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# NEVADA

THE MAGAZINE OF THE REAL WE

DECEMBER 1985/$1.95

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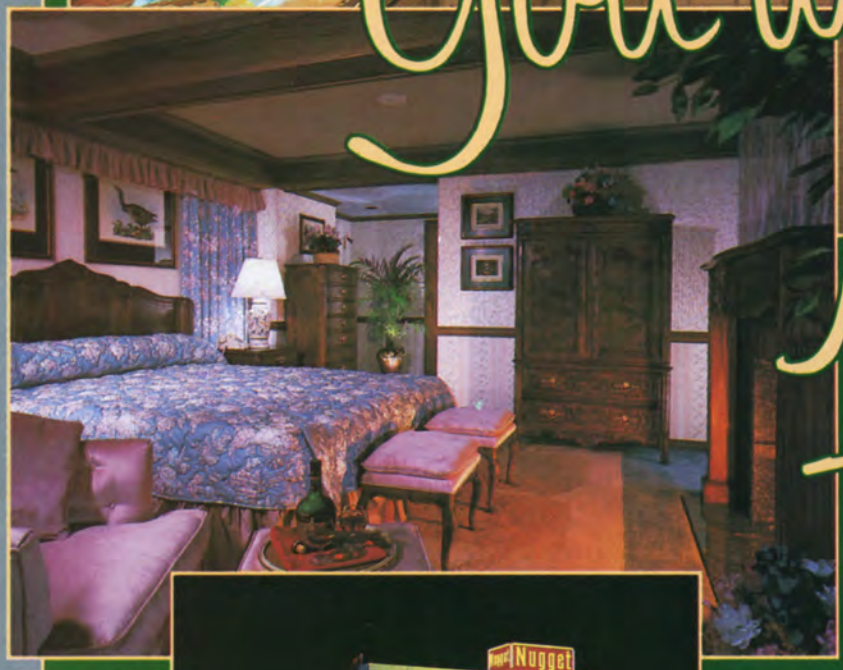

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# NEVADA

Volume 45, Number 6 November/December 1985


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# Up Front

## Season's Greetings

The holiday season heralds the giving of gifts, the passage of time, and elegant sentiments found on Christmas cards. But while some people may write elaborate shopping lists, many Nevadans and visitors are checking off a different kind of ledger.

It reads something like this: 1) watch for dust and smudges on the lens; 2) hold the camera steady; 3) look out for clashing colors; and 4) make sure you've taken the lens cap off.

That's because photographers at this time of year can celebrate the Silver State's photogenic nature with two contests, the Great Nevada Picture Hunt and Nevada 86. Both make appearances in this issue. Beginning on page 46, the GNPH winners are showcased in four pages of fetching Nevada scenes. Contestants in the magazine's eighth annual photo finish also tell how they relied on patience rather than luck to land their prize-winning long shots.

And just as Father Time cracks open a new deck on New Year's Eve, so returns the Northeastern Nevada Museum's photo contest and traveling show, known in the coming year as Nevada 86. The Elko museum will send out entry forms and rules until December 12, as noted elsewhere in the issue. The prestigious exhibition, which will visit 13 towns and cities, draws more than 100,000 visitors each year, making it the most attended art event in the state. Some of the show's top entries are featured in *Nevada* each spring, which means that photographers have two chances every year to be big shots.

If your holiday list is of the more traditional variety, you need look no further than this issue, because *Nevada* has its own brand of gizmos and widgets to suit the most finicky gift giver. For instance, there's the 1986 Super Scenic Calendar, our first full-color calendar in several years. This beauty includes landscapes by David Muench, ranch scenes by Linda Dufurrena, a night view of Hoover Dam bathed in lights, and other color-filled images. For those of us who want a year's worth of great color photography on the nearest wall, this is an excellent choice.

Another dated item is the ever-popular Nevada Historic Calendar, its 14-by-11-inch frame bursting with nostalgic photos and not-to-be-forgotten dates in Nevada history. Even though you may know when the *USS Nevada* survived Pearl Harbor, you won't want to miss that month's photo of William T. Crane and his extended family—men, women, boys, girls, horses, and cows—all posing in the snow at their Elko County ranch.

History also is the appeal of four new posters developed by Marketing Chief Ann Henderson and her tireless team of photo trackers. They came up with classic pictures of burros, cowboys, a miner, and the state-champion girls basketball team of 1907 Then the photos were matched with quotes from such diverse sources as Mark Twain, Horace Greeley, Kurt Markus (a more modern explorer), and the 1913 book *Youth and Sex.*

Another unique wall-hanger features Gordon Wiltsie's photo "Dancing Rattlesnakes." The idea for this color poster came from the agile mind of Art Director Dale Smith. Entranced by the way the snakes' curling bodies formed the shape of a heart, Smith linked the image with the slogan "I Love Nevada." The result is a truly striking poster.

Speaking of matters of the heart, our next issue will celebrate not only the New Year. It also marks an amazing milestone—the magazine's 50th anniversary.

The magazine began in January 1936 as a 20-page pamphlet. Produced by the State Highway Department, *Nevada Highways and Parks* featured stories and photos that showed our growing highway system (at that time fewer than 50 miles of Nevada roads had first-rate paving).

The new publication for the motoring public sought to call attention to Nevada's "abundant natural scenic places, and perhaps promote a wider knowledge of its mountains, deserts, and the real western, friendly spirit of its people."

Half a century later, *Nevada* is still searching every corner of the Silver State for new places of interest, offbeat adventures, and friendly people who embody the spirit of the West. As the state, the tourist industry, and the magazine have grown, the search has been made easier in one way—there's a lot more asphalt out there for all us Nevada explorers.

To celebrate this golden anniversary, the January/February 1986 issue will be a collector's edition featuring some of the finest stories and photos of our first five decades. It's the best of *Nevada,* and what could be better?—*The Editors*

# Letters

## Gems, Golf, and Rattlesnakes

**Letting The Rubies Out Of The Bag**
You ought to be horsewhipped for the lowdown no-good mangy dog that you are, shooting your big mouth off like you did in the July/August '85 issue about the Ruby Crest Trail.

For several years we have been going to the Lamoille Canyon/Ruby Mountain area and have enjoyed it because it wasn't crowded and no beer cans or other litter were strewn around. The AAA has helped to keep the place quiet and undisturbed. Their map of Nevada has the campground shown in the wrong place. Now *you* have to go and spill the beans. Pretty soon the place will look as crummy as Yosemite, which has become about as much fun as camping in a supermarket parking lot. Curses on you and Paula J. Del Giudice for publicizing this spot.

Duane Olesen
Reno, NV

After reading the article about the Ruby Crest Trail, I must say I came away a little disappointed. The photo you featured did not do justice to the trail. Why not, instead, show a picture of Liberty, Favre, and Castle lakes with the trail disappearing towards Wines Peak?

I, for one, never think about the struggle of the hike because there are so many sights to take your mind off the journey. The joy of taking such an excursion doesn't come from where you're headed so much as what you see on the way. Wildflowers, animals, and birds abound. Hikers should try looking not only around themselves but underfoot as well. With a little searching they can be treated to a display of garnets imbedded in the granite along the way. David Muench's photo of Lamoille Lake in that issue (July/August) was taken from a boulder that is just covered with the red "gems."

Yvonne Welch
Reno, NV

*Welch, send us the photo you are talking about and we'll try to run it. It sounds great.—Ed.*

**A Toast To Tuscarora's Parks**
My wife and I surely enjoyed the article on the "Tuscarora Potter" by Richard Menzies in the July/August issue. On our wonderful vacation to Nevada six years ago we visited this recluse Dennis Parks purely by accident. I still drink my coffee and bourbon from a beautiful pottery cup we bought from him. He told us the glaze was made from minerals from the tailings of an old gold mine and sagebrush ash. This well written article makes us yearn to return to beautiful Nevada.

Frank Boyden
Otis, OR.

**Rex And Clara Well Read**
I was most impressed with your article regarding Rex Bell and Clara Bow. It was outstanding. Having been raised in Searchlight, I know what an outstanding contribution they have made to Nevada. I commend you for superb reading.

Harry Reid
Member of Congress
Washington, DC

I enjoyed the magazine so much I decided I had to have it. I read every article and half the advertising. It was also very interesting about Clara Bow, my favorite actress in the olden days.

Edna Peterka
Sonoma, CA.

When I found *Nevada Magazine* in the mail on my desk today, what a thrill! I sat down and read right through it—what a fine magazine it always is. Loved every bit of it—pictures, even the ads. Now that I am living and working in what is practically a foreign land, I realize all the more what impact your magazine has on folk outside of Nevada.

Dee Coakley
*Gadsden Times* (ex *Las Vegas Sun*)
Gadsden, AL.

**Open Or Closed?**
The following is a quote from the July/August '85 issue of Nevada, page 55: "Now Glenbrook is an exclusive, private community. To get past the gatekeeper near the highway, act rich and ask directions to the sales office. Or tell him you're going to the public golf course, a wooded nine-holer."

Apparently the author of this article, Jim Crandall, did not know that the community of Glenbrook is private property. With this in mind you should be aware that to encourage people to trespass in Glenbrook could subject them to arrest. If people follow the advice set forth in this article and thereby gain access by decep-

*(Continued on page 74)*


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SUPER SKI GUIDE

# THE RETURN OF THE RINGS

Bringing the Winter Games back to Tahoe's slopes for the year 2000: An Olympic Odyssey.

**By Buddy Frank**

In 1955, when lawyer-entrepreneur Alex Cushing put in a bid to host the 1960 Winter Olympics, his Lake Tahoe ski area had all of one lodge, one chairlift, and two rope tows. Nevertheless, it did boast a spectacular annual snowfall, and Cushing had plans for improvements. Given a chance to present his case, he believed his little Squaw Valley resort was just as strong a candidate as the European giants of Innsbruck, St. Moritz, and Garmisch-Partenkirchen, which were also maneuvering for the honor.

So, preaching the gospel of an Olympics set in the pristine Sierra, unspoiled by the commercialism rampant in Europe, he convinced the California Legislature to front him $1 million. He even buttonholed delegates to the International Olympic Committee from South American and African countries—most of whom had never sent an athlete to the Winter Games—and asked them to support his bid.

His approach was unique, and it worked.

The Squaw Valley Games turned out to be a tremendous success; among the highlights was the play of the U.S. hockey team, a bunch of unranked college kids who defeated the heavily-favored Soviet team for the gold medal. The Games also were the first to be televised nationally. From Stowe, Vermont, to Timberline, Oregon, the '60 Games introduced America to skiing. As a result, thousands of recreation-conscious baby boomers hit the slopes, and nowhere was the ski rush as great as in the Reno-Tahoe area.

Now, 25 years later, a new group of promoters wants to bring the Winter Olympics back to the Sierra. But they won't have to use Cushing's back-to-nature ploy. Instead they can boast about one of the largest and most diverse ski centers in the world.

Indeed, since Walt Disney staged the opening ceremonies at Squaw in 1960, a great deal has changed on the Tahoe ski scene. Today Squaw alone has 26 major lifts, and nine more resorts have sprung up around the lake. In fact, there are now nearly a score of ski areas within an hour's drive of Reno, representing one of the biggest concentrations of ski runs, lifts, and lodges in the Western World. What's more, the night life at Reno and Lake Tahoe is sophisticated and star-studded, and the hotels, motels, and casinos are primed to pamper international crowds.

