Nellis Flyboys and Red Flag: Where the Stakes are Supersonic

The Challenge of the Bighorn • Steep Thrills: '85 Tahoe Ski Guide

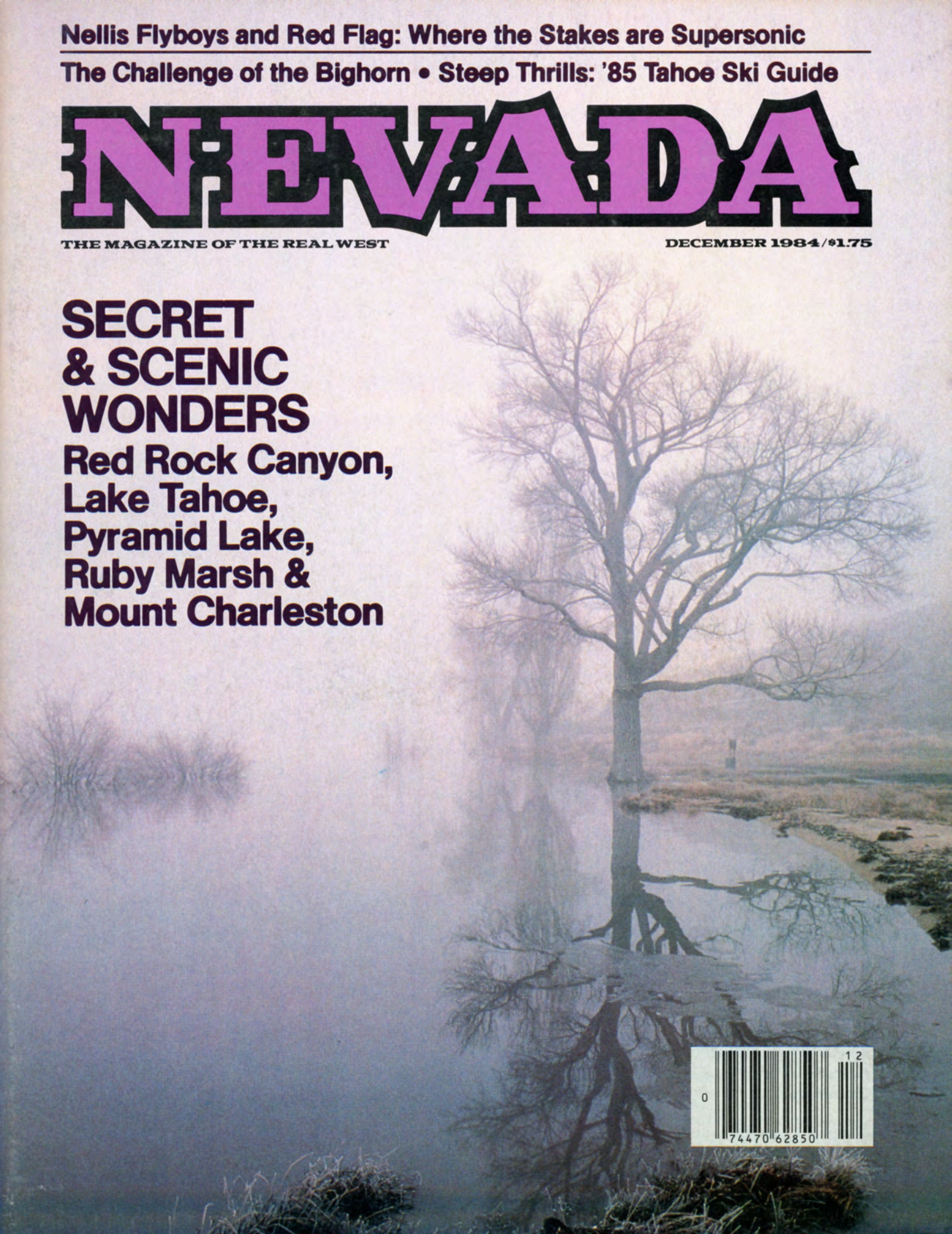
NEVADA

THE MAGAZINE OF THE REAL WEST

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Volume 44, Number 6 November/December 1984

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NEVADA
THE MAGAZINE OF THE REAL WEST


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Up Front

**The Nevada Myth.
The difference between
image and reality.**

Last Fall, I spent three days at a publishing conference in Los Angeles. It was attended by several hundred publishers, editors, and production, circulation and advertising managers from all across the nation. The purpose was education. An exchange of ideas. An attempt to inspire improvement in our editorial product and increase the circulation of Nevada Magazine. It was everything I hoped for, and more.

However, after the lessons I discovered that most of the bright and articulate non-Nevadans had weird thoughts and impressions about our state.

"Nevada's just flat nothing but a desert."

Yep. Only about 200 mountain ranges in Nevada, with several peaks over 13,000 feet, a couple of permanent ice fields and dozens of ski resorts within an hour of Reno. Yet another within minutes of Las Vegas.

The visitors to Los Angeles didn't know that Nevada is a state of surprises, with superb and eerie caverns at Wheeler Peak, an alpine lake 1,600 feet deep at Tahoe, the largest white pelican colony in North America at Pyramid Lake, and a turquoise desert lake with 550 miles of shoreline that filters the Colorado River through an engineering wonder called Hoover Dam. They had never heard about our 5,000-year-old bristlecone pines or Nye County's four-million-year-old remnants of the giant ichthyosaurs.

"Nevada? I've been to Las Vegas and I don't like it."

Where did he go? Did he dine at the Portofino at the Desert Inn, or lunch at the Union Plaza? Has he spent an evening with Siegfried and Roy at the Frontier? Did he ever try for the $250,000 at the drop of a silver dollar at one of the Hiltons?

Does he have any idea about why the room he had in Los Angeles had a musty odor and cost $112 a night when a similar room in Las Vegas could cost as little as $16 in December? Did he know that for the price of a piece of beef at the L.A. hotel that in Nevada he'd get a room, a fabulous show, a darned good meal, free drinks and probably a funbook?

"Nevada. There's nothing to do there but gamble."

Yep. Where else can he take a horse-drawn wagon across country from his home in Baltimore like he can out of Pioche, Carson or Fallon? Where else can he see large bands of wild horses, or cross-country ski on unmarked snow for days on end, or snowmobile or heli-ski in a place like the Rubies? Where else will he find six bird sanctuaries, bald and golden eagles? In what other "desert" can he hunt for Himalayan snow partridge, chukar, cougar, pronghorn antelope, mule deer, sage grouse and bighorn sheep, or fish for walleye, trout, catfish, or 40-pound stripers?

Does his backyard offer opals, garnets, turquoise, silver and gold? Is geothermal energy a possibility for his community? Can he travel for two days and not see a soul, or hit the city and party non-stop for as long as he can last?

And when he's back home can he talk to prospectors, bankers, senators, blackjack dealers, cowboys, Indians, sheepherders, and the governor, all at the same Basque restaurant? I wonder if he can stand on top of a snowy peak in 80-degree weather and see range upon range for 200 miles.



Yep. Nevada's just flat nothing but a desert.

Caroline J Hadley

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Letters

Real People, the Desert Fox, and Hoover Dam's big birthday party.

I am in total agreement with the Dann sisters involving the Shoshone lands ("Uncle Sam and the Dann Band," Sept/Oct '84). I do wish, though, that our Government would quit putting its foot in its mouth time and time again. This is only one case in which there were incomplete or no contracts at all with our Native Americans, who for the most part have been abused, herded, and lied to for so long. If there are any REAL people in the U.S. it is these people!

Doug Pifer
Montrose, CA.

The cover photograph for the Sept/Oct '84 issue by Linda Dufurrena is delightful!

Adele S. Greene
Las Vegas, NV

Turn on the Saudis

I wish to congratulate you on one of the most interesting periodicals published in the United States. The quality of comment and illustrations piques the interest of every reader as few magazines can. I am an expatriate Nevadan living and working in Saudi Arabia. Several of my Saudi friends plan on visiting Nevada soon and much of their interest in our state was generated through a copy of your magazine.

H. G. MacBride
APO New York

Thank you so much for supplying a publication that does justice to a state that offers so very much more than just gaming. Anyone who's witnessed a spring wildflower show in an otherwise deserted valley will appreciate the finer points that Nevada has to offer. Keep up the good work. The only improvement would be to publish monthly. It's a long wait between issues!

Carol and Elvis Kelley
Amargosa Valley, NV

Applause for McConnell

We became acquainted with the magazine recently and have enjoyed it very much. Especially liked the articles by Roberta McConnell ("Country's Golden Ear," Jan/Feb '84, and "The J&T's Mad Hatter," July/August). What a tell-it-like-it-is, down-to-earth, and talented writer! Makes us feel like we are there—not just hearing or reading about it. Keep 'em coming!

Mr. & Mrs. Emmett Amsinger
Jonesburg, MO.

Hall and Herb's

What a pleasant surprise to see the wonderful coverage you gave Rod Hall in the Sept/Oct issue ("The Desert Fox," by Jon Thompson). Thanks for the nice words. Rod says there's room for you in the race car any time you're interested.

Donna Hall
Reno, NV

Dig out the fireproof suit and the dustproof mask; I'm on my way!—Ed.

The response to our ad has been very good. We are a small business and appreciate the extensive coverage and reasonable rates. Now that the 50th anniversary of Hoover Dam is kicking off with a yearlong celebration, I hope those in charge will utilize your great magazine to inform everyone of an exciting calendar of events in the Hoover Dam-Boulder City area.

Frannie Knauss
Herb's Tavern
Boulder City, NV

Save Us Some Space

Enclosed please find our renewal with payment to *Nevada Magazine.* We enjoy every issue and look forward to move to Nevada in three years. We just hope it isn't too crowded by then.

Michael S. Arcieri
Pennington, NJ

Arcieri, with 110,000 square miles, and about nine people per square mile, we think you'll still have a few years of relative solitude, even though Nevada is the fastest growing state in the country.—Ed.

We recognize that reporters sometimes fumble the facts a bit, especially in dealing with information that is totally foreign to them. However, in your "Great Casino Giveaways" story, May/June '84, there is an entirely in-house fabrication. To call that beautiful Grumman Cheetah a Cessna

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was a nauseous shock to all pilots of real airplanes.

S. Omar Overly, President
Yankee Air Inc.
Grove City, OH.

Unfortunately, the caption said that James M. Newkirk buzzed home in a Cessna Skyhawk II. He did, but the photo showed Mr. Newkirk, with a Caesars Tahoe executive, standing beneath one of their other *flying prizes! Thanks for pointing it out.—Ed.*

Harry and the Heart

Harry Webb's long life proved him a great person. His stories proved his love of the West, and being a cowboy and living it helped make him the great writer he was. Thank you, Mr. Harry Webb, you really touched hearts with me and you never even knew me.

Anna L. Evans
Springfield, MO.

The humor and pathos Harry easily pours out in eloquent and down-to-earth good old western words give me many chuckles and heart feelings, taking me back with him in his actual experiences as he sprouted up with the crisp and gritty West.

I'm proud of our unusual *Nevada Magazine,* always giving a fine variety of talents, keeping us "with it" in past and present Nevada information.

Marguerite Erwin
Reno, NV

One in Every Crowd

In my Opinion I think you should stop publishing *Nevada Magazine.* I have seen catolougs (sic) further more interesting. The articles were very boring and the illustrations very poor ones. Furthermore I think your subscription rates stink for such a magazine that isn't worth a person's time to read such junk. I'm a life long cowboy of Nevada and have never read such trash in my 23 years residence of Nevada.

William Smith
Pioche, NV

Please Go On and On

After living in New York a few months, we were ecstatic to find the *Nevada Magazine* in our mailbox. Our parents found it quite a fitting Christmas present and we couldn't agree more. We cannot begin to express our thanks for sending us a "true piece of Nevada."

And we'd like to take this opportunity to express our thanks to you and your staff; Patty Noll for the advertisements that make one feel quite at home; David Muench for the breathtaking photos; Harry Webb for his colorful stories; we could go on and on. We thank each and every one of you who contribute and pull this magazine together.

Nevadans forever
Ron and Susan Welch
Newburgh, NY



GEORGE HALL PHOTOGRAPHS

NELLIS FLY BOYS

When the country's best jet fighter pilots play Red Flag over Southern Nevada, the stakes are supersonic.

By Michael Skinner

North of the neon furnaces and gambling pits of Las Vegas is a bigger game played for higher stakes. In this strange game there is no score, but there are winners and losers. The winners win nothing but the chance to play again; the losers lose everything. The game is called Red Flag, and it is strictly for the highest rollers of all.

Excerpt from Red Flag, *©1984 by Michael Skinner; Presidio Press, 31 Pamaron Way, Novato, CA. 94947. Photographs ©1984 by George Hall.*







At the "Home of the Fighter Pilot," the Red Flag training is as close to war as you'd want to get, but fighter jocks (top left) seem to enjoy rehashing the day's events. Navy Phantoms jam the Nellis ramp (lower left), while a brace of F-5 Aggressors (right) heads for home.

If you head north out of Vegas, past the sprawling Nellis Air Force Base, past where the highway curves prudently east, away from the U.S. Air Force's live bombing ranges, you will come to a cut between two hard brown mountains. Earthlings call this pass, where U.S. 93 intersects the 115th meridian, the Pahroc Summit. But it has another name.

If you leave your air conditioning and scramble out among the creosote and the blackbrush, you will soon wish you hadn't. The heat will assault you, the glare will blind you, but it is the desolation, the sheer aloneness of the place, that will drive you to the edge. There is no sound, no sound at all, save for the occasional humming of an automobile sensibly leaving the middle of nowhere.

But if you stay out here long enough, something will happen. You will feel it long before you see it—a vague premonition, a sense of thunder from the east. If it is one of those quartz-clear days that are not uncommon in this part of the country, you might even see it coming: a black dot hovering over the shimmer of the highway as it runs east to the little town of Caliente.

Immediately the dot swells and sprouts wings. It is upon you in an instant, a smoking, hulking beast scorching across the desert at 500 mph. Before your mind can categorize and dismiss it (it is, after all, only an Air Force F-111 fighter bomber), there is an initial sense of awe and terror. With its pivoting wings swept back, the aircraft resembles an ancient pterodactyl, the huge, leather-winged monster that haunted this desert in prehistoric times. When that enormous shadow falls across you, it is easy to feel the ancient flight-or-fight impulse of the caveman. The feeling clutches at your throat and holds you in its dark power. That moment is gone in a heartbeat, but the memory will never leave.

As quickly as it appeared, the plane is gone. The pterodactyl's shadow scuttles over the brown scrub and folds itself up Mount Irish. The radar in its long black snout nods and swivels in its gimbals, searching for the rocks and mountains in its path. The F-111 shoots the pass low and fast, barely a hundred feet above the desert.

Like the sidewinder, for every F-111 you see, there are dozens of planes you don't. High above your head, up where the sky curves into indigo, is a constant parade of airpower over the Pahroc Summit. Just about every kind of aircraft from every branch of the free world's flying services has overflown that coordinate. They call it Student Gap. It's where the game begins, where the players cross the inbounds marker, Checkpoint Charlie, on the way to Redland. It's the start of the Red Flag world, and the closest you or I will get to the Big Game.

From here on, the pilots are on their own, fair game for the false MiGs and fake antiaircraft gun and missile batteries that lie in wait for the unprepared. When they push the Gap, the pilots are as close to war as anyone would want to get. Some careless or unlucky pilots will "die." Some truly careless or tragically unlucky pilots could die for real, as others have before. There are strict safety rules, but no rules can remove completely the danger involved in high-Mach jousting, in aircraft buzzing around one another like supersonic dragonflies, in dragging live bombs so low their shadows are tucked underneath them.

This inherent danger is what Red Flag is all about—an introduction to life at the edge for the young tigers. Red Flag may not be a precise simulation of the next war. How can it be? But the *pressure* of war is there—nothing simulated about that.

"It's a learning situation," says an F-15



The largest base in the Tactical Air Command, Nellis has more than 10,000 employees and a payroll of over $100 million. The Red Flag ramp often holds 60 to 70 camouflage, silver, blue, and gray Navy and Air Force birds on its ramp near North Las Vegas.

pilot. "You can't always back off. There's going to be times when you're thrust into a situation and they say 'Hey, react!' "

That's what Red Flag is all about, to give the young fighter pilot combat experience in the absence of combat. Maybe you can't build an exact replica of the air defenses of a Soviet Motorized Rifle Division in the Nevada desert; but you *can* simulate the disorientation of combat, the sensory overload that is often more dangerous to inexperienced pilots in combat than all the guns, SAMs, and MiGs ever built. To the young tigers who *think* they have the juice, Red Flag gives new meaning to the term "pressurized cockpit."

Red Flag is often called a game, but it is more like a sport, where teamwork and timing count more than mere athletic ability. It is not a test, but rather a place to be tested, an opportunity for new pilots to make their first mistakes and for veterans to try something new in a realistic environment without getting killed. It is a place for the men who operate the U.S. Air Force's diverse, but increasingly interdependent, weapons systems to meet, argue, laugh, think, and train with one another. Most important, it is a chance for warriors to get wartime experience without risk.

"We do not evaluate people at Red Flag," says the Red Flag CO. "It's a learning program, and we don't want them put under the pressure of a test or evaluation because, invariably, people who are being tested do not learn. It's like a golfer choosing between the high-percentage shot as opposed to the one that he *thinks* he might be able to pull off. So we want people to *train* here, not go back to the high-percentage shot."

Like the rest of the Air Force's newer training programs, Red Flag is the result of the USAF's poor showing in the war in Southeast Asia. One of the few good things that came from that bad war was the rediscovery of some old rules of air combat, rules the United States had long forgotten and had to relearn the hard way over Route Pack 6.

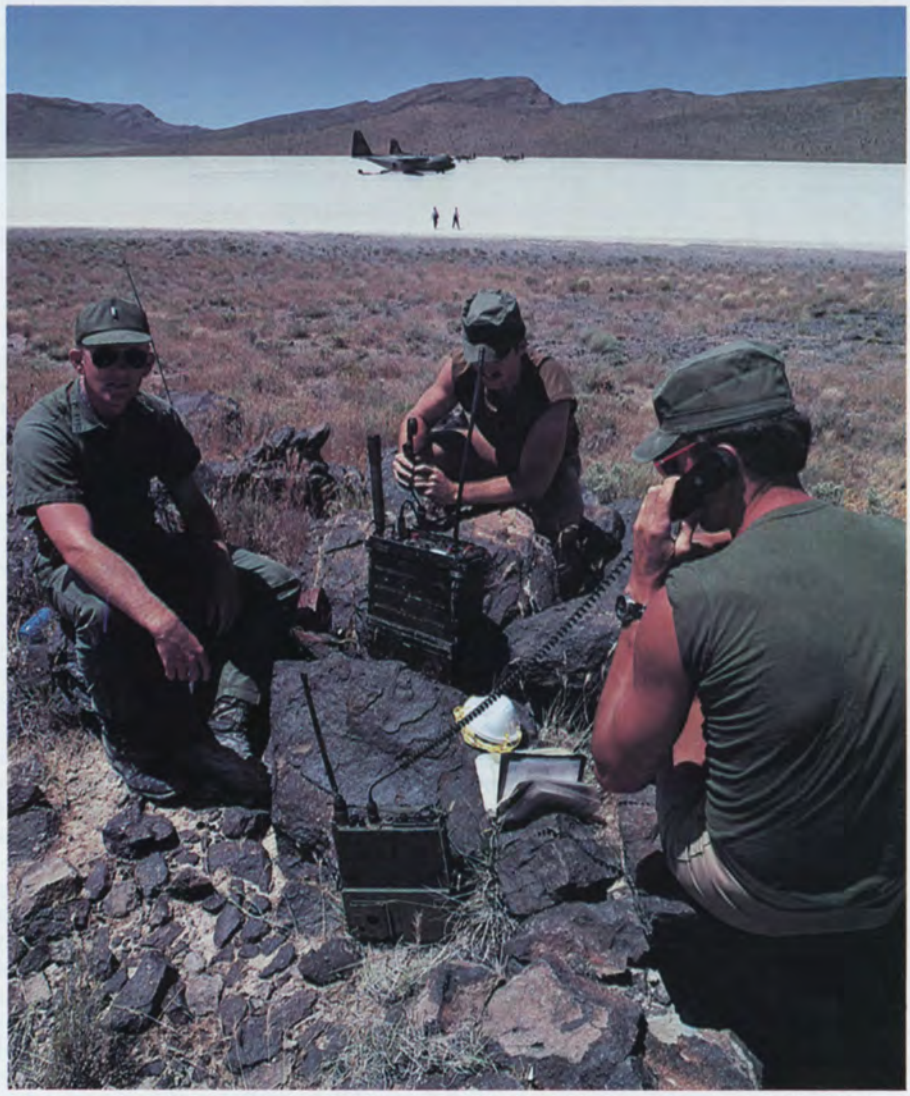
Most pertinent to Red Flag was the axiom that a pilot's chances for survival, as well as his effectiveness, rise dramatically in relation to the number of combat missions he flies. It doesn't take many missions —10 seems to be the optimum number; after that, diminishing returns set in, and the pilot is probably as good as he is going to get.

The problem was providing inexperienced pilots with 10 combat missions' worth of experience without exposing them to actual combat. The Air Force's post-Vietnam emphasis on realistic training programs had already produced a simulated enemy force, the Aggressors, and a realistic battlefield, complete with threats and targets, on the Nellis AFB range. What was needed was a way to tie it all together, to use those assets to give young USAF pilots a head start in air combat. The solution was Red Flag, and the man with the plan was Richard M. "Moody" Suter.

They were not, by any stretch of the imagination, ideas unique to Moody Suter. But what he did was travel the world and, literally, take notes at the bar; he'd write them down on bar napkins. As he would visit air bases, both during and after the Southeast Asia war, he compiled a long list of ideas from people he talked to. And there was one common thread: We didn't go far enough in our training programs to prepare for war. And that discontinuity between what we did in peacetime and wartime was costly.

Moody Suter not only listened, he talked, and eventually he got the ear of General Robert J. Dixon, then commander of the Tactical Air Command. General Dixon knew a good idea when he heard





Screens at the mission control center known as "Blackjack" help monitor mock battles (top). A hundred miles north, a mobile no-frills control post is set up in the Lincoln County desert at Texas Lake landing area (bottom) between Alamo and Caliente.

one. (He was later awarded the Collier Trophy for establishing Red Flag.) Within three or four months, the first Red Flag was held at Nellis AFB in November 1975.

That was nine years ago, but Red Flag 75-1 was almost identical in concept to contemporary Red Flags, showing how right the idea was. Every Red Flag exercise then, as now, follows this typical pattern:

A scenario is written by the Red Flag intelligence people concerning the imminent hostilities between "Red," the bad guys who live on the western side of the Nellis range, and "Blue," the allies, defending the neighboring eastern part of the range.

Most Red Flag exercises last six weeks, but the "Players," the Red Flag participants, are rotated every two weeks, so the war effectively lasts only 10 days with no flying taking place on the weekend. Each Player flies 10 missions, the first mission always a familiarization ride orienting the new Player to the Nellis range.

The Blue Forces consist of the "core unit" and detachments from other units. The Red Forces consist of F-5Es from the Aggressor squadrons at Nellis, as well as detachments from other air units and the simulated SAM and antiaircraft artillery batteries out on the range.

Each mission is coordinated by a different "warlord." Before and after each mission there is a mass briefing of all participating Players, as well as individual briefings among the flights and even face-to-face debriefings with the Red Players.

Red Flag is not a no-notice deployment drill. The Players can know a year and a half ahead that they're scheduled to come to Red Flag. A surprise invitation to come to Nellis wouldn't serve any real purpose other than to embarrass the grossly unprepared. That would violate one of the unwritten rules of Red Flag, which is to take advantage of every action, every deployment, and learn something from it.

When the Players come to Red Flag, their first mission is always a familiarization ride—called a "FAM Hop"—a half-speed tour of the Nellis ranges to get a good look at the geography that had been, up to then, just scratches on a map. That sounds like a good idea: let's take a little FAM Hop ourselves.

Las Vegas is Spanish for "the meadows." The soil is hard-packed and dry as chalk. Sharp, blue mountains ring the city, as if Las Vegas itself and everyone in it were caught in a giant bear trap, a leg on each jaw, and one step outside would shut that trap forever.

The flyboys arrived here in the form of the Army Air Corps on January 25, 1941, when the mayor of Las Vegas signed over to the U.S. Army the land that would eventually become Nellis Air Force Base.

It really wasn't all that much, just a dirt runway, a water well, and a dinky operations shack. But it's the thought that counts, and the Air Corps thought it would be a great place to put a gunnery school; the weather is excellent for flying and there was plenty of government land available for a dollar an acre.

Las Vegas Army Air Field quickly grew —at one point it was turning out more than 800 B-17 crewmen every five weeks. The base shut down in 1947, but reopened again in 1949 as the Las Vegas Air Force Base, providing the new U.S. Air Force with advanced, single-engine training for its pilots. That mission changed when the United States got into the Korean War, and almost every American jet fighter pilot that stalked MiG Alley learned his stuff over the Great Basin.

When the Air Force changed the names of its bases to honor USAF heroes instead of geographic areas, Las Vegas Air Force Base became Nellis AFB in 1950. Lieutenant William Harrell Nellis was a 60-mission P-47 pilot from Clark County. He was killed on December 27, 1944, in Europe; he was 28 years old.

Lieutenant Nellis would certainly be in awe of the base that bears his name today. It has more than 10,000 employees, with a payroll way over $100 million. It is the largest air base in the Tactical Air Command, and probably the busiest—it is a rare TAC pilot who has never seen Nellis. By the main gate, there is a small billboard. Although the illustration on the sign changes, the legend underneath always remains the same: "Welcome to Nellis Air Force Base—Home of the Fighter Pilot."

If Nellis is home of the fighter pilot, then the fighter pilots' playroom is Building 201. The 4440th Tactical Fighter Training Group headquarters, which is the Players' base of operations while at Red Flag, is a rather disappointing sight from the outside. The building seems too small and old, considering what goes on inside it. When a much-needed addition is finished, many of the operations now conducted from mobile homes in the parking lot will be moved inside.

The trailers are often indistinguishable on the outside. But there's no mistaking the headquarters of the Desert Survival School, with its lizards, snakes, and other little beasties caged outside the front door.

