel pools, a recreation room, a laundry room, play area for the kids, and a segregated section for pet owners. No reservations are needed, and fees run \$6.36 per night.

Hacienda: The Hacienda Camperland's 451 spaces, built in 1974, sprawl across 17 acres behind the resort's casino-tower complex. Hacienda General Manager Clem Bernier boasts that the park, besides having the expected full hook-ups, dump stations and propane, has grassy parks and gravel spaces, rather than asphalt.

The park also has its own pool, a playground and arcade for the kids, a recreation center with a meeting room, four comfort stations complete with rest rooms, showers and laundry facilities, a pet walk, a jogging track and a complete fire safety system. Park guests are included, at times, in hotel promotions and are free to use all the hotel facilities, including the valet service.

The Hacienda RV Park costs \$9.01 per night, including taxes. Reservations can be made toll free from anywhere in the country. From the western states, call 800-634-6611; others, 800-634-6713 or 800-634-6942.

Circus Circus: The 421 spaces at Circusland—most of them pull-through—attract more than the average tourist to the Circus Circus hotel-casino, according to Ben Speidel, RV park manager. "Some of our executives have friends with RVs," he notes, "and we have the Budweiser racing team (sponsored by Circus Circus), and they all drive big vehicles."

The spaces contain full hook-ups and dump stations, with 50-amp electrical service, "capable of serving a Greyhound bus, if needed," explains Speidel, adding propane is available. A 24-hour shuttle bus provides access to Circus Circus Manor, where a monorail takes visitors on to the casino. Shuttle bus drivers, who all have radios, double as an extension of security in the park.

Vacationers have at their fingertips a 24-hour convenience store that stocks parts for RVs, three swimming pools, a sauna and Jacuzzi, five comfort stations and laundry facilities (which are kept locked against intruders), a playground and arcade in the park besides the giant arcade in the casino, five pet walks and babysitters available through Circus Circus.

Though Speidel boasts the park is "100 percent all the time," Circusland turns few people away. "They can stay in the front parking lot until space is available," he says. And, he adds, caravans that want to double up on a space may do so for the same price: \$7.42 per space. On weekdays, the park is usually filled by 10 p.m.; on weekends by 5, he says. Reservations can be made by calling, toll-free, 800-634-6833 from California, Arizona, Idaho, Utah or Oregon; 800-634-3450 from other states.

California and Sam's Town: The California Hotel and Casino downtown and Sam's Town on the Boulder Highway have no RV parks, but try to tell that to the 100 to 200 RVers who park there night after night. Both Sam Boyd properties traditionally have allowed RVs to park in their oversized lots at no charge, but the California recently started

asking 50 cents nightly. The only facilities are dump stations at the California Hotel.

One of the big attractions of the lots besides the price, according to John Blink, vice president of marketing for both hotels, is a shuttle bus that runs between Sam's Town and the California from 8 a.m. to 1 a.m. daily. "An awful lot of people (at Sam's Town) use the shuttle to spend time downtown," he says. "They can park their RV and not have to worry about towing a car."

The Boyds plan eventually to build a 300-space RV park on the south side of Sam's Town that Blink says "will have everything." The park should open sometime this year, he says.

Nevada Palace: When Nevada Palace partner Jim Shiff bought the VIP Trailer Park just south of the hotel-casino last July, he almost doubled the hotel's capacity. The 203-space park—with complete hook-ups, including telephone lines for some spaces—complements the 220-room hotel well, says Shiff's partner, Corbin Allen. "It's just like having another 203 rooms," he says.

The park has landscaping, three dump stations, two comfort stations, laundry facilities, two pools and adult and family sections, as well as a walkway between the park and the hotel-casino. Spaces cost \$10.60 per night, including tax. The partners have plans to improve the park, adding a children's area, a pet run and other luxuries, but so far, they are still developing a master plan.

Silver Nugget: One would think that an RV park six miles from the downtown Las Vegas glitter and as far from the Strip would be at a disadvantage, but Alan Cote, manager of the Silver Nugget's four-year-old Camperland, believes the remote location actually works in the park's favor.

"RVers are interested in parking their vehicles in a place where they can be comfortable," he says. And the remote location with its lighter traffic makes the Silver Nugget park both comfortable and convenient. The 152-space park includes, besides full hook-ups, an RV parts and service shop, gas pumps, laundry facilities, an arcade for kids, a heated pool and Jacuzzi (open year-round), grassy parks, security patrols and separate sections for RVers with pets and kids. Propane is also available. The casino next door offers two restaurants, a lounge with live entertainment, and, of course, plenty of ways to gamble.

The camping cost is \$6.66 for two people per night, and, if a group stays more than 10 days, \$1 each for extra people or pets. The Nugget also offers special vacationers' rates and packages.—/R

Jan Reid, formerly a reporter for the Valley Times in North Las Vegas, is now managing editor for Good Times, a weekly entertainment magazine in Santa Cruz, California.

Hooking Up in Reno

Campers seeking the glitter and glamour of the Biggest Little City in the World can rough it at Reno's MGM Grand Hotel, the only hotel/casino in western Nevada with its own recreational vehicle campground.

Besides enjoying the comforts of their

travel homes, RVers can bathe in the luxury of the MGM, with its vast casino, seven restaurants, shopping arcade, health spa, tennis courts, swimming pool, 24-hour bowling alley and two theaters that feature Hollywood classics, love seats and cocktail service.

MGM's Camperland, which opened in 1978, has 450 spaces with full hook-ups. Campers are welcome to stay as long as 28 days, making use of showers, phones, laundry, gas, playground and grocery store. A space costs \$10 a night with a deposit required in advance for reservations. For information and reservations call 702-789-2129.—Marie Ramsey

Rural RV Retreats

In rural areas, casino campgrounds and RV parks are few and far between. But they have two big advantages. First, you can enjoy the small-town atmosphere. The towns are small only in population—the service and friendliness tend to be big-hearted. Second, if you park close to a casino, you are still only a token's throw from nature. And perhaps best of all, each casino campground has a personality all its own, making it intriguing as well as accommodating.

In Jackpot, near the Idaho border on U.S. 93, Cactus Pete's Campground has been open since 1978. You are welcome to stay as long as you please, but it's advisable to arrive early for one of the 32 full hook-up spaces. The park operates year-round on a first come, first served basis. Restaurants, groceries and gas stations are nearby. Although the RV park

currently has no showers, Carl Hayden, the town's scribe, says, "We're gonna build a bigger and better campground, and that one will have showers." Parking your RV on the present landscaped grounds costs \$2.50 a night. Try to find a room for that price.

At Laughlin, on the extreme southern tip of Nevada, the Riverside Resort Campground opened in 1980 with 200 spaces. The Riverside is popular with fishermen because it's located just above the Colorado River. Open year-round, facilities include full hook-ups, two laundry rooms, restrooms with showers, and a swimming pool. Groceries, gas, and eateries are close by.

Spaces at the Riverside fill up fast, so reservations three weeks in advance are recommended for weekends and holidays. Call 702-289-2535, extension 545. Spaces rent for \$6 a night.

Nevada Crossing, the state's newest casino-RV complex, will open May 1 at Wendover. Hugging the Nevada-Utah border on I-80, Nevada Crossing will initially offer 40 full hook-up spaces, and 155 more spaces will be built soon after. There also will be a general store, restaurant, laundry, showers, parts shop, and gas and diesel. For prices and reservations, call 702-664-4000.

Casinos that don't have campgrounds or RV parks like to accommodate visitors anyway. The Stockman's Hotel in Elko, for example, runs a shuttle service to the Shangri-La Campground two miles away. Some casinos, if you ask, will let you stay in their parking lots for a night. Go ahead and ask: hospitality is Nevada's business motto.—MR

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G. ANDERSON

Summer Camping: The Perfect Pitch

These 12 state parks are good for history, hot showers and camping in the wilds. By David Moore

They have weird names and unlikely histories. One is as small as a backyard, another big enough to swallow a Texas county. They're hot and cool, dry and wet, and scattered all over creation.

Nevada's state parks also are great places to camp. Most of the parks are homegrown, initially used and protected by residents. Besides learning about local lore and state history, you'll discover unusual plants, animals and eye-popping scenery.

If you're on the road, the parks have another advantage: they're found all over the state. And building programs have given campgrounds such deluxe additions as hot showers, trailer dump sites, shade ramadas and self-guiding trails.

Here is a look at camping in Nevada's 12 overnight state parks.

Red Rocks and Rock Writings

The principal attractions of Valley of Fire State Park, 55 miles northeast of Las Vegas, are the incredible red rock formations that border the valley and extend north to such spots as

Rainbow Vista and Fire Canyon. You can camp smack in the middle of the red hills near Atlatl Rock, where more than 1,000 years ago Indians etched symbols, or petroglyphs, in the dark "desert varnish" that covers the rock.

In the 38-unit campground you can find the most privacy in the east section and in the upper west area. There are showers, barbecues and ramadas for shade. Water is scarce in the park, so use it sparingly.

Valley of Fire is the state's biggest park—46,000 acres in all—and the possibilities for exploration are limited only by time and, in the summer, hot weather. From June to September temperatures reach at least 100° at mid-day and on a "cool" night might drop to 80°. Spring and fall are the best times to camp there, although Easter and Thanksgiving weekends are extremely crowded. But even if it is hot, you can drive 20 miles east and jump in Lake Mead.

Lincoln County's Garden Spot

While the summer sun bakes the Valley of

Fire, Kershaw-Ryan, 120 miles north in the Meadow Valley Wash, is cooled by the shade of its canyon walls and miniature oaks and by a spring-fed brook. It's a beautiful place. The campground has showers and, for a fee, firewood. A kids' wading pond and lawns where you can toss a football or frisbee are nearby. The park, three miles south of Caliente, is open for day use and camping April 15 to October 31. Kershaw-Ryan's 12 sites fill quickly on weekends, but on weekdays there should be vacancies.

Hiding Out at Beaver Dam

Six miles north of Caliente is the sign for Beaver Dam. The park is 32 miles east at the end of a graded road that is narrow and steep as it descends into the park. Trailers are not advised. The road can be difficult for trucks and cars in wet weather. You'll be rewarded, however, when the dusty trip ends. You can choose from 52 wooded campsites and fish for trout in Schroeder Reservoir and in the creek below the dam, near the lower campground.

The park's canyonlands are great for hiking and photography. Because of its isolation, this is one park where you must be prepared, but Beaver Dam regulars say it's worth it.

Scenery and Showers

Cathedral Gorge has two big attractions: scenery and showers. The park, located two miles west of Panaca, has wonderful vistas and several paths through its strangely eroded formations of bentonite clay (see pages 28-29). And the showers—what a luxury after a day on the road or when you're ready to go to the picture show in Pioche.

The 16-unit campground lacks privacy—Beaver Dam is best for that—but it is open all year and has water from April to November. Cathedral Gorge also has great sunsets and is an excellent base to explore the countryside.

The Land of Lakes

There's also good camping at Spring Valley and Echo Canyon, 19 and 12 miles respectively east of Pioche. The two parks are favored by sun-stuck Las Vegans, with old timers relaxing at Echo while families and the swinging set gather at Spring Valley.

Trout fishing is usually good in the spring, and the reservoirs are well-stocked. But warm-weather algae growth has made for lousy fishing the past few summers. Solutions are being sought; vegetarian crawdads and fish might help. Echo Reservoir, improbably, leaks, so its water level is often low.

Both campgrounds offer good views but little privacy. There's plenty to do anyway—hiking in the hills, riding horses in Spring Valley's equestrian section (bring your own horse), driving through the canyons along Nevada 322, or hanging out at the general store and bar at Ursine. Also, park rangers give campfire talks at Spring Valley every Saturday night in the summertime.

Tastes of the wild: steak, seasoning and fresh outdoor air. At some parks the filet is more likely to be fish.



HARRY UPSON

Planning Your Trip

When you prepare for that trip across the desert, it's wise to equip your car for the unexpected hazards that might arise—car breakdown, accidents and injury. In addition to standard tools, the following items should go into your automotive survival kit:

- A CB radio. Invaluable for distress calls.
- Flares. For signals or starting a fire in an emergency.
- Two spare tires. A can of gooey compressed air will never replace a good extra spare tire and rim.
- Spare water. For drinking and thirsty radiators.
- Spare fan belts. Fan belts dry, crack and break. Replace cracked ones before leaving, and carry a spare for each belt on your system.
- Air cleaner. Change before leaving and take a spare.
- Spare oil and brake, steering and transmission fluid.
- A steel fingernail file. With this you can clean and gap fouled spark plugs.
- A spare ignition key. Good item if you aren't a former dead-end kid and don't know the art of hot-wiring an ignition.
- Spare gas. A five-gallon gas can fastened to the side of the car works best, since rear-end collisions can send gas spurting all over your car. A good gas can will come with a spout, but newspaper rolled in a funnel works in a pinch.
- Battery jumper cables. They'll save you or put a stranded motorist in debt to

you for life.

