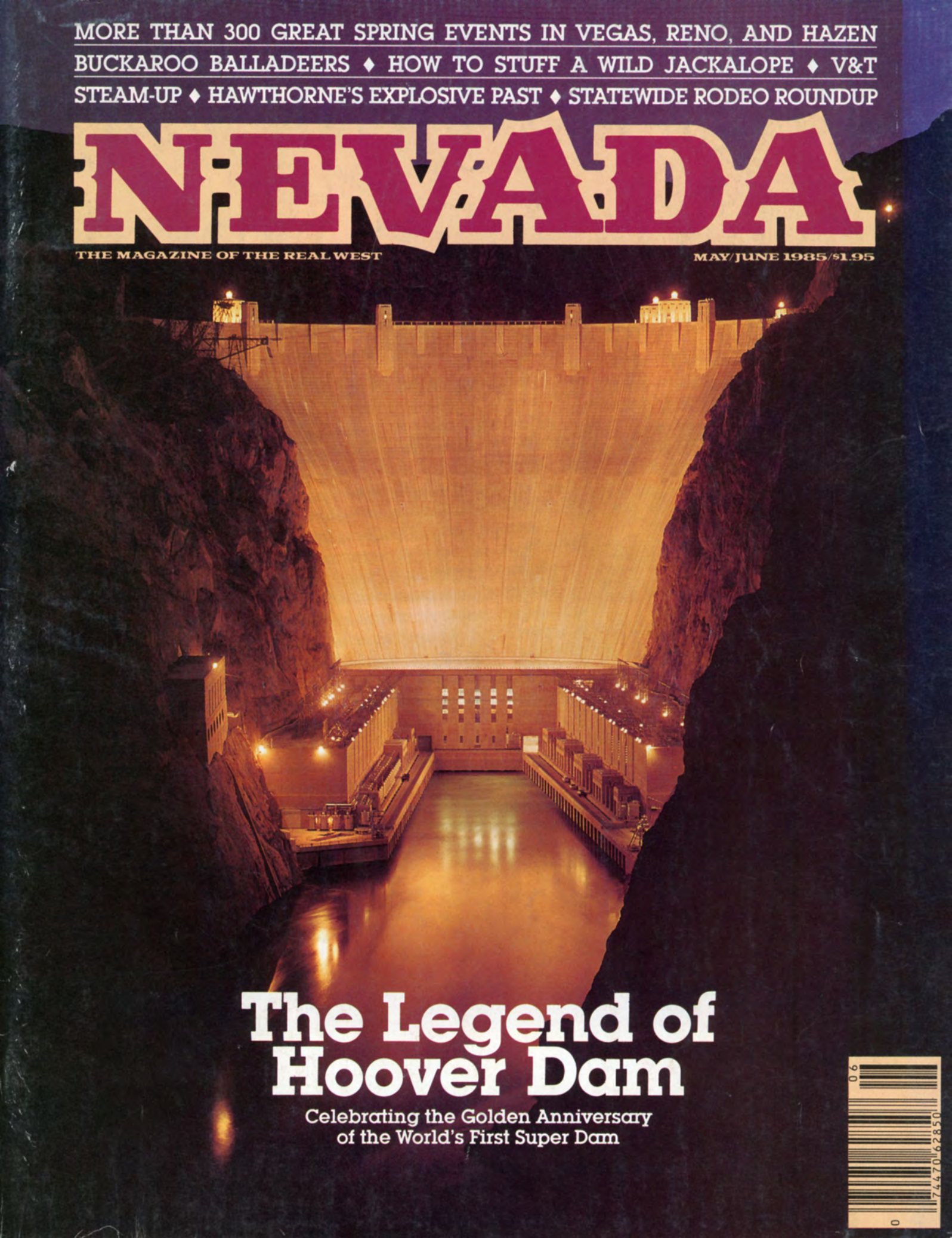


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Volume 45, Number 3

May/June 1985

Best Dam Tribute Ever!

Hoover Dam's Golden Anniversary: 50 Years of Power and Glory

A celebration of the monumental project in Southern Nevada that captured the hopes and dreams of America, with legends, facts, historic photographs, and eyewitness accounts of the building of the world's first super dam. Page 47

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Up Front

Segerblom and the Great Dam.

It was the Depression, 1938, and Cliff Segerblom had no intention of becoming a photographer. He had just received his fine arts degree from the University of Nevada in Reno and was heading home to Los Angeles. He decided to return via Southern Nevada to visit a friend in Boulder City and also take a look at Hoover Dam.

His friend, Kelly Lyon, was manager of the Visitors Bureau. Lyon, who had heard the Bureau of Reclamation's photographer was leaving, insisted that Segerblom check on the job. "I went for an interview against my better judgment," Segerblom says, "because I'd never taken a photograph in my life. I was honest about my experience, but the interviewer said they were looking for someone with art training and would teach me the mechanics."

Segerblom got the job and was given an 8x10" view camera. "It must have weighed 50 pounds, and the tripod at least 100 more. Then they said, 'Go.'"

In time Segerblom mastered his new craft and created a fine collection of Hoover Dam photographs, including those that appear on pages 48, 56, and 66. But at first he was apprehensive, wishing he were carrying paints and brushes instead of the bulky camera equipment. Segerblom proceeded to photograph the Colorado River from the Supai Indian Reservation in the Grand Canyon all the way to the Gulf of Mexico—about 1,500 miles. "I also covered the dam from the turbines below the river to the top of Oskar Hansen's flagpole sculpture on the rim of the dam. It was a wonderful way to learn the profession."

In addition to being the Bureau's official lensman, Segerblom also served as an escort for other photographers. "The greats all wanted to shoot Hoover Dam because at the time it was the most important project in the world. I got to know and watch photographers at work like Margaret Burke White, Ansel Adams, George Strock, Edward Weston, Bill Belknap, and Alfred Eisenstaedt.

"Most valuable to me was Charles Sheeler, who was doing a series of covers for *Fortune Magazine*. He taught me how to use the camera in relation to painting. He showed me how to shoot without distortion, and why you shouldn't get too close to a subject so that you get a truer perspective. He taught me how to use a camera to see the way a person would see,

and not how a camera would see."

Sheeler also gave Segerblom some darkroom tips, which helped him become an extraordinary technician, as witnessed by his exquisite black-and-white prints. In the meantime, almost everything Segerblom shot was picked up by the wire services and flashed around the world. "My career was on the way," he laughs. "How lucky can you get?"

Segerblom worked at Hoover Dam for four years and then moved to Panama with his wife Gene, who was born in Ruby Valley and wrote the Boulder City piece on page 60. When the U.S. joined World War II, Cliff worked as a civilian for the Air Force, setting up jungle labs and teaching photography to military men. After the war the Segerbloms returned to Boulder City and worked as freelancers in photography and writing. In the late '50s, Cliff set up the first darkroom at the newly-created University of Nevada, Las Vegas, and taught photography part-time for 20 years. He also served 20 years as Boulder City's municipal judge and justice of the peace.

In 1984 he celebrated his 50th year painting Nevada with a one-man show at the Northeastern Nevada Museum in Elko and another at Burk Gal'ry in Boulder City, where his work can always be found. Next Labor Day, he will be judging the Western Art Roundup in Winnemucca and have a one-man show there. He will be a judge for *Nevada Magazine's* 8th Annual Great Nevada Picture Hunt this summer (see page 75), and more of his Hoover Dam photos will appear in upcoming issues.

A key to both painting and photography, Segerblom says, is knowing what to accent. "When I teach photography I always encourage students to take art classes even if they feel they don't have any talent because there is so much they can get from it. Anyone can learn how to take a picture, but you should go beyond that. People assume that everything they point their camera at will be a great picture, but there's an awful lot more in a picture than what they *thought* they were getting. Artists are more selective. They pick what goes in and put the other stuff out of focus!"

—Caroline J. Hadley

Letters

Finding Refuge in the Basin and Range

What Nevada's Really About

Last spring, while my wife was getting a checkup at Wilford Hall hospital at Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio, I saw a copy of *Nevada*. Although I only intended to browse through it, I soon found myself reading it cover to cover—articles, letters, advertisements, and all. A touch of nostalgia swept over me since I am a native Nevadan (from Ely) and never have gotten over moving from the state those many years ago. Soon, I noticed out of the corner of my eye that my wife was finished with her checkup, so I put the magazine down and we went home.

On my birthday, Jeannie handed me an envelope and in it was a gift subscription to *Nevada*. I was surprised since I had not mentioned the magazine to her and have never seen a copy except the one at the hospital. She had seen me reading it, and ordered one for me. To date I have read everything in each copy. I think the magazine captures what Nevada is really about—big towns, little towns, gamblers, ranchers, miners, hell raisers, quiet folk, deserts, lakes, mountains, and creeks.

Gene E. Townsend
San Antonio, TX.

Like your style—and Nevada's. We get over to the Nevada outback every chance we get to reassure ourselves that the world hasn't gone completely nuts. "Basin and Range" country is for us—too many trees and too many people make us nervous.

Bill Bridges
Goat Gap Gazette
San Buenaventura, CA.

Beautiful People

With regards to your "Up Front" editorial in December issue: You forgot to mention how beautiful and kind you Nevada people really are, too. My lovely wife, who due to polio is confined to a wheelchair, and I really enjoy Nevada, and we vacation in your state twice every year. From what I see, Nevada treats wheelchair people as first-class citizens. We travel your state and there are bathrooms, ramps, etc., all over. The hotels, and restaurants favor us, and be it Reno or Las Vegas, when we attend those fabulous shows, they always have given us good tables to view the shows.

"The Real West" to me is Tonopah and Bishop and Route 6 in between. Ended up

in Las Vegas for three days at the Hilton. You all got it all. (And we have supported your advertisers, too.)

Bob Abbott
Santa Barbara, CA.

Keep Nevada in One Piece

My last *Nevada* arrived in two pieces, and neither the local post office nor I know how it ever got this far. Can you do something to stop this problem?

Please note that the *Arizona Highways* is now mailing out-of-state copies in a sealed plastic pouch and so far this has been very successful for all concerned. *Arizona* is a picturesque magazine but in truth I doubt if I would miss it should an issue not be delivered, but tamper with my *Nevada Magazine* and the local, general, and state post offices and postmasters all are informed, and had it not turned up you too would have been notified. Perhaps I get so upset because we do visit your fine state more than once a year, have traveled most of your roads—paved and dirt, and look forward to all your stories because often they give new travel destinations and new unmet friends to meet. David Muench has given us many visual pleasures, and of course we never leave Nevada without pounds of Mr. Mars' liquor Ethel M chocolates. We even read all the ads.

John A. Stevenson
Winchester, MA.

You have taken a great publication idea down the road to ruin. What could have been great is bad thanks to you.

R. Lin
Reno, NV

It's Terrific

Thanks to the kind soul who left a copy on Sunworld Airlines, I was introduced to *Nevada Magazine*. I found it thoroughly enjoyable and enlightening. Please enter my subscription.

Eunice W. Danby
Nogales, AZ.

I was going to let my subscription to *Nevada Magazine* lapse as most issues were full of articles on the glitter spots of Las Vegas, Reno, etc., which doesn't interest me. Then, somehow, I received the March/April issue and so enjoyed the articles on the ghost towns by Richard Menzies, Fort Churchill by Jim Crandall, and old-time

(Continued on page 19)



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EIGHT SECONDS TO GLORY

From Winnemucca to Walla Walla, the rodeo cowboy competes in America's toughest sport.

By Caroline J. Hadley

In professional rodeo, nobody's pampered. There is no room for error, no time for sympathy. It is America's own sport, fast and furious, with its glorious moments counted by the second.

Rodeo is a bucking, twisting, spitting, raucous, scintillating word for entertainment. Cowboys are young, healthy contestants facing more danger and competing more often than any other athletes in the country.

Nevada has the best in exciting rodeo and daring cowboys. You'll find them this summer at Helldorado Days in Las Vegas, the Reno Rodeo, and at Wells, Mesquite, and a dozen towns in between. The events include great parades, fairs, and dances as described in this issue's Nevada Calendar.

But the real action is in the arena. The following review of the sport's seven main events shows why rodeo cowboys have to be tough or they won't survive. Don't miss them.



CAROLINE J. HADLEY PHOTOS



Bull Riding: The giant brahma or crossbred bulls are vicious, fast, and powerful. They also hate cowboys. To compete, a bull rider uses a flat-plaited rope with a handhold on top and a bell on the bottom, one glove, and a pair of spurs. He must have terrific balance, coordination and timing, and the agility to get out of the bull's way when the ride is over. Bull riders also need an excess of guts. A rider usually weighs less than 150 pounds while the bull can weigh more than 1,500. The odds are always on the bull. Disqualification comes from touching the animal with the free hand or bucking off before the eight-second whistle. With a 100-point maximum (half for the cowboy, half for the animal), a 70-point score is considered good. The cowboy is judged on control, style, and spurring; the bull is judged on power, high kicking, twisting, and changing direction. "It's a tough way to make a living," says Don Gay of Mesquite, Texas, who has won \$580,056 throughout his career, and \$77,327 in 1984 to win his eighth world championship.



Saddle Bronc Riding: With one hand on a single rein, the saddle bronc rider must stick to a wild bucking horse for eight seconds while sitting straight and rhythmically spurring its neck and shoulders. Considered the most difficult event in rodeo, bronc busting was the only way to tame a horse in early ranching days and was the first official cowboy contest. Competitors need good balance, horse savvy, and an impeccable sense of timing. They are judged on control, spurring, and style, and their broncs should buck well and kick high. Riders can be disqualified for getting bucked off, failing to spur the horse out of the chute, touching with the free hand, or losing a stirrup.

Calf Roping: To win at calf roping you need a great team: a strong roper capable of split-second timing, and a horse with speed and heart. After a 300-pound calf is given a head start, the horse must catch it and stop on cue when the critter is roped. Then the horse must keep the rope taut as the cowboy dismounts and sprints to the calf to tie three of its feet with the pigging string.





Bareback Riding: Like saddle bronc riding, bareback riding is a spurring contest. But there is no rein, saddle, or stirrups—just a leather rigging with a suitcase handle. The bareback rider relies on timing and a strong arm, both of which are vital in maintaining control. Bareback is the most popular event because it's the flashiest, and to score high a cowboy must ride straight, spur long, and kick wide. Mickey Young finished fifth in the world last year. "Bareback riding is something you can't ever relax at," he says. "It keeps you humble."



Team Roping: In this event two horsemen follow a 500-pound steer into the arena. After the header ropes the steer's horns, the heeler must catch the two hind legs. Time is taken when both ropers have caught and their horses are in a straight line facing the steer with the rope dallied (snubbed around the saddle horn but not tied). Each team gets three chances. "Roping really isn't work, but it's my work," says 1984 team roping world co-champion Mike Beers of Rufus, Oregon. His partner, Dee Pickett from Caldwell, Idaho, also won the All Around Cowboy title in 1984. The world record for team roping was set by Beers and Pickett at Abilene, Texas, in 1983 with an incredible 3.8-second catch.

Barrel Racing: The only event for women at Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association-sanctioned rodeos, barrel racing is also one of the most exciting. A barrel racer needs to be a terrific rider, and must follow a pre-set cloverleaf pattern at high speed around three barrels without knocking any over (each crashed barrel means a five-second penalty). To be in the money, the rider needs a horse with heart, stamina, and speed. She needs years of training and practice for herself and her mount, freedom to travel all year long, luck, and the desire to be best in the world. The 1984 world champion barrel racer is Charmayne James of Clayton, New Mexico. She entered about 90 rodeos and won \$53,499.



Steer Wrestling: The steer wrestler, or bull dogger, races across the arena on horseback at 30 mph, chasing a 700-pound steer in order to jump on its horns and wrestle it to the ground. He's assisted by a hazer who rides on the other side of the steer to keep it running straight. Perfect timing, a good horse, strength or at least good leverage, and lots of practice are needed to win. The luck of the draw sometimes helps, too, because some steers are easier to wrestle than others. Time is given only when a steer is lying down with its head and all four feet facing in the same direction. Best-ever time in steer wrestling is 2.3 seconds, set by Jim Bynum at Marietta, Oklahoma, in 1955.

Cowbars and Dance Halls

At these cowboy hangouts in Las Vegas and Reno, it's rodeo season all year long.

Las Vegas

by Rob Powers

Corralling the real rodeo cowboys in Las Vegas at Helldorado time takes a little luck and perseverance but no more logic than would fill the bellybutton of a Texas horsefly. For contrary to probability, these people don't seem to spend much time in so-called cowboy bars at rodeo time, even though many places in Glitter City offer the rowdy, rustic environs they left back home in Battle Mountain or Houston.

No, these fellows can sit on a barstool nursing a long-neck brew anywhere. But here, after a day spent strapped to the back of a raging bull, they can rest their bruised and battered bodies in a soft seat at a blackjack table or in front of a video poker machine, taking a different, more leisurely kind of gamble. They're easy to spot. More often than not, they're the ones with the white ring on the back pocket of their levis, tattooed there by a metal cannister of chewing tobacco.

Rodeo fever about this time of year is palpable, sweeping through Las Vegas like a prairie dust storm, finding its way into nearly every nook and cranny of the community. The following saloons may not see all of the roughly 850 cowboys who blow into town to show their true grit, but no matter. Patrons can toast the rodeo freely, and they can take some solace in knowing that they can capture the spirit of Helldorado year-round at these joints.

Silver Dollar Saloon

"No T-shirts, cut-offs, or bare feet after 8 p.m.," reads the notice on the front door of the Silver Dollar. Another one posted inside proclaims that you are in Las Vegas' "home of country music." Few patrons would argue with either statement.

Long before there were designer cowboys, there was the Silver Dollar, located smack dab on a busy East Charleston intersection almost within view of Glitter Gulch. Built in the late '30s, the place served as a cathouse and a furniture store, the story goes, before becoming a country and western bar about 20 years ago.

And it is country. A John Wayne picture hangs on the wall near a poker table, where you can buy into a seven-card stud game for \$10. There are two bars, a large square one near the entrance and another L-shaped one off in the corner. A blacklight prairie mural, which hits first-timers with the subtlety of a mule kick, takes up almost an entire wall.

There is seating for about 300, although on a Friday or Saturday night few stay in their seats. They spend most of their time on a huge dance floor, moving under a large red-lit chandelier to the strains of a group called Last Stage West. Then Bobby Adkins and his band come on at 1 a.m., taking the crowd to the early morning. The preferred dress is cowboy hats, levis, big belt buckles, and boots. Few urban cowboys spend time here.

Cocktail waitress Vivian Wiley has worked at the saloon for three years. "We used to have quite a reputation," she says. "When it was the Saddle Club in the early '60s, we had fights here all the time. Now we don't need a security guard through the week." Adkins agrees: "It's calmed down now. I haven't seen a fight here in eight months."

According to Adkins, the Silver Dollar's status as a premier local cowboy bar began after the saloon was purchased and given its present name in 1965 by Bill Ladd, a Las Vegas with an affection for country music. Its reputation was secured a few years later when Shel Silverstein, a one-time regular, wrote a song called "The Queen of the Silver Dollar." Merle Haggard, Johnny Paycheck, Dotty West, Tex Ritter, and Ernest Tubbs have all played here.

"We get people from all over the world," says Adkins, a gravelly-voiced musician rarely without a cigarette between his fingers. "They've all heard of the Silver Dollar."

Sam's Town Dance Hall

A country conglomerate is Sam's Town, a sweeping complex that includes a gargantuan casino, several restaurants, an old-fashioned ice cream parlor, a western emporium—even a bowling center. It also houses a voluminous western dance hall that is packed with locals and tourists practically every night. During the week instructors give lessons in such dances as the

Cotton-eyed Joe and the Texas Two-step.

The room, located a floor above the bustling casino, offers a curious mixture of cowboys and yuppies, young and old, urban and rural. It is an atmosphere where you'd be just as comfortable in boots, a hat, and straight legs as you would in a golf shirt and designer jeans. The music, played over an elaborate sound system—there are no live bands here—can best be described as exceedingly diverse. "Orange Blossom Special" to "Lucille" to "Six Days on the Road," and you get the idea.

People come here to line dance, and when they do, it's in carefully choreographed movements, as if these strangers get together during the week to practice. Virtually no one is out of step. Thumbs in pants pockets, dancers move in mirror-like unison, which looks impressive but tends to discourage beginners and two-steppers.

The regulars at the Silver Dollar might call this hall pseudo-country, catering to casino cowboys, and they would probably be right. No one here seems to be complaining, however, least of all Sam's Town principal owners Sam and Bill Boyd.

Rockabilly's Saloon

Some people say that country's popularity in Southern Nevada largely depends on how it is produced, packaged, and plugged by local radio stations. Compelling evidence for that contention is found at Rockabilly's on Boulder Highway, a hoot and holler from Sam's Town. As an example, hundreds of people, most of them in cowboy attire, recently filled the saloon for what's known as a stampede party, sponsored by one of the local country stations and offering free food, free-flowing beer, and foot-stompin' music.

Everything that country bars are supposed to be—loud, rowdy, hazy, and crazy—Rockabilly's is on that night. The place is packed with people, smoke, and plastic cups foaming over with beer, as well as the live music of Randy Anderson and his band. Country bars, it seems, are judged by their dance floors, and this one is big. The boys help the disc jockeys lead a game of Frisbee pass-off, kind of like musical chairs, with concert tickets and record albums as the prizes.

Rockabilly's is quaintly decorated with

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saddle-like stools, horse-head posts, and old wagon wheels to complete the effect.

Long Branch Saloon

Jim Staggs, one of the most popular country musicians in Southern Nevada, last winter began a stint at the Long Branch Saloon, across from the Silver Nugget in North Las Vegas. Where he goes, it's said, so go hundreds of loyal followers, most of whom eschew line dancing and pseudo-country attire for the swing and two-step. Staggs, who shares the bill with the Honky Tonk Heroes featuring Janie Stark, is forty-ish, and so are most of his fans who fill this place.

Trivia buffs might remember that the Long Branch was the name of the saloon in the *Gunsmoke* television series. To picture Matt Dillon in this place swaggering up to the massive wooden bar doesn't take an abundance of imagination. Bartender



Sunday night at the Long Branch is jam session time. 'Anybody can get up there, good or bad.

If they're bad, we try to limit them to two songs.'



Bob Flynn says a section of it is 110 years old and once belonged to a saloon in Virginia City. Another portion, he says, was taken from an old Mississippi riverboat. A regal-looking National cash register, still working after more than 60 years, assumes a prominent place behind the bar, occasionally cranked by the man serving the drinks. Beautiful hand-carved wood surrounds a large mirror.

The Long Branch features a central dance floor, pool table, muted lights, and no fights. "We try to keep it romantic for couples," Flynn explains. Sunday night is jam session time. "Anybody can get up there, good or bad. If they're bad, we try to limit them to two songs."

Cowboy's Los Rancheros

Bartender Herman Galindo likes to brag that the floor of his rodeo arena, located behind the restaurant and next to a fairly extensive horse stable, has some of the best dirt around—a fact no doubt appreciated by the amateur riders who are so rudely introduced to it.

Every Wednesday—sandwiched between calf and steer roping on Tuesdays and Thursdays—cowboys and would-be cowboys come here to strap themselves to the back of a bucking bronco or an ornery bull, riding as much as they care to for a flat fee of \$10.



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"Usually they don't ride more than three times," deadpans Galindo, who runs the place with his brother George and George's wife Vicki. Tom Kenyon brought his "rough stock"—horses, steers, bulls—down from Alaska last year for the Wednesday night events, while Tom Holt, son of owner Dick Holt, runs the roping nights.

Old-timers remember this place as Los Rancheros, a private club on the northern outskirts of town. It was owned by Darwin Lamb until about six years ago, when it was purchased by Holt, a Montana man. The new owner stuck Cowboy's on the front of the old name to draw some new clientele.

Cowboy's still has cowboy wallpaper, lots of knotted, polished wood, and live music on weekends, although Herman says he's had "trouble finding bands who don't make people's food jump off the tables.

"We get all types in here," he says. "The real cowboys and the drugstore cowboys. They buy a hat and boots and all of a sudden they're cowboys." Until, that is, they venture into the rodeo arena and meet all that dirt.

Reno/Sparks

By Andrea Michelsen
and Tom Derungs

At rodeo time Reno is jammed with cowboys and cowgirls, pickups and horse trailers, and any excuse to celebrate is accepted at the drop of a Stetson. The choice of venue is wide, too. There is no secret cowboy hangout in the Reno area, no exclusive club with "Cowboys Only" painted on the door. Instead, cowboys, like the rest of us, can be found in any number of watering holes, ranging from the Top of the Hilton to street-corner honky tonks. Here are some suggestions for country and cowboy hangouts—most of them near or in Sparks—that are good for a two-step any time.

Western Village and Others

Casinos get a big share of the action at rodeo time, according to Bob Tallman, the Winnemucca native and famed announcer whose rich voice is synonymous with the Reno Rodeo. When rodeo cowboys come to town, he says, "they're pretty much like any other tourists." Wander downtown and you'll see your share of ropers and riders hanging around Harrah's. From there they spread out, ending up at the Cal-Neva, Harolds, Circus Circus, the Comstock, Fitzgerald's, the Eldorado, and all the clubs in between. Tallman says John Ascuaga's Nugget in Sparks is a favorite, and visitors will check out the newly renovated Karl's across the street.

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On the east side of Sparks, Western Village usually has a solid crowd of working cowboys and country fans. Popular with truckers since the days it was called Sierra Sid's, Western Village has a stage for country-western bands, tables, and a dance floor on one side of the casino. There's also a taco stand for fast nourishment between numbers.

Red Rose Saloon and Dance Hall

"A cowboy," says Bob Meyer, "is true to life, true to fact." That also could be said about Meyer's Sparks saloon, the Red Rose. Formerly the Bowlarium, the place is as cavernous as the bowling alley it used to be. Meyer agrees with most of his customers that the best feature is the dance floor, which covers 5,000 square feet and is built with maple flooring from the old lanes. Another Bowlarium remnant is a '50s-style cafe that has nostalgic formica counters and swivel stools.

Meyer says 90 percent of his saloon's clientele are locals. "You get the urban cowboy types. They are more clean-cut. What they wear is more fashionable, more

“

Nashville Nevada offers its Red Neck Contest. "To qualify you must drink a shot, have your name on the back of your belt, make a redneck yell, and drive a pickup."

”

brand name, more stylish. Then there are the in-betweens. They have nice houses and horse trailers, they feed and groom their horses. But for them it's more pleasure than work. Finally you have the real cowboy. He doesn't have a lot of fancy clothes. He lives in what he works in. The people attracted to the bar area are usually construction workers. They tend to be more wild." But most folks come to dance, and they fill the tables surrounding the dance floor.

Business at rodeo time is brisk, Meyer says, but so is it on ordinary weekends when there's live music at the B Street dance hall. "The rodeo is just like any other entertainment. The busier it is, the greater variety of people it draws. People come to see who's there. The more people, the more fun."

Nashville Nevada

"Sometimes I feel like hanging myself," says bartender Kriste Montgomery, pointing to the hangman's noose displayed behind the bar at Nashville Nevada. "It's a

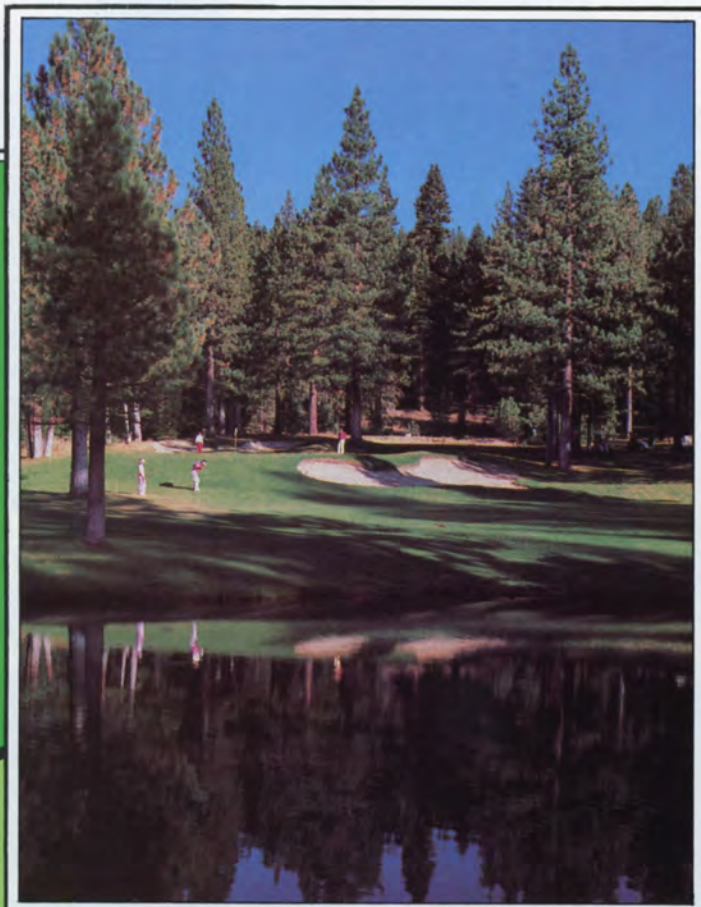


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real conversation piece. One guy came in and said, 'Can I borrow that? My wife's driving me nuts.' "

The noose is the centerpiece of a veritable museum of cow-town gizmos and memorabilia hanging from the walls of the Nashville. In one corner is an American flag, on the opposite a Confederate banner. On the stained-pine walls hang pictures of Butch Cassidy and the Wild Bunch, Clint Eastwood, and, of course, John Wayne. Even the red, white, and blue wheels of the old wagon outside on Kietzke Lane lend a touch of hometown Americana.

The customers are not all country fans or ranch types, Montgomery says. "A lot come from the industrial area around here. They come in after work and shoot pool." Along with beer and booze, patrons can get a can of chew at the bar. "They don't spit on the floor, but they like to use the garbage cans," she warns.

Besides being open 24 hours and having country-rock bands on weekends, Nashville Nevada this spring has offered a special event—the Red Kneck Contest, which is judged by the audience. "To qualify you must drink a straight shot, have your name on the back of your belt, make a redneck yell, and drive a pickup truck," Montgomery says. Other requirements include knowing two country dances, singing a line of a country song, and wearing boots and a hat. Also, if you plan to use the bathroom, it's good to know the difference between "studs" and "fillies." Otherwise someone may want to use that noose.

Whiskey River

"One drink per set, per person," reads the sign behind the bar at Whiskey River. "That's to keep the gals from coming in and drinking water all night," the barkeep says of the strange regulation, which forces you to buy a drink during each set the band plays.

But you'll find friendlier aspects to this place on Glendale Avenue in Sparks. There is live music every single night, often provided by the Larry Price Band, a popular local group. On Friday and Saturday the counter of Kelly's Cantina is open for quick Mexican eats.

Dancers with country aspirations should show up Tuesday and Thursday nights from 7 to 9. That's when instructor Scot Esler shows all the right moves for the Teton Mountain Stomp, the Travelin' Four Corners, and other dances. He also reviews such basics as the Texas Two-step, which will keep you in the swing wherever you find cowboys and country music. □

Rob Powers is the Review-Journal's Living Editor, Andrea Michelsen is former Editor of Showtime, and Tom Derungs writes for University Times. All of them badly need two-step lessons.



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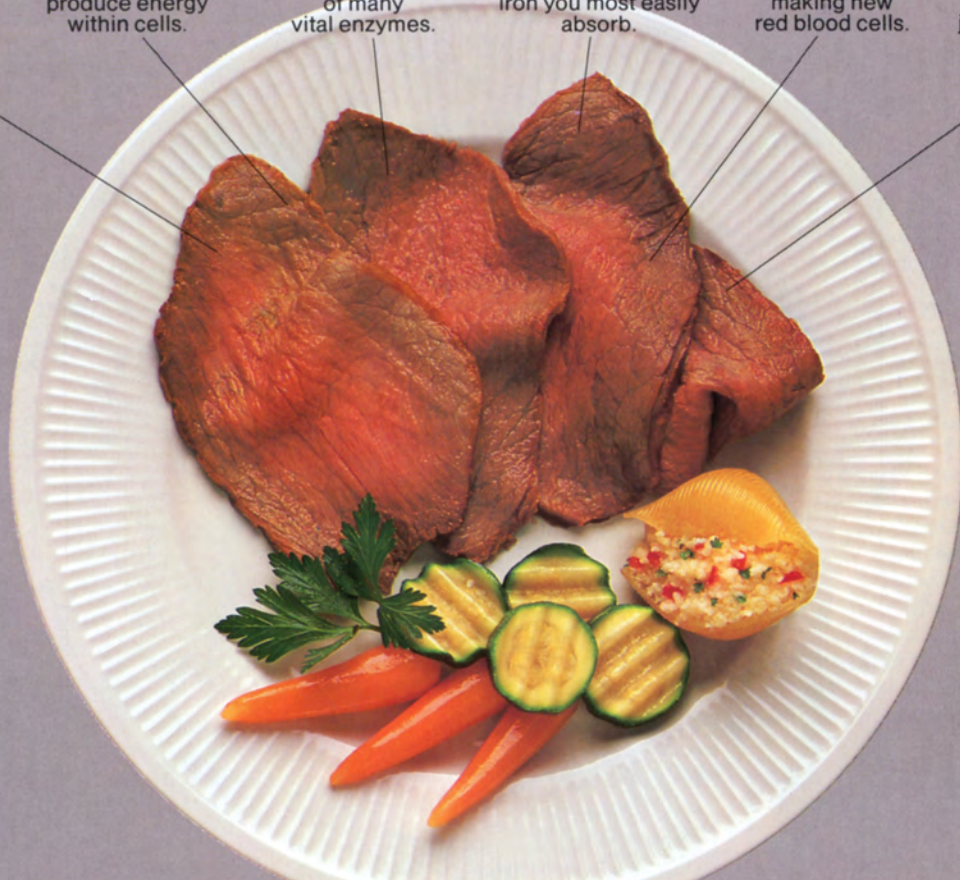
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LETTERS (Continued from page 5)

Nevada. So if it isn't too late, please renew me for another year.