"I want you to know that all our Desert Aggressors are volunteers and are highly motivated individuals," a survival instructor says of his "pets." "We have some of our better and more experienced instructors and evaluators caged up out there."

In the desert survival program, the "victim"—usually a pilot or weapons system officer, but sometimes an enlisted tail-gunner or loadmaster—is first given a series of briefings. Then it's off to the desert either by helicopter or truck. There's always an instructor present, but the downed crewman is on his own.

Sometimes the pilots complain that the desert isn't a realistic place to practice survival skills; but an instructor says that's just agoraphobia, the fear of open spaces: "The desert is not a hard place to hide in. It's an extremely difficult place to find somebody in."

Finding the downed crewman is the job of the rescue forces, which are frequent visitors to Red Flag. The Air Force did a very good job of picking up pilots who ejected in Southeast Asia, and rescue crewmen rarely had to buy their own drinks at any officers' club in Vietnam. The rescue mission is so complex and expensive, it has been nicknamed "Picking up the President." It's not easy, either, and at Red Flag some instructors play the role of enemy soldiers trying to capture the pilot before the rescue forces can find him. They will try to confuse both the downed pilot and the rescue crewmen, and even use smoke, flares, and simulated hand grenades.

Pilots have a more serene afternoon at the school's Lake Mead operation, where they learn water survival. Sure, the instructors simulate parachute wind drag by dragging the poor pilot around behind a motorboat, but mainly they just stick him out in the middle of the lake for half a day: "When a man's sitting out there in a dinghy," says the school's CO, "he's got a lot of time to think."

Across the sweltering parking lot, Building 201 looks like any other Air Force office building—long, low, and nondescript. Even before you open the door, however, there is a preview of what's inside. The entrance to the building is plastered with stickers from and about anything that flies. Since Red Flag is the crossroads of the fighter pilot community, almost every unit comes to Nellis armed with mementos of their presence, which they stick indiscriminately on any flat surface; the doorway of Building 201 and the walls of the men's room inside are favorite targets.

The duty desk is right inside the door on the left. There is nothing exceptional about it, except the following story:

Once upon a time, there was a made-for-TV movie called *Red Flag: The Most Dangerous Game,* a highly unlikely tale in which Barry Bostwick, an F-4 pilot, brings his wife to Red Flag but leaves his Weapons System Operator at home. (There is a scene where his whizzo introduces himself to Bostwick on the flight line, much to the amusement of the Nellis boys.) Bostwick comes up with a "secret maneuver" to elude William Devane, an Aggressor pilot in every sense of the word, a man with the incisors of a puma and no discernible sense of humor. The plot soon lapses into pioneer mode, wandering off into several strange and new directions, but finally returns to a duel between Bostwick and his secret maneuver (which Phantom drivers everywhere instantly recognized as the Standard F-4 Double-handed Polish Heart Attack) and the terminally aggressive Mr. Devane. Being written for TV after all, the plot rapidly boils down to what the producers probably had in mind in the first place, a 600-mile-an-hour car chase using Buicks with wings (hence the F-4). The movie ends with Bostwick either leaving the Air Force or not (having left Devane, shall we say, deep into real estate north of Las Vegas). It doesn't matter anyway, because in the last scene Bostwick and his wife inexplicably march into the Nellis hospital for a much-needed rest. (He had been suffering from a case of the wimps.)

Anyway, the movie is still a sore spot at Nellis, especially among the brass who reportedly approved the script and then pulled a *violent* separation maneuver when they saw how Hollywood saw them. But a few enlisted guys manning the ops desk had the right attitude, and for weeks after the movie aired they answered the phone with a cheerful "Red Flag, the Most Dangerous Game," until they were told to cut it out.

The rest of the building is mostly devoted to cramped briefing rooms, although there are some other points of interest:

The Red Flag Intelligence Shop—The place looks rather like an insurance office, but on one wall there is a big map of the Nellis tactical ranges on which the "completely notional" but familiar-sounding 108th Guards Tank Army is spread across the FEBA (Forward Edge of the Battle Area), poised to take over Las Vegas.

The Auditorium—It's a big place, but it's filled during the mass briefings. The walls here, too, are lined with mementos from units participating in past Red Flags. There is row after row of theater seats with fold-up-arm desks, but they still have to haul in Air Force blue folding chairs for the bigger briefings. Surprisingly, there is no microphone. There is no clock either. But you always know what time it is at any Red Flag briefing because, every hour on the hour, the $40 Casio Digital Alarm Chronograph-Calculators, uniformly worn by every fashion-conscious fighter jock, will engulf the auditorium in a wave of tiny beeps.

The 4440 TFTG Offices—The Red Flag CO's office is big, but cluttered. The walls are covered with the inevitable airplane plaques, most of them from foreign outfits. The one that grabs visitors' attention is a framed poster depicting the RAF's Buccaneer, the world's ugliest aircraft, from every ugly angle. Buccaneer pilots are

(Continued on page 72)



Christmas in Coaldale

At holiday time our little desert town proved to be short on people but long on heart.

By Barbara Allen Haga

If the fuel pump in our car hadn't gone out, we might be back in Florida today. We would have missed a piece of living history, driven right through a town that time itself has passed over. Perhaps "town" is a rather grandiose word for the junction known as Coaldale, a most unlikely place for our most memorable Christmas.

We had been prospecting for gold in the Sierra and after filing two claims were nearly out of money. Hoping to get together enough to develop the claims, we were on our way to Tonopah, where the Anaconda mine was hiring.

Twenty miles out of Hawthorne the car gave us the first signs of trouble. We fought it for 40 more miles, but the car just wasn't going to make it to Tonopah. We arrived at Coaldale Junction gasping and sputtering and broke.

There we met Mrs. Jewel Parsons, the sweet, tidy, little-old-lady-type who ran the truck stop. She also ran the garage, restaurant, and the six-room motel. We had stumbled on a Nevada institution. Jewel Parsons had been a state fish and game commissioner and an assembly-woman, as we found out later. But now all we wanted was to trade some work for some repairs.

"Can you make beds?" Jewel asked. "Can your husband drive a truck?"



It was a ignominious start for two mining tycoons. It would be days, maybe a week before a new fuel pump could be delivered, but we made the deal readily. Mrs. Parsons showed us where we could stay, and we went to work.

We slept in the tiny one-room apartment with the bath down the hall and ate out of the kitchen-in-a-closet with the help of a frying pan and coffee pot plugged into a light socket. But our home was much bigger than that room. Our home was the vast acreage of sand and sage that stretched to the pastel and calico hills.

Autumn afternoons brought billowing storm clouds from the White Mountains in the west. For hours the clouds would build and glide across the dry valley only to come to a standstill and fade into wisps in the evening sun. When an infrequent raincloud let a few drops fall, green things would spring up overnight with little blossoms of lavender and white, and then were gone again. Under a full moon, the landscape was eerily lunar. Even on the darkest night, the starlight was bright enough for a walk through the coolness of the desert. Thirty miles to the north we could see headlights coming down the highway, inching with an awesome slowness into our dry valley. Time began to slip away.

Day-to-day realities were constantly punctuated by the uniqueness of this world. Water, trucked from Bishop, had to be hauled in old milk jugs from the tank that was kept next to the cafe-bar door. Bath water was piped to the rooms, and even the heartiest souls were advised not to drink it.

There were rocks. Sometimes there were turquoise rocks, sometimes obsidian, but frequently they were just plain rocks. We had boxes full and closets full, and on quiet days we would sift through them and find buckles and bones or an occasional railroad spike from the tracks that disintegrated 30 years ago.

There were people, too—miners and prospectors, cooks and waitresses, mechanics and us. And there were kids. When school opened, our daughter came to join us in our strange new world and thrived as we did. The bus carried the children each day 25 miles to the 30-student elementary school in Silver Peak. That same trusty bus carried them the one or two hundred miles to play basketball games in Reno, Ely, or Battle Mountain; afterwards they would sleep in sleeping bags on the gym floor before returning home the next day.

There also were dogs in town, maybe more of them than people, and one calico cat that lived in constant peril.

The bar and the cafe were the center of activity in Coaldale. They were in a big room separated by a very loud jukebox and a row of slot machines. In fall the main entertainment was the Monday-night fight between the jukebox people and the football people. The football people always won, to the chagrin of Debbie, the barmaid, who sided with the jukebox people. But her grandfather, owner Elton Parsons, Jewel's husband, happened to like football. That usually decided things.

Elton and Jewel Parsons were everything from the government to the clergy. They were the law, the bank, the post office, shoulders to cry on, employers, the Inn, a flourishing trucking and construction company, the landlords, and, at Christmas, Santa Claus.

They had a Christmas tradition. Above the barstools, on the ceiling, dollar bills were tacked to the acoustical tiles. The line of bills grew longer as the days grew chillier. When two truckers passing through heard what they were for, they contributed a bill of their own, a hundred dollar bill. That was deemed too tempting for the ceiling and was taped to the mirror above the cash register for all to see.

In the middle of December, Elton and Jewel took down those bills, counted and matched them, and bought Christmas gifts for all the kids. And that was just the start.

There were no street-corner Santas, no tinsel and lights across the intersections (of course, there are no corners or intersections in Coaldale). But there was surely a Christmas spirit, an honest, sincere spirit of kinship. Small grudges were forgotten, family feuds suspended. There were too few people in the desert in the winter to do anything but enjoy each other and the mood of the season. Even the football people and the jukebox people made concessions.

On a Friday morning in mid-December, snow quietly blanketed the desert. The next day two four-wheel-drive pickups were loaded with kids. A third carried an assortment of chain saws. Mugs of hot chocolate and coffee, bags of bologna sandwiches, and donuts, all supplied by Jewel, completed the load. Our small caravan trekked into the hills, past the school, slowly up and out of the sage, and finally onto a pine-studded slope somewhere in the White Mountains.

Then the saws came to life, and we filled the pickups with trees of assorted sizes. The woodsmen checked off lists as the right tree for each home was selected —little ones for the motel rooms and trailers, a monster for the bar.

Slowly Coaldale looked more and more like Christmas. Decorations grew daily and so did the pile of gifts under the big tree at the bar. Names were drawn for a gift exchange for everyone in the area, and the pile grew higher. The no-kids rule in the bar was suspended for the holidays, and kids would wander through, sometimes to get a soda but mostly just to stare at the big tree and try to guess which presents were theirs.

By Christmas Eve Coaldale had become a community of about 30 adults and a dozen kids. Aside from the regular crew there was a new family with four kids, so more presents, hastily secured, had been

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added to the pile. Christmas dinner was served to all courtesy of the Parsons, and after dinner the kids' eyes were wide in anticipation. Mr. and Mrs. Parsons had a passel of grandchildren, nieces and nephews, and friends of friends, and the children soon outnumbered the adults around the big tree. None other than Santa Claus himself was there to hand out the numerous presents.

Coaldale that night was a kids' place. Unwrapped basketballs soon bounced all over the bar. Video games with ribbons and scraps of colorful wrapping still taped in spots came to life and hummed and beeped happily in the hands of the younger children. There were negligees for the ladies and bottles for the men. Christmas carols and toasts ranged long into the night until the sleeping children were collected from cafe booths and taken home to bed. Memories and friends that will not be soon forgotten were made in that big, warm room on a chilly Christmas night.

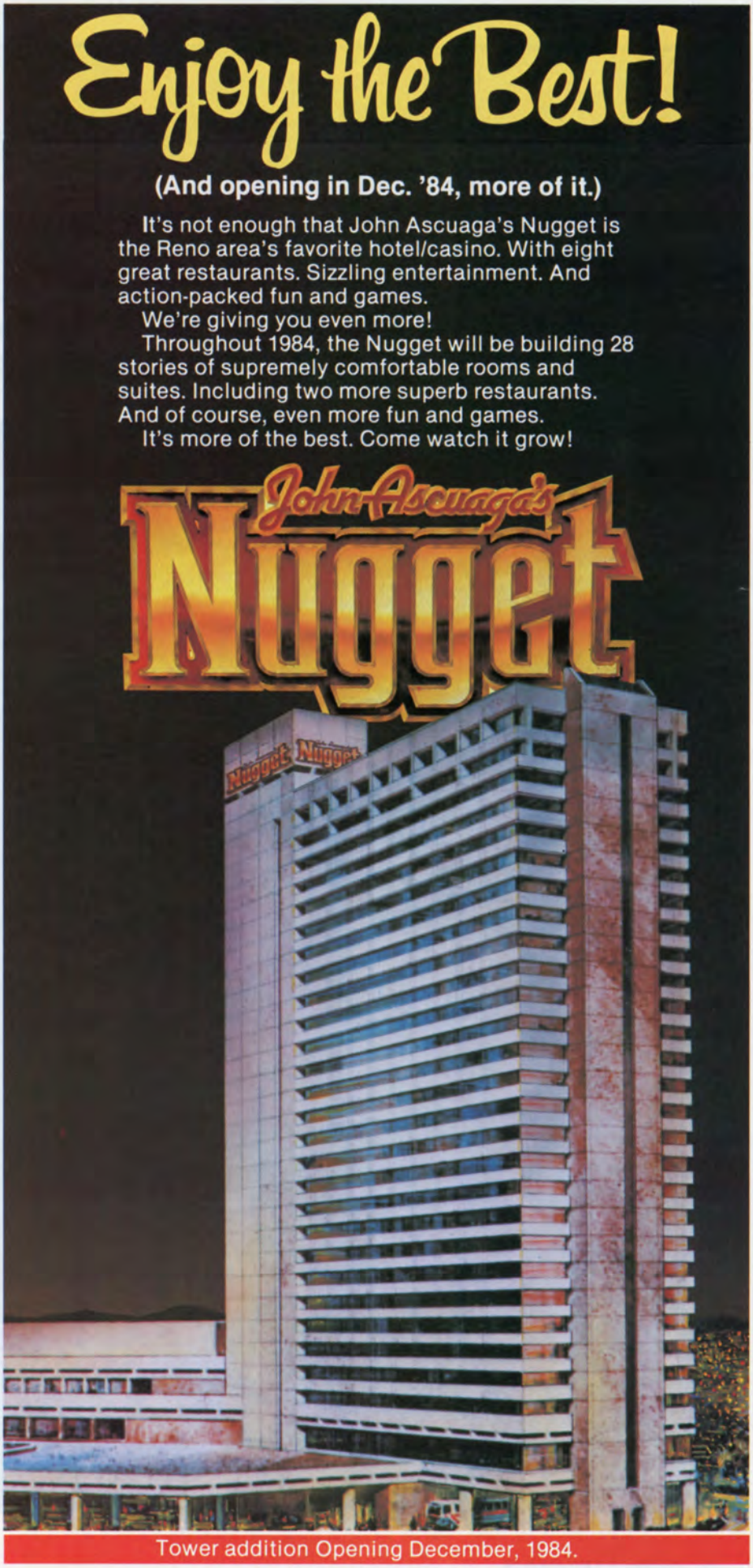
"That night video games came to life and beeped happily in the hands of the children. There were negligees for the ladies and bottles for the men. Christmas carols and toasts ranged long into the night."

We ate Christmas dinner the next day with Dan, a tall-tale-telling prospector, and his bubbly lady friend who liked champagne. We had a turkey, of course, which was almost too big for the tiny trailer oven, and all the trimmings. The mood of companionship, of a community holiday, lingered pleasantly from the night before.

In January we went to work at the Anaconda mine. Later we moved south to Tonopah in one of the new condominiums being built to support the once-again boomtown. Sadly, Mrs. Parsons died last year, we heard.

There were a few dollar bills tacked to the ceiling the last time we stopped at Coaldale. I suspect there will be a tall, brightly-lit tree surrounded by a dozen or more kids this Christmas Eve and, I hope, for many more to come. □

Barbara Allen Haga has worked on several newspapers on the East Coast and from 1980 to 1982 was an editor and writer for the Tonopah Advocate. *She now lives in Louisiana.*



Sanctuary

Photographs by Day Williams



At Pyramid Lake, a flock of blackbirds lands to feed (left) on the southern shore of the 160-square-mile refuge 30 miles north of Reno. The lake also is visited by white pelicans, crested cormorants, blue herons, gulls, ducks, bluebirds, marbled godwits, loggerhead shrikes, and a multitude of other desert fliers. Off the northern shore (bottom right) are chalky spires of tufa, calcium carbonate deposits piled high during the lake's 70,000-year life. The treeless, wind-corrugated beaches (top right), composed of sand and tiny shells, contrast the ageless desert setting and abundant life of Pyramid. As novelist Walter Van Tilburg Clark wrote, "Pyramid has long since ceased to keep even its millenniums straight."—*Roger Smith*









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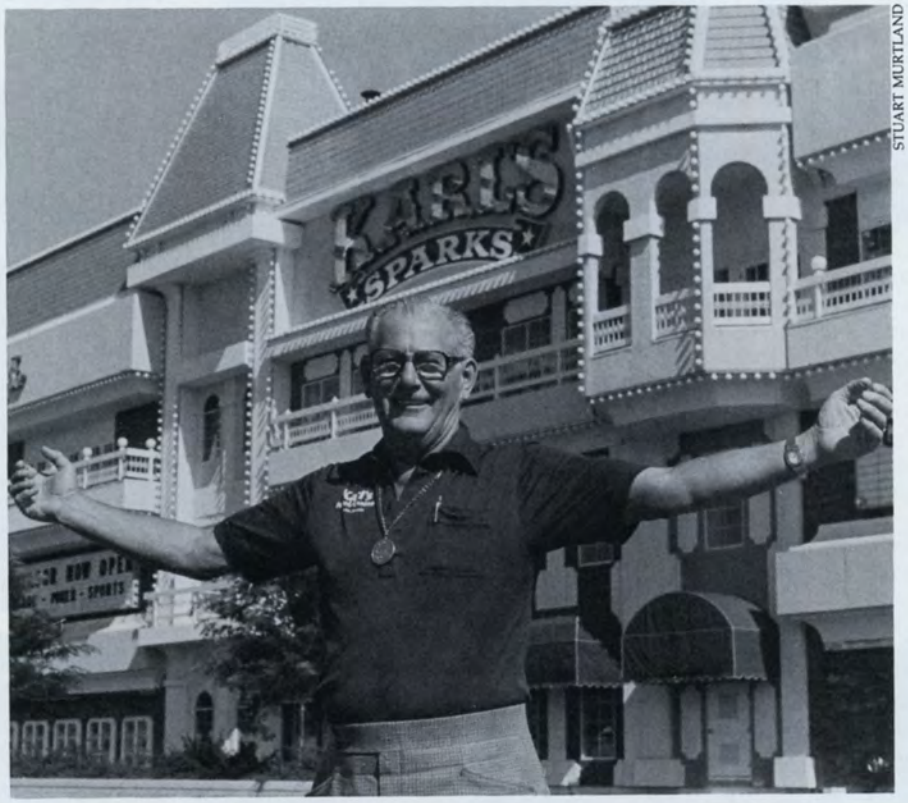
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STUART MURTLAND

KING KARL

Sparks casino proprietor Karl Berge may be a little corny, but he knows how to bring in the bread.

By Phyllis Zauner

He's the Lawrence Welk of the casino world. When he speaks, there's the faint, soft "s" that hints of his small-town Minnesota youth. So does the unassuming way he has of coming on friendly.

As he walks through his Sparks casino, the first names roll off his tongue. "How you doin', Mabel?" he says, patting a white-haired woman's shoulder. A man in a baseball cap catches his eye and calls out, "Hi, Karl!" Everybody, it seems, knows him.

He's got that old-fashioned sense of showmanship, too—a little corny, maybe, but unflaggingly sincere. The buses roll into Karl's Hotel/Casino parking lot, and it's Karl Berge himself swinging aboard with first-time-ever enthusiasm to deliver his famous jingle, "Hey, hey, hey, it's jackpot time!" as he hands out cups of nickels. Once in a while, displaying the innocent humor of another era, he hands someone an empty cup, just to get the busload laughing.

Berge's style is undeniably effective, for he seems to have a human touch that wins friends and makes money. His busy casino tables proclaim success. So does the three-story, full-block, Main-Street-USA building that rises like a Walt Disney creation where seven years ago there stood a small club no larger than the shops next door on B Street.

Still, it's a funny thing that Berge (pronounced *Bergie*) got into the casino business at all. Probably he would have stayed in Minnesota if love and chance had not given him the opportunity to use his business talents.

When World War II ended, Berge headed home to Hastings, a farming town 20 miles south of St. Paul. There he met a girl named Nancy and within the month married her. They left for California to visit Nancy's relatives, fell in love with Lake Tahoe, and spent 10 years there working at the Country Club in Stateline,



The family atmosphere at Karl's became a reality for Bette Berge, who began as a carrousel barker and later married Karl's son Eddie. Above, Karl and Bette await a busload of gamblers.

he as a bartender, she as a cocktail waitress.

It was there that he made friends with Ernie Noble, the club's chef, who was destined to put Berge's life in a new direction. "I moved to Los Angeles and didn't see the man again until I ran into him one day in 1966," Karl says. "He asked me if I'd like to go in with him and buy a casino in Sparks. I said absolutely not. But he insisted I ought to at least go up and look at it before I turned it down. So I went up and looked at it. Then I turned him down."

But the matter didn't end there. In time three other partners were located, and by mid-1967 they persuaded Berge to buy in. "We figured we'd all become millionaires overnight," he recalls.

"It was some operation. Our total combined capital was $75,000. We paid $40,000 for the license and spent another $25,000 to clean up the place. That left $10,000 for operating expenses." Even given the times, it wasn't a lot.

"The place was rundown. There wasn't even a parking lot. We knew within a week we had made a mistake. We all wanted to get out.

"We stuck it out three years together, then they chose one guy to try and salvage it—me."

If every successful entrepreneur has a key moment of inspiration, for Berge it came one night while he was relieving the gift shop clerk for her break ("I did everything in those days").

"I was standing there with nothing better to do than look down the aisle at two Big Bertha quarter slot machines I had. They weren't making any money, and it suddenly struck me that the reason no one played them was that no one ever won on them. It was March 1, 1976. I'll never forget that date."

The next day he went to Bally and said he wanted to exchange the Big Berthas for a pair of dollar slot machines, and he wanted them set to pay out 90 percent instead of the usual 60 percent.

"They thought I was crazy, but they went along with me. I was on the right track. When people found out I had hot

"Karl's moment of inspiration came one night while he was relieving the gift shop operator for her break. 'I was standing there looking down the aisle at two Big Bertha slot machines, and it suddenly struck me that the reason no one played them was that no one ever won on them.'"

machines, business picked up. I went back to Bally and ordered four more. This time I said I wanted them to pay out 95 percent.

"While I was there I noticed that they were building a kind of gazebo. They said it was a new idea for a carrousel of nickel slots, and it was going to Las Vegas. I said, 'I want that, and I want it filled with 19 machines, all dollar slots.'

"It took some coaxing, but I guess they had seen enough of me by then to realize maybe I wasn't crazy, because I got the carrousel."

It was installed by Friday afternoon, and that weekend, Berge says, every casino operator in Northern Nevada and a few from Southern Nevada came by to see what he was up to. "That carrousel was so popular we had people getting into fights just to get to the machines. That was the turning point for my business."

It wasn't long, of course, before every casino in Nevada was installing carrousels and revving up the payoffs. But Berge was also helped by his no-airs image. The casual shirts he wears, the classic Arnold Palmer sweaters, the Mondale-style haircut—all tell people that he's not fancy, that he's one of them. As he puts it, "I'm just a plain, ordinary former bartender."

He also has an amazingly high energy level. But if Karl is a workaholic, he knows why he's working. To make money. "That's the object of being in business, isn't it?" he asks frankly.

His recent expansion has changed the look of Sparks, and it has not been without opposition. Some residents felt Karl had gone too far, particularly when he tore down a building that dated back to Sparks' beginnings in 1904.

He takes the criticism philosophically. "Lots of people don't like progress," he says. "They want everything to stay the way it was 90 years ago. But the building they regret losing was rotting; it had been condemned. What I have done is best for Sparks. They'll realize it after a while."

For his business, Karl has given up almost all other pleasures, like golf and



STUART MURTLAND



PHYLLIS ZAUNER

Unlike the typically invisible casino owner, Karl always seems to be out there on the casino floor and in the restaurant, asking, "How you doin'?" and otherwise charming customers. At top, he greets a restaurant patron, and, below, he offers a good-luck pull to a happy visitor on his look-alike slot machine. He says dollar slots changed his club's fortunes eight years ago.

vacations. He lives less than a mile from the hotel-casino, so he can get there in a hurry. Sometimes Nancy, his wife, worries that he's too wrapped up in his business. But she works almost as hard as he does, taking care of public relations, Karl says. "There are days I don't see her at all, she's so busy running around."

Because he works 14 hours a day, seven days a week, his feet know every inch of the casino carpet. His office is a booth in the restaurant, with a telephone hanging on the wall above the table. His meetings are usually held on the casino floor, wherever he happens to be, subject to interruption from anyone passing by.

Karl says he is concerned about keeping his employees with him a long time, like a family. "We have a party once a year for everyone who's been here three years or more. Steak, lobster, drinks, dancing. Last year there were 130 out of a work force of 650."

His hospitality isn't confined to regular customers and employees. Last year he returned to Hastings to help celebrate the 100th anniversary of his high school. While he was there he invited everyone in town to come and visit Karl's Silver Club —his treat. They have since responded by the chartered planeload.

And what do the Hastings folks think of Karl? "Ah, he's just like his dad," says Maggie Nelson. "Always running back and forth, just like old E.J."

It would be a mistake, however, to think that Karl's deepest loyalties are sunk anywhere except Nevada. In recent years he has tapped into Sparks resident Walt Mulcahy's collection of rare, historical Nevada photos, and now more than 400 photos are displayed inside and outside the building.

He claims not to be a business genius, but Karl has had a knack for bold moves. The decisions have all been his, large and small, "based on common sense," he says.

But then those were the Old Days. Before expansion. "Now I've got experts to tell me what to do," he says with a touch of melancholy.

Experts and their advice notwithstanding, Karl Berge plainly remains the chief. As always, delegation of duties is not his strong suit. His finger is perpetually in the pie. One of his newest employees, a bus greeter, was abashed to discover she was being interviewed by the president of the company himself. She was taken aback at the unexpected attention from high up. "He said he hoped I'd be happy working here," she said in wonder. □

Phyllis Zauner's articles appear frequently in national magazines. She is also the author of a series of regional histories, including Carson City: Capital of Nevada, Reno-Sparks Nevada, *and* The Train Whistle's Echo.