- Electrical tape. For frayed wiring or signaling for help by forming three "X's" on top of your car.
- A box of spare fuses. Make sure they are the right ones for your electrical system. That way, when the frayed wiring shorts out, you can replace the blown fuse.
- Wide duct tape. You can seal blown water hoses, cover holes letting dust into your car, tape clothing to the car for shade, or use it in first aid.
- Baling wire. You *always* need baling wire. Half the cars in Nevada won't run without it.
- A flashlight. And spare batteries for aid in night repairs or for signaling help.
- A shovel. To get unstuck, bury campfires or dig shallow wells.
- Tow chain. Or a heavy-gauge nylon strap about six feet long so someone can tow you or so you can help another.
- Extra blanket. Lots of uses, such as shade, tent walls and warmth. If you need a stretcher, the blanket's edges can be rolled around shovel handles or branches.
- Large, clean handkerchiefs. Good for tying splints and dressing wounds.
- A survival kit. Many kits are available through outdoor supply houses. The packets have provisions to help searchers find you if you're lost, emergency food, shelter help, fire starters and first aid items.
- Common sense. It will be your biggest help in an emergency.

—Bob Goodman

Don't Make Waves

Another good family park—for those who like high mountains and forests—is 7,000-foot Cave Lake, 15 miles east of Ely. The 20-unit campground has some shade and fine views of the surrounding Schell Creek Range.

The best camping months are June through September, when the entrance road is dry. You should bring your own drinking water, however, since no tap water is available.

The 32-acre lake is the star attraction. You can hunt for crawdads along the shore, and there's fishing for rainbows in summer and browns in fall. A boat ramp is provided, although boaters cannot create a wake or exceed 5 mph, in deference to fishermen and shore stability. Canoes and rafts are the best vessels for Cave Lake.

Fishing on Interstate 80

Rye Patch Reservoir, located 22 miles north of Lovelock and a mile west of Interstate 80, is often jammed in summer with fishermen, boaters and waterskiers. In spring and fall the park is quiet and has plenty of elbowroom.

You can choose between two campgrounds. If you like action, beer and waterskis, try the upper area near the boat ramp. For peace and shade, the campground below the dam is better.

Anglers can cast for crappie, white and black bass, catfish and walleye. Rye Patch's big

game fish, as well as catfish below the dam in the Humboldt River.

Ghosts and Giant Serpents

Berlin-Ichthyosaur State Park, at nearly 7,000 feet in the Nevada desert, has a ghost town and the largest fossils of ichthyosaurs—giant, ocean-swimming lizards—ever found.

Located 23 miles east of Gabbs on the west slope of the Shoshone Mountains, Berlin was a thriving silver-rush town of 300 in its heyday between 1897 and 1910. Thirteen buildings have been preserved (plan on using a lot of film) and a self-guiding trail describes the town's history.

The campground in Union Canyon has 14 sites with grills, restrooms and shade ramadas. There's plenty of room except sometimes on holiday weekends.

The fossil shelter in the canyon displays the skeletons of three large ichthyosaurs; one is nearly 60 feet long. Park rangers give talks at the shelter several times daily during the summer.

30,000 People Can't Be Wrong

On Fourth of July weekend, Lahontan State Recreation Area is a madhouse. About 30,000 boaters, waterskiers, fishermen and campers crowd the reservoir's beaches, determined to have the time of their lives. It can be fun, but if you're looking for serenity, try early May or,

even better, September and October, when the cottonwoods take on their autumn colors.

Lahontan has two entrances, one near Lahontan Dam 15 miles west of Fallon on U.S. 50 and the other seven miles south of Silver Springs on U.S. Alternate 95. Most of the shoreline is open to camping, and the Silver Springs Beach has 25 developed sites. The other end, near the dam, is usually less crowded and noisy in summer.

Lazy River Camping

Seven miles west of Silver Springs Beach is calm, collected Fort Churchill. The campground by the Carson River has 20 sites that fill up on holidays but rarely otherwise. Gnats and mosquitos appear in warm weather.

On summer weekends, park rangers dress up as union soldiers and talk about fort life in the 1860s as part of the park's "living history" program. The visitor center is open daily, and the fort ruins are fun to explore, especially on moonlit nights.

Camping Out in Dayton

On the east end of Dayton, the town 12 miles east of Carson City where "The Misfits" was filmed, is a 150-acre park bordering the Carson River. The river gives Dayton State Park mosquitos, trout, nature trails and tranquility. The developed, 10-site campground is between the river and U.S. 50. There's some noise from the highway, but the spot was once much noisier. Nearby is the site of the Rock Point Mill, where ore from the Comstock mines was processed in the 1800s.

Boulevard Nights

Between Reno and Carson is a campground by a lake, with a view of the Sierra, hot showers—and no crowds. The campground is at Washoe Lake State Park, about eight miles north of the capital on East Lake Boulevard in Washoe Valley. The lake is shallow—only 12 feet at its deepest—but it's one of the state's best sailing lakes because of the scenery and steady winds. Fishermen will find hungry catfish, and there's an equestrian area, too.

The 25-site campground is perched above the lake. It has showers and paved parking spots. From camp you can walk down to the lake's two-mile stretch of sand dunes and the ponds where ducks and other waterfowl congregate.

Park Prices and Permits

Like all good things, there's a price to pay for camping in Nevada's state parks. Camping fees are \$4 a day, payable at the entrance board. You can stay in any park for 14 days in a 30-day period.

Boat launching fees of \$4 are charged at Lahontan, Rye Patch, Washoe Lake and Lake Tahoe Nevada State Park at Sand Harbor and Cave Rock. Tahoe also has a day-use fee of \$3, and you'll need to pay \$2 for day use at Lahontan, Rye Patch and Washoe Lake, and at Spring Mountain Ranch and Floyd R. Lamb State Park in the Vegas area.

Fortunately, you can pay for it all once a year by buying an annual permit. It's \$30 and good for all fees. The permit is available at all parks. □

RV Life: Finding Your Own Space

Touring Nevada's inner regions can be both exhilarating and tiring. Highways wind through mountains with grand vistas and desert valleys. The scenery can make driving like watching a nature movie, but rest stops are welcome after the long distances between towns. Below, a chart lists private RV parks and

campgrounds that are good places to spend the night when you're on the open road with your home in tow.

RV parks and campgrounds have several advantages. First, they are far cheaper than hotel or motel rooms—as much as one-fourth the cost. Many parks also offer conveniences

Name	Phone	Location	No. Units	Max RV Size	Basic Fee	gasoline	groceries	ice	parts	tents allowed
LAS VEGAS, N. LAS VEGAS										
American Campground†	643-1222	3440 LV Blvd. N., NLV	19	none	\$8					✓
Cheyenne United CG	649-1681	3227 Civic Cen., NLV	47	none	\$8.45		✓	✓	✓	✓
Hitchin' Post Camper Pk.	643-3291	3640 LV Blvd. N., NLV	65	40'	\$7		✓	✓	✓	✓
Holiday Travel Trlr. Pk. ‡	451-8005	3890 S. Nellis Blvd.	300	40'	\$10.60		✓			
KOA Campgrounds	451-5527	4315 Boulder Hwy.	320	40'	\$10.75		✓	✓	✓	✓
King's Row Trailer Park	457-3606	3660 Boulder Hwy.	160	40'	\$7				✓	
Riviera Travel Trlr. Pk.	457-8700	2200 Palm	135	40'	\$10		✓	✓	✓	
LAKE MEAD										
Lakeshore Trailer Vlg.	293-2540	Boulder Beach	80	40'	\$7.50		✓	✓		
Callville Bay Marina	565-8956		20	30'	\$6		✓	✓	✓	✓
Echo Bay Resort	394-4066		56	none	\$4		✓	✓	✓	
Overton Beach Resort	394-4040		6	none	\$8			✓	✓	
Temple Bar Marina	767-3400†		14	none	\$6.50		✓	✓	✓	
LAKE MOHAVE										
Lake Mohave Resort	754-3245†	Katherine	33	none	\$6.50		✓	✓	✓	✓
Cottonwood Cove Resort	297-1464		75	none	\$8		✓	✓	✓	✓
Willow Beach Resort	767-3311†		18	none	\$6.50		✓	✓	✓	✓
OVERTON										
Robbins Nest Mobile Vlg.	397-2364	479 S. Main St.	145	40'	\$6					
BEATTY										
Rio Rancho	553-2238	¼ mi. N. on U.S. 95	18	none	\$7				✓	✓
RENO/SPARKS										
Cedar Lodge RV Park	323-1447	12765 S. Virginia	35	35'	\$9					✓
Chism Trailer Park	322-2281	1300 W. 2nd	50	35'	\$9					
Four Seasons RV Park	853-1423	13109 S. Virginia	36	40'	\$10					✓
Green Acres Trailer Pk.	825-0489	501 W. Moana	27	35'	\$8.50					
Hill-Top Bonanza RV Pk.	329-9624	4800 Stoltz	79	40'	\$9.17				✓	✓
R & R Camperland†	358-8533	1405 S. Rock, Sparks	164	35'	\$9				✓	
Reno/Sparks KOA	323-1447	600 Newport	230	40'	\$9		✓	✓	✓	✓
Tiki Village	825-1507	1½ mi. S. on U.S. 395	14	35'	\$9					
United CGs. of Reno	329-0688	2220 Clearacre	110	35'	\$9		✓	✓	✓	✓
CARSON CITY										
Camp N Town	883-1123	2438 N. Carson	74	none	\$8.50		✓	✓	✓	✓
Carson Hot Springs	882-9863	1500 Hot Springs Rd.	30	none	\$4				✓	
Oasis Trailer Haven	882-1375	4550 S. Carson	18	none	\$7.35				✓	
Snedaker's Comstock	882-2445	5400 S. Carson	50	32'	\$9				✓	
GARDNERVILLE										
Holbrook Station RV Pk.	266-3434	Hwys 395 & 208	45	65'	\$8					
Washoe Tribe CG.	782-5969	6 mi. S. on U.S. 395	25	35'	n/a*					

David Moore is managing editor of Nevada Magazine.

Where to pull in your rig when a long day's journey turns to night. By Marie Ramsey and Roger Smith

that hotels can't—playgrounds for children, handy laundry rooms, groceries, gasoline and freedom from the congestion. At lakes Tahoe, Topaz, Mead and Mohave are parks with spaces hardly a cast from the water. At most parks, at least, campers are just a step away from the great Nevada outdoors.

Some parks and campgrounds don't allow pets, and a few are reserved for adults. So when calling for reservations—always a good idea but seldom necessary—ask about restrictions. There won't be many, and you can look forward to your stop-overs more comfortably. Nevada's area code is 702.

Name	Phone	Location	No. Units	Max RV Size	Basic Fee	gasoline	groceries	ice	parts	tents allowed
LAKE TAHOE										
Fallen Leaf Lodge CG. ‡	541-3366**	S. end Fallen Leaf Lake	37	22'	\$7	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
KOA of S. Lake Tahoe	577-3693**	U.S. 50, S. of Meyers	70	38'	\$15.75	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Meeks Bay Resort‡	525-7242**	West shore	28	none	n/a*	✓	✓	✓		
Tahoe Pines Campground	577-1653**	Tahoe City	80	none	n/a	✓	✓	✓		✓
Tahoe Valley Campground	541-2222**	S. Lake Tahoe	300	none	\$13.50	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
FALLON										
Hub Motel	867-3636	3 mi. W. on U.S. 50	45	42'	\$7				✓	✓
HAWTHORNE										
Cornell's Walker Lake CG.	945-2906	12 mi. NE on U.S. 95	26	none	\$8	✓				✓
Frontier RV Park	945-2733	5th & L St.	40	none	\$7				✓	✓
SILVER SPRINGS										
J & L Mobile Park	577-2715	5th St. & U.S. 95A	7	none	\$6.50	✓	✓	✓		
Silver Springs Trlr. Pk.	577-2750	4515 U.S. 50 West	5	none	\$7					
TOPAZ LAKE										
Topaz Lake Marina	266-3236	20 mi. S. of Gardnerville	15	none	\$8	✓	✓	✓		
VERDI										
River Bend RV Park	345-0574	Old U.S. 40 off I-80	60	28'	n/a				✓	
WELLINGTON										
Wellington Station Resort	465-2565	1 mi. E. on Hwy. 3	18	none	\$6	✓	✓			
ELY										
KOA of Ely	289-3413	3 mi. S. on U.S. 93	n/a	none	\$10	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
ELKO										
KOA of Elko	738-6898	½ mi. N. on Hwy 6 off I-80	56	40'	\$8.50	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Shangri-La RV Park	738-8733	1400 Mt. City Hwy.	160	50'	\$7.58	✓	✓	✓		
LOVELOCK										
Brookwood Motel	273-2438	West end of town	37	none	\$9				✓	✓
Lovelock KOA	273-2276	East end of town	79	none	\$9	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
WELLS										
Crested Acres KOA	752-3557	3½ mi. W. on I-80	200	none	\$9.50	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Trout Creek CG.	752-3802	8 mi. W. on I-80	n/a	none	\$7	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
WILDHORSE										
Wildhorse Resort	NF 6472	65 mi. N. of Elko	25	none	\$7.50	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
WINNEMUCCA										
KOA Kampground	623-5799	1½ mi. E. on I-80	131	none	\$10.25	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Westerner Lodge	623-2907	800 E. 4th St.	25	none	\$7				✓	✓

*—week minimum stay

**—916 area code

‡—602 area code

†—no pets

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Sagebrush Gourmet

The landmark sign on South Virginia Street boasts "Best Darn Food in Nevada." That may have been closer to the truth for the Liberty Belle 20 years ago, but if customer loyalty counts for anything, the venerable restaurant and saloon (some will insist saloon with food) still deserves five stars. It is the most popular eatery in the Reno area.

