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NEVADA

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October 1982 \$1.50

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NEVADA MAGAZINE

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Caesars Palace Grand Prix, by Trackside Photo (crowd) and Caroline J. Hadley (car).



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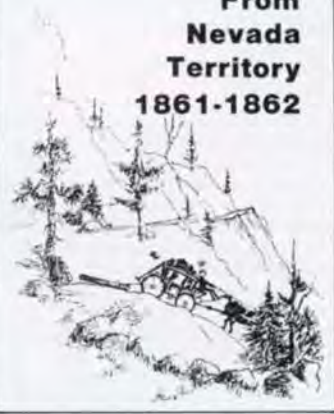
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**Letters
From
Nevada
Territory
1861-1862**



Letters

Sears Saw Bucks & the Goat

First off I was born in McGill February 8, 1923. Lived here all my life except for military service and I sure plan to be buried here.

I have taken Nevada Magazines that go back into the '40s. They are taken care of like the family Bible or the Sears Saw Bucks Catalog. But the Nevada Magazines don't go to the outhouse. To discontinue the Nevada Magazine (Editorial, July/August '82) is like your favorite horse falling over dead, or losing your wife. Senator Lamb says we can get along without the magazine. We'll just as well give up the state flag, plus the legislature then.

Also why pick on Caroline J. Hadley? Must be because somebody has to be the goat. I don't personally know her either. If a mistake was made over the gaming issue, is somebody supposed to go to jail over it, or throw the magazine out the back door?

Well, I for one want the magazine continued. I live on a pension and will support you as much as possible. You are one hundred percent with me. Just continue to keep up the good work. I also state it takes people like Sidney and Vera Stern to show people what a true Nevadan should be. These people help to make it a state to be proud of.

(Pat) Robert N. Collins
Yerington, NV

Nevada Magazine, often dog-eared, much thumbed and battered, has tracked me from Taiwan to Tokyo—and to several places I can't even spell. Can you imagine the mind-boggling cultural whammy of reading about Pioche while curing your bod in a hot tub in Tokyo? Your fine writers/photographers brought the sagebrush back.

It's a beautiful book.

Chuck Dromiack,
Reno, NV

I am an ex-subscriber. Do us all a favor and fold.

(Unsigned)
Las Vegas, NV

Less History

What your magazine needs is a lot of beautiful pictures like Arizona Highways. We can read about the state history at the library.

George Cotter
Las Vegas, NV

Perfect Mix

I'm enclosing a renewal order six months early to show my support for the exciting magazine that you folks put out. As I read each issue I become increasingly proud that I chose Nevada for the incorporation of my business. I believe your subject mix is

perfect. Don't concern yourselves over the crackpots who constantly complain. You will never satisfy them all!

David B. Gere
Honolulu, HI.

I subscribed to your magazine a month ago and although I haven't received any issues yet, I did receive the special issue, 50 Years of Gaming.

After reading it from cover to cover I felt it must have been a labor of love by a great many people. Because the articles were so diversified I find it one of the most interesting publications I have ever read.

I had toyed with spending September in Iowa visiting relatives, but the magazine so regenerated interest in Nevada that we are going to spend several weeks in Nevada instead. And anyway, I like your climate better.

Thanks for a beautiful job.

Harold B. Schneider
Seattle, WA.

Secret Chokes

Enjoyed Christine Cendagorta's article, "The Nevada Forager" (May/June '82), but don't understand why the chokecherry was not mentioned. Certainly any native or near-native Nevadan that I ever knew would concur that the chokecherry is second only to the pine nut as the number one Nevada natural food. And you didn't even have them in the "top seven." There is no better jelly or syrup, and the choke wine is superior to that of the elderberry. On second thought, maybe it is better that the chokes weren't mentioned; then there will be more left for me.

Jerry D. Reynolds
Elko, NV.

The Editorial "Speaking of Wilderness" by Roger Smith in your May/June '82 issue provides a realistic and balanced perspective on the subject. It should encourage your readers to develop attitudes and participate in the public process of determining which BLM wilderness study areas in Nevada, if any, should be included in the national wilderness preservation system. The entire issue is most enjoyable reading.

Edward F. Spang, State Director
Bureau of Land Management, Reno, NV

Lizotte a Lolapalooza

Just finished reading Nevada and from cover to cover want to say July/August is a lolapalooza from index to Page 96. Come to think about it, the last story was one of the reasons for writing. "Undercover Conventioneer" by Ken Lizotte is the funniest story I ever read and is proof that in truth there is

(Continued on page 34)

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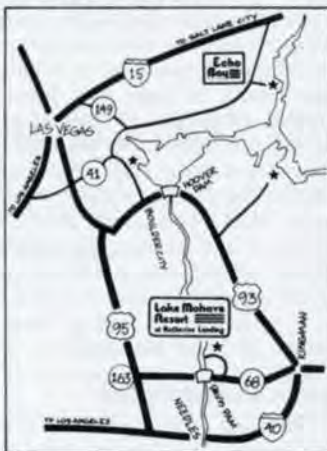
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Roadside Attractions

Unlikely diversions for the Nevada wanderer this fall.

Biggest Little River in the World: About 10 miles west of Austin on U.S. 50 a bridge crosses a wet creekbed—sometimes there is a tunnel of water—and a sign calls it the Reese River. Look upon this mighty inland waterway closely, for steamboats and freight barges were once reported to have navigated it. In the mid-1860s a few Austin residents dreamed up the Reese River Navigation Company and sent out advertisements picturing boats and barges. Company officials were selling stock happily until an investor came west to look over the river. He found a stream so small he almost overlooked it. He reported what he found, and soon the Reese River Navigation Company evaporated. Its officers were never heard from again.

Tarantula Migration: For about two weeks each fall, locals and tourists in the Virginia City area delight in the spectacle of the annual tarantula migration. The furry quadrupeds can be seen picking their way across Nevada Route 341 just off U.S. 50 east of Carson City. Scientists are puzzled at why the tarantulas cross the road each year. One popular theory: to get to the other side.

Fall in the Springs: When autumn comes to Vegas, you can climb 5,000 feet above the desert and find a beautiful display of fall color in the Spring Mountains, 45 miles north of town. Watch for the aspens that cluster in the canyons. Their leaves turn a shimmering gold—a sharp contrast to the range's evergreen forests. You can take a one-hour Mt. Charleston motor tour that heads up Kyle Canyon, across Deer Creek Road and back down Lee Canyon to U.S. 95. Brochures are available at the U.S. Forest Service Ranger Station in Kyle Canyon, and there's a recorded update (702-385-6254) that provides fall color alerts.

Caution—Low Flying Aircraft: If you're motoring between Fallon and Austin and your peaceful musings are disturbed by a jet squadron roaring so close overhead you can count the rivets, don't be alarmed—you're in Frenchman, Nevada. Frenchman, which consists of a bar, motel and gas pump, sits in the middle of a jet testing range. Lieutenant Commander Hicks of the Fallon Naval Air Station says his outfit tests everything that flies. "Right now we're testing the A/F-18 Hornet," Hicks says. "It's the newest in the line of superjets. It can outfly any MIG on the market." The aircraft can be seen shaving the sagebrush daily from the Frenchman bar. Ear muffs and straight whiskey are recommended. □

Readers are invited to send in the facts on their favorite roadside wonders. Write to: Roadside Attractions, Nevada Magazine, Capitol Complex, Carson City, NV, 89710. Please include your name, address and phone number.

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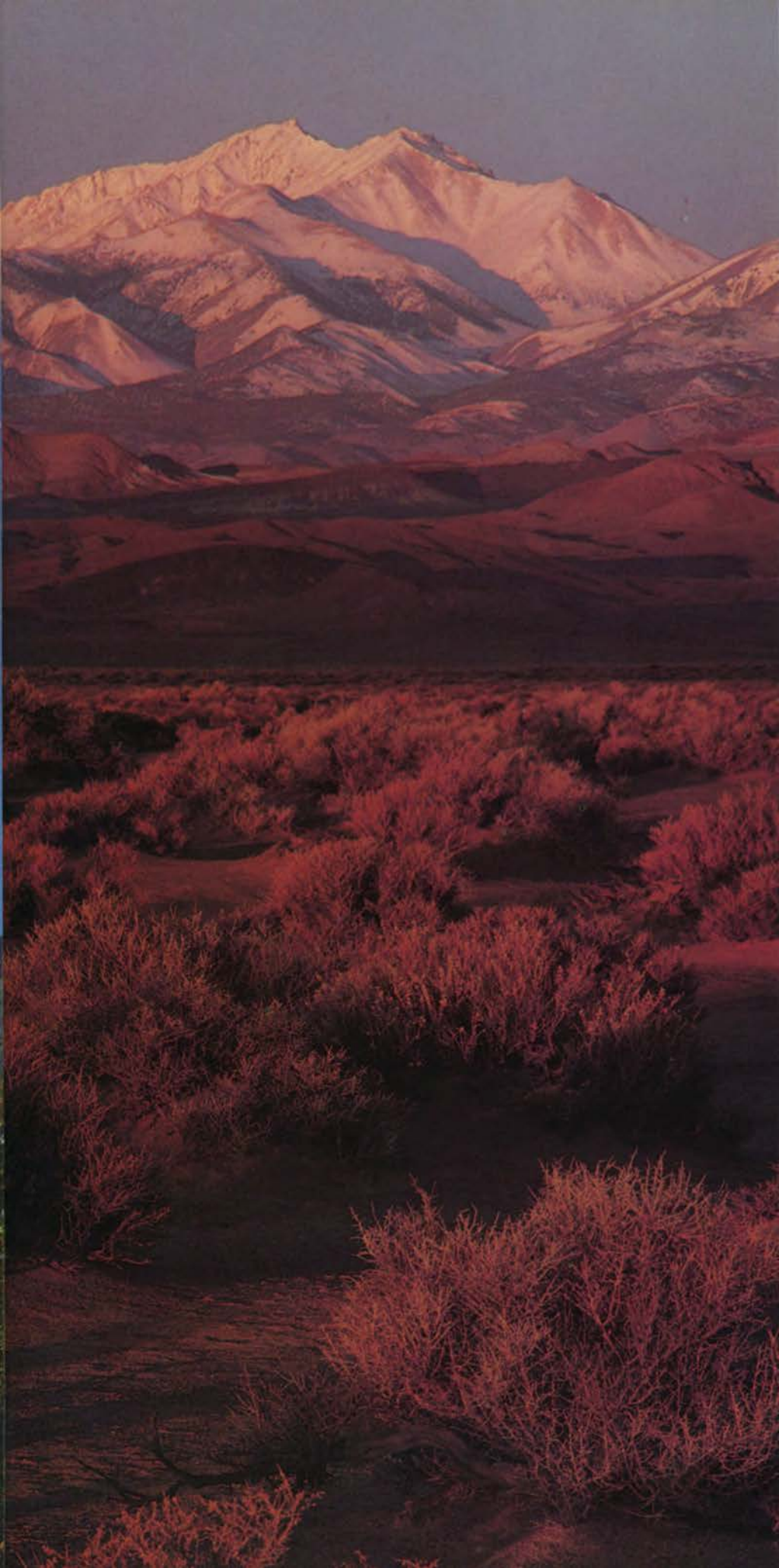
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Muench's Gallery

Sagebrush plains to foothills to snow-sugared ridges—a triple play combination that is common in the Great Basin. But David Muench's view holds an uncommon moment in a special area. It is a late fall sunrise, and a first snow lies lightly on Nevada's highest mountain, 13,140-foot Boundary Peak, as seen from Columbus Salt Marsh near the Nevada-California border in Esmeralda County.

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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The Senator and the Cowboy

Love him or leave him, you had to admire the way Pat McCarran got things done. By Harry E. Webb

Memories of Pat McCarran, our great U.S. Senator, come back to me after reading Guy Shipler's fine article on him in the January/February issue.

My first meeting with Pat McCarran was in the late thirties in Elko, and from the second moment he disliked me and I didn't exactly love him. This semi-hatred had come about through a mere joke. I had known for a month that a mining company had spent oodles of money on buildings, ore bunker and tramway, intending to mine barium on my property, but the ore was so low-grade they were welcome to it. Then one day old Jack Churchfield, in company with C.B. Sexton (of the Eureka and Palisade Railroad) and the mining company boss, said to me, "You're a fine one! Let these fellows locate a mine right in your back yard!"

"No surprise to me, Jack," I said as a joke. "When they get the money rolling in, I'll

come in for the lion's share."

A week later we had a visit from Pat McCarran and learned that he and C.B. Sexton also were in the mining company. After introductions, Pat said in his suave manner, "Mr. Webb, I presume you know you have no mineral rights to that land you are buying from the Southern Pacific. But rather than have hard feelings over the mining there on Pine Mountain, I have drawn a contract for you to sign giving your permission for our mining to proceed, and the company, just to show good faith, will give you one percent of the net profit." That was O.K. by the Webbs, and we signed Pat's wordy contract after a few threats and tears on his part.

So far so good, but shortly after that we had a visit from a surveyor and the Southern Pacific land agent. We were apprised that we had violated the terms of our contract by permitting mining on the land before we had fully paid for it, and

Constituents came first with McCarran, U.S. Senator from 1933 to 1954. He found people jobs and remembered his friends with a signed photo at Christmas.



NEVADA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

unless the unpaid balance was in their office by one minute past a fast coming date, they would take possession of the land without due process of law.

The sections of S.P. land we were buying were two-thirds paid for, but more than \$3,000 was still due. I had applied for a loan from a Berkeley, California, bank to get from under the ungodly high S.P. interest. One day I was haunting the Palisade post office to see if my loan had been approved when Sexton waved and motioned to me to come over.

This was odd because he, McCarran and the others had given me the cold shoulder and the dog eye since the S.P. official had put the quitters on the mining project. One stockholder, seeing litigation in the wind, had grabbed the last \$7,000 in the fund and left for parts unknown. So I couldn't blame Sexton, Pat and all concerned for hating me. That friendly wave of Sexton's had me stumped.

"Harry," he said, "I was sorry to learn of all the trouble that mining venture of ours has caused you, and I hear the S.P. is liable to take all that land from you. How much money do you need?" I told him and got a second surprise. "I haven't near that amount myself," he went on, "but fortunately I haven't sent in the Eureka-Nevada receipts yet, and with that you could beat the payment deadline. I know the S.P. company well, and anyone with one of their contracts had better hew to the line. So if your loan doesn't come through by tomorrow, you'd better take this money and wire it to them." I was too overcome with appreciation to do more than mumble, "Thanks, C.B.," and go back to the post office for the evening mail.

I thought, "How can anyone hold a grudge against a man big enough to humble himself into offering his and the company's last cent after being so bitter at me for killing their mining project?" I was glad a near-lost friendship had been salvaged by this unlooked-for generosity, although the loan came through in time and C.B.'s offer wasn't needed.

As for Pat McCarran, he was far away. But if he still held me responsible for the grand bust-up, he slyly covered it up by sending a huge photo of himself every Christmas, inscribing it to "Mr. and Mrs. Webb, with sincere good wishes, Pat McCarran."

We prized those photos of the handsome senator. One day a woman and her daughter, whom we had met in Elko, drove out to our ranch. On seeing Pat's picture, the woman said, "Oh, my! If you're a friend of Senator McCarran, perhaps you could help Ruth get a position in the Taylor Grazing Office in the new post office building. Ruth has an excellent recommendation from the New York law firm where she worked, but on account of being an outsider they won't hire her."

Even though I was dubious of success, the next day I sent a letter to McCarran giving Ruth Huke's qualifications. But four days later Nat Hawkins brought me a telegram: "Have instructed Miss Huke by wire if she doesn't hear from me within a week to jog my memory, Pat."

(Continued on next page)

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Firestone Tarp Mfg. will send any of the above boat size tarpaulins to any reader of this publication who reads and responds to this test before midnight Oct. 17. Each tarpaulin Lot (#Z-18, PVC) is constructed of high density fabric (with virgin grade ingredients, supplied by Gulf Oil Co., Dow Chemical Co., and Union Oil Co.) with nylon reinforced rope hems, double lock stitched hems, electronically welded seams, 100% water proof, #4 (1/2" dia.) metal grommets set on 3 ft. centers with reinforced triangular corner patches and are recommended for all heavy duty use, all yachts and sailboats, and all bulk or pallet riding materials, and will be accompanied with a LIFETIME guarantee that it must perform 100% or it will be replaced free. Add \$7 handling & crating for each tarp ordered. Firestone Tarp Mfg. pays all shipping. Should you wish to return your tarpaulins you may do so for a full refund. Any letter postmarked later than Oct. 17, will be returned. LIMIT: Fifty (50) tarps per address, no exceptions. Send appropriate sum together with your name & address to: Tarp Test Dept. #920B, Firestone Tarp Mfg., Inc., 6314 Santa Monica Blvd., L.A., CA., 90038, or for fastest service from any part of the country call collect, before midnight 7 days a week (213) 462-1914 (Ask Operator for) TARP TEST #920B, have credit card ready.

A few days later we were in Elko and met a second surprise. Ruth and her mother were busy packing and had us read McCarran's letter of instructions. Pat had been in contact with the personnel department at the naval base in Hawthorne, and Ruth was to report there as soon as possible, assigned special duties at—to us all—an astronomical figure. It was hard to believe any senator would take time out from a busy schedule to go to so much trouble for a non-constituent.

At Christmastime I butchered our one pig saved for that date and on going to Palisade took a few choice chops to C.B. At my knocks I got a cheery "Come in." I opened the door and a sight met my eyes that a McCarran cartoonist would have revealed in. There, his back to me, stood Pat busily stirring something in an iron kettle. A ragged robe, the belt dragging the floor, and an old pair of house slippers with the counters flattened down appeared to be his only dress. And here it was noon! What a ludicrous contrast to the impeccably sartorial Pat McCarran looming in nearly every newspaper we picked up! Turning, he said, "Glad to see you, Harry. Charles will be in in a few minutes, so you're just in time for my special soup." I was in the act of telling him I was glad to see him back in God's country when C.B. came in with a friendly greeting. Pointing with the ladle, Pat said, "Look what our friend fetched in. We'll have those for supper." I thanked Pat for his "wonderful help" in placing our friend in such a good position, which he waved aside with, "No effort at all. Glad to be of any help."

As we were having our fill of Pat's famous vegetable soup, he said, "Before it slips my mind, Harry, if there's any job you'd like in this rotten Taylor Grazing Act program, just shoot me a wire." At this C.B. explained that I had hardly gone to school but a year or so.

"All the better," Pat said. "He can at least count cattle and read a brand, so no problem there. We'll create a special commission to suit his needs, and he'll be our stock inspector." I was fast learning political chicanery and said, "If that Taylor Grazing Act is as rotten as you and all ranchers know it is, why did you vote for it?"

"Had to," he replied, "in order to get an important bill of my own through. 'Swapping votes' we call it. So if any job appeals to you, remember to shoot me a wire, will you?" I was interested in none but the job I had, that of looking after my ranch and cattle, but on my way home my thoughts turned back to the day when he had used every nuance of emotion at his polished command to browbeat me into signing a contract that could have ruined us. Now he was ready to go to bat for me if I asked for the moon. That was Pat McCarran for you, and we loved him for whatever he chose to be. □

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

Con and Culture in Death Valley

You have to have imagination and grit to make a name for yourself in Death Valley. Those qualities stood out in Walter Scott, who found fame and sometimes fortune, and in Tom Williams and Marta Becket, who have created an oasis of culture in the desert. By Jason Rubinsteen

Scotty: The Con Man and His 'Mine'

Walter Scott, best known as Death Valley Scotty, was a symbol of his era: flamboyant, cocky and daring. He came to Death Valley in 1884 as a water boy for a survey party, and he died there in 1954 proudly recounting how he had earned his titles: Grand Old Charlatan of Death Valley and Last Hurrah of the Old West.

Scotty, brought up on a Kentucky horse farm, was a drifter in his younger days. But by chance he was introduced to Buffalo Bill Cody and spent the next 10 years traveling the world with Cody's Wild West Show. When Scotty left the troupe in 1902, he was as broke as when he had joined it—but only in dollars. He had mingled with eastern society and learned the art of bamboozling from the best. He also knew that one of the biggest attractions for eastern dudes was western gold.

His wife, Ella, unknowingly gave Scotty his shot at the mining game. They had met in 1900 while she was working for Lowney's Confectionery at 26th and Broadway in New York. After their marriage they wintered in the gold fields of Colorado between wild west shows. A mine owner took a liking to Ella and gave her two rocks with

gold in them to show the girls at the confectionery in New York. Those chunks of ore were to be Scotty's tickets to fortune.

His first grubstake came from Julian Gerard, a New York financier. Gerard was no bumpkin. He had studied mineralogy at Yale; his family included an ambassador to Germany and an associate justice of the New York Supreme Court. He was also a sportsman. Gerard had partied with Cody's Wild West Show and, perhaps a bit under the influence, had invited the cowboys to look him up if they needed anything in New York.

After being fired from the show for missing a parade, Scotty visited Gerard and showed him his wife's gold rocks. Gerard tested them and agreed to grubstake Scotty for what the latter called "my Death Valley gold claim."

Scotty proceeded to live it up with Gerard's money, building a reputation throughout Nevada and California as a free spender. He developed trademark attire: blue flannel shirt, red tie, an oversized ulster with pockets "filled with ore from my Death Valley mine," and a fine black Stetson.