With dramatic scenery and hidden greenery, Red Rock resembles a model of the whole Southwest.

By Gary Avey

Just 20 miles west of downtown Las Vegas, Red Rock Vista presents a mosaic of views. From this overlook you can see dramatic, colored cliffs like those in Utah's Zion National Park. There are crimson rocks like the formations near Sedona, Arizona, and Joshua trees as thick as the great Joshua-tree forests of California.

All this is Red Rock Canyon, stretched before you like a model of the Southwest. Close to the city, this wilderness area is a marvel to strollers and a challenge to rock climbers and photographers.

Great forces here have literally turned the earth upside down, exposing a many-hued escarpment that extends a dozen miles down the valley. Ancient sea beds of gray limestone and shale now sit atop younger deposits of dark-red sandstone.

The cliffs are slashed irregularly with canyons, and lush, green vegetation spills out of their upper reaches. Cooling downdrafts flow through ponderosa pines, then descend to whisper among the Mormon tea and creosote on the desert floor.

Across the narrow valley, you can see shadows edging up the hills. The colors flow and eddy in a tracery of dry creek beds that collect at the base of the long cliff. Nourishing a rich variety of plant life, the porous sandstone gathers water in the higher elevations (this is the Spring Range, after all) and channels it to springs along the steep slope.

While the diversity of the view is beautiful, you need to park and step off the asphalt to learn the secrets of Red Rock country. You don't have to step very far.

From Red Rock Vista, double back about a mile to begin a 13-mile scenic loop. It is a paved, two-lane, one-way thoroughfare that meanders along the edge of the mountain mass. Headquarters for explorers in the recreation area, which is overseen by the Bureau of Land Management, is the two-year-old visitor center located near the loop's start. There you'll find information and displays on the geology, wildlife, archaeology, history, and recreational possibilities found in Red Rock's 62,000 acres.

As you drive on the scenic loop, you'll see the vegetation begin to thicken. Creosote bushes and Joshua trees wave their bristly, tormented limbs, and dark green patches on the mountain face gradually resolve into trees—not some lowly desert variety, but real pines. From a quarter-mile away, the Calico Hills look rusty red with some touches of soft pink. The pink, in fact, is a visual fusion of red-and-white bands that are each just a few inches wide and create a natural, wavy pinstripping.

The lumpy, pudding-like rock formations invite casual hiking without defined trails. You can wander, pausing often to sit and observe the little details near at hand as well as the sweeping valley ahead.

At the old sandstone quarry, rock outcrops change abruptly from burnt red to stark white. This is a good area for serious hikers, but if you hunger for shade and lunch, continue on to the first grand break in the escarpment: Willow Springs.

Here a water seep, grass, wild grapevines, and a shady cottonwood are welcome sights at mid-day. This is an excellent picnic spot. The BLM has provided a touch of outdoor comfort with tables, barbecue grills, and restrooms. A side road continues up the canyon, but venturing farther up to La Madre Spring is near impossible even for four-wheelers because the road was badly damaged by floods last summer. The clusters of pines higher up are inviting, and the safest way to reach them is on foot.

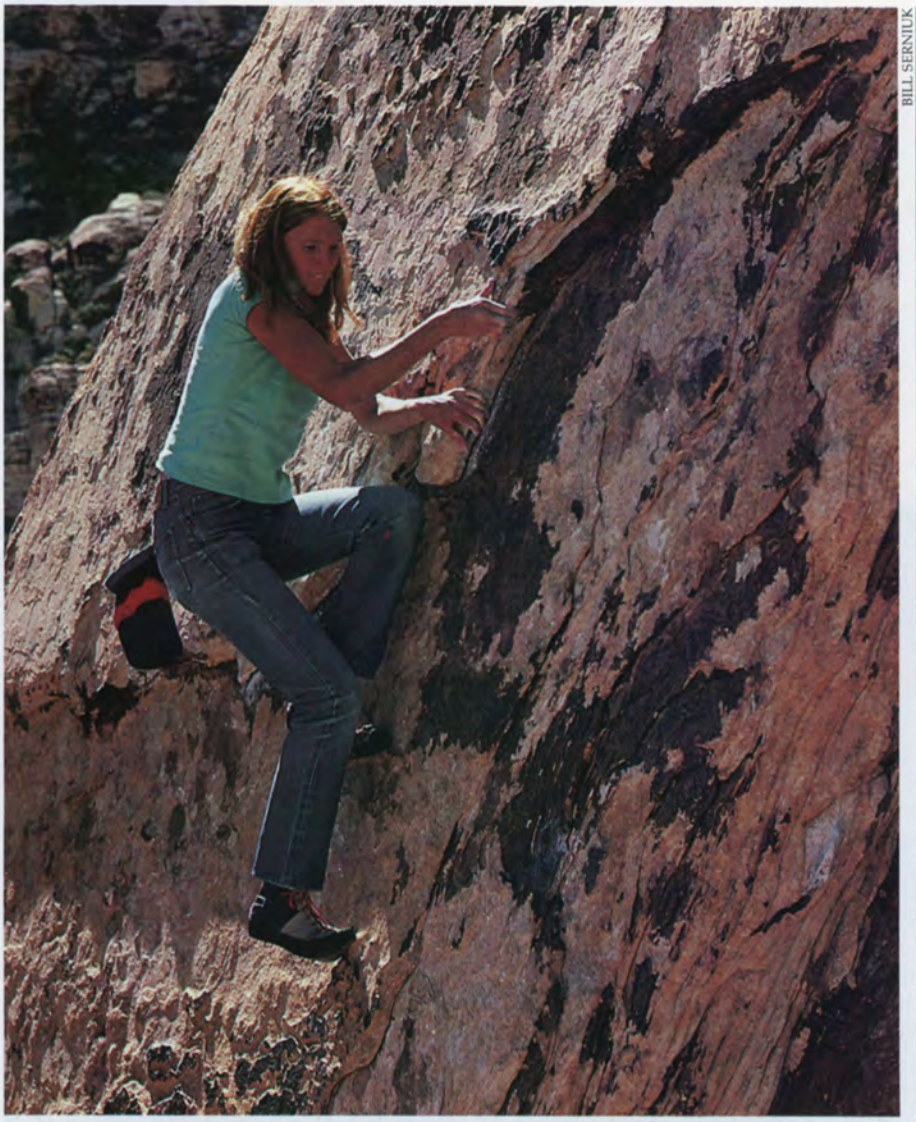
From Willow Springs you also can take long hikes to Lone Pine Springs or Red



RED ROCK CANYON



DAVID MUENCH



BILL SERNIUK



RICK OBERNESSER

Red Rock Canyon offers a colorful explosion of archaeology, geology, and history, both indoors and outdoors. At top, a brave hiker gets a grip on the geological aspect, while below a pair of travelers seek the comfortable confines of the visitor center's pictorial gallery.



Rock Summit. Ahead on the loop road are Ice Box and Lost Creek canyons, which are relatively easy walks.

A favorite of half-day hikers is Pine Creek Canyon, which makes a transition from the Mojave Desert scenery to heavy foliage at higher levels.

The trailhead begins at the road, and from there you can see most of the route. The mix of vegetation is astounding. A few hundred yards along the pathway, at only 4,000 feet, are the first stands of ponderosa pines. Seldom found at such a low altitude, these ponderosas are thought to be remnants of an ancient forest that grew in moister, cooler times. The trees follow the creek bed upward. Soil color on the trail changes from chalk white to dark Sedona red, then back to white again as it parallels the creek. At the cliff face, the creek forks and follows twin cuts in the cliffs more than a thousand feet high.

The creek-bed boulders, which are

Red Rock Touring

For information on weather conditions and hiking trails, contact: U.S. Bureau of Land Management, Las Vegas District, Box 7834, Las Vegas, NV 89125, call (702) 388-6627 For the Red Rock Visitor Center, call (702) 363-1921. For the state park, write Spring Mountain Ranch, Box 124, Blue Diamond, NV 89004, or call (702) 875-4141.—*GA*

stained red by iron oxide, can play visual tricks. Some are striped red-and-white and others yellow-and-white. There's even a scattering of red polka-dotted rocks to complete the eye-boggling assortment.

Pine Creek itself flows unevenly. In places it's a mere trickle; in others it forms pools several feet deep. Sometimes the flow seems to stop altogether as the creek runs underground, leaving the bed dry. But the higher you go the more water you'll see.

The temperature drops noticeably as cool air comes down from the rim. The canyon walls, which are red and dark-brown with desert varnish, and the sun's slanted rays give the place a primeval mood. Boulders sporting lichen of green, black, and orange rest among soft, mossy patches. Bright green ferns peek out from shadows here and there, and the water bubbles more loudly. Overhead the pine needles glisten.

While you rest, scan the upper canyon walls with binoculars. If you follow the fissures and shelves up the sheer rock face, you may detect a spot of color that doesn't quite fit the scheme. Did it move? Focus in and you'll find the spot is suspended by fine black lines. Hundreds of feet above, hardy climbers are enjoying the canyon from a different perspective.

The canyon eventually becomes a dead end to everyone but the technical climbers. The return trip is approximately two miles. With luck you might see the wild creatures that live in the area. Cottontail rabbits, bighorn sheep, bobcats, and gray foxes are among those to be found, but your most likely encounter will be with wild burros, which browse in small groups.

After concluding the scenic drive, you can visit two places south of the loop that date back to pioneer days. Spring Mountain Ranch, a state park, is a spring-fed oasis that over the past 150 years has seen wagon trains, mountain men, outlaws, Indian parties, ranchers, and owners like Vera Krupp and Howard Hughes. Now tourists frequent the picnic areas set among the 520 acres of lush pastures and white-washed fences. There is an entrance fee of $3 per vehicle, and hours are 8 to 5 daily in winter.

A half-mile south is the second stop, Old Nevada's replica of a western main street at Bonnie Springs. The ranch dates back to the mid-1800s and has a small, comfortable bar and restaurant on its grounds. With ducks swimming in the spring-fed pond just out the window and the sun slipping behind the mountains, you can relax with a barbecued steak here at the end of the Red Rock trail. □

Gary Avey, former editor of Arizona Highways, *lives in Las Vegas and is associate publisher for KC Publications.*



ELLIOTT BERNSHAW



RICK OBERNESSER



RICK OBERNESSER

Plant and animal life have adapted to the lunar-like canyons of Red Rock, lending a vibrancy of motion and softness to the swirling formations. Top left, a wild burro poses for a handout; top right, a hawk screams a warning; and above, tranquility.

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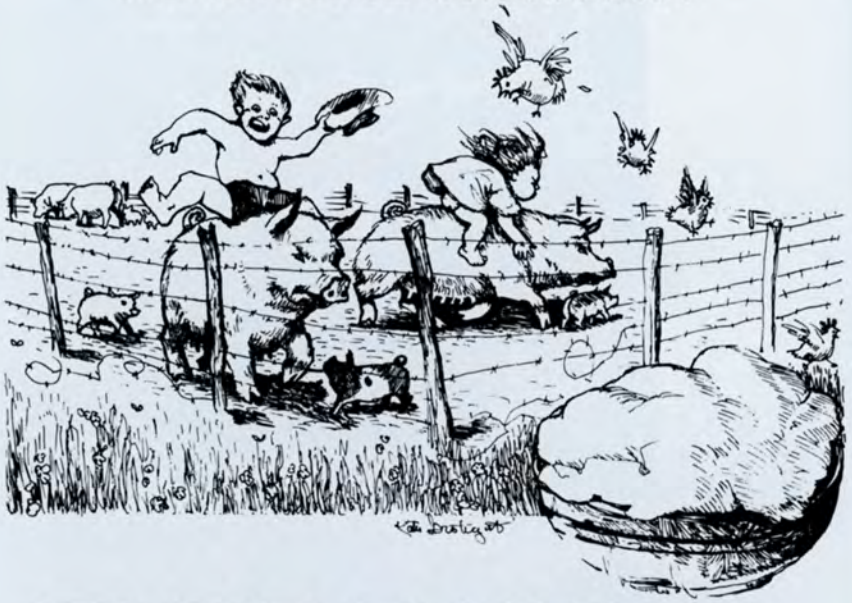
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ROLLING IN THE DOUGH

An accident improved Mother's sourdough recipe four ways from the oven.

By Harry E. Webb

I often wonder if some aborigine knew how to cook pancakes and used a starter as we do today. If so, he'd appreciate this thesis on sourdough bread and flapjacks.

It was in the spring of 1897, when bachelor Dan Caswell was readying his belongings for a dash to the Klondike, that sourdough bread was introduced in our cabin. Caswell had taught our mother how to make the starter by putting some sugar and quartered potato in a batch of batter and keeping it warm until bubbles formed on the batter. "From then on," Dan said, "you have your sourdough, and when you pour out the needed amount for bread or flapjacks always replenish some batter in your crock."

Afterwards we kids practically lived on sourdough bread, hot cakes, and even cookies. Sourdough in the hands of an old-timer was something to dream about. Yes, Mother's sourdough bread was something scrumptious, all right just as it was, until one Sunday an accident happened that improved the original recipe four ways from the oven.

A batch of "sponge," as Mother called a whopping pan of dough, had got chilled, and while she was hurrying to go to church with our neighbors, the Woolerys, she set the dough pan in the sun beside the cabin. She cautioned my sister and me to set it in the house if it became too puffed up.

I suppose things would have worked out fine, but the Woolerys had left their daughter Clara to play with us until they returned, and Clara was a tomboy type of over-energized fun. Just watching a pan of sourdough palled on us, so we went to the pig pen and rode two big sows until we tired of having our bare feet tromped on. Then Clara suggested "ante-over." That was a game where a ball was thrown over a house by one person, and if the ball was caught by the person on the opposite side, he tried to tag the thrower before he could gain the catcher's side. Uh huh, that's when it happened! While running like crazy to tag Clara, I stepped in the dough, and the pan and it went rolling.

By the time we got gobs of dough scraped off my foot it was plain something had to be done, and quick. With the pan on the kitchen table we picked sticks and gravel until a heap of dough looked pretty good except being a shade too dark for us. That's when Clara birthed another idea.

"I don't like the stuff," she said, "but my dad always has my mom put marjoram flowers in the dough when she makes sourdough bread." No sooner said than we had the jar of marjoram flowers down that Mrs. Woolery had given us, and by rubbing these to a dust between our palms we soon had it mixed in the dough. Of course, later Mom got suspicious and some questions followed, but we told her about Clara and the marjoram. "Well," Mom said, and I could see she said it between tight-drawn lips, "if you've ruined my bread I'll tan your jackets and don't think I won't!"

The bread was baking when my dad came home, and as he opened the door, then banged it open to stay, he said, "Lord God! Whew! What's that acid I smell? It's burning my eyes and I'd think it would yours, too." We explained that we had mixed a little too much marjoram in the dough, blaming Clara, of course. At that our dad said, "Oh?"

But during supper both parents praised the improved flavor of the sourdough bread, and although my sister and I exchanged knowing looks, we had to admit it sure was an improvement over the usual batches. □

The late Harry E. Webb and his true western stories have been favorites of Nevada *readers for many years. He was a trapper, cowboy, actor, novelist, and for three decades a Nevada rancher. Earlier this year in Oklahoma City, Harry was named to the National Cowboy Hall of Fame.*

ILLUSTRATION BY KATIE GROTEGUT



LYMAN HAFEN PHOTOS



Beaver Dam Cowboy

Winter storms and government agents may howl, but they are only small annoyances for Ross Mathews at his high-country haven.

By Lyman Hafen

The weather near the top of Beaver Dam Wash was so far out of whack last winter that Ross Mathews figured the government must have had something to do with it. It was the white-haired cowboy's 78th Nevada winter, and he'd seen almost all of them in the wilderness where the Mathews place hugs the Nevada-Utah line just below Beaver Dam State Park. And nothing—not the government, not the iciest desert winter—could ever get him to move off his high-country haven.

Mathews was born a Nevadan and has been one all his life, but his family had not really planned it that way. His great-grandfather Charles Mathews was a Mormon pioneer sent to settle in southern Utah, but the party took a wrong road somewhere and ended up over the border in Panaca, Nevada. That's where Ross was born on March 31, 1906.

His grandfather William Mathews, Sr. and father William, Jr. made caskets in Panaca. "Real nice caskets, the way I remember 'em," Ross says. "They were wagon makers, too, wheelwrights, and pretty handy with their hands. I guess that's run on down through the family. You can see it in my boys. They're jacks of all trades."

A love of the Lincoln County backcountry seems to have run through the family, too. There's no place Ross would rather be, and he and his wife Orma don't plan to move to town even though they own a home 70 miles away in St. George, Utah, where three of their five children live. "I guess I'm like an old cow that's used to the range," Ross says. "Once she knows the country, it's hard to get her off it."

Orma feels the same way. When the children were young, she spent the winter in St. George, where they went to school. But now she stays year-round with Ross on the wash. "If you study about man," Orma says, "you go to the city. If you study about God, you go to the wilderness."

The Mathews place is about as close to wilderness as you can get, although over the years they have turned it into a comfortable spread. The many guest books above the fireplace attest to the Mathews' hospitality.

In recent decades, however, Ross hasn't been as friendly as he'd like. Vandalism and thievery have made him take strong measures. A battery of "No Trespass—Keep Out" signs guard the gate, and he has built a grave alongside the road. A mound of dirt with boots poking out lies below a grave marker that says, "He won't trespass anymore." It is a message for those with guilty hearts. Yet if you are a friend, or a friend of a friend, you always are welcome.

Mathews got his education in the backcountry. He was 10 when the family





MATHEWS COLLECTION PHOTOS



Ross and Orma Mathews have lived for most of half a century at their home on the wash (above). At home Ross often is found at his shop (far upper left), which displays his Quarter Circle X Diamond X brand. The area is as wild as it was in 1936, when he was 30 (far lower left), and a year later, when he bagged a mountain lion (left). Another old-time family photo (right) shows Ross and Orma in 1946.

moved from Panaca to Clover Valley, which was also called Joseco. "That was in 1916, and we lived at the homestead up at the east end of the valley." There wasn't a fifth grade there, so he took the fourth again. "That's how I got so damned smart," he says.

That same year his father left to make some cash drilling wells, and Ross tended the cows and did all the chores himself. "I was just a little runt, 96 pounds, up until I was about 15," he says. "That winter I went trapping with my good friend Jimmy Dobbins and I started growing up. I guess it was all those beans and venison and mountain scenery."

He and Dobbins caught coyotes, bobcats, gray fox, and the biggest striped skunk on the wash. "But it was no money-making proposition," Ross recalls. "I think we got five dollars for a coyote hide, two-fifty for bobcat, and maybe a buck-fifty for gray fox. If it hadn't been for the folks grubstaking us, we'd have never made it."

He began prospecting as a youngster, and it remains the occupation dearest to him. He has a table with glittering rocks stacked high around a big microscope. A sparkle comes to this cattleman's eyes when he talks about making the big strike.

"It's pretty hard for a cowboy to be a prospector," he says. "You tend to lose track of the cows when you spend all your time looking at the ground. The only reason most cowboys'll pick up a rock is to throw it at a cow."

Ross was 28 years old when he met Orma. It was 1934, and she was 20 at the time. She had come from St. George with a friend to attend a CCC camp party. Ross was up in a tree picking pinenuts when the branch broke and he fell at Orma's feet. "She thought I fell for *her*," Ross says. She may have been right; they were married the next year. "I haven't been able to trade her off since," Ross says with a wide grin.

They spent the early part of their marriage at Joseco—long enough for their oldest child, David, to attend first grade in the old one-room Clover Valley school where Ross had gotten his extra year of fourth grade. Later they moved to Beaver Dam Wash and obtained about half of their present 450-acre spread through the Desert Entry program. The rest has come by trades and purchases over the years.

While Orma spent the school year in St. George with the children, Ross preferred to pass even the hardest winters on the wash. His isolation created some rough situations. One winter day the old horse he called Chub threw his head back and broke Ross' arm. Ross promptly made a splint out of a Mother's Oats carton, got back on the horse, and rode in the bitter cold to Acoma, 10 miles away.

"As the swelling went down, I'd cinch

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> 'If you study about man,' Orma says, 'you go to the city. If you study about God, you go to the wilderness.'

the carton a little tighter," Ross says. From Acoma he caught a ride to Chet Oxborrow's place in Caliente, and Chet flew him in his private plane to St. George for treatment.

"I've had ribs broke, shoulders broke, arms broke," he says. "That's the disadvantage of being alone when you go off a horse. The only thing you can do is get back on again."

Mathews also has been a hunting guide. In 1938, he and Waldo Simpkins started a deer camp in the wash. They operated there for about four years, charging $2.50 a day for a horse and $10 for each deer bagged. Later, in the early '50s, a group of hunters that came every year helped Ross build the house he and Orma now live in. The hunters dubbed it "King's Lodge," and the name has stuck.

There aren't a lot of deer left in the area, and Ross blames that on the government. He claims the deer herd was seriously depleted as a result of above-ground nuclear arms testing at the Nevada Test Site. "Deer died by the thousands back in the '50s and early '60s," he says. "I would swear it was the fallout that did it."

Indeed, he takes a dim view of most government projects. "The early settlers had their problems," he says, "but they had a picnic compared to what we've had to go through with the government." He's had frequent run-ins with government agents and says he has sometimes had to "show his teeth" to get his point across.

Things are a little quieter around King's Lodge nowadays. There are still about 60 head of cattle running on the nearby ranges with the Quarter Circle X Diamond X brand on their sides. Ross and Orma still grow almost everything they need—peaches, pears, plums, apples, a variety of vegetables, and even some strawberries. Ross still putters with his machinery out in the shop, building and repairing engines and gadgets until everything runs perfectly.

On a slow day he'll head down the wash and turn over a few rocks, still looking for that magic vein and thinking back over the old days. "When I was young," he muses, "I thought I wanted to be a pilot. But the older I got, the closer to the ground I wanted to stay." □

Lyman Hafen has an advertising agency in St. George, Utah and is editor of St. George Magazine. *He first met Ross Mathews when he was a kid.*



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LARRY PROSOR

Steep Thrills

Tahoe Ski Report

Tahoe ski resorts are offering new lifts, restaurants and some hair-raising new runs.

By Jim Crandall

The moguls of the ski world have embarked on a new program this winter designed to forever change the image of a Lake Tahoe ski vacation. Their massive, megabuck campaign is the result of a series of peace talks among major ski resorts and visitor bureaus. During the talks, slope and travel execs vowed to join forces to promote the Reno-Tahoe area for what it is: the most complete ski vacation destination in the universe. Then the Sierra Ski Marketing Council was formed to spread the word around the globe.

Amid all the talk of "glamour resorts" and "gateway cities," identifying the benefits for skiers is somewhat like trying to find your car keys in a snowbank. What it really means is an increase in services—improved bus transportation, better restaurants and motels, and some super package deals. Most important of all, however, is that the best skiing in the world is getting even better.

Heavenly Valley, for example, opened a new thrill-way on its Nevada side when it took down the "Danger" signs and put up a placard that says, "Super Experts Only," on the death-defying chutes and bowls of Mott's Canyon. Snowcat shuttles will return skiers to the top of the hill. Hotshot skiers have been begging resort officials to open the area for years. "It's a highly unstable and dangerous area," says Heavenly's Lee Weber. "Only the super expert will be allowed. We're going to test both the effects on the canyon and the public's reaction to the skiing."

Heavenly also has replaced the Dipper chair with a new triple, and new 50-passenger tram cars have taken over for the old 18-passenger ones.

Kirkwood has added its largest lift yet, a triple chair with a 1,600 vertical foot rise that will deliver 1,800 skiers per hour to 700 more acres of advanced and intermediate terrain.

Alpine Meadows replaced its Roundhouse chair with a new triple and added the Lakeview triple chair where Scott's T-bar used to be. The Lakeview goes way beyond the former boundaries of the T-bar, all the way to the Twilight Zone, one of three new runs created by the lift. The owners of Alpine also are at work on the Galena ski complex down the road from Mount Rose; the giant new resort is scheduled to start selling lift tickets next winter.

Mount Rose has replaced the wind-whipped Northwest Passage double with a new triple, and added a new chair, the Galena, to the intermediate slopes. Besides a new ski school for kids three to seven

'84–'85 Nevada Skier's Guide

Area	Phone	Top Elevation	Vertical	Lifts	Rating Bg-Int-Adv	Day Lift Price* Adult/Child	Day Rental* Adult/Child
Alpine Meadows	916-583-4232	8,637	1,800	13	25-40-35	na/$11	$14.50/$10.50
Boreal	916-426-3666	7,800	600	9	20-60-20	$14/$8	$12.75/$10
Donner Ski Ranch	916-426-3635	7,835	800	4	25-50-25	$15/$7	$11/$8
Echo Summit	916-659-7154	7,950	550	3	40-40-20	$13.75/$9	$13/$9
Granlibakken	916-583-4242	6,480	280	2	50-50-0	$8/$5	$8/$7
Heavenly	916-541-1330	10,100	3,600	26	25-50-25	$24/$13	$14/$9
Homewood	916-525-7256	7,990	1,650	9	20-50-30	$16/$10/$5**	$11/$10
Kirkwood	209-258-6000	9,800	2,000	10	25-50-25	$22/$10	$15/$9
Mt. Rose	702-849-0704	9,700	1,440	5	30-40-30	$16/$9	$13.50/$9.50
Northstar	916-562-1010	8,600	2,200	11	25-50-25	$22/$12	$15/$9
Sierra Ski Ranch	916-659-7475	8,852	2,212	9	25-55-20	$17/$12	$12.50
Ski Incline	702-832-1177	7,600	900	7	30-40-30	$18/$12	$14/$10
Slide Mountain	702-849-0303	9,700	1,450	6	30-30-40	$14/$8	$10/$7
Soda Springs	916-426-3666	7,350	650	3	30-50-20	$12/$7	$12.75/$10
Squaw Valley	916-583-6985	8,900	2,700	26	30-40-30	$24/$5	$14/$9
Sugar Bowl	916-426-3651	8,383	1,500	9	20-30-50	$21/$12	$12.50/$8.50
Tahoe Donner	916-587-6046	7,350	600	3	50-50-0	$12/$8	$12.50/$10
Tahoe Ski Bowl	916-525-5224	7,800	1,630	5	30-40-30	$15/$10	$12/$9
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Lee Canyon	702-872-5462	9,430/8,510	1,000	3	15-80-5	$14/$9	$11/$10

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years old, Rose will have a weekend adult race clinic and a ladies-only ski workshop.