The building stands alone on Reno's main traffic route. Built of wood and with wagons on the roof, it looks a little tacky, but in a tourist town that's no sin. And once inside you're struck by the impression that not much has changed since beer was a nickel. The walls and ceilings are a clutter of antique signs, guns and mixed memorabilia. The ornate back bar and Victorian chandeliers are imposing, and it's obvious the Liberty Belle is not a "theme" restaurant contrived to look authentic.

Mercifully, there is no lounge entertainment — there's no lounge. No ferns or piano bar, either. For diversion there are about a dozen antique slot machines separating the drinkers from the eating crowd. Locals who normally stay clear of casinos seem to feel obliged to pull some handles at the Liberty Belle. Tradition. But don't get the idea that this is just a hangout for old cronies. It's a family place that welcomes thousands of out-of-towners who make the Liberty Belle a regular stop when visiting Reno.

A lot of the Liberty Belle's success owes to its being a family operation, skillfully overseen by Marshall and Frank Fey. Marsh and Frank are grandsons of Charles Fey, inventor of the world's first one-armed bandit. Known as the Liberty Bell, the machine is on display at the Feys' Reno establishment. One of the brothers is usually pouring the libations and chitchatting like any good barkeep.

Oh, yes. They say this column should mention food. O.K., it's good, there's enough and it's reasonably priced (lunch about \$4, dinner up to \$10). The food used to be more plentiful and cheaper, but the Fey brothers have managed to preserve quality without socking it to you.

The menu offers no surprises—seafood, chicken, nicely messy ribs, steaks and incredibly good prime rib. The vegetable selection is easy: baked potato or thick fries. Salad is easy, too. The green salad looks like a whole head of lettuce, but I suggest the superior leafy spinach garnished with bacon bits and egg and liberally seasoned with piquant dressing. It's simple fare, but this gourmand has never left hungry or unsatisfied in a dozen years. There is a modest wine list that is adequate for a meat and potato meal. Lunch is dished up cafeteria style and features mostly sandwiches and a few hot entrees. Regulars eat lunch at the bar.

The Liberty Belle is definitely off limits for intimate dining. On weekends, the place is packed, and they don't take reservations. So plan to hang around the bar for as much as an hour—that's part of the fun. Noise levels can equal those of a Brazilian soccer match, and the only defense is to join in and talk louder and have a better time than the folks at the next table.

—John Bardwell

The Liberty Belle, 4259 S. Virginia (U.S. 395), Reno. 11 a.m.-11 p.m. daily. Major credit cards. No reservations.

A diner's guide to the Silver State.

Following is a selective guide to reader-approved Nevada restaurants whose advertisements appear in this section. Besides descriptions of menu and atmosphere, the listings include prices, hours and other details for your convenience. If you have any comments on the establishments listed, drop us a line at Nevada Magazine, Sagebrush Gourmet, Capitol Complex, Carson City, NV. 89710.

BAGEL DELI

1091 S. Virginia at Bagel Alley
Reno. 322-9458

"Home of the Stuffed Bagel" and Reno's only Bagel Factory and Kosher Style Delicatessen. As the winner of Nevada State Journal's award, "Best Oddball Food Treat," this restaurant features 16 different varieties of bagels (sesame, onion, onion-garlic, cinnamon apple, cheese, etc.) baked fresh daily. Bagel Deli offers 14 different varieties of homemade cream cheeses, including avocado, date-walnut, strawberry and jalapeno pepper. Kosher style meats include hot pastrami, corned beef and turkey. The combinations for sandwiches are endless and all of the above may be combined to form an omelette of your dreams! Best homemade spicy chili in the West. Cafeteria style or counter service. Eat a little or eat a lot for a little. Don't miss this treat. Open Tues.-Fri., 8-4:30; Sat., 8:30-4:30. WE DELIVER.

CATTLEMEN'S

Hwy. 395, Washoe Valley
Between Reno and Carson City. 849-1500

A Ranch-style restaurant, the cozy Cattlemen's offers excellent meals at a moderate price. The special sirloin steak dinner is a popular and good buy. Currently \$6.45, this dinner includes a baked potato, salad, bread, ranch-style beans, sirloin steak and a glass of wine. Other entrees range from a simple hamburger steak to filet mignon and lobster. The Alaska king crab is delicious! Open seven days a week for dinner from 5 p.m. No reservations. AE, MC, VISA.

LIBERTY BELLE SALOON & RESTAURANT

4250 South Virginia
Reno. 825-1776
See John Bardwell's editorial this page.

LOUIS' BASQUE CORNER

301 E. 4th Street
Reno. 323-7203

Louis' restaurant offers a warm, unhurried atmosphere that hints of yesterday. Master chefs prepare genuine Basque cuisine such as Tripes Callos, Poulet a la Basquaise, Paella, Boeuf Bourguignon, and entrees including Coq au Vin (chicken in red wine sauce), Lapin Chasseur (hunter's rabbit), and Ris de Veau (sweetbreads) as well as many other delicious French and Spanish Basque dishes all served family style with complimentary wine. You can enjoy a famous picon punch, cafe royal or perhaps an Izarra or choose from Louis' extensive wine list. Basque culture is reflected in the pottery, artifacts and pictures from the Pyrenees which grace the walls

of the two traditional dining rooms. Louis and Lorraine Erreguibale host many special dinners and parties in this authentic Basque restaurant. Ample free parking. Lunch: Mon.-Fri., 11:30-1:30; Dinner nightly at 6 p.m. All major credit cards accepted.

MINER'S CAFE AND SPECIALTY HOUSE

Comstock Hotel and Casino
Second and West Street
Reno. 329-1880

The decor of this 24-hour cafe is a colorful and faithful reproduction of the Virginia City of the 1800s when silver was pouring out of her mines. Photos of the Comstock diggings cover the souvenir type menu and the bill of fare is literally a page from the past with tasty entrees honoring bygone mining pioneers. Located on the mezzanine is the Specialty House Restaurant featuring Chicken Cordon Bleu, Idaho Rainbow Trout and the Comstock's famous 1-lb. New York Steak dinner with all the trimmings for \$5.99. The Miner's Cafe and Specialty House is open 24 hours daily. AE, MC, VISA.

RAPSCALLION SEAFOOD HOUSE & BAR

1555 S. Wells Avenue
Reno. 323-1211

This Rapscallion is unique and different and possibly will remind you of the tradition of excellence that existed long ago in the restaurants of the San Francisco waterfront. The bar is lively, mostly because it is one of the favorite watering holes for locals. The antique gas lamp, the colorful stained glass, and the whiskey boxes create an atmosphere that draws you in for a cocktail. The Rapscallion, which has earned a reputation for being Reno's official seafood house, offers 20 to 30 choices of fresh food dishes. Old-fashioned attention to detail by the service people is something not found much today and will be appreciated. Lunch: Tues.-Fri., 11:30-2:30; Dinner: Nightly at 5:30 p.m. MC, VISA. Reservations suggested.

TOPAZ LODGE AND CASINO

Hwy. 395 at Topaz Lake, 266-3339

Pick Hobson's Topaz Lodge & Casino is truly a family fun center with outdoor and indoor activity to please any family member. Boasting a fabulous Friday night seafood buffet, with fine dining throughout the week, every table is situated for its own panoramic view of beautiful Topaz Lake. So if it's hunting, fishing, or Nevada-style entertainment, there's always a treat in store and more at Pick Hobson's Topaz Lodge. No reservations. MC, VISA.

STAR HOTEL

245 Silver (at Third)
Elko. 738-9925

The Star Hotel was built in 1909 as a boarding-house for Basque sheepherders and ranchers. Today the Star Hotel still houses sheepherders, but it is also an extraordinary family-style restaurant specializing in hearty meals, European style. Hosts Joe and Anita Sarasua suggest you start your dinner with a picon punch (which does pack a punch). Then enter the dining room to order your entre of either steak, seafood, chicken or specialty dishes like oxtails and roasted bits of lamb prepared with onion and red pimientos. Or on Fridays try the chef's special of lobster, bacalao or rice and clams (when in season). Your dinner will include an ample supply of soup, salad (with a special dressing), entree, vegetables, beans, spaghetti, french fries with ice cream or sherbet for dessert. The Star Hotel offers fine and plentiful fare. Dinners only: 5-9:30 p.m. Closed Sundays. No reservations. No credit cards.

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555 Highway 395, South Washoe Valley



RICHARD MENZIES PHOTOS

Cowboy Shorty

**Shorty Hollis may not be the Marlboro Man, but he sure knows cowboy country.
By Richard Menzies**

James "Shorty" Hollis isn't your average run-of-the-range buckaroo. In a trade noted for turnover and replete with drifters, Shorty's a rather tall exception; last year he celebrated his 50th year in the employ of the same northern Nevada ranch.

"I figure if a feller's satisfied, well, what in the world's the use of runnin' all over the country, workin' from one job to another and just driftin'," he explains, drawing on a pipeful of Prince Albert. "But if you stay in one place, why, you get a good reputation and you make a lot of friends. And I like this part of the country, and it's a good outfit to work for. It always has been."

Shorty's outfit is Bill Wright's Mary's River Ranch, some 200 square miles of sagebrush sprawling across northern Elko County. Specifically, Shorty tends a comfortable log and stucco cabin on the old

Grock homestead, several miles from the main ranch house and pretty much out of earshot from the rest of the world. In the yard are feed troughs and dozens of coffee cans planted in geraniums and petunias; wafting from the kitchen is the aroma of homemade apple pie, a dish for which the proprietor is locally famous. A genial man whose vocabulary contains no stronger word than "gosh," cowboy Shorty isn't exactly Madison Avenue's vision of the Marlboro Man, and he probably couldn't find work acting in a Coors beer commercial.

Shorty's origins are, in fact, east of the Mississippi. Born 70 years ago in Greenfield, Ohio, he was the next-to-youngest in a family of nine children. His Dutch-English father was a farmer and a stern disciplinarian of the old school who didn't believe in sparing the rod or spoiling the child. But when Shorty got a

licking at the age of 15, he decided he was too old to be spanked and promptly did what any red-blooded American kid would do—he ran away to Peoria and joined up with a wild west show.

For a summer Shorty wrestled steers and rode bareback, moving from town to town with just a few coins in his pocket and little to his name but the bespangled shirt on his back. Like the circuit carnival, however, the traveling rodeo attracted its share of unsavory characters and pick-pockets, and Shorty had a tough time of it just keeping track of his sequins. So the following spring he took a job with Otto Bible, who wrangled wild mustangs for rodeo stock at a remote ranch at Lost Springs, Wyoming. Hollis found the work more to his liking and stayed on to become a full-time cowboy. It was also in Wyoming he picked up the nickname Shorty—not because he was particularly short, he says, but because the other hands were so tall. Deserved or not, the name stuck.

After a few years Shorty grew weary of the harsh Wyoming winters and moved on to northern Nevada, where he was hired on the 20th of May, 1931, by Bill Wright, then manager of the Marble Ranch. The Great Depression was on and his starting pay was just \$30 a month, but for Shorty, life on the open range was anything but depressing.

"It was a great life, and it was sure a happy-go-lucky outfit," he recalls. "It was all young fellers and they was just all full of pep and always pullin' jokes on one another. You'd go to go to bed at night, and you didn't know what you was gonna find in your bed. The Marbles, they ran around 10,000 head of cattle when I first come down from Wyoming, and there wasn't no fences a'tall. Everybody rode together, because it was all wide open country. We'd pull out around the first of May, and we never come in till Thanksgiving."

Shorty rode for 15 years and might be riding the range yet, had it not been for a skittish colt he mounted one cold morning at the Cross Ranch. When he put his spurs to him, the horse reared up and fell over backwards, pinning his rider against a cedar fence post. When Shorty came to, he was paralyzed from the hips down.

"I was in the hospital two months with that. They had doctors up from Reno, and they just had their doubts whether I was ever gonna walk again or not. But I was young, and they used heat lamps on me, and every day they'd pack me into the bathtub, and they'd keep arunnin' hot water on me, and just pert near cooked me alive. And that's the way they healed my back."

Shorty went back to riding the following summer, but his injury pained his back and preyed on his mind. So that fall he quit the wagon and took up ranching, saddling up only occasionally during

round-up time. Then about 13 years ago another horse bucked on him, sending him back to the hospital for another two months with a cracked pelvis. Shorty hasn't looked at a horse since.