Shirley A. Bauer
St. Louis, MO.

Shall the Twain Meet?

I wish to thank you and your staff for the privilege and honor of appearing in the Jan/Feb '85 issue. It was a high point in my life. I have been exposed to much criticism about you and the magazine, and as a member of the business community I want to go on record as saying that your efforts have not gone unnoticed. Your vigor and professionalism is reflected in each, ever better publication. You are truly one of the greatest assets this state has and you have contributed much to its respect and prosperity.

Allan E. Lombardo
Austin, NV

This is in regards to the article about Al Lombardo in your Jan/Feb '85 issue by Richard Menzies called "Sky High Prospector." Maybe your Mr. Menzies should have interviewed a few of the residents of Austin before submitting his article to you. If you continue to print garbage like that I shall cancel my subscription. Otherwise, I have enjoyed your magazine very much.

Ray & Irene Salisbury
Austin, NV

I enjoy your "Tales of Nevada" on the radio and have a little story about our Silver State. I was once told that Sunrise Mountain on the east side of Las Vegas Valley was called "The Sleeping Indian" by Native Nevadans. If you look at it, sometimes it looks like a blanket over him. I've enjoyed watching it from different angles. Bonanza on Maryland Parkway looking east seems the best spot.

Minnie Mastrilli
Las Vegas, NV.

Tusk, Tusk

Anyone who has anything to do with such a fine magazine must care for Nevada as much as I do. I'm not writing to gripe about the article in May/June '84 ("An Ice Age Discovery" by Jim Crandall). I just want to set several things straight in case it comes up again.

I never saw any rocks shining, and I didn't try to budge anything. I've been going to the Black Rock Desert since 1964, when I was 15 years old, at first looking for arrowheads. I always suspected the presence of Early Man. I just never figured I'd be the guy to find it.

When I saw bone fragments and four-inch-long pieces of tooth enamel in an area of a square yard, I knew exactly what it was, mainly because I had found complete mammoth teeth at another site.

(Continued on page 46)

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Home is where the Harts are: Larry (left), Toni, and Garry.



Hart to Hart to Hart

If you've ever invited a few hundred people over for cocktails, you'll know why the Harts have the biggest house in town.

By Bill Willard

The 400 people gathered in the living room of the Hart mansion for a black tie party heard two shots explode in the night. Then the glass doors leading to the swimming pool slid open, and a woman screamed as she pointed to a body by the pool.

Whispers flew as Dick Tracy lookalikes entered and probed the room for any would-be butlers. Finally, the party's fortuneteller confessed—she had done the foul deed because of an argument over an hors d'oeuvre. The jig was up.

For the Hart family, a little fun can mean hiring the troupe of performers known as Murder-To-Go Inc. of New York to entertain a town-sized get-together. The whodunit last January was just one of a series of Hart-hosted parties that have been attended by the cream of Las Vegas society, which numbers everyone from multi-millionaire hotel owners to civic dignitaries to showroom celebrities. The VIP invitation list of the Harts is the envy of every host and hostess in Las Vegas.

Few people turn down the opportunity to go to a party at this Superhouse, the residence of the showbiz Hart clan and possibly the largest and most entertaining home in Nevada. That's exactly how the Harts want it, although it didn't start out that way.

In an improbable phoenix-rising-from-the-ashes story, Toni Hart and her sons Larry, 25, and Garry, 22, built their house from the ground up after it was destroyed by fire three years ago. Located in a quiet residential section of Las Vegas, the 51-room house has 13 bathrooms, nine bedrooms, five fireplaces, two kitchens, and a roller rink. There are 116 doors, and five miles of electrical wiring. The ballroom alone has 6,300 square feet of floor space and a swimming pool.

Larry Hart, who won a Grammy Award in 1979 for best contemporary gospel song with "What a Friend," regards his home with wonder: "I really don't know how the house got this big. It didn't look this big on paper."

He admits that the 31,000-square-foot home is a bit ostentatious but insists that Hartland was built with a purpose in mind: to bring joy to people.

Indeed, the Harts aren't at all bashful about inviting hundreds of people over for cocktails, hors d'oeuvres, and a little music. For example, during a hiatus in the harried construction in 1983 they threw a Valentine's party for about 300 people to benefit the Hartland Foundation, the family's nonprofit organization that gives musical scholarships to handicapped and underprivileged children. To help lure the moneyed people of Las Vegas, the Harts brought in a multi-million-dollar art show.

That event, although successful, was just a dress rehearsal for a May soiree called "Symphony of the Heart."

The benefit was produced and performed by Larry and his sister Linda, an actress, in Hartland's ballroom. Seated in that giant room along with the 600 local glitterati who bought \$50 and \$100 tickets was the Las Vegas Symphony Orchestra. Everyone was there to raise money for the Las Vegas Symphonic and Chamber Music Society and to join in a tribute to movie star Ginger Rogers. That evening Rogers received the Hartland Foundation's Lifetime Achievement Award for her contributions to arts and theater.

Last January's mystery-thriller party entertained guests from Las Vegas' mammoth Consumer Electronics Show. The party was sponsored by Infocom, Inc., a company that makes adventure games for personal computers.

For the Harts, crowds and curtain calls have long been a way of life. Back in Detroit, after Larry was born, they did not lead a cramped existence; the Harts lived



DAVID BROWN PHOTOS

The 35-foot-high entry hall echoes the immensity of the home's 31,000 square feet of floor space.



A 1983 benefit included 300 guests, an art show, and the Nellis Air Force Honor Guard.



At informal gatherings Larry plays the living room piano, one of six in the mansion.



Hartland's facade is modeled after Disneyland's Plaza Inn on Main Street, U.S.A.

in a 32-room house, where that seed for bigness no doubt was planted for later flowering in Las Vegas. Toni and her former husband Ralph were stars of a weekly TV show, harmonizing on inspirational music.

Larry as a pre-schooler formed a trio with his mother and father at a Pentecostal church in Dallas. They recorded their first album, and when Larry was six, he was a concert attraction with the Hart Family. But Larry's asthma plagued them. After a none-too-happy sojourn in Southern California, they moved to Nashville. The family troupe switched from gospel to

country music, and Larry landed a role on the country-variety TV show "Hee Haw." He also signed an exclusive songwriter's contract with Johnny Cash's publishing company.

Then the Harts moved to Las Vegas and decided they liked the city both musically and (for Larry's asthma) climatically. They played in lounges for a number of years, and Larry staged "Spellcaster," a long-running show at the Landmark. His sister Linda has been busy, co-starring with Robin Williams in the movie *Best of Times*, due out this summer. Larry is now working on the score for "Jukin'" with a

script by James (*Dukes of Hazzard*) Best and developing "White Tie and Tales," a spoof of Las Vegas production shows. He also has landed the star singing role in the \$5-million stage spectacular, "America," which will debut in Monaco in 1986.

Then there is Hartland to occupy any of his spare time. Hartland was once the site of two houses. In the 1970s, Lawrence Arvey absorbed the home of one-time Frontier Hotel owner Jake Kozloff. Arvey, who owned several hotel ice cream parlors and candy concessions, then built the dream house. "We've been told by several real estate people that Arvey was constructing the house for Elvis Presley, and that Presley had lived there at one time," Larry says. But Arvey left town, and five years ago the strange, elongated, abandoned house-plus-house was discovered and claimed by the Harts.

Then came the blows. The south home caught fire and burned to the ground. Less than a year later the Harts returned from a tour primed for an enormous rebuilding project, but the day before they were to start reconstruction the entire north end went up in flames. It was uninsured.

"To say the least, we were devastated," Larry says. "Having purchased the property and not being ones to give up, and suckers for punishment, we continued on with the house."

Uninitiated in the rigors of home construction, the Harts soon had nothing but a cement floor, framed exterior walls, and lots of bills. "We cashed life insurance policies, closed savings accounts," he recalls.

"My mom, brother, and I have physically built the house ourselves. We spread the trusses over the roof. We sheathed the mansards. Mom brought in an electrician, and Garry acted as his apprentice and assistant. He did all the vent work and with his help and the help of a friend of ours, we hung all the dry wall in the house—1,300 sheets weighing 25 tons. We are now experienced house builders." The house, he says, is scheduled for completion "somewhere between here and eternity."

The project has been called a "monument to the absurd" by Larry himself. "I guess Vegas influenced me," he muses. "You can't live here and not be influenced by all this. I keep having a nightmare that I'm going to wake up in a three-piece polyester suit, dye my hair black, and pencil in a moustache. I'm going to be Vegasized."

"But seriously, the house was built to accommodate things like we did for the symphony. My mom has always wanted to do things like this, to benefit others." □

Bill Willard of Las Vegas writes for *Variety* and has observed the Southern Nevada entertainment scene for more than 30 years.

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David Muench visits Wildflower Country

A band of wildflowers paints a colorful springtime portrait in the hills near Lake Mead. Most abundant is the desert gold poppy, a smaller version of the California poppy. The pale blazing star matches the poppy in height, about one foot, and blooms from March to May. The phacelia's clusters of purple flowers and strong scent invite nosy travelers, but don't get too close because the sap can cause a painful skin rash. Also mixed into this desert bouquet—can you spot them?—are the golden evening primrose and Arizona lupine.

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

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Hawthorne on the March

This Nevada town struck paydirt in the form of gunpowder in World War II, and it's been ready to boom ever since.

By John S. Miller



PERRY C. ROSE COLLECTION; INSET BY PERRY C. ROSE

The 1950s parade shown here has grown into a six-day celebration. The munitions depot (inset) is the world's largest and covers 237 square miles.

Armed Forces Day, celebrated every May in Hawthorne, is one of the few remaining signs of a 50-year love affair between the U.S. Navy and this small desert community. The town's annual celebration of thanks began right after World War II and was then known as Navy Day. Later it was renamed to salute all branches of the military.

The event is, in fact, a six-day celebration this May 14-19. Art shows, dances, barbecues, a depot open house, and a variety of fund-raisers highlight the week. A Saturday parade is the main feature with bands, floats, marching groups, and horseback riders. Last year's parade drew more than 100 entries and 5,000 spectators.

Hawthorne's enthusiasm for Armed Forces Day and devotion to the Navy are well founded. The town got its first taste of boomtown economics when the Navy arrived in 1928 and began building what is now, with 237 square miles and several thousand structures, the world's largest ammunition and processing facility.

The Navy provided work, helped pay for public buildings, and issued payrolls that put new life in merchants' cash reg-

isters. It also pitched in during emergencies. On one occasion in 1935 the Navy provided a truckload of marines to control a rowdy mob of transients from a nearby relocation camp who were intent on smashing up the town and terrorizing residents.

When America entered World War II, the Hawthorne Naval Ammunition Depot became the staging area for bombs, rockets, and ammunition for virtually the entire war effort. Ammunition was shipped by truck and the railroads, which hauled the battleship-grey boxcars marked "USN" all over the country.

From 1942 to 1944 the population of Hawthorne exploded from 1,000 to more than 13,000. The streets teemed with activity that would make any mining camp jealous, but life was a daily struggle. All the routine wartime shortages were magnified by the brisk economy. Defense workers labored 10 hours a day, six days a week. Decent housing was scarce. Tent cities and trailer towns sprang up. The Navy built 1,200 housing units in Babbitt, part of the military complex two miles north of Hawthorne.

Nearly all able-bodied local men were

in the military and notably absent during those years. Jack McCloskey, publisher of the *Mineral County Independent-News* (see box), was drafted into the infantry himself but stayed around long enough to get a glimpse of those hectic times. He recalls how hard it was to hire pressmen and linotype operators. "The depot had seven linotype operators doing defense work. We couldn't get even one." He ended up hiring off-duty sailors and marines to come in and work a few hours in the evenings.

His most vivid memories of that era include times when the main street was packed with crowds of female defense workers, wandering around between shifts like miners in a boom camp, looking for someplace to spend their paychecks. He also remembers men and women packed several bodies deep at the bar and the men getting into fights over who was to be served next.

"When it was over, it was over quickly," McCloskey says. "The construction workers and depot employees were the first to leave. Every Monday morning the Navy announced new layoffs and contract cancellations. Businesses started folding.



PERRY C. ROSE PHOTOS

Regulars meet at Joe's Tavern, a venerable Nevada saloon, to discuss world affairs. From left: Julie Howard, Dewey Benish, Danny Moss, Ernie Reeves, and Charlie Camsell.



The treasures at Joe's include the photo at upper right of late owner Joe Viani Sr.



DOUG MAMILLAN

Cecil the Serpent is on the Army's endangered list, but locals hope to save him.



The former Navy town sees a fleet only once a year now, during July's Walker Lake races.

Shops, jewelry stores, and many of the bars closed up. There was a man doing a great business all through the war running a hotdog stand on the main street. Even he had to give up and leave."

The town saw more people and economic activity during the wars in Korea and Vietnam, when Hawthorne served as an important ammunition center. But when each of those military efforts wound down, things became quiet again.

The Navy is gone now, replaced by the Army and private contractors, but reminders of its comforting presence likely will remain for eons. Earth-covered concrete bunkers, designed for ammunition storage, stand in long rows that ripple across the valley floor. Those bumps in the landscape might pass for natural geological features except for their ambitious regimentation—a sure clue to a government project.

Like most Nevada towns, Hawthorne has its roots in mining. The town was established in 1881 by the Carson and Colorado Railroad as a division headquarters on the line connecting booming Candelaria, 50 miles to the southeast, with civilization. From Hawthorne—named for road builder W. A. Hawthorn, who spelled his name without an "e"—freight wagons could roll to the camps of Aurora, Bodie, and Luning. But since those mines were soon in decline, Hawthorne reaped little profit from them.

At the turn of the century Hawthorne also missed out on the Tonopah and Goldfield strikes. Just when mining activity began picking up in those areas, the Southern Pacific Railroad bought out the C&C and moved the tracks to Mina, bypassing Hawthorne and eliminating its role as outfitter and staging area for prospectors and mining companies.

Misfortune again hit the town in 1926 when a hotel kitchen fire raged out of control, destroying most of Hawthorne's business district and claiming several homes.

A week later and 3,000 miles away, another disaster—one that would have an enormous impact on Hawthorne—took place. An explosion leveled the Navy's ammunition depot at Lake Denmark, New Jersey, and killed 50 people. As a result, Congress decided that such depots belonged in more isolated areas.

Hawthorne found itself on a government shopping list of western sites, but Herlong, in California, was deemed the likely choice. Nevada's U.S. Senator Tasker Oddie traded votes, called in markers, and brought the project to Hawthorne instead.

Today, Hawthorne remains a monument to hard work and eternal optimism, although after decades of disappointment residents are sometimes hesitant to discuss their hopes. The U.S. Census Bureau

insists population is in decline, but there are few homes for sale, and rentals are nearly nonexistent. Hawthorne's population seems to be holding steady at 4,200, with county-wide population estimated at 6,200.

Adding an incongruous note to Mineral County's housing shortage are several hundred government houses standing empty and boarded up in Babbitt. Bureaucracy dictates the properties cannot be sold or rented. The buildings alone can be sold, and then the buyers must haul them away.

The depot is rapidly fading from the residents' hopes as a means of economic salvation. The Army took over from the Navy and hired private contractors to handle daily chores. To area residents, the Army appears to have no plans for growth or change.

A symbol of the community's frustration and the Army's dilemma is a \$70-million ammo processing plant the Navy built in the 1970s and never used. It was designed to provide a place where old, obsolete munitions could be dismantled and disposed of without risk to workers or the environment. The Army has announced it will use half of the processing plant, but no new jobs are foreseen.

There's also the case of Cecil the Serpent. A gift from the Navy, the green, block-long float is a parade favorite around the state. The Army has proposed scrapping the smoke-breathing Walker Lake monster, but local groups are determined to keep him on active duty.

Mining continues to tantalize merchants and residents as a potential growth industry. Last year Dan Martin, general manager of Tenneco's Borealis mine, a gold and silver property west of Hawthorne, delivered a check for \$340,000 to the county assessor for 12 months' net proceeds. It is believed to be the largest Mineral County tax payment ever.

Fishing and boating are better than ever at Walker Lake, too. Recent wet winters have raised the shoreline more than 300 feet, greatly improving the quality of trout fishing.

The rising water also shut down a 12-unit motel by flooding the septic system and halted construction on Art Jones' lakeside dream home. When Jones, a retired building contractor, broke ground three years ago for a new family home in the Cliffs area, he was working 400 feet above the shore. He even took some heckling about building on a lake that was drying up.

Today Jones is building a second home higher up. With undiminished enthusiasm he observes: "I love Walker's peace and tranquility. There's not many people out here. The quiet may get boring but so does

(Continued on page 101)

Call Him a Newsman



Jack McCloskey, 73-year-old editor and publisher of the *Mineral County Independent-News*, is one of the last of sagebrush journalism's old guard. He has been newspapering in Hawthorne most of his life and would rather be called a newsman than journalist. "Too much college can ruin a good reporter," he says. "Graduates fancy themselves journalists." He has a similar view of the Nevada State Press Association's annual awards banquet. "Reporters should be writing to inform readers, not to win trophies," he grumbles.

Growing up in Tonopah, McCloskey worked afternoons and summers at the *Tonopah Bonanza*. He graduated from high school in 1929 and that December went to work for W.W. Booth at the *Hawthorne News* without the benefit of college or a journalism degree. With co-worker John W. "Scoop" Connors, McCloskey left the *News* and in 1932 scraped together \$200 to start up the *Independent*.

"A University of Nevada history book says we quit the *News*," McCloskey says, "but the truth is we were fired. Booth was panicked by the stock market crash. We were canned to cut costs—not that we were making all that much." Two years later, the pair bought out the *News*, and

McCloskey purchased Connors' interest in 1954.

The *Independent-News* is an example of hometown newspapering done well. Its editor doesn't have to answer to a board of directors or an out-of-town owner (although he sometimes has to deal with his daughter Joan, the office manager). The candor of his column "Jasper," widely reprinted around the state, is sometimes extreme. McCloskey is responsible for everything printed in the paper, which suits him just fine.

He has little time for bureaucrats who obscure the facts. "I tire of politicians addressing issues," he says. "You address mail. I'd rather they solved problems instead of addressing them." McCloskey himself is not above standing up at public meetings when a problem needs more than a simple addressing.

If statewide candidates want their puffery printed in McCloskey's paper, they have to include Hawthorne in their campaign swings at least once, and then answer some pointed questions.

Two years ago, the newsman suffered a heart attack. Bypass surgery put him back on his feet, but he had to make concessions to the doctors. The battered briar pipe, once a McCloskey trademark, is gone, and he walks several miles each day. Preferring to do his news gathering in person rather than by telephone, he stops here and there to visit and find out what's going on. Anyone who wants to talk to McCloskey is welcome to come along when he strikes out on one of his hikes. "Good way to get two things done at once," he observes.

One thing he hasn't given up is an occasional late afternoon draft beer at Joe's Tavern, where political fates and futures are discussed, if not determined, in the same breezy style as his newspaper.

Hawthorne Highlights

The seat of Mineral County, Hawthorne offers fine food and lodging and on week-ends a surprisingly lively nightlife.

Recreation: Walker Lake has good cut-throat trout fishing and water-skiing. There are campsites and boat ramps on the west shore. In the summer the lake hosts world-class speedboat races, fishing derbies, and other contests. The golf course at the depot may be closed to nonresidents soon, but check anyway at 702-945-7705.

Restaurants: Hawthorne has a good variety of eateries, including the El Capitan's casino coffee shop, the Embers dinner house, the Idle Hour, the Monarch Restaurant, Old Nevada Pizza, and

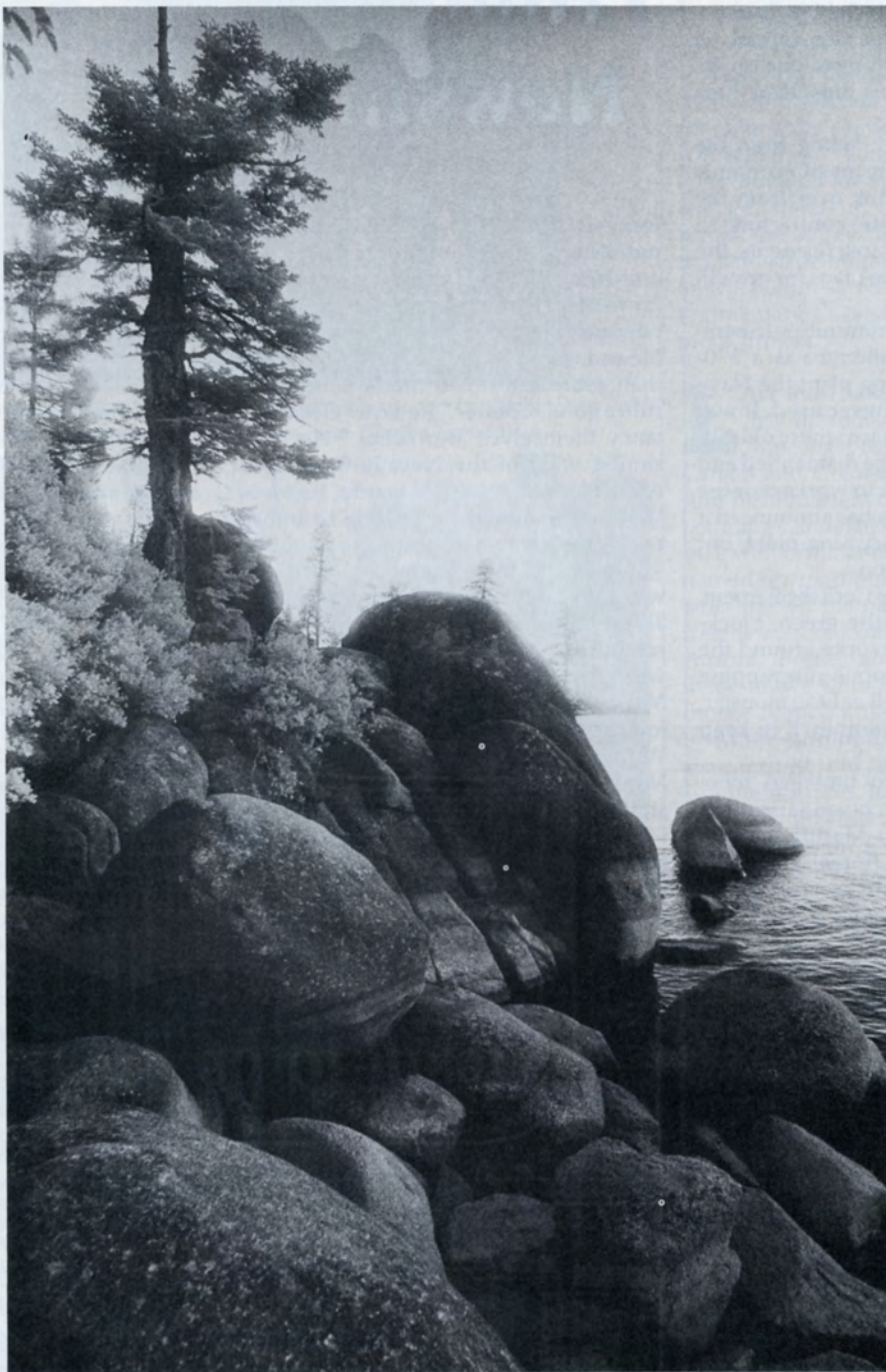
seafood with a view of the lake at Cliff House, 10 miles north of town.

Motels: There are nine motels in town, some with pools. Geologists and boaters fill the rooms some nights, so reservations are advised.

Nightlife: After dark many people gather at the watering holes on the main street. On weekends you're likely to find music at both the El Cap and Joe's Tavern.

History: Stop by the Mineral County Museum, located on D Street and displaying local artifacts and photographs.

Travel Information: Write or call the Mineral County Chamber of Commerce, Box 1337, Hawthorne, NV 89415; 702-945-5896.



RICHARD JUNG

Granite boulders line the scenic shores of Lake Tahoe, which at 6,229 feet is the highest lake of its size in the United States.

LAKE TAHOE WASHOE LAKE MORMON STATION BERLIN-ICHTHYOSAUR RYE PATCH

For lake lovers, music fans, and fish-lizards,
it's a special season at these five state parks.

By Roger Smith

Lying on the creamy brown beach at Sand Harbor, you can gaze across Lake Tahoe from a stone-skipping angle. A 12-mile sheet of blue fans out, its waves spangled with sunlight. On the opposite shore, the mountains hulk under snowcaps. With warm sunlight, the distant drone of a motorboat, and a cottonball cloud drifting past a peak, Tahoe can seem to be the laziest, most peaceful and perfect spot in the universe.

Lake Tahoe sits 6,229 feet high in the Sierra Nevada, about 35 miles from Reno. The lake has a surface area of 193 square miles and a maximum depth of 1,649 feet; in the U.S. no lake its size is higher and only Crater Lake in Oregon is deeper. But like many things beautiful and rare, Tahoe has spawned controversy: Should it be developed commercially or set aside as a park?

Happily, in the early '60s Nevadans decided to preserve at least *some* of the wilderness. Today visitors to Lake Tahoe State Park on the east shore can enjoy 13,000 acres of forests and beaches that



Sand Harbor offers Shakespeare and evening concerts under the stars. Above, Queen Ida and her band play on the beach.

are much the same as when the Washoe Indians were the lake's only residents.

This year the park has some added attractions—hikes, nature days, star parties, and trail rides—as it celebrates the 50th anniversary of the Nevada Division of State Parks. The system, which began with the Valley of Fire State Park in 1935, is featuring special events this year at parks throughout the state. You'll find a number of events this summer at four Western and Central Nevada parks—Washoe Lake, Mormon Station, Berlin-Ichthyosaur, and Rye Patch—as well as Tahoe. Details are presented in this issue's Nevada Calendar.

At the lake, developers, environmentalists, and officials are still arguing, but you can't hear them from the park. Its four sections are open year-round. Sand Harbor is the largest and most developed boating and swimming spot. Hidden Beach, a mile-and-a-half north, is great for swimming and sunbathing. A nude beach or two can be counted in the area, but they aren't encouraged by authorities.



Strong winds make Washoe Lake a favorite of windsurfers and sailors. Its dunes and shallow waters are also home for many birds.

Cave Rock is seven miles south of the junction of State Route 28 and U.S. 50; it has a boat ramp and good shore fishing. Spooner Lake is just north of that junction and offers picnic tables and restrooms. Like Sand Harbor, it has facilities designed for handicapped visitors.

In summer, hiking and horseback riding in the mountains are the best alternatives to swimming; vehicles are not allowed in the backcountry. Both Spooner Lake and Hidden Beach have trail heads. The trails lead up into the forested wilderness around Marlette Lake. Campers must make reservations (702-831-0494) beforehand for one of two backpacker campgrounds. Day hikers also should ask rangers about routes.

Washoe Lake: For the Birds

From the top of the Marlette area, hikers can look east and see Washoe Lake. A paradise for windsurfers and long-legged birds, the four-mile-long, two-mile-wide lake glazes the floor of Washoe Valley, just north of Carson City. Scuba divers might

disdain its waters, which are less than 15 feet deep, but other water-sportsters love it. Stiff Sierra winds give windsurfers and Hobiecats fast sailing, and regattas are held regularly. There's also room for water-skiers and fishermen, who roam the shallows for the lake's large channel catfish and white bass.

Washoe Lake's park area is located on the southern shore and has a boat ramp, dock, and campground. Good hiking routes include a one-third-mile trail along nearby sand dunes, where you can see cranes, herons, ibis, and other birds.

Mormon Station: Where It Began

Two valleys south of Washoe Lake, in Carson Valley, Hampton Beattie and six others built a trading post in 1850. As Nevada's first white settlement, Mormon Station, later renamed Genoa, became a county seat while Nevada was still part of Utah Territory.

A replica of the trading post and its fort now form a state monument, and at its museum you can examine relics of

Nevada's frontier beginnings. There is a pavilion for group events, and tables and grills wait under the fort's spreading locust and walnut trees for picnickers. The museum is open daily May 1 through October 30.

Berlin-Ichthyosaur: Miners & Monsters

One of the state's most remote parks is Berlin-Ichthyosaur, 23 miles east of Gabbs and 64 miles south of Austin. The park preserves two of Nevada's most amazing fossils—the ghost town of Berlin and the remains of giant fish-lizards that swam over the oceanic Nevada landscape millions of years ago.

Berlin thrived between 1897 and 1910 after prospectors found silver nearby. In its heyday the town had 300 residents. Time has touched Berlin more gently than other ghost towns, and you can learn how turn-of-the-century Nevadans lived by exploring the old buildings and mill. Rangers give talks and tours, too.

Ichthyosaurs thrived between 70 and 185 million years ago, and they were the



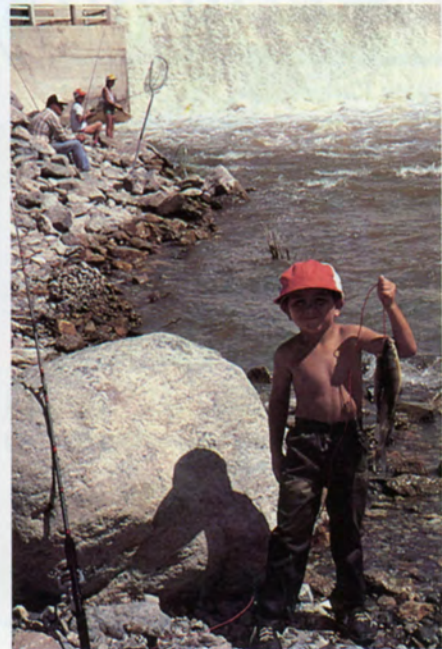
D. RONALD McMILLAN

The interior of this miner's cabin has been preserved by the state park system at the ghost town of Berlin. The town once had 300 residents.



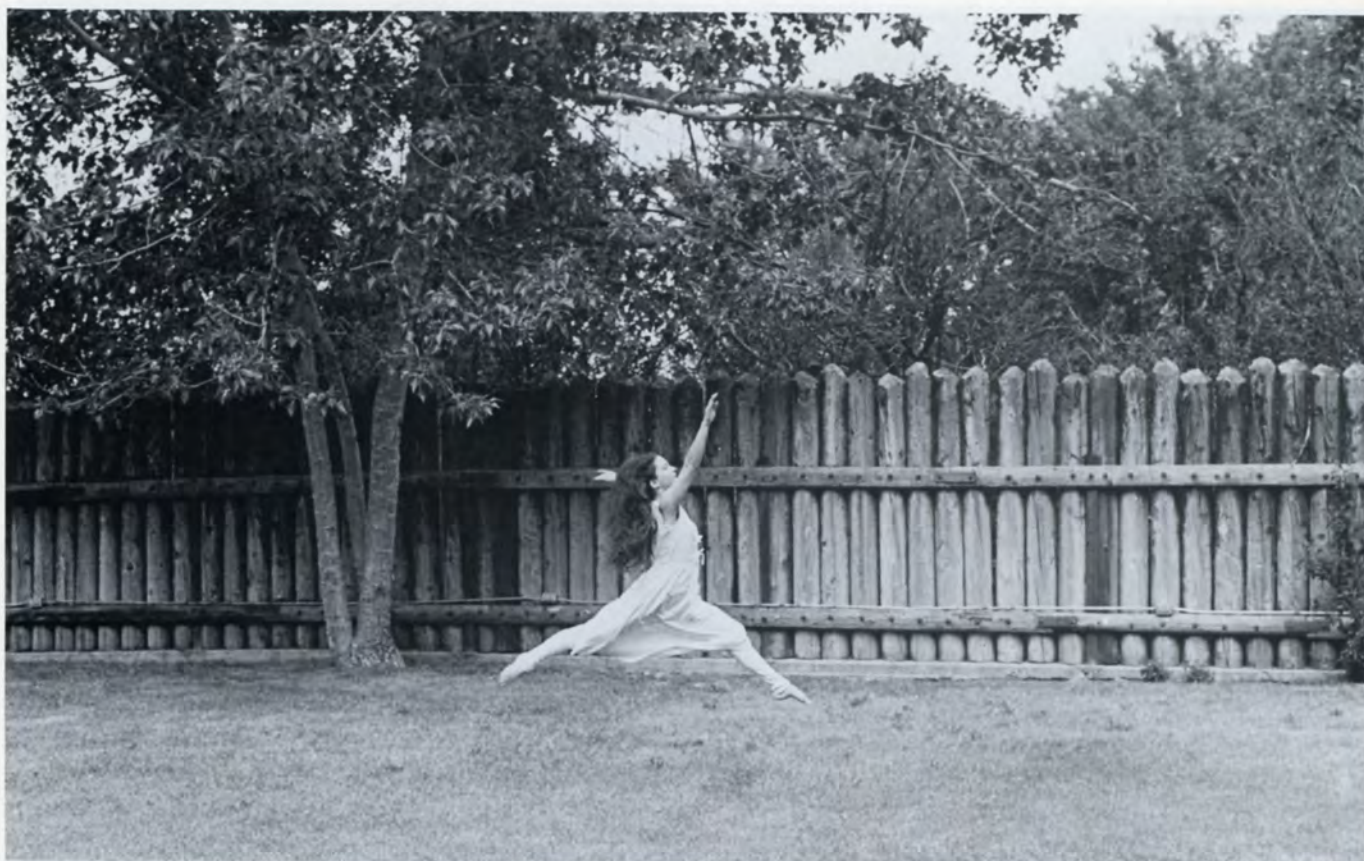
JAY MEIERDIERCK

A paleontological crew spruces up the prehistoric residents of Berlin-Ichthyosaur.