Northstar was busy this summer grooming the 600 acres of advanced runs it opened last year with the new Schaffer Camp triple chair. The resort added two more kilometers to its Nordic trails, which now have 32 kilometers in all. Northstar also has restocked its alpine rental shop with all new equipment.

While Squaw Valley has added another 200 acres of intermediate slopes, its emphasis has been to keep hungry skiers happy. The former fast-serve eatery at the top of the gondola at mid-mountain has been completely remodeled, so the Gold Coast is now an ultra-modern complex with new restaurants, bars, and heated outdoor decks. At High Camp at the top of the tram is a new waiter-service restaurant, Alexander's, in addition to the Granite Chief cafeteria-style eatery.

Sugar Bowl has added two new runs, Fuller's Folly for experts and Bill Klein's Schuss for intermediates. The names honor two long-time Sugar Bowl employees: board chairman John Fuller and former ski school director and current ski shop manager Bill Klein. Sugar Bowl also offers a $15 mid-week rate, with another $5 off for AAA card holders.

Boreal, which with Squaw and Sugar Bowl has the only night skiing at Tahoe, still offers its 13-hour lift ticket. Soda Springs, owned by Boreal, again offers the Rent a Ski Area program, where groups can rent the entire place any day mid-week.

Aside from the slopes, the North Tahoe Visitor's and Convention Bureau (916-583-3494) offers Ski Tahoe North, a lodging and lift ticket package for three- to six-day stays. The lift ticket is good at nine North Tahoe and Donner Summit resorts.

The Reno-Sparks Convention and Visitors Authority (702-785-4843) is acting as a liaison between Reno-area casinos and motels and Tahoe ski resorts. It's up to date on package deals in the area and plans to install three toll-free hot lines early next year. And the South Lake Tahoe Visitors Bureau (916-544-5050) *is* the hot line at the south end of the lake.

All this activity is good news for skiers, but it could be just a flurry in comparison to the blizzard of action that would result from the return of the Winter Olympics to Squaw Valley, the 1960 host. "We're hoping to bring the Olympics back before the year 2000," says Reno ski promoter Don "Snowshu" Thompson. He says the Games could produce, among other things, a monorail that circles the lake, linking all resorts and spilling down into Reno. And that *would* change the face of Tahoe ski vacations forever. ☐

Feature Editor Jim Crandall plans to ski Heavenly's new run—with a parachute.



DAVE PRICE

With son Don at the reins, Sam Borges' 16-passenger sleigh glides through the snow during a half-hour Stateline scenic tour.

Sleigh Bells & Scenic Dells

Here's a Tahoe holiday guide for non-schussers looking for snow sports that don't overdo it.

By James McKimmey

The strongest winter magnets at Lake Tahoe are the ski resorts that ring the basin and comprise some of the best alpine slopes in the world.

You can verify that view any winter weekend at the lake. Check the number of cars with downhill skis clamped to their roofs as they cross the passes into this whited, high-peaked neighborhood. Note the crowds wearing ski gear. See the packed parking lots. Observe the long lines of rosy-cheeked fun seekers as they slide toward the lifts.

There lies proof.

But even though happy downhillers have put Tahoe in the loftiest ranks of winter playlands, there are many other ways to enjoy Tahoe in the snow. In fact, some diversions are clearly just as high on thrills and beautiful country while being low on cost and crowds. They are likewise free of the stress that comes from whipping down steep slopes at the speed of light.

The great alternative is, of course, cross-country skiing, and if you've become proficient at long-striding through powder on narrow Nordic skis, the lake has several touring centers. They include Tahoe Nordic at Tahoe City, Echo Nordic at Echo Summit, Royal Gorge at Donner Pass, and the Northstar Nordic Center.

If you have yet to develop traveling skills on this kind of ski, and simply wish to test the sport at convenient lake-level locations, there are always golf courses.

Golf courses? Yes. Covered with snow, they offer excellent trails.

The Incline Executive Golf Course is one. Here you can rent equipment and receive lessons and ski the set tracks that meander over this par-58 course with its snowy fairways and views of the lake.

On the other side of the water, in the middle of South Lake Tahoe, lies the Bijou Golf Course. Sponsored by the city, it offers rentals and instruction to cross-country skiers. The hills and dales of Tahoe Paradise Golf Course also have groomed tracks. Telemark Country Sports, at that site, offers equipment and lessons.

But if you'd rather travel the snow country sitting down, you know about snowmobiles.

On the south shore, you can find them at one of those golf courses, Tahoe Paradise. Rent a machine for a half hour or longer, and you can zoom your head off around a three-quarter-mile oval track. For a freer selection of where you want to travel, try Tahoe Equestrian Center's machines on their 200 acres near the South Lake Tahoe Airport.

To heighten the snowmobile adventure, check with Tahoe Paradise Sports. Here you can arrange to be trucked, with a snowmobile, to nearby Alpine County, where you will be guided on a wilderness expedition lasting two hours or an overnighter in the Blue Lakes vicinity at an average altitude of 9,000 feet. Phone in advance (916) 577-2121 for reservations.

You want it tamer? Leave the driving to Sam Borges, and slow down to real horsepower.

Waiting for you beside the Loop Road across from Caesars are two magnificent blond Belgian horses and a large, handsome sleigh. As the horses kick through the snow, Sam handles the reins, delivers a running commentary, and takes you to a beautiful view of the Stateline area. It's a pleasant 30-minute, no-effort snow experience.

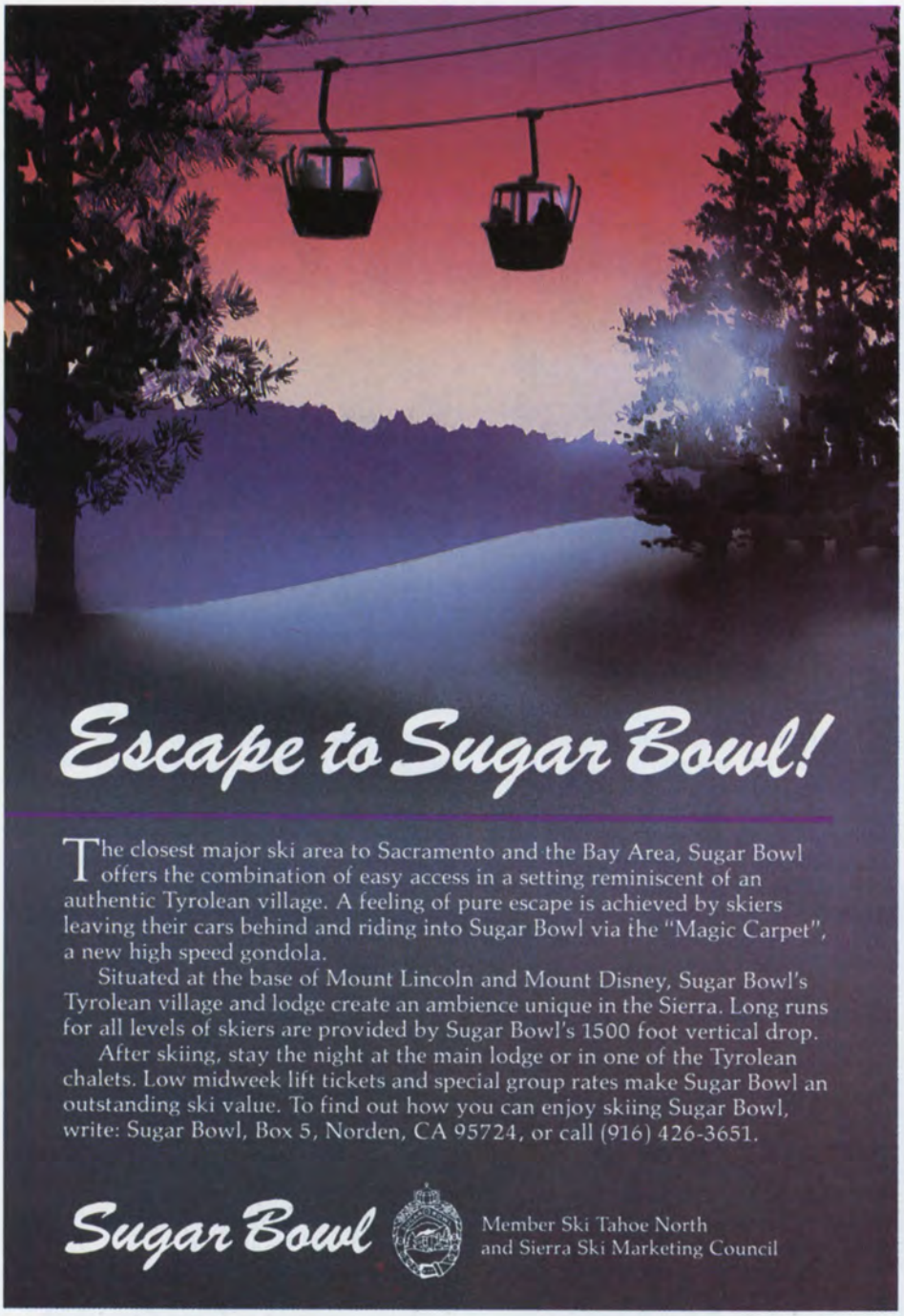
Would you rather ride horses than be pulled by them? Head back to Tahoe Equestrian Center. Equipped with coats that give them ample winter protection, sure-footed horses can be rented to carry you through the drifts.

Don't miss a ride either by sleigh or by saddle.

There is yet another ride at the lake not to be missed. Try the *Tahoe Queen.* Berthed at the bottom of Ski Run Boulevard at South Shore, the *Queen* is the only cruise boat traveling these waters in the season of the snow. It's a noble way to go. Three-decked and glass-bottomed, this giant paddlewheeler offers winter cruises designed for the downhill skier but which can be enjoyed by anyone.

Leaving at eight in the morning, the *Queen* crosses from south to north, delivering her passengers to Tahoe City, where buses are ready to carry them either to Alpine Meadows or Squaw Valley for a day of mogul-hopping or enjoying the scene. The return voyage is complete with cocktails, dinner with lobster or spaghetti, and dancing to live music to suit the varied tastes of passengers visiting from every part of the world—a floating apres-ski party to remember.

While you're at Squaw Valley, but not riding the lifts because you don't ski, levitate yourself by getting on the tram and riding up to an elevation of 8,200 feet, where you can lunch at Alexander's or the Granite Chief. On the south end of the lake, enjoy a similar experience by taking



Escape to Sugar Bowl!

The closest major ski area to Sacramento and the Bay Area, Sugar Bowl offers the combination of easy access in a setting reminiscent of an authentic Tyrolean village. A feeling of pure escape is achieved by skiers leaving their cars behind and riding into Sugar Bowl via the "Magic Carpet", a new high speed gondola.

Situated at the base of Mount Lincoln and Mount Disney, Sugar Bowl's Tyrolean village and lodge create an ambience unique in the Sierra. Long runs for all levels of skiers are provided by Sugar Bowl's 1500 foot vertical drop.

After skiing, stay the night at the main lodge or in one of the Tyrolean chalets. Low midweek lift tickets and special group rates make Sugar Bowl an outstanding ski value. To find out how you can enjoy skiing Sugar Bowl, write: Sugar Bowl, Box 5, Norden, CA 95724, or call (916) 426-3651.

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Heavenly Valley's tram to a dazzling view of Lake Tahoe and surrounding territory as well as cocktails and lunch. Heavenly has a new tram this season (ready at Thanksgiving time) that will carry 50 passengers and travel its course in a fast four minutes.

Another way to do it is flying through the air.

For a condor's view of the snow-covered beauty of the Tahoe domain, take a 55-minute scenic flight on one of Executive Aero Systems' five-passenger airplanes out of the South Lake Tahoe Airport.

You can arrange for an airborne tour around the lake's shoreline. Or you can include Virginia City, Emerald Bay, Desolation Wilderness, and Carson Pass. Or you can have a taste of the entire Sierra by taking the Tahoe-Yosemite Tour and flying over the Mokelumne Wilderness, visible only from the air, and then Yosemite Valley with its 1,000-foot waterfalls. Regular fares are $50 per adult and $25 for children under 12; if they're two years old or less, it's free.

If you did bring the kids, and need to leave them under responsible supervision, Choices for Children is a private, non-profit referral agency dedicated to quality care for children. Phone (916) 541-5848 for information.

But if it's doing something with them you're seeking, go to the top of Ski Run Boulevard, three blocks from Heavenly Valley, and help yourself to the pleasures of Hansen's Resort and its toboggan and saucer hill. All equipment is furnished. There are banked turns and packed runs. Mechanical lifts return toboggans to the top of the hill.

Another place for the young who have their own skis and want a couple of gentle slopes as well as a pomalift, Ski Hill adjacent to South Tahoe High School has free slopes, and there's a coffee shop for soft drinks and snacks.

Snacks. Now you're hungry.

Drive up to Echo Summit and Sierra Ski Ranch. Both resorts have barbecues outside all through the ski season. You can sit on a sun deck, watch the skiers, and savor a just-barbecued chicken, hamburger, or steak sandwich.

If fish strike you as being just as appetizing, make sure they're fresh by catching them yourself.

You'll need either a snowmobile or a pair of cross-country skis, as well as an ice ax, line, bait, and experienced companion. Then you can do it in the form of ice fishing. The best places near Tahoe are the Blue Lakes, Caples Lake, and Silver Lake.

Other methods of catching winter fish at Tahoe include casting a rod from the shore—Cave Rock in Nevada is the choice here—or chartering a private boat and guide. Dean Lockwood at the Tahoe Keys

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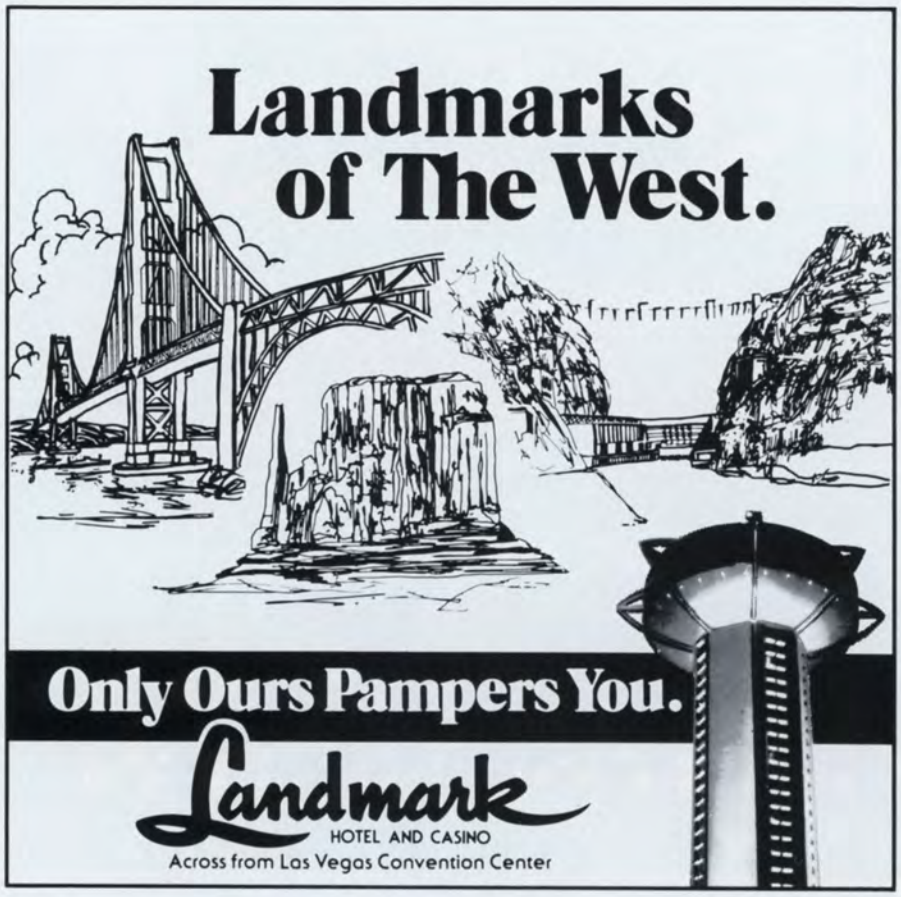
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Marina qualifies for the latter; he provides six hours of fishing with live bait and tackle for mackinaw trout weighing up to 30 pounds. If you don't capture any fish, you don't pay.

But now you're beginning to feel romantic as well.

Why not stay in a high-rise luxury hotel and have a 24-hour view of the lake and mountains that'll keep anyone in a fanciful mood? If you've never relaxed in the warm comfort of a darkened room and watched as snowflakes fall in the multicolored outside lighting of such a hotel, you haven't been doing it right.

On the north there is Hyatt Lake Tahoe. On the south are Harrah's, Caesars, Harvey's, and the High Sierra.

There is also a new European-styled retreat called Eagles' Nest Inn, which provides suites overlooking either Lake Tahoe or the Carson Valley. It also offers a close-up view of the ski action for the simple reason that it's located between the Boulder and Stagecoach ski lifts of Heavenly Valley North.

You'd like to put even a bit more romance in your snow life?

Drop by at Nephele's, in the middle region of Ski Run Boulevard. This is a restaurant. But they also feature private open-roofed hot tubs. Slip into a tub, order a glass of wine, and listen to the piped-in stereo music. If it's snowing, look up at the flakes which will be diverted by the heat of the tubs. If it's clear, the stars will be watching you. Don't fret. They wink at anything.

Oh, hell! Now you want to get married!

In the snow?

Lake Tahoe's the place to do it.

Check with any of the wedding chapels. They'll arrange to have you married anywhere you desire, including on the slopes. You provide the bride and groom. They'll provide the non-denominational minister, license, flowers, rings, garter, veil, champagne, and glasses. They can also have it videotaped in living color with sound for your all-time favorite movie.

It's snowtime unlimited, at Lake Tahoe.

Go snowshoeing. Go snow-camping. Go swimming, why don't you? Caesars has an indoor pool with an outdoor view. It's open to the public, and on weekends you can brunch in style at a poolside table as you watch it snow. Go on a winter clothes-buying spree at Tahoe's fashionable stores.

Drive through the neighborhoods; it'll remind you of how it looked back there in Maine or Michigan or Nebraska. Pour chocolate syrup over snow for a sundae and feel like a kid again. Build a snowman!

Tahoe's the place to do it. □

James McKimmey, widely published magazine writer and novelist, lives among the snowdrifts and slopes of South Lake Tahoe.

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Muench's Gallery

Photographer David Muench visits Ruby Marsh.

Ruby Marsh is deceptively still, evidence of its immenseness. It gracefully hides bass, trout, and nearly 200 species of birds within its boundaries. Established in 1938, the 38,000-acre Ruby Lake National Wildlife Refuge south of Elko has long been a favorite of birdwatchers, hunters, and anglers.

Suddenly, a splash! A now airborne canvasback leaves a small wake in the once glassy water and drops into the rushes beyond. Ripples tap the shore and all is still once again.

The Great Prison War

In 1873, Warden P. C. Hyman had to fight his way into his own prison.

By Terri Sprenger-Farley

Warden P.C. Hyman felt pretty smug on the late September morning in 1873 when he rode in to take control of the Nevada State Prison. Flanked by Governor Lewis "Broadhorns" Bradley and the board of prison commissioners, Hyman almost smiled as he stretched in his saddle, waiting for someone to answer the bell at the prison gate.

Captain of the Guards McSweeney answered and curtly asked the party to state its business.

Hyman started. He hadn't expected a grand ceremony. The departing warden, Lieutenant Governor Frank Denver, was being ousted by an unfriendly legislature. But Hyman was hardly prepared for the words he heard next.

"The lieutenant governor says that, should you attempt to enter, you will be fired upon by the guard," McSweeney puffed, "and in case of emergency, the prisoners will be turned loose and armed."

There were 80 or 90 prisoners inside! Hyman turned to the governor, whose indecision ended when they heard a sound that could have been a rifle being loaded. The officials pulled the horses onto their haunches and spurred for the Capitol. And reinforcements.

The *Territorial Enterprise* raved about the "startling proceedings which must charitably be attributed to the insanity of the Lieutenant Governor," and the paper assured readers that six militia units from Virginia City were rushing into action. The 60 men, and their cannon, would board a train for Carson before dawn.

Later that morning P.C. Hyman rode out alone to meet the troops.

A man who believed in omens might have relinquished the office without a fight, but Presley Corbin Hyman was not such a man. Born in Georgia in 1830, he had been just 20 when he crossed the plains to boomtown San Francisco, then moved to Nevada with his new wife, Hatty, when the Comstock Lode made headlines. Figuring not everyone could be a silver king, he steered clear of mining and struck it rich in real estate. The 1870 census showed Hyman had a small fortune of about $15,000.

But money was only the beginning of Hyman's plan. He found he had a flair for politics and quickly became mayor of the Eastern Nevada mining town of Hamilton. He nearly ran for governor in 1870 but reconsidered and moved to Mineral Hill, where Hatty, only 28, died in 1871.

Things had looked up when the legislature gave the prison commission the power to hire and fire wardens like this troublesome fellow Denver, whom Governor Bradley condemned as politically ambitious. The *Enterprise* said Denver had "acted like a lunatic." Hyman wondered what kind of a man Denver really was.

Within the prison walls, Frank Denver probably wondered the same thing. Why, when he'd already been a successful contractor and builder, had he turned to politics? His 1870 election had been by a bare majority, and, although there had been one moment when he might have been a hero, he had made a mess of it.

One night 29 prisoners armed with handmade knives and slingshots had stormed his personal quarters. His family had been in the parlor when Denver grabbed a rifle to investigate a noise on the staircase. The prisoners burst into the room and attacked before Denver could wound more than a few. He was shot in the thigh and stabbed twice in the head before he went down.

Ironically, he was saved by the convict who had served the family dinner. The convict brandished a chair and convinced his fellow prisoners that escape, rather than further mayhem, was their best choice.

Every guard was wounded. A local hotelkeeper—brave but foolish—was killed when he tried to intervene, and the governor put the blame on Denver.

Then, in 1872, four guards resigned, claiming the lieutenant governor's mismanagement was about to lead to a second prison break.

And yesterday? Why hadn't he stepped down and taken the sop offered—the $4,000-a-year job as state librarian?

Even though he'd sent a messenger after Bradley last night, trying to patch things up, the governor was stubborn. "He said he has been down there once and been denied admission," the messenger said. "He is prepared to take possession whether you are willing or not."

Denver looked across the plaza where the militiamen had stacked their weapons before going off to hunt breakfast in Carson restaurants. A fearsome force, indeed.

Later, primed for what was now being called the Prison War, the soldiers made a bold display by surrounding the prison. At the end of a four-hour stalemate Denver was escorted from his post. Clutching his side arms and carpetbag, he claimed ignorance of the previous threats. He swore McSweeney had been the instigator.

Keys in hand, Hyman took charge. In time he was hailed for making the prison self-supporting by establishing a boot factory staffed by prisoners, for arranging for convicts to be employed in the community, and for housing inmates from the insane asylum to fill empty cells. Hyman's shortcut to the governor's mansion seemed assured until everyone heard the outraged voice of Mollie Forshay.

A convicted murderess and former prostitute, Mollie swore that she, the only woman in the prison, was disgraced and held for "immoral relations" by Hyman. Mollie's story was bolstered by the testimony of a few convicts and a guard who happened to report directly to Bradley.

During the state investigation, Hyman tried to live as normally as possible. In July of 1875, he even remarried.

That August, Frank Denver died. The *Enterprise* eulogized Denver as "a man of moderate abilities, genial disposition, and kindness of heart" who "indulged to excess in the social glass."

Meanwhile, Hyman was reprimanded for creative bookkeeping and depriving prisoners of proper nutrition. Governor Bradley and his supporters, however, refused to let the prison issue die. In January 1877, a bill was introduced in the state senate that would unseat Hyman before the end of his term.

But the vote was never taken. P.C. Hyman, the man who fought his way into the Nevada State Prison, walked out voluntarily.

Tired of politics, Hyman resigned and took his new wife and family to Elko. He died there in 1912 at the age of 81, a respected businessman and a feisty sort of hero. □

Terri Sprenger-Farley of Verdi is a freelance writer and an English teacher.

Roadside Attractions

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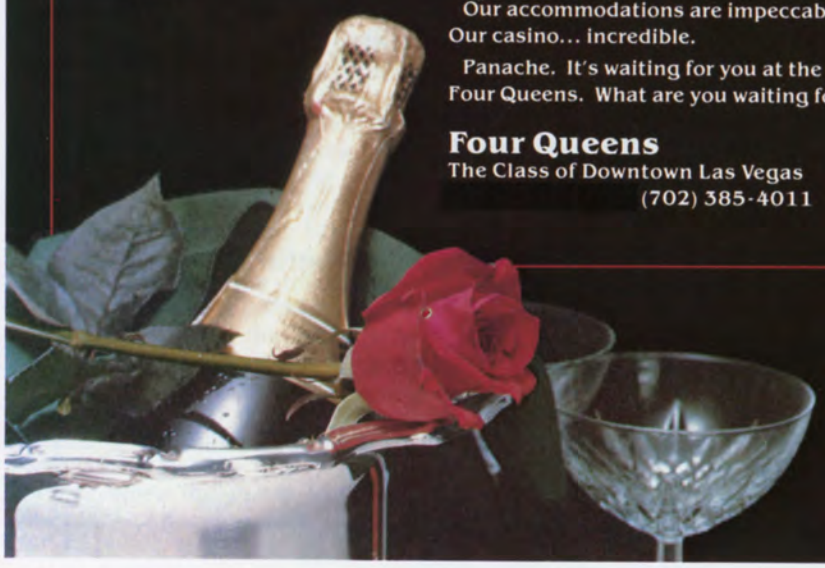
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JAY ALDRICH

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How The West Was Fun

The sights and sounds of Nevada's pioneer past can be found at Old Vegas in Henderson, 20 miles from downtown Las Vegas on the Boulder Highway. At the Old West Fun Park, part of 123-acre Old Vegas, you can take a ride on a stagecoach, train, or pony and possibly encounter one of the gunfights and stunt shows staged five times each day. There also are historical exhibits such as a steam engine once used in Nevada mines and a re-creation of Block 16, the early Las Vegas honky-tonk district. The park is open daily. Admission



LAS VEGAS NEWS BUREAU

prices, which include rides, are subject to change, but fall fares were $3.95 for adults and $2.95 for kids and old-timers. For information call (702) 564-1311.