Last summer the Reno/Tahoe Winter Games Organizing Committee, comprised of local officials, business people, and skiers, submitted a proposal to the United States Olympic Committee to host the 1992 Games. At a follow-up presentation to the USOC in Indianapolis, a key speaker was Bill Killebrew, who inherited ownership of Heavenly Valley Ski Resort from his father Hugh. Following the group's video show, which was narrated by sportscaster Chris Schenkel, Killebrew recalled the 1960 Winter Games at Squaw. "I will never, ever forget when the U.S. hockey team won the gold medal," said Killebrew, who was five years old at the time. "My father placed my hand over my heart, and I cried as he cried when they played the National Anthem."

Although Killebrew and company lost the bid to Anchorage, Alaska, it hasn't dampened their enthusiasm. Reno public relations man Bill Martin, the bid coordinator, made their resolve clear. "It may not be in 1996, or even the year 2000, but there's no doubt the Olympics will return here," he said. "Reno-Lake Tahoe is simply too good not to be selected."

The group's proposal for 1992 illustrates the region's Olympic qualities. Men's alpine events would be held at Heavenly Valley, which is already a regular stop on the World Cup tour. Women's alpine racing would return to Squaw Valley, where Penny Pitou and Betsy Snite captured medals for the U.S. in 1960. Squaw's Blythe Arena, where the hockey team played and Carol Heiss skated her way to a U.S. gold medal in figure skating, collapsed under heavy snows in 1983, so indoor skating events would move to the 12,000-seat Lawlor Events Center on the University of Nevada campus in Reno. Outdoor speed skating would take place in a new arena

TOM LIPPERT

*Whether catching a lift or riding on air, skiers agree the ups and downs of Sierra slopes are beyond compare.*

LARRY PROSOR

near historic Truckee, where low daytime temperatures would provide perfect ice. Ski jumpers would take to the air at either a renovated Squaw Valley run or on new jumps built on the lower slopes of Mount Rose overlooking Reno. Cross-country and biathlon events would be held near Squaw in the meadows of McKinney Creek and Martis Creek. And the sledding events, which were not held in 1960, would run on a new high-speed track constructed in the Mount Rose area.

Snow and ice, however, are not the only requirements for a successful Winter Olympics. Any location must be prepared to deal with staggering logistics and do it gracefully (that is, without going broke). The USOC advised cities bidding for the 1992 games to provide rooms for 1,600 athletes, 2,000 officials, 5,000 members of the press, and so on.

That's another area where Reno-Tahoe shines. Most mountain ski resorts would be overwhelmed by Olympic crowds and left unable to take advantage of spectator revenues. But like Los Angeles in '84, most of the support facilities are already in place here. Tourism and gaming provide a base of about 40,000 hotel and motel rooms, and big crowds are nothing new for a region that hosts 17 million visitors each year.

Planners also have predicted that after paying for ski jumps, bobsled courses, and stadium expansions, a Reno-Tahoe Games would still generate an $87 million surplus. Most of that would come from selling an estimated $211 million worth of television rights to major networks, but Reno's access to 14 million Californians within a six-hour drive would also provide record ticket sales.

The only question left for local organizers is timing. The International Olympic Committee will consider the U.S. choice of Anchorage, but Olympic sites usually alternate among continents as well as countries. For instance, since '60 the Games have visited Austria, France, Japan, the United States, and Yugoslavia. Because the 1988 Winter Games already are set for Calgary, Alberta, it's doubtful that any North American site will be picked for 1992. The years 1996 and 2000 seem more likely.

For organizers, the second coming of the Olympics is just a matter of time. For winter sports fans, the waiting may seem endless.

But for the skiers who decorate the moguls of Tahoe, waiting is no big deal. After all, until the Olympics return, they've got one of the finest ski regions in the world all to themselves. □

---

*Buddy Frank is a Reno freelance writer and skier who was first lured to the slopes by Walter Cronkite's television reporting of the 1960 Squaw Valley Olympics.*

CHACO MOHLER

*Heavenly Valley owner Bill Killebrew tests the quality of his powder on the Face, overlooking Lake Tahoe.*

LARRY PROSOR

*A skier kicks back for a snowy splash at Sugar Bowl.*

LARRY PROSOR

*Mount Rose, on the Nevada side of Tahoe, is high and dry.*

TOM LIPPERT

*Sun-deckers bask at a Squaw cafe. Nearby is the old bull wheel from the resort's original lift.*

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Tahoe Donner
TRUCKEE
Slide Mt.
Mt. Rose
Royal Gorge
INCLINE
Ski Incline
267
Boreal
Soda Springs
Donner Ski Ranch
Sugar Bowl
Northstar
WASHOE LAKE
89
Big Chief
Squaw Valley
Alpine Meadows
Tahoe Nordic
TAHOE CITY
CARSON CITY
Granlibakken
Spooner Meadows
50
Homewood
Tahoe Ski Bowl
Sugar Pine Point
closed in winter
395
Lake Tahoe
Downhill Facilities
Cross-Country Trails
STATELINE
SOUTH LAKE TAHOE
Heavenly Valley
207
MINDEN
50
Sierra Ski Ranch
Echo Summit
Telemark
Kirkwood

An Insider's Guide to

# TAHOE RESORTS

Picking the perfect place to ski can be a lifting experience.

**By Chaco Mohler**

From St. Moritz to Sun Valley, people who ski agree that Lake Tahoe is a world-class place to go when it starts to snow The numbers alone state Tahoe's case: 19 ski resorts, a total of more than 26,000 vertical feet, and 160 lifts, including gondolas and other exotic conveyances.

But it's not the numbers that make the Reno-Tahoe area so much fun to ski. It's the sheer variety of all those resorts. Each one has its own personality, a certain crowd or atmosphere that makes it special.

Just as the ski areas make their own definitions of the sport, so do the lake's four major mountain communities. There's executive-chic Incline Village; Tahoe City, the small town with the big night life; the historic town of Truckee; and the casino-hotel-motel bustle of Stateline and South Lake Tahoe. Reno and Carson City are close by Thus lodging abounds, and apres-ski diversions range from a warm fire to Diana Ross.

The variety is endless at Tahoe resorts, and that brings up the main question—which place is right for you? Chances are several are perfect, and if all of them are, all the better.

**Mount Rose and Slide Mountain**

These neighboring resorts are popular with skiers who live in Reno, 25 miles away. Each place occupies its own side of Slide Mountain—Rose on the north, Slide on the southeast—with great views of Washoe Valley and Reno. Although the two ski areas have been one in the past, they are presently fenced off from each other at the top of the mountain. That's too bad, because it would be ideal to be able to ski Slide in the morning and then move to Rose's more sun-protected exposures in the afternoon.

Mount Rose is the slightly larger hill. It upgraded its major chairlifts last season to shorten lines and also enlarged its already excellent beginner terrain. Rose offers a fairly complete package of skiing, something for every ability, with the possible exception of super steep. There is plenty of pitched slope here, however; Rose has one of Tahoe's few racing hills approved by the International Ski Federation (FIS), meaning long, sustained vertical. The comfortable lodge has a fine view of the slopes from the cafeteria, and you can huddle at fireplaces in the bar and a casual reading lounge.

Slide is a mirror of its neighbor in the total mix of slopes. There's more than adequate intermediate fare on Slide's big, open faces, and a new ski school and race program have breathed fresh life into Slide in the past year.

Keep an eye on Slide and Rose early in the season; their higher elevations usually give them early powder. In fact, their 9,700-foot top is 800 feet higher than Squaw's. That also can make for horrendous winds, but during the calm weeks after winter storms Slide and Rose will have some of Tahoe's best snow conditions and slopes relatively uncrowded by weekend mobs from the Bay Area.

**Ski Incline**

This resort was originally built as a giant winter billboard to help sell the houses and condos of Incline Village. But the 20-year-old ski area now stands firm on its own merits with spectacular views of the lake from excellent lower-intermediate slopes. A long, gentle beginner run right next to the lodge also makes Incline a good place to learn the basics and have a great time.

The resort also is convenient if you're staying at Incline Village. Ski Incline is just uphill from town—a 10-minute drive in sunshine, 20 in a storm. Less time battling snowy roads means more time playing on snowy slopes, which any skier can appreciate.

**Northstar**

When it comes to lower-intermediate skiing, Northstar is the class of the Tahoe field. This place knocks the bumps flat, cuts the trails wide, and rolls the slopes for mile after mile through the trees. Lodging is available just off the trails at Northstar,

ILLUSTRATION BY JOHN BARDWELL

so you can park next to your condo and for the rest of the vacation ski to restaurants, shops, bars, and, of course, the slopes.

The Schaffer's Camp chairlift reaches advanced-intermediate and lower-advanced runs that offer long, sustained vertical. And for the sake of uphill speed, a new high-capacity gondola with about 80 six-passenger cars will lessen the congestion around the base area by moving crowds more quickly to mid-mountain.

Northstar is a family mountain, a place where beginning ski couples will feel comfortable, where fun is emphasized over flash. Accordingly, attractions here include courteous employees and attention to service. The staffers really seem to enjoy themselves—they must get plenty of time to ski.

**Tahoe Donner**

A classic example of a ski hill built to sell condominiums is Tahoe Donner. Since all the condos have been sold, there's been little reason to build up the skiing. But why spoil a good thing? Tahoe Donner has excellent, open beginner slopes and a non-threatening atmosphere for first-timers. It's down in a valley, out of the winds that sometimes plague higher areas. The resort is right off Interstate 80 near Truckee, so there are no passes to cross from Reno. It's both an easy place to learn and easy to get to.

**Sugar Bowl**

Driving west on Interstate 80 from Reno, you wind up the Truckee River Canyon and then climb Donner Summit to reach four of the Sierra's oldest ski areas. The most complete of these is Sugar Bowl. Celebrating its 46th season, this old-fashioned resort has a well-balanced blend of intermediate and beginner terrain along with a convoluted landscape of advanced skiing off Mount Lincoln. Morning powder on the east face of Mount Disney is a definite treat. Sugar Bowl has long been popular with California college students because of its lower lift ticket prices and lower driving time from the Central Valley.

You enter the resort from the vacation community of Soda Springs, kingdom of pickup trucks, Golden Labs, and 13-foot snowdrifts. Skiers take a gondola, originally called the Magic Carpet, over the railroad tracks to Sugar Bowl's base area and a little piece of Europe. The scene may have been corny at one time, but Sugar Bowl's age has lent authenticity to the snowbound Swiss and Austrian architecture of its lodge and chalets. The facilities are small yet complete enough for most skiers' tastes with slope-side accommodations offering real Sierra seclusion.

**Donner Ski Ranch**

Just down the road from Sugar Bowl is Donner Ski Ranch, another survivor from the 1930s. Last spring Donner yanked the oldest operating chairlift in California and put in a modern triple chair. The new lift gives considerably quicker access to Donner's 300 acres of slopes. The area is small, and the lodge is a bit rickety, but the slopes are laid out with a full range of sun exposures. Like the other summit resorts, Donner is best avoided at stormy times because it is directly exposed to the moist winds howling in from the Pacific.

**Soda Springs**

Dream of being a ski tycoon? You can be one at Soda Springs, where you can rent the whole place—slopes, lodge, and staff—for a big party or company bash. It's not the largest hill in the Sierra, but it's fun.

> "Dream of being a ski tycoon? You can be one at Soda Springs, where you can rent the whole place—slopes, lodge, and staff—for a big party or company bash."