JOE GUMIENSKY

A happy fisherman at Rye Patch Dam.



A dancer takes a leap into the past at Mormon Station in Genoa, Nevada's oldest pioneer settlement.

biggest things alive in *their* heyday. Paleontologists have found their fossils almost everywhere in the world, but those in Nevada are the largest. One fossil at the park measures 50 feet in its bare bones. The Fossil Shelter contains three complete specimens, and rangers lecture there on the prehistoric monsters. The park,

State Parks' 50th

For more information on 50th-anniversary activities at Nevada's 21 state parks, see the Nevada Calendar (page 82) or write or call the Nevada Division of State Parks, Capitol Complex, Carson City, NV 89710, 702-885-4370.

You also can write or call for information on these five state parks; the area code is 702 throughout Nevada.

- Lake Tahoe State Park, Box 3283, Incline Village, NV 89450; 831-0494.
- Washoe Lake State Recreation Area, 4855 East Lake Boulevard, Carson City, NV 89701; 885-4319.
- Mormon Station, District II Headquarters, 1060 Mallory Way, Carson City, NV 89710; 885-4379.
- Berlin-Ichthyosaur State Park, Route 1, Box 32, Austin, NV 89310; 867-3001.
- Rye Patch State Recreation Area, Star Route 1, Lovelock, NV 89419; 867-3001.



which is about 7,000 feet in elevation, also has a picnic area and 14 campsites.

Rye Patch: Interstate Fishing Derby

Rye Patch State Recreation Area surrounds an 11,000-acre reservoir on the Humboldt River 22 miles north of Lovelock and just west of Interstate 80. Although best known for its fishing—walleye, catfish, crappie, perch, and white and black bass—Rye Patch has historical interest. About 8,000 years ago Indian groups fished nearby on the shores of prehistoric Lake Lahontan. Trapper Peter Skene Ogden visited the area in 1829, and later settlements included the mill town of Rye Patch. The park offers picnic areas, campgrounds, and a boat ramp. Anglers say the fishing is best in spring and early summer.

From June 14 to 16 anglers will have another inducement—a fishing derby with \$9,000 in prize money. Five walleye will be tagged, with one worth \$5,000 and four worth \$1,000 each to the people who reel them in. (A similar derby is scheduled for Wild Horse Reservoir July 19-21.)

The Rye Patch derby runs from 6 p.m. Friday to 3 p.m. Sunday, and registration will include an entry fee of about \$10. Park officials also hope to have prizes for the biggest fish landed at Rye Patch that weekend. □



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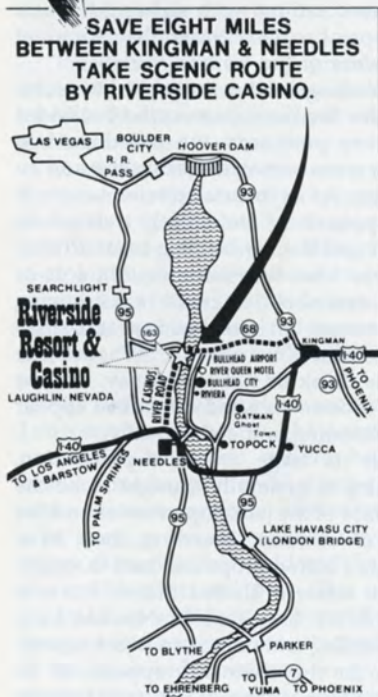
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HOW TO STUFF A WILD JACKALOPE

At Toiyabe Taxidermy, the legend lives on.

By Richard Menzies

As I was filling my tank, the sign in the window of the Austin gas station caught my eye: "Jackalopes For Sale." Inquiring within, I was informed the last one in stock had just disappeared down the road. Reading the look on my face as disappointment, the proprietor advised me it might be worth my while to visit his supplier at Toiyabe Taxidermy, just a few miles out of town in Reese River Valley.

A jackalope supplier? As I rumbled south along old U.S. 50, a kaleidoscope of fantasies whirled in my brain. An image resolved of a heavy industrial plant where scores of workers sweated over conveyor belts bearing antlers, pelts, and glass eyes. In another vision, I imagined a subterranean laboratory stocked with cages full of hapless rabbits and antelopes, a demented scientist hovering over a strange form on the operating table.

During the two decades I've roamed the West, the legendary horned jack-rabbit has been a recurring roadside attraction. In a museum of unnatural history in Dubois, Wyoming, I once sat for a portrait in the saddle of what was billed as the largest stuffed jackalope in the world. A bit farther down the road in Douglas, I came upon an even bigger one—a 1,500-pound statue standing guard over the town's business district like the Colossus of Rhodes. Or rather, stood guard until it

was accidentally smashed last summer by a drunken motorist on the very eve of the town's annual Jackalope Day celebration. One can only guess what thoughts ran through the driver's mind in the last frantic moments as the monster antlered rabbit loomed large in his headlights.



Taxidermist Sarah Rose is Austin's leading expert on the rare horned rabbits.

Not wishing to add mine to the mounting toll of cars wrecked by jackalopes, I've made it a point to always keep an eye out for wildlife oddities lurking ahead on the highway shoulder. Over the long haul countless jacks have darted into my high beams—and yes, like the delirious cowboy often credited with sighting the first jackalope, I could swear that some of them were of the horned variety.

According to the available literature, found for the most part on the backsides of picture postcards, the jackalope is a genetic cross between a jackrabbit and an antelope. As a cultural phenomenon, it also appears to be closely related to Bigfoot and the fur-bearing trout. Photographers who specialize in this sort of kitsch describe the creature as having "keen senses of both hearing and smell and a fondness for alcohol." Whether the animals drink or not I can't say, but the ones I've seen pictured do indeed appear to be standing somewhat stiffly.

With its large antelope population, Wyoming is generally thought to be the birthplace of the jackalope; however, after years of reckless breeding they have infiltrated coffee shops and bars throughout the western United States. I'm told that wildlife biologists in Nevada have tried mixing antelopes and jackrabbits, but so far the chemistry appears to be lacking. Hence the need for Toiyabe Taxidermy, where jackalopes are made and not born.

As it turns out, Toiyabe Taxidermy is a one-person industry operated by 18-year-old Sarah Rose, the eldest of four children of Steve and Cecil Rose, who migrated to Central Nevada from California eight years ago. The Roses live in a two-story log house and grow alfalfa and barley on 440 acres.

Sarah, whose logoed shirt proclaims her "the world's greatest taxidermist," declares she doesn't miss California at all and is perfectly at home in rural Nevada, where "you can go riding or hunting or anything you want, and nobody'll bug you."

About four years back, though, Sarah got bored and answered an ad in a sportsman's magazine placed by the Northwestern School of Taxidermy. Tuition for the correspondence course was just \$17, excluding raw materials, which are abundant, and free, locally. Sarah proudly points to a mounted menagerie that includes deer heads, chipmunks, pheasants—even a complete coyote.

"Shot him from the kitchen window," she explains.

Sarah has won ribbons for her work and says she hopes to go to a college this fall where she can stay involved with taxidermy. In the meantime, she's not doing badly mounting deer heads for trophy hunters each fall and, of course,

doing her part to fill the perennial need for jackalopes.

"They're in demand," she says. "I could probably sell hundreds in a year. I've been selling them in town at that station and across the street in one of the restaurants. Lots of people think they're real, but most people buy 'em for jokes," she adds with a note of indignation.

"We gave one to my grandmother once. We thought she'd love it, but she hated it. She threw it in a closet and put a blanket over it."

At my request, Sarah graciously showed me how to stuff a wild jackalope. First, you take a jackrabbit. Sarah shoots her own or finds them lying alongside the road, although most of those "are pretty smashed up." Then she skins them, treats the pelts with a powdered preservative, and lays them away in the family food freezer.

She orders the jackalope molds from a Louisiana supply house. They come complete with two-point antlers, but for a small extra charge she will attach a spread of the customer's choice. Thereafter it gets a bit gory, as Sarah stretches the lifeless rabbit skin over the mold and fixes it in place with glue and pins. The ears are propped up with bent sections of clothes hanger wire, and eyes are attached. Finally the creature is mounted on a wooden plaque bearing a handmade label identifying it as a genuine "Great Basin Jackalope."

Attached to the antlers is an instruction manual, also neatly hand-printed. It says, "Jackalopes are sun-sensitive, so keep them away from direct sunlight. They need no food or water. The only attention they need is having their eyes cleaned with glass cleaner, and having the dust blown out of their coats with a hair dryer." A hare dryer is even better, if you happen to have one.

After putting Sarah to so much trouble, I felt obligated to buy one. At first I figured I'd take it home, throw it into a closet, and put a blanket over it. Or maybe I'd hang it over the fireplace as a conversation piece to offend the good tastes of my upscale friends.

Well, I did hang it up when I got home, and it hangs there still. And the more I look at it, the more I like it. My friends like it, too; they say there's a sincerity and straightforwardness about it that grows on you.

I can't exactly put my finger on it, but the more I look at it, the more I'm inclined to believe that jackalopes are real, after all. □

Richard Menzies of Salt Lake City is usually on the road when not writing movies. He says readers interested in ordering jackalopes can write Toiyabe Taxidermy, Route 6, Box 6, Austin, NV. 89310 through summer.



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Nevada 85

**Winning picks from
Elko's annual photo tour.**

The Nevada 85 traveling photo show is a spellbinding gallery of the Silver State's subtle moods and saucy postures. This year the Northeastern Nevada Museum's contest enticed 178 seasoned professionals and aspiring amateurs to enter their finest portraits of Nevada life. That meant a great deal of work for museum director Howard Hickson, who founded the contest 11 years ago. It also meant some tough decisions for judges Tom Clark and Chris Pricaulx of Elko and Nevada publisher C. J. Hadley, who had to choose from more than 1,000 prints and slides. Renowned as the most-attended art event in Nevada—81,000 people saw it last year—the show will visit 11 Nevada towns. Presented here are some winning selections, a list of top finishers, and a schedule of the Nevada 85 tour de photo.



"I Voted Republican"
Bunny Hill, Ely
Merit, Black and White



"Faris"
Ed Opsitos, Minden
4th (Tie), Black and White



"Aspens, Spooner Summit"
Barbara Van Fleet, Zephyr Cove
Best of Show, Color Prints



And the Winners Are . . .

Color Prints

Best of Show: "Aspens, Spooner Summit," Barbara Van Fleet, Zephyr Cove. **1st:** "A Quarter Second in a Roper's Life," Tad Cheyenne Schutt, Las Vegas. **2nd:** "Joe's Glove," Nancy Budrow, Portland, OR. **3rd:** "Frosted Tree, Washoe Lake," Jane T. Johns, Carson City. **4th (Tie):** "Swan in Snowstorm," George H. Taylor, Elko, and "Back in the Saddle Again," Tracy A. Mori, Tuscarora.

Merits: "Night Depot" and "Fall Color," Nancy Budrow, Portland, OR.; "Organized Clutter," George Carnes, Ely; "Checking It

Out," Tammi Cavender, Elko; "Winter's Coat," Sonnia Gore, Reno; "Ray of Sunlight," Lynn Janssen, Minden; "Saloon," Cynthia Smith, Elko; "Ancient Shells," Jim W. McGuire, Reno; "Basin and Range," William Roeber, Winters, CA.; "On the Trail," Connie Satterthwaite, Tuscarora.

Black and White Prints

Best of Show: "Debris, Old V&T Boxcar," James C. Gilmore, Carson City. **1st:** "Miles on the Windshield," Tad Cheyenne Schutt, Las Vegas; **2nd:** "Form," Tad Cheyenne Schutt, Las Vegas; **3rd:** "Forming Thunderhead," Harry Upson, Reno. **4th (Tie):** "Tony Lama Still Life," Tad Cheyenne Schutt, Las Vegas, and "Faris," Ed Opsitos, Minden.

Merits: "I Voted Republican," Bunny Hill, Ely; "Indian Maiden" and "General Store," Nancy Lynn Judd, Las Vegas; "Mental Preparation," Tad Cheyenne Schutt, Las Vegas; "Tahoe Dream," Harry Upson, Reno.

Color Slides

Best of Show: "Balloonscape," Jean Ford, Las Vegas. **1st:** "Sorenson's Barn," John T. Biale, Carson City. **2nd:** "Blue Jay with Pinon Cones," Jane T. Johns, Carson City. **3rd:** "Solitude," Tammy Mori, Tuscarora. **4th:** "Skydance," Charles T. Ellis, Elko.

Merits: "Fall Storm," Alan L. Bittler, Reno; "Hay and Pitchforks," Patricia L. Coyner, Carson City; "Biggest Little Reflection," Gregg Hoff, Reno; "Sun and Storm" and "Carson City



"A Quarter Second in a Roper's Life"
Tad Cheyenne Schutt, Las Vegas
 1st, Color Prints



"Balloonscape"
Jean Ford, Las Vegas
 Best of Show, Color Slides



"Red Barn in a Blizzard"
Ellen Kallery, Ely
 Merit, Color Slides

Pastureland," Jane T. Johns, Carson City; "Red Barn in a Blizzard," Ellen Kallery, Ely; "Now I Lay Me Down to Sleep," Charlene B. Kell, Las Vegas; "Fearless Climber," Doyen Salsig, Flagstaff, AZ.; "Reno From in Front of the Mapes," Ronald C. Seipel, Hayward, CA.; "The Old Corner," Laura Tennant, Dayton.



"Fearless Climber"
Doyen Salsig, Flagstaff, AZ.
Merit, Color Slides



"Frosted Tree, Washoe Lake"
Jane T. Johns, Carson City
3rd, Color Prints



"Debris, Old V&T Boxcar"

*James C. Gilmore, Carson City
Best of Show, Black and White*



"Miles on the Windshield"

*Tad Cheyenne Schutt, Las Vegas
1st, Black and White*

Where to See the Show

The Nevada 85 traveling photo show, which appeared in Elko and Winnemucca earlier this spring, will visit these towns this year.

Lovelock: April 24-May 7, County Library

Reno: May 16-June 18, County Library

Reno: June 21-July 9, Hist. Soc. Downtown

Carson City: July 17-Aug. 20, State Museum

Genoa: Aug. 28-Sept. 10, Courthouse Museum

Fallon: Sept. 16-Oct. 1, Community Center

Tonopah: Oct. 9-22, Central Nevada Museum

Las Vegas: Oct. 30-Nov. 27, LV Library

Ely: Dec. 7-Jan. 2, 1986, County Library

Pioche: Jan. 10-30, County Courthouse □

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To learn more about how we can be of help to you, ask your family physician or call us direct. We will be happy to send you a schedule of upcoming classes. For a free brochure, call **Northern Nevada Diabetes Center** — Sparks Family Hospital — at 356-4014, or write us at P.O. Box 7000, Sparks, Nevada 89431.

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TRUCKEE TROPHY TROUT

Reno's 'Type B' anglers are just wild about the river's throw-back section.

By Terry Dove

The Truckee is Nevada's most heavily fished river. Anglers line its banks on holiday weekends, and each year the river receives more than 100,000 planters, the young fish that are carefully raised at Nevada Department of Wildlife hatcheries.

The chances of catching a wild trout in the river are usually slim. That's fine if your goal is a handsome string of pan-fryers, but if you prefer the thrill of stalking a large, wily trout, you have to look hard for the wild ones.

Still, anglers say that in 10 years the Truckee could be one of the best trout streams in the West. It could splash with big browns and rainbows, and along with gaming and skiing, Reno could boast about the fantastic fishing close to town.

Local sportsmen are trying to prove their point with a mile-long trophy stretch south of Verdi. Opened in 1982, the area allows fish to reproduce naturally and grow to a larger size than in heavily fished areas. Beginning at the diversion dam near Verdi, the trophy water extends upstream to the California border. Nevada regulations forbid bait fishing there; only flies and lures are permitted. Anglers can keep two fish per day with a 14-inch minimum, while the rest of the river allows five per day with no minimum size. The trophy area will not be planted, and 25 miles of wild water upstream and the dam downstream help keep planters from swimming in.

The idea is not unique in the Sierra. Since 1975 similar regulations have governed the East Walker River below Bridgeport in California. Once a mediocre angling stream, the little river now has excellent brown trout fishing. Five-pounders are not uncommon, and anglers occasionally land monsters over 10 pounds.

Five years ago Mark Warren, a biologist with the Nevada Department of Wildlife, thought that a trophy stretch would work on the Truckee. "I began asking anglers about the idea during my creel checks," Warren says. "Most people seemed to be in favor of the idea. After that, we felt it was worth discussing at our game board meeting."

A lot of support came from the Truckee River Fly Fishers, a Reno-based conservation organization devoted to better fishing for all anglers. One of the club's goals had been to see at least part of the Truckee managed as a wild stream.

The proposal opened an old can of worms as it sparked debate between two groups of local anglers. Those known as "Type A" anglers—the great majority—objected to restrictions that would limit the catch. They prefer the freedom of catching a mess of fish to eat or show off, and planters are just fine. On the other hand, "Type B" anglers, mostly fly fishermen and including supporters of the trophy area, tend to turn their noses up at hatchery fish.

The Truckee's trophy area is three years old. Has it made a difference?

"It's still too early to look for any obvious results," says Warren. He says he sampled the area in October 1983 with a stream shocker, a device that temporarily stuns the fish for counting. The results were encouraging. Although fewer in number, the fish there averaged an inch longer than their downstream counterparts. A sampling last year showed more young fish—another good sign.

The trophy area is best reached by parking at the end of Quilici Ranch Road, which begins on the south side of Verdi. From there, anglers can hike upstream along the east bank or cross the railroad bridge to fish the west bank. Access is also possible at turnoffs on Interstate 80.

The water moves fast, and there are many boulders and small pockets. Spin fishermen will do well with Mepps and Roostertail spinners used carefully behind boulders and along undercut banks. In deep pools, a Flatfish or Rapala worked slowly along the bottom may yield some surprisingly big browns.

Dave Bryeans of Reno spends a lot of time fly fishing the Truckee. "It's primarily a caddis and stonefly stream," he says, "so stick with patterns that resemble their nymph and adult forms. The little yellow stonefly is especially effective."

For real lunkers, he recommends a different tactic. "They're tough to catch, but you can get them by fishing right at dark with big streamers. I'd use a Muddler, Marabou Muddler, or leech pattern. Fish them deep. There are some browns in there so big they'd scare you."

No matter what method you employ in this special area, the barbs should be pinched down on the hooks. That will help reduce injury to the fish when released and increase the Truckee's chances of becoming a first-class home for wild trout. □

Terry Dove lives in Portland, Oregon, and works in publishing. The former Reno resident is a self-confessed "Type B" fisherman.

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LETTERS (Continued from page 19)

When I showed Dr. Bill Clewlow the Black Rock site, his first words were, "Are you sure it's a mammoth?" I said, "What the hell else could it be?"

Also, now that the animal is excavated you'll note there were no tips on either tusk, as was mentioned in the article. I guess what I'm sayin' is next time you write about somebody who discovers something, talk to them firsthand if you can, and you won't have to call all over the West instead.

Steve Wallman
Grants Pass, OR.

Sorry, Wallman. I tried to phone you, but you were harder to find than the mammoth.—JC

From Yerington to Mason

In your February issue you have a story about Yerington, and you state that Yerington is in Mason Valley, but you make no mention of the town of Mason. I was born in Mason, Nevada, on August 7, 1925. It's three miles southwest of Yerington.

Guy E. Hurd
Death Valley Junction, CA.
Hurd, if you like to buck hay, see the Nevada Calendar for this year's Mason Day.—Ed.

Thank you for the fine article about Yerington, the best kept secret in Nevada, or at least it was. In contrast to Roger Smith, I was born and raised in Reno but now live in Yerington by choice—a most delightful community full of wonderful people.

Gladys McCulloch
Yerington, NV.

I have been reading the *Nevada Magazine* for a very long time and was delighted when I saw an article with a Yerington heading. But I was amazed at what I read. The National Guard Armory is on North Main Street, the Mormon Church is a block south and three blocks east of that, and both Baptist churches are on the same side of Oregon as the Mormon Church—one is three blocks south. There has been no V.F.W. Hall for many years.

We do have a post office on Main Street but we do not have a stoplight at all, just a blinking light.

There never was a bar named "Switch." It was a dance hall and was made of willows. It was just off Main Street about the present location of the Rex Drug.

My mother's family came to Mason Valley in 1871 and my father's came in 1880. As I am not a kid, I know a good deal of background firsthand. I've been here nearly 86 years.

Georgia L. Powers
Yerington, NV.

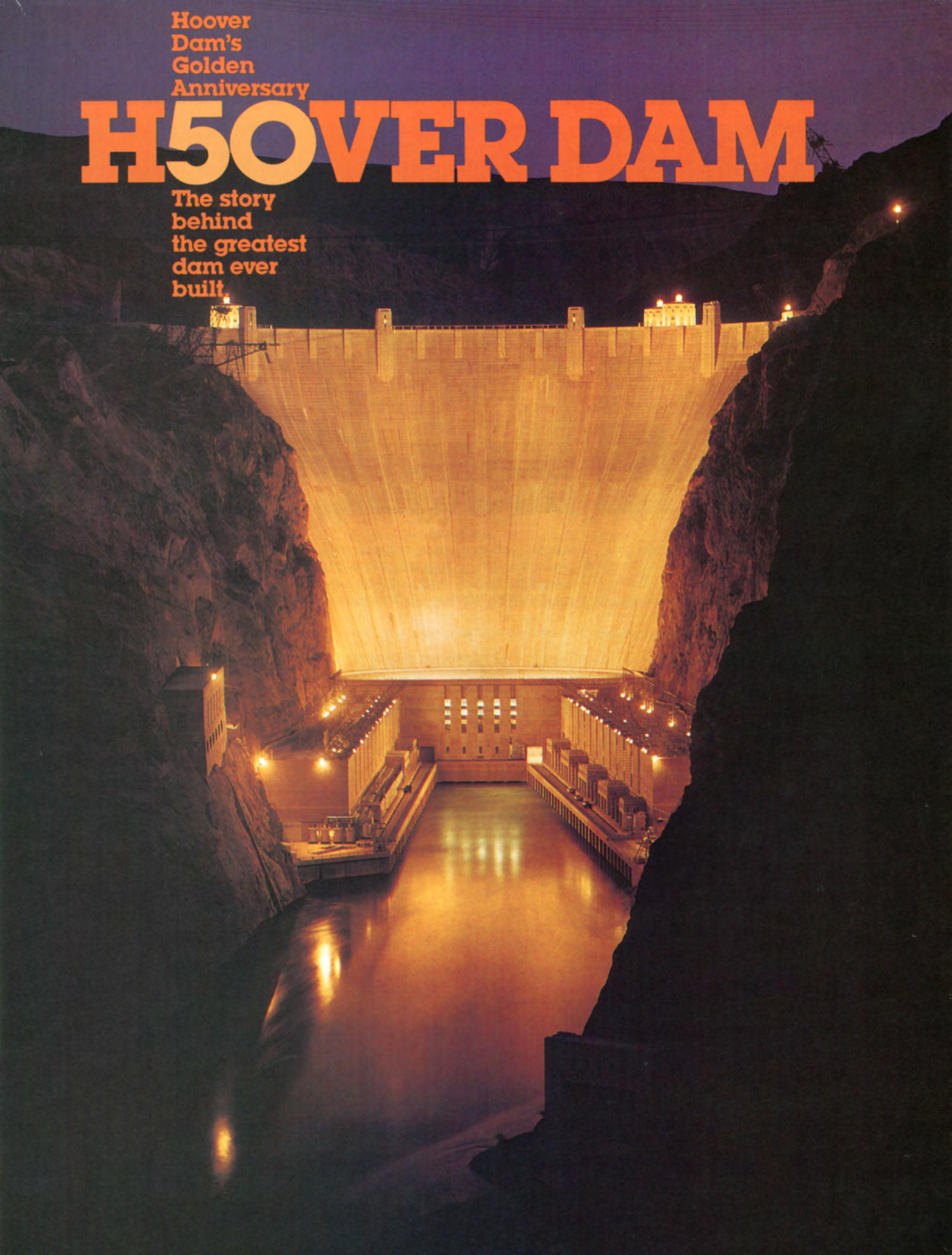
Mine Is His

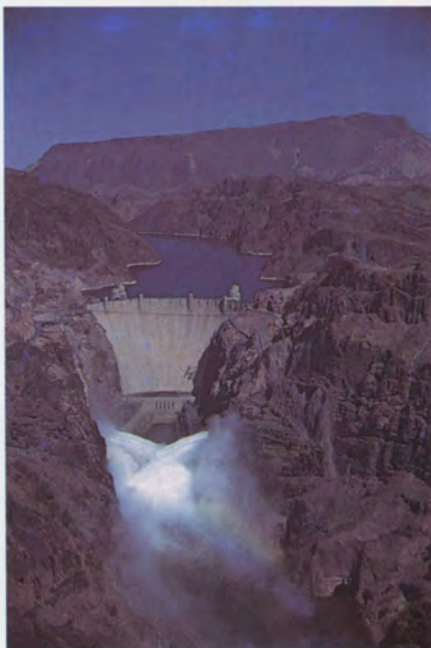
May I bring to your attention an apparent error in photo credit in the March/April '85 issue. The photo of the leaning mine
(Continued on page 80)

Hoover
Dam's
Golden
Anniversary

H50VER DAM

The story
behind
the greatest
dam ever
built





CLIFF SEGERBLOM

History

The dam's remarkable story includes the historic day in 1941 when the canyon wall outlets were opened wide.



BOB McKEEVER



DON WOODS

Tours

Sightseers can inspect the dam from the top or take interior tours conducted by Bureau of Reclamation guides.



CLIFF SEGERBLOM

Celebrations

Las Vegas and Boulder City are hosting 50th anniversary events. Above are 1935 issue stamps available from the new Boulder City Museum.



Hoover Dam Country

The Building of a Legend

Half a century after FDR came to dedicate it,
the world's first super dam
still awes with its grace, power, and purpose.

By Robert Kerr

Fifty years ago this summer, a crew of visionary builders finished wedging a six-million-ton hunk of concrete between the walls of Black Canyon, a deep gorge on the Colorado River 30 miles east of Las Vegas. From the heavy shadows of the Great Depression, the rest of the nation looked on in wonder.

Franklin D. Roosevelt, a president who believed in the federal largess that made massive projects like Hoover Dam possible, came to pay tribute. This dam, he told the 10,000 people gathered for the ceremonies and millions more listening to their radios, is your future.

For the modern American West, those words proved to be more than political rhetoric. In terms of economics and quality of life, the western Sunbelt that has

followed the construction of Hoover Dam is light years from the barren land that existed before. The dam's water and dirt-cheap electricity spawned metropolises in Los Angeles, Phoenix, San Diego, and, of course, Las Vegas, where only sleepy desert villages had stood before. The taming of the Colorado turned Southern California's valleys into an endless garden, and the dollars that financed the project vaulted San Francisco into the front ranks of the nation's banking centers.

This September another crowd will gather at Hoover Dam, and another president, Ronald Reagan, has been invited to appear for the dam's golden anniversary ceremonies—a president with radically different politics, but who all the same represents the future that FDR forecast for

the West as a region of rising influence.

Although the millions who drive over Hoover Dam each year spend little time considering its political implications, few visitors can ignore its commanding physical presence.

The effect of driving through that craggy mountain pass and suddenly coming upon the dam can be staggering. One can only wonder at how men—mere ants against these towering walls—could have ever climbed down into this desolate place and built such a monument.

Yet the proposition of damming these waters was one that empire-builders began considering nearly a century ago. Land developers realized in the 1890s that with strategically dug ditches they could divert the waters of the Colorado down



When work at the damsite began in 1931, the first job was to get power, a cement plant, roads, bridges, and a railroad line into the canyon. To protect themselves from falling debris, workers wore safety helmets or "hardboiled hats" as they were called.



Highscalers had one of the most dangerous and important jobs on the project. Suspended on bosun's chairs hundreds of feet above the river channel, highscalers used jackhammers and crowbars to strip away loose rock and also drilled blasting holes so that solid foundation holds could be cut in the canyon walls.

This photo shows crews at the bottom with giant shovels and trucks digging down to bedrock.

As the concrete in the dam dried, the process generated enough heat every day to bake half a million loaves of bread. To cool the concrete a refrigeration plant was built that could produce 1,000 tons of ice cubes daily. Without that help the concrete would have taken more than 100 years to dry.

into the sun-drenched, fertile Imperial Valley of Southern California. On the cheap land there they began promoting an agricultural gold mine.

But they could only cajole the waters, not control them. Repeated floods, exacerbated by the developers' crude trench-work, were so devastating it became obvious that a more elaborate plan would be needed to overcome the Colorado. The lobbying began for a giant, federally sponsored dam to be built upriver. Businessmen, politicians, and other leaders who could see the immense benefits in such a project soon joined the cause.

After years of political infighting over how the southwestern states would share the water and electricity, Congress in

1928 approved the Boulder Canyon Project Act. (It was originally thought the dam would be built in Boulder Canyon, but Black Canyon to the south was deemed a better site.) Three years later the newly formed Six Companies, a consortium of western builders, beat out several more established eastern contractors for the job with a \$49-million bid.

The company faced a task so mind-bending even the two Wattis brothers from Utah, who helped found the Six Companies, had serious doubts. They were both in their 70s, and even though they had built many dams, none approached the magnitude or cost of this one.

But chief engineer Frank T. Crowe was, by his own description, wild to build the

biggest dam in the world. He was already considered the leading dam builder in the country, and he convinced the aging Mormon brothers to put their fortune on the line. They rounded up other investors, and the project began.

In the spring of 1931, Crowe, whose nickname was "Hurry Up," put more than 3,000 men to work in the 800-foot-deep canyon. There, 120-degree summer days made the granite walls literally hot enough to fry eggs.

Crowe ignored all obstacles. His crews built roads, rail lines, two huge concrete-mixing plants, a pipe factory, machine shops, garages, warehouses, and living quarters for the workers. They blasted out four tunnels through solid rock, each 56



A full day's wages and meals, too, were among the rewards dam employees were glad to have during the Great Depression. The average payroll was \$500,000 per month, and in June 1934 there were 5,218 people, the most ever, at work on the dam. The Six Companies built homes, dorms, a recreation hall, and a department store for workers, who also enjoyed excellent food at the mess.



A 30-foot-tall section of pipe weighing more than 150 tons is lowered by cableway into the entrance to a penstock "header" tunnel. The headers received water from the intake towers and directed it to the powerhouse to drive the turbines. Because the pipe sections were too large and heavy to be carried by rail, they were made at a special plant nearby and hauled to the dam by trailer.

The first automobile to cross the completed dam was driven by a tourist who was late for his own wedding in Wichita, Kansas. Superintendent Frank Crowe personally approved the crossing.

feet wide and 4,000 feet long, and through them, diverted the Colorado from the channel it had followed for 10 million years. Men with jackhammers dangled hundreds of feet in the air to clear the canyon walls of loose rock.

Then he started pouring concrete. For nearly two years, every day, around the clock, a 16-ton bucket of concrete was dumped into a form every 60 seconds. The dam rose up almost imperceptibly—each load of concrete raised the form's level only a few inches—like a pile of giant toy blocks until the pieces finally were all in place midway through 1935, creating a strong, graceful barrier taller than a 60-story building.