—Roger Smith, Scott Shelley



You know about Nevada's glittering cities, where non-stop casino action and world famous stars light up places like "The Strip", Stateline and Virginia Street.

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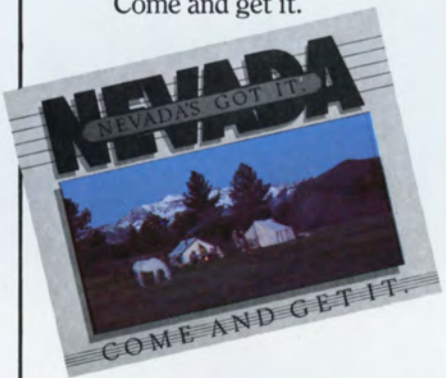
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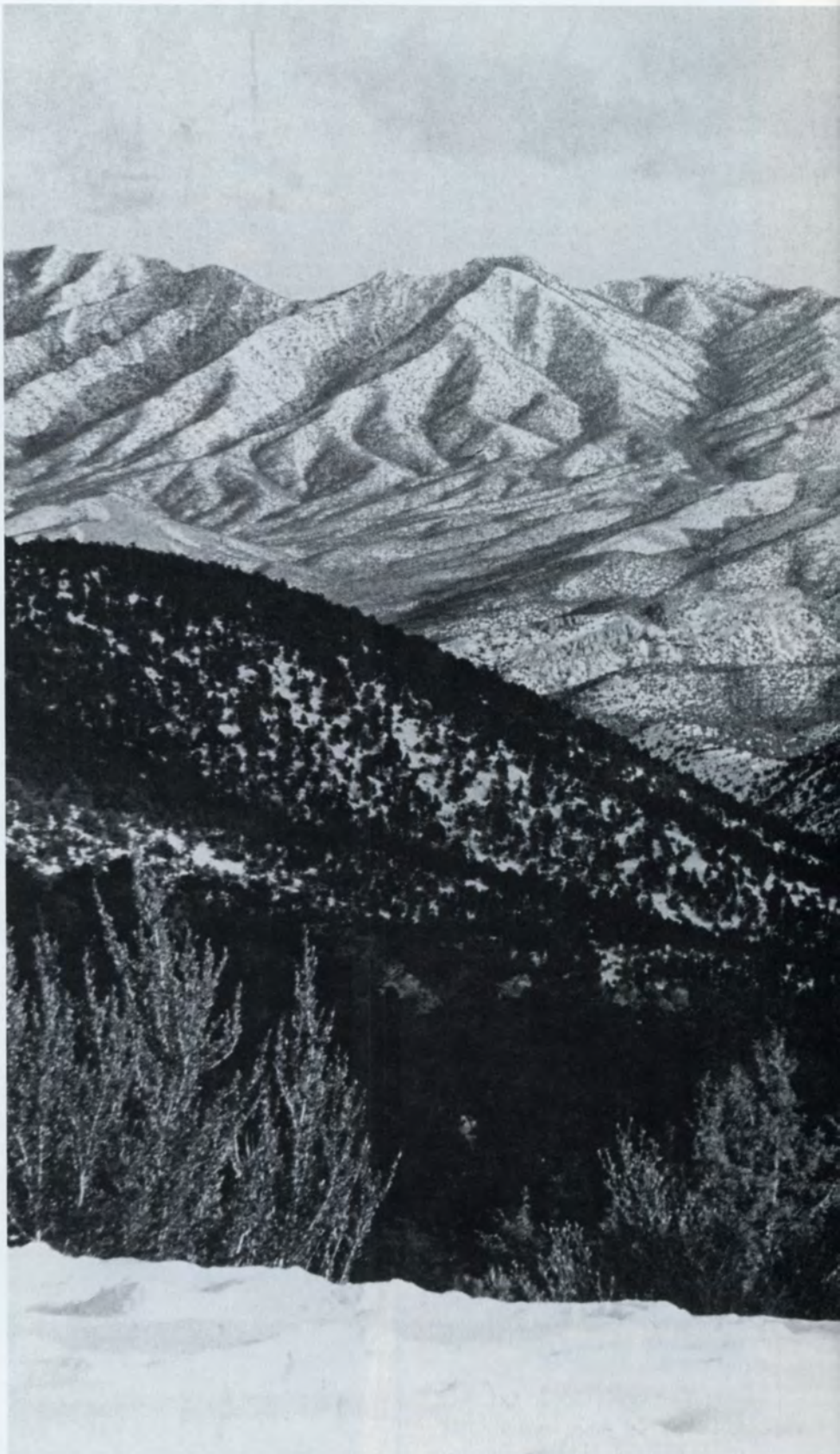
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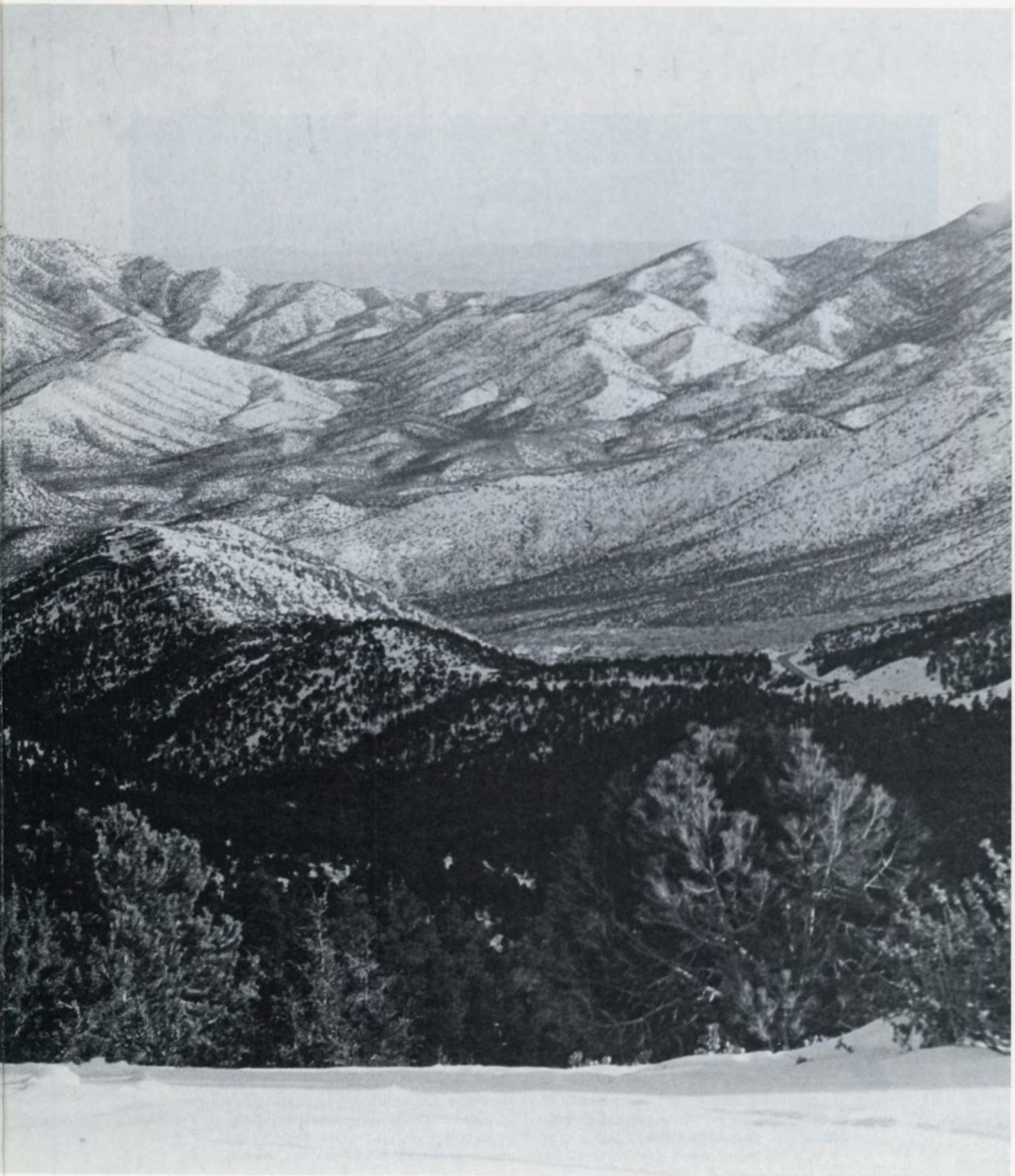
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LENS

PORTRAIT IN POWDER

Only a single thin curve on State Route 157 discloses the inroads of civilization in this view from the side of 11,912-foot Mount Charleston, 45 miles northwest of Las Vegas. The panorama captured by Ed Opsitos, a former Las Vegan now living in Gardnerville, looks south over Kyle Canyon and part of the Spring Range, where a coverlet of snow seems to stretch to the horizon. In the winter skiers weave down Charleston's powdery flanks, and in the summer hikers trudge up past pine forests, streams, talus, and boulders on the 20-mile loop to the peak and back.

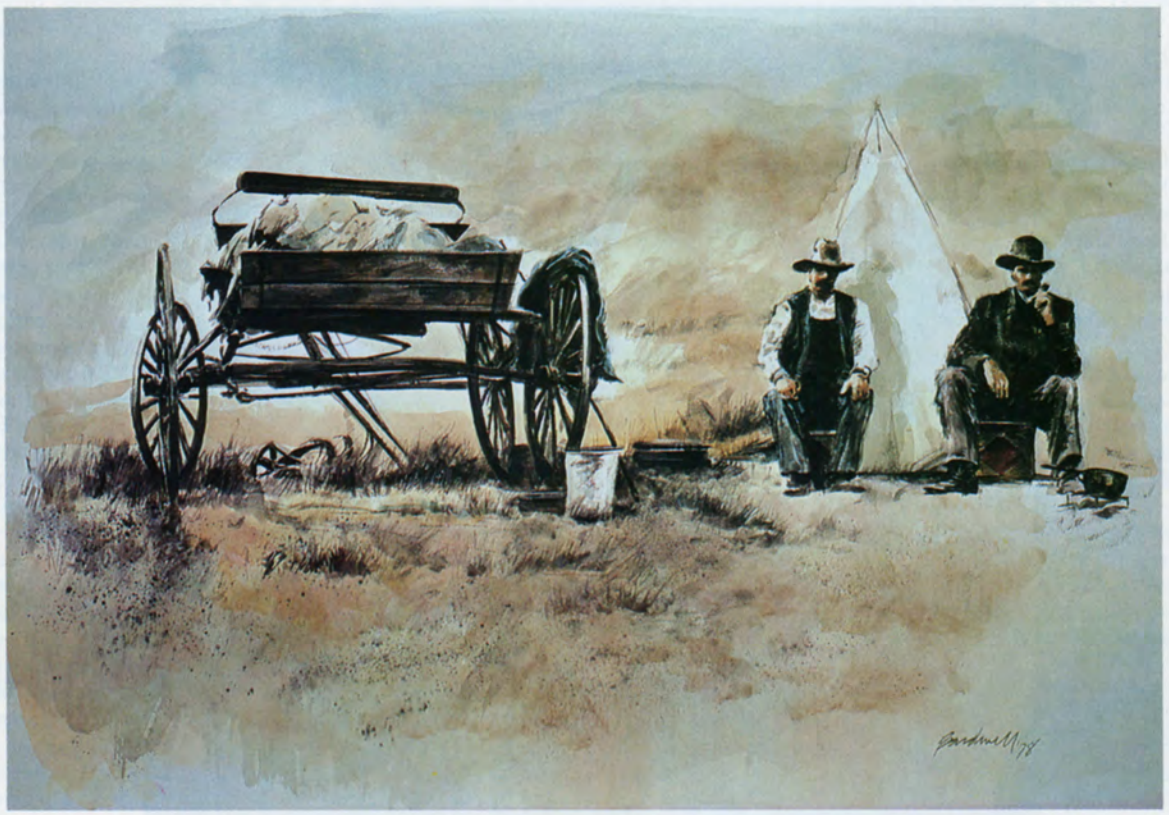






NEVADA ART & ARTISTS

Bardwell





As a freelancer and ad agency artist, John Bardwell has contributed illustrations and graphics to publications around the world. He has won many awards, including one from the prestigious Society of Illustrators in New York. But *Nevada* readers know him best for his cartoons, articles, and cover art that appeared in the magazine while he was art director (1974-80) and afterwards. "Old Friends" and "Traders at Washoe," featured here, are examples of the style he has developed during his 20-year professional career.

Born in Indianapolis, Bardwell grew up in Southern California. He attended Art Center College and the Otis Institute of Art, both in Los Angeles, and came to Nevada in 1971, working first in Reno and later in Las Vegas. He has exhibited his watercolor, acrylic, and oil paintings in galleries from Hawaii to New York. This winter he will offer two-week workshops in those media in California, Southern Nevada, and Hawaii.

"I don't consider myself an artist of the West, a cowboy artist," Bardwell says. "A regional artist, yes, but I hate classifications. They never describe what you're really trying to do. You could call my work realistic, but I don't like the photographic realism that a lot of 'western' painters do."

Bardwell avoids filling his paintings with unnecessary details. The alternation of sharp lines and softly blended tones isolate the essential features of his subjects and only suggest a larger setting. Often composites of actual scenes, his paintings let viewers put the subject where their imaginations find appropriate.—*Roger Smith*



The Challenge of the Bighorn

Some hunters wait a lifetime for a bighorn tag, so when you finally make the assault on the Sheep Range, you don't want to go home light.

By Grant Dalen and Jim Crandall

For hunters, desert bighorn sheep are among the most prized and elusive trophies in North America. Bighorns move like ghosts among the sheer-rock cliffs and canyons of Southern Nevada, demanding all the stealth and stamina a hunter can muster. The animals also demand another kind of patience. While some trophy seekers spend weeks chasing shadows, many more hunters wait a lifetime just to get a bighorn permit.

"You've got about 8,000 people applying for about 112 tags each year," says Reno outfitter and big-game guide Grant Dalen. "Some guys apply all their lives and never draw a tag."

When it came time to apply for the 1983 season, two of Dalen's friends asked him what area he thought they might stand the best chance of drawing a tag in. Gene Ceragioli, a Reno contractor, had been applying for 17 years with no luck. Lee McKenzie, owner of a Sparks western store, had been trying for 25 years. "I told them to try for Area 76," Dalen says. "It's the roughest of all the areas, so there aren't as many applications. I said if they got their tags, we'd go on a sheep hunt they'd never forget."

The men applied, got their tags, and told Dalen to get the wagons ready. Dalen was elated that he would be returning to the Sheep Range, which is north of Las Vegas. He had a score to settle with those mountains.

Dalen has been a guide for 26 years. He has led hunters to trophy game in Wyoming, Colorado, Montana, California, and for the last 14 years in Nevada. But when he went up against the Sheep Range for the first time in 1982, acting as a guide for his son Mitch, the mountains, and the sheep, defeated him.

He cursed the cactus, the rocks, the sheep, and the deceptive desert terrain during their fruitless two-week hunt. But, ever the hunter, he learned a few things about Area 76.

That wilderness area is just west of U.S. 93 between Las Vegas and Alamo. Motorized vehicles are prohibited, and no roads or trails lead the nine miles from the highway to the mountains. In the 1982 hunt, Dalen and sons Mitch, then 26, and Eric, 19, had set up camp near the highway, planning to ride horseback to the range each day to hunt. But what had looked like an easy one-hour ride turned out to be a three-hour hoof-splitter over sharp rocks and bristling cacti.

There was no water, either, except for two springs high in the range. Keeping the horses healthy and on four good legs was a constant concern. Between the six hours they were spending in the saddle each day and 100-mile round-trip shuttles to Vegas for supplies, their hunting time was limited. Furthermore, the weather was unpredictable. What could dawn a clear, cloudless day could end with snow, rain, and fog.

After two weeks of sleeping on cactus and huddling under rain slickers, Dalen had been ready to shake the mud of 76 from his heels. Except for one thing. Sheep. Lots of sheep. Record-book sheep. More than once he had led Mitch to a trophy shot, but with the exhaustion of hours of stalking, the weather, and luck—Mitch's rain-rusted gun had jammed with a record ram in his sights—they'd gone home light.

Dalen kept a diary of the hunt, and that winter and spring he studied it. When McKenzie and Ceragioli called him that summer, he was ready.

So was McKenzie. A veteran big-game hunter and outdoorsman, he had a store of camping supplies and hunting knowledge to add to the expedition. He invited Reno veterinarian Jack Walther to bring his camera and come along. Walther had been to Area 76 before. He, too, had walked out empty-handed. Walther, McKenzie, and Dalen had all known each other for years, having served on the Reno Rodeo board together. McKenzie also asked Jim Lewis, a Salinas western store owner and gourmet camp cook, to join the group.

They decided to set up a complete camp with plenty of water at the base of the range. That fall Dalen scouted the area on horseback with McKenzie and Carson City muleskinner John Reil. They figured they could get a mule-drawn wagon in if they followed an ancient cart path.

Dalen and son Eric set about the arduous task of outfitting the group. Taking McKenzie's gear into account, they drew up a shopping list that looked like the inventory of an old-time general store (see box).



JACK WALTHER PHOTOS



The mule team labored for two days to haul in a first-class camp. Later, Dalen cooks breakfast.

On opening day, November 17, the team began its assault on 76. The wagon made two round trips across the desert, and the men set up camp. That night, by the light of the campfire and under a canopy of brilliant stars, Dalen began a journal of the hunt:

November 17—Our trip in here went as planned, no problems. But the mules are having a hell of a workout. Two full loads today, from daylight till dark. Lee, Jim, Gene, and Eric set up camp and it's great.

November 18—John Reil left to pick up another load of water and feed. We scouted for a couple of hours. Gene and I went one way and I saw one ram. Lee and the others spotted nine sheep, three legal rams, in Grapevine Canyon. Looks good for the morning.

November 19—Up at 5 a.m. and out of camp by 6 a.m., just right. Jack Walther, who had planned to get down here from Reno earlier, arrived last night. His Porsche broke down and it took him 25 hours to get here.

Lee, Jack, and Jim Lewis went for the sheep Lee spotted last night. They headed up a canyon and saw eight rams about 500 yards away. Then they came to a wall about 40 feet high. Jack climbed up and dropped a rope down for Lee. From the top Lee had a choice between a record-book ram with horns brushed off at the tips or a smaller one with fully curled horns. He decided on the smaller one. Jack took a photo with his 1,000-millimeter lens and then Lee downed the ram.

I just smiled when I heard the shot. Lady Luck smiles upon the good and ugly, and those two guys were real good outdoorsmen.

Gene and I ran into four rams, the biggest one about 100 yards away. We can do better so we left 'em. A new canyon tomorrow. I just hope Gene has as much luck as Lee did. It's almost unheard of to get a ram the first day out.

Jim made ribs tonight and our spirits are high. Dessert was camp chocolate cake.

November 20—Gene and I walked and glassed (using spotting scopes and binoculars) and saw zip. We'll go back to Grapevine tomorrow where we found the rams the first day. Looks like a storm blowing in and it's windier than hell. Dinner tonight was Pears McKenzie, Blueberry Pie McKenzie, along with Lewis La Roast with gravy. The food couldn't be better.

November 21—The storm blew all night and it was snowing by morning. We went out, but between the fog and the snow we couldn't see, so Gene and I came back to camp.

November 22—We went to the head of Grapevine. Saw three ewes and no rams.

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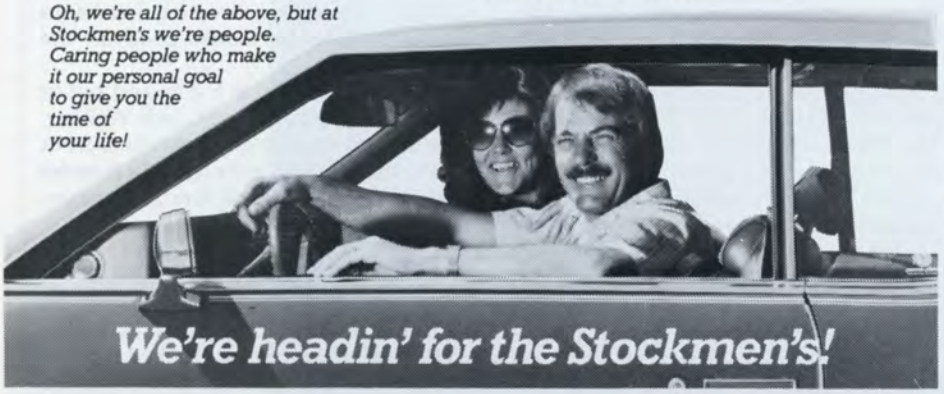
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Jack and Jim are going home tomorrow. Lee and Eric will take Lee's ram to Vegas to get checked in.

November 23—We went one canyon north of Cherry Springs and at 8 a.m. saw a ram five years old but he was a minimum ram and not worth taking. I found two more rams but they were about four hours away. These were good rams with good horn. Too bad.

November 24, Thanksgiving Day—It's 4:30 in the morning and the coffee is on. We're going south today. Lee stayed to cook a turkey dinner with all the trimmings.

I spotted some sheep a couple of miles and two canyons ahead. After a long and noisy stalk across shale we spooked them. We saw them at about 300 yards going up the other side of the canyon. Eight sheep in all, but the ram was too small. So we hot-footed out and made camp by 4:15.

Lee's been cooking all day—turkey, dressing, potatoes, gravy, cranberries, biscuits, candied yams, wine, pumpkin pie, and apple pie. Who says men can't survive without women?

November 25—It rained and snowed last night and the wind has about blown us out of here. Probably 50 to 70 mph. Horses were gone this morning but I got them caught and packed up. Lee left for home, and camp is lonely without him, Jim, and Jack. Just Eric, Gene, and myself left.

It's now about 1:30 p.m. and still snowing and blowing. Eric and Gene are taking a nap and boy is it cold. I think I'll have some hot apple pie and coffee. Watching my fingernails grow is boring.

Now it's 6 p.m. and the horses are fed, wood is cut, and nobody's hungry except me so I'll have a hot dog and go to bed. Hope the morning will bring a clear and unwindy day.

November 26—It blew a gale all night, but by 6 a.m. it pretty well quit. We went to my favorite canyon between Cherry and Grapevine (now known locally as Dalen's Canyon). I figured with all the storming the rams would be down lower. I was right and about 8 a.m. we walked up on four rams. Three were small—three to four years old—but Grand Dad was a candidate for the record books. He was about 150 yards away.

This was the chance of a lifetime for Gene, maybe the only chance he'd ever get. He silently raised his gun to his shoulder, took careful aim, exhaled, and squeezed the trigger. The bullet ricocheted off the rocks. Then his gun jammed. The ram was gone.

November 27—Another day and another long hunt. Eric spotted a good ram, so Gene and I took off to try and catch him. After a mile-and-a-half climb we saw him and another ram about 700 yards away going over a pass to Cherry Springs Canyon, too far to shoot.

Ten minutes later our neighbor hunter fired two shots. An hour later he and his friends were on their way home.

November 28—It has been another long and sheepless day. Everyone is worn out. Twelve hours of climbing hand over fist up these mountains is about all a man can take. Over one more hill: famous last words.

November 29—Another sheepless day. We glassed all day until our eyes were sore. Eric went to town and got some supplies and called John Reil. He'll come in and we'll break camp and head out tomorrow night.

November 30—You spend hours and days glassing and you see nothing or maybe a sheep a long way off. But when things do happen, they happen fast.

We left camp about 6 a.m. and went to Dalen's Canyon. Eric saw one ram and then another on the ridge between us and Grapevine. They were a half-mile away and could see our horses and us. At least one ram watched us all the time. We couldn't move. We watched for about an hour. Finally they fed into a draw. Gene and I took off fast and climbed the back-

(Continued on next page)

How to Make a Mess

When outfitter Grant Dalen gathered supplies for his group's bighorn hunt, he went first class all the way. Here's the camp list:

A 250-gallon water tank; 10 clean 5-gallon buckets with lids; mule team and wagon; 2 walkie-talkies; backpacks; 3 come-alongs; foam padding; day packs; flashlights; spot scopes; 280 gallons of water for horses; 1,000 pounds of feed for horses; people water; water buckets; feed and water tubs; 10 steel 6-foot stakes; 120 feet of smooth wire; four hobbles; first-aid kit; painkillers; leg wraps for cactus; shoe repair kit; 2 tents; 2 lanterns; small generator with fuel lights; 6 beds; 2 tarps; table for cooking; cook stove and fuel; 4-seat eating table; rope; razor blades; 5 gallons of white gas; charcoal; dry ice; 4 large ice chests; 100 pounds of potatoes; 25 pounds of onions; garlic; butter; week's supply of meat—ham, bacon, sausage; large Dutch oven; 2 large frying pans; 2 pots; grill; grate; dish soap; hand soap; 2 plastic dish pans; 8 forks; 10 plates; paper towels; 6 rolls toilet paper; small shovel; small ax; scour pads; towels; paper rags; canned goods—beans, peas, corn, coffee; large coffee pot; garbage bags; eggs, crate; pancake mix; bread and lunch bags; flour, fruit, candy; tea, hot chocolate, canned juices, coffee cups, and plastic glasses; beer; soda pop.

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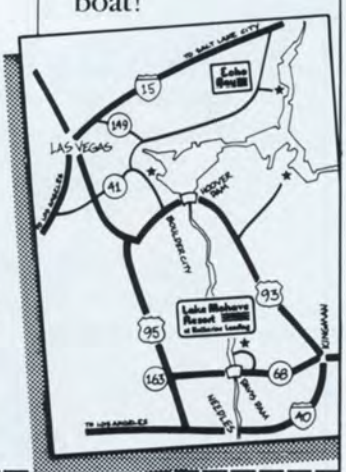
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side of the ridge. Eric stayed in the bottom to flush them.

Gene and I took about 20 minutes to get into position and then we waved Eric on. We waited another hour. Then Eric started to yell. I looked off to the opposite canyon wall and saw Eric jumping up and down. Then I saw a ram. I yelled at Gene. He swung his rifle and the ram was gone. We took off at a dead run across two canyons. My lungs were on fire and my legs were numb. We got there in time to see a ram that was too small. Gene and I watched the big canyon but nothing happened.

What I didn't know was that Eric was in the middle of seven more rams. Then I heard him yell. I called out to Gene and took off again back to where we started. The whole hill was moving with sheep. Ram after ram, no ewes.