These days Shorty spends his summers irrigating hay fields and mending fences. At calving time in the spring he plays midwife to pregnant cows and weans leppies—calves abandoned by their mothers. In the winter, the dirt road leading to the main ranch is closed and Shorty is left alone except for his dog and two cats, his only link to the outside an old-fashioned crank telephone connected to a wire that doubles, and probably exceeds, as a fence. When it snows, his provisions of coffee, flour and Crisco are dropped in by airplane.

About once a week during good weather, Shorty fires up his '59 Ford and drives to Wells, but he rarely stays long.

"They have the Golden Rule store there and two grocery stores and a drugstore. They have about everything a feller wants to buy in there, and not braggin' any, I've sure got lots of friends. I've got people there in Wells tell me, Anytime you wanna retire, you just come in and we've got a nice room fixed up, and you don't have to pay any rent. But one day in Wells is enough for me. That place, it'd drive ya nuts. The doctor wants me to retire, but I don't think I'd live any time if I retired."



Shorty Hollis prefers ranch life. "One day in Wells is enough for me."

Another move Shorty isn't planning to make any day soon is marriage. A lifelong bachelor, he confesses he's been engaged a couple of times, "but that's as far as that goes." Not that he isn't the

romantic type, but as the only single son in the family, he always felt it was his duty to send money home.

"So I just kept puttin' these girls off, puttin' 'em off, and they got disgusted with me and married somebody else. But I figured my folks come first. I knew I could never repay 'em what they went through to do without clothes and everything else to send us kids to school half-way decent."

Shorty's folks and all but two of his brothers have since passed away. In years past he used to spend his winter vacations visiting in Ohio, but the climate doesn't agree with him, and he doubts he'll be going back.

"My kid brother and his wife, they been out here three times. And then my brother in Indiana, he was out here once, and then my brother-in-law and his kids a year ago. They thought it was quite a desert-lookin' country beside Ohio. That's a farmin' country, everything green all the time, but boy, they can have Ohio. I don't want nothin' to do with it. This is more like home, out here, than that ever was back there. 'Cause even when I was a kid goin' to school, I always read western stories and stuff like that. It was always my dream to go West. And boy, I come West." □

Richard Menzies is a roving Nevada correspondent based somewhere in Utah.



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Desert In Flower

**Close-ups of springtime in Red Rock Country.
Photographs by Jeff Gnass**

Each year in spring and early summer the plants of the desert show their colors. Here widely-traveled California photographer Jeff Gnass focuses on two examples of nature's refinement in the Red Rock Canyon area

west of Las Vegas. Below is the striking mirabilis, or four o'clock plant. The four o'clock can be seen in hills and mesas throughout the Southwest. Appropriately, its showy flowers open in the afternoon. On the

right Gnass captures the intricate beauty of the twinpod. The name comes from the two-part pods of this short, curious plant, which is only about six inches high and grows in the high desert.



PHOTOGRAPHS © JEFF GNASS



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Good Times & Great Events in May & June

Rites of Spring

Two slouch-hatted, chaps-clad cowpokes pace toward each other. Suddenly they draw. Pistols boom. One clutches his chest and falls carefully forward onto the white line on the asphalt of Main Street. Car horns honk and sidewalk spectators cheer in response. The winner waves; the loser gets up and trudges off, to be killed again later.

In spring a rural Nevada town's fancy turns to festivals. You can watch new-western gunfights, cowchip flinging competitions, mucking and drilling contests, firefighting races, feats of strength and the zaniest shenanigans in the Great Basin.

There's no better way to enjoy true Nevada fun than to attend one of the eight town celebrations taking place in the cow counties this spring. The fun begins with Hawthorne Armed Forces Day on May 15 and continues with Tonopah's Jim Butler Days, May 27-31, and Caliente Homecoming, May 28-31. Elko's Western Festival runs June 4-5, Carson Valley Days in Minden and Gardnerville on June 10-13, Well's Crazy Daze on June 12-13, Winnemucca's Basque Festival on June 12-13 and the Lamolille Country Fair on June 27. If you prefer merriment *en masse*, the Elks Helldorado Days in Las Vegas, May 28-June 6, and the Reno Rodeo on June 18-27 (see page 35) are the state's biggest rodeo-centric festivals.

In addition to specialty events that recall Nevada traditions, most town celebrations feature parades, arts and crafts, events for kids, races, sales, BBQs, dancing and daredevil stunts. Whether you're a spectator, partyer or athlete, you'll find plenty to tickle your fancy as Nevada towns welcome in the warm weather.



JAY ALDRICH



South

ONGOING EVENTS

Ancient Arts Gallery & Museum, 10am-6pm Mon-Sat, 4761 Maryland Parkway, Las Vegas, info. 798-8803

Historic and Cultural Tours, Las Vegas, info. 382-7198

Historic artifacts on display, Southern Nevada Museum, Henderson, and UNLV Museum of Natural History, Las Vegas

Nevada Museum of Historical Documents, Mon-Sun., 3200 Las Vegas Blvd. So., Las Vegas, 731-0785

Las Vegas Mormon Fort Tours, Tues-Sun, **Burk Gal'ry**, 10-5 Mon-Sat., western artists, including works by Cliff Segerblom, John Hilton, Don Putman, Don Ely and Carol Harding. 400 Nevada Highway, Boulder City

MAY

Antiques Auction, 4/30-2, Riviera Hotel Convention Complex, Las Vegas, info. 382-2466

UNLV v. San Francisco, 1, baseball, 5pm, UNLV Las Vegas

"Solid Gold Cadillac", 1-2, Las Vegas Community Theatre, 8pm Sat. & 2pm Sun., Whipple Cultural Center, Las Vegas

Desert Motorcycle Tour, 5/1/82-3/31/83, a 10-month buzz about the Southwest, info. Vegas Wings, 736-3145

Gin Rummy Tournament, 2, Tropicana Hotel, Las Vegas

Poetry Contest, 2, Boulder City Literary Arts Assoc., info. 293-4679

Photo Exhibition, 2-28, Edward Sheriff Curtis, Whipple Cultural Center, Las Vegas

Far East Meets Southwest, 2-28, watercolors & pottery by Richard Simas & Nancy Hampton, Whipple Cultural Center, Las Vegas

Dick Ferris Open Golf Tournament, 3, Tropicana Country Club, Las Vegas

UNLV v. UNR, 4, baseball, 5pm, UNLV, Las Vegas

Mrs. America Pageant, 7 Las Vegas Hilton
"Goldthroat", 7-9, 14-16, 21-23, Rainbow Company Children's Theatre, 7pm Fri., 2pm Sat. & Sun., Whipple Cultural Center, Las Vegas
UNLV v. S. Utah State, 8, baseball, 5pm, UNLV, Las Vegas

Las Vegas Symphonic Orchestra, 9, Ham Hall, 2pm, UNLV, Las Vegas

Romantic Part Song, 9, Musical Arts Singers, 3pm, Charleston Heights Arts Center, Las Vegas

Dance-Food Festival, 9, Filipino-American Assoc. of Nevada, Las Vegas Convention Center, info. 733-2335

Greek Food Festival, 9, Sahara Space Center, Boulder City, info. 293-1824

"The Chalk Garden", 11 captioned film, 7pm, Flamingo Library, Las Vegas

Las Vegas Chamber Players, 13, Ham Hall, 8pm, UNLV, Las Vegas

"Dark at the Top of the Stairs", 13-6/12, Las Vegas Little Theatre, 8:30pm Thurs.-Sat., with 3pm matinees 5/16 & 6/6

Artwork VII Festival, 15-16, arts & crafts, park art for children, entertainment, 10am-6pm, Jaycee Park, Las Vegas

"Man in the Glass Booth", 16, film, 2pm, Flamingo Library, Las Vegas

Antique Gun Show, 20, Tropicana Hotel, Las Vegas

Ski-a-thon, 22, 200-mile ski racing course, from Echo Bay to Hemenway Harbor to Grand Canyon and back to Echo Bay, all on Lake Mead, American Cancer Society benefit, info. 873-5517

European Flea Market, 22-23, Las Vegas Convention Center, 9am-6pm



Riding the Wave

The West's best glider pilots will soar over the Douglas County Airport near Minden when the Soaring Society of America holds its Region XI Championships there on May 22-30. Floating up to 18,000 feet on a huge wrinkle of warm air called the Mountain Wave, pilots must fly a set course for time. But the competition looks more like a slow ballet than a race. The main contest will take place on the weekends, but there will be rides available and banquets throughout the week.

Earning Your Wings

Desert the cities and tour the desert on your motorcycle with the Vegas Wings. Their marathon Desert Tour begins May 1 in Las Vegas and includes 36 stops in Nevada, Utah, Arizona and California. If you visit 20 of the stops within 11 months, taking pictures to prove you've visited them, you'll earn an official Vegas Wings finisher's pin for your riding jacket. For more information and registration forms write to Vegas Wings, 5572 S. Eastern Ave., Las Vegas, NV. 89119 or call 736-3145.

So. Nevada 4-H All Silver Open Horse Show, 22-23, Horseman's Park, 6pm, Las Vegas

Nevada String Quartet, 23, Flamingo Library, 2pm, Las Vegas

Caliente Homecoming, 28-31 boxcar museum dedication, rodeo, kids' day, carnival, dance, BBQ, art show, contests & races, Rose & Dixon memorial parks, info. 726-3399

Elks Helldorado, 28-6/6, rodeo, BBQ, art show, parades, carnival, exhibits, week-long celebration, Las Vegas Convention Center, 733-2335 or 385-1221

Bottom Dollar Off-Road Race, 29-30, BBQ Sat., car race Sun., Southern Nevada Off-Road Enthusiasts, info. 876-0371

Science Fiction Illustrations, 30-6/25, oils & acrylics by Paul Farkas, Charleston Heights Arts Center, Las Vegas

Nevada Watercolor Society Exhibition, 30-6/25, Whipple Cultural Center, Las Vegas

\$150,000 Sahara Summer Blackjack Classic, 31-6/3, Sahara Hotel, Las Vegas

JUNE

World Series of Tavern Pool, 1-9, Caesars Palace, Las Vegas

"Dark at the Top of the Stairs", 1-12, Las Vegas Little Theatre, 8:30pm Thurs.-Sat., with 3pm matinee on 6th

"To Kill a Mockingbird", 4-5, Rainbow Company Children's Theatre, 8pm, Charleston Heights Arts Center, Las Vegas

"Hello Dolly", 10-13, musical, Las Vegas Community Theatre, 8pm Fri. & Sat., 2pm Sun., Whipple Cultural Center, Las Vegas

Larry Holmes v. Jerry Cooney, 11 WBC heavy-weight boxing championship, Caesars Palace, Las Vegas

"To Kill a Mockingbird", 11-13, Rainbow Company Children's Theatre, 8pm Fri. & Sat., 2pm Sun., Charleston Heights Arts Center, Las Vegas
Handicap Bowling Tournament, 14-18, Showboat Hotel, Las Vegas

"Romeo & Juliet", 15, captioned film, 7pm, Flamingo Library, Las Vegas

Big Band Festival, 17-20, Sands Hotel, Las Vegas, info. 733-5000

"Hello Dolly", 17-20, musical, Las Vegas Community Theatre, 8pm, Whipple Cultural Center, Las Vegas

"To Kill a Mockingbird", 18-20, Rainbow Company Children's Theatre, 8pm Fri. & Sat., 2pm Sun., Charleston Heights Arts Center, Las Vegas

NSHA Region 5 Open Horse Show, 19-20, Horseman's Park, 6pm, Las Vegas

International Food Festival, 19-20, Las Vegas Convention Center, info. 733-2335

"Sabrina", 20, film, 2pm, Flamingo Library, Las Vegas

(Continued on next page)

"Hello Dolly," 25-26, musical, Las Vegas Community Theatre, 2pm Fri. & 8pm Sat., Whipple Cultural Center, Las Vegas

Music from Broadway Shows, 27 Musical Arts Chorus, 3pm, Charleston Heights Arts Center, Las Vegas

Nevada String Quartet, 27 Flamingo Library, 2pm, Las Vegas

Isaac Shamsun-Din: Image Maker, 27-7/23, portraits, Charleston Heights Arts Center, Las Vegas

Central

ONGOING EVENTS

Berlin-Ichthyosaur State Park, tours of fossil house displaying ancient sea lizards, daily at 10am, 2pm & 4pm

MAY

Ely Amateur Golf Tournament, 15-16, White Pine Golf Course, Ely, info. 289-4095

Jim Butler Days, 27-31 mucking & drilling state championships, arm wrestling, arts & crafts show, parade (10am Sat.), dances evenings (8pm), kangaroo court, liar's contest, beard contest, 6.2-mile run, gunslinger shootouts, horseshoes, raffle, townwide celebration, Tonopah, info. 482-3558

JUNE

State Bantam & Junior League Bowling Tournament, 12-13, 19-20, 26-27 Sunset Lanes, Ely, info. 289-8811

American Bashkir Curly Horse Convention, 18-20, horse show & performance, Bristlecone Convention Center, Ely, info. 289-3720

Stargazing, 26, Berlin-Ichthyosaur State Park, dusk-11pm, 20 miles east of Gabbs off Nevada 844

North

MAY

Nevada Federation of Women's Clubs, 1-2, Convention Center, Elko

U.S. Army Band, 4, Convention Center, 8pm, Elko

Cactus Pete's Air Race, 22, Seattle, WA. to Jackpot

Sagebrush Spinners Square Dance, 14, featuring caller Stan Burdick, Grammar School No. 2, Elko, info. 738-3666

High School Band Concert, 19, Convention Center, 8pm, Elko

Sagebrush Spinners Square Dance, 29, featuring caller Ron Welsh, Grammar School No. 2, Elko, info. 738-3666

JUNE

Western Festival, 4-5, dancing, races, gunslinger shootouts, demonstrations, hot air balloons, kangaroo court, townwide celebration in Elko, info. 738-7135



DAUN BOHALL

Advance to the Nearest Railroad

At the V&T Railroad Museum in Carson City, steam engines and cars—some dating from the Comstock mining era—look ready to roll. Visitors can explore the elegance that mining tycoons once enjoyed and watch some of the 21 pieces of rolling stock being restored. Beginning Memorial Day weekend, the museum on South Carson Street will be open on weekends and major holidays. At Virginia City, from Memorial Day weekend through September, railroad buffs can ride the V&T tracks to Tunnel No. 4 in Gold Hill on old No. 29, a steam locomotive similar to those used during the V&T's heyday in the 1880s. For kids, miniature trains haul passengers around Carson City's Mills Park April through October.