Founded in 1931, Soda Springs is skiing the way skiing used to be. That is, kind of boring, since one run blends into another along the one ridge line. Let's face it: We're spoiled with modern lifts and perfectly groomed runs. A place like Soda Springs just can't compete with the big mountains and their even bigger marketing efforts. Maybe that's why the place is open only on weekends. If you're a lower intermediate, however, you might really enjoy Soda's relatively unpopulated Saturday slopes.

**Boreal Ridge**

In full view of all six lanes of Interstate 80, Boreal Ridge is the most visible of the four Donner Summit areas. Like Soda, it's a one-face area with the runs and lifts filling a single side of a ridge. Advanced intermediates will probably get antsy here, but there is ample room for lower abilities.

A big pleasure at Boreal is night skiing. Or, in spring you might call it sunset skiing, an especially magic activity when the afternoon slush turns to corn snow under a fiery sunset rising from California's Central Valley.

## SKI TIPS

You can get information on ski packages, lodging, dining, and night life in Reno and Lake Tahoe by calling these three agencies. The Reno-Sparks Convention and Visitors Bureau has the facts at 800-FOR-RENO (toll-free) from out of state, or 702-827-7643. Tips for the south shore can be obtained from the South Lake Tahoe Visitors Bureau, 800-822-5922 from anywhere in the U.S. The Tahoe North Visitor's and Convention Bureau is 800-822-5959 in California and 800-824-8557 in Nevada and other states.

**Squaw Valley**

New and improved, larger and louder, Squaw Valley is on a roll. This mountain used to rest on its Olympic reputation (as home of the 1960 Winter Games) and watch the tickets sell through the roof. But three years ago Squaw began an improvement sprint. It started with the renovation of the base area. Then a new gondola and chairlift were added, and now several impressive on-slope restaurants, a still newer gondola, and a futuristic four-passenger chairlift are in place. The effort has made Squaw one of the best-equipped ski resorts in North America.

Of course, there never has been any question about the skiing. With the bumpy steeps of KT-22, the buttresses of the Palisades, and the sheer bowls of Granite Chief, Squaw can lay claim to one of the best concentrations of expert ski runs in the world. Its beginner terrain, which includes a large plateau that stretches up from the Gold Coast and High Camp mountain lodges, is equally excellent. The one drawback may be a lack of intermediate slopes.

Squaw's expert terrain has produced some of the world's best skiers—and others who think they are. The skiers here can get pretty full of themselves sometimes. The resort also has had a reputation for employees who let you know how privileged you are to give them your money. But that attitude, like the facilities, has improved greatly of late, and with mountain enough for all, Squaw can please the super expert, sometime skier, and lodge lizard in equal measure.

**Alpine Meadows**

Across the mountain to the south is Alpine Meadows, the most well-rounded resort at Tahoe. This area has good slopes for all abilities, varied sun exposures, bowls, trails, tree skiing, and meadows. Alpine's once inadequate base facilities have been upgraded in the last few years to include a giant sundeck and a large, cafeteria-style lodge.

Family skiing has always been important at Alpine. It has an excellent program for young children, a good ski school, and a variety of runs off every lift.

For powder or spring skiing, Alpine really shines. Attention to exposures and

a little hiking can lead you to good powder days after a storm and keep you skiing corn snow until the end of May. This is a hidden mountain, however, with much of the terrain concealed over ridges and behind trees. It's easy to get channeled onto the same runs time after time, so snag a local for some tips.

Alpine can get crowded on big days. You can avoid parking hassles, however, by riding one of the resort's ubiquitous shuttle buses that leave from many points on the north shore.

**Granlibakken**

In operation since 1950, Granlibakken is a basic kids slope just south of Tahoe City with shuttle service to Alpine and Squaw. Having only 280 vertical feet and a poma and rope tow, Granlibakken does feature the lake's lowest-priced lift tickets, and it's pretty easy to get in and out in a hurry.

**Homewood**

Smack in the middle of the old log-cabiny lake resorts of the west shore is Homewood Ski Area, a kick-back skiing spot with a perfect view of Lake Tahoe.

Although the mood here is relaxed, the staff is surprisingly well-trained. Many employees are refugees from larger ski areas who decided to retire to Homewood's shady acres. They do tear around the hill's few difficult slopes on their breaks, but mostly they just amble about their business and smile. The fast lane does not pass through Homewood.

That's just as well on weekends, when the resort usually has shorter lift lines than its big neighbors. The skiing is best for advanced beginners and intermediates. Facilities are basic, so pack a picnic and then find a tree stump to call your own above the lake.

"Many Homewood employees are refugees from larger ski areas who decided to retire to the resort's shady acres. The fast lane does not pass through Homewood."

**Tahoe Ski Bowl**

Homewood's neighbor on the west shore, Tahoe Ski Bowl, is an old resort with a new idea: limited membership. The area's owners are turning Ski Bowl into a private club, selling 4,000 memberships at $5,995 apiece. For the rest of this season only they'll let you ski there for the price of a lift ticket. If you're willing to sit through a 90-minute presentation on the club, you get to ski free that day (only one to a customer, please). Then, if you decide to join, you pay the membership fee plus $195-a-year dues. The deal is good for two generations, with two transfers possible.

Actually, Tahoe Ski Bowl does have some good skiing, especially on powder days. If you ski frequently, your membership might pay off; long lift lines would be unlikely on all except the most popular days. Also, group lessons and equipment rental will be free for members. But you wouldn't want to be jumping any cornices your first day on the program. If you injure yourself and quit skiing, your cost for the day will have been $6,190. Now that's an expensive lift ticket.

**Sierra Ski Ranch**

When skiers talk about Tahoe's major resorts, Sierra Ski Ranch usually is not on the tip of their tongues. It should be. There's an amazing amount of skiing on this high Sierra ridge above Echo Summit, much of it suited to experienced snow-sliders. Ski Ranch has some of the best powder tree skiing in the Sierra, and when the snow grows old, it's bump-mania on the steepish mogul slopes below two parallel chairlifts. All this is available on a lift ticket that costs $3 to $5 less than the big names.

Ski Ranch's success has not been based only on its advanced terrain; it does have more than 2,000 feet of vertical and well-groomed intermediate slopes. Gentle backside trails run between twisted trees and rough granite on a sunny south face.

The skiing's complete at the Ranch, but not the facilities. This is still a bus-in resort, mostly populated with California day visitors. The lodge has adequate dining but (gasp) no bar! Those who can't ski without liquid fortification should look elsewhere.

Sierra Ski Ranch has plans to build lodging and other amenities in the future. For now the area has a cozy atmosphere suited to relaxed family skiing. In fact, a family, the Sprocks, runs the area. The original developers, Vern and Bobby Sprock, still live in an apartment in the base lodge—which helps make this a truly homey ski area.

**Echo Summit**

This ski area rests atop its namesake 10 miles south of South Lake Tahoe. With two double chairs and a rope tow, Echo Summit has found its niche as the beginners' area of the south shore. Reasonable lessons, rentals, and lift packages are offered on mostly beginner slopes. Echo also has *Ski Magazine's* "SKIwee" teaching program for ages five to 12. *(Continued)*

## 1985-86 Nevada Skier's Guide

| Area | Phone | Top Elevation | Vertical | Lifts | Rating Bg-Int-Adv | Lift Price* Adult/Child | Rental Adult/Child |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Tahoe Basin** | | | | | | | |
| Alpine Meadows | 916-583-4232 | 8,637 | 1,800 | 13 | 25-40-35 | na/$12 | $15/$11 |
| Boreal | 916-426-3666 | 7,800 | 600 | 9 | 20-60-20 | $15.50/$8.50 | $13/$10 |
| Donner Ski Ranch | 916-426-3635 | 7,835 | 800 | 4 | 25-50-25 | $18/$9 | $13/$8 |
| Echo Summit | 916-659-7154 | 7,950 | 550 | 3 | 40-40-20 | $14.50/$9 | $13/$9 |
| Granlibakken | 916-583-4242 | 6,480 | 280 | 2 | 50-50-0 | $10/$6 | $10/$8 |
| Heavenly | 916-541-1330 | 10,100 | 3,600 | 26 | 25-50-25 | $24/$13 | $14/$9 |
| Homewood | 916-525-7256 | 7,990 | 1,650 | 9 | 20-50-30 | $16/$10/$5** | $11/$10 |
| Kirkwood | 209-258-6000 | 9,800 | 2,000 | 10 | 25-50-25 | $23/$10 | $14/$10 |
| Mount Rose | 702-849-0704 | 9,700 | 1,440 | 5 | 30-40-30 | $17/$9 | $13.50/$9.50 |
| Northstar | 916-562-1010 | 8,600 | 2,200 | 11 | 25-50-25 | $24/$13 | $15/$9 |
| Sierra Ski Ranch | 916-659-7475 | 8,852 | 2,212 | 10 | 20-60-20 | $19/$12 | $13/$10 |
| Ski Incline | 702-832-1177 | 7,600 | 900 | 7 | 30-40-30 | $18/$12 | $14/$10 |
| Slide Mountain | 702-849-0303 | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| Soda Springs | 916-426-3666 | 7,350 | 650 | 3 | 30-50-20 | $14/$9 | $14/$10 |
| Squaw Valley | 916-583-6985 | 8,900 | 2,700 | 26 | 30-40-30 | $26/$5 | $15/$9 |
| Sugar Bowl | 916-426-3651 | 8,383 | 1,500 | 9 | 20-30-50 | $24/$13 | $12.50/$8.50 |
| Tahoe Donner | 916-587-6046 | 7,350 | 600 | 3 | 50-50-0 | $12/$8 | $13/$11 |
| Tahoe Ski Bowl | 916-525-5224 | 7,880 | 1,630 | 5 | 20-40-40 | $15/$10 | $12/$9 |
| **Mount Charleston (Las Vegas)** | | | | | | | |
| Lee Canyon | 702-872-5462 | 9,430 | 1,000 | 3 | 15-80-5 | $15/$10 | $11 |

*Price subject to change. Most resorts offer "half-day" rates of 1/4 to 1/3 off regular price after noon, and nearly all offer lessons. **Includes juniors, ages 13-16 †Night skiing only at Boreal, Squaw Valley, Sugar Bowl.

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**Kirkwood**

One of the Sierra's finest areas for advanced skiers, Kirkwood has steep runs, great powder, and excellent bump skiing. Beginner and intermediate areas are fine, although the latter tend to spread into long run-outs.

The skiing's great, but don't come to Kirkwood if you're looking for night life. Kirkwood is two passes and a snowbelt south of Tahoe, where the real action is.

Not that lift lines or traffic jams are unheard of here. Kirkwood has convinced a lot of skiers to take the drive up California Route 88 in recent seasons, but its location does leave this solitary resort underpopulated at times. That may not last, however, as a new wave of condomania sweeps Kirkwood. One hundred new units were completed last summer, and they're going fast.

**Heavenly Valley**

Twenty square miles in area, Heavenly Valley is one of the giant names of American skiing. With 3,600 feet of vertical drop, 26 lifts extending into two states, and lodges scattered all over the place, there's no doubt that this resort deserves its exalted reputation.

Heavenly is not all-perfect. There aren't many steep runs here for experts. Mott Canyon, accessible on the Nevada side with snowcat rides out at the bottom, provides almost all the precipitous thrills. There is the incredibly long stretch of vertical on the Face, which is pocked with steep moguls and populated by rubberboned 18-year-olds who provide an impressive show under the tram.