Gene threw his gun up and—nothing, no shot! One ram went over the hill. Another. Another. Then Gene fired. "Blam!" A ram goes down. But he gets back up and is coming straight at me. "Shoot again!" I screamed. Gene fired and the ram went down hard. He was a beauty, with nearly full-curl horns. One look at the triumph in Gene's eyes made all the long, hard days of hunting worthwhile.

December 1—It's 5 a.m. and soon we'll start to tear camp down for the long trip home. I'm happy for Gene, and I'm also proud of my son Eric. He has learned a couple of things. First, he sees sheep almost as good as I can. Second, he can feel the satisfaction of guiding a hunter to his game and not pulling the trigger himself.

Food's about gone, last day of water, everything has worked out perfect. What a way to spend a vacation! I'm just sorry that Lee, Jim, and Jack couldn't be here for the end of the hunt, and also for the cleanup!

Daylight in 45 minutes.

After their trip out, the Dalens and Ceragioli registered the ram with the Department of Wildlife in Las Vegas. Ceragioli's trophy is now mounted in his living room in Reno, a remembrance of the toughest hunt of his life. McKenzie, who has hung a number of trophy heads in his store, is having his ram stuffed life-sized.

Dalen returned to his job with Solari and Sons, the painting contractors, a satisfied man. He had led his hunter to his quarry, but more than that, he had shared the wilderness with his friends. "I love to turn people on to the desert," Dalen says. "You gotta go where the trucks and the jeeps and the motorcycles can't go. And that's the only place I'll hunt." □

Jim Crandall is Feature Editor of Nevada Magazine.

Nevada Notes

Tuscarora trembles while a stunt man takes a dive.
By Jim Crandall

The Real Fall Guy

Stunt man Dan Koko had a lot to think about before he jumped off the top of the Vegas World Hotel last August. From his 326-foot-high perch, the ground-level airbag looked like a marshmallow. He would reach a speed of 94 mph and stop with the force of 42 Gs when, and if, he hit the airbag. If Koko was successful, he'd break the former world record of 311 feet, and take the largest prize ever offered for a stunt—$1 million from Vegas World.

While a crowd of spectators stared up in awe, Koko took the plunge. He tumbled slowly through the air—four seconds that seemed an eternity—and then hit the bag. The bag stretched and swelled upon impact as Koko sank nine feet into the bladder. The bag sighed and the crowd cheered as the dazed stunt man gave the thumbs-up sign.

"The sensation of falling feels just like it does when you have a dream that you're falling," Koko says, "except that in dreams you usually wake up before you hit ground. This way, you finish it. And when you hit that bag, the impact creates an energy. It's like an electrical shock. Imagine driving a car at 90 mph and stopping in nine feet. It's impossible."

Koko's next goal is to jump from the Gateway to the West Arch in St. Louis next summer, a fall of 630 feet. "After I do that," he says, "I'll retire."

The Town That Roared

For decades, all was quiet in the historic town of Tuscarora, population 15, until last spring, when a Canadian mining outfit began drilling nearby. "It wasn't bad at first," says Tuscaroran Dennis Parks. "But when they brought the drilling rigs right into town, we got worried."

Now Tuscarora is turning into the town that roared. Residents have been blasting the Pecos Resources mining firm in the press, tying up phone lines at the county seat in Elko, and pleading with legislators to change mining laws.

Reno attorney Ross de Lipkau, who represents Pecos and is a member of the state's Commission on Mineral Resources, says, "I don't know what all the excitement is about. I can think of a lot of other stories that are much more significant." When asked about the mining company's plans, however, he refused comment.

Robert Warren of the Nevada Mining Association says, "Whenever a mining company gets close to a town, the people get nervous, and start overreacting. But I don't think there's any cause for concern."

Dennis Parks believes his town's concerns are well founded. Most Tuscarorans own surface rights but not mineral rights, while Pecos has been acquiring all the mineral rights they can dig up. Compounding the picture is the lack of a clear township map. The original was lost, and the county is trying to draw up a new one.

Then there's always the threat of eminent domain, because a century-old Nevada statute gives mining companies the right to condemn private property. The law was modified in 1981 after it was used to threaten—and in one case condemn—historic properties near Virginia City. Tuscarorans now hope their town will be declared a historic district by Elko County. They also will seek more changes in the law during the 1985 legislature.

Elko County Manager George Boucher says he doesn't think Tuscarora needs to worry too much. "These mining companies come in all the time," Boucher says. "They do six months' worth of exploration, and they're gone—usually." □

Elegance from the Comstock



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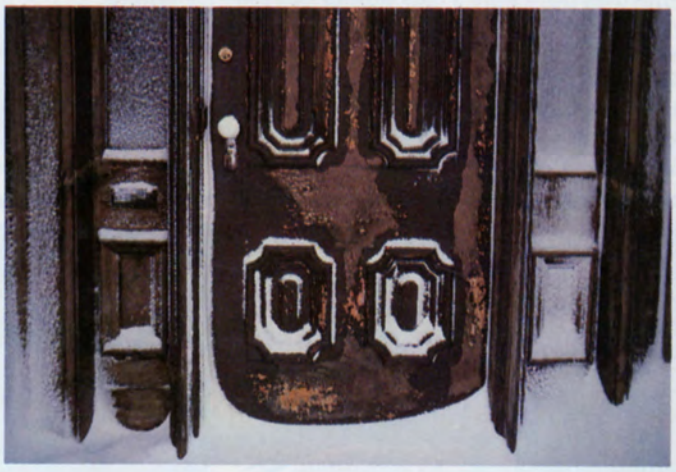
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VIRGINIA CITY WINTER



Photographer David Lorenz Winston found these windy dustings of snow clinging to two long-unopened doors on the quiet streets of Virginia City. In 1863 Mark Twain may have stepped through one, thinking of a joke he would use in his next story for the *Territorial Enterprise.* President Grant may have used one to escape the reporters and hangers-on who came with him to the Comstock in 1879. Or pick Lily Langtree, Artemus Ward, deadly Sam Brown, saintly Father Manogue—any Virginia City character might have appeared at these doors on a winter's day, stomping snow from his boots before hurrying inside to find a warm stove and company.




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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.

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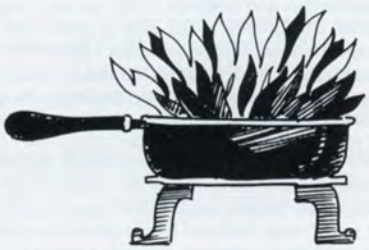
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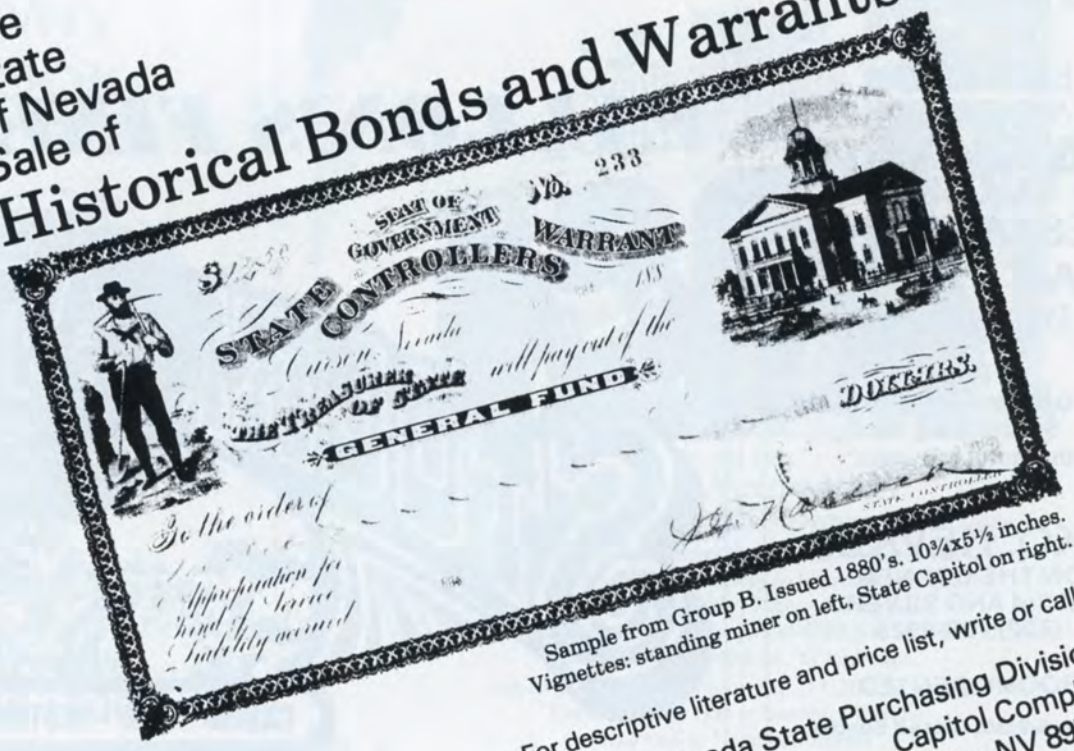
329-1880

(menu). Dinner 6:00-10:00 (no menu). Fixed fare includes steak, side dish (clams & rice, oxtail or tongue). Prime rib or steak Saturday only. Basque fare and wine, $10.00-$12.00. Seating family style. No reservations. Closed all major holidays, MC, VISA. Rooms available.

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Sample from Group B. Issued 1880's. 10¾x5½ inches.
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Showguide

By Melissa Cronin Loomis

Las Vegas

Aladdin, 736-0110: Entertainment TBA

Barbary Coast, 737-7111: Irish Showband, 9:30pm, midnight & 2am; Royal Dixie Jazz Band, noon-6pm; no cover, no minimum

Caesars Palace, 731-7324: Melissa Manchester, 10/31-11/5; Diana Ross, 11/7-12; Wayne Newton, 11/14-19 and 11/21-26; George Burns/Diahann Carroll, 12/27-1/1/85

Circus Circus, 734-0410: Circus acts, free

Desert Inn, 733-4566: Wayland Flowers & Madame starring in One of a Kind, musical variety show, indf.; 7pm & 11pm cocktail show; $15, inlcudes 2 drinks

Dunes, 737-4110: Entertainment TBA

El Rancho, 796-2222: Lounge entertainment

Flamingo Hilton, 733-3333: City Lites, revue, indf.; 7:45pm dinner show from $15.95, 11pm cocktail show $10.95, includes 2 drinks

Four Queens, 385-4011 Woody Herman, 11/12-17· Monday Nite Jazz, indf., Dondino, indf.

Fremont, 385-3232: Entertainment TBA

Frontier, 734-0240: Siegfried & Roy in Beyond Belief, thru 11/25 & 12/25-indf.; 7pm & 11pm cocktail shows Tues.-Sun., dark Mon., family show (no nudity) on 11/24 at 6pm & regular shows (with nudity) that night at 9:15pm & 12:15am

Golden Nugget, 385-7111 Entertainment Thurs.-Tues., dark Wed.

Hacienda, 798-0571 Fire & Ice, ice spectacular, indf.; 8pm optional dinner show from $13.95, 8pm and 11pm cocktail show $9.95

Holiday, 369-5000: Wild World of Burlesque, indf.; 10pm & 12:30am Mon.-Fri., 8pm, 10pm & 12:30am Sat.; dark Sun., $6.95, includes 2 drinks

Imperial Palace, 733-0234: Legends in Concert, indf., 8pm & 11pm cocktail show $11.95; dark Sun.

Landmark, 733-1110: Mickey Finn Show, indf., 8pm & 10:30pm cocktail shows Mon.-Sat.; dark Sun., $7.95, includes 2 drinks

Las Vegas Hilton, 732-5755: Bal du Moulin Rouge, indf., starring Juliet Prowse on 12/5-1/15/85, starring Suzanne Somers on 1/16-3/12/85; 8pm dinner show from $18.50, midnight cocktail show $15

MGM Grand Hotel, 739-4567· *Ziegfeld Theatre:* Jubilee! indf., 7:30pm & 11pm, dark Wed., $23.50; *Celebrity Room:* Statler Brothers, 11/1-7· Mac Davis/Pointer Sisters, 11/8-21 Oak Ridge Boys, 11/22-28; Rich Little/Pointer Sisters 11/29-12/12

Marina, 739-1500: Breakdance Fever, revue

Maxim, 731-4300: Entertainment TBA

Mint, 385-7440: Live Entertainment

Palace Station, 367-2411 Lounge entertainment daily, 11am-5am

Riviera, 737-1755: Solid Gold, indf.

Royal Casino, 733-4000: Annie Ample Burlesque, revue, indf., Wed.-Mon.

Sahara, 737-2424: Star entertainment TBA

Sam's Town, 456-7777· Alternates indf. with Gary LeMaster, David St. David, & Mainstream

Sands, 733-5453: Tyler Murray, thru 11/11 Jerry Tiffe, thru 11/13; Diamondhead, 11/13-12/3; Ink Spots, 11/14-12/24; Jawbone, 11/15-27

Silver Slipper, 734-1212: Boy-Lesque and Branded, revues

Stardust, 732-6325: Lido de Paris, indf.; 7pm & 11pm nightly; $17.50, includes 2 drinks

Sundance, 382-6111 Kathy Dahl, indf.; Beeson Street, indf.

Tropicana, 739-2411 Folies Bergere, indf., 8pm & 11pm cocktail shows; dark Sun; $13.95

Union Plaza, 386-2444: Broadway entertainment nightly; 8pm dinner show from $11.95, 11:45pm cocktail show from $7.50

Lake Tahoe

Caesars Tahoe, 588-3515: Peter, Paul & Mary, 11/8-10; Heart, 11/15-17· Johnny Mathis, 11/22-24; Joan Rivers, 12/26-1/1/85

Crystal Bay Club, 831-0512: Nightly entertainment and dancing

Del Webb's High Sierra, 588-6211 Zella Lehr/Danny Marona, thru 11/4; Montana, 11/5-18; Franco & Mary Jane, 11/5-25; Doug Kershaw, 11/19-12/2; Henson Cargill, 11/26-12/16

Harrah's Lake Tahoe, 588-6611 *South Shore Room:* Eddie Rabbitt, 11/2-8; Engelbert Humperdinck, 11/9-15; Bill Cosby/Patti Page, 11/16-25; Tom Jones, 12/3-9; Mac Davis, 12/21-27· Crystal Gayle, 12/28-1/1/85; *Stateline Cabaret:* Breakin' Loose, revue, indf.; Society of Seven, 10/30-11/4; The Turtles, 11/6-18

Harvey's, 588-2411 *Top of the Wheel:* Ron Rose Sound, indf., Cleveland, 11/1-11 Dare, 11/12-25; Garfin Gathering, 11/26-12/15; Al Sebay & Diamondhead, 12/17-1/13/85; *Casino Theatre Lounge:* Michael Darrin's Les Vamps, revue, indf.; Body Heat, revue, indf.; Steppin' Stones, 11/1-11 Lou Marek's Rainbow Express, 11/1-18; Frenz, 11/12-12/2; Chris David Show, 11/19-12/16; Michele & Vincent, 12/3-16; Links, 12/17-23; Sonny Turner, 12/17-1/13/85; Ernie Menehune Show, 12/24-1/13/85

Hyatt Lake Tahoe, 831-1111 Entertainment nightly

Nevada Lodge, 831-0660: Shadz, thru 11/4; Links, 11/6-25; Silverwing, 11/27-12/16

Reno, Sparks & Carson City

Carson City Nugget, 882-1626: Cheryl Cotten, 10/30-12/2; Motifs, 12/4-1/6/85

Circus Circus, 329-0711 Circus acts, free

Comstock Hotel, 329-1880: Weekend entertainment

Eldorado Hotel, 786-5700: Nightly entertainment, Tues.-Sun.

Fitzgerald's, 786-3663: Links, 10/24-11/5;

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Danger/Speedy Garfin, 11/6-25; Roger Davis, 11/27-12/16; Ink Spots, 12/18-1/13/85

Harrah's Reno, 329-4422: *Headliner Room:* Mickey Gilley, 10/25-11/7· Tony Orlando, 11/8-21 Lee Greenwood, 11/22-28; Janie Fricke/Jim Stafford, 11/29-12/5; Don Rickles, 12/6-12; Bobby Vinton, 12/13-19; Glen Campbell, 12/20-26; Rich Little, 12/27-1/9/85; *Casino Cabaret:* Bustin' Out, revue, indf.; The Turtles, 10/30-11/4; Woody Herman, 11/20-25; B.B. King, 12/4-16

John Ascuaga's Nugget, Sparks, 356-3300: Diamonds, thru 11/4; Chris David Show, 11/5-18; Zella Lehr, 11/6-18; Muglestons, 11/20-12/2

MGM Grand Hotel, 789-2285: *Ziegfeld Theatre:* Hello Hollywood, Hello, indf.; 8pm dinner show from $22; midnight cocktail show $18.50; *Lion's Den:* Gary Raffanelli & Sandy Selby/Right Touch, thru 11/13; Pat Collins, thru 12/11; Gary Raffanelli & Sandy Selby/Santa Fe, 12-12-1/8/85

Mother Lode, Carson City, 883-0900: Lounge entertainment

Ormsby House, Carson City, 882-1890: Garfin Gathering, thru 11/4; Network, 11/6-25; Glenna & Fortune, 12/11-31; The Diamonds, 12/27-30

Peppermill, 826-2121 Tommy Bell, 10/29-11/25; Lelands, 10/30-11/18

Peppermill's Western Village, Sparks, 331-1069: Bobby Lynn, thru 11/4; Kay Rives, thru 11/25

Reno Hilton, 785-7100: *Opera House Theatre:* Razzle Dazzle, indf., starring Donald O'Connor 10/30-12/16; Vikki Carr 12/27-2/6; *Cabaret:* Steppen Stones, 11/13-12/10; Reycards, 12/18-1/14/85

Reno Ramada, 788-2000: Entertainment TBA

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

The Cow Counties

Elko: Commercial Hotel, 738-3181 Stockmen's Hotel, 738-5141 Red Lion, 738-2111

Ely: Hotel Nevada, 289-4414

Fallon: Fallon Nugget, 423-3111

Gardnerville: Sharkey's, 782-3133

Hawthorne: El Capitan, 945-3322

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

Laughlin: Riverside Resort, 298-2535; Del Webb's Nevada Club, 298-2512; Regency Casino, 298-2439; Edgewater, 298-2453

Mesquite: Peppermill's Western Village, 346-5232

Minden: Carson Valley Inn, 782-9711

Pahrump: Saddle West Casino, 727-5953

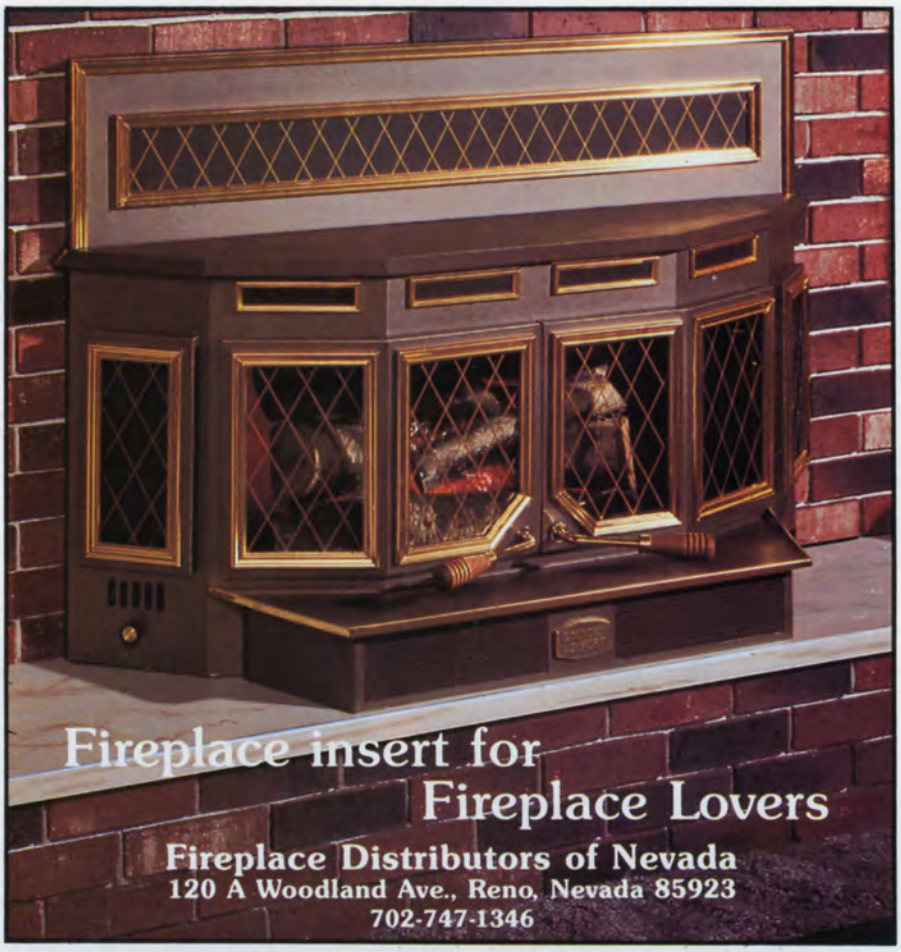
Tonopah: Mizpah Hotel, 482-6202; Station House, 482-9777

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

Wendover: Goldrush Casino, 664-2255; Nevada Crossing, 664-4400; State Line Casino, 664-2221 Red Garter Casino, 664-2111

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

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





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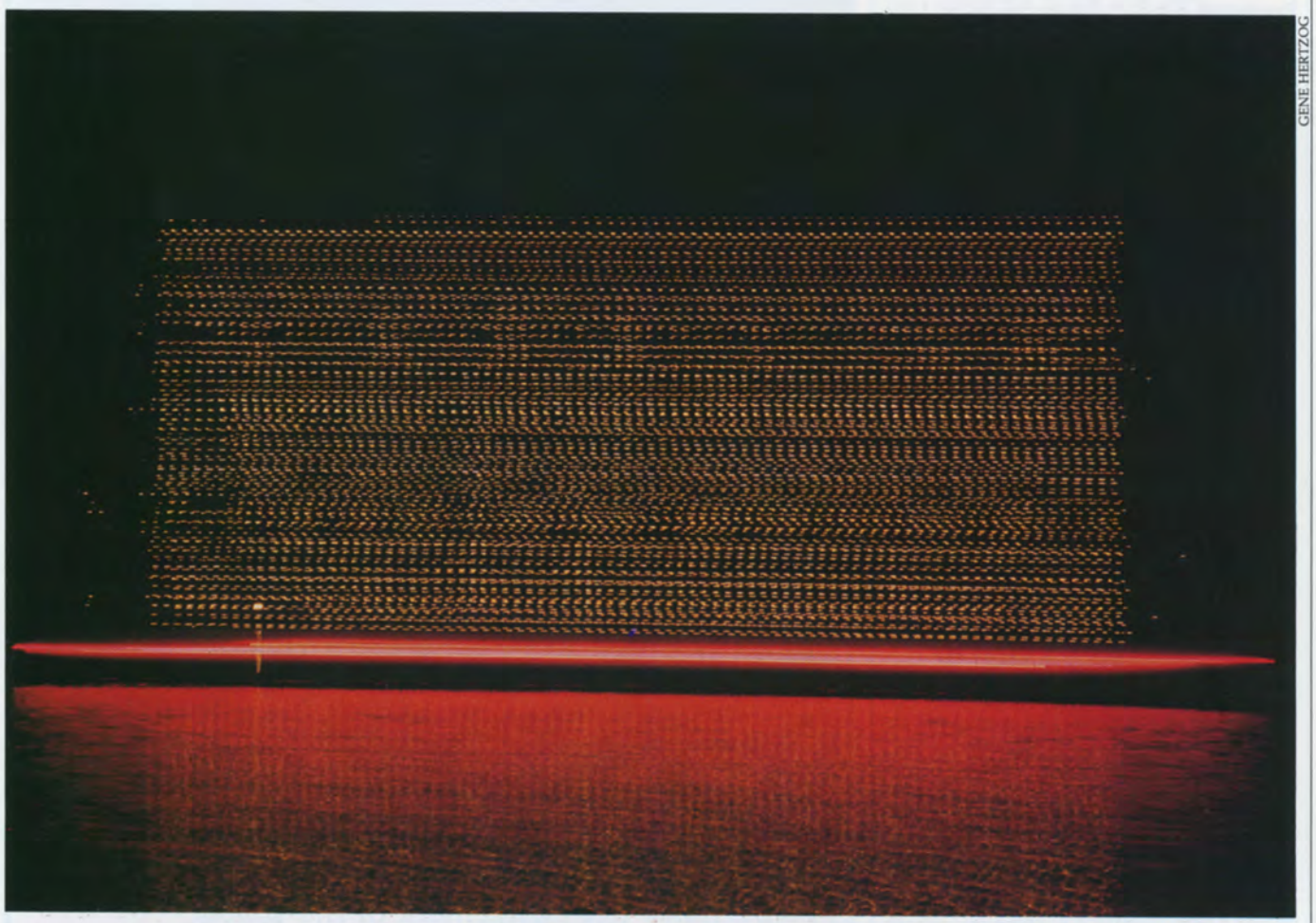
KARL'S SILVER CLUB HOTEL-CASINO
SPARKS, NEVADA U.S.A.

THE NEVADA CALENDAR

November & December 1984

Your complete day-by-day guide to events and celebrations in the Silver State.

Compiled by Melissa Cronin Loomis



GENE HERTZOG

Fleet of Fantasy

Open the Christmas season with a waterborne cavalcade of colors on Lake Mead. On December 8 the annual Parade of Lights launches at dusk with a fleet of 50 vessels, each trying to outshine, outsparkle, and outrig each other with dazzling lights and designs. Starting from Las Vegas Boat Harbor at Las Vegas Wash, the four-hour cruise goes to Boulder Beach and then circles back to the harbor. There will be trophies in a variety of categories, including best overall commercial boat, best overall private, best houseboat, sailboat, cruiser and more. The best vantage point for this Las Vegas Boat Owners' event is Boulder Beach. Plan to get there before 6 p.m. and allow time for traffic. Also wear a coat and bring a camera since this year's parade promises to be a fantasia flotilla, firing the water with a kaleidoscope of color.