High School Rodeo, 5-6, Spring Creek Horse Palace, Elko

Gem-Mineral-Art Show, 11-13, Cactus Pete's Convention Center, Jackpot

Crazy Daze, 12-13, business sales, Wells, info. 752-3328

Basque Festival, 12-13, parade, endurance & strength contests, dancing, BBQ, fairgrounds, Winnemucca, info. 623-2225

Sagebrush Spinners Square Dance, 22, featuring music & calling by Dave & Bonnie Harry, Grammar School No. 2, Elko, info. 738-3666

Lamoille Country Fair, 27, arts & crafts, food & fun, 20 miles southeast of Elko on Hwy. 227

MGM Year-Long Bowling Tournament, \$50,000 in prizes, MGM Grand Lanes, info. 789-2295

Star Parties, Astronomical Society of Nevada, 2nd Saturday after full moon, Palomino Valley, sundown, info. 825-6833 or 747-5237

Virginia & Truckee Railroad Museum, starting May 28, open 8:30am-4:30pm Fri., Sat., Sun. and major holidays. Steam engines, railroad cars and artifacts from Comstock era. So. Carson St., Carson City

Fort Churchill State Historic Monument, open daily, living history & demonstrations of Army life at the fort in the 1860s, Sat. & Sun., Silver Springs

MAY

The Art of the Children's Book, 4/30-1 workshops and seminars, Center for Religion & Life, Reno, info. 784-4046

Silver State Square Dance Festival, 4/30-2, Coliseum, 10am-11pm Sat. & noon-5pm Sun., Reno

Young Nevada Artists, thru 9, Sierra Nevada Museum of Art, Reno

Renaissance Collector's Cabinet of Art, thru 12, drawings, prints & sculpture, Church Fine Arts, UNR, Reno

"Dial 'M' for Murder," 1 mystery, 8pm, Carson Valley Theatre Co., CVIC Hall, Gardnerville

West

ONGOING EVENTS

Dayton Flea Market, weekends

Nevada State Museum, 8:30-4:30 Wed.-Sun., Carson City

Churchill County Museum, 9-5 Mon.-Sat., Photographs & Memories, Fallon

Lyon County Museum, 10-4 Sat., 1-4 Sun., historic artifacts, Yerington

St. Phillip's Center Gallery, 2-6 Wed.-Mon., art exhibits, Hawthorne

Nevada Artists Assn. Gallery, 10-4 Mon.-Sat., 449 W. King St., Carson City

Nevada Historical Society, 8-5 Mon.-Fri., 9-5 Sat., 12-5 Sun., May exhibition, "Nevada Portraits" by C.V. McClelland, June exhibition, "Desert Photographs," 1650 N. Virginia St., Reno

Stremmel Galleries, 8-6 Mon.-Fri., 9-4 Sun., selected works by George Carlson, Thomas Aquinas Daly, Len Chmell, Chen Chi, Stanley Bliefeld and Bruce Kurland, 1400 So. Virginia St., Reno

Atmospherium-Planetarium, open daily, "Laser Light Show" & "Death of the Dinosaurs," UNR, Reno, show info. 784-4811

Take Me Out to Moana

This summer you can catch Nevada's finest baseball when the Reno Padres, a Class A professional team in the California League, meet opponents at Moana Stadium in Reno. The season opened April 20, and the Padres will be defending the home diamond through August. A farm team for the San Diego Padres, the Reno club is the school for tomorrow's major league stars. Past Reno graduates who have played in the majors include Alan Ashby, Willie Davis, Dennis Eckersley, Jim Kern, John Lowenstein and Dick Tidrow.

Nevada 82, 1-14, photo exhibition, County Library, Lovelock

NRA 2700 Pistol Match, 2, Carson Rifle & Pistol Club, Carson City, info. 882-8711

Masters Cup, 2, ski race, Alpine Meadows, N. Lake Tahoe

For the Love of Jazz Concert, 2, Pioneer Theatre, 3pm, Reno

KNIS Christian Concert, 3, Pioneer Theatre, 8pm, Reno

Reno Padres v. Salinas Spurs, 3-4, Class A pro baseball, 7pm, Moana Stadium, Reno

Chinese Magic Circus of Taiwan, 4, Carson City Community Center, 8pm

Fastcar, 5, auto racing, State Fairgrounds, 7pm-11pm, Reno

Reno Gem & Mineral Society, 5, David Doty to lecture on Nevada reptiles, prevention & treatment of bites with live reptiles on exhibition, 8pm, 480 S. Rock Blvd., Sparks

Reno Padres v. Visalia Oaks, 6-7, Class A pro baseball, 7pm, Moana Stadium, Reno

Arts Festival, 6-8, exhibits, concerts, old movies, shepherd's stew lunch, Old West Traveling Show, 7pm-10pm Thurs., 7pm-9pm Fri., noon-10pm Sat., UNR, Reno

Spring Music Concert, 7, Lake Tahoe Community College, 6:15pm, S. Lake Tahoe

Star Viewing, 7, Atmospherium Planetarium, Reno, info. 784-4812

Reno Home Improvement Show, 7-9, Coliseum, 5pm-10pm Fri., noon-10pm Sat., noon-7pm Sun., Reno

"Blithe Spirit," 7-8, comedy, 8pm, Brewery Arts Center, Carson City

Auction, 8, North Tahoe Fine Arts Council, 8pm, Trading Post Center, Tahoe City

Committee to Aid Abused Women Testimonial Dinner, 8, speakers & dancing, 6pm-11pm, Harrah's Convention Center, Reno

Slots and Whatnots

If you have an immediate consumer need for an ancient slot machine, a Watling Roll-A-Top or an Edison phonograph, you can find these and sundry other antiques at the Victorian Casino Antiques Auction at the Riviera Hotel in Las Vegas. After a preview on April 30, the auction runs May 1 and 2. For more information, call Victorian Casino Antiques at 382-2466.

Virginia City Grand Prix, 8-9, championship dirt bike races each day through the hills around Virginia City, info. 847-0177

UNR v. UC Berkeley, 8-9, baseball, 7pm Sat., noon Sun., Moana Stadium, Reno

Pistol Match, 9, Carson Rifle & Pistol Club, Carson City, info. 882-8711

UNR Choral Concert, 9, Pioneer Theatre, 3pm, Reno

Art Exhibition, 14-6/17, photos by Bob Brown, paintings and sculpture by Trish Andrew, Church Fine Arts, UNR, Reno

"Blithe Spirit," 14-15, comedy, 8pm, Brewery Arts Center, Carson City

Crystal Hill Antique Show, 14-16, Coliseum, 1pm-10pm Fri. & Sat., 1pm-6pm Sun., Reno

Shrine Circus, 14-16, Coliseum, 2pm-8pm Fri. & Sat., 2pm-7pm Sun., Reno

Mark Daily: Recent Work, 14-31, impressionist oils, Stremmel Galleries, Reno

State Championship High School Rodeo, 15-16, State Fairgrounds, 9am, Reno



PAUL FARKAS

Long Ago, in a Galaxy Far Away . . .

Space warriors exploring mysterious planets; aliens relaxing with humans at a starbase; Luke Skywalker scrambling away from an Empire AT-AT; hawk-shaped space fighters attacking a rebel outpost—these scenes introduce art lovers to the world of Paul Farkas, a science fiction illustrator. An exhibition of his exotic projections of the future opens May 30 and continues through June 25 at the Charleston Heights Arts Center in Las Vegas. A reception for Farkas on the 30th begins at 7 p.m. with showings of the films "The Making of Star Wars" and "The Making of the Empire Strikes Back."

Nevada Contemporary, 15-6/27, exhibition of art by Nevadans, Sierra Nevada Museum of Art, Reno

Topaz Sagehens' Rummage Sale, 15-16, park bldg., 9am-3pm, Topaz Ranch Estates, info. 266-3626

Pistol & Rifle Silhouette Matches, 15-16, Stillwater Firearms Assoc., Fallon, info. 423-5243

Hawthorne Armed Forces Day, 15, parade & BBQ, noon, Sierra Way

"Beautiful Hi-ways & Bi-ways of Nevada," 17-28, photo exhibition, noon-4pm, Capitol, Carson City

Two Harp Concert, 18, Brewery Arts Center, 8pm, Carson City

Reno Padres v. Rohnert Park Redwood Pioneers, 18-20, Class A pro baseball, 7pm, Moana Stadium, Reno

Fastcar, 19, auto racing, 7pm-11pm, State Fairgrounds, Reno

Star Viewing, 21, Atmospherium-Planetarium, Reno, info. 784-4812

"Blithe Spirit," 21-22, comedy, 8pm, Brewery Arts Center, Carson City

"The Gazebo," 21-23, Reno Little Theater, 8:30pm Fri. & Sat., 3pm & 7:30pm Sun.

Reno Padres v. Lodi Dodgers, 21-23, Class A pro baseball, 7pm Fri., 1:30pm Sat. & Sun., Moana Stadium, Reno

Battle of the Chambers of Commerce, 22-23, races, contests and sock hop, 10am, Town Park, Fernley, info. 575-4459

Hunter Rifle Match, 23, Carson Rifle & Pistol Club, Carson City, info. 882-8711

Firemen's Ball, 22, steak dinner & dancing, 5:30pm-midnight, Fire House & Town Hall, Gardnerville, info. 782-5220

Stargazing, 22, Ft. Churchill Historic State Monument, dusk-11pm, 8 miles south of Silver Springs on U.S. 95A

Soaring Society of America Region XI Championships, 22-30, glider competitions, banquets & rides, Douglas County Airport, Minden, info. 782-8151

Reno's Finest: A Tour of Historic Homes, 23, Sierra Nevada Museum of Art, 10am-4pm, Reno

Women's Aglow Fellowship, 24, Lion's Clubhouse, Yerington

Nevada 82, 24-6/24, photo exhibition, Washoe County Library, Reno

Fastcar, 26, auto racing, 7pm-11pm, State Fairgrounds, Reno

Stars of Tomorrow, 26-27, dance recital, 8pm, Pioneer Theatre, Reno

"The Gazebo," 27-29, Reno Little Theater, 8:30pm Fri. & Sat., 7:30pm Sun.

"Oh, Calcutta," 28, Broadway musical, 8pm, Pioneer Theatre, Reno

Sierra Morgan Horse Show, 28-30, State Fairgrounds, 8am, Reno

High Power Rifle Match, 29-30, Palomino Valley Gun Club, Reno, info. 323-3950

Italian Festival, 30, Exhibit Hall, 7pm, State Fairgrounds, Reno

Reno Padres v. San Jose Expos, 31-6/1, Class A pro baseball, 6pm on Mon., 7pm on Tues., Moana Stadium, Reno

\$150,000 Sahara Summer Blackjack Classic, 31-6/3, Sahara Tahoe, Stateline

JUNE

Fastcar, 2, auto racing, 7pm-11pm, State Fairgrounds, Reno

Reno Gem & Mineral Society, 2, slides & lecture on jewelry making by Lee Carter, 8pm, 480 So. Rock Blvd., Sparks

Reno Padres v. Lodi Dodgers, 2-4, Class A pro baseball, 7pm, Moana Stadium, Reno

Marjean's Dance Studio, 2-3, dance recital, 8pm, Pioneer Theatre, Reno

Star Viewing, 4, Atmospherium Planetarium, Reno, info. 784-4812

Craft Festival, 4-6, Coliseum, noon-10pm Fri. & Sat., 10am-6pm Sun., Reno

Scout Fair, 5, Exhibit Hall & Pavilion, State Fairgrounds, Reno

(Continued on next page)



JAY ALDRICH

High Water Mark

Firemen aim high during a contest at Carson Valley Days in Gardnerville in June. On May 22, they enjoy drier entertainment at their Firemen's Ball.