The tram itself is one of Heavenly's finest lures in winter *and* summer. Two new 50-passenger cars whisk skiers and visitors to the Top of the Tram restaurant, bar, and cafeteria. Huge windows and a sundeck offer panoramas of Lake Tahoe, 2,000 feet below. Elsewhere, Heavenly's lodges offer basic ski-resort fare, so you may want to sample the fine arts of food and entertainment as practiced in the adjacent mini-metropolis of Stateline-South Lake Tahoe.

However, for the broad range of intermediate skiers, it's hard to beat this gigantic mountain. Trails drop for miles in every direction from the summit, each a smooth carpet ride of long, carving turns. On one side are incredible views of Lake Tahoe; on the other, the Carson Valley. There's probably not a ski resort in the country—certainly not in the Sierra—that can match Heavenly's ability to awe the eyes. For this reason alone, Heavenly should be on any snow fanatic's must-ski list. □

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*Chaco Mohler of Tahoe City is a freelance writer and photographer. He is a regular contributor to* Powder, Skiing, *and other national publications.*

# FULL BORE AND BEYOND

World Cup stars Franz Weber, Eva Twardokens, and Lane Spina live in Reno, play at Tahoe, and ski the world.

**By Jim Crandall**

You squint down the hill like Clint Eastwood at a bad guy, grit your teeth, and go. Soon you're slicing each turn with the precision of an ice sculptor, leaving a mountain full of awed Tahoe ski bunnies in your wake.

At mid-mountain, you pause to marvel at your talent. Then you hear it, a sound not unlike the blast of a guided missile. You turn uphill and look.

A blur of color punctuated by a flash of white teeth roars past at supersonic speed, floating above the moguls on its way down the slope. If you're still standing, you'll want to dust off your ego and watch. It's probably one of the gang of Olympic-caliber skiers who live and play in the Reno-Tahoe area when they're not traveling the world and breaking records.

If the projectile bores a straight line down the mountain, it could be speed-skiing champ Franz Weber. If it cuts tight slalom turns, it might be Eva Twardokens, 1988 Olympic racing hopeful and a member of the U.S. Ski Team. And if the mirage flips and twists, it's probably Lane Spina, member of the U.S. Freestyle Ski Team and master of the art of acrobatic ballet skiing.

All three of these champions call Reno home.

When they're in Europe each winter on the World Cup tour, they can't walk down a street without being asked for autographs. As Twardokens says, "Skiing is the football of Europe. Over there, everyone knows who you are."

But even though they don't enjoy such instant recognition in Nevada, they agree that of all the fabled ski hamlets, Reno is the best. Twardokens and Spina were both raised in town and learned to ski at Mount Rose and Slide Mountain. The Austrian-born Weber chose Reno as the ideal spot to hone his skill as the fastest human on skis.

BRUCE BENEDICT

*Speed-skiing champ Franz Weber says strange things happen at 125 mph.*

## **Franz Weber:** The Human Bullet

Relaxing in his southwest Reno condo, Franz Weber, who currently holds the world speed-skiing record of 129.827 miles per hour, talked about his climb to the top, the fastest way down a mountain, and an old companion, fear.

Born in Innsbruck, the site of the 1964 and 1976 Winter Olympics, Weber grew up skiing on the region's legendary slopes. After suffering a knee injury at age 15, he gave up the sport, thinking it was too dangerous. That decision delighted his father, who owned a butcher shop and hoped his son would want to carve spare ribs instead of moguls. So Weber went to work at the meat market, studied business in school, and took up skateboarding. His competitive drive returned, and he became the European skateboarding champion in 1977

While he was scalding sidewalks on his skateboard, his interest in skiing was revived by a group of American racers led by Steve McKinney of Squaw Valley.

"There was just one big speed-skiing event every year in Italy then," Weber says. "It was dominated by the Swiss, Austrians, and Italians. But in 1974 there was a guy from Lake Tahoe up there, Steve McKinney. I'd see pictures in the magazines of him and all those long-hairs from the States. And I thought, 'God, that's strange. Those guys don't look like skiers.' But they were, like you say, kicking ass over there."

After winning the skateboarding title, Weber decided to strap on his skis again. He won a few downhill events and then tried speed skiing just to see how fast he could go. In his first race he went 122 mph, and he was hooked. Because it would have taken too long to make it big as an amateur, he says, he turned professional right away.

Today Weber is at the top of his sport. He not only holds the world record but also has won six of the last seven world championships.

To stay champion, Weber has to train both his skill and his nerve. "Fear hits me every year harder and harder," he says. "And it's so hard to overcome it. Because, like going down a mountain at 129 miles an hour, I mean, you're going on the *edge*."

Weber explains the sensation of speed: "In short words, really scary. In the beginning, you take a low tuck and strive to stay loose and ride a flat ski. As speed increases, the vibrations get worse and worse. At around 100 miles an hour you have to lock up your whole body, so you're not smooth anymore. You're just bouncing up and down like a rock.

"At around 115 to 120 miles an hour the vibrations get so bad that you think, 'God, I can't hold it anymore! If I don't open up [to slow down], I'm going to fall. And there's a strange thing that happens. The wind pressure on your ski tips gets so strong, you get airborne. You go like on an air cushion, hydroplaning. Everything seems to slow down because you don't have those wild vibrations anymore.

"You're kind of floating, with this strange helmet on your head that has fins on the back. And you just look left, and you go left. You look right, and you go right. You steer like a plane, and you go like a human bullet. There's no room for fear at that speed."

Weber says his biggest problem with fear comes just prior to a race, when he has time to think about past accidents. "In 1983 I crashed at about 125 miles an hour. I had third-degree friction burns all over my body and was in the hospital for a week to get all put back together again."

A month-and-a-half later he had to defend his title at the Camel World Speed Skiing Championships in Silverton, Colorado. Race day dawned clear, and the snow was good. Weber knew the record

*(Continued on page 25)*

*Eva Twardokens, who grew up skiing at Mount Rose, is bent on being number one.*

## **Eva Twardokens:** Daring and Desire

When Eva Twardokens was 12 years old, her father, George, posed a difficult question. "Do you want to make skiing your life?" he asked her. "If you do, we'll support you all the way. But you have to want to do it."

George Twardokens knew the kind of sacrifices involved. Now a professor of kinesiology at UNR, in 1958 he defected from Poland after winning a bronze medal in the World Fencing Championships at Philadelphia.

Eva knew skiing—she had grown up on the slopes of Mount Rose, where her mother, Halina, was a ski instructor—but she had begun to tire of the sport and was looking for new challenges. After agonizing over her father's question, she finally chose skiing.

In 1978, at age 13, she won the Junior National Freestyle Championships. The next year she won the slalom and giant slalom in the junior nationals. And in 1981 she made the U.S. Ski Team, of which Olympic champions are made.

Now at age 20, Twardokens is just mil-

liseconds from being the best in the world. Between global jaunts and grueling training sessions, she frequently takes refuge in the modest northwest Reno house where she grew up. On a recent visit home, sitting tentatively on a couch in the living room, she stares at the fireplace mantle heaped with trophies, and reflects on her accelerating career.

"My first year on the team was pretty rough," she says. "I skied on the Europa Cup, which is like the minor leagues of skiing compared to the World Cup. You travel, you race, you pack, you travel again. The hotels aren't that great, the food's not good, and a lot of times you get a place with no heat. When you ski the World Cup circuit, the accommodations are much better."

She says the hardest part of her early years was dealing with defeat. "It was hard when I was placing in the 30s. It was hard when the coaches told me that I had to go back [from World Cup] and race the Europa Cup again. And it was hard to look at some of the girls on your team—like Nelson and Cooper and McKinney—going into every race and doing well while I was struggling, even though in training I was right in there with them. It's a matter of time and it's mental to get up there and start plugging in top-15 results."

It's also a matter of steely nerves. In the downhill, Twardokens says, she sometimes reaches 70 mph. "If you crash, it's like jumping out of a car at that speed. Thank God it's snow and not concrete." Although she has had some high-speed crashes, she has been remarkably free of injuries.

Teammate Tamara McKinney of Squaw Valley, who grew up in the Reno area and has skied with Twardokens at Mount Rose "since we were both a couple of runts," says her friend has the stuff champions are made of. "After you reach a certain level of training and ability, it's desire that gets you down the mountain faster, and Eva has it," she says.

The standings prove her out. Last year Twardokens jumped from 77th to 13th overall, from no ranking to eighth in the giant slalom, and from no ranking to 18th in the slalom. In Super G, which is an event between giant slalom and downhill, she's ranked third. The high point of her career was when she took a bronze medal in the giant slalom at the World Championships in Bormio, Italy, last February.

Although she wants to qualify for the next Winter Games, Twardokens doesn't dwell on it. "I can't worry about the '88 Olympics right now. I can't worry about the first race this year. I just have to wait till that day comes and take it a day at a time. That's the most important thing for me. And when that day comes, I say to myself, Anything can happen. All you can do is just go for it. "

## **Lane Spina:** The Flip Side

When U.S. Freestyle Ski Team member Lane Spina isn't dazzling the world with his acrobatic ballet skiing, he's often at Aspen Sports in Reno, a store partly owned by his brother. There he doesn't dress like a super-jock or give away autographed Spina posters. Instead, he wears a grease-smeared denim apron and wrenches on ski bindings in the repair shop at the back of the store.

It might seem humble work for a man who is ranked third in the world in his event and plans to take a gold medal at the 1988 Olympics in Calgary, but Spina didn't get to the top of his sport by worrying about his image. He got there by setting a goal and pursuing it with a passion that has carried him through defeats, injuries, and even a devastating heartbreak.

He attributes his persistence to his father, Charlie, who is a football, basketball, and baseball coach at Wooster High School. "My dad gave me the ability to train and set reasonable goals, and to keep attaining new goals," Spina says. "I've learned to work hard and to train hard."

He skis hard, too. In fact, freestyle skiing is one of the wildest and most demanding winter sports. It involves three events—aerial acrobatics, moguls, and ballet. Aerials require skiers to defy

*Because Lane Spina dares to ski differently, aerial acrobatics and ballet are more his style. Here Spina performs an Iron Cross at Winter Park, Colorado.*

MOUNTAIN LION / JON NASO

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logic and the law of gravity by launching themselves off ski jumps and doing a few flips and twists before they land. Mogul skiing looks like high-speed break-dancing as skiers tumble and twirl down the corrugated slope. Ballet skiing is something of a cross between a gymnast's floor routine and ice skating—except it's done on skis. Although Spina competes in all three events, he specializes in ballet on the World Cup tour.

Perhaps Spina's agility stems from some off-slope training he had when he was five years old. His folks wouldn't let him ski until he was old enough to join the Reno Junior Ski Program, so Spina would strap on his brother's skis and practice parallel turns on the bedroom carpet.

He finally joined the ski program when he was in the fifth grade and began cavorting on Slide Mountain instead of in the house, a move that delighted his mother, Nancy. Eventually he followed his older brother, Yale, who was a western champion in freestyle, into acrobatic skiing. His ballet mentor and coach is Reno resident Bob Howard, a three-time world ballet champion. "Being around people like that has given me the ability to set down tracks right for the top," says Spina. "Bob Howard is where I'm going to be."

Spina is nearly there. In the 1983-84 season, he won the national championships in Winter Park, Colorado, was voted International Ski Federation (FIS) rookie of the year, and was ranked third in the world.

The following summer he trained hard, feeling that all his dreams were about to come true. Then, in the dry heat of August, Spina suffered the biggest defeat of his life. His sister Adrian, known as Binky, died in a car crash. She was 19 years old. Spina was devastated.