It was two years ahead of schedule, but even that was part of Crowe's design. He had originally come up with a bid that was \$5 million lower than any other contractor's by devising a lighted worksite and 24-hour work schedule that would enable his team to finish the dam in five years instead of the seven the government had allowed for it.

"There's something peculiarly satisfying about building a great dam," Crowe said. "You know what you build will stand for centuries."

He wasn't kidding. Engineers today like to say Hoover was "overbuilt"; that is, constructed many times beyond the strength that will ever be required of it. Crowe's design proved so effective that not until 1983 were the two giant spillways—each large enough to handle an overflow the size of Niagara Falls—ever called upon to handle excess water.

Record spring rains that year sent a four-and-a-half-foot wall of water crashing over the spillway gates at 120 mph for two months straight.

The water cascading over the Hoover spillways was so spectacular it drew particularly large crowds to the dam that summer. But even in more placid times the tourists keep coming, more than 1,500 a day on the average.

What brings them to Hoover still? It hasn't been the largest dam in the world



A dynamite blast shakes and clouds Black Canyon early in the construction. In the foreground can be seen the portals of the four diversion tunnels.

When they were completed in late 1932, two cofferdams, both earth-filled and temporary, were built to push the river into the tunnels and leave the damsite bone-dry. In a marathon effort, workers diverted the river in a single day.

If all the dirt moved in the dam's construction were handled by huge dump trucks, there would be enough loads to form continuous, simultaneous truck parades from Boulder City to New York, New Orleans, San Francisco, Seattle, and Chicago.



Each diversion tunnel was 56 feet in diameter and about 4,000 feet long. This gantry crane later delivered concrete that was poured into forms to give the tunnel a three-foot-thick coating. The tunnels were dug by a rig designed by river foreman Bernard Williams. The truck-driven "jumbo" rig had several tiers for jackhammers, and as many as 32 men could drill blasting holes at one time.

for years—in fact it's only the 13th tallest now. It has dropped all the way to 52nd place in electrical generating capacity. So why do we still journey there? What do we see?

For those who take the \$1 tour down into the dam—and nearly 24 million have—they get a chance to see the inner workings of the world's first super dam. When it was built, the engineers had nothing else to model it after. The elevator takes sightseers to the bottom of Lake Mead. At this point, with the water pressure against the dam some 45,000 pounds per square foot, no one minds in the least that Frank Crowe "overbuilt" the place.

At the dam visitors can see Lake Mead,



100 miles long and the largest man-made body of water in the Western Hemisphere. There are the great power-line towers that seem to teeter over the edge of Black Canyon before marching off to Las Vegas and Los Angeles. And over the mountain is Boulder City, the old-fashioned government town that has grown up with the dam that created it.

But in the end, the marvel of Hoover Dam may be simply that it is still there. It is 50 years old, and it not only still works, but it works as well as when it was brand new. The dam, like the Brooklyn Bridge and other engineering wonders, is a symbol of an American era when things were built to last. And did. □



UNLV SPECIAL COLLECTIONS PHOTOS

Looking up from what is now the bed of Lake Mead, the dam rises in great concrete blocks (top). To prevent cracking, the concrete's temperature was lowered by an elaborate system of one-inch pipes that carried cold water through the forms. The view looking downstream from the Nevada side (above) shows the ongoing construction of the two spillways, the four intake towers, and the dam itself.



The dam's control over the river was dramatically demonstrated in August 1941 after heavy runoff had raised Lake Mead to a record level. Bypassing the powerhouse and turbines, water was sent through the canyon wall outlets and into the river in brilliant cascades. This photograph was taken by Cliff Segerblom. "I understood it was the only time all the outlets were open at once," says the Boulder City resident. "At one point I was on that skip, which was carrying a number of dignitaries. Interior Secretary Ickes was on it, as I recall. I took some photos and then got off and ran around on top of the dam." There, with his camera, he captured a remarkable meeting of man and nature.

Taking a Tour

Inside the dam, where it's nice and cool year-round, tour guides will lead you through a maze of wonders.

When visitors on tour first look up at the full sweep of Hoover Dam's white face, towering nearly 500 feet above, they fall silent. Then they begin talking, and cameras begin to click furiously. If only to experience this view and the grandeur of the dam, the Bureau of Reclamation's guided tour is well worth the admission price of \$1 for adults, 50 cents for seniors with U.S. Golden Age Passports, and free for ages 15 and under.

But, in fact, the dam is a marvel inside as well as outside, and you can take a tour any day in any season. Tour hours are 7:30 a.m. to 7:15 p.m. from Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day, and 9 a.m. to 4:15 p.m. the rest of the year.

The tours start at the elevator on the Nevada side of the rim. (Times in Nevada are an hour earlier in winter than in Arizona, which is on Mountain Standard Time.) A 75-second elevator ride takes you 528 feet down to the bottom of Lake Mead. Your group first walks into a tunnel no more than eight feet high. Most visitors seem to chatter with anticipation here, although the seriously claustrophobic may be having second thoughts. Black, green, and white art-deco Indian designs can be seen on the terrazzo floor. The temperature is in the 50s year-round.

A tour guide leads you through the tunnel to the Nevada power-plant wing. A row of eight generators, each large enough to power a city of 65,000, hums as you take 53 steps down the stairs and then troop out to look up at the vast concrete face.

The guide ticks off a few statistics. There is enough concrete in the dam to build a two-lane highway from New York to San Francisco, the dam is larger than the great Pyramid of Cheops. Even though San Diego gets most of its water from the Colorado River, and L.A. some of its as well, 85 percent of the river's water is left over for crop irrigation.

Visitors often ask funny questions: "Is the water still good after the electricity has been taken out?" But guides say the most common queries are: "How many workers died building the dam?" and "How many men are buried in the concrete?" There were 96 workers killed during construction, but, the guides insist, none of them ended up in the concrete forms.

Questions answered, everyone continues to the Arizona-side power plant and then to a glassed-in room with a map illustrating the electrical generating operation. There you are standing in one of the original tunnels that workers blasted out to divert the river. The rumble you hear underneath is water passing through a huge pipeline—big enough to hold a three-story house—on its way to turn one of the turbines.

Then your group returns to the top of the dam, where the tour began 35 minutes earlier. Few visitors emerge disappointed.

There is more to see, too. Afterwards you can walk to the Exhibit Building on the west side. It features a working model of an electrical generating unit as well as old photos, newspapers, and other memorabilia. But the best offering is a topographical model of the Colorado River basin, with all its dams and cities, accompanied by a 10-minute taped talk. It presents an excellent illustration of just why Hoover Dam was built.

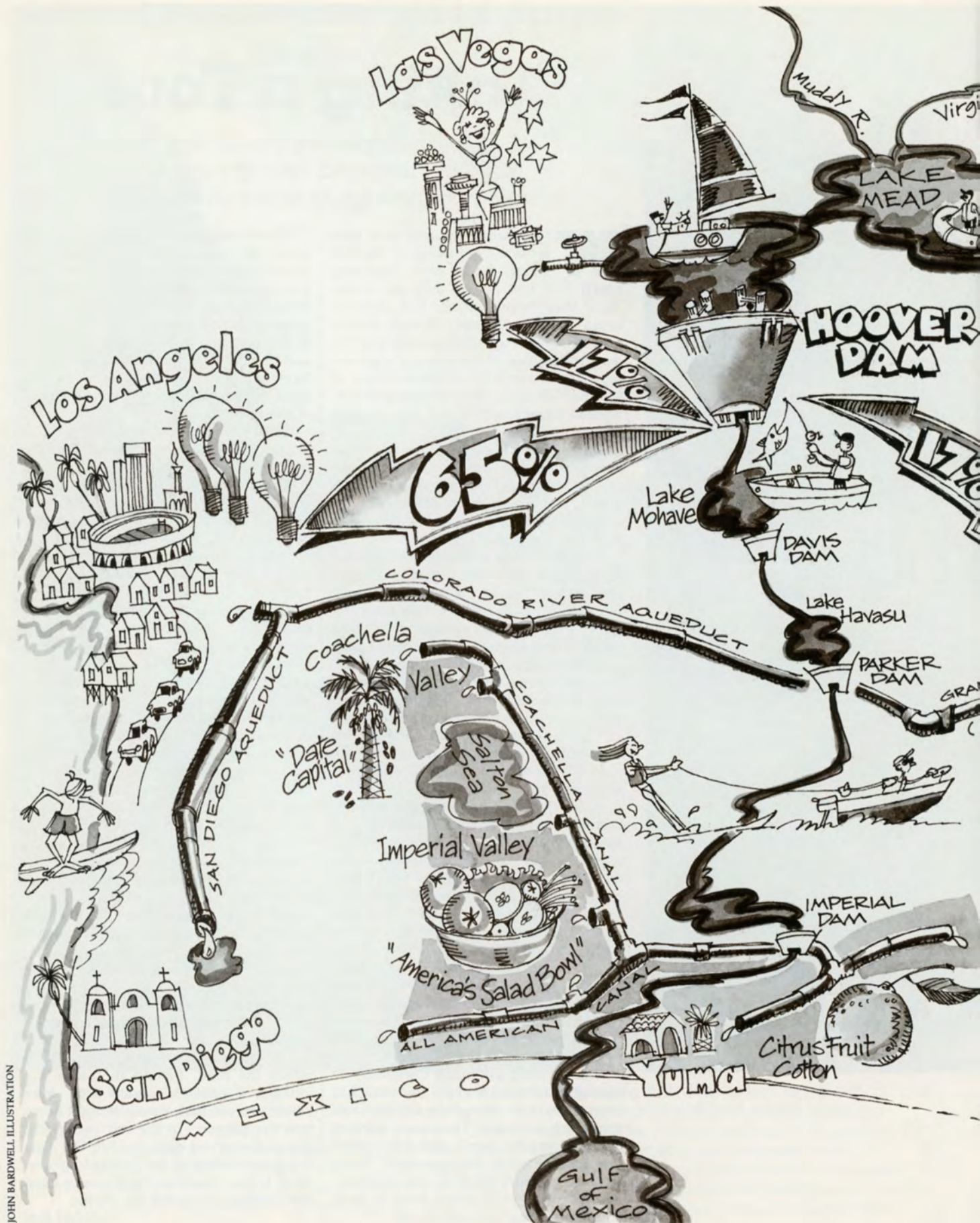
Up the hill from the museum stand two winged figures created by sculptor Oskar Hansen. Legend says that rubbing the toes of the 30-foot-tall bronze statues brings good luck. The figures rest on an elaborate, black marble star chart, which represents the configuration of the heavens at the precise moment the dam was dedicated on September 30, 1935.

A little farther up the hill is an air and water turnout, where a plaque on the canyon wall commemorates a stray dog, buried nearby, that the dam workers adopted as a mascot. Just past the plaque is the Hoover Dam Snacketeria, a tiny snack bar and souvenir shop with picnic tables outside. The house specialty is the Dam Dog, a quarter-pound hotdog. You also can pick up a copy of *Nevada Magazine's To Tame a Giant*, the whole dam story, at the souvenir shop for \$1.

Last stop is the Hoover Dam Store across the road. Behind the store is a lookout, a veritable eagle's aerie from which you can look almost straight down into the canyon. To the left swings the gracefully carved dam wall. To the right the green waters of the Colorado glisten lazily before disappearing around a bend and drifting on toward the Pacific.

—Robert Kerr





Power to the Southwest

Hoover controlled the floods,
nurtured farmlands, and
gave the desert a
high-powered future.

Hoover Dam may look like solid concrete, but it is, in fact, a precision machine. Day and night the dam's 17 hydroelectric generators—each as big as a two-story house—crank tirelessly, producing enough power to serve a city of half a million homes.

Since Colorado River water spun the first turbine in 1936, energy from the dam has fueled the growth of major cities and industries in the Southwest. When the dam was built, however, power was third on the list of priorities. Flood control and water conservation were one and two on the list. Although the dam had room for 17 generators, they were installed only on an as-needed basis.

But needs arose fast. By the end of 1939, seven generators were humming, and Hoover Dam became the largest hydroelectric power producer in the world, a distinction it held for 10 years.

The dam played an important part in World War II. Power was needed by defense plants in Southern California and also by a big new complex in Southern Nevada. In 1941 the town of Henderson was created, and Basic Magnesium contracted to manufacture magnesium bombs. Basic used up to one-fourth of Hoover's output. By the end of the war four more generators had spun to life, and when the last one was installed in 1961, the dam's capacity reached 1,344,800 kilowatts.

Today dozens of transmission towers stand on the hills surrounding the dam, some marching single file into the hazy blue yonder toward Arizona and Southern California.

Other towers muscle their way further

into Southern Nevada, where Nevada Power Company blends Hoover power with the more expensive electricity generated by coal-fired plants to serve Las Vegas. Until 1954 Nevada Power depended solely on the dam, but the Las Vegas area outgrew its percentage. Outlying towns served by the dam include Boulder City, Overton, Pioche, and Caliente.

Overall, the power divvy is: 17.6259 percent to Nevada, 17.6259 to Arizona, 17.5554 to Los Angeles, 7.9316 to Southern California Edison, 1.8475 to Glendale, 1.5847 to Pasadena, .5773 to Burbank, and 35.2517 to the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California. That last allotment is mainly for pumping water 242 miles on the Colorado River Aqueduct from Lake Havasu to the Los Angeles area. Five pumping stations lift the water 1,617 feet over mountains and deliver a billion gallons of water per day to L.A. In all, the government's sale of Hoover Dam power puts as much as \$40 million—the earnings from the high-water year of 1983—annually in government coffers.

Nevada brought a lawsuit against the feds for more power in 1982, but it is expected to be dropped because of a law passed by Congress last year. The dam's generating system is due for an overhaul that will increase its capacity to more than two million kilowatts, and the law promises up to one-fourth of that new energy to the Silver State.

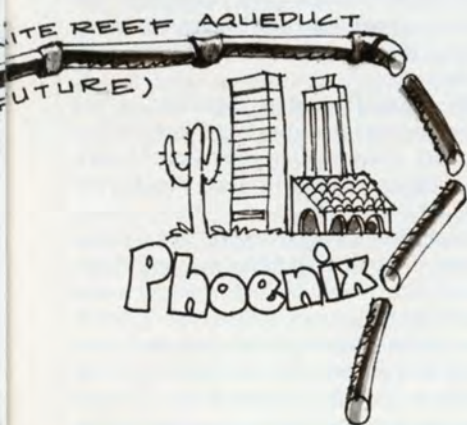
The modernization will have the same effect as adding five-and-a-half new generators, making the dam once again one of the most electrifying places on earth.

—Brad Peterson

LIFELINE TO THE SOUTHWEST

From L.A. to Phoenix, everyone depends on Hoover Dam.

Hoover Dam brings life and light to the Lower Colorado Region, the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation's domain in the Southwest that covers parts of Nevada, California, Arizona, Utah, and New Mexico. The dam and its 17 generators have fueled the growth of many major cities such as Las Vegas, Los Angeles, and Phoenix. As watermaster, Hoover and its offspring — Davis, Parker, and Imperial dams — have changed the Imperial and Coachella valleys from flood- and drought-ridden wastelands into lush agricultural centers. Lakes have been created, offering unlimited water recreation. Even half a century after Hoover Dam's dedication, no other dam has so greatly affected a region or symbolized so well America's hopes for the future.



Boulder City

This carefully planned government hamlet will always be the best town by a dam site.

Boulder City still has much of the charm of the 1930s, when the federal government created this model town to house the men and women who were building Hoover Dam, eight miles away.

At first glance Boulder City might seem dull, but Boulderites like to call it civilized. There is no gambling, which is banned by the city charter, although clubs thrive outside of town. Growth, too, is a matter of moderation. While the population has grown from 4,000 in 1960, when the federal government turned the town over to residents, to 11,000 today, further increases are tempered by a controlled-growth law.

Slots and high-rises are not part of the Boulder City scene. Instead, the first thing most visitors see is, amazingly, greenery. Lawns with shade trees abound, and there are several well-tended plazas and parks—each carefully watered and trimmed since the town's early days—where you can stretch out, read a book, or have a quiet

picnic on the grass. Then you might get an ice cream cone and stroll beneath the sidewalks' arched porticos. The ice cream and shade will be especially welcome in summer, when Southern Nevada thermometers regularly top 100 degrees.

Historic Attractions: In the "old town" district you'll find such landmarks as the recently restored Boulder Dam Hotel, the town's first and only hotel. Opened in 1932, a year after work on the dam and town began, it was the most important hotel in Clark County until Las Vegas became a resort center. Today the Boulder Dam Hotel is back in operation with an old-time lobby, downstairs bar, high-ceilinged restaurant, and 60 guest rooms.

Across the street is the Visitors Bureau, where you can take in free showings of a 1930s film about the dam. The movie is 28 minutes long and begins every 45 minutes, every day, from 9:30 a.m. to 4:15 p.m. Shown in a small but comfortable theater, the movie is a classic, providing dramatic views of workers digging tunnels, scaling

steep canyon walls, and building spillways and intake towers.

Two other local attractions relate to the dam. One is Frank T. Crowe Memorial Park, donated to the city by residents S.L. "Red" and Catherine Wixson; Red worked on the dam under Crowe, the construction superintendent. Also, the Filtration Plant at Ash and Colorado, two blocks west of the main street, is being converted into the temporary quarters of the Boulder City Museum and Historical Association by local volunteers. They plan to open during September's festivities.

Art Galleries: There are several excellent galleries in town. Austine Wood's, near the Visitors Bureau, displays her unusual polarized collages, or "polages." It's an exciting medium in which clear laminations, twisting and turning, are viewed in polarized light. At the Burk Gal'ry some of the Southwest's best artists show their works, while Brent Thomson's Gallery features his prints and the works of others. The Boulder City Art Guild has a small gallery, and every October huge crowds mob the town during the Art in the Park festival.

Sports: There's a new and enormous indoor-outdoor swimming pool in town, with racquetball courts on the premises. Tennis courts are nearby. Golfers can play at the municipal course, a nine-holer.

Lake Mead: Midway between the town and dam is the Alan Bible Visitor Center, information headquarters for Lake Mead National Recreation Area. There you can find out about boating, hiking, camping, fishing, animals, plants, and historic sites in the area.

Dining and Lodging: Boulder City has 21 restaurants, ranging from fast-food to gourmet. Overnighters will find 11 motels, with a total of 261 rooms, besides the hotel.

Nightlife: Lively evenings are not unknown in Boulder, but the flashiest nightlife is found at two clubs just out of town. The Gold Strike Inn, to the east, is about three miles from both the dam and Lake Mead. On the way to Las Vegas is one of Southern Nevada's oldest clubs, Railroad Pass Casino. The '31ers, an organization of early residents and dam employees, hold their annual banquet at Railroad Pass.

Herb's: At night downtown Boulder City is comparatively quiet, but diversions are offered by the movie house, several restaurants, the hotel, and Herb's Tavern. This friendly saloon is famous for its well-kept pool tables and a bar that looks at least a block long. Owner Fran Knauss makes this promise: "A free drink to everyone any day the sun doesn't shine in Boulder City." In this sunny town, she doesn't have to pay off very often.

—Gene Segerblom



Administration Building, left, overlooks parks in '30s.

GERALD AND CECILE CROWE COLLECTION

They were young then, and Boulder Dam, as Hoover Dam was called in those days, was just an idea they were trying to turn into concrete and steel. To those of us who grew up with the legend of the dam, it is disconcerting today to meet the people who worked on the great project. They look too ordinary, too much like us to have built this marvel. Did they know, even as they built it, the wonder of what they were doing? If they could speak across those 50 years, would they tell us, "We are making history," or would they say, "We are making a dollar"?

The young people who built that dam cannot speak. But some of the people they became—four men, one woman—can.

☆

Buck Blaine enjoys being out of work these days. He is 73 years old, plays tennis every day, and, as the retired former president of Las Vegas' Golden Nugget casino, is a wealthy man.

In 1931, however, being out of work was no fun. Blaine was an aspiring engineer and had surveying experience he thought would bring him a pleasant and well-paid job on the big new dam they were building on the Colorado River. "But when I got here there were 100 applicants for every job," he recalls. "It was an easy life. Nothing to do but lie on the grass and starve."

Standards change quickly under such circumstances, and when the surveyor was offered a job as a lowly mucker, he grabbed the shovel with both hands. One promotion later he found himself in what was perhaps the most dangerous job on the project—drilling holes in the canyon wall with a jackhammer, suspended from a rope 700 feet above the river.

"I did it for the money," says Blaine matter-of-factly. "I would do anything for another dollar a day. Mucking paid \$4 and highscaling paid \$5. If you set powder, too, it was \$5.60."

Even by Depression standards, those were not princely wages. If a mucker lived in the government dormitories at Boulder City, he was charged \$1.85 a day for room and board, leaving him \$2.15 to feed the family he might have left back home. Blaine was single, but he made arrangements to live in Las Vegas, driving to the dam each day and offsetting expenses by carrying five other workers for 50 cents each.

Blaine and other highscalers were needed to give the dam a solid foundation. Both ends of the dam had to be wedged into keyholes cut deep into the canyon walls. Then two cups had to be formed on the upper side to hold the intake towers. The only way to cut them was to drill and blast.

"Highscalers were a new breed of cat,"

The Legend Builders

Did they work on the Boulder Canyon Project to earn a buck or make history? Five Nevadans recall their days with the dam.

By A. D. Hopkins

Blaine says. "It was the first time large numbers of people had been required to work vertically." Safety equipment was minimal. According to Blaine, highscalers did not even use the extra safety rope that today's rock climbers routinely use in case the main rope breaks or they lose their grip. "If we lost our grip, we fell," he says.

Each highscaler put his rope around his body and walked down the canyon wall to the position where he was going to drill a hole. There was a bosun's chair tied to the rope at that level. "You sat in it and started drilling. You had to keep changing the steel in the drill as you got deeper and deeper, putting in longer steel each time. There was a safety belt on the chair, but we never fastened it unless we were doing something where we would have to lean way out, mostly when we were using a prybar to clean the loose rock off the cliff face after we blasted.

"We didn't lose as many men on the job as some tales would have you believe,"

Blaine says. But there were plenty of ways to die. "Say you pried loose a rock about the size of a truck bed, and as it fell it tangled in the slack of rope below you, the rope would break, and where it broke might be above you. So you had to be careful to keep the slack gathered up next to you.

"Some guys moved from side to side too many times and sawed the rope in two on the edge of the cliff.

"We lost some in ways that were their own fault, but some were just overworked. Haste killed men. You just could not loaf on that job. Say you took off your gloves while you were drilling to wipe the sweat off your face, they would fire you for that. There was no such thing as a coffee break. You drilled for eight hours, with the powder monkeys coming along behind you trying to pack the holes as fast as you drilled them. In the middle of the shift everybody on both sides of the canyon would climb out and wolf down a



Buck Blaine shows a photo of himself as a young dam worker.

WAYNE C. KODEY

sandwich. But that break was just to give them time to blast. As soon as they did we went back down. So some guys just didn't have the stamina and just got too exhausted to hold on.

"When we first got started we didn't know enough to eat a lot of salt, working in that heat, and people would get cramps that would pull your fist right up against your shoulder. The other scalers would come over and help them up off the cliff. Sometimes they refused to go back down again. Just quit. I've seen people who hired on as experienced highscalers walk up to the edge of that canyon, look over, and say, 'Not me.'"

But for most of them, the only ways out were getting fired, promoted, or killed. Blaine says, "The danger was just something we never thought about. We were glad to have a job."

☆

Clifford A. Jones sits behind a desk in a law firm that takes up an entire floor of the Valley Bank Plaza, Las Vegas' most prestigious professional building. One wall of his office is covered with a map of the world, pinned full of little green stars that represent places he has been in business, mostly hotels and casinos. Jones is 73 years old and could pass for 60, and when he stands up, he is tall and imposing, a man you wouldn't pick a fight with. He has been a district judge, lieutenant governor, and an amateur rodeo cowboy. Like Buck Blaine, he got his start in Nevada on Boulder Dam.

"My family had been living in Indonesia, where my father was employed by the Royal Dutch Shell Oil Company," Jones says. "My parents decided to settle in Las Vegas because they realized the building of the dam would give the place a future." After part of the family settled temporarily in Missouri, Cliff and his sister, Florence Lee Jones, who would become society editor of the *Las Vegas Review Journal*, reached Nevada in June 1932.

Financially comfortable, the Joneses invested in property around Las Vegas, but the bank containing all the family's savings folded. "I realized if I was going to college I would have to earn my own way," Jones says.

Nobody under 21 was hired to work on the dam, and Jones was 20. He decided to try for a job in Boulder City, but the town was a federal reservation, and armed guards at its gates turned away anybody who didn't live, work, or have business there. "But the workers up there were partly paid in scrip, which businesses in town didn't have to take but sometimes did. And if you took it, you could go spend it in the stores at Boulder City." So Jones got hold of some scrip, giving himself an ostensible reason to be entering Boulder

If all the dirt moved in the dam's construction were handled by huge dump trucks, there would be enough loads to form continuous, simultaneous truck parades from Boulder City to New York, New Orleans, San Francisco, Seattle, and Chicago.

City, and once there talked himself into a job at Anderson's Mess Hall.

His job was making box lunches for the dam workers. "Once, in 11 hours, another fellow and I made 6,500 sandwiches," he says.

In the summer of 1933 he got a job on the dam itself, as a laborer, cleaning up the concrete forms after each pour of concrete. "At one time I had to carry wet sacks of sand up a 70-foot ladder. I would estimate each sack weighed at least 100 pounds. If I hadn't been very determined to make money, I would have quit that night." After one-and-a-half months as a laborer, Jones got a job as a crane signalman; the crane operators were so high above the worksite that they could not see where they were lowering their payloads, so signalmen directed them by telephone.

Later he became a hook tender on Number Three Skip, a cableway that ran across the canyon. This job required riding across the canyon on a platform while delivering material. The workers boarded the platform at a landing built just below the canyon rim. The operator of the cableway could not see the skip as it approached the landing, so a signalman had to warn him when to stop reeling in cable. "One time the signalman tending skip went to sleep and failed to stop the skip, and we hit the wall and it dragged us up out of the canyon and dumped us out on the Nevada side. If the operator hadn't noticed that he had reeled in more cable than usual and stopped, we might have been killed."

When Jones was in law school, he had a summer job on the dam as a hook tender on a crane used in fabricating the giant penstock pipes. "One payday the crane operator was coming down off the crane and fell. He was killed, and that's how I became the operator." By the time the dam was dedicated in 1935, 96 men had been killed building it.

At Anderson's Mess Hall Jones earned \$60 a month, plus board and room, working 11-hour days. As a laborer he earned a princely 50 cents an hour and had to work only eight hours. "But it took you 12 hours by the time you left Las Vegas and drove to Boulder City and then boarded the bus and rode down to the workplace."

Apart from the economic necessity, there was another reason the workmen

put up with their jobs, Jones says. "There's a story I've always liked about a tourist in France who saw a man carving a stone. The tourist asked what he was doing, and the Frenchman didn't answer, 'I'm carving a stone.' Instead he said, 'I'm building a cathedral.' It was like that with us. We weren't just pouring concrete or operating a crane. We were building a dam."

☆

Cecile Dotson Crowe, now 73, had lived in Las Vegas since childhood, and in 1930 she became the first woman hired by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation in Las Vegas. "I went down to the old Mormon Fort to apply. That had been converted into a testing lab where they would crush cores of rock taken out of the canyon walls, to see just where the rock was strongest and would best support the dam."

She started as a clerical worker in the project office. Applications for work flooded into that office from all over the United States. "Somebody took a picture of me with a great big stack of them and it ran in the newspapers, and people started writing to me personally to try to get work. It was an awful picture, but I actually got marriage proposals out of it."

Turning the job-seekers' supplications aside, she married Gerald "Jerry" Crowe (no relation to engineer Frank T. Crowe) in the fall of 1932. Their first home was a company house built in Boulder City, and Jerry commuted to his job at First State Bank in Las Vegas. "People would come to our house and give money to Jerry to bring to town and deposit for them," she says. Even with a boom on, she says, both Las Vegas and Boulder City were the kind of small towns where that sort of courtesy was common.

She liked the social life of Boulder City. "There were a lot of couples our own age. Our homes weren't air-conditioned so we would form up in big parties, once the lake started filling up, and go down to the lake, and all get together at somebody's house afterward. You would go out on a weekend and explore some mining ghost town. It was a great town for bridge."

The fact Boulder City was completely dry didn't inhibit its social life. "The people were not the sort that needed

liquor to have a good time. Because of the times employers on the dam could be selective. And the people hired tended to be exceptionally reliable, nice people without many bad habits."

Perhaps for the same reason, the engineers who ran the project office where she worked were also the cream of the crop. "It was the only thing going in engineering, so they could hire the best." John C. Page, one of the engineers in the office, later became commissioner of the Bureau of Reclamation.

"I loved working for them," she says. "I think it is a mark of great men that they treat people well. If some grizzled old prospector came into the office, he got exactly the same treatment as some big shot from Washington. They were very special people. And when you dealt with them every day, you couldn't help but realize that you were in the middle of something very special."

☆

Dr. David Bruce Dill read a newspaper story in 1931 reporting that 13 people had died of heat sickness on the Boulder Dam project that summer.

Dill, a physiologist, was associated with the Harvard Fatigue Laboratory. He realized the project would be a unique opportunity to study heat stress, so the following summer he and a research team set up a lab in Boulder City.

As a result, Dill, now 93, is widely known as the man who invented the salt tablet and thus the man who stopped the heat-related deaths at the dam—even though he has been explaining for decades that he did neither.

"The salt tablet had been part of the pharmacopeia for years," he says. "It wasn't commonly used, though, and to my knowledge it never did come into use on Boulder Dam."

A Harvard Medical School researcher had written about the role of salt in preventing heat illness in 1904, says Dill. "But the knowledge hadn't filtered down to everybody. We sent out a brilliant young medical student named John H. Tolbott to do the advance work of the party, and when he arrived he found Wales Haas, the Six Companies physician, had put up in the mess hall big signs saying, 'Drink lots of water.' So Tolbott, who had read the paper written in 1904, got them to add, 'And put plenty of salt on your food.'"

That summer, Dill says, there was not a single death from heat illness on the dam project. "Only seven men even got sick." But he adds that while Tolbott's advice was sound, other factors were probably more responsible for ending the unnecessary deaths. "In the summer of 1931, some of the workers simply camped right down on the canyon floor, and had their



Red Wixson donated this park in the name of his mentor.



Cliff Jones, famous lawyer.



Dr. David Bruce Dill returned.



Gerald and Cecile Crowe inspect an old Hoover Dam scrapbook.

WAYNE C. KODEY PHOTOS

wives and children with them, 24 hours a day. They had no chance to get out of the heat. Also, these jobs were lifesavers for many of the men, and they came to them in 1931 in a malnourished condition, and were more susceptible to heat illness. By 1932, conditions were much better. The workers lived up at Boulder City and went down into the canyon only to work. We ate in the same mess halls the men did, and my memories are of vast quantities of excellent food."

Even though the legend exaggerates the truth, what the scientists learned at the dam had far-reaching consequences. By taking blood samples before and after men went to work, Dill's team learned that electrolytes in the blood become somewhat depleted in an eight-hour shift in great heat, but a 16-hour break and good food will restore the imbalance. Tolbott was able to build on the studies here and reduce heat illnesses in an Ohio steel mill by adding a small amount of saline solution to the workers' drinking water. As a result, a widespread understanding of heat illness was brought to industrial medicine for the first time.

Later Dill returned to Boulder City, setting up the Desert Research Institute's first program there. He was active until 1980, and much of what is known today about heat's effect on man, and other animals, is due to his work.

Among Dill's most unusual projects in the summer of '32 was an attempt to study how animals adapted to desert conditions. It was decided to measure how much liquid a dog lost in urine in one hot day. That amount would be subtracted from the amount of water the dog drank, and the difference would show how much had been lost in perspiration. "The Clark County Sheriff's office was going through the motions of enforcing Prohibition and had confiscated a very nice copper still with a cone-shaped top. We acquired this still, turned it upside down, and cut a hole in the side so we had a nice house for the dog, with the cone on the bottom to collect the urine." A dog was adopted from the Las Vegas city pound and put into the house.

At the end of the first day, however, the dog had not produced one drop of urine. "Couldn't figure it out at all," says Dill. "Then it finally dawned on us. This dog was housebroken!"

☆

S.L. "Red" Wixson was only 16 when he met Frank T. Crowe, the man who would be construction superintendent at Boulder Dam. Now, at 75, Wixson says it was the most important event in his life. "Crowe was general superintendent on a dam at Guernsey, Wyoming. I went to him for a job—first job I ever asked for in my life. Started out as a flunky in his kitchen."

Wixson stayed with Crowe's outfit through the building of Deadwood Dam in Idaho, Cromby Dam in California, and a couple of railroads in between. By 1931 he was a shovel operator employed on another job, and Boulder Dam was already underway when he arrived.