The press helped by writing front-page

stories about him. The publicity, however, made Gerard wonder why he wasn't getting any money back. His attempts to see Scotty and the mine always had to be abandoned: "Jacks were all run off by Indians"; "Suffering from a hurting at the base of the brain from being overcome by heat"; or "Suffering a bite from a hydrophobic skunk." Gerard finally cut off the credit, but not before Scotty had established himself as a celebrity.

Scotty was soon back on track with a new venture—an attempt to break the speed record, by train, from Los Angeles to Chicago. Whether or not the trip was being financed by the railroads, as some skeptics said it was, on July 1, 1905, the *Los Angeles Times* announced, "Walter Scott has made a \$4,000 deposit with the Santa Fe Railroad to hire a special train to Chicago. One of the stipulations made on closing the deal is that the diner be loaded with the best edibles and liquor that money can buy. Scotty declares that he has sufficiently 'burnt up' the village of Los Angeles and now has designs on Chicago. He doesn't have business in Chicago. Just a diversion, that's all!"

He concluded the deal with the Santa Fe before a packed house of reporters on July 8. According to the *New York Times*, he reached into his trouser pocket and pulled up a roll of yellowbacks. "This is real money said Scotty, "and I want to pay you now." He began to rain \$100 bills onto the table.

The next day he showed up at the depot with a mutt. Scotty proclaimed, "I wanted a dog that is just a homeless, hungry cur, that has not had a square meal for a week and does not know where it is going to get the next one. I have given this dog a \$1,000 collar. Now I'm going to give him a train ride!" The nation loved it.

A thousand people cheered Scotty's departure from Los Angeles on July 11, and thousands more cheered him at every opportunity along the 2,265-mile run to Chicago. For three days Scotty fired the country's imagination, and newspapers blared his progress across the continent.

The "Coyote Special" pulled into Chicago in 44 hours and 54 minutes, easily breaking the 53-hour record. For two days Scotty enjoyed Chicago's adulation before continuing on to New York "to give my dog an outing in Central Park." A crowd cheered his arrival at Grand Central Station. One reporter observed, "The mob surrounded him evidently thinking he would throw away a pile of gold nuggets. Their disappointment was monumental."

Scotty returned to Death Valley a hero, but still on the make. A big egg appeared in the form of a New England syndicate, but it wouldn't hatch unless proof were produced that Scotty did in fact have a mine in Death Valley. To make matters worse, the syndicate members came west and could not be bluffed out of a trip to the mine.

The result was disastrous: the Battle of Wingate Pass.

Scotty's plan was simple enough. He would take the party to the mine, but then the potential investors would be frightened away by a wild west "ambush." Unfortunately, one of the visitors was shot in the

Scotty's Spanish-style palace in northern Death Valley showed he did find riches in the desert, if not gold itself, thanks to his wealthy friend, Albert Johnson.





Scotty (left) enjoyed rubbing elbows in high places. Here he joins Governor Fred Balzar and humorist Will Rogers for hot dogs at the Winnemucca Rodeo, about 1930.

NEVADA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

groin, and Scotty had to ride toward the "outlaws" waving his big beaver hat and shouting, "Stop shooting, you fools, you've hit Warner!" His outlaws had gotten thirsty waiting around, used up their water and resorted to whiskey.

Warner recovered, but charges followed fast and furious. The *Los Angeles Evening News* ran a series of anti-Scotty cartoons, one of which showed Lady Liberty shining a miner's light on Scotty with the title, "Pseudo Miner and All Around Faker

Stands Exposed." Scotty wasn't there to see it, though; he had gone to Seattle to debut as the star of a new play, "Scotty, King of the Desert Mine."

Later he quietly returned to Death Valley, where he fenced gold highgraded by miners. But mine owners soon forced the workers to strip before leaving the mines each day. Hard times once again fell on Death Valley Scotty.

In 1912 Scotty collaborated with stock promoters to sell shares in his "million-dollar mine," but their efforts came to naught when the doctor who treated Warner sued Scotty for the \$1,000 medical bill Warner had refused to pay. Scotty had to explain to the judge why he couldn't pay it, and the full story came out: he'd never had more than \$3,000 of his own money in his whole life. At age 40 the living legend stood dead broke, humiliated before the country. Once again he retreated to Death Valley.

Another benefactor soon appeared. Albert Johnson owned a Chicago insurance company and earned more than \$700,000 a year. He had been one of Scotty's many marks, but Johnson wasn't a man to hold a grudge. To the contrary, for a man raised in strict Quaker tradition and whose wife walked, talked, lived, ate and slept religion, Scotty was a fascinating change. Johnson also found that his health improved in the desert.

Johnson visited Scotty regularly, living with him in a simple wooden shack far from everywhere. Johnson decided to build something more permanent, and the two men began making plans for what Johnson called a "hacienda" and what Scotty called "my castle."

When construction started in 1925, the desert, and soon the country, started buzzing again with stories of Death Valley Scotty. The undertaking was enormous, especially considering the lack and quality of roads and the distance from supplies. Water was piped from a spring a mile away. The nearest town was Goldfield, 52 miles north. The idea of a European palace in the desert captured the fancy of the press, and reporters came out to see "Scotty's Castle." Scotty was back in his prime.

By 1931 a ranch house of more than 31,000 square feet had been completed, along with a solar water-heating plant, a 56-foot chimes tower and a guest house with two apartments. The furnishings were imported from Europe or custom-made.

Next to the Hearst Castle in San Simeon, California, Scotty's humble hacienda became the most famous private residence in the West. Unfortunately, his land surveys weren't accurate, and the million-dollar castle was built on government land. The land problems and the Depression brought an end to Scotty's grand life-style.

After Johnson's death in 1948, the castle was operated as a tourist attraction by a religious foundation and then taken over by the National Park Service in 1970. Scotty died on January 5, 1954, enroute to a Las Vegas hospital. He is buried on a hill overlooking the castle. Before his death he reflected, "These have been happy years. I like it here. After all, I'm living in the best damn place in town." (Continued)

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Tom Williams and Marta Becket left the road and opened the Amargosa Opera House in 1968, giving them reason today to dance in the streets of Death Valley Junction.

The Opera House in a Ghost Town

Unlike Walter Scott, Tom Williams and his wife, Marta Becket, didn't come to Death Valley with a grub-stake. They were on their way to Las Vegas when a flat tire stopped them in Death Valley Junction.

They were sophisticated New Yorkers. Tom managed Marta's ballet performances as they toured the small-city culture circuit. "As a way of life, it was less than ideal," Tom says.

"I feel a need to dance," Marta explains. "I don't mean once in a while; I mean every day. When you travel the circuit you spend more time traveling than dancing. And then there's the system. You have to pay kick-backs to get the best dates. If you don't, you end up in Shelby, Montana, in January. So you might say Death Valley Junction was like a calling, almost."

Tom was fixing the flat tire when Marta noticed an abandoned social hall. It stood in a decaying complex of whitewashed adobe buildings huddled among the expanse of sand, sage and bright, clean air. Death Valley Junction is one of those mining towns that sprang up and fell down during the first half of this century. The town is centrally located in the middle of nowhere—108 miles from Las Vegas and 285 miles from Los Angeles. There's no television or daytime radio. When the Williams landed there, the town had a population of 20 and had been for sale for years.

But it had the abandoned social hall. "It drew us like a magnet," Marta says.

"With Death Valley to bring people to the area, it seemed like a good shot," Tom says. "We thought it over and in an hour decided to leave New York and move here.

We rented the place with a handshake and \$1 to be followed by monthly payments of \$45. Marta had her own theater."

Of course, building an opera house in a desert ghost town required a little work. The hall hadn't been used in 20 years, the roof leaked, the building was infested with kangaroo rats, and it was a general mess. But everything about it felt good.

What did the locals think? "They thought we were crazy," Tom admits, but when the theater opened on February 10, 1968, 15

Death Valley Tours & Shows

Scotty's Castle, located at the north end of Death Valley National Monument, is open daily 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. for one-hour tours. The cost is \$4, senior citizens \$2. During heavy tourist seasons, the tours are shorter and half the price. For information, call 714-786-2331.

The Amargosa Opera House presents performances on Friday, Saturday and Monday evenings from October 15 to April 31. Saturday performances are given the first two weeks in October and during May. Shows begin at 8:15 p.m.; admission is \$5.

Special mid-week shows can be presented to groups of 30 or more. For information, write Amargosa Opera House, Death Valley Junction, CA. 92328, or telephone Death Valley Junction, operator 8. The town, which can be reached via Nevada Route 373, is 25 miles south of Lathrop Wells.

curious neighbors donated \$11.20 to see what circus had come to town. Things went downhill from the beginning.

A freak storm hit, and Marta opened under a dripping ceiling. Subsequent performances averaged two customers, and many nights the theater was empty. "Actually, I preferred dancing to an empty house than a crowd of two because I kept wondering what the people were thinking. Then, too, the sound of two people applauding in the empty theater was depressing."

When at first few people attended, Tom took odd jobs at a nearby mine and Marta set out to make an audience. She painted wall-to-wall murals depicting 268 members of a 16th Century Spanish court watching her from the main floor and painted balconies. Word spread of the undertaking, and patrons began supporting the opera house. They donated Blue Chip stamps for 105 chairs. While they were collecting for a piano, one was donated by Elsworth Johnson of Spokane, Washington, after he saw a performance.

Williams and Becket haven't had an empty house in years. "We have a lot of bus loads coming in," Tom says. "They're senior citizens, college students and everything in between. We even had a madam from a nearby brothel bring her girls in for a 'bit of culture.'"

What do they see? Tom, dressed in formal tuxedo, announces the show and operates the coffee-can lights as Marta presents vignettes and characterizations to the recorded strains of Strauss, Offenbach, Chopin and Ravel, with a little Scott Joplin thrown in.

Often the crowd is as curious as the Amargosa Opera House itself. Campers in hiking boots mingle with minked patrons from Las Vegas. But performances have reached audiences far beyond Death Valley. Film crews from NBC, CBS and networks in England and France have filmed there. The theater has also been featured in several national magazines.

With the opera house established, Williams and Becket have saved the town. The hotel adjoining the theater recently opened 20 rooms and a Mexican restaurant. Death Valley Junction, which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places, is doing well.

"We're now trying to turn this complex into a campus and study center for artists, photographers and students of the desert," Tom says. "The opera house has purchased the town, but we still have to pay it off. We want to restore the old miners' dormitory for students and several of the old houses for the artists and photographers."

What Tom Williams and Marta Becket envision is an art and cultural community in a ghost town where right now jackrabbits outnumber people. It's a courageous dream, and, Walter Scott might tell you, just right for Death Valley. □

Jason Rubinstein is a freelance writer and photographer based in Southern California who often would rather be in the desert.

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Colin Chapman (back to camera, above) is a Grand Prix legend as the founder of Lotus Cars. He's talking to driver Elio De Angelis during qualifying.

On Thursday, testing day, aficionados can watch mechanics in the pits scurry to make adjustments that might save a fraction of a second per lap. But for the driver (top), waiting can be tedious.

Las Vegas shimmers like a mirage in the midday sun as three cars enter the straight (right). The late Gilles Villeneuve in a Ferrari 126/C leads Jacques Laffite in a Talbot Ligier JS 17.



Spectacle at Any Speed

Caesars Palace Grand Prix is to everyday auto racing as Shakespeare is to a Harlequin Romance, caviar to a hot dog, or Christmas to Monday morning.

By Leon Mandel

She can turn a head at 50 paces and flow into the back seat of a Rolls-Royce like champagne over a diamond. Her 25th birthday is still half a year away.

His entourage is 75 strong—thus the 63 rooms needed wherever he travels.

She absolutely abhors crowds, and ever since husband (and face lift) No. 5, alimony and settlements have allowed her to indulge herself with private jets and top floor suites.

He walks like an emperor in mid-dynasty, surrounded by a crackling force field of arrogance and accompanied by a bodyguard in a silk shirt. He heads a comet's tail of women, each more breath-taking than the next.

Professional demimondaine, Middle Eastern super fan, matron-sponsor and car owner—such are integral parts of the glorious circus that is the Grand Prix spectacle, those 16 or more annual races held on four continents to determine the race-driving champion of the entire galaxy. And with the drivers come sponsors, agents, designers, technicians, hangers-on, and a stunningly large cadre of fans. This glittering cluster of speed freaks and tough pros—all stuck together with the emotional glue of shared risk and papered-over with money—arrives in Las Vegas the last weekend in September.

I will be there.

Surely to see the glitterati. Also to walk from my hotel to the circuit, watching part of the crowd of 50,000 in their Lotus and Ferrari jackets, their Carlsbad and Monaco T-shirts; to see them drink their beer at 8 a.m. and eavesdrop as they talk knowingly about teams and drivers. Surely to go to the receptions (particularly those which grizzled race fans are able to penetrate without invitation), and wallow in the excess of Moet- and Chandon-filled hospitality suites. Surely to dine in a quiet corner with old friends with whom I have been covering these events for a quarter century, dissuad-

ing them from a foray to the Chicken Ranch and essaying my pitiful French.

Mainly I will go to glory once again in my favorite art form. For Grand Prix racing is an art. Never mind the Bauhaus starkness of the cars as sculpture. It's the performers who count.

As a young man I watched the legendary Jim Clark, a shy, almost tentative man off the track, perform in his car as if it were a surgical tool and he were in the process of completing the world's first successful brain

“

A Grand Prix is a samurai encounter choreographed by ritual, engrossing to behold. It's also the encounter of man and machine, the spectacle of fragile human creatures challenging the mechanical tyrannosaurus that rules our lives.

”

transplant. Each corner he carved with identical precision, his hands so gentle and so positive on the wheel that speed became irrelevant. It was a display of discipline that would have staggered the entire corps of cadets at West Point.

I beheld Jackie Stewart attack the track like Patton heading for the Remagen Bridge.

I saw Jody Scheckter wrestle his car as if it were a nasty alligator, throwing it around the macadam in impossible holds and grips and stances, subduing its every attempt to get its teeth into him.

I marveled at Mark Donohue, a cerebral driver. His engineer's brain analyzed and

solved traffic snarls at 200 mph, overcoming mechanical problems with skill alone.

I remember Peter Revson, who drove as though he were at a Charleston cotillion, filled with grace, flowing through crowds of cars, a precise and delicate driver who never committed a racing gaffe.

And Gilles Villeneuve, his classic downfall, and his death at age 30 in a distant corner of a faraway land.

“To do something well is so worthwhile that to die trying to do it better cannot be foolhardy,” said Bruce McLaren, long dead, as are Clark, Donohue and Revson, all betrayed by the weakness of metal, not man. If you wish to view it this way, a Grand Prix is a samurai encounter choreographed by ritual, engrossing to behold and deadly.

If you will, a Grand Prix is also the encounter of man and machine, the spectacle of fragile human creatures challenging the mechanical tyrannosaurus that rules our lives. Caesars Grand Prix will evoke my life's benchmarks, for it, too, will be metaphor and fact, brutality and creativity, luck and precision.

I will go to the garage—along with the crowds who need only buy a pass to walk inside—and look at the crew chiefs, most of them Aussies, Blokes or Kiwis. They are hardbitten men who run their teams like Georgia road bosses, for indeed lives depend on their teams' skill. I will stand spellbound as members of a crew (early 20s or late 40s, nothing in between) change an engine. They hardly exchange a word, yet their four or five or six pairs of hands seem synchronized as each man does his task with NASA-like precision. Theirs is a different sort of craftsmanship than that of the driver, but no less impressive.

Then I will feel the excitement build. It starts as I watch practice laps from almost empty stands on Thursday. The cars, at last back “on the ground” after a week of complete rebuilding, snort and snarl onto the track for a lap or two for the driver to



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analyze the virtually-new car's performance from the technical team. First come the gross adjustments: the car won't stop—fit a new master cylinder. The car wants to go straight ahead at just the point the track doubles back on itself—go to a smaller anti-roll bar front and rear to soften its stiffness. As the day wears on, the pit work becomes refined, the adjustments delicate. All the while the experts from the tire companies are at work, for this is an international tire war as well as a race. The technicians take temperature gauges to the inside and outside of each tire as the car sits silently in the pits. The driver sits immobile, his dayglo fire gloves crossed sternly in front of him, resting on the windscreen. If the tires are working, the gauges will show a constant, hot reading. If not, the tires will be relatively cold, since they have not been pushed to their limits.

And then each of the drivers, satisfied at last with the balance and temper of his car,

Making It at the Race

Here are some tips for Grand Prix weekend, which runs Thursday through Sunday, September 23-26, at Caesars Palace in Las Vegas. Grand Prix day is Saturday.

- Take a camera. Never mind if it's an Instamatic—you'll want a record of what none of your friends will believe happened.

- Tickets range from \$7 to \$250, and there's a "ticket hotline" (1-800-634-6698). The high dollar stuff gives you access to secret corners and four days in the "gold" stands in front of the pits. GP cars don't pit unless they're in trouble, but the CanAm cars stop more often, and it's a hell of a show. The \$7 ticket gets you in for practice on Thursday and Friday. It's the best buy in Vegas.

- You're not going to be able to park near the circuit, so travel light. Everything you could possibly want is for sale, but it's all expensive. By the way, don't hope to wait until after the race for T-shirt and cap prices to come down. They won't.

- A day at the races is a day of bombardment of the senses. Go to a sporting goods store and get ear plugs (about \$1). Even if you don't use them, they'll make you look like a pro if you wear the little plastic container in some very visible place. Remember sunburn lotion.

- One good souvenir is a plastic pit pass protector, a kind of plastic window with a huge safety pin attached. The teams wear them, and you can put your ticket inside and pin the thing to the bottom of your pant leg (very chic). You won't lose the ticket, it will be visible, and you'll have an inexpensive remembrance of the race with "Caesars Palace Grand Prix" emblazoned on its face.

- If you want to rub shoulders with drivers, forget the night before the race. They will be asleep. Otherwise, try the casinos in the hotels immediately surrounding: Caesars, the MGM, the Dunes, the Holiday, the Flamingo and the Imperial Palace.—LM

will begin to test the circuit itself. He determines where to brake before each corner, where it is safe and possible to pass, how a corner is best taken. Should the tail of the car be hung out ever so slightly in power-on over-steer? Must the sweeper be done in rail-like precision for fear of what the racers call "falling off"? Such matters are settled on Thursday, when drivers take their last runs before the dress rehearsal.

It's a day of small panic and anticipation, of humor and whimsey, of final camaraderie, for which there will be neither time nor inclination come qualifying and race days.

I will attend to business on Friday, when both GP and CanAm drivers will take practice and qualifying laps. At any other time in any other place the CanAm race, scheduled for Sunday, would be the feature. The cars—think of Indy cars with bodies on them—are almost as fast, equally expensive and, if anything, fiercer. The drivers' names are larger on the American screen than the polysyllabic monikers of the Brazilian, Swedish, Austrian, Italian and French Grand Prix drivers—names like Paul Newman and his driver, Danny Sullivan; Al Unser, Jr.; and Al Holbert. Their art is no less engrossing to watch than that of the internationalists. Usually the Formula 1 and CanAm teams choose to play a different stage, but this weekend they all will be brought together.

The anticipation grows later on Friday as Grand Prix drivers circle the course for time. Times for every lap count toward a driver's position in the pack when the race finally starts. Late in the afternoon, there is usually one absolutely flat-out, banzai run by each driver trying to qualify.

On Saturday is Caesars Grand Prix, and the excitement reaches its summit. Cars are lined up on the front straight, behind the start-finish line, their crews dressed in crisp uniforms blazing with the patches of sponsors. The drivers walk along the pit road in their space suits, feigning calm. The seething disorder is bewildering—photographers, drivers, crew, owners, favored fans and women, women, women are all milling among the stridor of police and crowd-control whistles. Everyone pauses for a moment when the National Anthem begins and then takes up the same mysterious eddy and current around the drivers as the last note lingers in the air. There are forlorn figures, too. Drivers who could not qualify stand like injured football players by the bench. Hollywood celebrities, used to adoration, try to push toward the real stars of the show, the drivers.

It is an electric patchwork of color, a cacophony of snarling engines and the babel of the grandstands, the whistles and the music. Somehow there is an ozone smell, the scent of impending battle.

And then the cars begin their warmup lap, weaving in and out of line to heat the tires. The pace car pulls off. The flag falls. Showtime. □

Leon Mandel, author of William Fisk Harrah: The Life and Times of a Gambling Magnate (Doubleday, 1982), is editor-at-large of Nevada. His latest book is American Cars: A History, to be published by Stewart, Tabori and Chang in October.

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The Case of the Curious Pronghorn

Antelope are fast, wary and keen of sight. But they have one quality that's a boon to hunters.

By Tommy Papagna

Coming to the head of a small canyon, we saw an antelope buck jump out of the creekbed and move across the slope directly in front of us. I hopped out of the truck and laid my .270 Remington on the door window. The antelope nearly filled the field of view on my scope. With a quick burst of speed that caught me off guard, he streaked down a draw before I could get a shot off.

"You'll never get another chance like that," said my guide, Claude Davis. I hoped he was wrong.

We had come to the small White Pine County town of Baker in the last week of August to hunt in the mountains nearby. Baker is best known for its excellent mule deer hunting. But Claude, who like me now lives in Las Vegas, knew the area contained plenty of antelope, too. Born at Cherry Creek, he had spent many summers fishing and camping in eastern Nevada.