LAS VEGAS/SOUTH

November

Firefighting Equipment Exhibit, thru 10/11/85, museum display of equipment used in Goldfield, Las Vegas, and other towns from about 1900 to the 1940s, Nevada State Museum and Historical Society, 385-0115

Baccarat Tournament, 10/31-11/4, Desert Inn, 733-4444

Grand Opening, 1-2, celebration for new 13-story highrise, Riverside Resort, Laughlin, 298-2535 ext. 5525

Art Exhibit, 1-23, impressionistic portraits by Ron Tomlin, Flamingo Library, 733-7810

Art Exhibit, 1-30, pen and ink, bread dough, quilting, and doll exhibit by Janet Ford; crocheted handcrafts by Bell Sanner, Henderson Library, 565-9247

Museum Celebration, 1-30, in observance of local artist A.E. Johnson's 94th birthday, his paintings are on exhibit, Lost City Museum, Overton, 397-2193

Art Exhibit, 1-30, ceramics by Greg Kennedy, upper level of Meadows Mall, 877-0761

Art Exhibit, 1-30, works by local artists, Boulder City Library, 294-9982

Utah Jazz v. Seattle Supersonics, 2, pro basketball, 8:30pm, Thomas and Mack Center, UNLV, 369-2255

American Taekwondo Tournament, 2-3, Showboat Sports Pavilion, 395-9104

Southern Nevada Senior Citizens Handicraft Festival, 3, items from crochet to woodcarving for sale, 10am-4pm, Las Vegas Senior Citizen Center, 450 E. Bonanza Rd., 386-6601

Roping Events, 3, open to public, free to spectators, rodeo arena, Peppermill's Western Village, Mesquite, 346-5232

Bimonthly Shoot, 3-4, Spring Mountain Free Trappers, Kyle Canyon, 386-8746

Clark County Fall Art Round Up, 4-28, judged art contest for local artists, Las Vegas Art Museum, 647-4300

Nevada 84, 6-20, photo show, Las Vegas Library, 382-3493

"The Lady Vanishes," 7 Hitchcock film, 7pm, Charleston Heights Arts Center, 386-6384

Tournament of Champions, 7-11 for top-ranking radio control aerobatic aircraft pilots from around the world; total purse of $125,000, with $30,000 for first place. Competition is at R/C Model Airfield in North Las Vegas Regional Park. The host, Circus Circus, will provide free bus rides from the hotel to the field each hour; call Circus Circus, 734-0410

High School Wrestling Tournament, 8, Stewart/Mohave Sports Center, 386-6563

"Veronica's Room," 8-11 mystery play, 8pm Thurs.-Sat., 3pm Sun., Las Vegas Little Theater, 735-0167

PRCA Wilderness Circuit Finals, 9-11 rodeo arena, Peppermill's Western Village, Mesquite, 346-5232

Caesars Palace Grand Prix IV, 9-11 Indy cars and their drivers challenge the Caesars Palace 1¼-mile modified oval racetrack in the season's final race on the CART (Championship Auto Racing Teams) circuit. A Sports Car Club of America "Super Vees" race also takes place. Practice and qualifying begins Fri. and Sat. at 9am; on Sun. at 11am is a support event, at noon



SU KEMPER PHOTOS

Rally Racing: A new desert mania

These drivers know how to beat the clock while avoiding potholes and the highway patrol.

By Su Kemper

Last year 60 high-performance cars and trucks started the Carson City International Pro Rally. The drivers knew only two things: the course was 500 miles long and one of the roughest in international rally competition. At the end of the first day of the two-day race, after high-speed scrambling over dirt roads around Carson City, Hawthorne, and Yerington, only 21 vehicles were still in the race.

They will be back this winter for another bruising encounter with the desert. Listed on the world rally calendar by the *Federation Internationale de l'Automobile* in Paris and the series finale in the Sports Car Club of America's national pro rally championship, the 1984 Carson City International Pro Rally takes place December 8-9. It will attract teams and media attention from throughout the world.

Rally racing, Europe's most popular motorsport, tests the endurance and ingenuity of two-member teams as they drive a challenging route over existing roads, largely unimproved. Like other international events, the Carson rally has two parts—special stages and transits. The special stages are the foot-to-the-floor portions of the course, over back roads closed temporarily to public traffic. The main scoring takes place on the stages, where teams are timed at the start and finish. They are then given a point for each hundredth of a minute; say, 300 points for a three-minute run. Thus the teams with the lowest point totals will be the leaders during the competition.

The transits are highway routes that the teams take from one stage to another. Those roads have regular traffic, of course, and a competitor who speeds can get both penalty points and a ticket from the Nevada Highway Patrol.

The rally course is kept a secret until Saturday morning, when each team receives a route book that shows mileages and diagrams of cross streets, intersections, potholes, washouts—everything the driver needs to know to zoom safely over the stages' rocky, washboard roads.

There are three classes for the racers. First is the "open" or modified class, usually prototypes of production models. Top contenders in past races have been the Audi Quattro, Datsun 240-RS, and a four-wheel-drive Mazda RX-7. In the "production" class are largely unmodified cars straight from the factory, like the AMC Eagle SX-4 and the Oldsmobile Omega. A third class, "production GT," was added this year and includes newer, high-performance, often turbocharged cars. A Mazda RX-7 and Dodge Daytona Turbo Z are among the best.

The rally itself pits the racers directly against the clock, with cars setting out at one-minute intervals. This year's course will take a day and a half to run, heading southeast from Carson City toward Yerington and finally into the vicinity of Hawthorne. Sunday's final leg will go through the Virginia City area.

Spectators who want to see the dirt fly and the tense drama of service crews at work will have the best views at the stage starts and finishes. Programs will be available at rally headquarters at the Ormsby House and at the Chamber of Commerce. Spectators are welcome along the course in designated areas but should take care to stay well back from the road since the cars reach very high speeds.

But the view will still be thrilling. Once you see an Audi Quattro flying over desert rocks, kicking out dust from its wheels, whizzing past on the icy December night like a rocket-flare with a roar and a faint smell of oil, you'll know why rallying has become a motorsports mania in Europe and is starting to make Nevada famous among racers.

For information on times, locations, and the awards banquet, call (702) 885-8388. □

Su Kemper of Reno is a motorsports journalist who has covered rallies here and abroad.



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

the Super Vee race, and the Indy race at 2pm. For tickets call 213-318-1621

Women's Western Open, 9-11, women's slow-pitch softball tournament with teams from 21 western states, Cheyenne Park, North Las Vegas, 452-1920

Art Exhibit, 9-30, works by Stewart Freshwater, reception on 9th at 4:30-6:30pm, Allied Arts Gallery, 731-5419

UNLV v. Fullerton State, 10, football, 7pm, Silver Bowl, 739-3267

"Born Free," 10, captioned film for the deaf, 1pm, Flamingo Library, 733-7810

Caliente Veterans Day, 11 townwide celebration, 726-3637

"All the Way Home," 12, a play blending the spoken word with sign language, directed by actress Colleen Dewhurst, National Theatre of the Deaf, 2pm and 8pm, Judy Bayley Theatre, UNLV, 739-3353

Moapa Valley Veterans Day Celebration, 12, 7am breakfast followed by parade down Main St. and aerial show at Perkins Field, Overton, 397-2180

Opera, 14, Rossini's "La Cenerentola" (The Cinderella Story), 8pm, Western Opera Theatre, Charleston Heights Arts Center, 386-6384

Computer Dealer Exposition (COMDEX), 14-18, Las Vegas Convention Center, 733-2323

"Veronica's Room," 15-17 mystery play, 8pm, Las Vegas Little Theater, 735-0167

Silver Dust 400, 17 final points race in 1984 Nevada Triple Crown Off-Road Championship over a 95-mile loop through the desert outside Las Vegas, Silver Dust Racing Assn., 459-0317

Roping Events, 17, open to public, free to spectators, rodeo arena, Peppermill's Western Village, Mesquite, 346-5232

All-Star Wrestling, 17 7:30pm, $15 ringside, general adults $10, children $5, Showboat Sports Pavilion, 385-9196

Bimonthly Shoot, 17-18, Spring Mountain Free Trappers, Kyle Canyon, 386-8746

Art Show, 17-12/15, miniature art (maximum size 12"x16"), The Burk Gal'ry, Boulder City, 293-3958

Trio Serenata Concert, 18, Baroque to contemporary pieces especially arranged for the violoncello, 3pm, Flamingo Library, 733-7810

Harvest Craps Tournament, 19-21 $80,000 top prize, Tropicana Hotel, 739-2105

UNLV v. Meiji University (Japan), 20, basketball, Thomas and Mack Center, UNLV, 739-3267

"Veronica's Room," 22-25, mystery play, 8pm Thurs.-Sat., 3pm Sun., Las Vegas Little Theater, 735-0167

"The Matchmaker," 23-25, Thornton Wilder's farce and basis for "Hello, Dolly," 8pm Fri.-Sat., 2pm on Sun., Judy Bayley Theatre, UNLV, 739-3353

Steve McQueen Estate Auction, 23-25, automobiles, motorcycles, airplane memorabilia, antique toys and furniture, and personal effects from the late actor's ranch auctioned; catalog of items for bid is available for $20, Imperial Palace, 731-3311

UNLV v. Fresno State, 24, football, Silver Bowl, 739-3267

Blackjack Tournament, 25-29, $75,000 top prize, Desert Inn, 733-4444

Four Queens Poker Satellite Tournament, 25-29, first prize is a seat in the Golden Nugget's Grand Prix of Poker 11/30-12/14, Four Queens, 385-4011

Photo Show, 25-12/7 Flamingo Library, 733-7810

Southwestern Invitational Exhibit, 25-12/21 works of Arizona artists, Flamingo Library, 733-7810

Art Show, 26-12/28, mixed media by Ron Gasowski, Charleston Heights Arts Center, 386-6384

"Taming of the Shrew," 27 adult captioned film for the deaf, Flamingo Library, 733-7810

Jack Straus World Match Play Poker Championships, 27-12/14, Frontier Hotel, 734-0110

UNLV v. Maryland, 28 (tentative), basketball, Thomas and Mack Center, UNLV, 739-3267

ESPN Boxing, 28, 6pm, ringside $15, general $10, Showboat Sports Pavilion, 385-9196

Golden Nugget Grand Prix of Poker, 28-12/13, Golden Nugget Hotel, 385-7111

"Veronica's Room," 29-12/1 mystery play, 8pm, Las Vegas Little Theater, 735-0167

"The Matchmaker," 29-12/1 Thornton Wilder's farce and basis for "Hello, Dolly," 8pm, Judy Bayley Theatre, UNLV, 739-3353

St. Jude's Nite of the Stars, 30, benefit for abused children by star entertainers, hosted by Ed McMahon, Las Vegas Hilton, 646-2510

"Beyond Therapy," 30-12/1 comedy, 8pm, Clark County Community College Theatre, North Las Vegas, 643-6060

A Holiday Spectacular, 30-12/2, ballet, 8pm Fri., 2pm Sat.-Sun., Las Vegas Civic Ballet Company, Charleston Heights Arts Center, 386-6384

Las Vegas Americans

Professional soccer—the fast-scoring, indoor variety—comes to Las Vegas this winter. The Las Vegas Americans, the new home team, comprised the Memphis franchise in the Major Indoor Soccer League before a group of Southern Nevadans brought it west last summer. The team will play 25 home games, including a November 2 opener, through mid-April at Thomas and Mack Center. Season tickets run $150 to $315 and game tickets will range from $4 to $12.50. Call the Americans at 368-4625 for schedule information. Indoor soccer may be new to the area, but it's exciting—teams regularly score 10 goals or more per game with the enclosed playing area—and the sport has been a box-office success in other cities. The MISL plans to have a two-division, 14-team league this year. The West will include Las Vegas, Dallas, Kansas City, Los Angeles, San Diego, Tacoma, and Wichita. The East will have Baltimore, Chicago, Cleveland, Minnesota, New York, Pittsburgh, and St. Louis.



You Can't Say No

Rodgers and Hammerstein's warm and uplifting western musical "Oklahoma" will delight Reno audiences during its run November 17-25 at the Pioneer Theater. National opera stars Lee Velta, Howard Hoffman, and Sharon Davis (who is also a former Miss Nevada) will sing favorites such as "Oh What A Beautiful Morning," "I Can't Say No," and "Oklahoma." Proceeds from the performance of this rousing story of small-town love, fear, and triumph will benefit the Hadassah Medical Center, the largest medical complex in Israel. Evening shows begin at 8 p.m. on November 17, 20, 21, 22, and 24. Matinees are scheduled for 1 p.m. on November 18, 23, and 25. A special evening performance will be given at 7 p.m. on November 18.

December

UNLV v. Southern Methodist, 1 football, 7pm, Silver Bowl, 739-3267

Boulder City Christmas Parade, 1 11am parade with Santa up Nevada Highway to Government Park, 293-2034

North Las Vegas Night Lighted Christmas Parade, 1 5pm parade down East Lake Mead Blvd., floats illuminated with Christmas lights, afterwards Santa greets children, 642-9595

Bimonthly Shoot, 1-2, Spring Mountain Free Trappers, Kyle Canyon, 386-8746

Artworks Christmas Arts and Crafts Festival, 1-2, juried show and sale, Credit Union Building, 3100 West Sahara, 386-6384

Hidden Valley Trail Ride and Endurance Race, 1-2, with a one-day, 30-mile horseback ride from Jean to Sloan and back, plus an endurance race of 100 miles in 2 days; registration at 7:30am, ride and race starts at 9am, dinner and dancing for trail riders when they return at Pop's

Oasis Casino, Jean, 454-2500

Art Show, 1-31 dried flowers, watercolors, and oil paintings by Wanda Bachman, Henderson Library, 565-9247

Art Show, 1-31, works by members of the Las Vegas Artists Co-operative, upper level of Meadows Mall, 877-0761

Roping Events, 2, open to public, free to spectators, rodeo arena, Peppermill's Western Village, Mesquite, 346-5232

Four Queens Golden Blackjack Classic, 2-4, $50,000 top prize, Four Queens Hotel, 385-4011

Harrah's '84 Championship Games, 2-5, culmination of year-long blackjack and craps tournaments held simultaneously at Holiday Casino in Las Vegas, Harrah's Tahoe, Harrah's Reno, and Harrah's Marina in Atlantic City, with $4 million in prizes; Harrah's and International Gaming Promotions, Inc., 800-426-3784

Ansel Adams Photography Exhibit, 3-31 prints of Adams' photographs taken in national parks between 1941 and 1949 are displayed 8:30am-4:30pm daily, except Christmas Day, Lost City Museum, Overton, 397-2193

"Beyond Therapy," 6-8, comedy, 8pm Thurs.-Fri., 2pm Sat., Clark County Community College Theatre, 643-6060

"The Matchmaker," 6-9, Thornton Wilder's farce and basis for "Hello, Dolly," 8pm Thurs.-Sat., 2pm Sun., July Bayley Theatre, 739-3353

A Holiday Spectacular, 7-9, ballet, 8pm Fri., 2pm Sat.-Sun., Las Vegas Civic Ballet Company, Charleston Heights Arts Center, 386-6384

Parade of Lights, 8, flotilla of boats decorated with Christmas lights, starts at dusk from Las Vegas Boat Harbor and goes to Boulder Beach and back, best view from Boulder Beach, Lake Mead, 565-9111

Children's Christmas Parade, 8, 11am parade down Water St., all entrants under the age of 18, Henderson, 565-8957



LAS VEGAS NEWS BUREAU

The McQueen Collection

What Steve McQueen fan could ever forget the actor's wild motorcycle ride in *The Great Escape* or the noisy, all-out San Francisco car chase in *Bullitt?* McQueen had a passion for machines and amassed a collection of 22 cars and more than 100 motorcycles that has been regarded by collectors with increasing interest since his death in 1980. Now his estate will be auctioned to the public November 23-25 at the Imperial Palace in Las Vegas. The 1912 Indian Single (above) is but a sample from McQueen's collection of vintage vehicles, antique furniture, automotive and airplane memorabilia, and personal effects that will go to the highest bidders. A detailed catalog of items for bid is available from the Imperial Palace at a cost of $20. The collection is scheduled to be previewed November 19-22.



LAS VEGAS NEWS BUREAU

My Three Tums

While judging the Nevada Championship Chili Cook-off is serious business, for spectators and competitors it's an occasion to celebrate. At the 1984 cook-off, December 8-9, the parking lot of Circus Circus in Las Vegas will have wildly decorated booths, gospel singers, free-flowing tequila and beer, and dancing. Eliminations are on Saturday, and then on Sunday, as judges go through the heart-burning ordeal of choosing the winner, everyone can decide whose chili is the best by tasting the finalists' free samples. Among the judges last year were Fred MacMurray and his wife June Haver (above).

"Chitty, Chitty, Bang, Bang," 8, children's captioned film for the deaf, 1pm, Flamingo Library, 733-7810

Nevada Championship Chili Cook-off, 8-9, competition to pick representative to the World Chili Cook-off in California, with free samples, music, and dancing, Circus Circus, 734-0410

Freezin' in Style, 9-1/4/85, exhibit of photographer Gary Weigand's highlights of winter fashions, Flamingo Library, 733-7810

Utah Jazz v. Kansas City Kings, 9, pro basketball, 5pm, Thomas and Mack Center, UNLV, 369-2255

Run for Heart, 9, 10 km. and fun run, The Sporting House, 386-6520

Art Exhibit, 9-1/3/85, western paintings by Lynn Thomas, Charleston Heights Arts Center, 386-6384

All-Star Wrestling, 12, 7:30pm, ringside $12, general adults $8, children $5, Showboat Sports Pavilion, 385-9196

"The Nutcracker," 13-23, ballet, 8pm nightly, 2pm 15-16, 19 and 23, Nevada Dance Theatre, July Bayley Theatre, UNLV, 739-3838

"Oliver," 14-16, musical, Rainbow Company Children's Theatre, Reed Whipple Cultural Center, 386-6553

Christmas Special, 14-16, 8pm, Las Vegas Little Theater, 735-0167

A Holiday Spectacular, 14-16, ballet, 8pm Fri., 2pm Sat.-Sun., Las Vegas Civic Ballet Company, Charleston Heights Arts Center, 386-6384

Roping Events, 15, open to public, free to spectators, rodeo arena, Peppermill's Western Village, Mesquite, 346-5232

Frontier 250 Off-Road Race, 15-16, 250-mile course, free for spectators, based at Frontier Hotel, 734-0110

Christmas Pops!, 16, with Kalman Banyak performing Vivaldi's "Winter" Concerto (from "The Four Seasons") and staged excerpts from Gian Carlo Menotti's "Amahl and the Night Visitors," 2pm and 8pm, Las Vegas Symphony Orchestra, Tropicana Hotel, 739-3420

Museum Exhibit, 17-1/13/85, Christmas scenes from the 1920s and 1930s are re-created, Clark County Southern Nevada Museum, Henderson, 565-0907

UNLV v. UNR, 18, basketball, Thomas and Mack Center, UNLV, 739-3267

"Thirty-Nine Steps," 18, adult captioned Hitchcock film for the deaf, 6:30pm, Flamingo Library, 733-7810

"Oliver," 18-22, musical, Rainbow Company Children's Theatre, Reed Whipple Cultural Center, 386-6553

"Peter and the Wolf," 19, Las Vegas Civic Symphony, children under 16 free, adults $2, 2pm, Charleston Heights Arts Center, 386-6383

United States Motor Racing Awards Week, 19-22, races take place behind the Union Plaza Hotel including the U.S. Rally, Kart Prix, Motocross Championships, and Invitational BMX Tournament of Champions; headquarters at the Union Plaza, 386-2110

ESPN Boxing, 20, 6pm, ringside $15, general $10, Showboat Sports Pavilion, 385-9196

Lite-Rebel All-Star Round-Up, 20-21 UNLV basketball team hosts McNeese State, San Diego State, and Southwest Louisiana, Thomas and Mack Center, UNLV, 739-3267

Christmas Party, 21, 2pm, hosted by City Dept. of Parks, Recreation, and Senior Citizens Activities, Knudson Community Center, 457-3572

Nevada 84, 21-1/9/85, photo show, Lincoln County Courthouse, Pioche, 726-3333

Concert, 23, original arrangements performed by Trio Serenata, followed by reception, 3pm,



LAS VEGAS NEWS BUREAU

The Great Race

When the green flag drops at Caesars Palace at 2 p.m. on November 11, celebrities, dignitaries, high-rollers, jet-setters, and Las Vegas itself will take a back seat to some of the best drivers in the world. The last Indy car race of the season will have begun.

Indy means racing in America, and when the best of the Indy Car World Series road show comes to Las Vegas, you'll see why.

The Caesars Palace Grand Prix IV is potentially the most exciting race of the CART (Champpionship Auto Racing Teams) season. The event is the last of a 16-race series which began last April, and the competition for the championship could go down to the wire.

Fans say that no other sport can match the excitement of open-wheeled, open-cockpit, wide-open-throttle racing. The cars, capable of moving from 0 to 60 mph in two seconds and then on to 100 mph in another three, are impressive as they blast down the straightaways in a blur of color, often vibrating the catch fence and drawing the crowd to its feet.

Throughout practice and qualifying the air will hang heavy with anticipation as spectators wonder: will Mario Andretti win his second Caesars Palace Grand Prix, or will Tom Sneva, the master of the ovals this year, dominate the one-and-a-quarter mile course with its five left-hand turns? Competition will be stiff, including such contenders as two-time Indianapolis 500 winner Rick Mears; Michael Andretti, son of Mario; the Unsers, Al and Al Jr.; and Formula One veterans Roberto Guerrero and Danny Sullivan.

Practice and qualifying for Indy and Sports Car Club of America Super Vee (VW Formula cars) entries are scheduled to begin, Friday, November 9 at 9 a.m., and continue on Saturday. The schedule of events for Sunday, November 11, begins with a support event at 11 a.m., followed by a Super Vee race at noon, and the Indy car race at 2 p.m.

Three-day tickets, which include a reserved seat on Sunday, range from $35 to $100. General admission tickets are available Friday ($5) and Saturday ($20). Ticket sales are handled by Long-Shafer Enterprises of Redondo Beach, California; the phone is 213-318-1621.

—Scott Shelley

Flamingo Library, 733-7810

Art Exhibit, 23-1/18/85, works by Clark County Library District Watercolor Society members, Flamingo Library, 733-7810

Budweiser-UNLV Holiday Classic, 27-28, basketball tournament with Arkansas State, Kansas State, and Pan American, Thomas and Mack Center, UNLV, 739-3267

"Oliver," 27-30, musical, Rainbow Company Children's Theatre, Reed Whipple Cultural Center, 386-6553

NNBC Network Masquerade, 29, ball with music and dancing, hosted by the Nevada Black Chamber of Commerce, Heritage Hall, 648-6222

New Year's Eve Fireworks, 31 celebration begins downtown at 7pm with live music, fireworks at 9pm, Union Plaza Hotel, 386-2110

CENTRAL

November

Annual Holiday Fashion Fair, 10, fashion show, display booths with Christmas gift ideas, buffet, Bristlecone Convention Center, Ely, 289-2220

Nevada 84, 30-12/17 photo show, White Pine County Library, Ely, 289-3737

December

Firemen's New Year's Eve Ball, 31 Eureka, 237-5454

NORTH

November

Square Dances, every Sat., public invited, 7:30-10pm, Sagebrush Spinners, Grammar School No. 2, Elko, 738-3666

Art Exhibit, thru 14, watercolors and tapestries by Pat Fox, Northeastern Nevada Museum, Elko, 738-3418

Jackpot Antique Show, 3-4, Cactus Pete's Casino, Jackpot, 755-2259

Art Exhibit, 16-12/17 watercolors and photographs by Valerie Parks Elliott, Northeastern Nevada Museum, Elko, 738-3418

Jackpot Arts and Crafts Show, 17-18, Cactus Pete's Casino, Jackpot, 755-2259

December

"Nutcracker," 1 ballet, Santa Barbara Ballet Co., Civic Auditorium and Convention Center, Elko, 738-9221

Chariot Races, 1 horse-drawn chariot races are tentatively scheduled every Sat. thru March, chariot track, Wells, 752-3867

Christmas Craft Show and Sale, 1-2, 11am-6pm Sat., 11am-4pm Sun., all items are made by Humboldt County residents, Convention Center, Winnemucca, 623-3704

Southpaw Art Show, 19-1/16/85, exhibition of artwork done by left-handed artists, coordinated by Mary Harper, Northeastern Nevada Museum, Elko, 738-3418

Christmas Celebration, 24, community party for children with a visit from Santa Claus, Cactus Pete's Casino, Jackpot, 755-2259

Ti-yi Yippie Yippie Aye

Come gather round you cowboys and hear your story told at the Cowboy Poetry Gathering in Elko from January 31 to February 3. Cowboy bards, poets lariat, storytellers, and clever cayuses from throughout the West will read or sing their works about the environment, cattle, politics, romance, rodeos, and the realities of ranch life. An exhibition of buckaroo folk art, movies, concerts, and a library of cowboy poetry will also be available. If you want to read your own poetry or just want to find out more about the Gathering, call Hal Cannon at 208-622-9371. Pronto.