What he found was a project with Frank Crowe's trademarks stamped all over it. "One of them was the way you got the concrete to where the dam was. There were various ways to do it. Sometimes they built railroad trestles out over the dam, and sometimes they used a series of chutes, with the concrete just falling from one to another till you got it where you wanted it. But the best was a cableway built across the dam, lowering it in a bucket. Crowe had pioneered that method, and it was what we used here."

Wixson remembers seeing larger trucks and other equipment than had ever been seen anywhere. Wixson even patented one piece of equipment specifically for it—an electric bulldozer to use inside the diversion tunnels, where carbon monoxide from internal combustion engines was a great problem. "I don't think a dam has been built before or since in such a deep, narrow gorge. That required using high-scalers to clean off the rock down to the bedrock. You would normally have scraped the rock down with bulldozers, but you couldn't use a bulldozer on a vertical cliff."

Yet he recalls no sense of history in the making. "I've often wondered why this dam seemed to have the magic," said Wixson. "Why not Grand Coulee? It's bigger. But it's undeniable there is something special about this one."

Part of the magic was the speed with which it was built. Crews worked 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and finished the dam almost two years ahead of schedule. So well was the job done that after World War II, when the industries of Europe had to be rebuilt, Frank Crowe was offered the assignment. But Crowe was in poor health and turned it down. He died in 1946, a relatively young man.

By then Wixson had worked on two other Crowe dams, Parker and Shasta, and had been in the construction business himself for several years, in partnership with John Crowe, Frank's nephew. They did well in it, a success he attributes largely to Frank Crowe's willingness to let proteges pick his brains.

When Wixson came back to Boulder City to retire in 1977, he was not only surprised but mildly offended to find that Boulder had no memorial to the man who, in his own view, made it all possible. He donated to the city a small park, where a statue of Frank Crowe now stands. "I was in a position to do it, so why shouldn't I do it?" says Wixson. "In a sense, Frank Crowe was my life." □

Events & Celebrations

Don't miss all the hoopla at Hoover.

Any event is cause for celebration in the Las Vegas area, so when a biggie like the 50th anniversary of Hoover Dam arrives, you'll find a galaxy of good times from the Strip to Boulder City.

Early summer festivities begin with an open house at the new Boulder City Museum on April 27. That night dam veterans will gather at the Railroad Pass Casino for the '31ers Annual Reunion. These and other special events will follow:

Penny Power Project organizers invite all penny pinchers to coin in on a Penny Olympics, Penny Parade, and general penny-mania in Boulder City June 1 to support the town's new museum. Proceeds will go to civic groups, who will lay a string of pennies from the dam to Frank T. Crowe Memorial Park in Boulder that same day. The 10 miles of pennies are expected to make the Guinness Book of World Records and raise \$8,448. Phone Kae Pohe at 293-1824 for information.

Cypress Gardens Water-Ski Revue will feature the Florida-based skiers on Lake Mead July 31 to August 4.

Historical Home Tour will explore the 1930s architecture of Boulder City on September 21.

Waterpower '85, a conference of hydro-power masterminds, pours into MGM Las Vegas on September 23-27.

Gigantic Downtown Las Vegas Street Party will pay homage to the people who built the dam with a parade, music, and fireworks on September 26.

Hoover Dam 50th Anniversary celebration in Boulder City is a tribute to the dam and the fashions and music of the 1930s on September 28. Festivities begin with a pancake breakfast and parade to Gazebo Park, followed by old-time games, '30s music, a fashion review, and an antique car show. There also will be a Depression Dinner (reasonably priced) and an evening street dance.

President Reagan has been invited to preside over Hoover's commemorative ceremonies, just as Franklin D. Roosevelt did 50 years ago when the whole dam thing began.

For more information on events call the Boulder City Chamber of Commerce at 293-2034 or Las Vegas Events and Beth Thomas at 368-2885. The area code throughout Nevada is 702.—Jim Crandall



U.S. BUREAU OF RECLAMATION

The powerhouse has 17 turbines, nine on the Arizona side and eight on the Nevada side of the river. The turbines, each powerful enough to serve a city of 65,000 people, are star attractions of the guided tours conducted by Bureau of Reclamation guides every day.

Scenic Side Trips

Unique ways to hover over and under the dam.

Tours of the dam's interior and power plant are conducted every day by Bureau of Reclamation guides. But if you'd like to try another view, here are some choice perspectives:

By Ship: The excursion boat *Echo* departs four times daily from Lake Mead Marina and swings within shouting distance of the dam's rim. The cruise lasts about 75 minutes and costs \$6.50 for adults and \$4 for children under 12. Bus tours with the voyage are available through Las Vegas hotels. Call 736-6180. (Nevada's area code is 702.)

By Raft: This view is from the bottom of the dam, where serene but scenic raft trips to Willow Beach, 11 miles downriver, are launched by Black Canyon Inc. Meeting place is the Gold Strike Inn, three miles west of the dam. The cost is \$44.95 for adults and \$25 for children under 12,

which includes lunch and a ride back to the Gold Strike. Rafting with transportation from and to Las Vegas hotels is \$58.50. Call 384-1234 or 800-634-6579.

BYO Boat: You can take your own raft or canoe downriver if you get a permit from the Bureau of Reclamation. Call 293-8356 in advance. Permit includes a vessel inspection and escort to a secret launch site below the dam.

By Plane: The Cessnas of Lake Mead Air, based at Boulder City Airport, buzz the dam daily. Rides are \$15 per person with a two-person minimum. Grand Canyon trips, too. Call 293-1848. Other airlines offer similar flights from Vegas.

By Helicopter: Several outfits offer tours out of Las Vegas. For example, Action Jet Helicopters, 736-1352, has a half-hour tour of the city and dam for \$50 per person.—David Moore

Fact Finders

Travel and reading tips

To help plan a Southern Nevada-Hoover Dam vacation, you can call (area code 702) or write these organizations for brochures and information:

U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, Visitor Services, Box 299, Boulder City, NV 89005; 293-8367

Lake Mead Ntnl. Rec. Area, 601 Nevada Hwy., Boulder City, NV. 89005; 293-4041.

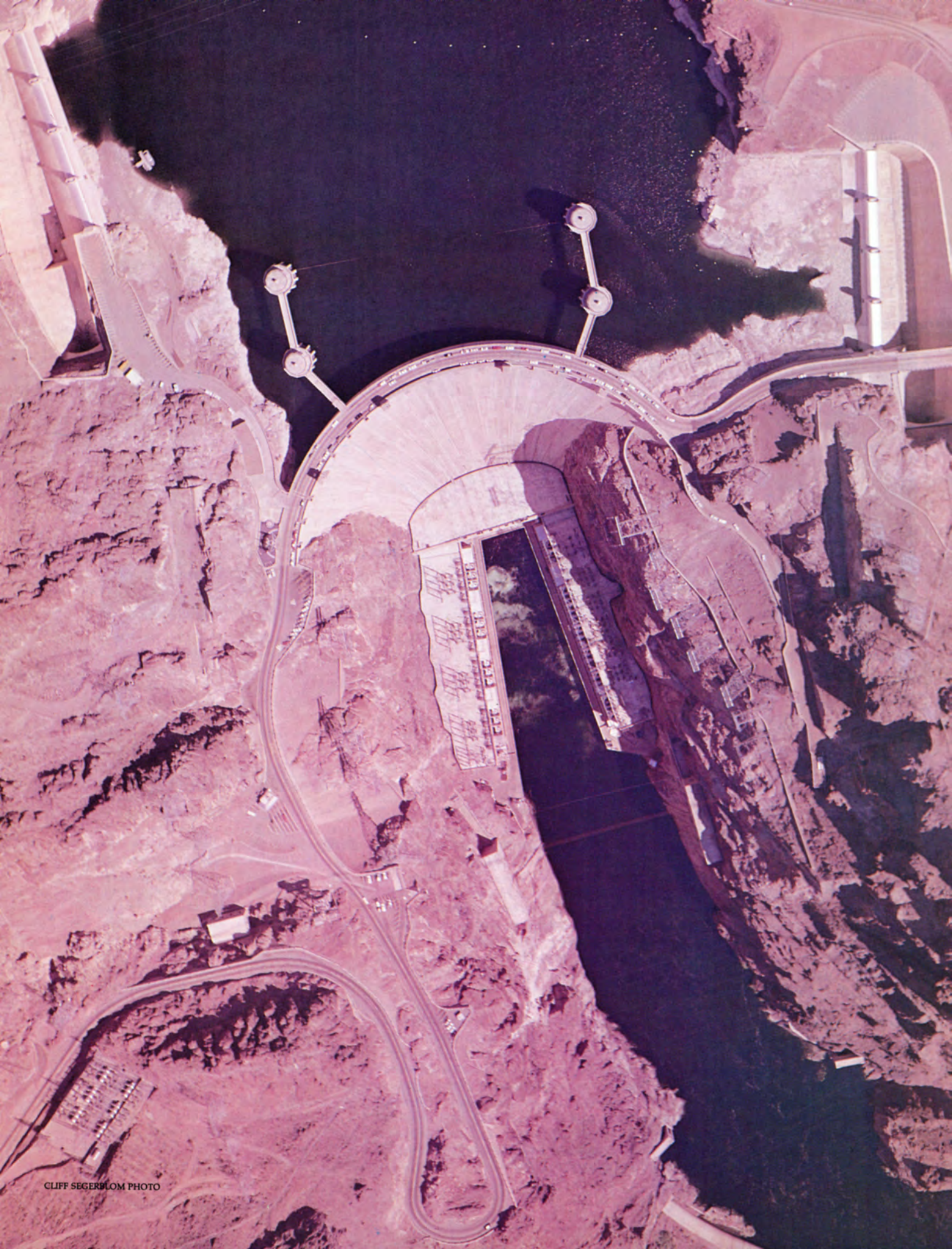
Boulder City Chamber of Commerce, 1497 Nevada Hwy., Boulder City, NV 89005; 293-2034.

Henderson Chamber, 100 E. Lake Mead, Henderson, NV. 89015; 565-8951.

Las Vegas Events, Attn. Beth Thomas, 1900 East Flamingo, Suite 159; Las Vegas, NV. 89109; 368-2885.

Las Vegas Chamber, 2301 East Sahara, Las Vegas, NV. 89104; 457-4664.

Nevada Commission on Tourism, Carson City, NV. 89710; 885-4322. □





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Boulder City,
Nevada

BOULDER W E L C O M E

You are cordially invited to join us in Boulder City on Saturday, September 28, 1985, to help celebrate Hoover Dam's 50th Anniversary.

A fun-filled day has been planned by community organizations. The festivities will begin with a pancake breakfast in early morning. Then a colorful parade will march and roll through town, ending at beautiful Gazebo Park.

At the park you'll be able to step right back into the Boulder City of the 1930s, when the town was built to house dam employees. There will be lots of games — such as 3-legged races, pie-eating contests, and the always popular egg toss — and everyone will have a chance to win prizes.

Also, there will be '30s music, a '30s fashion show, and '30s treats like 5-cent coffee, 10-cent sodas, 50-cent hotdogs, and low-priced beer.

After a delicious Depression Dinner (which will have a reasonable price, of course) the day will end with entertainment and a street dance.

It will be an exciting, old-fashioned good time, and all proceeds will go toward community projects. See you there!

(FOR MORE INFORMATION)



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Boulder City

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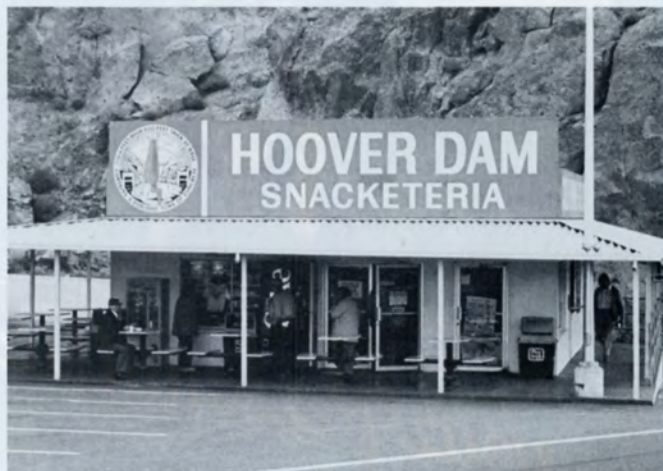
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HORSE SENSE & NONSENSE

Just Tell Me Where It Hurts

When Curley the barber turned chiropractor,
he created more than a headache for
Doc Irvine to fix.

By Harry E. Webb

Our chiropractor in Elko was the most knowledgeable "bone crusher" I have known, and I have visited so many I might be called an authority on the art of "manipulation."

Dr. Irvine came to Elko in the early '20s and had his ad flashed on the theater screen at intervals, which really got him known in a hurry. His message, "Come in and let me cure your headache free," had sufferers flocking to his third-floor office.

One person who took advantage of the generous offer was our local barber Curley, a bull-necked fellow with Atlas muscles. As Doc Irvine later related the

experience to me, Curley came in complaining of an awful headache.

"Where is it, Curley, front or back?" he was asked.

"Hell, I don't know," Curley replied. "It's all over!"

"M-m-huh," grunted Doc as he felt about the patient's neck and explained at great length the cause of most headaches. Then, catching Curley off guard, he snapped his chin over a shoulder, and after a vigorous massage Curley was asked about his headache. "By God, Doc," Curley said, "she's gone!"

Now, barbers and bartenders being

known as the most voluble of any human class, they are also credited with having a cure for most ailments. So it was with Curley. When Charley Sewell came in for a shave one morning, and Curley fished out a steaming beard-softener, Sewell said, "Wish you'd put one of them hot towels across my forehead, Curley. I got a busting headache. I'd take Doc Irvine up on his free cure if I had time but I've got to catch this train for Salt Lake."

"Well, we'll fix Mr. Headache in jig time," Curley promised as he returned the towel to the steam tank. "Sit up and tell me where it hurts the most."

"All I know," came the reply, "is that it feels like a man in there running a jack-hammer."

Curley ran his thumbs from skull bone to spine. "Yep. Just as I suspected. It's a slight case of occipitalis, which means a muscle spasm is pressing the occipital bone tight against one side of the transverse crest. But we'll "

"Well, I'll be doggone, Curley," Sewell said in an amazed tone. "Where in Sam Hill did you learn all that stuff?"

"Oh," Curley modestly admitted, "I just picked up a bit here and there on anatomy as I went along." Wagging Sewell's chin and skull in his ham-size hands, he gave a sudden snap that brought a yelp. "Whambo," Curley said, "that got 'er!"

Whether it got the headache or not is beside the point, but as Doc Irvine later explained it left him with the knottiest problem of his chiropractic career. "I heard steps racing up the stair flights," he said, "and was thinking the building was on fire when in came Curley wild eyed and out of breath. 'Doc,' he wheezed, 'come quick. Think I broke Charley Sewell's neck!'

"When we got to his shop I was out of breath, too, but one glance at Charley and I was too scared to breathe anyway. There he lay with his eyes bugged out and his chin resting on his left shoulder. Hell, no, he couldn't talk. He couldn't do nothin'! We didn't dare try to get him to my office, so I went to work. Had to go easy or I'd finish what Curley had damn near already done, and by the time I got that occipital bone back in place half of Elko was crowding in the shop to see what had happened!

"But I'll bet a dollar against a hole in a donut ol' Curley will stick to barbering and let me do the manipulating around here. In fact he agreed that it was a little different than bulldogging a steer and he guessed it was a case of each man to his own trade." □

The late Harry E. Webb was a cowboy, novelist, and Nevada rancher. He was honored by the Cowboy Hall of Fame in 1984.



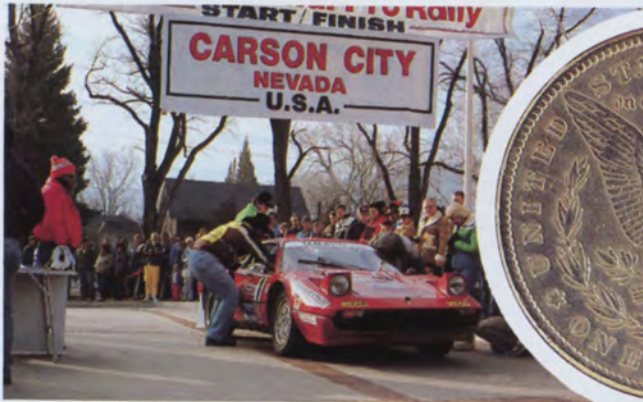
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family as excitement builds for the Carson City International Pro Rally on December 6, 7, 8. Carson City may be small, but don't let that worry you. We make up for it in a big way. Send us the coupon and we'll let you know more about.. The Little Giant!

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DIANE DUNN

NEVADA ART & ARTISTS



For Diane Dunn, Nevada is a mystical place, full of wonders and surprises. She tries to inject that spirit into her landscapes and what she calls her mythological pictures.

Born and raised in Washington, D.C., Dunn majored in art at Washington University in St. Louis and received a master's from the Cranbrook Academy in Detroit. A New York City advertising career was squelched, however, when she visited Reno in 1980. "I was intrigued by the immensity of Nevada, by the desert light, and by the lack of people."

She saw an ad in the *Reno Gazette-*

Journal and went to work for the Sierra Arts Foundation's artist-in-residence program. During the next few years, on behalf of both the foundation and the Nevada State Council on the Arts, she worked in towns and schools throughout the state. "I was fascinated by the kids' abilities to tell stories with pictures. They'd just put all the things that were important to them down on paper—mom, dad, the dog, the cat, some birds. There was a real expressive freedom in that, and it influenced my work."

She was influenced also by Nevada's small-town life. "You wind up teaching everyone from the kids to the senior citizens, and then meeting the brothers and fathers and sisters and being included as one of the family. It's so incredibly un-

usual, but I think that's the way communities were meant to be."

Dunn says that animals migrated into her work one by one. First came pelicans, which she saw one day at Pyramid Lake. Then came fish. "They're spiritual, a symbol of the water that is so crucial to life in the desert. They bring life and movement to my work." The 32-year-old artist displays her paintings at the Jennifer Pauls Gallery in Sacramento and her home studio at 2845 Idlewild Drive in Reno.

Her ambition? "To stay and paint my impressions of Nevada. You know, a friend asked me why I didn't return to the East to pursue my career. But those places seem like they're a million years old. With Nevada, though, it's like God made it yesterday."—JC



"Front Porch Fish,"
Watercolor 18x24"

"That was my home on Ralston Street in Reno. When I moved out, I did the painting as a farewell. I have a lot of fond memories of that house. I tried to impart the sense of 'otherness' I felt about leaving. The black door signifies the ending of a time. The fish give it movement. The bicycle is suspended on a stand because I had a broken shoulder and couldn't ride. I race bicycles."



"Fish and Pelicans,"
Watercolor 18x24"

"I was at Pyramid Lake painting a landscape. All of a sudden these pelicans flew by. I mean, I had no idea there were pelicans in the desert! I just had to include them in that painting."



"The Christmas Picture,"
Watercolor 24x18"

"I did that painting as a Christmas present for a friend. I invited all my animal friends, and some of his, too. The Joshua tree is the Christmas tree. It's sort of a desert nativity scene."

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8th Annual Great Nevada Picture Hunt

Professional and amateur camera slingers are invited to shoot it out for cash, fame, and glory in *Nevada Magazine's* 1985 Great Nevada Picture Hunt. This year's showdown features more than \$500 in prize money and several new categories to draw a bead on.

Top cash prizes are: first place, \$250; second, \$125; third, \$75; fourth, \$50; fifth, \$25. Sixth through 15th will choose between Nevada T-shirts or suspenders. Special categories—the winners also get T-shirts or suspenders—include people, events, nature, wildlife, ghost towns, scenics, ranch life, outdoor recreation, gaming, and entertainment. Most finishers will be featured in upcoming issues of the magazine. So, take your best shot.

The contest is free and open to all photographers. The deadline is June 30, 1985. Rules must be followed exactly, or entries will be disqualified. The entry form must be signed and included with your photos. Only one entry form (with one photographer's work) is allowed in each package.

All photos submitted must be unpublished and taken in Nevada. You can enter up to five black-and-white prints and up to five color slides or prints—a maximum of 10 entries in all. Your name and address must be on the back of each print or slide, *plus* the title, location, or a brief description.

Color slides must be 35mm or larger transparencies. (If possible, present in a see-through plastic sleeve. Don't use metal or glass slide holders.) **Color prints** and **black-and-white prints** must be 8x8" to 11x14", glossy or matte (not silk finish), and unmounted.

Be sure to enclose a **self-addressed stamped envelope** (no checks or loose stamps) and proper packing materials such as cardboard to assure your photos' safe return. No pick-ups at the office will be allowed. Send your entries in a package no larger than 12x16"



ILLUSTRATION BY JOHN BARDWELL.

The judges will be Cliff Segerblom, Howard Hickson, and Caroline J. Hadley. Segerblom, from Boulder City, is an artist, photographer, and former municipal judge. His photos have appeared in *Time*, *Life*, *Sunset*, *Arizona Highways*, *U.S. Camera*, and *Nevada*. Hickson is an artist and photographer and the director of the Northeastern Nevada Museum in Elko. He also is the originator of the museum's traveling photo show, *Nevada 85* (see feature starting on page 38). Hadley, a

well-known Nevada mule skinner, is the editor and publisher of *Nevada Magazine*.

A few tips from the judges: The black-and-white categories are wide open—there were few b&w entries last year. Keep your work in sharp focus, be creative with cropping, and don't be afraid to enter unique or unusual photos. Make sure to follow all the rules carefully and to send in your entries by June 30, 1985. Then just sit back and wait. When the smoke clears, we'll see who are the best shots in the West. □

Send with entries to: **Nevada Magazine, Great Nevada Picture Hunt,
Capitol Complex, Carson City, NV 89710-0005**

Virginia & Truckee



DAUN BOHALL/NEVADA STATE MUSEUM PHOTOS

The V&T's 110-year-old Inyo chugs out of the museum on special holidays to preen and steam for visitors.

After a life-saving side trip to Hollywood,
the richest railroad on earth is steaming up again.

By Buddy Frank

A century ago the Virginia & Truckee Railroad was rich and famous. By 1950 the last of its rolling stock was bound for either Hollywood or the junkyard. Fortunately, the V&T was able to survive by going out of business.

Today in Carson City, thanks to the Virginia & Truckee Railroad Museum, we can enjoy the sight of the old line's freshly restored cars and engines. On holiday weekends we also can listen to the nostalgic blast of steam whistles, a sound that dates back to Nevada's bonanza days.

When the V&T first steamed up in 1869, Virginia City was still a young town, and Las Vegas and Reno were little more than blips on the map. Pioneering Nevadans like Dan De Quille, Adolph Sutro, and V&T manager Henry Yerington rode in the line's elegant coaches. So did Ulysses S. Grant, Rutherford B. Hayes, Theodore Roosevelt, and Herbert Hoover.

But it was freight, not passengers, that

gave the Virginia & Truckee its reputation as the richest railroad in the world. More than \$400 million in silver and gold were dug from the hills around Virginia City, and most of it was hauled away by the short line.

The V&T was built by William Sharon, Thomas Bell, William Ralston, J.D. Fry, and D.O. Mills. From the Virginia City mines it ran to mills on the Carson River and then to Carson City. There bullion was unloaded and Sierra timbers were piled high for the return trip to the mines, where they were used to brace underground tunnels or for fuel. In 1871 the tracks were extended to Reno and the Truckee River, linking the V&T to the rest of the country.

In time the so-called "Bonanza Road" had 27 engines and more than 460 coaches and freight cars. But just like the mines, the railroad was doomed to a cycle of boom and bust. By 1900 the mines' rich

ore was nearly exhausted, and after 1920 the only traffic leaving Virginia City consisted of residents.

The company built a branch line to Minden in 1906, and a daily mixed train carried freight and passengers from Reno to Carson. But neither run paid the bills, and in 1924 V&T stockholders received their last dividends.

While other railroads built streamliners and converted to diesel, the V&T's managers were forced to repair their out-of-date steam engines at the Carson City roundhouse. The money-strapped railroad became a rolling museum.

Hollywood was quick to discover this bonanza. Westerns were good box-office attractions in the late '30s and early '40s, and the studios were shopping for period antiques to stock their back lots. The V&T was an eager seller.

The sale of equipment not only kept the V&T in business for an extra 10 years

but also propelled the Comstock steamcars into railroad celebrity. Nearly 100 movies and TV shows, from the classic *Great Locomotive Chase* to prime time's *Wild Wild West*, were filmed aboard the same trains that once carried millionaires John Mackay and Sandy Bowers. Whether it was Michael Landon riding back to the *Little House on the Prairie* or John Wayne posing as *McLintock*, the props were invariably V&T.

Those cameos are the only reason that the Virginia & Truckee survives as the best example of 19th-century railroading.

When hard times hit the big studios in 1970, the trains, decaying as they sat on spurs in East Los Angeles, were again put up for sale. Happily, this time the tables were turned. Prodded by railroad buffs, the Nevada Legislature in 1971 authorized funds to repurchase much of the stock. The triumphant return of Engine No. 25 from the RKO lot was made on Nevada Day, October 31, 1971.

It was, however, a bittersweet homecoming. After the parade down Carson Street the engine was hooked to a string of cars obtained from Paramount and parked south of town. It was more an eyesore than a display, and subsequent Eagle Valley winters added to the damage. A V&T sibling had come home, but it was hard to believe that this train once had shared billing with Betty Grable in *The Beautiful Blonde from Bashful Bend*.

Despite the lack of money to restore No. 25, another purchase opportunity in

1974 was too good for the state to pass up. Two of the line's classic engines, the *Inyo* and *Dayton*, were being sold by Paramount. But there were strings. The studio had loaned the 1870s-era locomotives to the National Park Service for display at the Golden Spike National Historic Site in Promontory, Utah. There they were disguised as Central Pacific's *Jupiter* and Union Pacific's No. 119 to commemorate the completion of the transcontinental railroad in 1869. If Nevadans wanted their machines back, they would have to pay immediately but leave them in Utah until replacements could be found.

The state met Paramount's conditions and put the engines on layaway. The strange agreement turned out to be a blessing. If the *Inyo* and *Dayton* had been delivered upon payment, they, too, would have been left outdoors to rot.

The engines' fortunes improved as Nevadans prepared for the 1976 bicentennial celebration. Funding that might have been killed in a budget-conscious session today was approved by the 1975 legislature for a storage building in Carson City. A cosmetic restoration of Engine No. 25—giving it a shine but no steam—was also authorized.

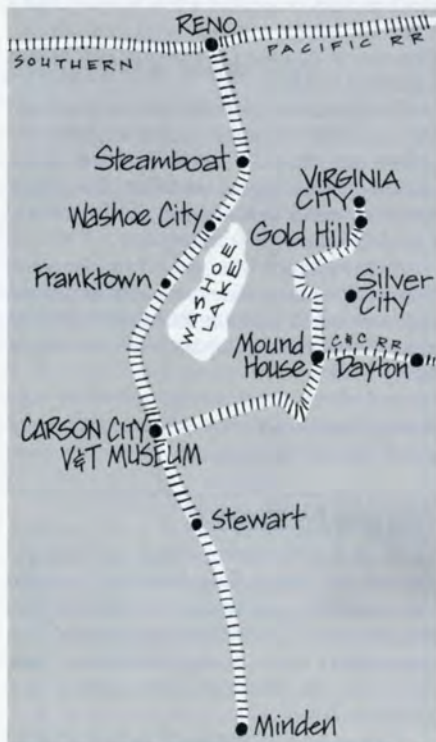
Then the collection was transferred from State Parks to the State Museum, and a separate curator, Richard Datin, was given the task of reversing the railroad's aging process. Datin had been a model builder in Southern California, creating special effects for movies and TV. In fact, that background fit right in with the V&T,

whose engines *Reno* and *Genoa* remain the most-copied miniatures ever to circle a Christmas tree. Datin also had spent several years with the Nevada Historical Society and UNR Special Collections in Reno, an experience that helps him unravel V&T fact from fiction. For instance, many old-timers swear that the coaches always were painted yellow with green trim, but the railroad's records show that maroon, green, and "fawn" were just as common.

With a full-time curator and new home, the V&T hit pay dirt again when the Fleischmann Foundation granted \$750,000 to build a workshop and pay for several restorations. The timing was perfect. The State of California was finishing its splendid Railroad Museum in Sacramento, and the Nevada museum was able to bring in some of that project's alumni. Short Line Enterprises, a California restoration firm with its own V&T collection, went to work in Carson City.

Another gift from the Golden Bear State came in the form of historian Stephen Drew, curator of the Sacramento museum and also the country's leading authority on the V&T. Drew, Datin, and others documented each piece of equipment in the collection, from spikes to baggage cars.

That was a critical step in the restoration program. For example, the appearance of the *Inyo* changed drastically between its construction in 1875 and its sale to Para-



The Virginia & Truckee, like its name, joined Virginia City with the Truckee River in Reno.



Four display tracks and one restoration track groan with the wealth of iron in the massive museum. At left, the *Glenbrook* awaits a facelift. At right, the *Inyo* simply gleams.



Restored to its 1872 condition, the No. 9 caboose features cushioned seats and brass spittoons.



This is what remained of the redwood-sheathed No. 9 caboose before its restoration.



Back from Utah, the old Inyo engine and tender get sandblasted by craftsman Kim Horn.

mount in 1937. At first a wood burner, it was converted to coal and then to oil. Headlights, smokestacks, and running gear were replaced and modified along the way. The museum had to decide which *Inyo* to restore and then make sure that it was done authentically.

The two engines from Utah finally arrived in 1978, and five years later the *Inyo* steamed out of the workshop just as she looked in 1890 after being outfitted with a new set of air brakes. The *Dayton*, which served as the line's snowplow, was returned to her glory days of 1882. Old No. 25 today gets up a head of steam just as she did in 1935.

While the engines' rehabilitation progressed, the museum opened on May 31, 1980, exactly 30 years after the railroad made its last revenue run from Reno to Carson City.

Like its namesake, the V&T collection is not the biggest display of railroading in the country, but it can lay claim to being one of the best. Four main tracks are jammed full of rolling stock in various stages of repair, and there's an informative exhibit area detailing the story of the "Silver Short Line."

The restoration work is a tribute to old-fashioned craftsmanship. Last season visitors watched as technicians restored Kimball Coach No. 4 to its former elegance, giving it an interior of hand-rubbed laurel, redwood, and maple. Projects will be in public view this summer.

The locomotives also are works of art. The average steam engine will get your clothes dirty from half a block away, but a V&T locomotive makes you feel underdressed as it preens in brilliant colors and polished brass.

On special weekends, the fireboxes are lit, and one or more of the engines are rolled out onto the tracks in front of the museum. Old-timers smile as the steam whistles echo again through the valley. Children stare in wonder.

As the pistons hiss and oil smoke wafts in the air, visitors may feel sad that the old railroad didn't make it. But they'll also be glad that it had the chance to come back home. □

Buddy Frank hopes to catch the next steam-up on Memorial Day weekend.

Where to Find It

The V&T collection, which will be renamed the Nevada State Railroad Museum this summer, is located at 2180 South Carson Street on U.S. 395 in Carson City. The museum is open Friday, Saturday, Sunday, and on holidays from May 24 to October 27.

This year the museum is having five steam-ups. The first is May 26-27, on Memorial Day weekend. Others are July



Disguised as a Northern Pacific engine, the Inyo and its tender co-starred with Joel McCrea in *The Virginian*, a 1946 Paramount release. From 1937 to 1979 the colorful engines and cars of the V&T helped win the West in Hollywood, a film career that saved the railroad from extinction.

4-5, August 3-4, September 1-2, and October 26-27 Admission is free. Call 702-885-4810 or 885-5168 for more information.

Riding the New V&T

The V&T restorations in Carson City are beautifully done, but steam engines were meant to pull cars, and cars to carry people. If you're looking for such a ride, travel 14 miles northeast of Carson City to the V&T's birthplace, Virginia City.

There, Tom Gray and his crew operate a summertime tourist line that follows the old railroad bed two miles from near St. Mary's in the Mountains Catholic Church to Tunnel No. 4 on the back side of Gold Hill. The main season is Memorial Day to Labor Day, but the train runs some weekends in September and October. Phone 702-847-0380 for details.

Gray's V&T Railroad, which his father, Bob, revived in 1976, doesn't include original equipment, but a ride behind his 2-8-0 steam engine, called No. 29, still offers a feel for the V&T that you'll cherish and long remember. Also, while in town you can see the original No. 27 locomotive near the old depot on E Street.

If you're on the road, the California State Railroad Museum in Sacramento is now home to the V&T's *Genoa*, *J.W. Bowker*, and *Empire* locomotives. The *Tahoe* is

displayed in the Pennsylvania Historical Museum in Strasburg. The most famous of all the line's engines is still around, too. The beautiful *Reno* resides in the Old Tucson theme park in Arizona, where she occasionally toots her whistle for visiting Hollywood film crews.