During our three-day hunt, wildlife was constantly evident. Besides antelope, we saw deer every morning and evening. Rabbits bounded everywhere. One day I trailed a big porcupine just for the fun of it. Each morning we were greeted by the shrill call of coyotes. For a Las Vegas, that's a sound not easily forgotten.

The days were warm and sunny, but the nights very cold. As we headed down the dirt road to Hendry's Creek that first morning, we warmed our hands on our coffee cups, looking for antelope.

Unlike deer, antelope bed at night and usually feed most of the day—a great advantage to hunters. So that afternoon we moved further north to Gandy, a ranch with large alfalfa fields. We hunted the foothills, hoping to spot a grazing herd. We did see, far in the distance, a herd of bucks, and one looked large with fine horns. But antelope have phenomenal eyesight. They saw us and raced for the high country before we could get into range.

The next morning we made our way towards a waterhole just north of Hendry's Creek. "I've always seen antelope in this spot," Claude said. "Check those white rocks off to the left."

As I raised my binoculars the white spots came to life. "Rocks, hell," I said. "Those are antelope—12 of them—and they're all looking smack at us." They were more than a mile away.

"You drive back around the hills," he said. "I'll give you about 15 minutes to get into position, and then I'll make my move toward them. They should run right into you."

I had driven around and walked halfway to the landmark Claude had pointed out when I saw below me five antelope that had left the herd to find open terrain.

They hadn't seen me. It was the perfect chance for a stalk. I dropped into a dry wash that cut into the foothills and started the long chase. The wash grew shallower and shallower until I had to creep along on all

fours, trying to keep some sagebrush between me and the band. The gap was closing, but they were still a long way off.

Looking back, I saw Claude, who had by now made his way around the point. The lead buck had focused his attention on Claude and hadn't noticed me. "This is as close as you're going to get," I thought to myself.

I raised my rifle, and through the crosshairs I could see he was a nice buck. It was still a long shot, but I decided it was my only chance. Through the scope I could see the buck staring up into the foothills. Something had spooked him.

I tried to calm my nerves, but the crosshairs were shaking as I settled them just over the buck's back. As I took a deep breath, he took off at high speed.

So much frustration can anger a hunter, but those who go after antelope in Nevada know that they should feel lucky just to get a chance to hunt. Only six antelope tags were issued for the area I was in, and there had been hundreds of applicants. Even if I didn't get an antelope, I couldn't reapply for five years. So time was too valuable to waste on feeling disappointed.

The next day we rolled out early and rumbled back down the road to Hendry's Creek. As we turned onto a gravel road that led into the foothills, Claude spotted a lone buck. "It's probably that little spike we saw earlier" he said.

I focused the binoculars on the buck. Seeing a white rump patch and towering horns, I thought at first it was a mule deer. I dropped the glasses and rubbed my eyes. A second look showed it was no deer but a huge buck antelope with deeply curved horns. It was by far the biggest we'd seen. Forgetting about the stickers in my knees and bruises on my elbows, I hopped out of the truck.

The buck was crossing a small ridge. He saw us but seem undisturbed. I dropped into a deep ravine where I could stalk him unseen. Since I was also downwind, I had a good chance of getting close if he didn't bolt.

After a few minutes of trotting, I slowly peeked over the edge of the ravine. If the buck had kept a steady pace I figured him to be just below me and to the left. I carefully surveyed the terrain. Nothing!

I walked up over the rim of the ravine and glanced to my right. There he was, staring right at me. Even at 300 yards he looked huge. I started to shake as I dropped to my knees and clicked off the safety. At the same time he took off and headed down the ridge. I fired twice, and both bullets landed 10 feet behind him. I fired again, and this shot, too, just kicked up dust behind the streaking pronghorn. I slammed one more cartridge into the breech, thinking to myself, "I know these things are fast, but this old boy is outrunning my bullets!"

Then a strange thing happened. He stopped. Antelope are known for their curiosity. Tales are told of Indian hunters who used to wave a piece of cloth attached to a long pole. The antelope would walk as much as a mile to see what the cloth was. Bow hunters still find this trick successful.

Antelope can run as fast as 60 mph, the fastest hoofing on the continent. Their eyesight is comparable to that of a man using 8-power binoculars.



JIM YOKUM

Built For Speed

The American pronghorn is endemic to North America and is not directly related to other antelope species. "Antelope" came about as a mispronunciation of the scientific name *Antilocapra Americana*. The name "pronghorn" comes from the shape of the animal's horns. Each horn grows up and then curves inward with only one fork, called a prong. The hairy outer sheath of the horn is shed annually, leaving the inner core intact, as compared to the antlers of deer and elk, which are shed completely and grow back every year.

Antelope are small for big game, standing only about three feet high at the shoulder. Bucks may weigh up to 140 pounds, but the average is 25 to 40 pounds lighter. Does seldom weigh more than 100 pounds and have "button" horns that usually do not extend above the ears. The animal's upper body is reddish brown, set off by brilliant white underparts, rump patch and throat. A large black band extends from the eyes to the nose, and a black patch can be seen on the neck. The antelope's eyesight is remarkable, comparable to a man using 8-power binoculars.

The pronghorn's chief means of defense is its amazing speed—as great as 60 m.p.h. Built for motion, its slender body houses a large liver that retains great quantities of glycogen for rapid energy. The long, light legs are so stoutly constructed that the front bones will withstand a pressure stress of 45,300 pounds by test, compared to 41,300 pounds for the front leg of a cow, which weighs seven times more than an antelope.—TP

The buck didn't have my scent and must have wanted to find out what was causing the ruckus. I quickly leveled the crosshairs just behind his shoulder and squeezed off the fourth round. A resounding thump followed, and the big buck leaped into the air and came down in a heap. I fumbled for another cartridge and realized I didn't have any more. I didn't need one.

Back in Las Vegas, Ron Lee of the Nevada Department of Wildlife measured the antelope for the *North American Big Game Record Book*, a listing of all trophy-sized big game. The horns stood 16½ inches high, and that was exceptional enough to earn a place in the forthcoming 1985 edition as the 13th largest antelope taken in Nevada and the largest since 1978.

The buck's head, now mounted, looks down from a wall in my house. It has become a symbol for me of the luck and determination necessary in hunting. Most of all, though, the buck's head has revived and reinvigorated an old adage: curiosity killed the antelope. □

Tommy Papagna, a Las Vegas resident, now hunts small and big game throughout Nevada.



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Good Times & Great Events in September & October



B. BUSSE

The Sky's the Limit: The brightly-colored entries in the National Championship Balloon Races will be sailing in earnest as part of the North Las Vegas Fairshow, October 22-24. During the celebration you can vote for Mr. Macho, enter the Fancy Western Hat Contest, marvel at a beauty pageant or have fun at the carnival, craft booths and contests. Admission for the Fairshow is free.

South

MUSEUMS & GALLERIES

Ancient Arts Gallery & Museum, 10-6 Mon.-Sat. Pre-Columbian, Ming and Egyptian artifacts and pottery. 4761 Maryland Pkwy., Las Vegas, 798-8803

Burk Gal'ry, 10-5 Mon.-Sat. Western Art Show, 9/24-26; watercolorist Jeff Craven, 10/1-30. 400 Nevada Highway, Boulder City, 293-3958

Clark County Historical Museum, 8-5 daily. History of southern Nevada; self-guided tours of ghost towns. 1830 S. Boulder Highway, 565-0907

Charleston Heights Arts Center, 9-9 Mon.-Thurs., 9-5 Sat. Visual Dialogue: Photography and Printmaking, thru 9/17; Handmade Clothing Exhibit, 9/19-10/15; Art by Jeff Kelley, 10/17. 800 S. Brush, Las Vegas, 386-6383

Historic and Cultural Tours, Las Vegas, 382-7198

Las Vegas Art Museum, 11-4 Mon.-Sat., 1-4 Sun. Nevada 82 Photography Exhibition, 10/8-11/9. 3333 W. Washington, 647-4300

Las Vegas Mormon Fort Tours, Tues.-Sat., 386-6510

Lincoln County Historical Society Museum, 10-5 Tues.-Sun. County history. Pioche, 962-5207

Lost City Museum, 8:30-4:30 daily. Displays and artifacts of ancient Pueblo culture. Overton, 397-2193

Museum of Natural History, 9-5 daily. Live animals from Nevada, minerals and Indian crafts. UNLV, Las Vegas, 739-3381

Nevada Museum of Historical Documents, daily. 3200 Las Vegas Blvd. South, Las Vegas, 731-0785

SEPTEMBER

Pioche Labor Day Celebration, 3-6, street dance, bottle show, foot race, wrist wrestling, horseshoes, firemen's dance & dinner, tug-o-war, parade, fireworks, kids' games

Muscular Dystrophy Telethon, 5-6, star entertainment for Jerry Lewis' fundraiser, Caesars Palace Sports Pavilion, Las Vegas

Blackjack Tournament, 7-10, Riviera Hotel, Las Vegas

"**Lady Sings the Blues**," 8, free captioned film for



Admission a Day Early: Nevada was admitted to the Union on October 31, 1864, amid controversy and war. But things have worked out pretty well, and that's cause for Nevadans to whoop it up in Carson City every Nevada Day. This year's fun begins earlier than usual, on Friday, October 29, with a costume ball. On Saturday at 10 a.m. the annual parade heads down Carson Street, stringing together marching bands, cowboys and Indians, cars crammed with dignitaries, flotillas of floats, elephants and drill teams. The World Championship Rock Drilling Contest, water fights, art show, horseshoe tournament and more dancing and partying start after the parade.

the deaf, 7pm, Charleston Heights Arts Center, Las Vegas

NSHA Region 5 Open Horse Show, 11-12, Horsemen's Park, Las Vegas

Las Vegas Boat & Ski Club 50- & 75-Mile Ski Races, 11-12, Boulder Beach, 8am, Lake Mead

Mint Fall Trapshooting Tournament, 12-26, Mint Gun Club, Las Vegas

Pahrump Valley Harvest Festival, 18-19, parade 9:30 am, pro rodeo 2 pm both days, 4-H fair, BBQ, street dance, farmers' market, info. 727-5800

Elizabethan Trio, 19, Charleston Heights Arts Center, 3pm, Las Vegas

Meadow Valley Western Days, 20-26, hay ride, horseshoes, rodeo, carnival, BBQ, husband-calling

contest, Caliente

"Snow White & the Seven Dwarfs," 22, free captioned film for the deaf, 7pm, Charleston Heights Arts Center, Las Vegas

Caesars Palace Grand Prix, 23-26, Formula I & CanAm races, Thurs. & Fri. practice & qualifying; Sat. Grand Prix; Sun. Coors CanAm, Caesars Palace race track, Las Vegas

Senior Citizens' Curmudgeon Day, 23, VFW Hall, Pioche

Southern Nevada Off-Road Race Enthusiasts 250 Race, 24-26, auto racing, Las Vegas, info. 876-0371

Las Vegas Symphony, 26, Charleston Heights Arts Center, 3pm, Las Vegas



Battle of Fort Churchill: "All for our country!" "Battle Born!" The sun-baked ramparts of Fort Churchill east of Dayton will resound with fevered rallying cries when the Nevada Civil War Volunteers recreate the Silver State's true origins September 19. There will be mock battles and barbecues while parasol-shaded frontier women swap Civil War trivia with visitors. The NCWA also hosts a Civil War Symposium at the Comstock Hotel in Reno later this fall. For details call Clyde Johnson, 786-4630.



"Rigoletto," 29, opera, 8pm, Charleston Heights Arts Center, Las Vegas

OCTOBER

Boulder City Hospital Auxiliary Art Festival, 2-3, juried show, art & craft displays, food and entertainment, 10am-5pm, Government & Bicentennial parks, Boulder City

"Gypsy," 8-10 & 15-17 Rainbow Company drama, 2pm on 9 & 10, 17 & 24; 7pm on 8, 15 & 22; 2pm & 7pm on 16 & 23, Charleston Heights Arts Center, Las Vegas

Frontier 500, 16-17, Las Vegas to Reno off-road auto & motorcycle race beginning at Sloan, 15 miles south of Las Vegas at dawn Sat.; awards Sun. at Peppermill Inn, Reno, info. 361-5404



Airplanes! At speeds of up to 250 mph, only 50 to 500 feet above the ground, supermodified planes and their pilots race for glory and \$250,000 in prize money at the Reno National Championship Air Races on September 17-19. Precision military flying teams like the Navy's Blue Angels (above) and the Canadian Air Force's Snowbirds create white arabesques in the sky with their contrails, and the Stardusters, an all-woman parachute team, begin the excitement each day at 10:30 a.m.



Survival of the Fastest: Fall is auto racing time in the Silver State. At the Caesars Palace Grand Prix in Las Vegas, September 23-26, you can watch qualifying the first two days and then the Grand Prix on the 25th and CanAm race (above) on the 26th (see page 18). On the same weekend the Southern Nevada Off-Road Enthusiasts 250 puts racers on the back roads around Vegas. Craig Road Speedway in North Las Vegas holds its Fall Open Competition for A-cars October 22-24. At Virginia City you can see the Ferrari Hill Climb September 17-19. And for long, long distance racing, drivers in the Frontier 500 head north from Vegas on October 16 over man- and machine-crunching roads all the way to Reno, where entries still running cross the finish line the next day.

Harvest Day, 16, rock & bottle show, swap meet, pumpkin-carving contest, potluck dinner, Caliente
Circus of Stars, 18-25, Caesars Palace, Las Vegas
J&B LPGA Putt-Off, 21-25, \$100,000 putting tournament featuring top women pros, Desert Inn Country Club
"Gypsy," 22-24, Rainbow Company drama, 7pm Fri., 2pm & 7pm Sat., 2pm Sun., Charleston Heights Arts Center, Las Vegas
North Las Vegas Fairshow, 22-24, arts & crafts,

carnival, beer garden, music, Miss North Las Vegas Pageant, Fancy Western Hat Contest, balloon races 8am Sat. & Sun., Community College
Craig Road Speedway Fall Open Competition, 22-24, open A-car races, 2:15pm, North Las Vegas, info. 385-7777
Oktoberfest, 23, Sahara, 7pm, Las Vegas
Riviera Hall of Fame Golf Tournament, 27-31 sports heroes and their clubs, donation admission, Las Vegas Country Club



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Las Vegas Civic Ballet, 29-31, Charleston Heights Arts Center, 8pm Fri. & Sat., 2pm Sun., Las Vegas
KNPR-FM Craftworks Market, 30-11/1 100 booths, live music, 10am-dusk, Whipple Field, Las Vegas

Central

MUSEUMS & GALLERIES

Berlin-Ichthyosaur State Park. Fossil house displaying ancient sea lizards. 23 miles east of Gabbs
Central Nevada Historical Museum, 12-4 & 6-8 Tues.-Sat. Pre-history and the Gold Rush thru the present. Tonopah, 482-9676

SEPTEMBER

White Pine High School Rodeo, 25-26, fairgrounds, 9am, Ely
White Pine Pro-Am Golf Tournament, 25-26, county golf course, Ely, info. 289-4095

North

MUSEUMS & GALLERIES

Lehman Caves National Monument, 8-5 daily. Cave tours and natural history museum, Baker, 234-7331
Northeastern Nevada Museum, 9-5 Mon.-Sat., 1-5 Sun. Historical, visual art and natural history exhibitions. 1515 Idaho St., Elko, 738-3418

ONGOING EVENTS

Cactus Pete's Trophy Fish Contest, Jackpot, info. 755-2321

SEPTEMBER

Elko County Fair, 3-6, horse racing, livestock shows, bake-offs, parade 11am Sat., demolition derby Mon., fairgrounds, Elko
Winnemucca Rodeo and Tri County Fair, 4-5, livestock shows, PRCA rodeo, street dance, parade 10am Sat., BBQ, info. 623-2225
Festival of Planes, 10-12, displays, helicopter rides, aviation films, Elko Airport
Cactus Pete's \$20,000 Pro-Am Golf Tournament, 15-18, Jackpot Golf Course, info. 755-2321
Northeastern Nevada Museum Grand Open-

Whistling Up a Storm

Whistle watchers and whistling wonders from around the world gather in Carson City September 25-26 for the International Whistle-Off. Past competitors have ranged from a boy of five to a dancing grandma of 88, and among the performers are finger-whistlers, mouth-whistlers and throat-whistlers, who produce music while grinning widely or holding cigars clenched in their teeth. The spectacle is as much fun as the shrill music.

The Chamber of Commerce-sponsored event has four categories: Solo Classical, Solo Contemporary, Solo Novelty and Dual Competition. Winners receive whistle-shaped trophies.—*Diana L. Magleby*

ing, 18, speeches, cornerstone laying, party, Elko, info. 738-3418

Santa Clara Ballet, 25, Elko Civic Aud., 7:30pm
Regional Horseshoe Tournament, 25-26, Cactus Pete's, 10am, Jackpot

OCTOBER

Man-Mule Race, 2-3, 7am race from Elko to Lamoille Sat., 20 miles; tennis & picnic at City Park; golf tournament at Ruby View Golf Course, Elko
Elko Pro-Am Golf Tournament, 4-5, Ruby View Golf Course
Community Concert, 11, Elko Civic Aud., 8pm
Capriola Days, 19-24, steer & calf roping competition, 9am, Spring Creek Horse Palace, Elko
Jackpot Antique Show, 30-31, Cactus Pete's, info. 755-2321

West

MUSEUMS & GALLERIES

Churchill County Museum, 9-5 Mon.-Sat. Photographs and Memories. Fallon, 423-3677
East Fork Gallery, 12-5 Wed.-Sun. Margaret Martin and Luetta Bergevin, 9/5-10/16; Virginia Davis Harsh, 10/17-11/16. Gardnerville, 782-7629
Fort Churchill Historic State Monument. Visitor center and ruins of 1860s U.S. Army fort, 7 miles south of Silver Springs, 577-2345
Harrah's Automobile Collection, 9-6 daily. More than 1,000 antique cars on display. East Glendale Rd., Sparks, 788-3242
Genoa Courthouse Museum, 10-4:30 daily. Photography & history exhibitions in restored

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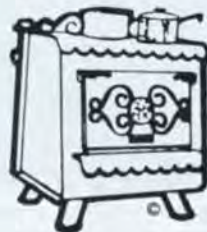
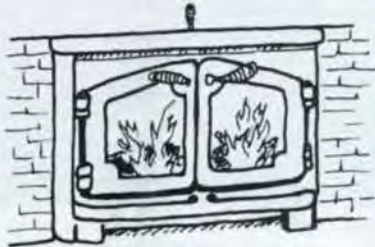


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Gridiron Classics

The University of Nevada-Las Vegas and the University of Nevada-Reno will fight to retain their reputations as western football powers this fall. UNLV's home games begin at 7:30 p.m. at the Silver Bowl. The Rebels meet BYU on Sept. 2, Texas-El Paso Oct. 9, San Jose State Oct. 30 (homecoming), Fresno State Nov. 20 and Cal State Fullerton Nov. 27.

UNR's home games at Mackay Stadium begin at 1 p.m., where the Wolfpack plays Texas A&I Sept. 11, Montana Oct. 2, Northern Arizona Oct. 9 (homecoming), Fresno State Oct. 16, Northern Iowa Oct. 30 and Idaho Nov. 20.

courthouse, Genoa, 782-2476

Lyon County Library, 10-5 Mon.-Fri., 10-2 Sat. Nevada 82 Photography Exhibition, thru 9/8. Yerington, 463-2387

Lyon County Museum, 10-4 Sat., 1-4 Sun. Historic artifacts. Yerington, 463-3721

Mineral County Library, 10-8 Mon.-Fri. Nevada 82 Photography Exhibition, 9/17-28. Hawthorne, 945-2778

Mineral County Museum, 1-4 Tues.-Sat. Artifacts and antiques. Hawthorne, 945-5142

Nevada Artists Assoc. Gallery, 10-4 Mon.-Sat. Peg Frisbee, 9/1-30; Nevada Day Show, 10/1-31. 449 W. King St., Carson City, 882-9733

Nevada Historical Society, 8-5 Mon.-Fri., 9-5 Sat., 12-5 Sun. New Deal in Nevada, 9/1-10/31. 1650 N. Virginia St., Reno, 784-6397

Nevada State Museum, 8:30-4:30 Wed.-Sun. Pre-historical, historical & natural history exhibits. 600 N. Carson St., Carson City, 885-4810

Nevada West Gallery, 10-2 Tues.-Thurs., 10-5 Fri.-Sat. Walter McNamara Sculptures & Paintings of Nevada, 9/30-10/23; Ruth Anne Kocour, Neon Alternatives, 10/28-11/20. 135 N. Sierra St., Reno, 329-5327

Sheppard Gallery, 9-4 Mon.-Sat. Paintings by Don Kaneshira, 9/3-10/2; Alumni Graphics: Present and Future, 10/8-11/3; 20 Years of Reno Art Posters, 10/8-11/3. Church Fine Arts, University of Nevada-Reno, 784-6682

Sierra Nevada Museum of Art, 10-4 Tues.-Sat., 12-4 Sun. 1931 America: the Artist's View, 9/11-10/31. 549 Court St., Reno, 329-3333

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

Virginia & Truckee Railroad Museum, 8:30-4:30 Fri.-Sun & major holidays. Steam engines, railroad cars and artifacts from Comstock era. S. Carson St., Carson City, 885-4810

ONGOING EVENTS

Dayton Flea Market, weekends

Tours of Hidden Cave Archeological Site, near Fallon, beginning 9/29, info. 423-3677 or 882-1631

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

SEPTEMBER

Reno Gem & Mineral Society, 1 silent auction, 8pm, 480 S. Rock, Sparks

"Stones, Circles and Stars: Monuments of Ancient Astronomers," 1-6, Atmospherium-Planetarium, Reno, info. 784-4811

Lions' Junior Rodeo, 4-6, fairgrounds, Fallon
State Championship Gun Shoot, 4-6, Leader Lake, Fallon, info. 423-5013



Dromedary Derby: A *Territorial Enterprise* editor introduced the idea of a camel race as a joke. Locals seized upon the idea as an excuse for fun, and now you have the annual Camel Races in Virginia City. September 10-12 will find outlandishly dressed grownups racing spitting, biting camels down a makeshift track on E Street while spectators hoot encouragement.