"Binky came to every meet and cheered me on," he says. "She was really special, and we were very close." Instead of giving up, Spina dedicated his efforts to her memory. Last winter he opened the season with his first World Cup victory at the FIS freestyle ballet competition in Lac de Tines, France. "Binky was with me at the starting line. She's with me at every meet."

He maintained top ranking until the FIS World Cup at Breckenridge, Colorado. Two-thirds of the way down his run in the semifinals he tore a ligament in his right knee. He was out for the season.

Now, after surgery, Spina is ready to sculpt the slopes for another season. He says he fully expects to be number one again and compete in the 1988 Olympics, the first Games to hold freestyle events. When asked what he plans to do after that, he just smiles and says, "All the things Bruce Jenner does." □

*Feature Editor Jim Crandall skis Tahoe and holds the world record for sitzmarks.*

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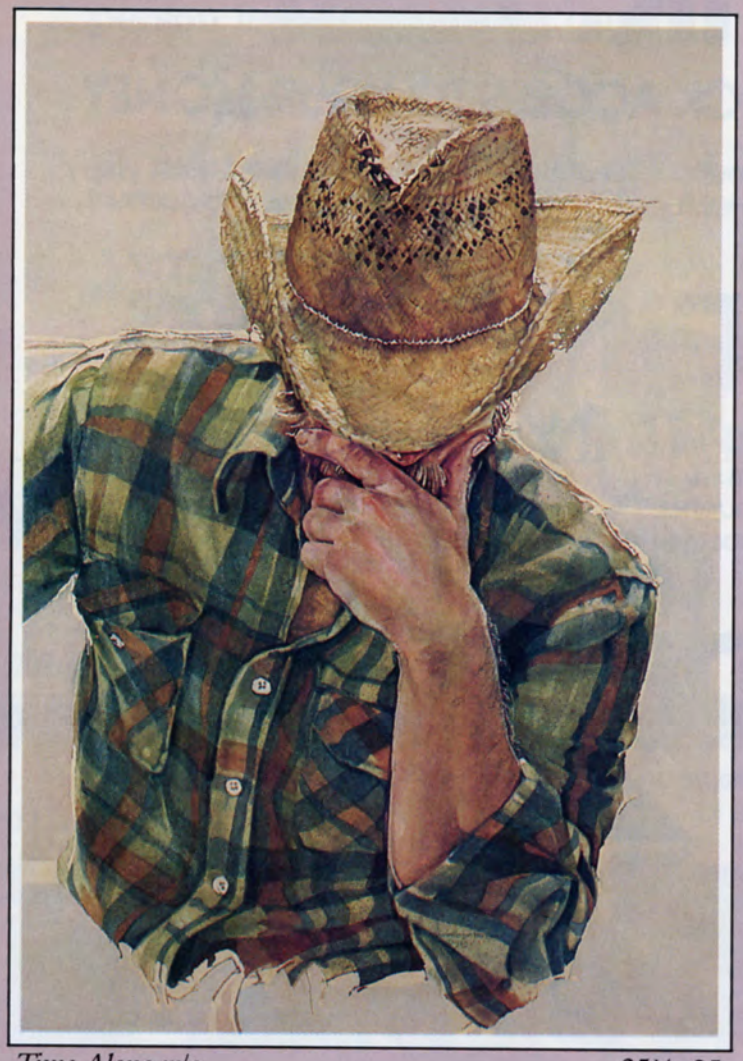

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***The Dancing Tortoise***


# Doing the Charleston

Nobody goes to Las Vegas to go skiing, but the rare sportsman who finds his way to Lee Canyon on Mount Charleston will discover something that can't be seen anywhere in Glitter City—winter.

Lee Canyon, the ski capital of Southern Nevada, isn't a fancy five-star resort, but it presents cool, snowy relief from the Las Vegas Valley's endless summer. At about 8,000 feet—6,000 higher than the city—Lee has pine forests, picturesque mountain peaks, and real snowdrifts. Even higher is Charleston Peak, at 11,912 feet the fifth highest mountain in Nevada.

Aside from its scenic value, Lee Canyon also is close to town; you go 29 miles north on U.S. 95, then 18 more up State Route 156, and you're there. Such convenience has not escaped local skiers, who go there when they don't have the time or money to get to the big Southern Utah resort of Brian Head. Also, many ski junkies who work late shifts run up to Lee Canyon to put in a couple of hours of skiing before going to work. As a rule, the place is packed on weekends and quiet as a tomb on weekdays.

The position of the slopes, on the south side of a deep canyon, keeps the runs from becoming as icy as they would in a sunny

When you get tired of all that warm, beautiful weather in Las Vegas, just head up to Mount Charleston for some cold and snow

**By Kathy Espin**

LAS VEGAS NEWS BUREAU

*From Las Vegas, Lee Canyon is just 47 miles northwest and 6,000 feet up.*

area. But sometimes the snow becomes thin enough for rocks to show, and skiing then is practical only for the brave and adept. When such hazards appear, regulars save their expensive gear and take their rock skis and old snowsuits for an afternoon of fun. At Lee, soaking wet blue jeans are a far more common sight than designer ski wear.

This casual area is perfect for beginners. There is a chairlift for the bunny run, and the instructors are good. One of the main slopes goes down in steps, giving beginners a chance to rest between dashes. Intermediate skiers can have fun on the five runs serviced by one double and one triple chair. Advanced skiers may have to search a little to find the few challenging side trails.

At the bottom of the hill is a small complex with a snack shop, bar, rentals, and a ski shop. The bar is quaint and cozy and has a big fireplace.

The Lee Canyon snow play area, just a mile from the slopes, offers room for cross-country skiing, sledding, snowmobiling, and other chilly delights. □

*Kathy Espin of Las Vegas is a freelance writer, P.R. consultant, and advanced novice skier.*

# Tearing Along Cross-Country Trails

For an instant my skiing career seemed to hang by a thread, but amid the snow and solitude I knew my problems were behind me.

**By Cliff Glover**

One day as I was swooshing through a snowy ravine above Lake Tahoe, I managed to rip a pair of woolen slacks all the way up my crotch when my skis failed to move through a 10-foot mound of fresh powder.

At first I was uncomfortable—indeed, embarrassed—because my red long johns were exposed and my posterior was chilling quickly. But then I realized there would be no wide-eyed yahoo coming down the ridge yelping at my snow-covered underwear, and I relaxed. In those woods there were only the fluffy sounds of winter. No yells, yodels, or jet-stream colors of nylon ready to crash into the unsuspecting. No chairlift stalls or macho jargon. Instead I saw white natural beauty and a large sum of money left over in my bank account from *not* purchasing an all-season pass at a giant resort. That sum would enable me to ski cross-country all I wanted, eat out an extra 70 times at my favorite restaurant, and replace the cheap pair of slacks that I never liked anyway.

What I did like last year were my skis. Unfortunately, I lent them to my brother-in-law, and they came back in many pieces. It was okay, though; you don't have to pay megabucks for cross-country equipment.

What you really need for this sport is a car heater that works, two 100-pound bags of sand in your trunk, and a companion who likes to reminisce about life, drink wine from a bota bag, and munch on sharp cheddar tucked between spongy chunks of sourdough French. After a while the person might even be convinced to carry the medical supplies.

I'm told that some people dislike cross-country skiing. Usually it's after their first time out, and the outing, as described by a X-C friend of mine, goes something like this:

"I am toddling along a well-used trail, getting used to the awkward arm-leg synchronization, when I hear the sound of frenzied human voices approaching. 'TRACK!' they yell. 'TRACK! TRACK!' At first the words have no meaning. Track? Track what? Track who? Then I look down at the two channels of compacted snow that my skis are running in—track?

"Meanwhile these madmen are closing in, not caring what kind of flesh lies in their way. With the grace of a newborn colt, I lift up one ski, then the other. Then I trip. I stand up. I fall. Stand. Fall. Stand. Fall. Finally I'm in a safety zone while a belated warning cry passes. 'TRACK!' The bad guys ski past laughing and miss my thigh by inches.

"Snow has found its way up my shirt and down my pants, but I'm safe. The sound of laughter passes, and I head back to the parking lot thinking what great fun winter is."

Of course, that was someone else's story, not mine. In the mountains surrounding Lake Tahoe, Las Vegas, Elko, Ely, Austin, and other great Nevada cross-country areas, I have never been fouled by any loud-mouthed skier hellbent on meeting my wrath. Then again I'm six-foot-two, weigh 185 pounds, and lift steel I-beams for a hobby, so who would want to take that chance? □

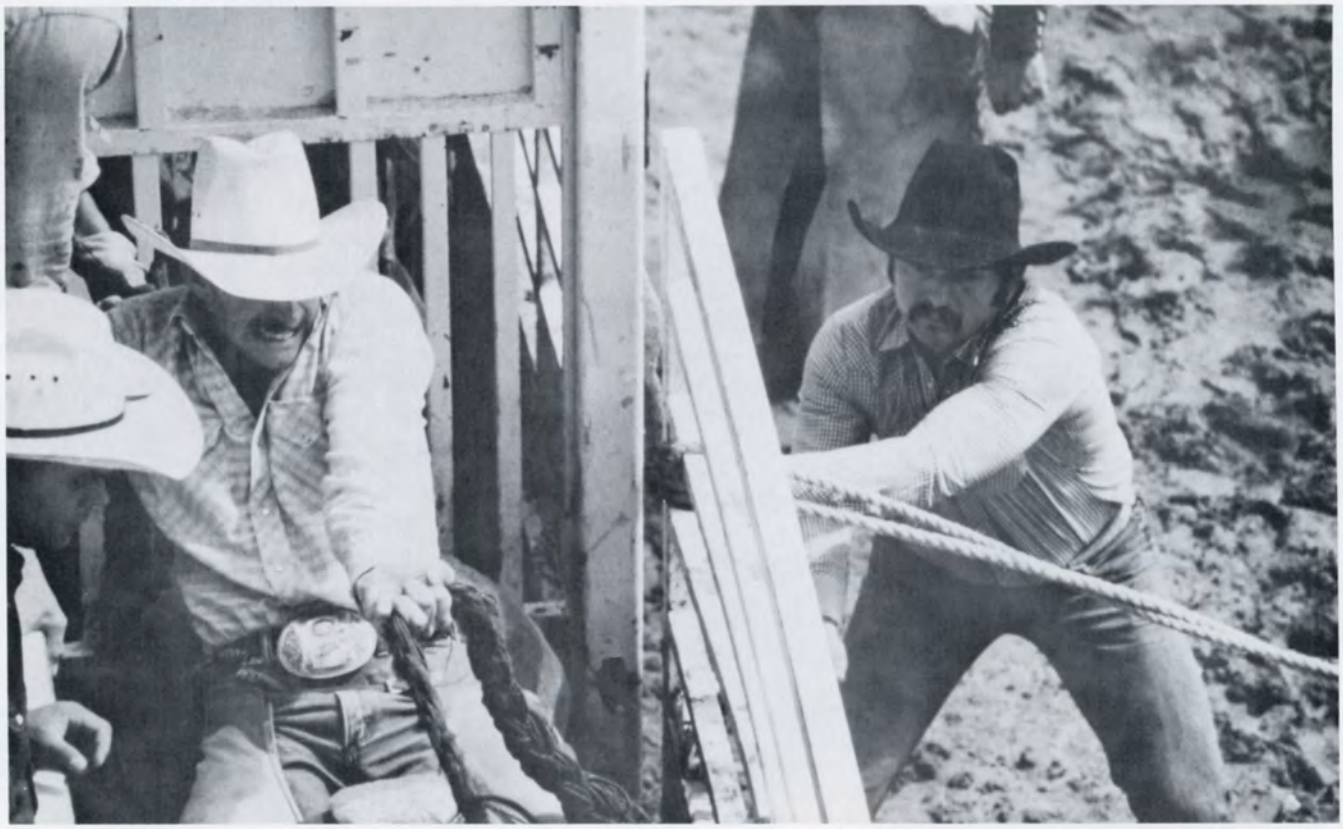
*Cliff Glover of Sparks is a San Francisco expatriate and cross-country enthusiast who is still waiting for his brother-in-law to call.*