V&T Bookshelf

Dozens of books have been written about the V&T, but two stand out as exceptional works.

Lucius Beebe deserves as much credit as anyone for putting the railroad on the historical map. Of his many books on the subject, *Steamcars to the Comstock*, with Charles Clegg as coauthor, first released in 1957, is the best. Beebe operated Virginia City's *Territorial Enterprise* and wrote *Steamcars* with the same flowery style he used in the newspaper.

While Beebe's book will never be outdone in romantic prose, it lacks detail and, in places, historical accuracy. Those oversights have been corrected by *The Silver Short Line*, published in 1983. It's clear that authors Ted Wurm and Harre Demoro, like Beebe, are madly in love with the old railroad, but this volume combines romance with thorough research and 390 photographs. The excellent gathering of photos is made even richer by the authors' own snapshots. □

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INCLINE VILLAGE — NORTH SHORE LAKE TAHOE

LETTERS (Continued from page 46)

building near Tonopah on page 8, I believe, should be credited as mine. I realize that Alvin McLane travels many of the same routes as I and has a good eye, but I don't recall him being next to me as I composed the photo. Your use of black and white photos in the issue looks great. A nice touch.

Bob Goodman
Reno, NV.

Dancing Rattlers

I just wanted to let you know that I really enjoy my *Nevada Magazine*. The photography is excellent, and I really enjoy reading about Nevada history and places to visit in the state. I recently visited the Yerington/Virginia City/Carson City part of the state for the first time—your articles helped prepare me for what to see and do. My only complaint is that the magazine is not published monthly.

Art Vollmer
Las Vegas, NV.

P.S.: The "dancing" rattlesnakes shown in David Moore's "Poisonous Creatures" (March/April '85) are getting ready to mate. The "dancing" is part of their courtship behavior.

Good Words from the Big Boys

I get half a ton of assorted mail and magazines these days. But every other month, as I sort through the pile and find *Nevada*, I have to take time out and enjoy great photography and fun reading. You do a terrific job. I trust the good people of Nevada appreciate your magazine as I do.

Dick Harris
Readers Digest Workshop Consultant
La Jolla, CA.

In the March/April '85 edition I was so happy to see Phil Penn's watercolors. I don't profess to be knowledgeable in art, but I sure know what I like and Phil Penn is an outstanding artist. If I had the money and the space required, I'd have his paintings all over the house.

I'm sure glad he left Lockheed and California. He belongs in Nevada.

Sandy Hammargren
Winnemucca, NV.

Help Wanted in Ohio

I've been wondering where my *Nevada Magazine* is as I go nuts if I don't have my Nevada "fix" every couple of months.

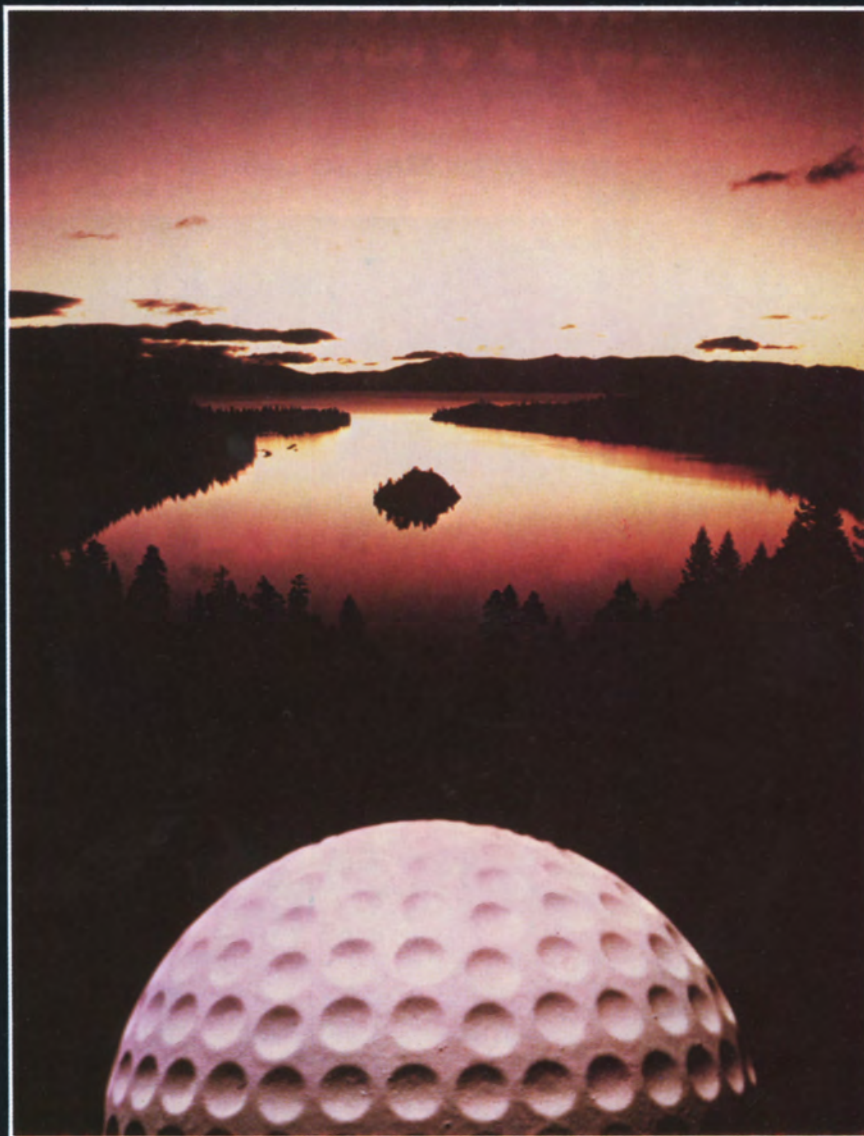
Riley B. Bonham
Shaker Heights, OH.

You moved so we shipped you another copy when we discovered your whereabouts.—Ed.

Thanks for two great years! Here's my renewal for two more and please rush my T-shirt. *Nevada* makes Ohio easier to live with.

Andrew Zitzman
Toledo, OH.

Arnie. Lake Tahoe. The Senior Open. June 24-30.



1985 U.S. Senior Open • Edgewood Tahoe • June 24-30

Imagine Senior golf's most prestigious championship at beautiful Lake Tahoe: Arnold Palmer, Billy Casper, Miller Barber and Roberto DeVicenzo will compete for the 1985 Senior Open Championship at Edgewood Tahoe, June 24-30.

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A 22" x 28" lithograph of the artwork in this ad is available for \$10, including postage and handling.

THE NEVADA CALENDAR

May & June 1985

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



Arnie and Friends at Tahoe and Sparks

Veteran golfers like Arnold Palmer (above) and loyal fans like Arnie's Army will invade the lush lakeside links of Edgewood Lake Tahoe during its latest major tournament—the U.S. Senior Open Championship on June 24-30. Palmer will join such celebrated over-50 players as Billy Casper, Gene Littler, Lee Elder, and defending champ Miller Barber. The play should be an intense spectacle of skill and concentration as these golf masters compete for the lion's share of a \$225,000 purse as well as the title of national senior champion.

For Edgewood, hosting the tournament is reward enough, especially since the course was little more than a cow pasture 20 years ago. In Nevada's early days Carson Valley ranchers Dave and Unity Park bought the meadowland for summer grazing. The two-story white house that sits just across U.S. 50 from the course, Friday's Station, was Nevada's westernmost

Pony Express stop. It is now a private home.

In 1967 descendants Brooks Park and Margaret Pruett decided to build an elegant golf course on the shore. George Fazio laid it out, and Orrin Vincent, a former player on the PGA tour, became golf director. Soon cart-riding golfers replaced the cattle, and the course's reputation grew. Five years ago Edgewood hosted the U.S. Amateur Public Links Championship. Last November *Golf Digest* rated Edgewood as one of the top 10 public courses in the country and ran a centerfold of the layout.

Despite its beauty, the course is a devilish challenge. The 7,477-yard layout—shortened to 7,055 for the tourney—has water on 13 holes, 77 sand traps, thick rough, and slick greens. Special tee decks, backed up for long hitters, have been isolated until play begins. Leader boards and four miles of underground cable have been installed for scoring. Positions for the cameras of

ESPN, which will telecast the event nationally, have been plotted.

On June 24 the players shoot the first of three practice rounds. Then begins the serious play by some of the world's best golfers.

Ticket prices range from \$8 for one day's admission during practice rounds to \$20 for admission to the grounds and clubhouse on Sunday, June 30, for the final round. Seven-day passes are available, too. For more information call 702-588-OPEN. For lodging in the South Lake Tahoe area call toll-free 800-822-5922.

Earlier in the season, June 3-9, the Wildcreek Golf Course in Sparks will host the Champions Classic '85. Formerly the Gatlin Brothers Senior Golf Classic, the tourney will feature top senior players again this year. For information on the Champions Classic, call 702-322-0255.

—James McKimmey

LAS VEGAS TERRITORY

May

World Series of Poker, 4/30-5/23, tournaments end with the 4-day Hold 'Em (\$10,000 buy-in) championship, Binion's Horseshoe, 382-1600
Firefighting Equipment Exhibit, thru 10/11 equipment used in Las Vegas, Goldfield, and other towns from 1900 to 1940s, Nevada State Museum and Historical Society, 385-0115

Alan King/Caesars Palace Tennis Classic, thru 5/5 (tentative), top men pros compete for \$500,000 purse, Caesars Palace, 731-7865

Photo Exhibit, thru 6/9, photographs of lichens, Museum of Natural History, UNLV, 739-3381

Callville Bay Resort Grand Opening, 1, Lake Mead, 293-1904

Las Vegas Stars v. Vancouver Canadians, 1-4, triple-A pro baseball, 7:35pm, Cashman Field, 386-7200

Art Exhibit, 1-23, Japanese paintings, Charleston Heights Arts Center, 386-6383

Art Exhibit, 1-31 fiber art by Bernice Breedlove, oils by Adel Rusk, Lost City Museum, Overton, 397-2193

"They're Playing Our Song," 2-11, musical comedy, 8pm Thurs.-Sat., Clark County Community College Theatre, 643-6060

Mint 400, 2-5, famous off-road race begins with tech inspection Fri. at Mint Hotel; on Sat. racers make four laps on a 100-mile course over dirt roads, washes, and dry lakes; start-finish line at Las Vegas Speedrome, 12 miles north of downtown; \$300,000 purse, Mint Hotel, 385-7440

"Play On," 2-25, comedy, 8pm Thurs.-Sat., Las Vegas Little Theater, 735-0167

Las Vegas Civic Ballet, 3-5, 8pm Fri., 2pm Sat.-Sun., \$6, seniors and kids 12 and under \$5, Charleston Heights Arts Center, 386-6384

May Day Blackjack Tournament, 3-5, Marina Hotel, 739-1589

"Cabaret," 3-19, musical, 8pm Thurs.-Sat., 2pm Sun., Judy Bayley Theatre, UNLV, 739-3353

"The Most Happy Fella," 3-26, musical, 8:30pm Fri.-Sun., Nevada Musical Theatre Guild, 1671 Sandalwood Lane, 739-8588

Jackpot Team Roping, 4, sign-up 9am, events 10am, free to spectators, Peppermill's Western Village, Mesquite, 346-5232

Mai Fest, 4-5, live German music, trout on a stick, beef, barbecue pork, and Maypole climbing, \$6, German-American Social Club, 1110 E. Lake Mead Blvd., 649-8503

Black Canyon Juried Art Show, 4-5, demonstrations, auctions, music, and food, Recreation Center, Boulder City, 293-2034

Craps Tournament, 4-6, Four Queens, 385-4011

Indian Plant Use Program, 5, 1pm, meet at

Patriotic Preview

Most towns in Nevada are planning special celebrations for the Fourth of July that include parades, barbecues, concerts, and, of course, fireworks. Among the busiest towns will be Caliente, whose residents are planning four full days of events for their 50th annual Independence Day celebration. See the end of each territory's listing for July 4th events.



Tuckers Reunited in Vegas

Fans of rare and unusual cars will have a treat June 6-9 when Tucker automobile owners display their 1948 classics at the Imperial Palace in Las Vegas. Only 51 of the cars were built, and they were like no other car made before. They had radically new safety features and conveniences such as a central headlight that turned with the front wheels. All of the autos have been traced by the Tucker Automobile Club of America. John Cermak, the club's newsletter editor, says one Tucker was hit by a train, one was lost in a fire, one is in Brazil, and the other 48 are in private hands in the U.S., occasionally changing owners at auctions for as much as \$80,000.

Visitor Center, Valley of Fire State Park, 55 miles from Las Vegas, 385-0264 or 385-0200

Craps Tournament, 5-7 Tropicana, 739-2222

Las Vegas Stars v. Albuquerque Dukes, 5-8, triple-A pro baseball, 1:35pm Sun., 7:35pm Mon.-Wed., Cashman Field, 386-7200

Art Show, 5-30, photography by Tony and Mary Scodwell, watercolors by Lucy Foley and Alva Shelton, Las Vegas Art Museum, 647-4300

Photo Exhibit, 5-31 works by Jon Winet, Flamingo Library, 733-7810

Concert, 7 featuring soprano Nancy Shade and flutist Richard Soule, 8pm, Las Vegas Symphony Orchestra, Ham Hall, UNLV, 739-3420

"Stage Fright," 7 Alfred Hitchcock film, 7pm, \$1 Charleston Heights Arts Center, 386-6383

"Coup de Torchon (Clean Slate)," 7 filmed in Africa, 7pm, free, Wright Hall, UNLV, 739-3101

All-Star Wrestling, 9, 7:30pm, Showboat Hotel, 385-9123

Round Robin Invitational Team Roping, 10-11 spectators welcome, Peppermill's Western Village, Mesquite, 346-5232

Las Vegas Civic Ballet, 10-12, 8pm Fri., 2pm Sat.-Sun., \$6, seniors and kids 12 and under \$5, Charleston Heights Arts Center, 386-6384

Audubon Hike, 11 8am-noon, walking shoes recommended, meet at Spring Mountain Ranch, 20 miles west of Las Vegas, 875-4141

"Call of the Wild," 11 children's film, 1pm, Flamingo Library, 733-7810

Red Rock Hike, 12, guided hike to sandstone quarry, 8-11am, wear sturdy shoes and bring water, reservations required, Red Rock Recreation Lands Visitor Center, 20 miles west of Las Vegas, 363-1921

Art Exhibit, 12-6/6, by students and instructors, Reed Whipple Cultural Center, 386-6211

Art Exhibit, 12-6/7, by Mike McCallum, Flamingo Library, 733-7810

Sam's Town Golf Tournament, 13-16, practice round Mon., competition Tues.-Thurs., Sam's Town Hotel, 454-8048

Million Dollar Blackjack Tournament, 15-17 Tropicana Hotel, 739-2105

Fletcher Jones Charity Horse Show, 16-20, sports complex, Tropicana Hotel, 739-2581

May Blackjack Tournament, 17-19, Marina Hotel, 739-1589

Las Vegas Stars v. Tacoma Tigers, 17-20, triple-A pro baseball, 7:35 pm Fri.-Sat. and Mon., 1:35pm Sun., Cashman Field, 386-7200

Lucky Strike Filters Bowling Classic, 17-23, open to men and women, \$250,000 for first place, Sam's Town Bowling Center, 454-8024

Jazz Concert in the Park, 18, 2-5pm, free, Lorenzi Park, 386-6211

Video Poker Tournament, 18, Four Queens, 385-4011

Las Vegas Hobie Sailboat Grand Prix, 18-19, 9am, Lake Mead, 368-2885



400 Miles of Dirt

Billed as the world's biggest and richest off-road race, Las Vegas' annual Mint 400 draws top drivers such as Rod Hall, Roger Mears, and Al and Bobby Unser along with their remarkable souped-up dirt machines. On Friday, May 3, race fans can marvel at the off-road cars, trucks, and motorcycles during the all-day technical inspection on Fremont Street in front of the Mint Hotel. On Saturday the contest begins at the Las Vegas Speedrome, 12 miles north of town, and continues on the four-lap, 400-mile desert course. Winners in each class will take home chunks of the \$300,000 purse.



JIM LAURIE

It's All in the Cards

The world's best poker players will gather again this spring for the World Series of Poker at Binion's Horseshoe Casino in Las Vegas. From April 30 to May 23, up to 1,300 card sharps will stone-face each other in seven card razz, high-low split, seven card high, ace to five draw, deuce to seven, and eight other events for more than \$3 million in prizes. But it's the four-day hold'em tournament at the end of the series that everyone will be waiting for, and the winner of the \$10,000 buy-in match will be named overall champ. Defending champion Jack Keller will try to equal Stu Ungar's record of two consecutive titles, but other greats will be just as determined. Above, Bob Stupack of Vegas World and Benny and Jack Binion of the Hoshoe watch Steve Wynn of the Golden Nugget make a raise during a special casino owners' challenge.

Pan Tournament, 19-22, Union Plaza, 386-2110
"A Brief Vacation," 21 film, 7pm, free, Wright Hall, UNLV, 739-3101

Las Vegas Stars v. Portland Beavers, 21-24, triple-A pro baseball, 7:35pm, Cashman Field, 386-7200

ESPN Boxing, 23, 6pm, Showboat, 385-9123

Trio Serenata Concert, 23 and 25, 7pm Thurs., 2pm Sat., Flamingo Library, 733-7810

Jim Butler Days Tour, 24-26, to Tonopah for annual celebration with visits to the Central Nevada Museum and Belmont Bar, contact Nevada Discovery Tours in Las Vegas, 735-5450

International Festival, 25-26, German food and beer, Sat. 1-8pm, Sun. 11am-8pm, adults \$1 children 12 and under free, German-American

Social Club, Convention Center, 649-8503

Spring Mountain Free Trappers' 8th Annual Rendezvous, 25-27 events include shooting contests, firefighting, survival trek; site is about 50 miles from Las Vegas in the Spring Mountains, for map and information call 386-8746

Art Exhibit, 26-6/20, ceramics by Michael Fulgham, Charleston Heights Arts Center, 386-6383

Blackjack Tournament, 27-31, Desert Inn, 733-4400

"On Golden Pond," 28, film, 6:30pm, Flamingo Library, 733-7810

Blackjack Tournament, 30-6/2, first place wins \$65,000 and a new Cadillac, Riviera, 734-5257

Elks Helldorado Days, 31-6/9, preceding the main events on 5/24-25 are street dances at 7pm on Fremont St. downtown; the main celebration kicks off on 5/31 with Alabama concert, carnival and midway, exhibit hall and Helldorado Village Bar open until 6/9; on 6/1 parade at 9am on Fremont St. downtown and the Helldorado Championship Rodeo at 7:30pm through 6/5 at Thomas and Mack Center; on 6/3 golf shoot-out; on 6/4 Whiskerino Contest at Village Bar; on 6/6-8 Buffalo Bill Wild West Show; on 6/9 concert at 8pm, 385-1221

"Annie," 31-6/2, musical, 7pm Fri., 2pm Sat.

Coonskin Alert

Mountainmen and trappers will parley for two big camp-outs this spring to chew the fat and compete in the skills that opened the West. The Spring Mountain Free Trappers will hold their annual rendezvous on May 25-27 in the Spring Mountains, about 50 miles northwest of Las Vegas. They'll have black-powder rifle and pistol shoots, knife and lance contests, and a survival trek. In the north, the Kit Carson Rendezvous and Wagon Train Days will offer black-powder shoots, Indian ceremonial dancing, and plenty of food and drink in Carson City on June 15-16. There will also be a horse-drawn wagon train and an authentic Indian village.

Fine Art & Quick Draws

The Black Canyon Juried Art Show in Boulder City May 4-5 is both a fine-arts exhibition and a social affair. With artists' demonstrations in all media, auctions, wine tasting, and music, there will be plenty of time for art buffs to mingle with the artists and pry from them their secret techniques.

Sun., Rainbow Company Children's Theatre, Charleston Heights Arts Center, 386-6553

Four Queen's 19th Birthday Celebration, 31-6/9, honors 1966 opening with special prices, Four Queens Hotel, 385-4011

June and July 4th

Penny Power Project, 1 attempt to get in the Guinness Book of Records by laying 10 miles of pennies from Hoover Dam to Boulder City, part of the 50th anniversary celebration of Hoover Dam, 368-2885 or 293-5637

Photo Exhibit, 1-8/31 by Gary Adams, Lost City Museum, Overton, 397-2193

Craps Tournament, 2-4, Tropicana, 739-2105

Las Vegas Stars v. Phoenix Giants, 2-5, triple-A pro baseball, 7:35pm, Cashman Field, 386-7200

Pioche High Country Tour, 2-6, car caravan to Pioche to join a wagon train, contact Nevada Discovery Tours in Las Vegas, 735-5450

Gin Tournament, 2-6, Union Plaza, 386-2110

Photo Exhibit, 2-28, photography by Trish Shapiro, Flamingo Library, 733-7810

Las Vegas Stars v. Hawaii Islanders, 6-9, triple-A pro baseball, 7:35pm, Cashman Field, 386-7200

Tucker Automobile Display, 6-9, at least six of the 51 cars built by maverick auto maker Preston Tucker in 1948, Imperial Palace, 731-3311

All-Star Wrestling, 7 7:30pm, \$12 ringside, \$8 general, Showboat Hotel, 385-9123

Pro-Am Wrestling, 7-9, Tropicana, 739-2581

Region V Horse Show, 7-9, open classes, 8am-4pm, Nevada State Horseman's Assn., Clark County Horseman's Park, 293-1776

"Annie," 7-9 and 12-14, musical, 7th (7pm), 8th (2 & 7pm), 9th (2pm), and 12th-14th (1pm), Rainbow Company Children's Theatre, Charleston Heights Arts Center, 386-6553

"The Black Stallion," 8, children's film, 1pm, Flamingo Library, 733-7810

Woody Owl Day, 8, a day of fun and games for children, 9am, Spring Mountain Ranch, 20 miles west of Las Vegas, 875-4141

Craps Tournament, 8-12, Desert Inn, 733-4400

Art Exhibit, 9-7/5, multi-media works by Lee Sido, Flamingo Library, 733-7810

Super Summer Productions, 13-15 and 20-22, includes Shakespearean plays, musical comedies, and slide shows, Spring Mountain Ranch, 20 miles west of Las Vegas, 875-4141

Las Vegas Triathlon, 13-16, starts at Union Plaza, 386-2110

"Annie," 14-16, 7pm Fri., 2pm and 7pm Sat., 2pm Sun., Rainbow Company Children's Theatre, Charleston Heights Arts Center, 386-6553

Slot Tournament, 14-16, Marina, 739-1589

Las Vegas Stars v. Tucson Toros, 14-17 triple-A baseball, 7:35pm, Cashman Field, 386-7200

Desert Survival Program, 15, 9am-noon, hiking shoes, water, and hat recommended, no pets or small children, Spring Mountain Ranch, 20 miles west of Las Vegas, 875-4141

Trio Serenata Concert, 16, 3pm, Flamingo Library, 733-7810



Summer Solstice Star Walk, 21 8:30-10pm, bring flashlight, reservations required, meet at Red Rock Canyon Recreation Lands Visitor Center, 20 miles west of Las Vegas, 363-1921

Artworks Festival, 21-23, Jaycee Park, 386-6383

Concert, 23, music of Victor Herbert, 3pm, adults \$5, seniors, students, handicapped \$4, Musical Arts Singers and Orchestra, Charleston Heights Arts Center, 386-6383

Blackjack Tournament, 23-25, Tropicana Hotel, 739-2105

Pan Tournament, 23-26, Union Plaza, 386-2110
"My Cousin Rachel," 25, children's film, 6:30pm, Flamingo Library, 733-7810

International Volleyball Tournament, 28-30, teams from the U.S., Brazil, Japan, and Bulgaria, Thomas and Mack Center, UNLV, 731-2115

Pine Creek Hike, 29, 7-9:30am, sturdy boots and water, Red Rock Canyon Visitor Center, 20 miles west of Las Vegas, 363-1921

Beyond Belief Blackjack Classic, 30-7/3, Frontier Hotel, 734-0385

Las Vegas Stars v. Tucson Toros, 30-7/3, triple-A pro baseball, 7:35pm, Cashman Field, 386-7200

Nevada School of the Arts Camp, 30-8/10, Lee Canyon, 739-3502

Damboree '85, 4, pancake breakfast, parade, softball, game booths, fireworks, Miss Damboree Queen contest, fireworks, City Park, Boulder City, 293-2034

Fireworks, 4, Silver Bowl, 739-3900

PIONEER TERRITORY

May

Stock Car Races, every two weeks from Memorial Day to Labor Day, at the race track 8 miles east of Tonopah on U.S. 6, 482-6540

Stargazing, 4, 8pm, Cathedral Gorge State Park, 782-4467

Hawthorne's Armed Forces Day, 14-19, main events are on Sat. starting at 7:30am with breakfast followed by fire department waterfights and parade at noon; the Army Ammunition Plant holds an open house with tours and barbecue, and the 7pm stock-car races at the speedway are followed by fireworks at dusk. The celebration also includes a dinner and dance on Fri. and art shows, talent and queen's contests, 945-5896

Parkie Packrat Day, 18, bring lunch, canteen of water, hiking shoes, 10am-2pm, Cathedral Gorge State Park, 728-4467

Lincoln County Homecoming, 23-26, bottle and antique show, fast-pitch softball tournament, barbecue, Caliente, 726-3306

Jim Butler Days, 23-27 on Thurs. teen dance; on Fri. Kangaroo Court, street dance; on Sat. Kangaroo Court, 10am parade followed by horseshoe pitching contest, arts and crafts show, junior and women's mucking, double jack drilling; stock car races, Fancy Dress Ball and beard contest; on Sun. arts and crafts show, Kangaroo Court, 6.2-mile and 2.2-mile Summit Runs starting and finishing at Mizpah Hotel, men's horseshoes, senior mucking and single jack drilling, followed by arm wrestling, barbecue, western dance, raffle, and Bartenders, Waiters and Waitresses Race; on Mon. Memorial Day services, on Sat.-Mon. special displays at Central Nevada Historical Museum, Tonopah, 482-3859



Old-time Firefighters

From 1905 to 1945 Las Vegans relied solely on volunteer firefighters to keep the heat off the town, and their work made local insurance rates among the lowest in the West. Those firefighters are the subjects of a current exhibit at the Nevada State Museum and Historical Society in Las Vegas. The show features old photographs and vintage equipment. Above, the boys pose with their Reo Speedwagon in 1930.

Hike, 25, five mile round-trip, bring lunch, canteen, hiking shoes; 9am-3pm, Beaver Dam State Park, 728-4467

Campfire Program, 25, 8pm, Cathedral Gorge State Park, 728-4467

"The Great Mojave Desert," 25, film, 8pm, Spring Valley State Park, 962-5102

Campfire Program, 26, 8pm, Echo Canyon State Rec. Area, 728-4467

June and July 4th

Etna Cave Hike, 1 bring water, hiking shoes, 9am-noon, Kershaw-Ryan State Park, 726-3325

Campfire Program, 1 8pm, Spring Valley State Park, 962-5102

Delamar 400, 8, off-road race covering two 200-mile loops, begins (6am) and ends in Caliente, Silver Dust Racing Assn. (LV), 459-0317

Campfire Program, 8, 7:30pm, Echo Canyon State Rec. Area, 728-4467

Parkie Packrat Day, 8, bring lunch, water, hik-

ing shoes, 10am-2pm, Spring Valley State Park, 962-5102

Fishing Derby, 9, for children 1-12 years old, free, Sportsman's Park, Rye Patch Pond, 12 miles from Tonopah, 482-3859

Campfire Program, 15, 8pm, Cathedral Gorge State Park, 728-4467

Courthouse Tour, 15, Belmont, 45 miles north-east of Tonopah, 867-3001

Slide Program, 15, 8pm, Spring Valley State Park, 962-5102

Senior Appreciation Day, 15, potluck picnic and entertainment, 11am-2pm, Echo Canyon State Rec. Area, 728-4467

Bullfrog Endurance and Fun Run and Field Day, 15-16, picnics and children's games; 8pm street dance on Sat., Rhyolite No. 2

Wild Burro Races, 15-16, men and women race burros through town, spectators meet at Mountain View Hotel; also a bingo party, dinner, and donkey baseball game, Pioche, 962-5131 or 962-5455



Big Hits in Las Vegas and Reno

The batter swings. Crack! It's a long fly to center. It's going, going—it's here. You'll find triple-A professional baseball at its best when the Las Vegas Stars play a 27-game home schedule in May and June. The Cashman Field nine face teams from Vancouver, Albuquerque, Tacoma, Portland, Phoenix, Hawaii, and Tucson in hopes of swatting their way to the Pacific Coast League championship. In Reno, the class-A Padres play their home games at Moana Stadium against California League opponents. Like the Stars, the Padres are a farm club of the San Diego Padres. See the listings for games' dates and times.



Muckers Dig Tonopah's Town Party

Tonopah celebrates its founder and its heritage this May 23-27 with Jim Butler Days, the annual Memorial Day weekend town party. Butler discovered silver there in 1900, and the boom that followed was one of Nevada's biggest. That tradition continues as modern-day prospectors and hard-rock miners test their strength and skill by mucking ore (above) and hammering drills into a solid slab of Sierra granite. Runners will race from the Mizpah Hotel 10 kilometers up and down winding mining roads during the Summit Race, one of the state's toughest courses. The stock car race at the rodeo grounds is just as tough as the cars roar and skid around the dirt track. There's still more—a big parade, an arts and crafts show, contests, and a variety of dances, all culminating in a street party. Main Street is blocked off, a band tunes up, and then Tonopah dances through the night as if Jim Butler had just located another bonanza.