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Nevada Ballet Arts, 5, dance recital, 2pm, Pioneer Theater, Reno

Reno Padres v. Modesto Athletics, 5-6, Class A pro baseball, 1:30pm-Sat., 1pm Sun., Moana Stadium, Reno

NRA 2700 Pistol Match, 6, Carson Rifle & Pistol Club, Carson City, info. 882-8711

Nevada Contemporary Music Ensemble, 6, Brewery Arts Center, 2pm, Carson City

Fastcar, 9, auto racing, 7pm-11pm, State Fairgrounds, Reno

Carson Valley Days, 10-13, art show, softball, parade, beard contest, tug-o-war, cart races, townwide celebration in Gardnerville/Minden, info. 782-2172

"Cabaret," 10-12, musical drama, Lake Tahoe Community College, 8pm, S. Lake Tahoe

Designer Showcase, 11-30, exhibition of interior designs, Old Friday Station, Stateline, info. 916-541-8153

Hazen Days, 12-13; Sat.: flea market, street dance, arts & crafts; Sun.: parade, BBQ, piano recital, games, demonstrations, Hazen

Lyon County Riders Horse Show, 13, fairgrounds, Yerington, info. 463-3721

Pistol Match, 13, Carson Rifle & Pistol Club, Carson City, info. 882-8711

Aeroscale '82, 13-19, international radio controlled model airplane championships, Stead Airport, 10 miles north of Reno

Regional Paint Horse Show & Sale, 14, Pavilion, State Fairground, Reno, info. 785-4306

Reno Padres v. Rohnert Park Redwood Pioneers, 15-16, Class A pro baseball, 7pm, Moana Stadium, Reno

Highway 50 Wagon Train, 16, forms in Carson City before leaving for Placerville, info. 885-4637

"Cabaret," 16-19, musical drama, Lake Tahoe Community College, 8pm, S. Lake Tahoe

Harvey's Inn Invitational Coin Show, 16-20, Stateline, info. 558-2411

Reno Padres v. Stockton Ports, 17-18, Class A pro baseball, 7pm, Moana Stadium, Reno

Star Viewing, 18, Atmospherium Planetarium, Reno, info. 784-4812

Rifle Silhouette Match, 18, Palomino Valley Gun Club, Reno, info. 323-3950

Silver State Repertory Theater, 19, dance recital, 8pm, Carson City Community Center, info. 885-0111

Reno Padres v. Fresno Giants, 19-20, Class A pro baseball, 1:30pm Sat., 1pm Sun., Moana Stadium, Reno

Heavy Varmint Rifle Match, 20, Carson Rifle & Pistol Club, Carson City, info. 882-8711

Reno Rodeo, 18-27, Professional Rodeo Cowboys Assoc. championship; 18: carnival & fireworks at dusk; 19: parade downtown 10am; 19-20: Miss Rodeo Nevada & Miss Reno Rodeo contests, mounted drill team competitions; 22-25: rodeo competitions 7:30pm, also at 1:30pm on 26th & 12:30pm on 27th; Wrangler Bluebell Rodeo Clown contests; commercial displays, State Fairgrounds, Reno

Junior National Racquetball Championships, 24-27, Capitol Courts, Carson City, info. 882-9566

Shankers Golf Tournament, 24-27, Cloud's Cal Neva, Crystal Bay, and Incline Championship Golf Course, Incline Village

"Rainmaker," 25-26, theater drama, 8pm, Brewery Arts Center, Carson City

Women's Aglow Fellowship, 26, Lion's Clubhouse, 7:30pm, Yerington

Westamcon, 26-27, philatelic (stamp collecting) exhibition, Pioneer Theatre, Reno

NRA .22 Pistol Silhouette Match, 27, Carson City Rifle & Pistol Club, info. 882-8711

Reno Padres v. Stockton Ports, 30-7/1, Class A pro baseball, 7:30pm, Moana Stadium, Reno

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Where to Go on the Fourth of July

Nevada communities like to celebrate Independence Day as much as any other state's. But in Nevada, you'll find intriguing, unusual events that do not appear on the traditional bill-of-fair: cow-chip flinging contests, Basque dancing, liars' competitions and much more. An outline of 4th of July celebrations in Nevada towns follows. For more information, call area chambers of commerce.—Marie Ramsey

Austin: July 3rd, firemen's dance. July 4th, 10 a.m. parade, foot races, egg and nickel toss, BBQ and motocross races.

Battle Mountain: July 3rd, street dance. July 4th, pancake breakfast, parade, races and games, booths and fireworks.

Boulder City: July 3rd, pancake breakfast, parade, game booths, refreshments, softball games and fireworks.

Caliente: July 3rd, Grand Prix Motorcycle Race and Mini Motocross. July 4th, Firemen's breakfast, parade, kids' games, swimming, softball tournaments, hog wrestling and fireworks.

Carson City: Parade, booths, games, entertainment and fireworks.

Elko: July 3rd, National Basque Festival parade, folk dancing, strength and endurance contests, dance. July 4th, Basque mass, BBQ, breadbaking contests and folk dancing.

Ely: July 3rd, 11 a.m. parade, 6 p.m. BBQ and dance, Murry Summit Campgrounds. July 4th, fireworks display, fairgrounds.

Eureka: 10 a.m. parade, picnic, nickel scramble and egg toss, sack races and beer drinking contest.

Fernley: Parade, kids' games and contests.

Henderson: Fireworks at Morrell Park.

Incline Village: 11th Annual All-Day Picnic at Incline Beach, Kids' games, skydivers, live music, BBQ and fireworks.

Jackpot: Western States Hollering Contest at 2 p.m., Cactus Pete's Casino. Kids' swimming contests, flag raising ceremony and fireworks.

Jarbridge: Kids' games, plus a "raise the roof" dance at the Community Hall.

Las Vegas: Fireworks display, Las Vegas Silver Bowl.

Lovelock: July 3rd, 8 p.m. Lovelock Racing Assn. superstocks and jalopies. July 4th, 12:30 p.m. kids' parade, 1 p.m. adult parade, 1:30 p.m. flag raising, games, booths and flea market in park; races; 6 p.m. Hereford discus fling contest; dusk, fireworks and ground display.

Reno: "Skyfire Festival 1982" at University of Nevada-Reno. Celebrations begin at 4 p.m. with games and live entertainment.

Sparks: Block party on B Street, dancing, BBQ, kids' games.

Tonopah: 10 a.m. kids' parade, 4 p.m. family BBQ at Logan Field, plus fireworks.

Virginia City: Parade plus party at Miner's Park.

Wells: Kids' games, battle of the firemen and fireworks at City Park.

Winnemucca: Games, booths, food and fireworks at the fairgrounds.

Yerington: Motocross races, cow chip throwing, spit off, tug of war, mud wrestling, dunk tank and fireworks. □

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The Liberace Museum is under the auspices of The Liberace Foundation for the Performing and Creative Arts, a non-profit organization which aids deserving, exceptionally talented individuals

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Even Scrooge Hit The Jackpot

See The
Serial Number Update
On Page 16



THE MYSTERIOUS STRANGER

It was just another quiet night in the ghost town of Buckhorn until the young drifter burst through the door.

By Harry E. Webb

The entire populace of Buckhorn, Nevada, was gathered round Judge Van's kitchen table for its evening of pinocle and arguments over the present status of this once roaring mining camp. "She'll come back," said Polish Mike. "She's come back three times and'll do it again! When spring comes those capital fellers will come lookin' for some place to invest their money."

"Yes siree," Bob Jarsen agreed. "Then Van here can be our real judge again and rule the roost."

"By God," Van Laningham said, "I still run things around here, and if you fellows don't believe it just get outta line. We still have a solid jail down the gulch, you know." Good natured banter went on as they plunked down cards and listened to the howl of the wind that whistled down from the crown of the Cortez Range. A blizzard was showing its fury, but that hadn't stopped the nightly gathering of these three men who firmly believed in the resurrection of the old camp.

"Hey," Jarsen exclaimed, "did I hear a banging at the door?" The noise came again, and on opening the door, snow and a stranger were blown in with the blast of air. With the collar of his sheepskin coat around his ears and snow plastered on his whiskers, it was hard to guess his age or looks—but no matter. The welcome mat was always out to strangers in Nevada and doubly so on a night like this.

The stranger had noticed what looked like a barn near Van's light. He was told to put his horse there, as there was a bale of hay, or should be, and then supper

would be fixed for him. Once the door was shut behind him, the three men began speculating as to who he was and what in the first place was he doing way up here?

Bob Jarsen thought he had the right answer. "We all know one of the Baby Face Nelson gang was seen by the Merrill brothers only a few days ago. In fact he barged in on them and they fed him. So "The stranger's return stopped that theory short. But the seed of suspicion was planted even though Judge Van poo-pooed such wild conjecture.

The code of Nevada being against prying into strangers' affairs, the three learned little as their guest appeared careful of what he said. However, as he devoured Van's stew like a starved pup he volunteered a few words. He had been working on the Dean Ranch (only a couple miles from the Merrill brothers' prospect cabin) when he heard his brother had been in a bad wreck, and he was now on his way to Eureka.

As the evening wore on, Jarsen and Mike decided to get to their own quarters before the snow got any deeper. Besides, they couldn't seem to learn anything from the stranger anyway.

Morning dawned clear, and after a fretful night, plagued with a premonition that something at Van's was amiss, Mike hurriedly got into his clothes. At Van's he found the place empty, cold and—worst of all—with bloodstains all over the house. But where was Van's body? Mike went first to the barn and then on to Jarsen's cabin, where he chattered a few garbled words that sent both ploughing through deep snow to the puzzling scene.

"Damn wonder he didn't murder us too," Mike said as they searched for "poor ol' Van." There was no chance to get Van's car through such snow so Mike, being the strongest, volunteered to head for the Winzell Ranch 20 miles down in the valley where there was a phone. "You keep lookin' around," he said to Jarsen, and with two cold biscuits in his pocket he was on his way.

Jarsen was probing a mound near the house when yells jerked his thoughts and eyes elsewhere and Mike hove into view. "Git a crowbar," Mike gasped as he floundered forward. "He locked Van in the jail!" This added to the perplexing problem of blood, but at the jail they found bloodstains all over the lock and door and a raving Judge Van inside.

With the hasp pried off and the irate Judge freed, he gave a generous cussing account of happenings. "I didn't want that jasper sleeping with me so I told him if he didn't mind being in jail he would at least be comfortable there. That was O.K. with him, so while he was digging the wood from under the snow just outside the door, I was trying to light a fire in the stove, as I always kept 'er ready to light in winter years ago. But every time I lit a match the damn wind would bang the door shut, and I was running out of matches. I yelled at that lunkhead to hook the hasp over the staple till I got the fire going, and the damn fool not only done like I told him but he hooked the lock in it and snapped it shut!" The Judge took time to describe "that half-wit "

"Can't see why he left yuh there, unless like we told yuh," Mike put in, "he was the Baby Face fellow. But why all the blood?"

"Because," Judge Van said, "I must have scared the daylight out of him by cussing him and telling him I'd blow his damned head off when I got out. Must have got a bad cut trying to tear that lock off with just his fingers."

Back in Judge Van's kitchen the three were discussing the mysterious event while Van stirred up his "famous" sourdough flapjacks. "I maintain we should get to a phone and get 'em on the trail of that feller," Mike said. At this Judge Van turned on Mike as if he had committed an unforgivable sin.

"Now you fellows listen to me," he roared. "I'm not giving a tinker's damn who he was—even if he was Baby Face himself!" Then he mellowed. "Remember now, keep this under your caps." Raising his right hand, he had them raise theirs and exercised his pseudo office to swear them to secrecy. "If this got out," he warned, "we all might be pegged as damn fools." □

Harry E. Webb, Nevada cowboy and western author, reports that the Judge, Mike and Jarsen finally learned the truth some months later. The mysterious stranger had been Adam Foster, a Dean Ranch cowboy.

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SHOWDOWN AT GREINER'S BEND

(Continued from page 33)

to a 10-hour workday six days a week; install dust and noise monitoring devices; and begin watering down the haul roads in the pit.

To obtain permission to mine Greiner's Bend, Cluck offered a million dollars to the citizens of Storey County. Also, he said, Houston would finance and install a new and better road around the larger pit (the pit would double in size); relocate the homes of historic significance in a museum/park type setting; and finance and promote a Comstock Days celebration to draw more tourists up the easier road to Virginia City. Cluck said Houston would give these items *only* if it could acquire all the properties on Greiner's Bend.

January 21, 1980. Gold and silver both hit the highest price in history. Gold, \$850 per oz., silver, \$48 per oz.

Ten days later, gold closed the month at \$653 per oz. and silver at \$34 per oz. That night, as if in concert with price decline, the north wall of the pit collapsed. About 90 feet of the Ophir Grade road, along with a few pinyon pines and two million tons of earth, sank 30 feet. The water line was unharmed.

While the Storey commissioners appointed a committee to review Houston's million-dollar offer, home owners near the pit were offered high prices for their property. Gordon and Colley looked at the ever-expanding pit and the multi-million dollar corporation. Then they quietly sold out to Houston.