Northstar Fine Arts Festival, 4-5, Northstar, 10am-6pm, N. Lake Tahoe

Peppermill-Vorra Day & Night 250, 4-5, off-road race, 10am, Hungry Valley, 5 miles north of Reno

Silver State Marathon, 5, 26.2-mile run starting 6:30am at Davis Creek Park in Washoe Valley

Pacific Crest Canoe and Portage Race, 5, Carnelian Bay to Incline Village, 9am, N. Lake Tahoe

Labor Day Parade, 6, Maine St., 11am, Fallon

"Wuthering Heights," 8, free film, 7pm, Washoe Library, Reno

Nevada State Fair, 8-12, carnival, arts & crafts, livestock shows & bake-offs. Wed. Mugglestons 8:15pm; Thurs. country singer Juice Newton 8:15pm; Fri. roller derby, Mugglestons 8:15pm; Sat., destruction derby; fairgrounds, Reno

Virginia City Camel Races, 10-12, races, food & drink, general uproar

"Cactus Flower," 10-12, comedy, 8:30pm Fri. & Sat., 2:30pm & 7:30pm Sun., Reno Little Theater

Harvest of the Arts, 12, arts festival with music, food & exhibition, noon, Sierra Nevada Museum of Art, Reno

"Pathways: Charles Darwin & Evolution," 14-11/21 Atmospherium-Planetarium, Reno, info. 784-4811

"Cactus Flower," 16-19, comedy, 8:30pm Thurs.-Sat., 2:30pm & 7:30pm Sun., Reno Little Theater

Golf with the Pros, 16-17 benefit pro-am tournament featuring Arnold Palmer, Craig Stadler, Evan "Bigcat" Williams & Don Bies, Edgewood Tahoe Golf Course, info. 588-4591

Reno National Championship Air Races, 17-19, pilon races, military aerial stunt teams, 10:30am, Stead

Schurz Pine Nut Festival & All Indian Rodeo, 17-19, BBQ, dance, hand games, rodeo

Sierra Nevada Chorale, 17, concert, 8pm, Pioneer Theatre, Reno

Fair Days in Reno

The Nevada State Fair brightens the state September 8-12 with a spectacular fireworks show, carnival, baking contests, livestock shows, country-western singer Juice Newton and roller and demolition derbies. It's down-home family fun, from the release of thousands of balloons on opening day to the last blue ribbon. Everything takes place at the fairgrounds in Reno.

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Night of the Swan: The Santa Clara Ballet performs four short ballets at the Pioneer Theatre in Reno September 24 and at the Elko Civic Auditorium September 25.

Ferrari Hill Climb, 17-19, Virginia City Truck Route, info. 847-0177

100-Mile Horse Endurance Race, 18, Virginia City, info. 847-0177

Snafflebit Futurity, 18-26, horse show, Convention Center, Reno

Fort Churchill Celebration, 19, talks, demonstrations, displays & skirmishes in 1860s Army style, Silver Springs

Santa Clara Ballet, 24, Pioneer, 8:15pm, Reno
"Champagne in a Paper Cup," 24, drama & cocktails, 8pm, The Chateau, Incline Village

"By George," 25, drama & cocktails, 8pm, The Chateau, Incline Village

Singer Jamie Owen, 25, Christian concert, 8:15pm, Pioneer Theatre, Reno

20-30 Fishing Derby, 25, Paradise Park, Sparks

International Whistle-Off, 25-26, whistling contests, food & drink, Legislative Mall, Carson City

Carson Valley Mule Days, 25-26, mule show, gymkhana & trail events, 9am-5pm Sat., noon-5pm Sun., fairgrounds, Gardnerville

Genoa Candy Dance Arts & Crafts Fair, 25-26, candy sale, art show, dinner & dance

Spira-Gyra, 26, jazz concert, 8pm, Pioneer Theatre, Reno

OCTOBER

Sale of the Great Northwest, 1-2, thoroughbreds & quarterhorses, Caesars Tahoe, Stateline

Great High Sierra Chili Cook-off, 1-3, cash prizes, live C&W music, Ormsby House, Carson City, info. 882-1890

James "Medicine Calf" Becwourth Memorial Buffalo & Crawdad Feed, 2-3, crawdad trapping, foot races, tug-o-war, shooting contests, dueling, primitive escape run, food & drink, rendezvous on County Road 354 off U.S. 395 between Reno & Doyle, CA.

Doll & Miniature Show, 2-3, Convention Center, 11am-5pm, Reno

Reno Chamber Orchestra, 3, Masonic Theater, 3pm, Reno

Reno Gem & Mineral Society, 6, slide show & lecture on opals, 8pm, 480 S. Rock, Sparks

North Tahoe Fine Arts Council Party, 9, Andy Narell Quartet, cocktails, info. 546-5562

Sierra Nevada Arms Gun Show, 9-10, Convention Center, 9am-6pm Sat., 9am-4pm Sun., Reno

Hazen Photoprint Show, 9-10, photo show & bake sale, noon-5pm, community hall & jail

Journal Jog, 10, first of 3 races at 9am, YMCA, Reno

Silver State Cat Fanciers' Show, 10, Holiday Inn, 9am-5pm, Reno

Oktoberfest, 10, German food, beer, costumes, Ormsby House, Carson City, info. 882-1890

Reno Philharmonic, 12, Pioneer Theatre, 8:15pm

Brass Quintet, 12, Brewery Arts Center, 8pm, Carson City

"Phantom of the Opera," 13, free film, 7pm, Washoe Library, Reno

Sequoia String Quartet, 14, Church Fine Arts, 8pm, UNR, Reno

"Gin Game," 15-16, tragi-comedy, 8:30pm, Reno Little Theater

Consumer Electronic Fair, 15-17, Convention Center, 10am-9pm Fri. & Sat., 10am-6pm Sun., Reno

Harvest Farm Sale & Auction, 17, music, food, 11am, community hall, Wellington

"Gin Game," 21-23, tragi-comedy, 8:30pm Fri. & Sat., 2:30pm & 7:30pm Sun., Reno Little Theater

"Die Fledermaus," 22-24, Strauss opera, 8:15pm Fri. & Sat., 2:15pm Sun., Pioneer Theatre, Reno

Senoma Cutting Futurity, 25-31, horse show, 8am-5pm, fairgrounds, Reno

Nevada Dance Theatre, 27, Pioneer Theatre, 8pm, Reno

Duo Pianists Rostel & Shaefer, 29, Pioneer Theatre, 8:15pm, Reno

Nevada Day Boxing Festival, 29, Community Center, 8pm, Carson City

Nevada Day Celebration, 29-30; Fri. 1864 ball 7:30pm; Sat. parade 10am, beard contest, partying, World Championship Rock Drilling Contest, Carson City

"Dracula," 29-31, drama, 8:30pm Fri. & Sat., 2:30pm & 7:30pm Sun., Reno Little Theater

Crystal Hill Antique Show, 29-31, Convention Center, 11am-8pm Fri. & Sat., 1-6pm Sun., Reno □

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Sagebrush Gourmet



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 Street
Reno, 825-1776
Fun dining in an atmosphere of old Nevada memorabilia embellished with an ornate back bar, Victorian chandeliers and a profusion of antique slots. Purveyors of delectable prime rib, teriyaki steak, crab legs, lobster tail, spinach salad, etc. Open every day 11am-11pm, Hofbrau lunch, 11-5, from \$2.50; Dinner, 5-11 from \$5.75. Ample parking. Reservations suggested for larger parties. MC, VISA.

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

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entree 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.

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.

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LETTERS

(Continued from page 5)

often far more humor than ever devised in fiction, and in these times we need plenty real humor. Hang on to that feller Lizotte. There is a top flight writer!

Harry Webb
Tujunga, CA.

Better Than Garden State

I have learned more about this beautiful state through your publication than any other source. Anyone who reads more than one issue will realize the variety of articles cover all facets of life in Nevada from gaming and mining to summer and winter activities. My favorites are the stories by Harry Webb and photography by David Muench. Although I am now living in New Jersey, I can still live in my "home" state through your magazine. Keep those issues coming.

Gary Du Val
Wayne, NJ

Kimak's Pledge

Thank you so much for printing the article on Mr. Kimak (May/June '82), and a special thanks to Chuck McManis for writing it. I, too, have been blessed by knowing and experiencing John Kimak. He was my junior high teacher nine years ago, and I have often wondered where he is. I'm so glad to hear he's still doing his thing. I, and so many other young people, some fatherless like myself, didn't ask him to be in our lives, he insists on stepping in and teaching. Not just fishing and English, but life. He's definitely paid his pledge and more.

D. Weinberg,
Carson City, NV.

Putting Silver Springs on the Map

Something very disturbing crops up in Nevada Magazine every so often. "Discover Nevada Outdoors" (July/August '82) is an example of snubbing our fair little community of Silver Springs. Yes, I agree that Lake Lahontan is 18 miles west of Fallon—but that is only the "Dam" part of it! The main entrance to the state park and lake is just three miles south of Silver Springs, which is at the crossroads of routes 50 and 95A, 13 miles south of Fernley, 36 miles east of Carson City and 28 miles west of Fallon! Why, even Fort Churchill is near us—just eight miles south.

Many times when reading Nevada Magazine I have the feeling that Silver Springs is the orphan of the state. When I tell people that I live here they ask, "Where is Silver Springs?" and when I ask if they know where Lake Lahontan is, invariably, they will say, "Near the place with the stop-light?" Then I say, "That's Silver Springs."

D.J. Zuelke
Silver Springs, NV.

Well, you did it again! Your August 1982 issue was superb. I especially enjoyed the "Nevada Outdoors: An Official State Guide" article. I'm counting the days until July 31, when I will be touring many of the places you have written about.

Iris Goldman
Los Angeles, CA.

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Timothy O'Sullivan: A Frontier Photographer

A photographer who loved adventure, O'Sullivan took some of the earliest and most striking photographs of the Silver State. By Joyce Hahn

Long before Ansel Adams and Edward Weston stood behind a camera, great photographers were capturing the spirit of the West. Among them was Timothy O'Sullivan, who practiced his craft from the Civil War days until his death in 1882.

O'Sullivan was born in New York City in 1840. He studied and worked with Matthew Brady. At age 21, during the Civil War, he joined Brady's army photography corps. Intrepid photographers and their mule-drawn vans went into the battlefields and photographed the sad, often grisly scenes of a terrible war. O'Sullivan also worked with photographer Alexander Gardner, who published *The Photographic Sketch Book of the War*. The book contained 100 photos, 44 of them credited to O'Sullivan.

When O'Sullivan left the army, nothing could persuade him to return to a New York studio. He had learned to love the excitement



Portrait of the photographer, Panama.

and challenge of life as a wartime photographer. In 1867 he joined explorer Clarence King's Fortieth Parallel Survey. King, O'Sullivan and other recruits were to document the wilderness east from California and suggest possible routes for the railroads.

Starting from the eastern wall of the Sierra, they explored a large portion of Nevada. King was also in his twenties and equally adventurous and rugged as O'Sullivan. Together they had many adventures, and in spite of the incredible technical difficulties of the photographic process in use at that time, O'Sullivan captured many superb images.

He was fascinated with the light and shadows of the western desert and its lonely grandeur. While the expeditionary group was taking a two-week rest near Sand Springs, Nevada, O'Sullivan loaded an ambulance wagon and four mules with his

Fascinated by the play of light and shadow in the Nevada desert, O'Sullivan set off alone with his ambulance-darkroom. He took this photograph at Sand Mountain, east of present-day Fallon and near the old Pony Express station at Sand Springs.



clumsy gear and spent several days alone photographing the desert. A beautiful shot of the sand dunes shows his van, which provided both compositional interest and a bit of photographic history. One wonders if he saw the van as improving the scene, or if he was merely recording the moment snapshot style, as if to say, "Here I am alone on the wide, wide desert with my mules."

O'Sullivan was not afraid to take physical risks. In Virginia City, for instance, he felt it necessary to photograph the Comstock Lode silver mines. With all his equipment, he descended hundreds of feet underground into the dark mine shafts and illuminated his shots with burning magnesium. Magnesium flares were unpredictable and dangerous to use under normal conditions. Deep underground, where inflammable gases could gather, his use of the flares was recklessly daring.

O'Sullivan was hired as official photographer for two other major expeditions, the Selfridge Darien Expedition of 1870 and the Geological Survey of the 100th Meridian in 1871, headed by George Wheeler. The purpose of the Darien Expedition was to look for a route for the Panama Canal. O'Sullivan complained that there were too many trees in Panama to take pictures. From this expedition, however, we have a revealing self-portrait of lanky O'Sullivan and his big camera, taken in a Panamanian village.

The 1871 Geological Survey gave O'Sullivan the opportunity to capture two of his best images—one of the Black Canyon of the Colorado Expedition (the expedition was going up the river) and another of Canyon de Chelly, the ancient and spectacular Indian cliff dwelling in Arizona. The Canyon de Chelly picture is particularly startling because of the exquisite texture of the great rock wall. The collodian emulsion O'Sullivan used was sensitive only to the color blue, and the sensitivity brought out the red rock strikingly.

Early-day Developments

Photography has changed a great deal since Timothy O'Sullivan drove his wagon-darkroom across the Great Basin. For instance, O'Sullivan had to make his own film. He used a process called "wet collodian plate," invented in 1851 in England by sculptor Scott Archer, and widely used until about 1880. Collodian, a mixture of ether, alcohol, and dissolved guncotton, was blended with a solution of silver iodide and iodide of iron. The mixture was poured onto a glass plate and immersed in a solution of distilled water and silver nitrate. The entire process was done in the dark.

The plate then was put into a film holder and exposed. The film had to be developed immediately, before the chemicals evaporated.

The wet plate was used at first for portraiture. The exposure time was two to 90 seconds, compared to the 50 to 80 seconds—or longer—necessary with the earlier daguerreotype or calotype processes.

The correct exposure time, however, was not easily decided upon. The only light meter was the photographer's own head. He merely removed the lens cap for a few seconds, replaced it and then processed the negative. If it was not correctly exposed, a second or third attempt was made.

Mule-drawn wagons were used to carry the chemicals, glass plates, and cameras, which had separate lenses and tripods. The glass plates were often broken or scratched. The wagons doubled as darkrooms, and photographers were in danger of being poisoned by toxic chemical fumes.

O'Sullivan's process was not very sensitive to light, so it produced heavily contrasted photos. Now we get a much broader range of tones, more grays, and an expanded depth of field (those objects in focus). But the real change is in the developing. Where once a wagon may have stood in the hot desert sun, there now stands a Fotomat.—JH

Ansel Adams discusses O'Sullivan's photos in Beaumont and Nancy Newhall's book, *Timothy O'Sullivan*. "O'Sullivan caught the majestic tonalities and, to a surprising degree, the impression of blazing light. The latter quality is due to the blue-sensitive emulsion; the skies are very light and the feeling of recessive space is most convincing. There is a particular picture taken in the Black Canyon of the Colorado River; a small boat and figure, brooding cliffs and the sky full of air and light. No modern photographs I have seen so successfully convey the mood of such noble scenes."

Little is written about O'Sullivan's later

life. It is known that when his friend Lewis Walker died in 1880, O'Sullivan applied for Walker's former job as official photographer to the U.S. Treasury. O'Sullivan was appointed to the position, but he died of tuberculosis two years later at age 42.

Although O'Sullivan's life was short, he lived vigorously. His work reflects a strong, forthright sensitivity to the grandeur of the wilderness. His vision of the West has stood the test of time and equals those of the other great artists of wilderness photography. □

Joyce Hahn is a freelance writer and photographer based in Northern California.



During a King Expedition side trip O'Sullivan visited booming Virginia City mines like the Savage (above) in 1867.



The *Nettie* and crew sailed the Truckee to Pyramid in 1867. The gold pieces O'Sullivan lost near Wadsworth were never found.

Voyage of the Shadow Catcher

Timothy O'Sullivan lost his gold and found plenty of rattlesnakes on his trip to Pyramid Lake.

By Phillip I. Earl

Among the adventurers, soldiers and scientists to visit Nevada in Clarence King's Fortieth Parallel Survey was photographer Timothy O'Sullivan. He became known to the Indians as the "Shadow Catcher" during his two-year trek in the Great Basin, from 1867 to 1869. O'Sullivan took the first pictures of many Nevada scenes and landmarks and also took a memorable trip down what was then a wide stream—the Truckee River.

The King Survey was organized in San Francisco in June 1867 and went on to Sacramento to secure supplies. There O'Sullivan selected a Civil-War-type army ambulance for a traveling darkroom and two mules to pull it. Loading the wagon with 200 pounds of chemicals, he left for Nevada with the expedition on July 3.

About three weeks later the party reached Donner Pass and had to fight its way through eight feet of snow. The men descended into the Truckee Meadows and established a base camp beside the Truckee River. O'Sullivan, King and several others visited Virginia City, where they toured the Comstock mines.

After returning to the Truckee in early August, O'Sullivan acquired a small sailing craft for a trip to Pyramid Lake, 25 miles downriver. The sailboat, christened the *Nettie*, was 20 feet long and sported two sails. It may have been built by a local rancher who hailed from back east, for O'Sullivan later wrote that "a simple glance

was all that was necessary to convince a man reared on the rugged coast of New England that the craft was the handiwork of an artisan who had built boats for New London fishermen."

O'Sullivan loaded his equipment on the boat and a colleague brought along survey instruments. Others boarded, and there was much laughing and joking as they cast off and navigated the river's deep water, but their spirits were quickly dampened by rough waters north of present-day Wadsworth. The men tried to control the plummeting craft, but the *Nettie's* hull jammed between two boulders that held her fast about 40 yards offshore. O'Sullivan ordered the ores to be broken out, but they were carried away in the swift current.

The photographer then volunteered to swim ashore and fasten a line. He stripped to his underwear, dived into the river and was promptly swept a hundred yards downstream.

Battered, bruised and naked, he walked back up and called for a line. The first throw fell short. The second toss of the line, weighted down by a leather bag with \$320 in 20-dollar gold pieces belonging to O'Sullivan, was successful. The bag, however, fell off at the water's edge. "That was rough," the photographer wrote, "for I never found that 'dust' again, though I prospected a long time, barefooted, for it."

The *Nettie*, half-filled with water, was hauled ashore, and the men made camp.

The next morning they set out for Pyramid, passing the boat with ropes through the river's rapids, and sailed up to the large pyramid that gives the lake its name. Fascinated by the tufa formations there, which O'Sullivan described as resembling "a vegetable growth of vast size," the men decided to climb to the top of the pyramid. The excursion was brief; they found the rock occupied by "tenants entirely capable of holding inviolate their prior right of possession against all human visitors"—rattlesnakes. "From every crevice there seemed to come a hiss," the photographer wrote. "The rattling, too, was sharp and long continued."

A couple of men tried to club the snakes but soon retreated and abandoned the island. O'Sullivan took photographs of the lake while his companions spent a few hours fishing. Their catch, he wrote, was "not precisely the speckled beauties of the Lake Superior region—it is a trout, nevertheless, which rises to the artificial fly, and is a pleasing morsel for the epicurean palate."

The fate of the *Nettie* after the Pyramid trip is unclear from the survey reports, but it apparently was abandoned. O'Sullivan and his companions acquired some horses and rode back to camp, thus ending the first recorded navigation of the Truckee by white men. □

Phillip I. Earl is curator of exhibits at the Nevada Historical Society in Reno.



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Outdoors

Nevada's Native Nut



The straight pitch on a sticky subject: pine-nut hunting this fall. By Harriette Lanner

ILLUSTRATION BY KIM NICHOLS

Throughout the long, hot summer, the woodland is a lonely place, frequented by few visitors. But when the frosty mornings and sunny afternoons of Indian summer arrive, it can become a busy place indeed. Rural natives of pinon country—especially Indians and Hispanic Americans—have always made pine nutting an important fall activity, and today many urbanites are finding it an enjoyable recreational activity with dietary benefits. As a result, highways through choice stretches of pinon woodland can look like linear parking when a bumper crop of *pinones* is ready for harvest.

Following is a list of hints for those who are new to this pastime or would like to improve their style.

When to go: Pine nuts are always ripe by Labor Day, though the cones may just be starting to open. The larger the crop, the longer the harvesting season; in a good year, nuts will be available into November, and in an exceptional year (like 1978 in parts of Nevada) nuts will still litter the ground the next spring.