## 1985-86 Nevada X-C Skier's Guide

| Name | Phone | Groomed Trails | Trail Fee Adult/Child | Rentals Adult/Child | Lessons Adult/Child | Day Lodge |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Tahoe Basin** | | | | | | |
| Big Chief Guides | 916-587-4723 | ** | | $8/$6.50 | $9 | ✓ |
| Echo Summit Ski Area | 916-659-7154 | 15.5 | $5/$4 | $10/$7 | $9 | ✓ |
| Incline | 702-831-5190 | 9.3 | $3/$2 | $8/$5 | $10 | ✓ |
| Kirkwood | 209-258-8864 | 75 | $8/$4 | $10/$6 | $17/$12 | ✓ |
| Northstar | 916-562-1010 | 20 | $7/$4 | $11/$7 | $14/$8 | ✓ |
| Royal Gorge | 916-426-3871 | 148 | $9.50/$5.50 | $9.50/$6 | $10 | ✓ |
| Spooner Meadows (St. Park) | 702-831-0494 | 5 | no | no | no | |
| Squaw Valley | 916-583-8951 | 18.6 | $5/$3 | $10/$6 | $10 | ✓ |
| Sugar Pine Point | 916-525-7232 | ** | $2/car | no | no | |
| Tahoe Donner | 916-587-7005 | 32 | $7 | $10/$5 | $12 | ✓ |
| Tahoe Nordic Ski Center | 916-583-9858 | 25 | $5 | $9/$4.50 | $10/$8 | ✓ |
| Telemark Country Sports | 916-577-6811 | 2.5 | $2 | $8/$5 | $9 | ✓ |
| **Around the State** | | | | | | |
| Lee Canyon (Las Vegas) | 702-871-7999 | Edelweiss Ski Geschaft rents x-c skis for Lee Canyon. | | | | |
| Ruby Mountains (Elko) | 702-753-6867 | Ruby Mt. Heli-Ski in Lamoille offers helicopter lifts and tours. | | | | |
| Spring Valley (Eureka) | 702-237-5280 | Ron Carrion at the Owl Club provides ride and map ($2.50). | | | | |
| White Pine (Ely) | 702-289-8877 | Chamber has maps for skiing at three local areas. | | | | |

*Donation. **Marked trails.

# OPENING DECEMBER 7 IN LAS VEGAS.



One of the biggest entertainment events in the history of Las Vegas opens December 7th at the Thomas and Mack Arena. It is the 1985 National Finals Rodeo. The NFR is the World Series and Super Bowl rolled into one. The world's greatest cowboys competing for more than a million dollars in prize money before the biggest crowds in rodeo. It is a sports and entertainment spectacle worthy of The Entertainment Capital Of The World. It is the National Finals Rodeo and it opens in Las Vegas December 7 Sponsored by Las Vegas Events, Inc.

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**FRANZ WEBER** *(Continued from page 16)*

would go. "I got so nervous. I couldn't talk to anybody or concentrate." He went into a sponsor's tent to meditate. When his turn came, no one could find him. Finally somebody checked the tent, and there was Weber, sound asleep. After waking up and rubbing his eyes, he went out and set a new world record—129.303 mph.

"You have to learn to train your fear," Weber says. He does that by confronting it throughout the year, on and off the slopes. He took up parachuting for that reason. He also rock-climbs around the Tahoe Basin with his good friend Steve McKinney, who was instrumental in bringing Weber to Nevada. "I turned Franz on to the Tahoe area," says McKinney, himself a speed-skiing legend. Of his friendship with his racing foe, McKinney says, "There are only about five major speed-skiing events a year. The rest of the time you have to try and live somewhat of a normal life."

At age 29, Weber looks more and more toward a "normal" life. He says he will make one more attempt to set a new world record, hoping to break the 130 mph barrier. After that, he'll keep racing in alpine and speed events at pro meets and celebrity benefits, but will stick to more comfortable speeds, like 110 mph.

He is also applying his business studies to his future, using Reno as a marketing base. Weber-branded Nevica clothing, Atomic skis, Scott poles, and Carrera helmets sell worldwide. One of his sponsors, Salomon, is based in Reno, as is International Speed Skiing, which Weber helped found. He and his fiancee, Janet Zermani, own a sports consulting firm. One of their clients is McKinney's sister, Tamara, a member of the U.S. Ski Team and 1984 Olympic veteran.

Nevada also has everything he needs for fun, Weber says. "I'm an outdoor person, and Nevada has great variety. What you have here or within a short distance is unbelievable. You have Lake Tahoe, the mountains to hike, the desert, and Pyramid reservation. Where I live I have 17 tennis courts, raquetball, a swimming pool, sauna, Nautilus—it's great. My fiancee is from Manhattan. If she needs a city vitamin, we go to San Francisco."

Asked how much money he makes, Weber says, "Not as much as a rock musician or a tennis player. But you can make between $100,000 and $200,000 a year. When I first got into the sport, I did it just for the glory. As I got older, I figured why not make a living at it?

"My ambition is if I do something, I'd like to do it right," he says. "I just don't like to go out and goof off a little bit. I get pretty hooked on things." Whatever Weber decides on, you can bet he'll take it to the limit—and beyond. □


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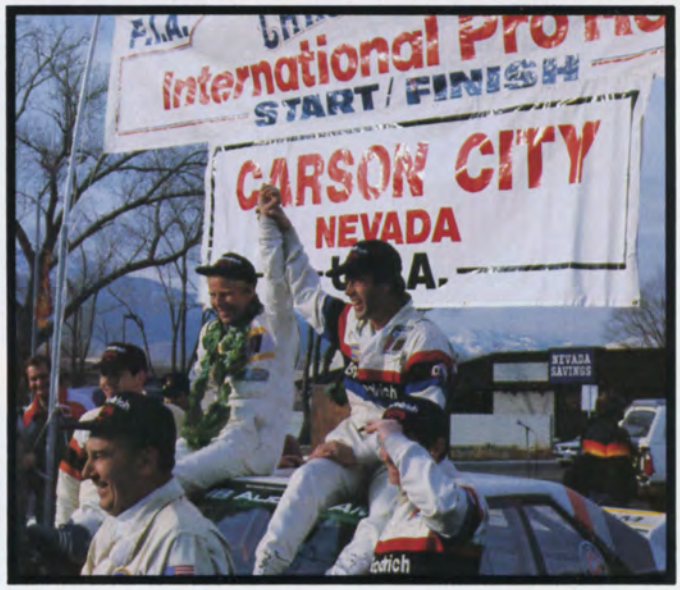


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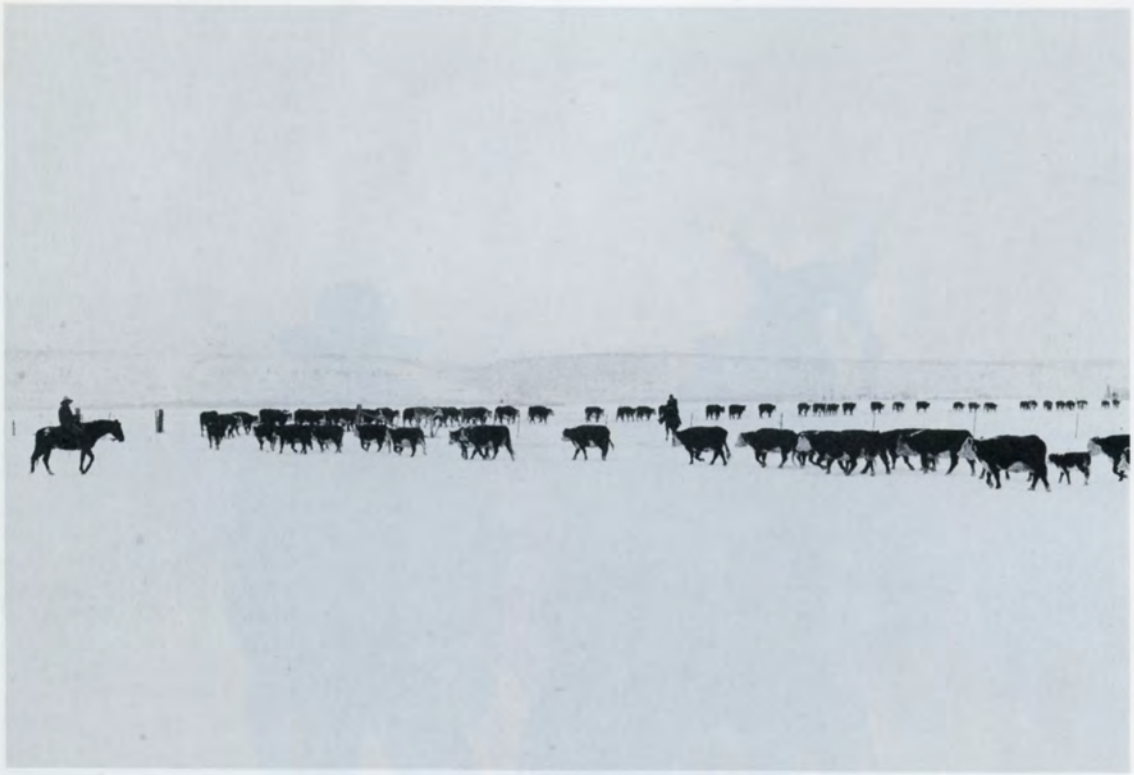

*I can't think of the YP Ranch north of Elko without thinking of my friend and man of mystery, John Adamson, who's in the middle of this photograph. The YP is one of John's favorite ranches, and he has seen plenty. The YP sits in the crotch of some very obscene weather, and for a man to last a single winter there, to say nothing of the several John has toughed out, is no small accomplishment. Because it doesn't have to be winter for it to be miserable, John has his own name for the Owyhee country: "The Big Nasty."*

# ROUNDUP

Chances are a cowboy in Nevada will never have to work for a man who has named all his cows.

**Words and photos by Kurt Markus**

Say what you like about Nevada ranching, but you have to admit it has scale. Not many places anymore will throw 5,000 head together, and, as cowboys say, "go somewhere." In some states, gathering a big bunch of cattle would be a media event, accomplished by 20 riders too many, for no purpose. In Nevada, it would be just an unnoticed, everyday job that had to get done.

There's an old saying that a cowboy shouldn't work for someone who has lights in his barn. Lights or no lights, if you buckaroo in sagebrush country, you'll be working in the dark. But there is one consolation to all the extra galloping around: In Nevada, chances are a cowboy will never have to work for a man who has named all his cows.