Steve Owen Memorial Liar's Novelty Boat Race, 16, anything that floats can be entered provided it is not a recognized competition racing craft; engines must be under 10 hp, Cliff House Beach on Walker Lake, 12 miles north of Hawthorne, 945-5896

Children's Fishing Derby, 22, contest followed by movie "The Way of the Trout," 9am-5pm, Spring Valley State Park, 962-5102

Campfire Program, 29, 8pm, Cathedral Gorge State Park, 728-4467

Campfire Program, 29, 8pm, Spring Valley State Park, 962-5102

Parkie Packrat Day, 29, with state parks' mascot, bring lunch, water, hiking shoes, 10am-2pm, Echo Canyon State Rec. Area, 728-4467

Caliente July 4th Celebration, 4, 50th annual, on Thurs. 10am parade followed by games, watermelon bust, swimming, and 9pm fireworks display; on Thurs., Sat., and Sun. breakfast at Rose Memorial Park; Thurs.-Sat. softball tournament; on Sat. 8am golf tournament and 10am mini

motorcycle race for kids; on Sun. 12th annual Clover Creek Grand Prix motorcycle race over six 20-mile laps through city streets and surrounding hills at 9am; 726-3132

Tonopah July 4th Celebration, 4, kids' parade at 10am, fireworks at Logan Field, 482-3859

Pahrump Firemen's July 4th Celebration, 4, barbecue, food booths, fireworks, 727-5658

COVERED WAGON TERRITORY

May

Nevada 85, thru 5/7 photo show, County Library, Lovelock, 273-2216

Spring Festival of Art, thru 5/21 works by local artists and Katrina Lasko of Reno, Northeastern Nevada Museum, Elko, 738-3418

Spring High School Musical, 2-4, Convention Center, Elko, 738-4091

Cactus Pete's Air Race, 4, from Lander, WY to Jackpot, 755-2259

Spring Home Show, 4-5, Convention Center, Elko, 738-4091

Horsehoe Pitching Tournament, 11-12, Cactus Pete's, Jackpot, 755-2259

Pony Express Race, 18, 20-mile relay horse race, 1pm, rodeo grounds, Wells, 752-3355

Cactus Pete's Air Race, 18, from Seattle, WA. to Jackpot, 755-2259

Spring Concert, 22, high school chorale, Convention Center, Elko, 738-4091

Art Show, 23-6/25, works by Marilyn Cordes and Gene Paul, Northeastern Nevada Museum, Elko, 738-3418

Dam Tour, 25, 10am, Rye Patch State Rec. Area, Rye-Patch No. 3

Gem and Mineral Show, 25-26, Convention Center, Elko, 738-4091

Western Festival, 30-7/3, parade, Elko High School Rodeo on Sun.-Mon., wild west shoot-outs, and hot air balloon races, Elko, 738-7135

June and July 4th

Wildflower Walk, 1 bring lunch and water, 10am, Wild Horse State Rec. Area, Northfork 6493

Calf Roping, 2-8/25, team and single calf roping every Sunday, rodeo grounds, Wells, 752-3384

Cactus Pete's Air Races, 8, from Yuba City, CA. to Jackpot, 755-2259

Wells High School Rodeo, 8, boys and girls from Nevada, Idaho, and Utah, rodeo grounds, 752-3616

Winnemucca Basque Festival, 8-9, on Sat. 1:30pm parade downtown, followed by fairground events including folk dancing, weight-lifting, weight-carrying, wood-chopping, and tug-of-war contests, and a public dance 9pm; on Sun. 11am Mass in City Park followed by barbecue of steak, lamb stew, salad, Basque beans, French bread, wine, and cake; dance contest and Basque bread contest; softball tournament throughout weekend; Winnemucca, 623-3212

Northeastern Nevada Quarter Horse Assn. Show, 9, fairgrounds, Elko, 738-7135

Rye Patch Fishing Derby, 14-16, five tagged walleye will be planted in Rye Patch Reservoir with one fish worth \$5,000 and the other four each worth \$1,000; contest begins at 6pm Fri. and ends at 3pm Sun., pre-registration required, call Rye Patch No. 3

Cactus Pete's Air Race, 15, from Orland, CA. to Jackpot, 755-2259

Two-Man Best Ball, 5-16, Wells Golf Course, 752-3928

Appaloosa Horse Show, 22, fairgrounds, Elko, 738-7135

Cactus Pete's Air Race, 22, from Spokane, WA. to Jackpot, 755-2259

Sheepshearing and Judging, 28, 4-H event, fairgrounds, Elko, 738-7135

Wells Rodeo, 29-30, PRCA-sanctioned, rodeo grounds, 752-3384

Lamoille Country Fair, 30, arts, crafts, and children's games, Women's Clubhouse, Lamoille, 744-4322

Wells July 4th Celebration, 4, fireworks, 752-3355

Western States Hollering Contest and Independence Day Celebration, 4, hollering contest at Shoshone Creek Hollow, one mile south, kids' games, fireworks, Jackpot, 755-2259

McDermitt July 4th Rodeo, 4, 623-2225

PONY EXPRESS TERRITORY

May

Berlin Townsite Tours, 1-9/31 every Sat. and Sun. at 11am, Berlin-Ichthyosaur State Park, 23 miles east of Gabbs, 867-3001

Free Weekend, 4-5, no camping fee on Sat. night; no tour fees Sat.-Sun., Berlin-Ichthyosaur State Park, 867-3001

Hazen Photoprint Show, 4-5, 10th annual, noon-6pm, Community Hall, U.S. 50-A in Hazen, 786-0210

Joe Compton Day, 5, a salute to retired Southern Pacific conductor with a potluck dinner, music by Dick Renko and the Virginia City Municipal Band, dancing, and Gingersnap the clown;

Hot Dogs and Hazen

Hazen Day is a small-town celebration that lets you sit back, enjoy a hot dog and beer, and watch the parade go by. The kids can have their faces painted by a clown, and eventually everyone ends up dancing in the streets. This year's grand marshal is Nevada's own C.J. Hadley, who will be either in a '57 Chevy or on her mule, Sister Chicago. Spend a sunny day on June 9 at the old railroad town of Hazen, located midway between Fallon and Fernley on U.S. 50-A.

noon, bring dish for potluck, Hazen Bar on U.S. 50-A, 867-3066

Hidden Cave Tour, 11 meet 9:30am, County Museum, Fallon, 882-1631 or 423-3677

Environmental Living Programs, 14-15, 22-23, and 29-30, school children camp as the soldiers did in 1860s, Fort Churchill Historic State Monument, 577-2345

Mason Day, 18, 8am breakfast, 5-km. and 10-km. runs, 11 am parade, horseshoe contest, hay bale bucking contest, bingo, fashion show, storytelling, and 7:30pm barn dance, Mason, 3 miles southwest of Yerington, 463-4530

Canoe Trip, 18, guided trip from Fort Churchill to Lake Lahontan, 10am, Fort Churchill Historic State Monument, 577-2345

Ely Amateur Golf Tournament, 18-19, open to public, White Pine Golf Course, Ely, 289-4095

Kiwanis Kids' Fish Derby, 25, 9am-noon, Yerington, 463-5165

Hidden Cave Tour, 25, meet 9:30am, County Museum, Fallon, 882-1631 or 423-3677

Children's Day, 25, Dayton Park, 246-3435

Ely Railfair '85, 25, parade and open house at historic East Ely Depot, 289-8877

Eureka High School Rodeo, 25-26, 1pm, rodeo grounds, 1 mi. west of Eureka on U.S. 50, 769-0751

Off-Road Race, 25-26, sanctioned by VORRA, starts and finishes in Yerington, 463-3363

Wild Bunch Stampede, 25-27 rodeo, on Sat. kick-off party and calcutta at 7pm; on Sun.-Mon. dance and party at the Dry Gulch Saloon; on Mon. World Championship Dollar Pitch, buckaroo breakfast and bucking stock contest and auction, fairgrounds, Fallon, 423-5020 or 423-5058

Living History Talks, 25-9/30, every Sat. and Sun. at 10am and 2pm, Fort Churchill Historic State Monument, 577-2345

Ichthyosaur Fossil Shelter Tours, 27-9/2, daily at 10am, 2pm, and 4pm, Berlin-Ichthyosaur State Park, 23 miles east of Gabbs, 867-3001

June and July 4th

Sheep Dog Trial, 1-2, 9am, Rolling A Ranch on Cardelli Road, Dayton, 246-5600

Hidden Cave Tour, 8, meet 9:30am at County Museum, Fallon, 882-1631 or 423-3677

Hazen Day, 9, 10am parade, 1pm street dance with music by Joe Rossi, Virginia City Municipal Band, melodramas by Reno Little Theatre, Ginger-snap the clown, face painting, barbecue, food, beer, Hazen Bar on U.S. 50-A, 867-3066

Daughters of the American Revolution Picnic, 9, for their work in setting aside the fort as a park, noon, Fort Churchill, 577-2345

Picnic, 10, 11am-4pm, open to public, sponsored by Dayton Seniors, Dayton State Park, 246-3435

American Bashkir Curly Horse Show, 14-16, convention center and fairgrounds, Ely, 289-4228

Senior Citizens Day, 15, open to public, music by the local Kitchen Band and high school band, 11am, Dayton State Park, 246-3435

Stargazing, 15, Cave Lake State Rec. Area, 728-4467

Firmin Bruner Days, 15-16, Bruner, a one-time resident of Berlin, leads tour of the townsite, 1pm, Berlin-Ichthyosaur State Park, 867-3001

Reuel Gridley Days, 15-16, fiddling contest noon-4pm both days, booths, free RV parking, Austin, 964-2440 or 964-2301

Pony Express Day, 16, 10am, talks and demonstrations on the Pony Express (1860-61), Fort Churchill Historic State Monument, 577-2345

Hidden Cave Tour, 22, meet 9:30am at County Museum, Fallon, 882-1631 or 423-3677

Campfire Program, 22, 8:30pm, Cave Lake State Rec. Area, 728-4467

White Pine County Rodeo, 22-23, 6pm Sat., 1pm Sun., fairgrounds, Ely, 289-8513

Wildflower Walk, 23, Cave Lake, 728-4467

Pony Express Ride, 23-24, ride near Dayton, Fallon, Austin, Eureka, and Ely, 883-3126

Fishing Seminar, 29, 7pm, meet at Beach 7, Silver Springs, Lahontan Rec. Area, 577-2345

Eureka July 4th Celebration, 4, parade at 10am followed by street events such as the kids' shoe and sack races and nickel scramble, plus adults' egg toss, women's sack race, and men's tug of war. Also, potluck picnic and fireworks followed by dance, 237-5280

Ely July 4th Celebration, 4, parade and kids' games downtown, fireworks at dusk at fairgrounds, 289-8877

Fallon July 4th Celebration, 4, stock car races, fireworks, Lahontan Auto Racing Assn., Rattlesnake Speedway, 2 miles from Fallon on Cemetery Rd., 423-4391

RENO/TAHOE TERRITORY

May

Planetarium Programs, thru 6/9, "The Space Shuttle: An American Adventure" and "Catastrophe!" Fleischmann Planetarium, 784-4811

Music Week, 4/28-5/5, local showcase, 8pm, Brewery Arts Center, Carson City, 883-1976

Art Show, 4/29-5/31 pastels by Deborah Garber, School of Medicine, UNR, 784-6001

Reno Padres v. Bakersfield Dodgers, 4/30-5/2, class-A pro baseball, 7pm Tues.-Thurs., Moana Stadium, 825-0678

Art Exhibit, 1-15, sculptures by John Roloff, 8:30am-4:30pm Mon.-Fri., Sheppard Gallery, Church Fine Arts Bldg., UNR, 784-6682

UNR Jazz Ensemble, 2, noon, Quadrangle, UNR, 784-6145

Washoe Medical Center League's 35th Anniversary Ball, 3, \$25, Harrah's Convention Center, 785-4166

UNR Choral Festival, 3, Trinity Episcopal Church, 784-6145

Silver State Square Dance Festival, 3-5, the 39th annual get-together includes round and square dances and workshops, 8am-1pm Fri., 10am-11pm Sat., 10am-4pm Sun., Reno-Sparks Convention Center, 322-0027

Reno Padres v. Rohnert Park Pioneers, 3-5, class-A pro baseball, 7pm Fri.-Sat., 1:30pm Sun., Moana Stadium, 825-0678

Concerts in the Atrium, 3, and every Friday thru May 17 featuring classical, bluegrass, and contemporary music, noon-1pm, free, bring sack lunch, seating available, Airport Gardens Office Building, 1325 Airmotive Way, 329-1324



Musical Motorcycles

For the 400 motorcycle riders who fire up their engines each day at the start of the Virginia City Grand Prix, the roar is a symphony. The riders keep time to the beat with clenched teeth, taut muscles, and spinning wheels as they speed off in groups of 10 every 15 seconds. This year's four-and-a-half-hour trek, covering roughly 170 miles in the nearby hills, takes place on the weekend of May 11-12. Fans can watch and listen from the hillsides and checkpoints around the course on the east side of the old mining town. An excellent viewing spot is the railroad depot on E Street. There you'll find the starting line and pits as well as colorful crowds of riders and camp followers.

Art Exhibit, 3-6/16, realism and contemporary art, Sierra Nevada Museum of Art, 329-3333

Cinco de Mayo Celebration, 4, 10am parade, mariachi band, chili cook-off, Virginia City, 847-0500

UNR Concert Choir, 4, 8pm, Trinity Episcopal Church, 784-6145

Nevada Festival Ballet, 4-5, Pioneer Theater, 329-1324

Kerak Shrine Circus, 4-5, Lawlor Events Center, UNR, 784-4444

Reno Chamber Orchestra Concert, 5, 3pm, Reno Little Theater, 853-1345

Outdoor Pistol Season Opener, 5, Rifle and Pistol Club, Carson City, 324-3187

Gold Hill Bank Gallery Grand Opening, 5, works by Myrna Allen, 1-4pm, Gold Hill, 847-9106

Hunter Pistol Shoot, 5, Palomino Valley Gun Club, 22 miles north of Sparks, 323-3950

UNR Percussion Ensemble Concert, 6, 8pm, Church Fine Arts, UNR, 784-6145

"A Doll's House," 6-8, feminist play, 8:30pm, Lake Tahoe Community College, S. Lake Tahoe, 916-541-4660

Children's Day, 7, nature hike, games, and treasure hunt, 10am, bring lunch, Sand Harbor, Lake Tahoe State Park, 831-0494

Fire Prevention Talk, 7, 10am, Sand Harbor, Lake Tahoe State Park, 831-0494

Concerts, 8-9, on Wed. the UNR Symphonic Band and Jazz Ensemble, on Thurs. UNR Wind Ensemble, 8pm, Pioneer Theater, 784-6145

Crafts Jamboree, 9-11, Lawlor Events Center, UNR, 784-4659

Gallagher, 10-11, comedian on stage, 8pm, Pioneer Theater, 786-5105 or 348-7403

"Four Plays for Coarse Actors," 10-11, comedy, 8:30pm, Reno Little Theater, 329-0661

Region VII Open Horse Show, 11, 8:30am, Nevada State Horseman's Assn., Pine Nut Arena, Gardnerville, 782-3974



BONNIE RODD

Hay Day in Mason

If you can buck bales with the best of 'em, Mason is the place for you on May 18, Mason Day. The small town is three miles southwest of Yerington. The festival—"A Salute to the Agricultural Industries of Nevada"—offers a cash prize and the title of state champion baler to the man and woman who can move 32 bales and neatly restack them faster than anyone else. Above, baleful bandito Buster Roberts, the 1983 champion, shows the form he used to turn hay into cash. Mason Day has events for the whole family, too—a pancake breakfast, 5- and 10-kilometer runs, a horsehoe contest, skits, bingo, and more. At day's end the festival starts to swing as everyone stomps and reels to western music at the barn dance.

Nevada State Smallbore Rifle Three Position Championship, 11-12, Rifle and Pistol Club, Carson City, 883-1348

Grand Prix Desert Race, 11-12, 4.5-hour motorcycle race, 9am, Virginia City, 322-8083

Eldorado Hotel's 12th Birthday Celebration, 11-13, 786-5700

Wildflower Slide Show, 12, 7pm, Sand Harbor, Lake Tahoe State Park, 831-0494

"A Doll's House," 12-15, feminist play, 8:30pm, Lake Tahoe Community College, S. Lake Tahoe, 916-541-4660

Reno Padres v. Modesto Athletics, 13, class-A pro baseball, 7pm, Moana Stadium, 825-0678

Dr. Benjamin Spock, 13, Pioneer Theater, 786-5105

Sierra Nevada Chorale Concert, 15, Pioneer Theater, 329-1324

Safe Boating Day, 15, 10am, Sand Harbor, Lake Tahoe State Park, 831-0494

Reno Padres v. Modesto Athletics, 15-16, class-A pro baseball, 6pm doubleheader Wed., 7pm Thurs., Moana Stadium, 825-0678

Concert, 16, Duquesne University Tamboritzens, Pioneer Theater, 786-5105

"Same Time Next Year," 16-18, romantic comedy, 8pm, Space Theatre, 827-5002

Nevada 85, 16-6/18, photo show, Washoe County Library, 785-4190

"Four Plays for Coarse Actors," 17-18, comedy, 8:30pm, Reno Little Theater, 329-0661

Reno Padres v. UNR, 17-18, exhibition baseball game, 7pm Fri., 1:30pm Sat., Moana Stadium, 825-0678

Tahoe Rim Trail Training, 17-18, for anyone interested in being a crew leader on building of the loop trail, S. Lake Tahoe, 916-577-0676

Spring Antiques Show and Sale, 17-19, Reno-Sparks Convention Center, 827-7600

Ladies Invitational Slot Marathon, 17-19, Reno Ramada Hotel, 788-2000

Firemen's Dinner and Auction, 18, auction 5pm, dinner 6pm, Firehouse, Genoa, 782-5220

PASCO Regional Soaring Competition, 18-19 and 25-27, Minden Airport, 782-7627

Miniature and Doll House Shows, 18-19, MGM Grand, 789-2000

Blackjack Tournament, 19, Peppermill, 826-2121

Tales of Tahoe, 20, 7pm, talk by Patrick Betson, Sand Harbor, Lake Tahoe State Park, 831-0494

PASCO Cross Country Soaring Camp, 20-24, Minden Airport, 782-7627

Nature Trail Dedication, 22, 11am, Sand Harbor, Lake Tahoe State Park, 831-0494

"Same Time Next Year," 23-25, romantic comedy, 8pm, Space Theatre, 827-5002

Campfire Program, 24, 7pm, Sand Harbor, Lake Tahoe State Park, 831-0494

"Four Plays for Coarse Actors," 24-25, comedy, 8:30pm, Reno Little Theater, 329-0661

Memorial Day Steam-Up, 24-27 on Fri.-Sat. V&T Railroad Museum opens 1985 season, on Sun.-Mon. restored locomotive is steamed up, 2128 South Carson St., Carson City, 885-4810

National Antique Gun Show, 25-26, Reno-Sparks Convention Center, 827-7600

Hobie Regatta, 25-26, Washoe Lake, 849-0286

Regional High Power Rifle Shoot, 25-27, Palomino Valley Gun Club, 22 miles north of Sparks, 323-3950

Dance Factory Program, 26, Pioneer Theater, 786-5105

The Great Lake Tahoe Sternwheeler Race, 27, *Tahoe Queen* and *M.S. Dixie* race along the south shore of Lake Tahoe, 588-2488

Reno Padres v. Modesto Athletics, 30-31, class-A pro baseball, 7pm, Moana Stadium, 825-0678

Incline Follies of 1985, 30-6/1, variety show with music and dancing, 7pm, The Chateau, Incline Village, 831-0781

"Same Time Next Year," 30-6/1, romantic comedy, 8pm, Space Theatre, 827-5002

Fancy Quilt Show, 31-6/15, 10am-4:30pm, Courthouse Museum, Genoa, 782-2476

June and July 4th

Flower Show, 1, 1-7pm, Rancho San Rafael, 329-0191

Full Moon Hike at Spooner Lake, 1, 7:30pm, bring flashlight, Lake Tahoe State Park, 831-0494

Reno Padres v. San Jose Bees, 1-2, class-A pro baseball, 1:30pm Sat., 1pm doubleheader Sun., Moana Stadium, 825-0678

Photo Show, 1-30, Reno Rodeo photographs by Vern Howell, Bill Price, and Nickie Gianikos, Washoe County Library, Reno, 851-3204

Great Basin Photography Exhibit, 1-30, 10am-4:30pm, Courthouse Museum, Genoa, 782-2476

Reno Municipal Band Concerts, 2-8/31, noon-1pm, weekdays, Wingfield Park, 851-0759

Seniors' Day, 3, 1pm, Sand Harbor, 831-0494

Children's Day, 5, Spooner Lake, 831-0494

Champions Classic '85, 3-9, Senior PGA Tour event, on Wed. national long-drive qualifying, Bob Toski clinic, Paul Hahn Jr. trick shot exhibition; on Thurs. Muscular Dystrophy auction; on Thurs.-Fri. pro-am; Fri.-Sun. pro championship, Wildcreek Golf Course, Sparks, 322-0255

Relay Run, 6, Peppermill, 826-2121

Auction, 6, for Muscular Dystrophy Assn., 6pm, Peppermill, 826-2121

"A Doll's House," 6-8, feminist play, 8:30pm, Collegiate Theatre, Lake Tahoe Community College, S. Lake Tahoe, 916-541-4660

Carson Valley Days, 6-9, 10am parade on Sat., rodeo Sat.-Sun., throughout the 4-day celebration

are art shows, softball, beard contest, barbecue, sack race, tug of war, waterfights, dance, ladies rolling pin throwing contest, Minden and Gardner-

ville rodeo grounds on Pinenut Road, 782-7456

Ladies Invitational Slot Marathon, 7-9, Reno Ramada Hotel, 788-2000

"Crimes of the Heart," 7-9, comedy, 8:30pm Fri.-Sat., 2pm Sun., Reno Little Theater, 329-0661

"Inherit the Wind," 7-22, drama, 8pm Fri.-Sat., Proscenium Players, Brewery Arts Center, Carson City, 883-1976

Historic Town Walk, 8, meet at Mormon Station, 10am, Genoa, 782-2590

Sierra Cup Sailboard Regatta, 8, Washoe Lake State Park, 825-8803

Nevada State Smallbore Rifle 3200 Prone Championship, 8-9, Rifle and Pistol Club, Carson City, 883-1348

Reno Padres v. Rohnert Park Pioneers, 10-13, class-A pro baseball, 7pm, Moana Stadium, 825-0678

Peppermill Anniversary Week, 10-15, 826-2121

Fly Fishing Demonstration, 11, 1pm, Spooner Lake, Lake Tahoe State Park, 831-0494

"A Doll's House," 12-15, feminist play, 8:30pm, Collegiate Theatre, Lake Tahoe Community College, S. Lake Tahoe, 916-541-4660

Reno Padres v. Fresno Giants, 13-14, class-A pro baseball, 7pm Thurs., 6pm doubleheader Fri., Moana Stadium, 825-0678



LINDA DUFURRENA

Dancing in Winnemucca

Every summer Nevada Basques celebrate their colorful heritage with traditional dances, songs, strong-man competitions, and delicious dinners of steaks and stews. The state's five-festival season begins June 8-9 with the big annual gathering in Winnemucca. That's followed by the National Basque Festival in Elko, July 6-7, and the festivities in Ely on July 20, Reno on August 10, and Las Vegas on August 31 and September 1.

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HANNAH PHILLIPS

It's Rodeo Season

The gate flies open to an explosion of muscle, horns, and menace as a snarling brahma bull tries to shake a buckaroo off its back. For the rider it's a frenzied brush with destruction. For the crowd it's an exhilarating exhibition of grit, guts, and skill. Bull riding, and the other six pro rodeo events—bareback and bronc riding, calf roping, steer wrestling, team roping, and barrel racing—keep arenas packed throughout the Silver State each summer.

The two richest and most extravagant are the Hellsdorado Rodeo in Las Vegas and the Reno Rodeo. Both are held in June and are rated among the top 10 in the country. With purses nearing a quarter-million dollars each, they draw the finest riders and ropers in the world. The celebrations have grown in size and splendor with parades, dances, and special events that run a few days before and after the rodeos.

Nevada's small-town rodeos may not be such big productions, but they're every bit as lively. Fallon's Wild Bunch Stampede has added events like wild cow milking and saddle cow riding to spice up the action, as shown by promoter Don Bowman (above) with Lucky, his saddle-broke longhorn steer. Following is a roundup of Nevada rodeos scheduled for May and June; see the calendar listing for details.

- May 25-27, Wild Bunch Stampede, Fallon
- June 1-5, Hellsdorado Days, Las Vegas
- June 22-23, White Pine County Rodeo, Ely
- June 25-30, Reno Rodeo
- June 29-30, Wells Rodeo

Other big rodeos this summer include Fallon's All-Indian Rodeo on July 19-21, the Winnemucca Labor Day Rodeo on August 31 and September 1, the Pahrump Harvest Festival Rodeo on September 14-15, and the PRCA Wilderness Circuit Finals in Mesquite, tentatively set for October 25-27. In addition there are numerous high school rodeos throughout the state every spring.—JC

"Crimes of the Heart," 13-16, comedy, 8:30pm Thurs.-Sat., 2pm Sun., Reno Little Theater, 329-0661

Wildflower Walk, 14, 10am, Sand Harbor, Lake Tahoe State Park, 831-0494

Reno Padres v. Stockton Ports, 15-17, class-A pro baseball, 1:30pm Sat.-Sun., 7pm Mon., Moana Stadium, 825-0678

Father's Day Fun Run, 16, Peppermill, 826-2121

50th Anniversary Program, 16, 10am, talks on the lake and history, windsurfing demonstrations, Washoe Lake State Park, 885-4319

Nevada Dance Academy Program, 16, Pioneer Theater, 786-5105

High Power Rifle Silhouette, 16, Palomino Valley Gun Club, 22 miles north of Sparks, 972-7203

Carson Valley Annual Art Show, 16-7/15, 10am-4:30pm, Courthouse Museum, Genoa, 782-2476

Campfire Program, 17, Spooner Lake, 7:30pm, Lake Tahoe State Park, 831-0494

Summer Kids Program, 17-8/23, daily excursions and tours, pre-registration required, Recreation Division, City of Reno, 785-2262

Reno Padres v. San Jose Bees, 18-19, class-A pro baseball, 7pm Tues., 6pm doubleheader Wed., Moana Stadium, 825-0678

Virginia City Motorcycle Marathon and Benefit Party, 19, 200-mile dirt bike ride from Tonopah to Virginia City, followed by community feast and auction, Virginia City, 847-0756

Wildflower Walk, 19, Ann Pinzl of Nevada State Museum guides visitors on an easy 1.6-mile hike around Spooner Lake, 9am, bring water, Lake Tahoe State Park, 831-0494

Butterfly Walk, 21 Spooner Lake, Lake Tahoe State Park, 831-0494

USTA Baton Competition, 21-23, Reno-Sparks Convention Center, 827-7600

Reno Rodeo, 21-30, on 21st carnival and exhibit hall opens, 9:30pm dances every night through the 30th, 7:30pm truck pull; on 22nd 8am team penning, 10am parade, 7:30pm truck pull; on 23rd 8am team penning, 7:30pm truck pull; on 24th Bob Feist Team Roping Invitational at noon; on 25th rodeo performances every night at 7:30pm thru 28th; on 29th 1:30pm and 7:30pm rodeo performances; on 30th rodeo final at 1:30, State Fairgrounds, 329-3877

Nevada 85, 21-7/9, photo show, Nevada Historical Society Downtown Gallery, 329-5327

Nevada Buckaroos, 21-12/1 exhibition of photographs and artifacts depicting buckaroo life in Nevada, opening celebration on 6/21 from 6-8pm, Nevada Historical Society, 789-0190

Antique Bottle Show, 22, Reno-Sparks Convention Center, 345-0171

Trail Ride to Marlette Lake, 22, furnish your own horse, equipment, lunch, and water, 9am, Spooner Lake, reservations required, Lake Tahoe State Park, 831-0494

Pony Express Reride, 23, riders go through Carson City along Pony Express trail, 883-3126

Prindle Fleet 8 Washoe Zephyr Regatta, 23-24, Washoe Lake State Park, 358-6931

West Coast Wine Competition, 27-29, award-winning wine and cheese tasting, open to public, Eldorado Hotel, 786-5700

U.S. Senior Open, 24-30, \$225,000 purse, national senior golfers championship, Edgewood Golf Course, Stateline, 588-3566

Reno Padres v. Stockton Ports, 27-30, class-A pro baseball, 7:30pm, Moana Stadium, 825-0678

Ladies Invitational Shot Marathon, 28-30, Reno Ramada Hotel, 788-2000

Peavine Mountain Hike, 30, bus leaves the Nevada Historical Society at 9am and returns at 6pm, wear sturdy shoes, reservations required, 789-0190

High Power Rifle Bench Rest, 30, Palomino Valley Gun Club, 22 miles north of Sparks, 323-3950

Deeplining for Mackinaw Trout, 30, must have current Nevada or California fishing license, 2pm, Cave Rock, Lake Tahoe State Park, 831-0494

Genoa July 4th Celebration, 4, Reno Philharmonic Orchestra, Mormon Station, 782-2590

Star Spangled Fourth of July, 4, air show, fireworks display, South Lake Tahoe, 588-2488

Carson City July 4th Celebration, 4, 11am parade, arts and crafts, bands, breakdancing, train rides, contests, and fireworks in Mills Park, 882-1565

Incline Village July 4th Celebration, 4, air show at 7pm, fireworks at dusk, Hyatt Lake Tahoe Beach, 831-1111

Virginia City July 4th Celebration, 4, 11am parade, Municipal Band concert, 847-0311

Reno July 4th Picnic, 4, meet Washoe County and state elected officials, 10am-2pm, Idlewild Park, 786-3146

Skyfire '85!, 4, music and refreshments starting at 6pm, fireworks at 9pm, free, Mackay Stadium, UNR, 786-3030

COMING ATTRACTIONS

July

National Basque Festival, 6-7 Elko, 738-7135

Grand Premier Fiddle Contest, 7-9, Battle Mountain, 635-5155

Fallon's All-Indian Rodeo, 19-21 423-3968

Ely Basque Festival, 20, 289-2218

R.S.V.P. Capital City Fair, 25-28, Carson City, 885-4680

Reno Town Faire, 27 785-2260

August

Arts in the Park Festival, 3-4, Ely, 289-8877

Laughlin River Days, 4-10, 298-2214

Reno Basque Festival, 10, 825-9636

Pony Express Days, 17-18 and 24-25, Ely, 289-8877

White Pine County Fair, 24-25, Ely, 289-8877

Clark County Basque Festival, 31-9/1 Las Vegas, 385-2662

September

Frontier 500 Off-Road Race, 3-7, Las Vegas, 734-0385

Nevada State Fair, 4-8, Reno, 322-7011

Great Reno Balloon Race, 6-8, 788-3025

Virginia City Camel Races, 6-8, 847-0311

Reno National Championship Air Races, 12-15, 826-7500

Pahrump Harvest Festival and Rodeo, 14-15, 727-5314

Hoover Dam's 50th Anniversary Ceremony, 28, Boulder City, 293-5637

Old Timers Rodeo, 28-29, Mesquite, 346-5232

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 800-555-1212. □

On Your Mark: A Tahoe Runner's Guide

Runners will have many chances this summer to race through the scenic byways of Lake Tahoe, often in the company of world-class distance racers. Competitors from low elevations should come to the lake early to minimize altitude problems. Here is a summary of the season:

Robert DeCelle II Memorial Tahoe Relay is on June 8 and includes seven-person teams entering in several categories—open, all men, all women, mixed men and women, high school, or masters (over 40). The team record for the 72-mile around-the-lake race is 6 hours, 16 minutes, and 28 seconds. The race begins at 7 a.m. at the "Y" in South Tahoe with last-minute entries accepted after 5:30 a.m.

Western States 100 is the prestigious and grueling 100-mile race over the mountains from Squaw Valley to Auburn on July 6.

Ponderosa Ridge Run on July 6 is a 9.5-mile race, which starts at Spooner Summit, where U.S. 50 meets State Route 28 on the east shore.

Tahoe Series includes a 5-kilometer race on June 2, a 10-kilometer June 30, and a 15-kilometer July 28.

Donner Lake Mini Triathlon on July 14 includes an 800-yard swim, 3-mile run, and 8-mile bike ride.

Where The Hell Is Truckee Run on August 25 is an 18-miler that starts at the North Lake Tahoe High School.

Donner Lake Mini Ironman Triathlon on July 27 includes a half-mile swim, 6.89-mile run, and 15-mile bike ride up Donner Summit to Soda Springs. There's also a 10-kilometer run around the lake at 10 a.m.

All Comers Meets sponsored by the South Tahoe Track Club are on July 11, 18, and 25 and August 1, 8, and 15 at 5:30 p.m. at South Tahoe Intermediate School. Events range from 25 to 3,000 meters. Also at the school are the **Trout Creek Run** on July 27, a 5-mile race starting at 10 a.m., and the **High Sierra 10-Kilometer Race** on August 22.

Silver State Marathon and Half Marathon on September 1 are races of 26.2 and 13.1 miles starting and ending in Washoe Valley.

South Lake Tahoe 15-Kilometer Run is September 1 at 5 p.m. starting at the "Y"

Pepsi 72 is a solo 72-mile endurance run around the lake on September 6.

World's Toughest Triathlon, September 7, is the world championship for the professional triathlete. It includes a 2.4-mile swim in Lake Tahoe; a 120-mile bicycle ride from South Lake Tahoe to Gardnerville, Markleeville, and Harrah's at Stateline via Luther and Monitor passes; and a 26.7-mile run from Harrah's to Spooner Summit via Ponderosa Ridge, to and down Kingsbury Grade, and then back to Harrah's. If this race sounds too tough, consider the rewards—\$100,000 in prize money.

Angora Ridge Run on October 20 starts at 10 a.m. at California Route 89 and Fallen Leaf Road.

The season finale is the **Donner Lake Turkey Trot**, November 17; runners meet at 10:30 a.m. at Donner Memorial State Park for a 7-mile run. Also this fall is the **Tahoe Marathon** and the 10-kilometer **Trick or Trot Run** at the Incline Village Development Center next to the Hyatt.

For more information, call Austin Angell, head of the South Tahoe Track Club, at 916-541-5224.—ML

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ROOMS RENTED
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Sagebrush Gourmet

"A diner's guide to the Silver State."

Following is a selective guide to reader-approved Nevada restaurants whose advertisements appear in this section. Besides descriptions of menu and atmosphere, the listings include prices, hours and other details for your convenience. If you have any comments on the establishments listed, drop us a line at Nevada Magazine, Sagebrush Gourmet, Capitol Complex, Carson City, NV. 89710-0005.

CATTLEMENS

Hwy. 395, Washoe Valley
Between Reno and Carson City. 849-1500
A ranch-style restaurant, the cozy Cattlemens offers excellent meals at moderate prices. The special sirloin steak dinner is a popular and good buy. Currently \$6.45, this dinner includes a baked potato, salad, bread, ranch-style beans, sirloin steak and a glass of wine. Other entrees range from a simple hamburger steak to a filet mignon and lobster. The Alaska king crab is delicious! Open seven days a week for dinner from 5 p.m. No reservations. AE, MC, VISA.

COMSTOCK HOTEL & CASINO

Second and West Street
Reno. 329-1880
Home of the famous One-Pound New York Steak

Dinner for only \$5.99. The Comstock's popular 24-hour **Miner's Cafe** also features complete breakfast, lunch, and dinner menus. Enjoy reasonably priced gourmet meals served in an intimate and relaxing atmosphere in the new **Comstock Dinner House**. Reservations accepted. Full-course dinners complete with wine are a bargain at \$6.99 in the **Specialty Room Restaurant**. Every fine meal tastefully prepared to your order. Valet parking available. The Comstock Hotel and Casino, "Where the Old West comes alive every day in Downtown Reno." AE, MC, VISA.