What to take: Wear your oldest clothes, so you won't shy away from pitchy trees, and strong boots. The only specialized equipment you'll need is a 6-to-12-foot pole with a hook on the end, an old sheet or blanket, and a bunch of old boxes or burlap gunny sacks.

How to get the nuts: The method of harvesting depends on whether the cones are still green and tightly closed or have already opened up. If cones are closed, pull branches down with your hooked pole and remove the cones by "unscrewing" until they come loose. Then release the branch and put the cones into your gunny sack. Bring several sacks, because the green cones are heavy and you'll want to distribute the weight. Some pine nutters favor ladders so they can get the higher cones, but a little walking around will provide plenty of cones within easy reach.

Green cones can best be opened by spreading them out indoors, as in a basement, where they open uniformly in about a week.

If you go pine nutting, and especially if you pick green cones, your hands are going to become so sticky that all five fingers will feel like one. Don't use strong solvents like turpentine, kerosene, or acetone to cut the pitch. Instead, use commercial "waterless hand cleaner," cooking oil, or, if you have water with which to rinse, borax powder.

Some other "don'ts":

Don't break or cut down branches to get cones, or commit the crowning, inexcusable folly of cutting down the tree. "Unscrew" the cone gently and it will come off with minimal damage to the branch that bears it. When in the woodland, behave as if it were your neighbor's orchard. It is.

Don't raid squirrel caches. In 1977, members of a Mormon congregation in southern Utah were roundly criticized in the press because they sold plundered nuts as a church fund-raiser. Rodents work for their pine nuts, and you should work for yours. A peculiarly just fate might befall the robber of rodent hoards: recently, fleas have transmitted the once-dreaded bubonic plague from infected rodents to hapless people in several areas of the West. Avoid rodent caches, and you'll minimize your chances of encountering a stray flea.

ROASTING

Pine nuts can be eaten raw, but roasting is necessary to bring out their full flavor. They can be roasted in or out of the shell. Some prefer to keep them in a hot oven for a short time—like 450°F for 10 minutes—while others favor an hour or two at 250°. Actually the time and temperature will depend on how much moisture is still in the nuts—the more moisture, the longer the nuts take to roast. Spread some in a cookie tin or roasting pan and experiment. Be careful not to scorch them. Roasted nuts can be safely stored in closed jars.

PINE-NUT GOURMET

Following are several recipes for delicious pine-nut dishes, using nuts that are shelled and roasted.

Pine-nut Salad Dressing

- ¼ cup pine nuts, coarsely chopped
- ½ teaspoon tarragon
- ⅛ teaspoon nutmeg
- ¼ teaspoon grated lemon peel
- ⅓ cup vinegar
- ½ cup salad oil
- ½ teaspoon salt

Blend the ingredients thoroughly and serve on any green salad.

Halibut Genoa

- 2 pounds halibut
- ¼ cup olive oil
- 2 medium-sized garlic cloves
- ½ cup pine nuts
- ¼ cup minced parsley
- 1 pound canned tomatoes
- 1 chopped onion

Cover fish with ¼ teaspoon salt. Rub a baking dish with olive oil; place salted fish in dish. Fry the pine nuts and garlic cloves in the rest of the olive oil until lightly browned, then remove to bowl and mash to a paste. Saute onions in olive oil. Gradually add parsley and 1 teaspoon of olive oil to the garlic and nut paste; mix until it forms a smooth greenish paste. Add tomatoes to the cooked onions and simmer 5 minutes. Add the parsley paste. Add salt and pepper to taste and cover fish with sauce.

Bake at 350° for ½ hour. Serves 6.

Pine-nut Corn Pudding

- 2 cups corn kernels
- 1 chopped green pepper
- 1 zucchini, chopped
- 2 tablespoons chopped, roasted pine nuts

Place ingredients in blender and blend thoroughly. Place ingredients from blender in a medium-sized pan, bring to a boil, and simmer until thick. Serve hot. □

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Pine-Nut Companion

An excellent companion and guide for the fall pine-nut season is *The Pinon Pine: A Natural and Cultural History*, from which this story is excerpted. The 208-page book, written by Ronald M. Lanner, a professor of forestry at Utah State University, and published by the University of Nevada Press, provides further details on pine-nut gathering, storing, cooking and nutrition. The book also explores many topics concerning the tree's relationship with man and nature — its evolution, the pinon-juniper woodlands of the West, Indian legends, the tree's use in mining camps, and public land policies.

The Pinon Pine is available in hardcover (\$13.50) and paperback (\$8.50) at bookstores in Nevada and throughout the western states. It also can be ordered direct from the University of Nevada Press, Reno, NV 89557

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by Ronald M. Lanner

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The Winners: Great Nevada Picture Hunt

The 5th annual Nevada Magazine photo contest was perfect. The photos were good and at the end of judgment day the analysts were still on speaking terms.

By Julian Stone

Cliff Segerblom of Boulder City, Howard Hickson of Elko and C.J. Hadley of Gardnerville were smiling as they picked the winners of the 1982 Great Nevada Picture Hunt. It was a historic occasion: all three judges agreed without argument on the top 17 finalists.

The 17 were chosen from among nearly 1,000 prints and slides submitted by 258 photographers. The judges were looking for Nevada's essence, and they got it.

What they didn't get were excitement, action and recreation. Few black-and-white entries were discovered. Consequently, the

judges requested three categories for next year's contest: Color Scenic, Color Non-scenic, and Black and White. The change should round up the missing.

Most entrants apparently were attempting to follow the landscape format of David Muench. Unfortunately, some photograph-

"Etched in Snow" Ray Fairbanks, Las Vegas, NV. 1st Place Prize: Pentax ME Super



ers didn't get up at the crack of sparrow's song to catch the early morning light, forgetting that good desert moods often are over by breakfast time.

But the photos were good, and Segerblom was especially pleased with the winners. "They're wonderful," he beamed when he discovered many were from southern Nevada. Hickson, another seasoned GNPJ jurist, was again disturbed by the large number of photos with the subject dead-center, and he frequently was heard muttering, "This would be so much better if the photographer had cropped it a little." Editor Hadley kept hiding Segerblom and Hickson rejects. "For possible use in a future issue," she explained. "They may not be your winners, but they look bloody good to me."

More winning photos will be presented in the November/December issue—as a colorful look at Nevada and a reminder to keep shooting for the 6th annual competition in '83. □

The Finalists

Following are the top photographers and their winning photos and prizes in the 1982 Great Nevada Picture Hunt:

1st: "Etched in Snow"

Ray Fairbanks, Las Vegas, NV.
Pentax ME Super

2nd: "A Song from the Past"

Linda Dufurrena, Winnemucca, NV.
\$150 gift, Luke's Nevada Photo

3rd: "Meadows Mall Grand Opening"

William P. Schaus, Jr., Las Vegas, NV.
20 rolls Kodak color film

4th: "Wellington, Nevada"

Lenny Kafka, Hixson, TN.
20 rolls Kodak color film

5th: "Playhouse Rock"

David G. Hjelstrom, Alamo, NV.
20 rolls Kodak b&w film

6th: "Desert Mood"

Irene J. Brennan, Boulder City, NV.
\$25 gift, Boulevard Camera

7th: "Pelicans at Pyramid Lake"

Kenneth L. Miller, Reno, NV.

8th: "Lovely Valley"

Susan Moore, Winnemucca NV.

9th: "Blaine Sharp Ranch, Ruby Valley"

Cynthia Burns, Puyallup, WA.

10th: "Sunset & Pecos, Las Vegas"

Ed Opsitos, Las Vegas, NV.

11th: "Wallpaper, Quartz Mountain"

Ken Polwort, Hawthorne, NV.

12th: "Topaz Lake"

Dick Smith, Carson City, NV.

13th: "Off-Road Racing"

Ronald J. Mackey, Las Vegas, NV.

14th: "Nevada Wallpaper"

Perry C. Rose, Hawthorne, NV.

15th: "Comins Lake Near Ely"

George L. Carnes, Ely, NV.

16th: "Relaxation, Anyone?"

Kitty Dufresne, Carson City, NV.

17th: "Stormy Day, Pleasant Valley"

Cynthia Faulkner, Reno, NV.

"A Song for the Past" Linda Dufurrena, Winnemucca, NV. 2nd Place Prize: \$150 gift certificate, Luke's Nevada Photo





"Chism Trailer Park" Stuart Murtland, Reno, NV. Honorable Mention

Honorable Mention

Peter Allan, Reno, NV.
 Gary Archer, Reno, NV.
 Frances S. Belknap, Boulder City, NV.
 Bill Berkey, Henderson, NV.
 Loreen Blanton, Winnemucca, NV.
 Peggy J. Bolesta, Reno, NV.
 John Boswell, Reno, NV.
 Larry C. Brown, Carson City, NV.
 Carol Bailey Christensen, Carson City, NV.
 Jim Christison, Golconda, NV.

Joe Dixon, Roseville, CA.
 Jim Fowlston, Reno, NV.
 Donald Karl Frensdorff, Reno, NV.
 Ginger Gabiola, Winnemucca, NV.
 Leonard C. Haryak, Reno, NV.
 Katharine T. Hawley, Reno, NV.
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 Ellen Kallery, Ely, NV.
 Mark Kimbrough, Wildhorse, NV.
 Richard R. MacDougall, Reno, NV.

Rene Maestrejuan, Denio, NV.
 Dalia Miller, San Rafael, CA.
 Lawrence Mitchell, Jr., Yerington, NV.
 Stuart Murtland, Reno, NV.
 Tetsuo Ray Nojima, Fallon, NV.
 A.L. Paloolian, Carson City, NV.
 Terrence Peak, Sparks, NV.
 Chris Prialux, Elko, NV.
 Marcus V. Reynolds, Reno, NV.
 James Ricks, Fallon, NV.
 Meg Shores, Cromberg, CA.
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 Kaz Yonekura, Hazen, NV.
 Linda Zunino, Jiggs, NV.



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A Weekend in Shangri-La

To this Midwestern pilgrim, the Nevada resort scene was filled with wonders and rituals as familiar as life on Mars. By Sam Baerman

My cousin Eddie, whom I hate, stayed at the Shangri-La Hotel-Casino in Reno one weekend last year. When he returned to Grand Rapids, all he could talk about for months were the showgirls ("like jeweled birds"), the food, the wonderful color and noise (he'd shout describing it), and the \$100 he'd won playing blackjack. The trip had cost him more than \$800, but that didn't matter. He had something to brag about.

First my father came to my apartment one night, said I needed a vacation and suggested I copy Eddie. Then, during dinner at my sister's, she encouraged me, too. Even my ex-wife called to say she

thought it was a good idea. I'm not the gambling type, I told them. I dislike extravagant theater, and I hate spending money.

So I went. You can only argue so long with Midwestern Germans. My travel agent got me a good deal—a three-days-and-two-nights package. Still, I was apprehensive. The agent assured me, "This is a fast place, a city in itself." I wondered if I would get any rest at all.

At Reno Cannon International Airport I caught a free shuttle to the Shangri-La. The receptionist at the check-in desk handed me a key to a room on the 23rd floor and a book of coupons. "And sir," she said through a summery smile, "don't pull out the coupons

yourself. Let the employee do it." Still dazed by her smile, I ran after the bellhop who had departed with my luggage.

In the elevator was a clown, who stood uneasily in the corner. I must have stared at him too long, because he said, "I suppose you're wondering why I'm not wearing my nose. It fell off into the punch bowl." He laughed and slapped my back, as the elevator came to a stop. "Here," he said, flipping a small round object to me. "This place is a cinch." He walked out. I looked at the bellhop, who shrugged. I looked in my hand; a \$25 chip was there.

The room, decorated in blue and silver, had a luxurious carpet, soft bed and large

bath walled with mirrors. It also had a view of Reno, scattered below among greenish-brown hills. The Truckee River, a slender strip of tinsel, divided the city, and far beyond rose the Sierra Nevada.

The tickets in my coupon book included an admission to the casino's "splendiferous Far Eastern production," a cocktail, a game of keno and free parking. I wandered down into the casino, enjoying the feeling of easy choice the pad of coupons represented. But my first good look at the gaming area shocked me.

The casino was large, and for sheer spectacle I'd never seen the likes of it before. There were lights everywhere: red lights on the slot machines and carousels; blue and green lights at the bars and restaurants; and cloud-shaped chandeliers over the tables. Yet the casino, which could have contained two football fields, was almost as dim as a soft twilight. And there was noise, but it sounded as if it came from a distance: the low jumble of voices and jingling machines; tinny-voiced operators paging customers; and the muffled rumble of crowds.

Only 6 p.m., and the casino was hosting multitudes who flowed among the tables and slot machines, in and out of elevators, through the lounges and cafes—an unresting mass, motley and irresistible. The scene was tantalizing, hinting of attractive dangers. I plunged into the action, keeping one hand on my wallet after my mother's advice.

Within an hour I had lost \$25 learning blackjack, another \$20 learning craps and had been shooed away from a quarter slot machine by an elderly lady who considered a whole bank of slots her private domain. She addressed me as "buster," and for some reason that made me feel as light-hearted and mischievous as the first time I'd driven the family car over the speed limit.

At 7 p.m. I entered the Cloud Nine Theatre for the dinner show. A coupon bought me a seat at center stage—close enough to reach out and touch the dance floor—and a prime rib dinner. The show didn't start until 8 p.m., so I ate slowly. Two sports-coated Korean men were seated next to me at the long table.

Presently one turned and asked in villainous English if I were from America. I'd never been asked that before and was so startled that I answered by reflex, "No, Grand Rapids." A period of confusion followed until the man had satisfied himself that Grand Rapids was in fact in America, that I was here on vacation and that I did not sell truck tires. He and his friend did and congratulated themselves on recent successes. They revealed to me also an appreciation of the Shangri-La's size and elegance. One gestured at the cavernous showroom, its ramparts of tables, platoons of waiters and lavish accoutrements and said gravely, "Very nice, yes."

I was inclined to let the conversation rest there, but by then both men had gobbled down their second cocktails and were feeling theoretical. "Your country is too free," the man nearest me said. "Too much sex. More conservative is good. Strong." With "strong" he clenched his fist before his face and smiled. About that time the show began, and I still wonder exactly what

impact it had on those two conservative Korean salesmen. Much of the show's delight for me was to turn and see the looks of utter astonishment and consternation on their faces.

The show was entitled "Nirvana Cannana," and it was extravagantly diverse. The action starts with a group of entry-level executives—half male, half female—aboard a cut-away airplane with a big grin painted under its nose (a leer jet). The prim and proper group is singing a prim and proper song when the jet crash-lands in a Tibetan monastery. The monks and monesses sing provocatively as they save the westerners, who at first are repelled by the partial nudity and writhing dances of their saviors. (I wondered what my Korean friends thought of that twist.)

Eventually, of course, the westerners adopt the ways of the monastery, learn to enjoy themselves by singing more joyously, dancing and wearing fewer clothes. They undergo a series of rituals involving popu-



lar movie tunes and are given the pomegranate of peace by a six-armed goddess, who then resolves into three two-armed.

I didn't believe any of it for a minute, but the show was dazzling. It took 10 minutes after leaving the showroom to unsmile my face.

I awoke the next morning restless, as if my dreams had been too pleasurable. For a while, I lay in bed reflecting that I didn't have to get up or make the bed or fix toast and eggs or do anything. No burdens. I phoned room service for coffee and rolls and then lay in bed reading the newspaper—included free—drinking coffee, and watching Bugs Bunny on the color TV. I tasted the satisfaction of indolence.

At 10 a.m., sinfully late, I got up. It seemed too early to gamble and drink, although everything was open. So I went window-shopping at the casino's mall. In a separate wing were shops, a restaurant, movie theater, quarter arcade for children and bowling alley.

Passing a health spa, I entered on an impulse. Five minutes later, girded with a towel, I was parboiling in a steam bath.

When that grew too intense, I took a cold shower and went into an adjacent dry sauna. It was all very soothing. Twice an attendant brought me cups of grapefruit juice, and that was good, too.

"Funny thing happened," a fellow steam bather said. "You been here long?" I missed the connection between statements but, glad of his friendliness, replied that I'd been at the hotel one night of two.

"Yeh? Well, listen to this," he said. "I booked in for a 60-buck room, and you know what happened?"

I admitted that I didn't.

"They were outa 60-buck rooms, so they put me into this 400-buck room. Isn't that something?"

I said, "Yes, that's something, all right."

"Must be 3,000 square feet," he continued. "It's got a kitchen, a sofa that would seat the wife's 10 brothers' kids and a wet bar." He looked triumphant.

The health club left me aglow and hungry. I returned to the casino floor and inspected the menus of eateries, displayed by the entrances, until I found a restaurant that listed entrees but no prices. I walked in expensively.

The hostess drily told me a coat and tie were mandatory. This, I assured her, I knew, and I was only in to make a reservation. Then I dashed up to my room, changed into coat and tie, dashed back down and into a piano bar. Jennifer, the cocktail waitress, wore a name badge that said Grand Rapids was her home town. She brought a beer, and we traded high school anecdotes. Then I met my reservation at La Table Parisienne.

First appeared a waiter, who wore a blue velvet dinner jacket, bow tie and trousers with wide black stripes. My gray blazer suddenly felt less elegant, but I accepted the menu with knowing ease. Then came the wine steward. I glanced down the solid French list and handed it back. "A bottle of the best." Various people supplied utensils and water and bread. The waiter returned for my order, which he was delighted to help me choose, and the wine steward brought the wine.

A crab cocktail arrived. I ate it. Then I gulped a glass of wine. A Caesar salad appeared, which the waiter tossed vigorously. I drank another glass of wine, and the room grew hot.

Then, the chateaubriand, festooned with veggies.

An older man at the next table leaned my way. "Doing it up in style, I see," he said with a southern accent. "Quite," I replied.

The chateaubriand was delicately seasoned, and I downed it, thinking of Grand Rapids with fine condescension. More wine.

The waiter visited several times to check my progress. Each time he bowed.

At last—cherries jubilee. The waiter carried it to the table on the tips of his fingers, his hands palms up. He gestured over it, and the cherries burst aflame, then subsided to a blue flicker. I ate it all. More wine. Rich coffee. I had lost all sympathy for my stomach's usual capacity.

Then came the bill. Reading it with profound tranquility, I decided against bolting for the door and asked, "Master Charge?" "Naturally," said the waiter and trundled off with my card. No matter the

expense. It was, after all, a vacation, and I deserved at least once in my life such a meal.

The Shangri-La's poker room was nearly full, but a Hold 'Em game let me in for \$10. I folded the first hand. During the second hand, while I was wondering whether to check or raise, the woman next to me showed me the right way to hold my cards. Then I raised, was called, and lost. On the fifth hand, I filled out an inside straight—this was vacation, after all—and took a big pot. Two hours sped away before I went broke. The players were more friendly than those I'd seen playing blackjack or craps. I hardly noticed the time or my money passing.

As I left, the same woman said, "Not bad, kid, but try not to squint when you draw an ace."

Out on the casino floor, I lost more at blackjack and then won \$12.50 at a slot machine. While feeding the money back in, I heard a babel of languages: French, Spanish, German, Japanese and one I took to be gaming gibberish. I caught sight of one of my Korean friends from the night before. He was playing alone at a blackjack table. Eventually he clenched his fist in front of his face and smiled. The dealer nodded.

Pockets empty, I went up to my room and to bed. In a dream, queen-ace blackjacks appeared repeatedly on a black table. The queen's face was vaguely familiar; the ace's face was mine.

The next morning I found I had enough money for a 99-cent breakfast and maybe a snack en route to Grand Rapids. I also had a coupon for a keno game left. I hadn't played it because my father, who had turned into an expert on casino games just before I left, told me it was the worst game in the house. "Stick to the tables," he had said. "Remember, Eddie won on the tables."

I inhaled the breakfast, reading a keno instruction form. Then I marked a ticket and took it to a cashier in the keno pit. "Good luck," she said, but all the casino workers had said that.

Time dragged. I ordered a cocktail—it was free—and waited. The drink came as numbers blinked one-by-one on the keno board. Suddenly I was alert. One, then two of the lighted numbers were those marked on my ticket. And then another. I bumped over my drink as more numbers came up mine.

The game over, I lurched back to the cashier: "Look!" She looked and checked the numbers and paid me off—rather too casually to suit my mood. "You shouldn't mark so many numbers," was all she said.

But I was revived, I was elated, I was a winner!

How much? Not as much as Eddie, maybe, but I went back into the restaurant and ordered a lavish breakfast. Afterwards, I had just enough to hire a limousine to the airport. It was, after all, vacation.

Also, Jennifer, the cocktail waitress, had my address and phone number. She'd look me up the next time she was in Grand Rapids. That would put Eddie in his place. □

Sam Baerman is now planning a trip to Vegas and hopes to see Hoover Dam.

Living It Up: Casino Holiday Guide

By taking advantage of off-season bargains and special promotions, you can take the high or the low roll.

One of the first laws of capitalism is that increased competition in a marketplace will result in lower prices. Like most economic laws, this one is capricious: witness the oil industry. But it works beautifully in one of the most competitive areas of the American economy—Nevada gaming.

The State of Nevada has issued more than 140 non-restricted gaming licenses to casinos and slot operators. (New Jersey has licensed only 15.) In Nevada the results are 10-cent crap games, 39-cent breakfasts, 50-cent bar drinks, \$5 cabaret shows, \$6 one-pound steaks, \$9 rooms, free transportation and refunds for your airplane ticket.