*This photograph was in an exhibit of my work a few years ago, and I overheard two ladies discussing it: "You know what they say about people looking like their dogs? This is the first time I've seen someone who looks like his horse." My friend Rick Bates wouldn't mind the comment. He's ridden for more than 20 outfits in his career and has collected a lot more punishment than this tidbit of verbal abuse. We've both seen each other at our worst, but I've had the privilege of seeing Rick at his best: anytime, anywhere, horseback. There's nothing quite like watching Rick swing a leg over a big cow horse like Jiggs, pictured here, and seeing the two trot off into the snow or heat. Rick is my son's godfather.*

*You've heard about the long hours and short pay in cowboying, but something has to keep men — and women — out there. The rewards, and they are considerable, have to do with a kind of pace that can, at times, be restful. If you finish branding at noon, you might have the afternoon to nap (you got up at 3:30 a.m.) before having to catch horses in the evening for the next day's work. No telephones, either. The buckaroos in this photograph, taken on the LS Ranches near Montello in Northeastern Nevada, are practicing one of their many arts, the gift of gab. In the midst of a society that has almost lost the ability to talk to one another, cowboys can entertain themselves and guests for hours without television. Sure, some cowboys are better storytellers than others, but I'll take a cowboy — sight unseen — over a clerk anytime.*

---

*Kurt Markus, former editor of* Western Horseman, *is now a freelance writer and photographer. The photographs featured here are excerpted from his book* After Barbed Wire: Cowboys of Our Time, *published by Twelvetrees Press. Signed copies will be available. The price is $45 per copy. To order write After Barbed Wire, 9555 Bennision, Colorado Springs, CO 80908; 303-495-3213.*

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*Overton resident Orville Perkins (bottom) and other excavators pose with pots in 1934.*

# Rediscovering the Lost City

The museum of the Pueblo Grande de Nevada turns 50 this year, but it's still considerably younger than the culture it honors.

**By Susan Condon**

When explorer Jedediah Smith journeyed through what is now the Moapa Valley in 1827, he saw traces of an ancient civilization. There were pottery shards, tools, and a salt cave that had been mined long before. He made a note in his journal and rode on.

For another hundred years after Smith's visit, the relics and homes of the valley's forgotten people lay unknown and unexplored. Then, thanks to the persistence of two local men and the backing of a Nevada governor, the Pueblo Grande de Nevada, or Lost City, was rediscovered in the 1920s. What they found shocked archaeologists, who never expected the Pueblo culture to pop up in Nevada.

So it is that this year the Lost City Museum celebrates its 50th anniversary with just as much emphasis on the men who found the place as on what they found.

The museum, 65 miles northeast of Las Vegas, looks much as it did in 1935 when the young men of the Civilian Conservation Corps built it on a bluff at the south end of Overton. Inside, visitors will find polished oak cabinets displaying baskets, pottery, arrowheads, and grinding stones discovered in early digs. Open exhibits depict the Anasazis—"the ancient ones"—at work and play. The back room encloses a ruin and shows how it was excavated. There also are black-and-white photographs of the people who saved the Lost City from oblivion: brothers Fay and John Perkins, who first brought attention to the site; Nevada Governor James Scrugham, who lobbied for federal recognition and support; archaeologist M.R. Harrington, who at Scrugham's request began excavations in 1924; and the CCC workers who braved the intense heat to dig in the dust.

As you ponder each potsherd and picture, the story of the Lost City unfolds.

Before 10,000 B.C. Nevada enjoyed a cool, moist climate. Cave dwellers shared the land with bison, ground sloths, saber-toothed tigers, and camels. But as the northern glaciers retreated and the weather warmed, the large animals disappeared, and new residents began adapting to the drier climate. "We call these people the Archaic people," explains Kathryne Olson, curator of the state-run museum. "They were primarily hunters and gatherers."

The Anasazi or Pueblo Indians appeared around 300 B.C. "There's some evidence that the Anasazi evolved from the Archaic people," Olson says. If so, the Indians made a drastic change in life styles. They began farming corn, beans,

*(Continued on page 35)*

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**2363 THREE KINGS** May the meaning of the Season be deeper, its friendships stronger...hopes brighter as Christmas comes to you...—*artist Cummings*

**1922** "Joy is the Spirit...Peace is the Hope..." Wishing you a Blessed Christmas and Happiness throughout the New Year—*artist G. Christoffersen*

**2361** You made outdoors Thy temple, Lord, to fit our simple prayer...Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year —*artist Dan Mieduch*

**2399** May the meaning of the Season be deeper, its friendships stronger, and its hopes brighter as Christmas comes to you this year—*artist B.C. Snow*

**2259 To those we love and see each day and other loved ones far away...** Merry Christmas and Happy New Year—*artist J.W. Claflin*

**3309** "They walk with God upon the hills..." Wishing you a Blessed Christmas and Happiness throughout the New Year—*artist Dorrine Robertson*

**3287** Merry Christmas and best wishes for a Happy New Year —*artist Ruth M. Lau*

**2302** Merry Christmas and Best Wishes for a Happy New Year —*artist Lisa Danielle Lorimer*

**2261** (Psalm 118:24 inside) May Peace be your Gift at Christmas and your Treasure through all the Year —*artist Katheryn Williams B.*

**2285** Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year—*artist Hildred Goodwine*

**2352** ...To wish you the Merriest Christmas the Good Spirit can bestow! Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year—*artist Bill Moyers*

**2390** To those we love and see each day and other loved ones far away... Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!—*artist Melvin C. Warren*

**1261** ...When his love is understood there will be everlasting peace. May the Peace and Joy of Christmas be with you through all the Year—*artist Vel Miller*

**1603** "Christmas Candles on the Desert Altar" (Yucca legend inside) May the Peace and Joy of Christmas be with you through all the Year—*artist R. Lau*

**3348** Ho, ho, ho... It's Christmas again! May yours be a joyful one and your New Year happy! —*artist Lucille Martin*

**1656** SILENT NIGHT...ALL IS CALM, ALL IS BRIGHT May Peace be your Gift at Christmas...your Treasure...all the Year—*artist Hildred Goodwine*

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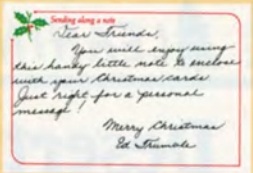

**1481 ...In every home...the lights of friendship glow...** it's time to greet the friends it's nice to know. Merry Christmas!—*artist Nicles*

**4192** "Glory to God in the highest..." (Luke 2:14 ins.) May the Peace and Joy of Christmas be with you...all the Year—*photo by Fletcher Manley*

**3253** "TAKE TIME TO SEE" (inspirational nature poem inside) Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year—*artist Ted Blaylock*

**2371** There is a quiet in the desert land... May you have the Spirit of Christmas which is Peace...the Heart of Christmas which is Love—*artist Snow*

**2260** Roof's still leakin'. Vittles skeerce. Wolf...a-growlin' fierce..Both horses lame, but Merry Christmas just the same!—*artist M. Scovel*

**2079 CHRISTMAS CAPER** Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year —*artist Hildred Goodwine*

**2309 The splendor of Christ's humble birth, the love of friend for friend.** Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year—*artist C. Smith*

**2345** (4 line poem by S. Omar Barker ins.) Friendly Greetings of the Season and Best Wishes for a Prosperous New Year!—*artist Gene Speck*

**1264 May your moccasins make happy tracks in many snows...** Merry Christmas and Happy New Year —*artist Gerda Christoffersen*

**3319 Whatever else changes...the glory of Christmas remains...with joy and happiness...** Merry Christmas and Happy New Year—*artist Dieckhoner*

**2033** May Christmas bring Friends to your Fireside, Peace to your Pathway, and Good Health throughout the New Year—*artist Russ Vickers*

**1825** Let us keep Christmas, its meaning never ends. With every good wish for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year—*artist J. Falk*

**1814** "Christmas Candles on the Desert Altar" (Yucca legend inside) May the Peace and Joy of Christmas be with you...all the Year—*artist Hilton*

**1304 ...May God hold you in the hollow of His hand.** Merry Christmas and Best Wishes for a Happy New Year—*artist Gordon Snidow*

**2226** May the warmth and love that is all around us at Christmas time fill your heart with joy, and shed radiance over the year...ahead—*artist Vel Miller*

**2328** May you have the Spirit of Christmas which is Peace...Gladness which is Hope, the Heart of Christmas which is Love—*artist Ted Blaylock*

**1462 "Peace on Earth"** May Peace be your Gift at Christmas, and your Treasure through all the Year —*artist Brummett EchoHawk*

**1498** May the small wonders of the season cause joyful happenings in your heart. Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year—*artist Hildred Goodwine*

**1997** May your moccasins make happy tracks in many snows...Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year —*artist Lisa Danielle Lorimer*

**3025 SLEIGHBELLS IN THE SKY** Merry Christmas and Happy New Year—*artist Bernard P. Thomas*

# LEANIN' TREE

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**1674 Merry Christmas WHOA, HOSS, WHOA** ...and best wishes for a Happy New Year from Our Outfit to Yours—*artist Vic Donahue*

**2173 Times change...but not ...friendship.** Let us keep Christmas...the warmth and joy of remembering friends.—*artist Claflin*

**2374** It's Christmas again! May yours be a joyful one and your New Year happy!—*artist Richard Barth*

**1602 CHRISTMAS WISHES COME TRUE** Merry Christmas and best wishes for a Happy New Year —*artist Hildred Goodwine*

**2400** Wishing you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year —*artist Richard Barth*

**3201** May there come to you at this holiday time an abundance of the precious things of life: Health, Happiness and Enduring Friendships—*artist J. Falk*

**2025** May you have the Spirit of Christmas which is Peace, the Gladness...is Hope, the Heart of Christmas which is Love—*artist Lowdermilk*

**2276 May Christmas bring Friends to your Fireside, and Peace...** Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year—*artist Chris Cummings*

**1657 CHRISTMAS EVE IN A MANGER** May the blessings of Christmas be with you today and always—*artist Hildred Goodwine*

**3259** It's Christmas again! May yours be a joyful one and your New Year happy!—*artist Lisa Danielle Lorimer*

**1951** ...The splendor of Christ's humble birth, the love of friend for friend. Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year—*artist Melvin C. Warren*

**2403** And joy to you! Merry Christmas and Happy New Year—*artist Gerda Christoffersen*

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**LOST CITY** *(Continued from page 30)*

squash, and cotton along the Muddy and Virgin river valleys. The people built adobe houses, using branches and a mixture of sand, mud, and straw baked in the sun. They painted their pottery and made jewelry from turquoise.

The Anasazis lived in the valley for about 1,500 years and reached a peak population of nearly 5,000. Around 1150 A.D., they vanished. No one knows why.

During the next 700 years, their adobe villages crumbled away, and the Paiutes moved into the area. Then came Smith.

NEVADA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

*An excavated Pueblo neighborhood shows the ancient homes' semicircular layout.*

Then came the Perkins brothers, Governor Scrugham, Harrington, and the CCCs.

They came just in time, too. As excavations began, plans were being made for Hoover Dam, which would create Lake Mead, which would bury many of the ancient home sites forever.

The crews' discoveries startled prehistorians everywhere. "Up to that time it was thought that all Pueblo ruins were east of the Colorado River," says R.F. "Chick" Perkins of Overton. A former curator of the museum, Perkins was a boy when his father Fay and uncle John helped run the digs. "Now, way over here in little Southern Nevada there turned out to be a tremendous civilization. The discovery made every major newspaper in the United States. It was the greatest publicity since the Comstock Lode."

People have been flocking to the discovery ever since. Indeed, nearly 100,000 travelers and archaeology buffs discover the Lost City Museum each year.