RENO/WEST

November

Art Show, thru 7, works by Mick Sheldon and Jon Dewey, Sheppard Gallery, UNR, 784-6682

Photo Exhibit, thru 15, the evolution of cameras and photography, Churchill County Museum, Fallon, 423-3677

Art Exhibit, thru 30, mixed media by Deborah Cofer, paintings and drawings by William Keith, Sierra Nevada Museum of Art, 329-3333

Nevada's Irrepressible Art, thru 12/31, photographs of Nevada folk art environments by Susan Orr and works by Rolling Mountain Thunder, 10am-5pm Wed.-Sun., Nevada Historical Society Museum, 789-0190

Reno Reflections, thru 3/31/85, historic and contemporary photographs of the Reno area, Nevada Historical Society's Downtown Gallery (in Reno-Tahoe Visitor Center); corresponding lectures by William D. Rowley, 11/13 at 7pm and William R. Eadington, 11/20 at 7pm in the NHS building at 1650 N. Virginia St., 789-0190

El Capitan Fish Derby, thru 10/26/85, prize for the biggest cutthroat trout caught on Walker Lake, El Capitan Club, Hawthorne, 945-3321

Nevada Day Art Show, 10/29-11/10, display of all entries from the 34th Nevada Day contest, Brewery Arts Center, Carson City, 882-9723

"True West," 1-4, seriocomic play, 8:30pm Thurs.-Sat., 8pm Sun., Reno Little Theater, 329-0661

The Great American Craft Fair, 2-4, Reno-Sparks Convention Center, 747-6392

Reno Home Improvement Show, 2-4, Reno-Sparks Convention Center, 323-6055

"Plaza Suite," 2-4, Neil Simon comedy, 8pm Fri.-Sat., 2pm Sun., Proscenium Players, Brewery Arts Center, Carson City, 883-1976

Annual Community Christmas Fair, 3, handmade crafts by local residents, Pershing County Community Center, Lovelock, 273-2923

UNR v. Eastern Washington, 3, football, 1pm, Mackay Stadium, UNR, 784-4697

Hobie Fleet 203 Awards Potluck Dinner, 3, non-members invited, 6:30pm, Center for Religion and Life, 322-4853

Folk Art, 3-4, talk by Trish Fisk on folk art painting on furniture, wooden items, metal, and fabric, examples on display, noon-5pm, free, Hazen Bar, on U.S. 50-A in Hazen, 867-3066

PDQ Bach, 4, classical music presented with outrageous humor teaming PDQ Bach with the Reno Philharmonic Orchestra, Public Occasions Board Performing Artists Series, Pioneer

Theater Auditorium, 784-4659
Ceramic Sculptures, 5-30, by Christine Pendergrass, Manville Gallery, School of Medicine, UNR, 784-6001
Wine Tasting, 6, Carson City Rotary Club, with election results, Ormsby House, 882-1890
Reno Industrial Expo, 6-7 featuring products and services used in industrial plant operations, warehousing, and maintenance, noon-9pm, only ages 18 and over, Reno-Sparks Convention Center, for complimentary tickets call 359-4440
Caesars Tahoe Billiards Classic, 6-12, with top billiards professionals, Stateline, 588-3515
Ski Fever Benefit, 9, cocktails at 7pm followed by fashion show to benefit National Ski Patrol System, Peppermill, 826-2121
"The Hairy Ape," 9-10, drama, 8pm, Nevada Repertory Company, Church Fine Arts Theater, UNR, 784-6659
"Plaza Suite," 9-11 Neil Simon comedy, 8pm Fri.,-Sat., 2pm Sun., Proscenium Players, Brewery Arts Center, Carson City, 883-1976
Ladies Invitational Slot Marathon, 9-11 Reno Ramada Hotel, 788-2000
Art Exhibit, 9-27 featuring Seattle painters, 8am-5pm Mon.-Fri., Sheppard Gallery, Church Fine Arts Building, UNR, 784-6658
Governor's Mansion Card Party, 10, afternoon of lunch and bridge, reservations only, hosted by Brewery Arts Center, Carson City, 883-1976
UNR v. Montana, 10, football, 1pm, Mackay Stadium, UNR, 784-4697
Ye Olde Holiday Faire, 10, Coventry Cross Episcopal Church, Minden, 782-4161
Pheasant Hunt, 10-12, by permit only, sponsored by Pershing County 4-H Leaders Council, Lovelock Valley, to sign up call 273-2923
Pistol Match, 11 Palomino Valley Gun Club, 323-3950
Harrah's Cutting Futurity '84, 12-18, Reno-Sparks Convention Center, 785-4800
"Plaza Suite," 16-18, Neil Simon comedy, 8pm Fri.-Sat., 2pm Sun., Proscenium Players, Brewery Arts Center, Carson City, 883-1976
Community Mixer and Wine Tasting, 17, 6pm, presented by the Storey County Chamber of Commerce at the Delta Saloon and Restaurant, Virginia City, 847-0311
Ski Swap, 17 sponsored by City of Reno, Recreation Division, 9am-3pm, Billinghurst Gym, 1129 Plumas Street, 785-2262
Carson City Christmas Fair, 17-18, 11am-6pm, Carson City Junior High School, 882-1565
"Oklahoma," 17-25, Rodgers and Hammerstein's musical performed by national opera stars, 8pm on 11/17 11/20-22 and 11/24, 1pm 11/18, 11/23, and 11/25, special evening performance 7pm 11/18, Pioneer Theater, 786-5105
Hunter Pistol Match, 18, 8am, Palomino Valley Gun Club, 323-3950
UNR v. Spirit Express, 20, exhibition basketball game, 7:30pm, Lawlor Events Center, UNR, 784-4697
UNR v. UNLV, 23, basketball, 7:30pm, Lawlor Events Center, UNR, 784-4697
Teddy Bears Exhibit, 27-12/31 show of old and treasured teddy bears, Sierra Nevada Museum of Art, 329-3333
Art Exhibit, 29-12/19, Sheppard Gallery presents "Nevada Sites Exhibition/Dead Animal Pit," 8am-5pm Mon.-Fri., Church Fine Arts Building, UNR, 784-6658
Reno Christmas Craft Fair, 30-12/2, craft sale and live entertainment, fairgrounds, 747-6392
Ladies Invitational Slot Marathon, 30-12/2, Reno Ramada Hotel, 788-2000
Planetarium Show, 30-12/31 multi-media show, uses Biblical and historical clues and present-day understanding of astronomy, re-creating the skies of ancient Bethlehem for possible natural explanations for the star that led wise men to the birthplace of Jesus, Fleischmann Planetarium, 784-4811

Holiday Treats in Elko, Reno, Tahoe, and Vegas

The Nevada Dance Theatre spices up an old holiday favorite with its performance of the Chinese version of "The Nutcracker" December 13-23 at UNLV's Judy Bayley Theatre in Las Vegas. In Elko, the Santa Barbara Ballet Company performs the classic production as it turns the Civic Auditorium into Tchaikovsky's magical world of princes and sugar plum fairies on December 1. The fairy tale is retold at Caesars Tahoe December 14-16 by the Theatre Ballet of San Francisco. Then, in Reno, the Nevada Opera Association performs "The Nutcracker" December 14-16 and 18 at the Pioneer Theater. See calendar listing for details.

December

Fallon Christmas Faire, 1 handicrafts, art, food, decor, demonstrations, 10am-5pm, Churchill County High School, 423-2181
Sertoma Hoedown Dance, 1 Douglas County Fairgrounds, Gardnerville, 782-7137
Magic of Santa Christmas Faire, 1-2, hand-

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Genoa Christmas Faire, 1-2, 10am-5pm, Town Hall, Genoa, 782-2518

Rifle Silhouette Match, 2, Palomino Valley Gun Club, 323-3950

Harrah's '84 Championship Games, 2-5, culmination of year-long blackjack and craps tournaments held simultaneously at Holiday Casino in Las Vegas, Harrah's Tahoe, Harrah's Reno, and Harrah's Marina in Atlantic City, with $4 million in prizes; Harrah's and International Gaming Promotions, Inc., 800-426-3784

Art Exhibit, 3-1/7/85, works include paper wall sculpturing by Ingrid Evans, Manville Gallery, School of Medicine, UNR, 784-6001

Christmas Tree and Wreath Sale, 5, benefits Reno Philharmonic Orchestra, Garden Shop, 475 Gentry Way, 329-1324

Southern California Oldtimers Hockey, 6-9, tournament including teams from Nevada, California, and Canada, spectators welcomed, Reno-Sparks Convention Center, 785-4800

Lovelock Soroptimist Christmas Crafts Festival, 8, ceramics, stained glass, paintings, woodcrafts, jewelry, needlework, and specialty food items by local residents. Pershing County Community Center, Lovelock, 273-7144

Concert, 8, performance by St. John's Community Orchestra out of Reno, 8pm, Pershing County High School Aud., Lovelock, 273-2627

UNR v. California, 8, basketball, 7:30pm, Lawlor Events Center, UNR, 784-4697

Carson Christmas Craft Fair, 8-9, crafts and food sale, for 4-H clubs, Carson City Community Center, 747-6392

Courts of Glory

Last spring both University of Nevada campuses sent their men's basketball teams to the NCAA championship playoffs, and the 1984-85 season promises to be a replay. The UNLV Running Rebels have a 10-game home schedule in Las Vegas and UNR's Wolf Pack plays 12 games in Reno. Here are two sure bets for all-star college basketball excitement in Nevada: first, the tournaments. UNLV hosts the Lite-Rebel All-Star Round-Up on December 20-21 and the Budweiser-UNLV Holiday Classic on December 27-28. UNR holds its Wolf Pack Classic on December 28 and 29. Second, the state rivalry continues when the two teams meet in Reno on November 23 and in Las Vegas on December 18.

Carson City International Pro Rally, 8-9, season finale of Sports Car Club of America Pro Rally Series, more than 500 miles long, starts at Capital Mall in Carson City on Sat. morning and includes roads near Yerington, Hawthorne, and Virginia City, 885-8388

Toy Run, 9, United Motorcycle Riders of Nevada hold motorcycle parade to collect toys for the needy, starts 9am at Skinny Dugans and ends at Reno Elks Lodge in Reno, 356-9430 or 673-4489

UNR v. Sonoma State, 11, basketball, 7:30pm, Lawlor Events Center, UNR, 784-4697

"A Christmas Carol," 14-16, Charles Dickens' tale, 8:30pm Fri.-Sat., and 2pm Sun., Reno Little Theater, 329-0661

"Nutcracker," 14-16, Theatre Ballet of San Francisco, Caesars Tahoe, Stateline, 588-3515

"Nutcracker," 14-16 and 18, Nevada Opera Assn., Pioneer Theater, 786-4046

Christmas on the Comstock, 15, lights, carols, Municipal Band, street entertainment, Virginia City, 847-0311

UNR v. Pepperdine, 15, basketball, 7:30pm, Lawlor Events Center, UNR, 784-4697

Arts and Antiques Show and Sale, 15-16, noon-5pm, free, Hazen Bar, on U.S. 50-A in Hazen, 867-3066

Turkey Shoot, 16, 8am, Palomino Valley Gun Club, 323-3950

Tanner's Worldwide Flea Market, 16, Reno-Sparks Convention Center, 785-4800

"A Christmas Carol," 20-23, Charles Dickens' tale, 8:30pm Thurs.-Sat. and 2pm Sun., Reno Little Theater, 329-0661

Long's Senior Citizens Thank You Christmas Party, 21, free tickets available after 11/2, Reno-Sparks Convention Center, 826-0818

Wolf Pack Classic, 28-29, basketball tournament with Cal State Fullerton, Colorado State, and St. Mary's, 7:30pm, Lawlor Events Center, UNR, 784-4697

Ladies Invitational Slot Marathon, 29-1/1/85, Reno Ramada Hotel, 788-2000

New Year's Eve Torchlight Parade, 31 Kirkwood Ski Resort, 209-258-6000

A Reminder: to confirm dates and times, use the phone numbers listed with each event. For out-of-state callers, the area code is 702 throughout Nevada. For toll-free phone numbers, call 1-800-555-1212. □



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Nov 9 thru 15

Bill Cosby
Patti Page
Nov 16 thru 25

Tom Jones
Dec 3 thru 9

SHOWROOM CLOSED
Dec 10 thru 20

Mac Davis
Dec 21 thru 27

Crystal Gayle
Dec 28 thru Jan 1, 1985

In Reno

Mickey Gilley
Thru Nov 7

Tony Orlando
Nov 8 thru 21

Lee Greenwood
Nov 22 thru 28

Janie Fricke Jim Stafford
Nov 29 thru Dec 5

Don Rickles
Dec 6 thru 12

Bobby Vinton
Dec 13 thru 19

Glen Campbell
Dec 20 thru 26

Rich Little
Dec 27 thru Jan 9, 1985











Reservations for Nevada: Reno/Lake Tahoe 800-648-3773 Ext. 40; Holiday Casino 800-634-6765; Atlantic City 800-242-7724.

Reservations from Inside Nevada: Reno 329-4422, Tahoe 588-6606.

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NELLIS *(Continued from page 11)*

great favorites at the Nellis Officers' Club —American fighter jocks are respectful and amazed at their ability to push the ungainly Buc so fast and so low. How low? During one Red Flag, a Buccaneer pilot scratched out skid marks on the desert floor with his wing tip. On the same exercise, another Buccaneer lost its radome when it hit a power line, *climbing up!* The crews that went out to repair it came back with the news that the power line had been exactly 42 feet off the ground. That's low. Both crews were fine, and Number 208 Buccaneer sported a power line "kill marking" shortly afterward.

The Snack Bar—Fighter pilots never seem to consume anything but beer and barbecued chicken wings, for which they will fly through thunderstorms, so even though the little Snack Bar doesn't offer much in the way of cuisine, it makes up for it in atmosphere. There are two huge murals, both in the style of Keith Ferris, the great aviation artist: an illustration of the USAF attack on the Paul Doumar Bridge in North Vietnam, and an F-111 takeoff. Covering the other walls is the handiwork of a fellow named Arkey Huber, who makes souvenir T-shirts for the squadrons who come to Red Flag. Huber is a famous Nellis character, an ex-B-17 crewman with a great affection for the Players, an affection that is mutual. The lounge is continuously jangled by the bleats and honks from not one but *two* "Astro-Fighter" machines, unanimously voted the video game "most like a Fox 1 (radar missile) kill in an F-15." (Yes, fighter pilots love video games, too, and can't wait until somebody comes out with "Warsaw Pact-MAN.") In the corner there is a beer machine with carefully applied, press-type lettering reading "Jock Juice," "JP 3.2," and "Aircrew Debriefing Fluid." The pilots never patronize the beer machine during flying hours, although they all look as if they'd like to.

The Personal Equipment Room—This is where the Players stash their flying gear. It doesn't look much different from the Personal Equipment room at any fighter squadron, although it's probably a little more spartan and is lined with the ubiquitous flying stickers.

In front of Building 201, right across I Street, is the Nellis ramp, where the Players' aircraft are parked against the backdrop of Sunrise Mountain, the most photographed mountain in aviation. North along I Street are, in order, the Fighter Weapons Schools, the 64th and 65th Aggressor Squadrons' headquarters, and, across the street, the Thunderbirds' hangar, with a big scale model of their new T-Bird F-16 outside the door on a pedestal.

The flight line at Nellis is paradise for tailspotters, and keeping aviation buffs off

the ramp is a full-time job for the security police. But be forewarned—any trespasser, especially some unauthorized personnel wandering around the test aircraft, is likely to find himself spread-eagled, flat on his stomach with his nose on the yellow line.

The ramp is a stirring sight, but all the action takes place up north at the ranges. A secret post-Vietnam study called the Red Baron report, which analyzed U.S. air-to-air training deficiencies, led to the creation of the Aggressors and to Red Flag itself. But MiGs were not the only threat in Southeast Asia. Electronic warfare played a significant part in the Vietnam air war. For the first time, American pilots faced radar-directed, surface-to-air missiles and antiaircraft artillery. In this, too, their training was found lacking.

As far back as 1967, a group of visionary Air Force colonels had proposed "Facility X," an electronic warfare testing and training range. But the Air Force wasn't ready to invest the money and effort, and Facility X was never built. The concept returned with the Red Baron report, and Facility X became the Continental Operations Range (COR). Tests showed that electronic warfare training significantly improved not only survivability but aircrew performance as well. Effective EW training was becoming a necessity.

"When they had the '73 war," says the range group DO, "when Egypt and Israel went at it for those two weeks, we convinced ourselves once more that we had to be able to simulate the enemy's integrated air defense system and to learn how to defeat it or work around it, or we just weren't going to win. That's all there was to it."

In 1976 the range group was given the authority to reserve land and buy equipment to stock the ranges with simulated threats and targets. The group is comprised of three ranges—Tonopah Electronic Warfare Range, Caliente Electronic Warfare Range, and Tolicha Peak Electronic Warfare Range—a total of three million acres, all between 100 and 250 miles northeast of Nellis AFB.

The responsibility for coordinating and monitoring all the various range users falls upon the Range Control Center. The RCC uses inputs from three FAA radars (Cedar City, Tonopah, and Angel's Peak) to display, in full color and great detail, the range activity on the "Big Board." The Big Board is just that—a huge monitor the size of a movie screen that occupies a wall in "Blackjack," the master control room. The Big Board uses IFF (Identification, Friend or Foe) squawks and radar returns to paint a picture of what every aircraft on the range is up to: altitude, designated

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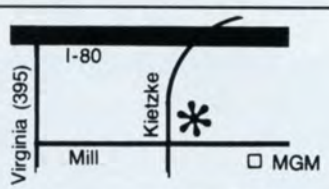
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mission, and a 90-second history of where it's been, as well as which radar threats are turned on, and what they're looking at. "It's a big Atari set, is what it is," says one radar control officer.

The RCC is the headquarters of the White Forces, Red Flag referees, charged with making sure the Players don't stray out-of-bounds and that no unauthorized aircraft enter the area where the battle is taking place. "There's always the Big Sky theory," says a range officer. "But when you've got some turkey in a single-engine Cessna in the middle of a bunch of people playing real, supersonic war, the little guy causes quite a problem."

The White Force knows where everyone is because the Players are "squawking IFF," broadcasting their identity through the use of Identification, Friend or Foe transponders. But the RCC controllers are careful not to give the different forces any more information than they would normally have in real battle.

"When the real war starts, we ain't gonna squawk for them, and they ain't gonna squawk for us," says a Nellis radar officer. "Besides, you don't want to make the enemy look 10 feet tall if he really isn't.

"We've usually got a rule of engagement, which is not unlike war, that says you can't shoot unless you've positively identified the guy. You don't want to shoot an airliner coming out of Prague full of babies or something."

The Nellis range is often described as being almost the size of Switzerland. Technically it is, since it has more than 10 million acres of controlled airspace. But about 70 percent of that is Military Operation Area (MOA). The Players can fly supersonically in an MOA, between 100 and 50,000 feet, but they can't drop bombs there. So the Nellis MOAs west of the 115th meridian, Caliente West and East, Cedar and Elgin North and South, are "no-play" areas where the Red Forces are not allowed to enter. The Blue Forces use the eastern MOAs to set up their tanker tracks and as an assembly area.

After they take off from Nellis, the Players usually turn northwest at Fossil Ridge, head up the "Sally Corridor" in an instrument departure, and join up over Texas Lake, a dry lake bed in Caliente West once used as an emergency landing strip for X-15 flights.

Then, after all the aircraft in the mission package have sorted themselves out, they "push the Gap," and the fight's on. □

Michael Skinner of Atlanta is on the staff of Cable News Network. He is the author of Red Flag: Air Combat for the '80s *and* U.S.A.F.E. *and is working on* U.S.N., *a book about the Navy due out early next year. George Hall of San Francisco did the photography for* Red Flag *and also for* The Blimp Book.

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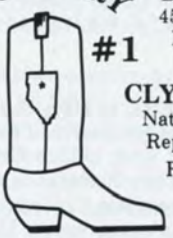
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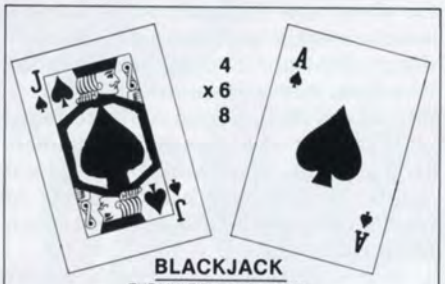
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The Convention That Ate Las Vegas

This giant computer exposition has its own daily newspaper, boasts 15 miles of aisles, and (don't tell anybody) is open to the public.

By Buddy Frank

In the heady nuts-and-volts world of high-tech trade shows, the extravaganza known as COMDEX is the biggest of them all. COMDEX is an acronym for the Computer Dealer Exposition, and to simply say it's held every November in Las Vegas is a serious understatement. Considering its size and impact, it might be more accurate to say that COMDEX rents the city to help direct this giant production.

Locally, the first sign that the show is in town is when strange television ads begin airing. The appeals to stop by and see the latest in "256K RAM chips" or "interrupt driven 32-bit CPUs" often seem out-of-place during breaks in *Happy Days* and *Laverne and Shirley.* But the computer manufacturers are so concerned about getting their message to the show attendees that they don't mind paying extra to share their bewildering ads with all of Southern Nevada.

Their eagerness is easy to understand. During its five-day run, 100,000 visitors attend this show that is largely unknown outside the industry. To put it further into perspective, that's like moving the city of Reno into the center of Las Vegas for a one-week run.

For the record, COMDEX *is* open to the public, but that's also a closely-held secret. The promoters don't generally advertise the show, and they purposely charge a steep admission to get into the exhibits. By design, this show is not for neighborhood whiz kids; instead it's aimed at the corporate side of the personal computer business. That's another reason the promoters like Las Vegas; there won't be a big local chapter of computer hackers trying to crash the gate as might be expected in San Francisco or Boston.

Even without the general public there's a lot of buying and selling going on. This is where computer store owners and managers see, and buy, the goodies they'll be selling you in the coming year.

There isn't a marketing technique that hasn't been tried at COMDEX. Within five minutes of entering any of the show's exhibit areas you can be assured of several things. You'll be entertained by a magician who uses card tricks to promote computer programs; you'll sit through a demonstration of a completely confusing product just because the person giving the demo is too incredibly beautiful (or handsome) to refuse; you'll enter a free drawing to win something; you'll have four buttons pinned on your coat; you'll receive a year's subscription to some magazine with the phrase "PC" or "Data" somewhere in its title; you'll get invitations to half a dozen cocktail parties; and you'll leave with three balloons, two kites, four dozen engraved pencils, a chocolate computer replica, and five new T-shirts. And the more money you appear to have to spend, the more free things they'll give you.

While the atmosphere often resembles that of a carnival midway, all that hype is part of a serious, high-risk gamble. COMDEX can make or break some of the biggest names in corporate America. Consider the stakes: In 1985 the advertising budget for microcomputers alone will exceed $750 million. That's why this show gets special attention from everyone who watches the business, including the 1,200 accredited members of the press who attend.

Last year, IBM used the show to debut its new PCjr. There were almost a hundred of the machines for attendees to test and evaluate in the convention center. What made it impressive is that IBM execs actually called in every prototype machine they had. During COMDEX week, the only PCjrs in the world were in Las Vegas.

If being at the show is important, not being there can be equally critical. COMDEX serves as the industry's *Who's Who.* If someone doesn't exhibit, they are immediately fair game for bankruptcy rumors.

On the other hand, you'd think just attending the show would produce some red ink. Displaying your wares at COMDEX is anything but cheap. A 10-foot-by-10-foot space rents for $2,350. If you run that through your calculator, it comes to $1,025,070 per acre, making COMDEX the most expensive one-week real estate buy in history. Once the space is secure, exhibitors must buy and assemble their own booths, which can range in cost from $5,000 to half a million dollars. Despite this outrageous expense, the demand for booth space is soaring.

COMDEX began in the MGM Hotel five years ago. Then the organizers moved the show to the Las Vegas Convention Center. By 1982, they expanded to include the facilities at the Hilton, Sahara, and Riviera hotels. Still bursting at the seams, they joined with another electronics group to build a 127,000-square-foot addition to the convention center. They donated that new building to Las Vegas last year in exchange for free rent. Still the growth continues. This year the show runs November 14-18 and will occupy five hotels as well as the new and old convention center buildings.

Everything about the exposition is big. It employs 3,000 to 5,000 workers. Setting up takes a full week and requires the services of every major van line in the U.S. as eight million pounds of freight are trucked in for the show.

Ground transportation requires organizing a bus system of 10 different routes and 100 drivers. Registration uses a huge computer bank, 350 workers, and 50 automated machines to punch out plastic badges. Communications demand the installation of 2,000 phones on the exhibit floor, not to mention the 100 walkie-talkies and 60 pagers carried by the staff.

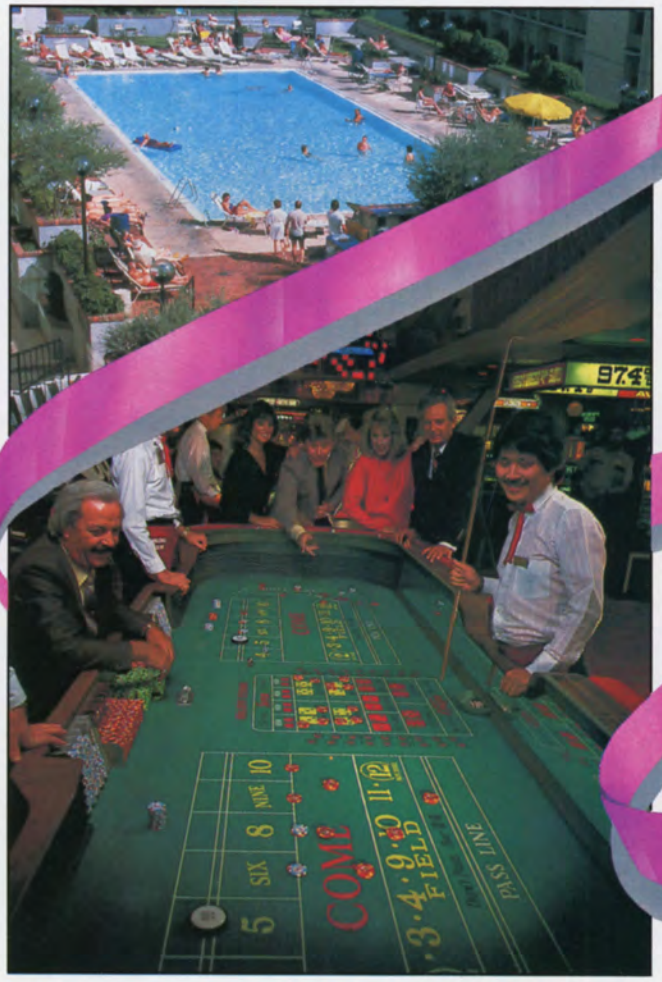
There is a daily newspaper published during the show that is larger than either the *Las Vegas Review-Journal* or the *Las Vegas Sun.* Together with a 600-page program, this tabloid known as the *Official COMDEX Show Daily* is distributed at the show and set on the door sill of every room in major hotels each morning.

Thus, for those Nevadans who have called for more high-tech industry in the state, COMDEX is certainly a good calling card. The organizers have nothing but praise for Nevada, saying this is the best place in the world to put on a computer convention. As an Interface Group spokesman says, the conventioneers aren't your typical hackers who huddle over their keyboards 'til the wee hours. "Computer retailers are action kind of guys, and they love the neon flavor of Las Vegas." Maybe they're just glad to be someplace where the chips are round and sit on green felt instead of circuit boards. □

Buddy Frank, a frequent contributor to Nevada, *is the Director of Public Relations for Stride Micro, formerly Sage Computer, in Reno.*

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