The cow-county casinos have always offered good prices to go along with the friendly, relaxed atmosphere that is a trademark of such towns as Elko, Jackpot, Hawthorne, Laughlin, Winnemucca, and Wendover. Cactus Pete's, in Jackpot, has one of the best deals in the state. It provides a free bus to groups of 30 or more who come down to Jackpot from Idaho's Magic Valley.

Another example: the State Line Casino in Wendover has a Sunday-Monday deal called the Nevada Special that gives two people a room for two nights, four dinners (good ones), drinks, nickels and keno tickets for \$55. In most cities and resorts these days, \$55 might get you parking privileges and a continental breakfast.

In Las Vegas, Reno and Tahoe, the competition among the dozens of hotels and casinos has run absolutely amok over the last couple of years. The result, in the

concise word of Sam's Town Food Director Bob Boughner, is value. Two of Sam's Town's specials, in my mind (or stomach), go beyond value to economic-gastronomic bliss: a \$9.95 steak and lobster dinner, and a \$13.95 two-pound prime rib dinner. Beat that, New Jersey.

So the values are there throughout the state. But with so many choices available, how do you decide where and when to go? Just follow these easy instructions and make your own deal.

- Go in the off-season. Generally that means midweek in Las Vegas, winter in Reno, fall and spring at Tahoe.

- Go Sunday through Thursday. Hotel and motel room rates are lower during the week. If it's obvious that the town is not full, and you don't mind the hassle, shop around. Don't be afraid to dicker a little.

- Check the Sunday travel sections of major newspapers. Nevada casinos advertise their special packages, which always include discounted rooms, meals, drinks and sometimes shows.

- When you get to town, check the local papers for current food bargains. Recently, the Cal-Neva in Reno advertised 40-cent hamburgers and \$2.95 prime rib for a birthday special.

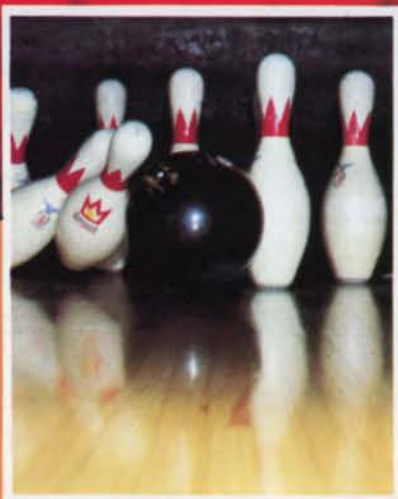
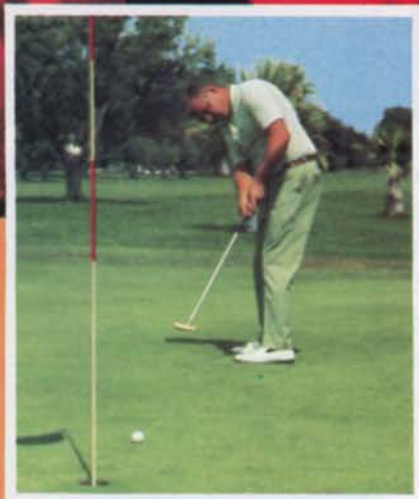
- In Reno and Las Vegas, use the free shuttle buses that travel between the major gaming centers.

- If you are gambling—table games, keno or slots—don't be afraid to ask for a drink. Free drinks for gaming patrons is a 50-year-old Nevada tradition.

(Continued on page 50)

After starring with Bo Derek in "Tarzan the Ape Man," C.J. the orangutan wagers her salary at a Tropicana craps table.





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LIVING IT UP: RESORT GUIDE

(Continued from page 46)

• Go to the cabaret shows. The entertainers are not the big names that appear in the main rooms, but they are good. You can see everything from burlesque revues and comedians to rock-and-roll and jazz musicians for \$5 to \$10, and that includes two drinks.

• Finally, to find tips on "money managing," pick up Nevada Magazine's Special 50th Anniversary of Gaming issue and read the article, "How to Play the Games."

—Michael Greenan

The Code of the Casino

The unspoken rules of casino etiquette can dictate the flavor and fun of your holiday. The proper tip, the right gesture, the subtle knowing glance—all combine to enhance your vacation. Following are 10 commandments of hotel and casino etiquette that you'll want to remember:

1. Never leave a car with more than 400 horsepower in the hands of a parking lot attendant. The temptation and the loss of rubber are too great.

2. Always tip the cocktail waitress. This will guarantee good service, strong drinks and lusty smiles.

3. Never pinch the cocktail waitress. Her smile will vanish as a herd of muscle bound security guards drop-kick you out the front door.

4. Don't split 10s when playing blackjack. This offense is punishable by sneers, laughter (they're laughing *at* you) and loss of money.



Like generals planning strategies over field maps, craps players at Las Vegas' Desert Inn concentrate on the battles of the green felt.

5. Avoid spilling your drink on a blackjack table. If you do, remain calm. Play two more hands (after you bear the polite grins of the people who clean up the sticky mess) and then quietly leave. Go to another casino.

6. Don't touch a die that has fallen from a craps table. Trained employees will escort the little jewel back to its place of honor. Your assistance is frowned upon.

7. Wear shirt and socks at all times.

8. Avoid slot machines that are coveted by small, female grey-haired senior citizens. That is, if you value your life.

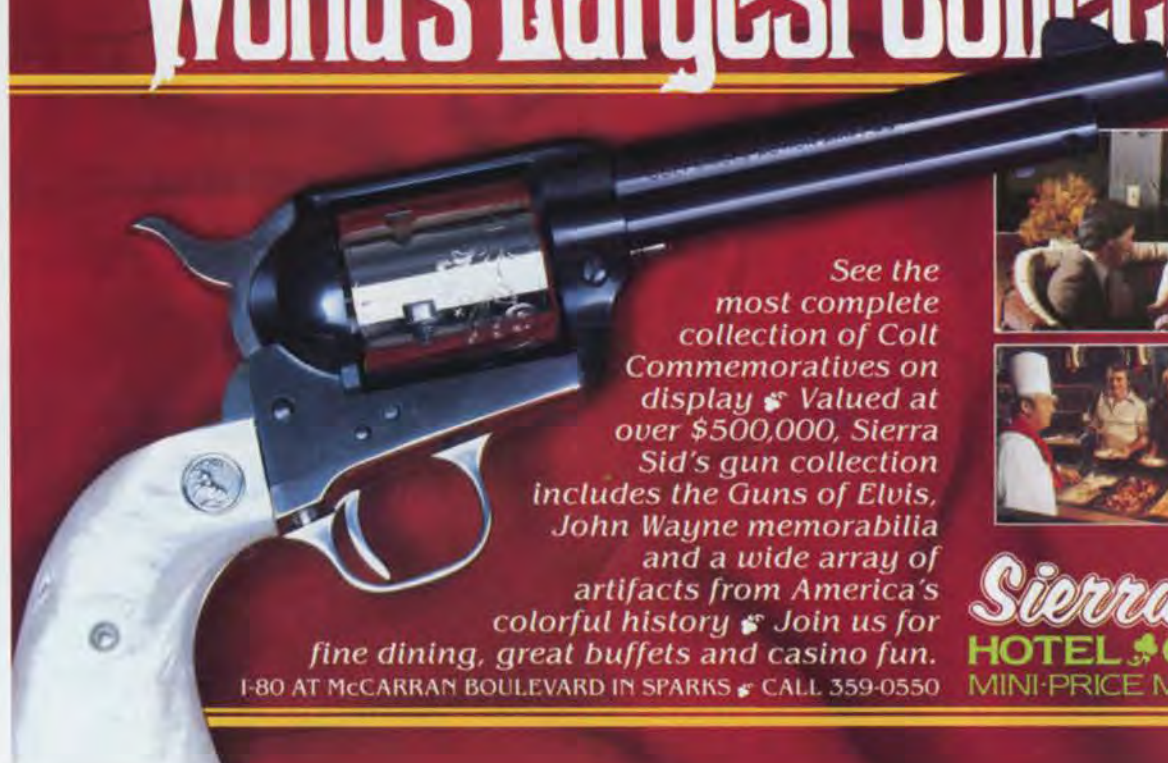
9. Don't take a camera into a gambling hall. Once exposed, you'll be the focus of hostile attention. Either the camera, you or both must go.

10. Never gamble with more money than you can afford to spend. This time-honored rule will guarantee a good time and painless memories.—Jim Crandall

Everybody Passes

Table games like blackjack, craps, roulette, poker and baccarat are the most sociable and profitable games in casinos, but many

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first-time gamblers hesitate to play. The action is fast, and although basic rules are simple, winning strategies can be complex. So how can you learn to play without risking your bankroll?

The answer is to go to school. Many casinos offer free instruction at regularly scheduled gaming schools. Of these, most teach blackjack and craps, but some, like those at the Tropicana and Imperial Palace in Las Vegas, cover all table games.

Other casinos have less formal instruction or will organize a class upon request. Las Vegas' Bingo Palace, for instance, holds beginner poker games and tournaments. At Caesars Tahoe you can learn in your room by watching the gaming guide on channel 2 on the casino's closed circuit TV.

Still other casinos are glad to give you free brochures that spell out the rules—Harolds Club, for instance, has a good one. And if a game isn't busy, the dealer will answer most questions.

Of course, no basic instruction will guarantee that you'll win. But, at the very least, you'll know what's going on.—RS

Scenic Side Bets

Suppose you're staying at a hotel, and you want a break from gambling and think a tour of Nevada scenery would be just the thing. Most casinos will be glad to help out.

Just go to the bell desk and ask what's available. Bell captains keep information on tour companies and their offerings and,

(Continued on page 54)

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Where to Stay and Play

	phone (702)	rooms	usual prices	season bargains	pool	tennis courts	buffet	gourmet rest.	steak house	seafood	Oriental	Italian	French	Mexican	coffee shop	blackjack tables/ min. bet	craps/ min. bet	roulette/ min. bet	baccarat/ min. bet	poker/ min. bet	slots	keno	bingo	gaming instr.	sportbook	date estab.
LAS VEGAS/NORTH LAS VEGAS																										
Aladdin	736-0111	1,100	\$47-76	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	32/\$3	8/\$3	3/\$3	2/\$20		1,113	✓	✓	✓		1976
Ambassador	733-7777	338	\$30-35	✓	✓											6/\$1	1/\$1			1/\$1	100					1978
Barbary Coast	737-7111	157	\$35-50	✓				✓								25/\$2	6/\$1	2/50c	2/55	5/\$1	474	✓		✓		1979
Bingo Palace	876-8223															22/\$1	3/25c	2/25c		13/50c	550	✓	✓	✓	✓	1976
Binion's Horseshoe	382-1600	80	\$18-30					✓	✓							24/\$1	7/\$1	2/51			649	✓				1958
Caesars Palace	731-7222	1,734			✓	✓	2	✓								51/\$3	11/\$3	8/52	5/\$20	12/\$1	705	✓	✓	✓	✓	1966
California	385-1222	300	\$34	✓				✓								16/\$2	3/25c	2/10c			487	✓	✓			1975
Castaways	731-5252	230	\$32-44		✓											16/\$1	2/\$1	1/25c			350					1965
Circus Circus	734-0410	1,610	\$19-34	✓	✓	✓	✓				✓					66/\$1	5/\$1	4/25c		16/\$1	1,500	✓	✓			1968
Del Webb's Mini	385-7440	300	\$25-50	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓							44/\$1	6/\$1	3/10c	1/\$1	12/\$2	950	✓	✓	✓	✓	1965
Desert Inn	733-4444	825	\$70-90	✓	✓	✓	✓						✓	✓		32/\$3	6/\$3	3/53	3/\$20	8	440	✓		✓		1950
Dunes	737-4110	1,232	\$48-90	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓							33/\$2	8/\$2	5/\$1	6	10/\$1	627	✓		✓		1955
El Cortez	385-5200	156	\$17-20					✓								25	6	2		2	750	✓		✓		1940
Eldorado, Henderson	564-1811															12/50c	1/50c	1/50c		1	300	✓				1962
Flamingo Hilton	733-3111	2,250	\$30-70		✓			✓	✓							40/\$2	6/\$1	4/50c			700	✓				1946
Four Queens	385-4011	720	\$34-40	✓			✓						✓			40/\$2	5/\$1	2/25c		8/\$1	875	✓	✓			1965
Fremont	385-3232	450	\$35-39				✓									32/\$1	6/\$1	3/51	1/\$1	16/\$1	877	✓		✓		1956
Frontier	734-0110	600	\$42-76	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓								21/\$2	5/\$2	2/\$2		4/\$1	800	✓				1942
Golden Gate	382-6300	106	\$20-40					✓								16/\$1	3/25c	1/25c			488	✓				1974
Golden Nugget	385-7111	600	\$40-54	✓	✓			✓								34/\$1	6/\$2	3/51	1/\$2	7/\$1	555	✓				1946
Hacienda	739-8911	840	\$30-60	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓								20/\$2	3/\$2	2/\$1		4/25c	573	✓				1956
Holiday	732-2411	1,000	\$50-up	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓								36/\$1	5/\$1	3		8/\$1	718	✓	✓			1973
Imperial Palace	731-3311	1,522	\$45-65	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓						26/\$2	4/\$2	3/\$2	2/\$25	8/\$1	601	✓	✓			1971
Landmark	733-1110	498	\$24-45	✓	✓											16/\$1	2/\$1	2/\$1		2/50c	554	✓	✓	✓		1969
Las Vegas Club	385-1661	224	\$35-42	✓			✓									22/\$1	4/50c	2/50c		2/\$1	512	✓		✓		1961
Las Vegas Hilton	732-5111	3,174	\$54-89	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓						32	9	4	3		884	✓	✓			1969
Little Caesar's	736-4187															4/\$1	1/25c				134					1965
Marina	739-1500	870	\$32-56	✓	✓		✓	✓								22/\$2	3/\$2	2/50c			550	✓				1975
Maxim	731-4300	800	\$47-110	✓	✓			✓								27/\$2	4/55	3/51	1/\$2	5/\$1	495	✓	✓			1977
MGM Grand	739-4222	2,900	\$59-800	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓					90	10	9	3	18	1,000	✓				1973
Riviera	734-5110	1,200	\$49-115	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓						36/\$2	6/\$2	1/\$2	3		560	✓				1955
Sahara	737-2111	932	\$45-60	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓						48/\$2	6/\$2	2/\$2	1/\$2	9/\$3	780	✓	✓			1952
Sam's Town	456-7777	200	\$30	✓												35/\$1	4/25c	2/10c	1/\$2	6/\$1	785	✓	✓	✓		1979
Sands	733-5000	756	\$50-90	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓								31/\$2	8/\$2	4/\$2	5/\$20		447	✓				1952
Showboat	385-9123	499	\$35	✓	✓	✓	✓									21/\$1	2/\$1	1/\$1		6/\$1	1,200	✓	✓	✓		1954
Silver City	732-4152															16/\$1	2/25c	2/10c			479	✓				1981
Silver Nugget	399-1111				✓			✓								12	1	1		2	446	✓	✓			1966
Silver Slipper	734-1212						✓									17/\$1	2/\$2	1/\$1		7/\$1	426	✓				
Stardust	732-6111	1,400	\$30-70	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓							48/\$2	7/\$2	4	1/\$5	25	1,047	✓		✓		1958
Sundance	382-6111	650	\$30-40	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓							32/\$1	5/25c	2/10c	1/\$2	6/\$1	687	✓	✓	✓		1980
Tropicana	739-2222	1,100	\$59-89	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓							35/\$2	8/\$2	2/\$2	3/\$10	8/\$1	525	✓	✓	✓		1957
Union Plaza	386-2110	1,030	\$42-55	✓	✓	✓	✓									28/\$2	6/\$2	4	2/\$5	7	778	✓		✓		1971
Vegas World	382-2000	100	\$25-35	✓	✓			✓								21/25c	3/10c	1/25c				✓				1979
LAKE TAHOE																										
Barney's	588-2455															9/\$2	1/\$1				456					
Caesars Tahoe	588-3515	446	\$85-up	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓							45	6	5	2	14	740	✓	✓	✓		1979
Cloud's Cat-Neva	832-4000	220	\$45-65	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓								26/\$2	2/\$2	1/\$1		6/\$1	300	✓	✓	✓		1937
Harrah's Tahoe	588-8611	540	\$80-90	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓								n/a										1957
Harvey's Inn	588-2411	124	\$36-52	✓	✓											n/a										1976
Harvey's Resort	588-2411	200	\$58-75	✓			✓	✓								n/a										1944
Hyatt Lake Tahoe	831-1111	460	\$72-310	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓								30/\$2	3/\$2	3/25c		5	350			✓		1976
Nevada Lodge	831-0660	95	\$32-up	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓								19	3	1			725	✓				1946
Sahara Tahoe	588-6211	537	\$52-72	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓								20/\$2	10/\$2	3/\$2	1/\$5	10/\$1		✓	✓			1966
RENO/SPARKS/CARSON CITY																										
Boomtown	345-6000	120	\$25-36	✓	✓											30/\$2	2/\$1			3/\$1	600	✓				1967
Bonanza	323-2724	14	\$24-up													6	1				140					1970
Carson Nugget	882-1626							✓	✓							22/\$2	2/25c	2/25c			600	✓	✓			1954
Circus Circus	329-0711	725	\$25-29	✓	✓	✓	✓									62/\$1	3/\$1	3/\$1		10	1,125	✓	✓			1978

Suites and games: a complete guide to 110 casinos and resorts in Vegas, Reno, Tahoe and the cow counties.

By Roger Smith and Casey Fuetsch

	phone (702)	rooms	usual prices	season bargains	pool	tennis courts	buffet	gourmet rest.	steak house	seafood	Oriental	Italian	French	Mexican	coffee shop	blackjack tables/ min. bet	craps/ min. bet	roulette/ min. bet	baccarat/ min. bet	poker/ min. bet	slots	keno	bingo	gaming instr.	sportsbook	date estab.
Club Cal-Neva	323-1046															35/25c	4/25c	5/10c	1/\$2	7	1,000	✓	✓	✓	1962	
Comstock	329-1880	172	\$36-46	✓	✓											17/\$2	1/25c	1/\$2			425	✓		✓	1979	
Eldorado	786-5700	411	\$35-200	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	28/\$1	2/\$2	1/\$1			437	✓	✓	✓	1973	
Fitzgerald's	786-3663	324	\$39-110				✓								✓	n/a									1975	
Golden Spike, Carson	882-7777														✓	6/\$1					182	✓			1976	
Harolds Club	329-0881							✓		✓					✓	43/\$1	3/25c	3/25c		11/50c	1,500	✓	✓	✓	1935	
Harrah's	786-3232	565	\$55-75	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	n/a								✓	1938	
Holiday	329-0411	195	\$30-52	✓				✓							✓	10/\$2	1/\$1	1/\$1			178	✓			1956	
Horseshoe/Silver Spur	323-7900														✓	11/\$1	1/25c	1/10c			450	✓			1967	
John Ascuaga's Nugget	358-2233	350	\$21-36	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓				2	38/\$2	4/\$1	2/25c		9/\$1	1,200	✓	✓			1955	
Karl's Silver Club	358-4771	206	\$20-35	✓											✓	8/\$2	1/25c			1/\$1	393	✓			1967	
King's Inn	786-4486	151	\$29-40	✓	✓										✓	9	1				163	✓			1974	
Mapes	323-1611	240	\$24-150					✓							✓	n/a								✓	1947	
MGM Grand	789-2000	2,001	\$46-250	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	88/\$2	10/\$2	4	1	13	1,500	✓	✓	✓	1978	
Money Tree	323-2023							✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	16/\$1	2/10c	1/25c			425	✓			1978	
Onslow	786-7310	182	\$32-up	✓				✓							✓	10/\$1	1/25c	1/10c			325	✓			1978	
Ormsby House, Carson	882-1890	200	\$32-44	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓						✓	14/\$2	1/\$1	1/25c			285	✓	✓		1972	
Peppermill	826-2121	243	\$24-58	✓	✓										✓	14	1	1			360	✓	✓	✓	1971	
Pioneer Inn	329-9781	252	\$30-48	✓	✓			✓							✓	10/\$2	1/\$1				165	✓			1969	
Plantation	359-9440														✓	6/\$2	1/\$1			1/\$1	172	✓			1976	
Reno Hilton	785-7000	600	\$42-54	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	40	5	2		9	1,200	✓			1978	
Reno Ramada	788-2000	250	\$25-65	✓				✓							✓	9/\$2	1/10c	1/10c			206	✓			1980	
Sands	786-3311	400	\$35-65	✓	✓			✓							✓	16/\$1	1/\$1	1/25c		2/\$1	620	✓	✓		1979	
Sierra Sid's	329-3447	310	\$16-50	✓	✓			✓						✓	✓	10/\$1	1/10c	1/10c		1	500	✓			1972	
Sundowner	786-7050	600	\$35-40	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	19/\$2	1/\$2	1/\$1			400	✓			1975	