The commissioners, after hearing recommendations from the committee, voted 2-1 in favor of selling Houston the right to move the road, but at a higher price: \$1.3 million plus an annual bullion tax on the ore. The dissenting vote came from Lora Del Carlo, who said, "When Houston is gone, I'll be able to stand on the edge of that pit and say, 'I didn't sell out to Houston.'"

Over the next few months Houston paid more than \$1 million for eight homes on Greiner's Bend. A stipulation was written into each sales contract: the seller could not talk about the deal or give negative press about Houston.

The company settled the pending law suits with Perry and the residents of Gold Hill out of court. It also settled with the Imoors, preventing the eminent domain law from being tested in the Nevada Supreme Court. The total amount Houston paid in settlements was just under \$1 million.

Houston drilled a few core samples on Greiner's Bend, but after watching the further decline of gold and silver prices, the company decided not to mine through upper Gold Hill. The million-dollar deal with the county was canceled.

From then on Houston made an earnest effort to become a good corporate citizen, and public animosity waned. The residents of Storey County, the smallest county in the state, appreciated the two water tanks, the brand new ambulance that the \$15,000 helped buy, and nearly \$200,000 per year in taxes. When the mill opened in May 1980, it created many jobs for locals and a large payroll. Houston also aided Virginia City's public projects with heavy equipment, and even participated in the annual July 4th parade down C Street.

But Houston's initial mining techniques raised some vital questions for the Comstock and Nevada. During the height of the Gold Hill controversy, neighboring Silver City residents drafted and proposed an ordinance which would require mining companies to obtain a special use permit to mine in Lyon County. That permit would be subject to review by residents in the affected area, and a company would be subject to restrictions. The Nevada Mining Association and miners throughout the state fought hard to defeat the ordinance, but Lyon finally passed an amended version.

The eminent domain law was also questioned in the 1980 Nevada Legislature, and Assembly Bill 112 was passed. That law requires mining companies in historic districts to gain approval of the local commissioners before they can condemn property via eminent domain. Some Nevadans had hoped the law would be thrown out altogether, and it may come up for review in 1983.

Now Houston is in the process of closing down the Con-Imperial and selling the mill. The company's operations at Borealis, near Hawthorne, have proven lucrative, and it will concentrate its efforts there. The ore that couldn't be reached in the bottom of the Con-Imperial now lies buried under a layer of backfill. Houston hopes the backfill will help stabilize the roadway on Greiner's Bend.

The homes on the bend, which the company struggled so hard and paid such high prices to get, will be sold. Quiet has returned to Gold Hill, and Gordon and Colley's former wishing well seems safe.

But mining claims still cover the Comstock, and much of Nevada. The price of gold and silver is down now, but who knows? Robert Helmus, assistant treasurer of Handy and Harman, New York-based refiners and buyers of precious metals, says the price of gold can climb \$25 an hour during a great crisis. "If a rocket crosses a border in the Middle East," says Helmus, "the price of gold soars."

Maybe Gordon and Colley's wishing well isn't so safe after all. □

Jim Crandall, Nevada associate editor, covered the Gold Hill controversy as a reporter for the Mason Valley News. He also is the former Comstock bureau chief of the Gold Hill News.

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Liberace: Flash King of the Keyboards

On stage he shows all—his house, his clothes and even his dogs—and how does the audience react? With ecstasy. By Ann Henderson

When Liberace is chauffeured onto the stage in a silver Phantom 5 Rolls-Royce and climbs out wearing a 137-pound, floor-length Norwegian blue shadow fox cape, there's enough oohs and aahs that you know the audience is more accustomed to cotton Levi's than virgin fox.

We're all there at Sahara Tahoe expecting to see a superb musician, some nifty special effects and an incredible fashion show that stirs up feelings of very unchristian envy. And that's what we get.

"Well, look me over," Liberace says as he flashes open the fox cape to show off the jeweled brocade lining. "I didn't get dressed like this to go unnoticed."

Liberace first received attention for his wardrobe when he dressed in white tails instead of the traditional black for a concert at the Hollywood Bowl. Producers were afraid Liberace would blend into the black tuxedos worn by members of the orchestra and couldn't be seen in the huge arena. Pretty ho-hum stuff in terms of today's punk rockers and purple hair, but in 1952 the white tails drew comment, and a gimmick was born.

Since then everything about Liberace's image has exuded opulence, including his private life, which he shares by opening his show with a video tour of his Las Vegas home. The house—actually it's two adjoining houses that Liberace has bought and connected—would bring joy

to the people at Windex. There are mirrors everywhere, and even the pianos reflect exquisite luxury. During the tour of the house, you get to see Mr. Showmanship himself rising from beneath blankets embroidered with piano keys. In the bathroom, water flows from two golden swans to fill a sunken marble tub, and overhead is a mural with

cherubs dancing on piano keys. Then through the stage curtain steps Liberace, and so begins a seemingly endless procession of costumes, cars, pianos and special acts. And lots of smiling.

In many ways it's like an evening of show and tell at a friend's house. Through the entire performance Liberace is the friend—humorous, concerned, self-

Liberace's Las Vegas home isn't a museum; he already has one of those. He says he decorated in mirrors, marble and blue tones to give a cool feeling to the mansion, which is actually two houses he made into one.





When he performs, Mr. Showmanship can't help showing off his million-dollar wardrobe. At home in Vegas he collects pianos like the mirrored grand above. He also has one owned by Chopin, his favorite composer.



The Man Who Came to Decorate

The "For Sale" sign had been up for a month on our house in Las Vegas, and I was bored with keeping the place inspection-clean. My husband and I were moving to Reno, but serious buyers were so rare that I was prepared to wait for months. So when two men knocked on the door and asked to see the house, I was more than willing.

They looked round, got excited and said, "We have to show this one to Lee." They left with a promise that they would be right back. Half an hour later they returned with another man. "I know you," I gasped. He laughed and said, "And now I know you."

And that's when the fun began, thanks to a charming man named Liberace.

Our house was just what Liberace was looking for: half an acre with trees and pool, close to the airport. He planned to lease the house to the managers of his antique business.

As soon as negotiations were completed, Liberace took charge of re-decorating, and he dropped in almost every afternoon for two weeks—sometimes with friends and workmen, other times alone. The first time he came over, I was packing china, surrounded by newspaper and cartons.

He watched awhile and then told me how he packs his candelabra.

"If you go to the back of some stores, they sometimes have those little styrofoam pieces used for packing. And most stores will save them for you," he advised.

I learned not only about packing from Liberace, but decorating as well. One day he rushed in very excited. "Marge, you'll never guess what I found for your bathroom!" That bathroom had driven me up its lavender walls, and I'd long since given up. But not Liberace.

"I found shower curtains, towels, everything with Miss Piggy all over," he said. "And guess what Miss Piggy is wearing—lavender." Then he gave me an important decorating tip. "When you're stuck with something you can't change, don't fight it—just go with it."

Each day with Liberace was a surprise. I wondered what my neighbors thought the afternoon Liberace drove up in the flashy Rolls-Royce he uses on stage. Evidently he had locked himself out of his garage. He was embarrassed that he'd also forgotten his cigarettes, but when I found a few old Salems in a kitchen drawer, he was delighted.

Liberace's friends also were fasci-

nating, particularly Beverly. She had been one of the early Powers models, and her face is familiar to Sunset Boulevard billboard watchers. We sat in the kitchen and chatted over tea while Liberace roamed through the house. I'd never met anyone so glamorous—even down to her cigarette lighter, which played "Smoke Gets In Your Eyes."

She told me Liberace owns 15 dogs, but that morning, when the groomer came around to collect his pets, she could find only 12. Everyone searched an hour for the missing trio, only to find them resting comfortably in bed with Liberace.

One of Liberace's most endearing traits is his sincere interest in people. He loves children, and when he saw photographs of ours, he insisted I tell him about each one. For most people, the name Liberace means glitter and flash. Not for me. I'll always remember a warm, thoughtful, considerate man, and one of the most exciting episodes in my life.—Marge Knorr

Marge Knorr moved with her family last year to Reno from Las Vegas, where she sold real estate. She currently teaches nutrition at Truckee Meadows Community College.

deprecating—who wonders aloud about all the money and goodies that have fallen on his ermine-draped shoulders.

His house and clothes aren't the only possessions Liberace likes to show off. During the show, he will bring down the movie screen for a close-up view of his diamond rings, most of them gifts from employers like Bill Harrah, Barron Hilton and John Ascuaga.

"Diamonds are a girl's best friend," he jokes. "And they're not too bad for a piano player either."

With all the glitter and showbiz trappings, it's possible to lose sight of Liberace the musician, a child prodigy and protege of the famed Paderewski. But you remember why you're in the Sahara Tahoe showroom when Liberace's piano actually bounces during Gershwin's "I've Got Rhythm." He plays them all: Eddy Duchin, a little boogie woogie, or "Beer Barrel Polka."

Liberace's favorite composer is Chopin, and when he says, "I love to play that kind of music," you believe him and wish for an evening in black tails devoted to the classics.

But that's fantasy. So when he sits down at his ornate, purple piano dressed in a purple Czar outfit detailed in 24-karat gold braid, it's easy to enjoy Liberace the entertainer as he swings into a medley of Strauss waltzes.

Besides, it's fun. □

Ann Henderson, entertainment editor of Nevada Magazine, claims no ermine and pearls.

Shows & Stars

Following is a muster of the stars, revues and extravaganzas you can see in Nevada showrooms in May and June. Schedules can change, so it's wise to call ahead for times, dates and reservations. For out-of-state callers, Nevada's area code is 702.

Las Vegas

Aladdin, 736-0111: C'est Magnifique, indf.

Barbary Coast, 737-7111: Royal Dixie Jazz Band, indf.; Irish Showband, thru 5/26; no minimum

Caesars Palace, 731-7333: Diana Ross, thru 5/5; Sammy Davis, Jr., 5/6-19; Willie Nelson, 5/20-26; Frank Sinatra, 5/27-6/2; Ann-Margret, 6/3-16

Circus Circus, 734-0410: Circus acts, 11am-midnight, free

Desert Inn, 733-4444: "The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas," Broadway musical, indf., 8pm & midnight, drinks only, \$25

Dunes, 737-4110: *Casino Theatre*: headline entertainment. *Top of the Dunes*: continuous entertainment

Flamingo Hilton, 733-3333: City Lites, revue, indf.; 8pm dinner show from \$14.50; midnight cocktail show \$10.95

Four Queens, 385-4011: The Goofers, 5/1-30; Geri & Cathy, 5/31-6/27: 10pm-2am; Toot Suite/Bourbon Street Parade, indf.; 1pm-10pm

Frontier, 734-0240: Siegfried and Roy in Beyond Belief, revue, thru 5/2 & 6/1-indf.; 7pm & 11pm Sun. & Tues.-Thurs., 6pm, 9:15pm & 12:15am Fri. & Sat., \$22.50. Shecky Greene and Tammy Wynette, 5/3-20; David Brenner and Joan Rivers, 5/21-31

Hacienda, 739-8911: Fire & Ice, ice spectacular, indf.; 8pm dinner show \$16.95, midnight cocktail show \$10.95

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

Imperial Palace, 731-3311: Bravo Vegas '82, revue, indf., 8pm & 11pm, \$15. *Geisha Lounge*: continuous entertainment 4pm-4am

Landmark, 733-1110: Nightly entertainment

Las Vegas Hilton, 732-5111: Rainbow Dancers, revue, indf.; Tony Orlando/David Copperfield, thru 5/3; Neil Sedaka, 5/4-10; Engelbert, 5/11-24; Bill Cosby, 5/25-6/14. Dinner show 8pm from \$18.50; cocktail show midnight from \$15.50. *Casino Lounge*: continuous entertainment and dancing 8pm-4am

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

MGM Grand Hotel, 739-4567: Jubilee! 8:15pm & 11:45pm Sun.-Fri.; 6:30pm, 10pm & 12:30am Sat.; \$22.50

Marina, 739-1500: *Mirage Showroom*: "Bloopers," starring Fay McKay, indf., 8pm & 10pm, Tues.-Sun.; \$5.95, drinks not included. *Casino Lounge*: Billy Ledbetter, Tues.-Sun., 2 drink minimum

Maxim, 731-4300: *Cabaret Showroom*: Olde Tyme Burlesque, indf.; 8pm, 10:15pm & 12:30am Tues.-Sun., \$9.75 includes 2 drinks. *Cloud Nine Lounge*: continuous entertainment

Riviera, 734-5110: Bob Newhart, thru 5/5; Paul Anka, 5/5-19; Charo/Alan King, 5/20-6/2; Buddy Hackett/Abbe Lane, 6/3-9; Anne Murray/Larry Gatlin & Gatlin Bros. Band, 6/10-23



Canadian singer Anne Murray sings her popular hits at the Riviera June 10-23.



Showing up is easy to do when Neil Sedaka plays the Las Vegas Hilton May 4-10.