LOUIS' BASQUE CORNER

301 E. 4th Street
Reno. 323-7203
Louis' restaurant offers a warm, unhurried atmosphere that hints of yesterday. Master chefs prepare genuine Basque cuisine such as Tripes Callos, Poulet a la Basquaise, Paella, Boeuf Bourguignon,

Comstock

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MINER'S CAFE Home of Reno's "Famous One-Pound New York Steak" dinner, this popular 24-hour restaurant also features a complete breakfast, lunch and dinner menu. No reservations necessary.	Comstock Dinner House Gourmet meals reasonably priced and served in a relaxed, intimate atmosphere reminiscent of 1880s charm. Prime rib, Veal Oscar and broiled salmon steak are just a few of the specialties. Reservations accepted.

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and entrees including Coq au Vin (chicken in red wine sauce), Lapin Chasseur (hunter's rabbit), and Ris de Veau (sweetbreads) as well as many other delicious French and Spanish Basque dishes all served family style with complimentary wine. You can enjoy a famous picon punch, cafe royale or perhaps an Izarra. Basque culture is reflected in the pottery, artifacts and pictures from the Pyrenees which grace the walls of the two traditional dining rooms. Louis and Lorraine Erreguible host many special dinners and parties in this authentic Basque restaurant. Ample free parking. Lunch: Mon.-Fri., 11:30-1:30; Dinner: 6 p.m., nightly. All major credit cards accepted.

MARTIN HOTEL

Railroad & Melarky Streets
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"We ate here!" Delicious Basque and American food at the famous Martin Hotel. Founded in the late 1800s, the Martin retains its old Basque hotel traditions and a comfortable bar. Lunch: 11:30-2 (menu). Dinner: 6-10 p.m. (no menu). Fixed fare includes steak, side dish (clams & rice, oxtail or tongue). Prime rib or steak Saturday only. Basque fare and wine, \$10-\$12. Seating family-style. No reservations. Closed all major holidays. MC, VISA. Rooms available.

STAR HOTEL

245 Silver (at Third)
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Built in 1909 as a boardinghouse for Basque sheepherders and ranchers, today the Star Hotel still houses sheepherders. But now it's also home for an extraordinary family-style restaurant specializing in hearty meals, European style. Joe and Anita Sarasua offer entrees including steak, seafood, chicken, oxtails, and roasted bits of lamb prepared with onion and red pimientos. Try a picon punch and the Friday chef's special of lobster, bacalao or rice and clams (in season). Dinner entrees include ample portions of soup, salad, vegetables, beans, spaghetti and French fries followed by ice cream or sherbet. Fine and plentiful fare. Dinners only: 5-9 p.m. Closed Sundays. No reservations. No credit cards.

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Stockman's Restaurant & Casino of Fallon is a family owned and operated establishment offering the thrill of gaming 24 hours and live entertainment and dancing Tuesday thru Saturday. Stockman's boasts a truly delightful coffee shop complete with breakfast, lunch and dinner menu. Served impeccably with a down-home friendliness. Gracious dining is found in Stockman's Nevada Room where you'll enjoy your favorite steak, seafood, chicken and chop dish. Nevada Room dining is open 7 nights a week 5-10 p.m. VISA/MC welcomed. Reservations accepted.

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I-80 E. to McCarran at Nichols
Sparks. 331-1069

Western Village's friendly staff won't let you leave any one of its three fine restaurants hungry. **The Steakhouse**, open nightly for dinner, serves steaks, prime rib, seafood, and Texas-style chicken 'n ribs. Daily specials throughout the week include steak and crab on Wednesday nights for only \$7.95. **Pancho and Willies Mexican Restaurant** features unique south of the border dishes in a relaxing garden setting. Enjoy a 99-cent margarita or one of the daily specials. Mondays and Wednesdays you can indulge in any entree for half price. Open daily for lunch and dinners, with champagne brunch on Sundays for only \$3.95. The **Coffee Shop** offers a variety of American dishes, from the \$1.99 breakfast special to juicy steaks, delicious sandwiches, and other entrees. The Coffee Shop is open 24 hours a day, every day. Reservations advised. AE, MC, VISA. □

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The Queen Was Wild

She was the most captivating poker partner I've ever had.

By Tom F. Smith

The old woman and I reached the bank of video poker machines at the same time. I took one of two empty seats, she took the other, and we began feeding quarters into slots: a dumb way to kill the afternoon, and expensive.

As I fed the hungry monster, I took a peripheral inventory of my companion in foolishness. She seemed ageless, a street person, dressed in Salvation Army attire and worn jogging shoes, but despite the rag-tag clothing, there was about her a humble grace. I imagined she was a mother who had worked her young life away to raise children and grandchildren, sacrificing so her family wouldn't suffer.

Her face told the story. It was lined and crinkled by weather, pain, and lost teeth. Her brow was high, almost noble, her eyes bright and inquisitive. Any artist would have paid to get her on canvas.

She took out a handkerchief with a stack of quarters tied in the corner. One by one she dropped them into the machine, holding her breath as the cards appeared on the screen, but her luck was scant, and most of the coins brought no return. Touched, I hoped her luck would improve.

I was so involved watching her that a sudden flood of coins from my own machine startled me. Four jacks had appeared on the screen, sending 100 quarters into the tray in front of me. Ashamed of my good fortune, I gave my neighbor a dumb grin as I scooped my prize into a Dixie cup.

I was about to leave when a harsh, guttural growl stopped me in my tracks: "You miserable scumbag!" I couldn't believe my ears. "That's the machine I always play," the old woman said. "You pushed in front of me!" From under the great folds of her garments she pulled a roll of greenbacks. Peeling off a twenty, she called to the changeperson, "Hey, Bruce, gimme two long rolls of quarters, and while you're at it, cash in Mr. High-roller's Dixie cup and get him back on the bus to Fresno." □

Tom F. Smith lives and plays in Carson City.

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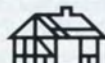
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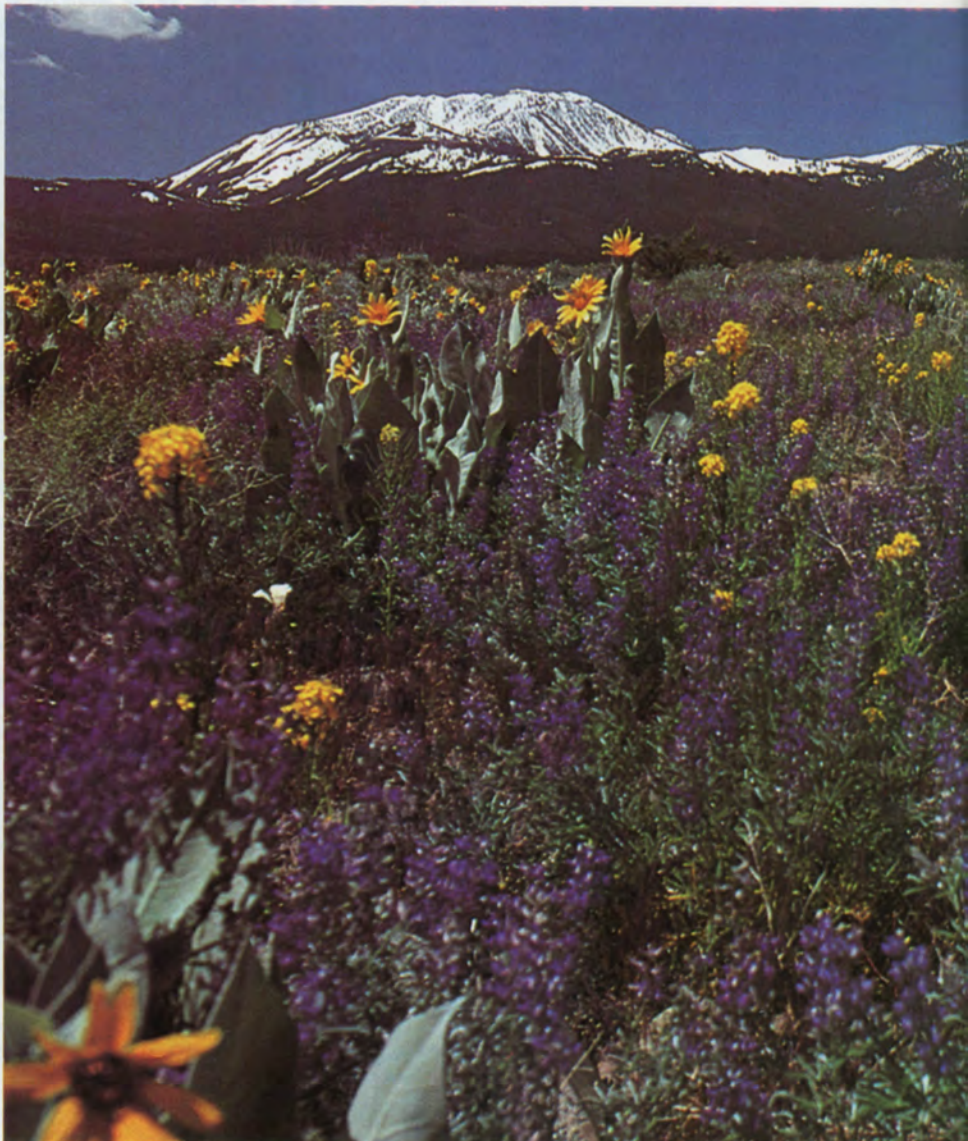
BOB MCKEEVER

The notch-leafed phacelia's flowering (above) resembles the curling tail of a scorpion, so the plant is often called scorpionweed. In summer many Nevada foothills (right) become gardens filled with grass and wildflowers.



EUGENE HERTZOG

The fish-hook barrel cactus bears fruit in winter, providing a gourmet treat for deer and rodents. In spring this spiny plant's flowers form a crown that takes the shape of a pineapple.



B L O O M

Spring wildflowers greet the change of season and give new life to the desert.



LEONARD MATHES



BOB McKEEVER

The humble gilia is a tiny plant that likes to hide in gravel washes on desert slopes. Although its white flowers are fragrant and numerous, the plant never grows any taller than two inches, so it's easy to overlook.



EUGENE HERTZOG

The desert gold poppy is related to the California poppy, the official flower of the Golden Bear State. This flower can be found in abundance throughout the Mojave Desert.

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Roadside Attractions

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Compiled by Tom Derungs

Catch a Wave on the Strip

When the Las Vegas sun pushes temperatures over 100 this summer, try cooling off at the new Wet 'n Wild water park located between the Sahara and El Rancho hotels on the Strip.

The 26-acre family-oriented park will feature such soothing attractions as a 500,000-gallon surf lagoon complete with simulated waves, a "Banzai Boggan" water roller coaster, a water playground with a replica of a 1930s-style zeppelin, and other rides and dripping delights to keep you cool and wet. The \$14-million project is expected to open by Memorial Day weekend.

White Water to Gardnerville

During spring runoff the East Fork of the Carson River attracts a steady stream of white-water canoeists, kayakers, and rafters. From the small town of Markleeville in California, rafters can careen 20 miles through cliffs and inlets, from alpine forest to sagebrush desert. Along the way hikers and anglers can explore side streams and traces of old mine and ranch buildings.

Several outfitters offer two and three-day trips on the Carson in May and June and provide transportation, equipment, food, and skilled guides.

Besides the snowcapped Sierra, green valleys, and plateaus draped in sage and wildflowers, the East Fork's most alluring attractions are two mineral hot springs. The first bubbles out of a side canyon (at 104 degrees) and flows into a steaming pool at the river's edge. Another downstream runs over a ledge to create a natural shower.

This is important: you must stop at the take-out beach near Gardnerville, as noted by the warning signs on your right. Just downstream the river plummets over the abandoned Ruhenstroh Dam—it's a dangerous spot.

For more information contact outfitters like Headwaters, Peter Walenta, Box 3551, Stateline, NV 89449, 702-588-3002, or RAM River Expeditions, Tom Hoeck, 4681 Reggie Road, Reno, NV 89502, 702-826-2307. Additional information on raft trips for the disabled and underprivileged is available from Environmental Traveling Companions, Fort Mason Center, Building C, San Francisco, CA. 94123, 415-474-7662.

Historic Horse Hop

Capital folklore and famous mansions are included in Hoofbeats' horse-drawn ride through some of Carson City's oldest and most notable neighborhoods. The 90-minute narrated tour departs from the Travelodge on North Carson Street, and its rubber-wheeled canopy wagon, pulled by two horses, clops past 60 or more west-side homes, including the Governor's Mansion, and the Brewery Arts Center.

The nostalgic trot accommodates 20 to 30 people at one time and runs weekends 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.; prices are \$5 for adults, \$4 for kids and seniors. For information call 702-882-8147 or write Chuck Wright, Box 2346, Carson City, NV 89702.

Sierra Stargazing

Stunning views of the nighttime Nevada

sky can be seen this summer through the powerful telescopes of McLean Observatory, which is holding star-watching classes on Mount Rose in conjunction with Sierra Nevada College.

The observatory houses a 22-inch Celestron Schmidt-Cassegrain telescope, the largest in the state, and the clear air and low light of the Mount Rose area makes for superior stargazing, a quality Nevada is known for. Professor Robert Neville, the class guide, combines philosophy with astronomy to present fascinating information. The classes provide basic views of our universe, but the major focus is on current celestial events, including sightings of major planets, star clusters, double planets, interstellar gasses, the Spiral Nebula, and the Andromeda Galaxy.

Two weekend workshops, scheduled for the darker phases of the moon to provide better viewing, will be held July 19-21 and August 16-18 for \$265 per person. Each class is limited to 12 participants, so early reservations are suggested. Special group classes are occasionally arranged. For more information write Sierra Nevada College, Box 4269, Incline Village, NV 89450, or call 702-831-1314 or 916-546-3856. □

Roadside Attractions were contributed by Tom Derungs, Kathy A. Crist, and Patricia Rain.

Explore the Silver State



Touring Nevada: A Historic and Scenic Guide

by Mary Ellen and Al Glass

Whether you're exploring Nevada for the first time or just want to rediscover the state, you'll want to take along *Touring Nevada*. This handy guide outlines 34 one-day trips, complete with maps, directions, mileage counts,

and photographs. The authors also include a brief historical sketch for each region of the state.

253 pages Over 50 photos
Paperback \$7.95

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Trees of the Great Basin: A Natural History

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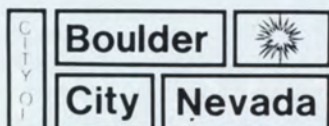
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HAWTHORNE (Continued from page 29)

civilization's rat race." He adds with a smile, "If we need the lights and the action of the big city, we can always drive into Hawthorne."

While Hawthorne may be a big city for Art Jones, Don and Jean Strachan think it's just right. "We live here because, honestly, we see it as a community that won't grow too much. With government facilities on three sides, urban sprawl is impossible," Jean says. "People are friendly, informal and easy to talk to. People walk instead of drive in this town, so you meet them and get to know them."

Don, a geologist, says, "I like the clear air and clean mountain vistas. More importantly, I see Hawthorne as a safe community. When I'm traveling, I'm confident my family, left at home, can get help from friends and neighbors if they have a problem."

The town's historic structures have suffered all the usual frontier assaults. The 1926 fire wiped out most of the pre-1900 buildings. The only major landmark left is the old courthouse, saved from the fire by several well-placed dynamite blasts.

Today the most interesting local architecture can be found on the old Navy base in Babbitt. The base is open to civilian traffic; be prepared to show personal I.D. to security guards at the entrance.

Under government control, the buildings and landscaping of the old military reservation have escaped the vagaries of a boom and bust economy and provide a pleasant oasis in the desert. Manicured lawns spread out before the eyes. Elm and cottonwood trees that have never known a thirsty day provide shade for anyone who wishes to partake. Laughing children bike through the quiet streets and play ball on wide carpets of grass. Golfers gather nearby at the base's picturesque nine-hole golf course.

Scenery and sports aside, boosters say that Hawthorne's greatest asset is its people — folks who have given the town a reputation as a survivor, who make the best of a situation, be it boom, bust, or cloudburst.

Summers are hot and dry, but occasional thunderstorms and gully washers send rivers coursing through places where lizards and jackrabbits live the rest of the time. One day last summer, such a storm blasted mud and debris through the yard of Max Chilcott's home in Hawthorne. Asked what he planned to do with the mess, Chilcott said to a reporter, "Maybe I'll leave it. I think it might be better soil than I had before." □

John S. Miller of Carson City is an employee of the Administrative Office of the Courts. A well-known Nevada newspaperman, he lived in Hawthorne as a youngster.

SHOWGUIDE

Where the stars and shows are
playing this spring.

By Melissa Loomis

SHOWS & STARS

Following is a muster of the stars, revues, and extravaganzas you can see in Nevada showrooms in May and June. Hotels and casinos are listed by territory as shown on the map in this issue's Nevada Calendar Schedules can change, so it's wise to call ahead for times, dates, and reservations. For out-of-state callers, Nevada's area code is 702. For the hotels' toll-free phone numbers, call 800-555-1212.

LAS VEGAS TERRITORY

Aladdin, 736-0111 Entertainment TBA

Barbary Coast, 737-7111 Jay Ramsey, 5/16-29; Irish Show Band, thru 7/5; Sam Butera and the Wildest, 6/6-7/3; Entertainment Committee, 6/27-7/10

Caesars Palace, 731-7333: Joan Rivers/Doc Severinsen/Garry Shandling, 5/1-7; Sammy Davis Jr./Bill Cosby, 5/8-20 (dark 5/14); Liberate, 5/22-27; Rodney Dangerfield, 5/29-6/10 (dark 6/4)

Circus Circus, 734-0410: Circus acts, 11:30am-midnight, free

Del Webb's Nevada Club, Laughlin, 298-2512

Desert Inn, 733-4566: Tony Orlando, thru 5/12; dark Mon.

Dunes, 737-4110: Lounge entertainment

Edgewater, Laughlin, 298-2453

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; Bach/Calamity Jane, 5/28-6/3; Calamity Jane, 6/4-10; Sonny Turner, 6/11-7/1

Four Queens, 385-4011 Monday Nite Jazz, indf., Dondino, indf., The Platters, 4/30-5/19; The Van Dells, 5/21-6/2

Frontier, 734-0240: Siegfried & Roy in Beyond Belief, thru 6/2 & 7/2-indf., Moe Bandy/George Strait, 6/3-9; Wayland Jennings/Jessi Colter, 6/10-23; TBA 6/24-30

Golden Nugget, 385-7111 *Cabaret*: Paul Anka, 5/2-14; Shecky Greene, 5/16-21 Alan King, 5/23-28; John Denver, 5/30-6/1 Sarah Vaughan, 6/6-11 David Brenner, 6/13-25; Paul Anka, 6/27-7/9; *Theatre Ballroom*: Frank Sinatra, 5/24-27

Hacienda, 798-0571 Fire & Ice, ice spectacular, indf., 8pm optional dinner show from \$14.95, 8pm and 11pm cocktail shows \$10.95

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 shows \$11.95; dark Sun.

Landmark, 733-1110: Pete Barbutti/Big Tiny Little, 5/1-31 Mickey Finn Show, 6/1-30

Las Vegas Hilton, 732-5755: Bal du Moulin Rouge, indf., starring Charo/Charlie Callas thru 5/7 starring Jim Nabors/Lonnie Shorr 5/8-6/18; 8pm dinner show from \$19.50, midnight cocktail show \$16.

MGM Grand Hotel, 739-4567 *Ziegfeld Theatre*: Jubilee! indf., 7:30pm & 11pm, dark Wed., \$25; *Celebrity Room*: Oak Ridge Boys, 5/2-8; Mac Davis, 5/9-22

Marina, 739-1500: Old Burlesque '85 with Bob Mitchel, indf., 8pm & 10pm Tues.-Sun., 8pm, 10pm, & midnight Fri.-Sat., \$6.95

Maxim, 731-4300: Paul Revere and the Raiders, 4/29-5/9, 8pm & 10:15pm; dark Tues., \$7.95, includes 2 drinks

Mint, 385-7440: Breck Wall's Bottom's Up '85, indf., Tues.-Sun., Sandy Hackett's Talent Showcase, indf., Mon.

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

Peppermill's Western Village, Mesquite, 346-5232

Regency Casino, Laughlin, 298-2439

Riverside Resort, Laughlin, 298-2535

Riviera, 737-1755: Solid Gold/Fifth Dimension, 4/24-5/1 Solid Gold, 5/1-23; Barry Manilow, 5/24-26

Royal Casino, 733-4000: Cook E. Jarr, indf.

Saddle West Casino, Pahrump, 727-5953

Sahara, 737-2424: From the Top, revue, indf., George Carlin, 5/23-26

Sam Boyd's California, 385-1222: Lounge entertainment

Sam's Town, 456-7777: Wrangler Showdown, a country and western music talent search, every Tues. night thru 6/11

Sam's Town Gold River, Laughlin, 298-2242

Sands, 733-5453: Nightly entertainment

Silver Slipper, 734-1212: Boylesque, revue, indf., 8pm, 10pm, midnight, dark Thurs., \$6.95

Stardust, 732-6325: Lido de Paris starring Bobby Berosini's orangutans, indf., 7pm & 11pm nightly, \$17.50, includes 2 drinks

Sundance, 382-6111 Kathy Dahl/Richard Yusco, indf.

Tropicana, 739-2411 Folies Bergere starring Ronn Lucas and Lance Burton, indf., 8pm dinner show \$15.95, 11:30pm cocktail show \$11.95; dark Thurs.

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

RENO/TAHOE TERRITORY

Caesars Tahoe, 588-3515: Kenny Loggins, 5/24-26; Johnny Mathis, 6/27-30

Carson City Nugget, 882-1626: The Lelands, 4/30-5/26; The Motifs, 5/28-6/30

Carson Valley Inn, Minden, 782-9711 Nightly entertainment and dancing

Circus Circus, Reno, 329-0711 Circus acts, 11:30am-midnight, free

Crystal Bay Club, Tahoe, 831-0512: Yours Truly, 4/23-5/5

Del Webb's High Sierra, Tahoe, 588-6211 Gary Mule Deer, 4/30-5/12; Zella, 5/7-19; Danny Marona, 5/21-6/9; Gary Mule Deer, 6/10-23; Doug Kershaw, 6/11-23

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

Harrah's Lake Tahoe, 588-6611 *South Shore Room*: Tony Orlando/Jim Stafford, 4/24-5/6; Don Rickles/Debbie Reynolds, 6/7-13; Bill Cosby/Leo Sayer, 6/14-27; Mac Davis, 6/28-7/11 *Stateline Cabaret*: Breakin' Loose, revue, indf., Wed.-Mon., The Bus Boys, 5/28-6/9 (except Mon.), The Platters, 6/11-23 (except Mon.)

Harrah's Reno, 329-4422: *Headliner Room*: Andy Williams, 4/25-5/1 Joel Grey/Patti Page, 5/2-8; Neil Sedaka, 5/9-15; Charo, 5/16-29; Glen Campbell, 5/30-6/5; Lynda Carter, 6/6-12; Mel Tillis, 6/13-26; Mickey Gilley, 6/27-7/3; *Casino Cabaret*: Bustin' Out, revue, indf., Wed.-Mon., Tavares, 4/30-5/5; The Shoppe, 5/7-12; The Platters, 5/28-6/9 (except Mon.); The Bus Boys, 6/11-16; The Amazing Kreskin, 6/18-23

Harvey's, Tahoe, 588-2411 *Top of the Wheel*: Ron Rose Sound, indf., Freda Ross, 5/1-19; Roger Davis, 6/10-16; Jelsa Palao, 6/17-7/7 *Casino Theatre Lounge*: Ginger Corte's Scandals, revue, indf., Michael Darrin's Les Vamps, revue, indf., Jawbone, 5/1-5; Sonny Turner, 5/1-26; Entertainment Committee, 5/6-26; Coast to Coast, 5/27-6/16; Winchester Cathedral, 5/27-6/16; Martha's Children/Vince Cardell, 6/17-7/7

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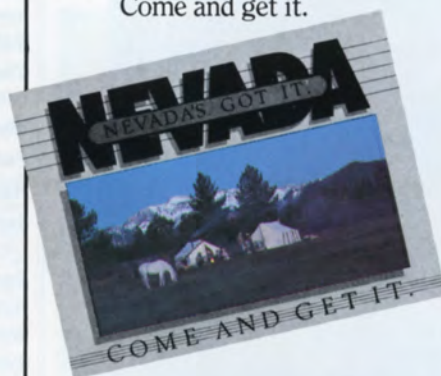
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5/7-19; Liz Damon Show featuring Edda & Laura Bright, 5/21-6/2; Wade Brothers Band/ Scooter and the Bee, 6/4-9

John Ascuaga's Nugget, Sparks, 356-3300: Gary Thompson's Hi-Heel Sneakers, revue, indf.

Li Brandi's, Topaz Lake, 266-3321

MGM Grand Hotel, Reno, 789-2285: *Ziegfeld Theatre:* Hello Hollywood Hello, indf., starring Carol Channing, 5/8-indf., 8pm dinner show from \$22; cocktail show \$18.50; *Lion's Den:* Miss Pat Collins, the Hip Hypnotist, 5/1-28

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

Nevada Lodge, Tahoe, 831-0660: Darren, thru 5/12; David Proud, 5/14-6/2

Ormsby House, Carson City, 882-1890: Crystal, thru 5/5; Stan & Gloria, 4/30-5/12; Sweet Feat, 5/7-19; Spice, 5/14-6/2; Garfin Gathering, 5/21-6/2; Two's Company, 6/4-23; Scooter and the Bee, 6/25-7/21

Peppermill, Reno, 826-2121 Oh La La, thru 5/5; Connection, 4/29-5/26; Reaction, 5/6-19; Oh La La, 5/21-26; Lelands/Tommy Bell, 5/27-6/30

Reno Hilton, 785-7100: *Opera House Theatre:* Razzle Dazzle starring Frank Gorshin thru 5/19, starring Carol Lawrence and Rip Taylor 5/20-6/6; *Cabaret:* Power Play, thru 5/6

Reno Ramada, 788-2000: Shirrel & Coulter, thru 5/4; Steve & Marian, 5/7-12

Riverside, Reno, 786-4400: Dancing to the music of Jack Joseph Fri. and Sat.

Sharkey's Nugget, Gardnerville, 782-3133

Topaz Lodge, Topaz Lake, 266-3339

Western Village, Sparks, 331-1069: Tommy Bell, 4/29-5/12; Michael John & Kimberly, 4/29-5/19; Wray Brothers, 5/13-6/2; Main Stream, 5/20-6/9; Buckboard, 6/3-30; Crystal, 6/11-23; Johnny Western, 6/24-7/7

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BUZZARDS

Gliding on thermals or perching with pals, the turkey vulture is always out to lunch.

Story and photos by Tony Diebold

The turkey vulture is the king of the thermals. With its six-foot wingspan it can outsoar even the golden eagle, catching updrafts in Nevada's desert valleys and floating gracefully for hours in search of food.

The vulture also is trouble personified closer to the ground. Its large, bone-colored beak contrasts chillingly with its balding red head and neck. Perched on a tree branch, with black eyes glaring and shoulders hunched, the vulture looks for all the world like death's messenger. The birds' habit of roosting together in dead cottonwoods makes a group of them seem even more ominous. They bristle their feathers, click their beaks, and make soft hissing noises at anyone who ventures too close.



The vultures' scientific name comes from the Latin word *cathartidae*, meaning "scavenger" or "cleanser." Also called buzzards, these cousins of the condor live throughout much of the continent. In Nevada they often can be seen cleaning a lonely highway after an animal has lost a showdown with a car.

In the cool of the morning you might see vultures sitting on fences or in trees with their wings spread in a looming pose. Scientists think this action is a pre-flight warm-up during which the birds' oversized wings catch the warming rays of the sun. Then the vultures go aloft to fly lazy spirals and wait patiently for breakfast. □

Tony Diebold of Gerlach is an avid outdoorsman.

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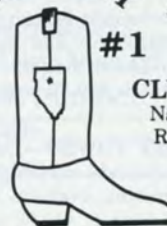
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LARRY SCHUTTE BY LINDA DUFURRENA

Buckaroo Balladeers

At the Poetry Gathering in Elko, seldom was heard a discouraging word, and the cowboys were talking all day

By Roger Smith

It's funny—used to have only dogs and birds to recite my poetry to. I run off two good dogs that way. Now I got people listening.—Bill Doramus

A young man stretches between calf-high boots and a broad-brimmed Stetson, his clothes-hanger moustache, twirled and waxed, jutting past his cheeks. He leans forward on the podium, surveying his audience, and his voice twangs like a handsaw as he recites:

"A bunch of the boys were whooping it up in the Malamute Saloon"

Later, an older man steps to the microphone. His spindly legs bow like parentheses, and a bay window pushes down over his belt. His leather-colored face is shaven close and deeply lined. He speaks tersely, as if it would be foolish to waste more than one breath on a sentence:

"I made this po-em about Old Smoke. Toughest horse I ever rode."

During his ballad about the ornery cayuse, he stares dead ahead over the audience jamming the auditorium, past the TV camera, through the walls of the Elko Convention Center, and into his memories. His voice chokes to a whisper when he gets to the part where Old Smoke dies.

In this way hundreds of poets met face to face, verse to verse, in Elko during the Cowboy Poetry Gathering conducted by the Institute of the American West from January 31 to February 2. Some of the poets and balladeers looked as if they had never busted brush—"You got a lot of costume here," one old hand said—but the Gathering was the biggest, best-run, most colorful poetry shindig that the world has ever seen. Even the most critical

observers saw that among the would-be cowhands, real buckaroos, rodeo riders, folk singers, New York reporters and L.A. photographers, there was something worth listening to about cowboys, that breed of hard-working loners who often get lost behind the movie myths and predictions of their demise.

"Every 20 years or so somebody claims that cowboys are dying out, but they seem to keep going," said James Griffith, the Arizona folklorist whose lecture opened the conference. "It's a very distinct and separate cultural tradition. Their poetry is about this sort of life from the inside, celebrating an insider's view of a highly skilled and still dangerous occupation."

Georgie Sicking is one of those to keep going. A Fallon rancher, she has cowboied in Arizona, California, and Nevada for more than 50 years. She wrote poetry to entertain herself and finally showed it to someone two years ago. Her reading at the Gathering made her a celebrity, but after a series of interviews she sighed, "The women ask me what it's like to be a woman buckaroo. I don't know what to tell them. You have to be there."

Coloradan Baxter Black, the cowboss of buckaroo poets, seemed impressed with the event. "Before I came to Elko," he said, "I couldn't name two other cowboy poets. But there's a lot of them hiding out there in the brush."

He was right. At least 50 men and women, ages 18 to 80, read, recited, or sang their compositions, and if not all of them were cowboys, all shared an interest in ranch life. They spoke of fearsome horses, dead padners, comic mishaps,

heroic rides; they complained of the economic hardships, the cussedness of cattle and the weather; they cursed the government; and when they could, they made fun of themselves while apologizing for nothing. The quality of the verse ranged from doggerel ballads that imitated Robert Service to poems that were respectable by anyone's standards.

Some of the participants recited as if honor and duty required it. One rancher, nervous to distraction, fumbled to a stop in the middle of a poem about the one horse he could never break, and he said, "You know, I'd sooner be riding that bronc right now than trying to read out this poem." But he got through it, and nobody cared if he quavered a bit.

"This is going absolutely goddam great," said Ernie Fanning of the 102 Ranch in Storey County. He had been irritated at the fancy clothes of some of the younger bards, but the poetry suited him fine. He enjoyed tilting back his big bowler and swapping poems with other cattlemen. "You have to teach one to learn one," he said. Like many others there, Fanning said he believed that a good poem doesn't really belong to one person because each reciter adds something of himself.

Some poets saw the Gathering as a chance to expand the ranges of buckaroo themes. Montana rancher Wallace McRae discussed how the movie cowboy myth ignores what ranching is really all about—a business—and how buckaroos might suffer from their heroic image because they feel they have to live up to the stories that writers like Will James have told about them. However, by talking about their actual experiences through poetry, they can go beyond the myth.

"There's a lot of romance and bull," McRae said. "We do it all the time. But we should talk about other things. We tend to ignore love and talk about lust. We hold in rage. Sometimes I think this is dishonesty. We should be less romantic and more human."

Perhaps that's what made the Gathering so worth listening to—those songs and poems in which the poets were trying to write about people and not an image. Beyond the fun of the gab, bawdy songs, nostalgia, carousing, and publicity, the Gathering sometimes encouraged a person to stand in front of, not behind, the popular myth of the buckaroo.

As Georgie Sicking wrote in "To Be a Top Hand,"

*"I've handled lots of cattle
And ridden many a mile,
And I figure I'm doin' my share
If I get in the way
Just once in a while." □*

Roger Smith of Reno teaches English at UNR and rides close herd on the Nevada poetry scene.

Life's a Holiday

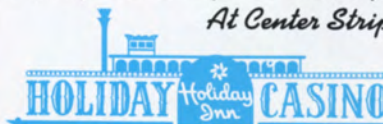
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