RURAL, CENTRAL & NORTH

Mizpah, Tonopah	482-6202	56	\$31-50					✓	✓					✓	7/\$2	1/\$2					208	✓	✓		1907
Station House, Tonopah	482-9777	58	\$35-45	✓			✓	✓	✓					✓	5/\$1	1/\$1				1/\$1	90	✓			1982
Bank Club, Ely	289-8778													✓	6/\$1	1/\$1				1	76	✓			1932
Hotel Nevada, Ely	289-4414	64						✓						✓	5/\$1	1/\$1					70	✓			1931
Goldrush, Wendover	664-2255	93	\$39-55	✓										✓	8/\$1	1/\$1					167	✓			1981
Nevada Crossing, Wendover	664-4000	48	\$35	✓										✓	11	1					300	✓			1982
State Line, Wendover	664-2221	102	\$30-37	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	20	2	1			333	✓			1926
Cactus Pete's, Jackpot	755-2321	132	\$28-44	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓				✓	23/\$1	2/\$1	1/75c		4		300	✓			1956
Stockmen's, Elko	738-5141	141	\$28-60	✓											✓	7/\$2	1/\$2	1/\$2			300	✓			1958
Nevada Hotel, Battle Mt.	635-2453	15	\$12-25												✓	2					30	✓			1872
Star, Winnemucca	623-2525														✓	10/\$2	1/\$2				300	✓			1900
Winners, Winnemucca	623-2511	99	\$21-29	✓				✓						✓	12/\$2	1/\$2					274	✓			1900

RURAL, SOUTH

Cal-Nev-Ari Casino	297-9289														✓	1					15	✓			1964
Searchlight Nugget	297-1201	20	\$18											✓	2/\$2	1				1	46	✓			1940
Colorado Belle, Laughlin	298-2425							✓						✓	4/\$2	1/\$1					75	✓			1980
Edgewater, Laughlin	298-2453	156	\$30-45	✓	✓			✓						✓	12/\$2	2/\$2	1/\$2				295	✓			1981
Nevada Club, Laughlin	298-2512	25	\$23-29					✓						✓	21/\$1	1/\$1	2/25c		3/\$1		425	✓			1979
Regency, Laughlin	298-2439													✓	4/\$2						75	✓			1980
Riverside Resort, Laughlin	298-2535	100	\$38 av.	✓				✓						✓	18/\$1	2/\$1	1/\$1	1/\$1	4		1,000	✓	✓		1966
Goldstrike Inn, Hoover Dam	293-5000	71	\$19					✓						✓	11/\$1	1/25c	1		3/\$1		407	✓			1958
Exchange Club, Beatty	553-2368							✓						✓	2/\$1					1	31	✓	✓		1906

RURAL, WEST

Bonanza Inn, Fallon	423-6031	76	\$25-45	✓										✓	4/\$1	1/25c	1/5c				77	✓			1976
Fallon Nugget	423-3111													✓	5/\$1	1/\$1				1/\$1	110	✓			1962
Dini's Lucky Club, Yerington	463-2868							✓						✓	2/\$2						30	✓			1933
Casino West, Yerington	463-3114	40	\$25-32	✓	✓									✓	3/\$2	1/\$2	1				80	✓			1977
Sharkey's Nugget, Gardnerville	782-3133							✓						✓	3/\$2						115	✓			1971
Li Brand's, Topaz	266-3321													✓	2/\$2						15	✓			1979
Topaz Lodge	266-3339	18	\$22-24	✓	✓									✓	5/\$1	1/\$1	1/\$1				140	✓			1950s
El Capitan, Hawthorne	945-3322	103	\$26-32	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓						✓	7/\$2	1/\$1	1/25c		2/\$2		170	✓			1944

See Showguide, page 61, for complete listing of main showroom and lounge entertainment.

LIVING IT UP: RESORT GUIDE

(Continued from page 51)

when you decide on a trip, will make bookings for you.

The sights are many and varied. From Las Vegas you can visit Hoover Dam, Old Vegas, the Grand Canyon (by air or bus), Valley of Fire, and Red Rock Canyon. You can also join a skiing trip to Mt. Charleston (in season, of course), a fishing trip, a tour of the Ethel M Chocolate Factory, a cruise on Lake Mead or a nightclub bender.

Reno tours feature Virginia City, Carson City and the Nevada State Museum, Genoa, Lake Tahoe (and skiing in the winter), the Ponderosa Ranch, Harrah's Auto Collection and Squaw Valley.

Trips can be arranged by the day or half day, and if you want to design your own outing, casinos and tour companies will oblige.

Betting on the IRS

Many gamblers have nightmares about Internal Revenue Service agents lurking behind every slot machine, recording every win. This is only partly a dream. All winnings at casinos are taxable as ordinary income, but three games—keno, slots, and bingo—receive special treatment.

Players who win \$1,200 or more from bingo or slots or \$1,500 or more (after the initial bet) in keno must fill out a W2G form at the time of the win. The winner must send the form to the IRS with his or her yearly tax statement, and the casino is



Abella Santiago accepts a big check after her winning tug at Reno Hilton's Pot-O-Gold carousel. Henri Lewin (left) gave straight advice: invest.

required to keep a copy. Money is withheld immediately only when the winner is a non-resident alien. For most foreigners 30 percent is withheld, but Canadians have to leave behind only 15 percent.

A lucky jai alai bettor who wins more than \$1,000 at 300-to-1 odds is subject to withholding. But anyone who beats those odds probably won't mind giving up 20 percent.—CF



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HAROLDS CLUB

The \$250,000 Lineup

One day last spring Abella Santiago of Fremont, California, piled into a van with six relatives for a quick trip to Reno. "We were even going to sleep in the van," she recalls, "so I packed only Levi's."

It may have started as a casual junket, but thanks to the epidemic of giant slot jackpots in the state, today Santiago is \$250,000 richer and glib about such things as income averaging and investments. She also is eligible to play for \$1 million in the finals of Hilton's Pot-O-Gold slot tournament next April.

Santiago is a dedicated slot fan. "I always get crazy on those machines," says the 39-year-old office supervisor, a native of the Philippines. "I lose my voice yelling, but I always have positive feelings I will win." Santiago, who scooped up a \$1,000 jackpot at Harolds Club two years ago, thinks of herself as a conservative gambler who sets aside only a certain amount for gambling so that "lose or win, I can be happy."

With a bankroll of \$170, Santiago and her husband headed for the slots after arriving in Reno. "I get bored waiting for the numbers when I play keno," she says. Before sitting down at the Pot-O-Gold carousels at the Reno Hilton, Santiago said hello to a neighboring player, Dr. Rex Howard, from Oregon.

Seventy-three dollars later, Santiago lined up the winning row of sevens, but it was Dr. Howard who saw what had happened. "Are you aware you've won a quarter of a million dollars?" he asked her.

"I was crying so much that Dr. Howard went over and paged my husband, but when he said, 'I'm Dr. Howard and your wife needs you,' Rolando thought something awful had happened to me," she recalls.

Later Hilton officials treated the Santiagos to an executive suite and the couple relished the highroller treatment. "Everything was free," she marvels. Mr. Santiago showed his gratitude by using his original bankroll to tip waiters, bus boys—everyone within reach. By morning the Santiagos were broke and had to cash a check to buy clothes for the check presentation ceremony. (Levi's wouldn't do, she says.)

At the ceremony, between glasses of champagne the Santiagos were advised by Henri Lewin, boss of Hilton's gaming division, to invest their winnings wisely. His counsel was taken seriously, for they have not spent any of the money, which is being tended to by a financial planner.

Santiago still pursues her part-time career selling real estate, and her husband is happy maintaining the massive air conditioning and heating facilities at Stanford Medical Center.

They do plan to change their usual Nevada trip, however. Each year Mrs. Santiago would organize a bus load of friends and relatives for a jaunt to Reno, and the proceeds would go to a church in the Philippines where her mother is caretaker.

But there will be no bus trip after her big win. Santiago says she can afford to make her own contribution to the church this year.—Ann Henderson



Pensive pachyderm prepares to mark a keno ticket, supporting the theory that casino workers gamble off duty.

Progressive Promotions

Times have changed in the jackpot world. A few years ago, any slot machine tigger would have been satisfied with flashing lights and a stream of quarters clunking into the tray. A jackpot, however small, was a thrill.

But silver-dollar slots, first popularized in Vegas in the late seventies, have created a big-prize craze that stops just short of a trip to the moon. Besides huge payoffs on progressive slots—Caesars Tahoe had a \$1-million winner—you could win a house from Sierra Sid's in Sparks. In Vegas the Imperial Palace offers antique cars; the Tropicana has presented a DeLorean sports-car. The Money Tree and Sundowner

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casinos in Reno both have had custom-made Auburns for long-odds winners.

Since not everybody appreciates a fancy automobile, Circus Circus winners might receive a motorcycle or Tri-moto. Jet skis and sports equipment (varying with the season, of course) are hot items at the Sahara Tahoe.

The ultimate prize is offered by the MGM Grand in Reno. Along with the jackpot (the last one was over \$700,000), the Stairway to the Stars winner may get a car, boat, motor home, plane or a trip around the world for four.—Casey Fuetsch

Against All Odds: Amazing Hotel Facts

Gambling invites extremes. Large amounts of money are wagered, won and lost. Casinos loom up and swell to accommodate the increasing flow of gamblers. Showrooms offer ever more extravagant productions to dazzle patrons. Although the most amazing gambling fact of all may be the survival and proliferation of resorts and casinos in a mountain-creased desert state like Nevada, here are some more specific credulity-bogglers.

- In 1980 Jack Davison took his last \$6 to Binion's Horseshoe in Las Vegas and began throwing the dice at a craps table. One hour and 45 minutes later he had made 34 straight passes without a crap (2, 3 or 12). The odds against such stamina are more than 10 million to one, but Davison said that luck had nothing to do with his success. He claimed that he could control the dice. Still more amazing was his take—only \$2,400. He could, in theory, have won the casino.

- Before 1965 Harolds Club in Reno had 2,315 "Harolds Club or Bust" billboards worldwide. Residents of the Congo, Casablanca, North Pole, Marshall Islands, Philippines, Vietnam and Greenland could all marvel at the casino's terse advertisement. But after 1965 the Federal Highways Beautification Act required the club to take down most of its signs in the United States.

- If you have the money and need the space, you can spend \$1,200 a night at the Desert Inn in Las Vegas for a three-bedroom, 4,000-square-foot suite decorated in 18th- and 19th-century styles.

- The Olympic swimming pool in the Garden of Gods at Caesars Palace copies the design of ancient Rome's Pompeii baths. More than 8,000 pieces of marble quarried from Carrara, Italy, tile the pool.

- Laughlin, a seven-casino border town in southern Nevada, has fewer than 100 residents but earned more than \$35 million in gaming revenues in 1980.

- Most Nevadans know that the first Las Vegas Strip hotel was the El Rancho, built in 1941. But who knows the second? It was the Last Frontier, which opened a year later.

- The MGM Grand Hotel in Reno has the world's largest gaming area—100,000 square feet. The Las Vegas Hilton has the most rooms—3,174—in the state. Las Vegas' Circus Circus, however, knows where the real action is; its casino contains 1,500 slot machines.

- The state's most seasoned hotel and gambling house is the Nevada Hotel in



The specialty of the day is always service at casino restaurants. Here diners and waitress discuss orders in Las Vegas' Golden Nugget.

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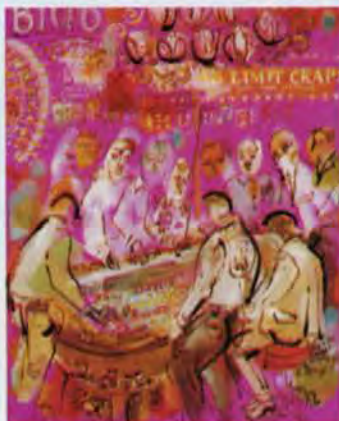
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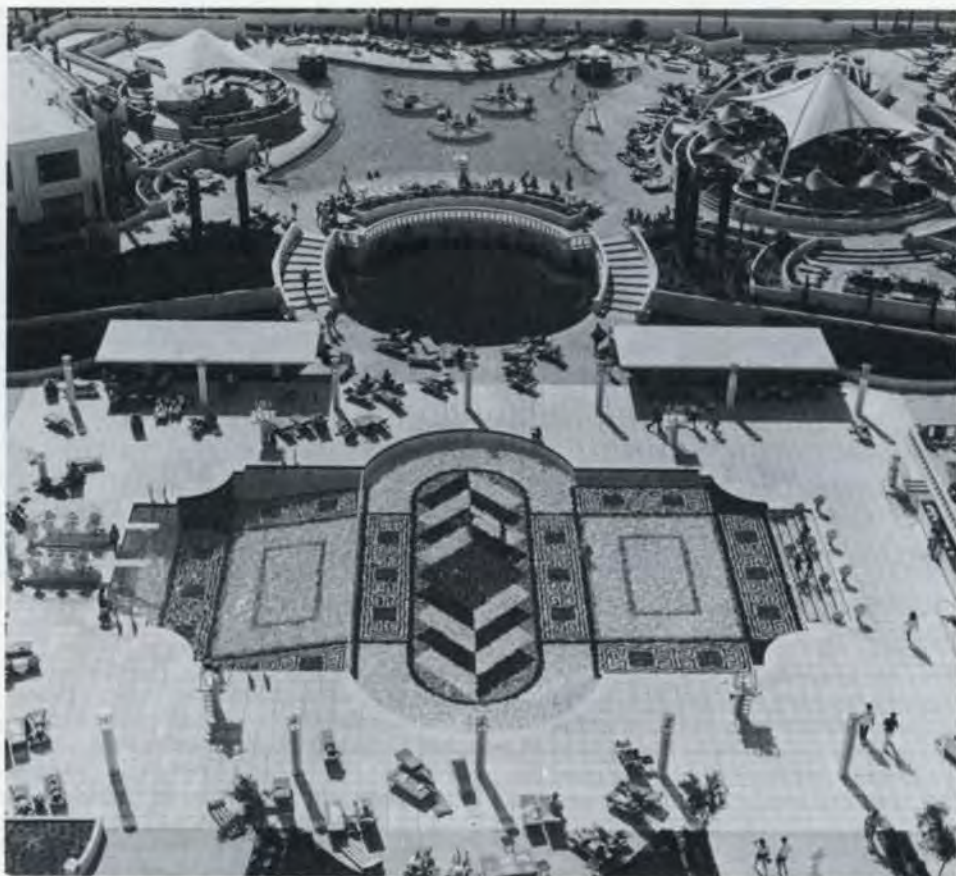
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The Olympic swimming pool at Las Vegas' Caesars Palace is tiled with more than 8,000 pieces of marble quarried in Carrara, Italy.

Battle Mountain. It opened in 1872.

• The longest-running stage show is the Lido de Paris at the Stardust. A Donn Arden creation, the Lido opened in 1958. The second longest-running is the Tropicana's Folies Bergere, circa 1960.

• The fountains at Caesars Palace hold 350,000 gallons of water, 10,000 of which is always shooting into the air over the reflecting pools.—Roger Smith

The House's Edge

Casinos want to win money, and to ensure that they do, house percentages are always tipped in their favor. The house percentages for baccarat and roulette can be calculated

precisely, but for 21, craps, keno and slot machines, odds vary according to house rules, payoffs and player skills. The games below are ranked by approximate ranges of house advantage:

Blackjack	.5-15%
Craps	.7-16.7%
Baccarat	1.27%
Roulette	5.26%
Slot Machines	2-50%
Wheel of Fortune	11-25%
Keno	18-35%
Race Track	18%
Neighborhood Bookie	28%

These odds are from *The Weekend Gambler's Handbook*, a plain-dealing guide by Las Vegas gaming pioneer Major A. Riddle.

—Michael Greenan



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Showguide

Star Wars: Panic in the Showroom

Headliners could become an endangered species in Nevada as fees rise and hotels guard their vaults. By Ann Henderson

In 1953, Marlene Dietrich was paid \$30,000 a week to appear at the Sahara in Las Vegas. Although that was a shocking sum in those days, the hotel owners paid it gladly because of the worldwide publicity and gamblers that Dietrich attracted.

For years big name stars have been synonymous with Nevada night life. But today some performers in the superstar rank are asking more than a quarter of a million dollars a week. No wonder that John

Ascuaga, who signs the checks at the Nugget in Sparks, says the biggest headache in running a casino is picking entertainers. Owners and entertainment directors want performers who can fill their showrooms—at a price that won't break the customers or the house.

That's why you will find an increasing number of hotels turning away from solo artists and featuring production shows and Broadway plays. As fees rise and hotels reevaluate strategy, they are beginning to

question the effectiveness of a Nevada tradition: the star policy. This summer Caesars Palace announced it will include the musical "42nd Street" in its lineup beginning next May. Although the play will not replace Frank Sinatra, Ann-Margret and other Caesars stars, the change leaves only eight other casinos with a headliner policy.* Not everyone likes what is happening, even old timers like Danny Thomas, who opened the Sands showroom in 1952. Thomas recently urged entertainers not to be greedy with Nevada casinos. "Many stars have priced themselves out of jobs," he said. "You just don't do that to the golden goose."

In the days when Marlene Dietrich waved her feather boa at Sahara audiences, little mind was paid to regression analysis and cost effectiveness. It was a status symbol among hotel owners to book the most famous stars, and the high price tag meant several month's worth of bragging rights. But big stars play for big bucks, and many casinos are wondering whether the bragging rights are worth it.

Country singer Kenny Rogers and pop rocker Neil Diamond are typical of the superstars who don't play in Nevada. Rogers, who played Las Vegas and Reno until two years ago, can make \$60,000 a night in concert, far more than he'll net in the showrooms.

Jim Thompson, vice-president of entertainment for the Nugget, says he doesn't fault big stars like Rogers and Diamond for going for the big money. "They are all too aware that stardom is transitory," he says. "But if the clubs were to meet the demands of some artists, it would be a good way to destroy our industry. Fifty dollars for a cocktail show is not fair, I don't care who the star is."

According to Thompson, the Nugget chooses performers using three criteria: they must be affordable, popular and fit the Nugget's image, which means you'll find mostly country-western stars on the mar-

*The MGM Las Vegas, Riviera, Reno Hilton, Caesars Tahoe, Harrah's Reno and Tahoe, Sahara Tahoe and John Ascuaga's Nugget.



Jimmy Durante, superstar of the '60s.



Patti Page: black dress and sultriness.



Mayberry's sheriff, Andy Griffith.



Jack Benny's last show was at the Trop.



Kenny Rogers, megabuck superstar.



Ann-Margret, Caesars' successful slinker.



Frank Sinatra, guru of the highrollers.

que. Each casino has its own formula, and over the years several have developed, generally along four lines: The headliners, big shows (the Lido and Folies have run for decades), small revues (which can be the main event or lounge feature, depending on the club), and, as in the case of Harolds Club, no entertainment at all.

Early casino owners believed that a busy showroom meant a busy casino, but the corporate chiefs since the late '60s have questioned that formula, asking (and studying) whether showgoers are gamblers and in turn whether gamblers see the stars.

Does this mean that big name entertainers will go the way of the penny slots? Not without a fight, says Pee Dee Leavitt, entertainment director for the Riviera. "We'll have headliners as long as possible," she vows. "We choose our stars for their ability to fill the showroom at a price that will enable visitors to pay for the show and still have money left for gambling."

As the future of the headliner seems assured at least for now, so does the great variety of shows the new trend has wrought. You can choose from fantastic productions such as Siegfried and Roy at the Frontier, the extravaganzas at the MGMs, and "The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas," the Broadway play at the Desert Inn.

The Riviera's Leavitt believes the trend toward production shows will reverse itself. "Entertainers who are realistic are beginning to realize that hotels (and their customers) can't afford six-figure salaries," she says. "In another year, I believe you will see a return to the star policy."

Thompson, too, points to the cyclical nature of the showroom lineup. In 1967, Ray Bolger, Jimmy Durante and Pat Boone headlined at the Nugget. Now you'll find Mel Tillis, Roy Clark and the Oak Ridge Boys. "Twenty years ago no one would admit liking country-western," says Thompson. "Now it's in." □

Ann Henderson is entertainment editor of Nevada Magazine. Her favorite star is Tom Selleck even though he can't sing.

Casino Notes

- Soviet singer Djan Tatlian has found asylum at the Imperial Palace in Las Vegas, where he is launching his bid for stardom in the Free World. At one time Tatlian enjoyed superstar status in Russia, but he fell into disfavor with Communist Party bosses when he did not perform the required number of "patriotic songs." Tatlian, who escaped to the West in 1974, will be at the Imperial Palace through September 15.
- Smart. First Interstate Bank installed an automatic teller where it's really handy—amid the slots and poker machines at John Ascuaga's Nugget in Sparks.
- Fantastic bashes are the specialty at Nevada's rural casinos. Ely's Hotel Nevada and Sharkey's in Gardnerville have hosted memorable impromptu parties, particularly during local celebrations. On Labor Day weekend the hot spot in Winnemucca should be the new Star Casino. Just follow the trail of Copenhagen-carrying cowboys from the annual pro rodeo.—Ann Henderson

Shows & Stars

Following is a muster of the stars, revues and extravaganzas you can see in Nevada showrooms in September and October. 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, 8pm buffet dinner show \$17.95, midnight cocktail show \$12.95, includes 2 drinks
- Barbary Coast**, 737-7111 Royal Dixie Jazz Band, indf., noon-6pm; Irish Showband, indf., 9:30pm, midnight & 2am
- Caesars Palace**, 731-7333: Wayne Newton, thru 9/1
- Circus Circus**, 734-0410: Circus acts, 11am-midnight, free

Desert Inn, 733-4444: "The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas," Broadway musical, indf., 7pm & 11pm Tues.-Sun.