Royal Las Vegas, 735-6117: Rare & Bare Burlesque, indf.; 8pm, 10pm & midnight, \$9.95

Sahara, 737-2111: Burlesque Scandals, revue, thru 5/23, Tues.-Sun.

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

Sands, 733-5000: Continuous entertainment

Showboat, 385-9123: Entertainment and dancing nightly

Silver Slipper 734-1212: Boy-Lesque, revue, indf.; 8pm, 10pm & midnight Fri.-Wed., dark Thurs.; \$4.95. Branded, revue, indf.; 9pm, 11pm Thurs.-Tues., also, 7pm Fri. & Sat.; dark Wed.; \$4.95

Stardust, 732-6325: Lido de Paris '82, revue, indf.; 7pm & 11pm Sun.-Thurs., 6:15pm, 9:15pm & 12:15am Sat., \$17.50

Sundance Hotel, 382-6111: Jesus Gomez, 7pm-1am, Tues.-Sat.

Treasury, 739-1000: Horsin' Around, revue, indf., 8pm, 11pm, Sun.-Thurs.; 8pm, 10pm & midnight Fri. & Sat., \$6.95 includes 2 drinks

Tropicana, 739-2411: Folies Bergere '82; 8pm dinner show from \$21 midnight cocktail show from \$15.95. *Fountain Room*: Trop Comedy Workshop, 9pm-midnight Mon.

Union Plaza, 386-2444: "I Love My Wife," Broadway musical, thru 6/15; 8pm dinner show from \$9.95, 11:30pm cocktail show \$5.95, Tues.-Sun. The Mickey Finn Show, indf., 2pm & 4pm Mon.-Sat.

Lake Tahoe

Caesars Tahoe, 588-3515: Nightly lounge entertainment

Cloud's Cal-Neva Hotel, 832-4000: Cedro Willie Band, thru 5/9; Elmo and Patsy, 5/11-23; Coasters, 5/25-6/20; Jack Ross & Ray Paul, 6/21-7/4

Harrah's Lake Tahoe, 588-6611: *South Shore Room*: Loretta Lynn, thru 5/6; Tony Orlando/Joan Rivers, 5/7-20; Lou Rawls/ Natalie Cole, 5/21-6/3; Willie Nelson & Family, 6/11-24; Crystal Gayle, 6/25-7/1. *Stateline Cabaret*: Platters, thru 5/9; TBA, 5/10-6/13; Tavares, 6/14-20; B.B. King, 6/21-27

Harvey's, 588-2411: Tony Austin & Co./Tennyson, 6/14-27; Williams and Ree, 6/15-7/1

Hyatt Lake Tahoe, 831-1111: Nightly entertainment

Sahara Tahoe, 588-6211: Liberace, 5/27-6/9; Pablo Cruise, 6/10-16; Doug Henning 6/24-7/7

Casino Notes

- You have until August 1 to see "Bal du Moulin Rouge" at the **Reno Hilton** (nee Sahara Reno). The revue moves its can-can south and re-opens September 1 at the **Las Vegas Hilton**.

- The **Silverbird** (nee Thunderbird) on the Las Vegas Strip reopens this summer with a \$15 million facelift and a new name that's familiar to gambling history buffs—the **El Rancho**. With its bungalow guest rooms, the El Rancho Vegas was the first hotel on the Strip. The casino was not rebuilt after being destroyed by a fire in 1960. The old location across from the **Sahara** remains one of the most valuable vacant lots in town.

- Don't talk back when the new talking video poker machines wish you "Good Luck" or remind you what cards are showing. Inventor **Dean Brezack** of Reno says the talkies have an 82-word vocabulary and should speed up play and help keep players from making errors. What's next? Baccarat, keno and blackjack machines could follow soon if gamblers like the yakity yak.

- There's a new game being played, too, at **Sam's Town** in Vegas called "Pell," which is as speedy as craps, uses card combinations like blackjack and has the multiple payoffs used in roulette.

- If you've always wanted to see what a high-roller looks like, check out the \$100 slot machine at the **Tropicana** in Las Vegas. Players will be wagering one-hundred-dollar bills a pull on the specially designed machine. Impressive stuff for us nickel players.

- It'll be a special anniversary July 25-30 when the Biggest Little City in the World hosts the annual convention of **Little People of America**. It was 25 years ago in Reno that actor **Billy Barty** met with a handful of friends to form the self-help and social organization for dwarfs and midgets. This summer more than 1,000 Little People are expected at **Harrah's Reno** for the convention.

—Ann Henderson

Willie Nelson plays his famous brand of country at **Caesars Palace** May 20-26 and **Harrah's Tahoe** June 11-24.



Joan Rivers brings her wit to **Harrah's Tahoe** May 7-30 and the **Frontier** May 21-31.

Reno, Sparks & Carson City

Carson City Nugget, 882-1626: Jaguars, thru 5/31; Jerry Sun 6/1-8/1

Circus Circus, 329-0711: Circus acts, 11am-midnight, free

Eldorado, 786-5700: *Mezzanine*: Richard & Mary, thru 5/9; Ricky Santos, 5/11-6/6. *Casino Lounge*: Sun, Shade N'Rain, thru 5/2; Premium Stuff, 5/11-6/6; Goofers, 6/1-27; Freddy Powers, 6/2-7/8

Fitzgerald's, 786-3663: *Cabaret*: No Doubt About It, thru 5/16; Chris David, 5/17-6/6; Hot Lava, 6/8-27. *Emerald Room*: Ron Rose & Co., thru 5/2; Esquires, 5/14-23; Kirk Bates, 5/25-6/13; Dan Miller 6/15-7/1

Harrah's Reno, 329-4422: *Headliner Room*: Hot Ice, thru 5/7; Bill Cosby/Clint Holmes, 5/8-12; Captain & Tennille, 5/20-26; Debbie Reynolds, 5/27-6/9; Mickey Gilley & Johnny Lee, 6/10-23; Bill Cosby, 6/24-7/7. *Convention Center*: Charlie Daniels Band, 5/13-19. *Casino Cabaret*: Tavares, 6/1-13; B.B. King, 6/15-20; Billy Preston, 6/22-7/4

Mapes, 323-1611: Nightly entertainment

MGM Grand Hotel, 789-2000 (800-648-3568 toll free CA, AZ, OR, ID, UT): *Ziegfeld Theatre*: Hello Hollywood Hello, indt. *Lion's Den*: Shauntel/SuperGold, thru 5/25; Gary & Sandy with Common Ground/Dondino, 5/26-6/22; Pat Collins/Vince Cardell, 6/23-7/20. *Leo's Lair*: Fortune, thru 5/11; Garlin Gathering/Henry Shed, 5/12-6/1

John Ascuaga's Nugget, Sparks, 358-2233: *Casino Cabaret*: Mugglestons/Kelly & the Kid, thru 5/2; Diamonds/Jan Tanner, 5/4-16; Zella Lehr, 5/18-31; Lelands/Tennyson, 6/1-13; The Cates/Brower Brothers, 6/15-27

Onslow, 786-7310: Nightly entertainment

Ormsby House, Carson City, 882-1890: *Mark Twain Bar*: Links, thru 5/2; Esquires, 5/3-23. *Supper Club*: Gary Xavier, thru 5/2; Two of Clubs, 5/4-16 & 5/31-6/20; Denny Mahn, 5/17-30 & 6/21-7/11

Reno Hilton, 322-1111 *Opera House Theatre*: Bal du Moulin Rouge, revue; 8pm dinner show from \$12.50; 11:30pm cocktail show \$10 in-

cludes 2 drinks; dark Mon. *Gilded Cage Cabaret*: Gauchos & Girls, indt.

Riverside, 786-4400: Dancing to the records of the 40s, 50s, and 60s, Tues.-Sun., no minimum

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 Horse-shu Casino, 755-2331

Laughlin: Riverside Resort, 298-2535; Del Webb's Nevada Club, 298-2512; Regency Casino, 290-2439; Edgewater Hotel & Casino, 298-2453; The Colorado Belle, 298-2425

Tonopah: Mizpah Hotel, 482-6202

Topaz Lake: Li Brandt's, 266-3321, and Topaz Lodge, 266-3339

Wendover: Stateline Casino, 668-2221

Winnemucca: Star Hotel & Casino and Winners Inn, 623-2511

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

All dates, performers and prices are subject to change. At press time, many casinos had not completed May/June bookings, so we recommend calling ahead to confirm entertainment schedules. □

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JOHNNY SKAE'S FISH FRY

One summer's day a century ago mining man Johnny Skae invited his Comstock friends to join him in a little fishing and fellowship. It was a whale of a party. By David W. Toll

On the last Sunday in August, a little more than a century ago, a Virginia City mining speculator and capital fellow named Johnny Skae threw a party for his friends.

Johnny Skae (pronounce it sky) was also a director of the Virginia & Gold Hill Water Company, in whose Five Mile Reservoir some 15,000 New Hampshire brook trout fingerlings had been planted a year and a half before. Informed that the reservoir was thick with pan-sized brookies, and encouraged by signs of imminent bonanza on the 1,200 level of the Sierra Nevada Mine, Johnny invited a few hundred of his closest friends to a fish fry.

Johnny's friends were the Comstock's leading men in politics, mining, finance, commerce, law, saloonkeeping and the press, movers and shakers of the first through fourth degrees. They began to arrive at the reservoir at ten o'clock on that gorgeous summer morning, drawn along in a grand parade of gleaming rigs and trotting teams.

Johnny greeted each arriving guest with a glass of champagne, a fishing rod and a place to stand on the shore of the reservoir. By noon 30 or 40 Comstock millionaires and their accomplices were clustered on the shore within hailing distance of the bar, coats off, shirtsleeves rolled up, thrashing the water to a froth with their lines. Dozens more surrounded the bar and mingled together up and down the shore. Superintendents of the Comstock's richest mines swapped jokes with the future governors of Nevada and Arizona. After a while superintendent W.H. Patton of the Ophir Mine found a rowboat kept by the water company and recruited a crew. Thus two mine superin-

tendents, the Virginia City manager of Western Union, a leading lawyer, a Gold Hill saloonkeeper and gambler, and Rollin Daggett of the *Territorial Enterprise* loaded the craft with champagne and launched themselves out into the little

“

The six men loaded the craft with champagne and launched themselves out into the lake singing 'Life on the Ocean Wave' at the tops of their lungs.

”

lake singing "Life on the Ocean Wave" at the tops of their lungs.

While superintendent Patton rowed his overloaded craft in eccentric circles, old William Mooney, the Virginia City stablekeeper, hauled in a trout about the size of his finger with such force that he broke his rod, and George Roberts of San Francisco snagged a trout by the belly, lost it, and foundered in after it with a great plunging splash.

Despite these minor mishaps, the fishermen made great slaughter of the fish and the champagne. Trout were yanked out of the water and flew like glittering birds over the heads of the mob. They were taken without delay to the little structure where Mr. Chadwick of the International Hotel had established

himself, his boss cook with two assistants (one gutting, one frying) and two bartenders popping champagne corks and pouring whiskey. The sizzle of the pans, the pop of the corks, the triumphant yells of the fishermen—everything combined with the warm babble of conversation to create a hubbub of pure enjoyment on the brush-tufted mountainside.

A new crew took over the boat, and Archie McConnell fell into the lake, and toward the middle of the afternoon Johnny Skae called in the fishing rods and opened the formalities of the day with the first speech. "Go in, boys," he cried, "and have a good time!" After the cheers subsided, he added, "Let's all take a drink!"

This effort was greeted with even greater enthusiasm, and one after another orators held forth to cheers and applause. Frank Tritle spoke. Philip Deidesheimer spoke, and made a joke about the pond outside being a "true fisher" vein. Colonel Bob Taylor spoke and sang songs. Toasts were proposed, puns perpetrated and melodies unleashed until, as Daggett reported in the *Enterprise*, "all distinguishable sounds were lost in the popping of the champagne corks and the attempts of everybody to speak and sing at once."

Even in August the sun drifts early behind the summit above the reservoir. Its shadow crept across the water and down the soft, steep slopes of the mountain, and the partyers slowly began to depart. Johnny Skae poured each guest "just one more before you go," and Captain Overton of the water company poked a cigar into each departing mouth.

The buggies and teams made another fine procession as they clattered off toward home. Hank Smith, superintendent of the Belcher Mine in Gold Hill, lost control of his team and smashed his buggy to kindling. Captain Lord's buggy lost a rear wheel and generally came unglued, with the gallant Captain dragged a hundred feet before he could bring his horses to a stop.

My great-grandfather was a guest at the party, and he cherished the memory of it until he died. "Aii was merry as a marriage bell," he wrote more than 60 years later. "Who can describe it? Certainly I cannot—and if I cannot, I'm sure nobody else can, for I believe I am now the only survivor of that remarkable episode."

The fun, good fellowship and human happiness the day inspired are timeless and universal. It was a wonderful moment, and in the hundred years since, Nevada has yet to see another party quite like Johnny Skae's fish fry. □

David W. Toll of Gold Hill is the author of The Compleat Nevada Traveler, former publisher and editor of the Gold Hill News and a long-time contributor to Nevada Magazine. He's sorry he missed Johnny Skae's party.

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