Dunes, 737-4110: *Casino Theater*: Robert Goulet, indf.; 8pm dinner show from \$18.75, midnight cocktail show \$15.75. *Top of the Dunes*: Loretta Holloway, 9/6-10/2

Fleming Hilton, 733-3333: City Lites, revue, indf.; 8pm dinner show from \$14.50, midnight cocktail show \$10.95

Four Queens, 385-4011 Nightly entertainment

Frontier, 734-0240: Siegfried and Roy in Beyond Belief, revue, indf., 7pm & 11pm Sun., Tues.-Thurs., 9:15pm & 12:15am Fri. & Sat.; family show (no nudity) 6pm Fri. & Sat., \$22.50 includes 2 drinks

Hacienda, 739-8911 Fire & Ice, ice spectacular, indf.; 8pm dinner show from \$13.95, 11pm cocktail show \$10.95, includes 2 drinks

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 Russian singer Djan Tatlian, thru Sept. 15; 10pm Sun.-Thurs., 8pm & midnight Fri. & Sat., \$15

Landmark, 733-1110: Lovelace Watkins, indf., 9pm Tues.-Thurs., 9pm & midnight Fri. & Sat.; \$14.95 includes 2 drinks

Las Vegas Hilton, 732-5111 Bal du Moulin Rouge, indf.; 8pm dinner show from \$19.50, midnight cocktail show from \$16.50

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

MGM Grand Hotel, 739-4567 *Ziegfeld Theatre*: Jubilee, indf.; 8:15pm & 11:45pm Sun.-Fri., 6:30pm, 10pm & 12:15am Sat.; \$22.50. *Celebrity Room*: Eddie Rabbitt, 9/2-8; Mac Davis, 9/9-22

Marina, 739-1500: Bloopers '82, musical comedy starring Fay McKay, indf., 8pm & 10pm Tues.-Sun., \$5.95, drinks not included

Maxim, 731-4300: Olde Tyme Burlesque, indf.; 8pm, 10:15pm & 12:30am Tues.-Sun., \$9.75 includes 2 drinks

Riviera, 734-5110: Larry Gatlin & Gatlin Bros. Band/Dottie West, thru 9/1; Tony Orlando/Joan Rivers, 9/2-8; Neil Sedaka/Joan Rivers 9/9-15; Neil Sedaka/David Brenner, 9/16-22; Village People, 9/23-29; Anne Murray, 9/30-10/6; 8pm dinner show & midnight cocktail show

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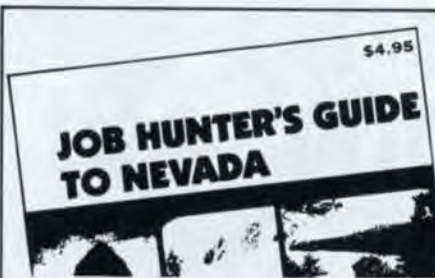
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Royal Las Vegas, 733-4000: Rare & Bare Burlesque, indf.; 8pm, 10pm & midnight, \$9.95

Sahara, 737-2111: Bottoms Up, revue, thru 9/22; Don Rickles, 9/23; 8pm & midnight

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; dark Thurs.; \$4.95. Branded, revue, indf.; 9pm & 11pm Sun.-Tues. & Thurs.; 7pm, 9pm & 11pm Fri. & Sat.; dark Wed.; \$4.95

Stardust, 732-6325: Lido de Paris '82, revue, indf., 7pm & 11pm Sun.-Fri.; 6:15pm, 9:15pm & 12:15am Sat.; \$17.50 includes 2 drinks

Sundance, 382-6111: Entertainment nightly

Tropicana, 739-2411 *Tiffany Theatre*: Follies Bergere, revue, indf.; 8pm dinner show from \$19.50, 11:30pm cocktail show \$13.95. *Fountain Theatre*: Monday Comedy Workshop, 9:30pm-midnight

Union Plaza, 386-2444: Broadway theater; 8pm dinner show from \$9.95, 11:30pm cocktail show \$5.95

Lake Tahoe

Caesars Tahoe, 588-3515: Jimmy Buffett, thru 9/2; Linda Ronstadt, 9/6-11

Cloud's Cal-Neva, 832-4000: Showcase Show, 9/6-10/3; Elmo & Patsy, 10/5-10

Crystal Bay Club, 831-0512: Nightly entertainment

Harrah's Lake Tahoe, 588-6611: *South Shore Room*: John Davidson/Jim Stafford, thru 9/2; Wayne Newton, 9/3-14; Bill Cosby/Temptations, 9/15-30; Mickey Gilley/Johnny Lee, 10/1-7; Anne Murray, 10/8-14; Charlie Daniels, 10/15-21; Crystal Gayle/Kelly Montelth, 10/22-28; Don Rickles, 10/29-11/4. *Stateline Cabaret*: Elvin Bishop, thru 9/5 (except Mon.), TBA, 9/6-10/11, Boxcar Willie, 10/12-24 (except Mon.)

Harvey's, 588-2411: *Top of the Wheel*: Opus/Cathi Hayes, 9/1-12; Ron Rose Sound, 9/1-10/10. *Show Bar*: Dan Nelson Show/Goofers, 9/1-5; Jonas, 9/1-12; Links, 9/1-20; Kenny Laursen/Ink Spots, 9/6-19; Sun Spots, 9/13-10/3; Apple Band, 9/13-26; Ernie Menehune, 9/20-10/10; Bach, 9/21-10/3; Frankie Fanelli, 9/21-10/4; Mark Seven, 9/27-10/10; Garlin Gathering/Goofers, 10/4-24; Smith Brothers, 10/11-31, John Mallon, 10/11-24; Marty Davis, 10/18-31, Tony Austin & Co., 10/18-11/7; Carol Rose, 10/25-11/7

Hyatt Lake Tahoe, 831-1111: Bach, thru 9/19; Garlin Gathering, 9/21-10/3; TBA, 10/5-10/24; Kelly & the Kid, 10/26-11/7

Sahara Tahoe, 588-6211 *High Sierra Theatre*: Lou Rawls/Pointer Sisters, thru 9/8; professional boxing, 9/2; Air Supply, 9/10-12. *Pinecone Lounge*: Cedar Creek, thru 9/5; Danny Marona, 9/7-19; Super Gold, 9/21-10/3; Joe Tex, 10/5-17; Sonny Turner, 10/26-11/14

Reno, Sparks & Carson City

Carson City Nugget, 882-1626: Jaguars, thru 10/3; dark Mon.

Circus Circus, 329-0711: Circus acts 11am-midnight, free

(Continued on page 68)

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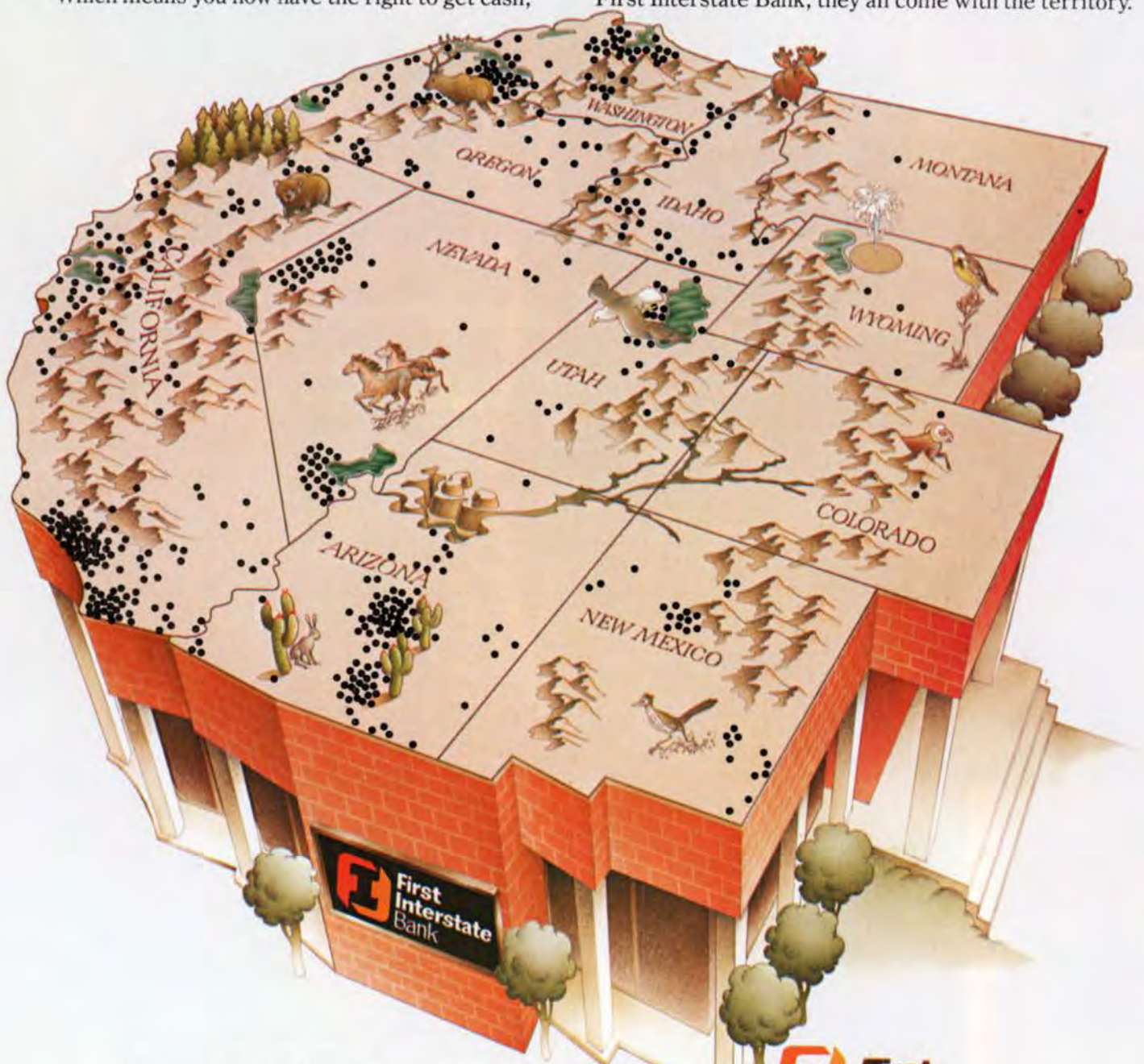
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SHOW GUIDE

(Continued from page 62)

Eldorado, 786-5700: *Mezzanine*: Two of Clubs, 9/20-10/17. *Casino Lounge*: Reycards, thru 10/31; Frankie Fanelli & Kirby St. Romain in concert, 9/11

Fitzgerald's, 786-3663: *Cabaret*: Steppen Stones, thru 9/6; Cathy O'Shea, thru 9/12; Maxy, 9/8-20; Sizzle, 9/14-26; Ink Spots, 9/22-10/11; Chris Shelton, 9/28-10/17. *Boos Brothers*, 10/13-11/1. *Winchester Cathedral*, 10/19-11/7. *Emerald Room*: Dan Miller Band, thru 9/12; Bet. E. Martin, 9/14-10/3; Gene DeValle, 10/5-24

Harrah's Reno, 329-4422: *Headliner Room*: Melissa Manchester, thru 9/1. *Loretta Lynn*, 9/2-15; Bobby Vinton, 9/16-29; Gordon Lightfoot, 9/30-10/6; Tony Orlando, 10/7-20; Righteous Brothers, 10/21-11/3. *Casino Cabaret*: Billy Preston, 9/6-12 (except Mon.)

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., 8pm dinner show from \$21.50, midnight cocktail show \$18.50. *Lion's Den*: Super Gold/Robyn Lewis & The Wild Thing, thru 9/14

Money Tree, 323-2023. Nightly entertainment

John Ascuaga's Nugget, Sparks, 358-2233: *Celebrity Room*: Mel Tillis, 9/2-15. *Casino Cabaret*: Wright Brothers/David Proud, thru 9/12; Cedar Creek/Cindy Hurt, 9/14-26; Lelands, 9/28-10/10; Zella Lehr/Friends, 10/12-24; Family Brown, 10/26-11/7

Onslow, 786-7310. Nightly entertainment

Ormsby House, Carson City, 882-1890: *Mark Twain Bar*: Par 3/Texas Playgirls, thru 9/5; Gary Xavier, 9/6-12; Chris Shelton, 9/7-26. *Supper Club*: Chip & Dave, thru 9/12

Reno Hilton, 322-1111. *Opera House Theatre*: Liberace, 9/14-10/4

Riverside, 786-4400: Dancing to the records of the '40s, '50s & '60s, Tues-Sun., no minimum

Rural Nevada

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

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Gardnerville: Sharkey's, 782-3133

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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, 298-2439; Edgewater Hotel & Casino, 298-2453; The Colorado Belle, 298-2425

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Topaz Lake: Li Brandi's, 266-3321 and Topaz Lodge, 266-3339

Wendover: Goldrush Casino, 664-2255; Nevada Crossing, 664-4000; Stateline Casino, 664-2221

Winnemucca: Star Hotel & Casino and Winners Hotel-Casino, 623-2511

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

All dates, performers and prices are subject to change. At press time, some casinos had not completed September/October bookings, so we recommend calling ahead to confirm entertainment schedules. □

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The Potlatch Papers

It's not how you play the game, but why.
By Richard Menzies

A friend of mine, having spent countless hours overseeing the action at a Nevada casino, came to the conclusion that the object of gambling is not to win but to lose. What's more, he said, gamblers seem to enjoy taking a beating. Who else but a bunch of masochists would sit hunched over a 21 table all night muttering, "Hit me hit me again"? Why, he reasoned, do you suppose they call the game blackjack?

As it happens, some scholarly inquiries into the psychology of gambling tend to support my friend's theory. Perhaps the best known of these is a treatise called "The Theory of Gambling," first published in 1936 by Dr. Edmund Bergler. Dr. Bergler was a professional psychoanalyst of the Freudian school, which teaches that human behavior is motivated by unconscious impulses. Chronic gamblers, opined Bergler, suffer from an unconscious craving for defeat, humiliation, rejection and pain. Thus, while the gambler may outwardly strive for victory, on the inside he yearns for the thrill of defeat.

Bergler believed the gambling neurosis to be rooted in infantile megalomania or an unresolved Oedipal complex, or both. A childish resentment of parental authority, for example, leads to unconscious guilt, which in turn demands unconscious punishment. Hence the gambler places his bet and mutters, "Hit me hit me again."

Bergler's theory caused quite a stir in psychiatric circles, but he is not without his critics. There are those who argue that he was too Freudian. In the same paper, for example, the doctor asserts that anti-gamblers are also sick, and by staying away from the tables they are merely trying to hide a latent gambling neurosis. And in his book *Money And Emotional Conflicts*, Bergler declared that patients who had trouble meeting his high fees were actually withholding the money to punish him for being right.

In any event, it's hard to believe that everyone who walks into a casino is a candidate for the couch, or that Nevada's major industry is founded upon mental disease. One who would no doubt disagree with Bergler is B. F. Skinner of Harvard

University. In Skinner's view, it really doesn't matter what the gambler's inner motives are; if he lost all the time, he'd soon quit gambling.

Skinner is the guru of another school of thought called behaviorism, which holds that a person's actions are directed more by external forces. In Skinner's view, man is something like a machine, albeit a complicated one.

The buzz words of behaviorism are "conditioned response." In Skinner's famous experiment at Harvard in the 1950s, a pigeon was placed in a cage equipped with colored buttons. Whenever the bird pecked on a certain button, it was promptly rewarded with a pellet of food. In time the bird came to associate the act of pecking the button with the result of being fed; thereafter, whenever the bird felt hungry, it would push the button.

In the course of his experiments with pigeons, Skinner made an important discovery: it wasn't necessary to reward the bird every time. Even if the pellets were delivered at random intervals, the bird would continue to peck away at the control button.

Skinner's automated birdcage became known as the Skinner Box, a prototype of the teaching machine. But if B. F. Skinner is the father of the teaching machine, then Charles Fey must be the grandfather. A San Francisco machinist by trade, it was Fey who way back in 1895 built the first slot machine. Using people instead of pigeons—or people as pigeons, as some would have it—Fey soon discovered that random reinforcement not only works, it pays.

In Fey's version of the Skinner Box, the test subject deposits a coin in the machine and pulls a lever, setting in motion a fruit cocktail of cherries, lemons and plums. When the reels come to rest, he is rewarded not with birdseed but with more coins. Aha! In goes another coin, down comes the lever, around go the reels. As long as he gets his occasional reward, he will continue to deposit the coins and pull the lever like a well-oiled machine. (And cocktail waitresses will appear from time to time to make sure he's kept well-oiled.)

Yet casinos aren't scientific laboratories,

and I suspect human beings are a bit more complicated than pigeons. For one thing, they appear to grow more animated in a crowd. A large gathering of gamblers seems to generate an excitement similar to that of a pep rally or a political convention. And why is it, I wondered, that the gaming industry thrives in spite of economic recession and national malaise?

"It's very simple," explained casino owner Jim Smith, quietly sipping a drink amid the clatter and shuffle of a typical Saturday night. "The worse the economy gets, the more people need status. The more they spend, the more status they have." In a nutshell, Smith has just described what I shall call the anthropological explanation for gambling.

The primitive Indian tribes of the American Northwest had no casinos or Saturday nights as such, but what they did have was a ceremony known as the potlatch. Potlatches were hosted by rich chieftains who sought to show off their wealth in an orgy of destruction. Blankets were burned, valuable coppers melted down, slaves were killed. When it was over, the chief who had wasted the most property would be hailed the winner, the high roller of the tribe.

Absurd? Unquestionably so; yet evidence of potlatch mentality persists in modern life in the form of what social scientist Thorstein Veblen in the early 1900s called "conspicuous consumption." Whether it's keeping up with the Joneses or waging an arms race with the Russians, the notion that you are what you spend is still very much with us. And anyone who argues that social status can't be bought in Las Vegas is probably just a poor loser—certainly not a rich one.

In the course of researching this article, I've seen some happy losers, quite a few slot robots and one or two savages in three-piece suits. But the most common creature by far is the one known as the occasional gambler. Occasional gamblers are the mainstay of Nevada's gambling industry; for the most part they are tourists who play a few hands, drop a few coins and then walk away—evidently not much affected by the experience. Being one myself, I found it hard to objectively analyze the inner workings of the occasional gambler, but one evening as I strolled through the Showboat in Las Vegas, I came upon an unusual gaming device that pretty much defines my feelings on the subject. At the end of a long row of nickel slots stood a cardboard wishing well, attached to a sign bearing these simple instructions: *Deposit Coin. Make a wish.*

In five words, the sign summed up the whole idea behind gambling, which is the act of taking a risk and hoping for the best. In the final analysis, the casino is a microcosmic allegory of life itself, for whether or not we ever set foot inside one, we are all gamblers by nature, committed from birth to take our chances and hoping against all odds our dreams will come true. □

Richard Menzies, a frequent Nevada contributor, is a freelance writer based in Salt Lake City.



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and dancing; and all the glitter, glamour and excitement of your favorite resort/hotel/casino. Completely remodeled and reopened in May of 1982, Harvey's Resort Hotel at Stateline is now ALL NEW, FOR YOU!

Harvey's



SEVEN EXCEPTIONAL RESTAURANTS

TOP OF THE WHEEL . . . At the renowned Top of the Wheel, enjoy dining, cocktails and dancing as magnificent as the panoramic view. Sunset hour cocktails from 4 p.m.; continental dining in a Polynesian setting from 6 p.m.; dancing nightly. . . glass elevator to the 11th floor.

SAGE ROOM . . . A Lake Tahoe favorite for more than 35 years, the Sage Room returns to Harvey's: original wood beams, authentic light fixtures and leather banquettes combine to create an atmosphere of Western elegance. It was here that the tradition of fine dining became the hallmark of Harvey's. From 5 p.m. . . main casino floor.

EL DORADO BUFFET . . . Every night of the year, the El Dorado Buffet — now seating 600 guests — tempts the eye and the tastebuds with a dazzling array of salads, entrees and desserts. Special buffets include seafood on Friday, Prime Rib on Saturday. . . take the stairway/escalator of mirrors to the second floor.

EL DORADO BRUNCH

. . . From 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. daily in summer, weekends only during winter, the Breakfast/Brunch is served in the beautifully redecorated El Dorado Room. . . second floor.

CARRIAGE HOUSE This exceptional coffee shop and restaurant serves breakfast, lunch, dinner and daily specials — 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Fine food and friendly service are featured in this "Carriage House" setting. . . main casino floor.

PANCAKE GARDEN RESTAURANT

. . . Formerly the Pancake Parlor, this renamed restaurant boasts an expanded menu and a new decor: floral murals, spacious window-walls and natural oak panelling. Breakfast (including pancakes, of course) are served around-the-clock. . . main casino floor.

EL VAQUERO . . . Harvey's newest restaurant — El Vaquero — translates to "The Cowboy" and offers outstanding Mexican cuisine in an authentic South of the Border setting. Wrought iron gates, tiled fountains and Mexican antiques create a special ambience in both the lounge and restaurant. Open nightly and located in the Underpass. . . lower level.



SOUTH LAKE TAHOE, NEVADA

For reservations and information: (702) 588-2411, toll free: (800) 648-3361