And while it is a veritable showcase of the ability of modern science to record and date centuries-old relics, one thing remains unclear. Nobody knows exactly when the museum opened for business. There's no dated cornerstone, and early records were carted off by the feds, who turned the museum over to the state in the 1950s. "We think it was sometime in the fall of 1935," Olson says. "So I guess if we celebrate late in the year, we'll be pretty close." □

*Susan Condon is a feature writer for the* Las Vegas Review-Journal.

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# BINGO!

At last, without using a bit of witchcraft or superstition, an expert reveals his own sure-fire and foolproof ways to beat the bingo.

**By Gene E. Malott**

"The charm of bingo," I tell the missus before she goes off to play, "is that few people understand the game. That's why you can beat the bingo all the time."

The truth is that I've rarely played the game myself. But now that I know it's a sure thing, I'm going to start. You see, over the years I have studied the game for my missus. It's her passion, and I didn't want her throwing away her money. So I developed for her a couple of foolproof systems that just can't miss.

## HOW TO PLAY IT

Now, bingo as it's played in Nevada is not your ordinary parlor game—none of this mixing up cardboard numbers in a hat and fetching 'em out by hand. No, sir, this is high-tech. There's a big glass fishbowl with 75 numbered ping-pong balls inside, and a compressed-air machine that blows them around like tumbleweeds in a Washoe zephyr. Alluvasudden the caller hits a little lever and the whole contraption goes, "Whoppp!" and a ball pops out and gets thrown onto a TV screen so everybody can see it, and the number lights up and begins blinking on boards all over the room, and the dealer yells out on a loudspeaker something like, "BEEeeeee FifteeEEEN!" Then somebody always squeals. Outstanding! All those gay, winking lights and the cries of the players and the leggy change girls running around collecting your money—it almost makes you forget to lay down your bean sometimes.

## BEWARE, THE SYSTEMS

Usually, bingo parlors are packed with regulars, and they are a groupie lot. Almost every one of them has a system, and none of the systems is the same—mostly superstition, even a little witchcraft. Until I developed my two systems, there never was a way to beat the bingo.

When you talk about "regulars," of course, it's not just locals. Regulars at Nevada bingo parlors come from everywhere—a monthly bus trip down from Spokane, a weekly drive-up from Phoenix. They know the callers' names, and their kids' names, and where they go to school, and where they had dinner last night. There are a lot of them who occupy the same seats. That's one of their systems—find a seat you can win on, and stake it out as your own whenever you come to play

That can get out of hand. Ray Corrigan, bingo manager at Harrah's in Reno, says he has customers who've played in the same seat for 30 years or more. He tells of the little retired guy who came in to get his regular seat and found it occupied by a tourist who wouldn't move. "Almost started a fistfight," Corrigan recalls.

Say, these players can get vicious. One time, says Corrigan, the players rose up and began throwing beans at a caller they didn't like. And that takes a strong arm—after all, Harrah's beans are just little circles of cardboard.

Most important of all, don't listen to their crazy systems. All the regulars like to tell you about their triumphs. Mostly, they forget their defeats.



ILLUSTRATION BY JOHN BARDWELL

**THE SYSTEMS PEOPLE PLAY**

A lot of the systems are based on picking boards with the right numbers on them. What's "right?" Well, that depends on who you talk to. Ask a cross section of folks who gather an hour or more before each bingo session just to sift through hundreds of boards. Ask them how they choose, and here's what some of them will say:

"My lucky number." (How do you know what's lucky until the play starts?)

"My son's birthday." (Thanks, Mom.)

"Numbers I've won on." (Well, that makes as much sense as anything.)

"Thirteens in the corners." (Witchcraft? Why not?)

One guy with a furtive look told me he looks for "63-73 cards." But he wouldn't say just what that means. A lady from Oregon who claimed to be a $50 winner said, "I try to stay away from numbers I hate." I don't know what makes a particular number hateful, but I suppose it improves your mental attitude if you don't have to stare at it all day long.

Some bingo players always check out their stars, and I guess that's okay if you're playing at night. Some only play when their biorhythms are right, but that's crazy. The player doesn't have any control—he oughta check the *balls'* biorhythms and see which ones are on uppers that day. Of course, you'd have to know the balls' birthdates. Systems players—they're all crazy.

The best system I ever heard of is used by a lady on a pension out in Sparks, who plays several times a week at John Ascuaga's Nugget. "I allow myself so much money to play with," she told me, "and if I have any left over at the end, I'm ahead." Shucks, I bet she's ahead of the game almost every time.

Actually, many players do come out ahead at bingo—they can't help it. Bingo is one of Nevada's most beatable games. In its monthly report last January, the Nevada Gaming Control Board said the house loss on bingo was 5.7 percent. That's right—the casinos paid you to play. That loss on bingo compared with house wins of 17 percent for craps, 18.5 percent for blackjack, and 28 percent for keno.

So don't tell me you can't figure out how to beat the bingo. There *are* systems that work, but so far I'm the only one who's figured them out. Both of mine are going to be winners.

**MIND THE BALLS**

Any veteran bingo player will tell you that some numbers come up more often than others, and it's true. That's because the balls don't all weigh the same, nor are they perfectly round. I mean, they're an ugly, imperfect lot even as they come out of the ping-pong ball factory. The machines that punch them out leave pimples, indents, dimples, mounds, protrusions, obtusions, abrasions, and all kinds of other scars that misshape them. Only the roundest, lightest balls are aerodynamically sound, of course; they tend to bound around more, stay at the top of the bowls and, therefore, get blown out the tube more often than their heavier, more sluggish mates.

While this presents a player's opportunity, it's a bingo manager's nightmare. After all, to a professional, playing bingo with imperfect balls is the moral equivalent to shooting craps with shaved dice. But they can't help it—bingo managers don't have any more control over the quality of ping-pong balls than the guys who make them at the factory.

Oh, they try. Harrah's bingomaster, Ray Corrigan, special-orders his ping-pong balls. They're made in England, and they're individually weighed and matched. "Very expensive," he moans.

Even so, it doesn't always work. Building a perfect ping-pong ball is not within human capability, and here is how you take advantage of it. Call it G.E.M.'s System One:

**BALL COUNTING**

Don't start the play until you have sat there in the bingo parlor and written down every number called in every game. After a few hundred thousand numbers, you'll have a real feel for which balls are faulty and which are light and round—the latter will come up more often. Then, before the start of every session after that, sort through every board in the house to find those on which the favored numbers predominate.

## Where to Play the Bingo

At last count there are 22 Nevada casinos with regular bingo parlors and a half dozen more with occasional games. The action in Las Vegas ranges from Strip hotels like the Holiday, Aladdin, El Rancho, and Riviera, to downtown spots like the Western, to outlying places like Sam's Town, the Showboat, Palace Station, Jerry's Nugget, and the Silver Nugget. In Laughlin games are held at the Riverside and Sam's Town Gold River, while bingo fanatics in Pahrump gather at Saddle West.

In Western Nevada, bingo parlors are found at John Ascuaga's Nugget in Sparks, Harrah's in Reno and Lake Tahoe, and at the Nugget and Horseshoe in Carson City. In Yerington, a bingo hotbed, the game is played at both clubs in town, Casino West and Dini's Lucky Club, with the main action on Sunday afternoons and Monday and Wednesday evenings.

Now do this quickly, or the house may change balls on you. Corrigan says at Harrah's—and some other houses he knows about—they use at least four different sets of balls at any one time and rotate the sets at random. Each set is destroyed after four or five months. Also, there are more than 3,000 cards to choose from. This suggests that you'll want to use System One just at the smaller bingo parlors, where management can afford to buy only one set of balls and just a few hundred cards.

As you can tell, this system will save you a lot of money. G.E.M.'s System Two may make you wealthy:

**TIMING IS EVERYTHING (ALMOST)**

The schedule of bingo payoffs is the same each day—$25 to $100 for most games, maybe up to $500 or even $1,000 for special games like blackout, crazy-T, or picture frame. And the house never cancels a game.

Now, usually you'll find 75 to 100 people at a session of casino bingo, each with three to seven boards at 25 cents a board, and most ready to sit there the whole session because they're not doing badly. After all, the odds are that each player will win back at least one payoff of $25 or $30, and where else can you entertain yourself for eight hours on a lousy 10 bucks or so?

Now, what if, all of a sudden, the other players got up and left and you were left to play all by yourself? You'd rake in every payoff, no matter how long it took you to get five beans in a row. Of course, there's no way to get the other players to leave all at once, but next best is to wait until your favorite bingo parlor is almost empty. This strategy is the basis for G.E.M.'s System Two:

Always play in a blizzard.

In Las Vegas, where you have to wait a very long time between blizzards, always play in a sandstorm (or maybe a flood).

At least now you know that it's possible to make money in a casino even if you're too clumsy to throw the dice or too slow-witted to count cards at blackjack.

"Be a systems player," as I tell the missus. "Count the balls carefully. Watch your timing. You can always beat the bingo."

Now that I know that's true, I'm going to start trying out a system for the keno. I've heard that if you wait till your sign is rising, and always play the numbers on your social security card, and find a runner with a mole on the back of her left hand, you can beat it.

I think a lady at the bingo parlor told me that. □

*Gene E. Malott lives in Verdi and is considering opening a bingo school.*

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# Oh, Christmas Tree

## Pining for the right one.

### By Jim Andersen

One of the great things about Nevada is that for one dollar you can go out into a forest and cut your own Christmas tree, and it's not much more of a hassle than buying one off a lot in Tijuana.

There's something pioneery about crunching along through crusted snow, saw in one hand, U.S. Forest Service permit in the other, inspecting each tree through clouds of frosty breath. It's so spiritual that you won't even notice that you're a mile downhill from your pickup when you find the tree you want.

Without a salesman to pressure me, I had a tough time at first "seeing" the tree in my living room. The tree I took home was always a lot bigger than the one I cut down in the forest—so big it wouldn't fit through the door without lopping off a few limbs. And once upright, the little sapling would invariably push out a ceiling panel. So unless you live in a hangar, find the smallest tree you can live with and then cut one half that size.

Another thing to keep in mind, and I hesitate to mention it because I don't want people to think I'm so thoroughly stupid that I've done it, is not to affix the Forest Service tag to the very bottom of the tree, because you can't get it off. It's a horrible feeling to start dragging your tree away and notice the shiny aluminum ribbon wrapped snuggly around the stump. If you do that, you have two choices—leave the tree and drive back to town to buy a new tag, or sneak home and hide it in the shed. Personally, I'd just as soon drag a dead eagle past a fish and game agent.

Once you have managed to prop up the tree with boards, nails, and baling wire, you'll only encounter one more problem, that of making the pointy top ornament not droop. I never found a solution to that, but my friend Val did. She glued it on there and let it droop till it dried. Then she took some transparent fishing line and tied one end around the ornament, keeping the knot in back. A thumbtack in the ceiling and presto! You can see the fishing line whenever a red light blinks on, so use lots of green and blue bulbs near the top.

That's about all there is to it, and it's baffling to me that some folks would rather go to a tree lot. You buy one off a lot and I can tell you this: It'll take most of a half-hour, the shape will be unrealistically perfect, it'll stand up without baling wire, and it'll fit through the door.

You call that Christmas? □

*Jim Andersen lives and cuts trees in Austin.*

*"My mother never bought a car in her life. Dad always said, 'The husband picks the car. The wife picks the color.' And that was fine for them. But I'm 28 and still single. So if I had the money, I'd get a black 200 Turbo for myself. Because I'm willing to wait for a husband. But I've waited long enough for that car."*

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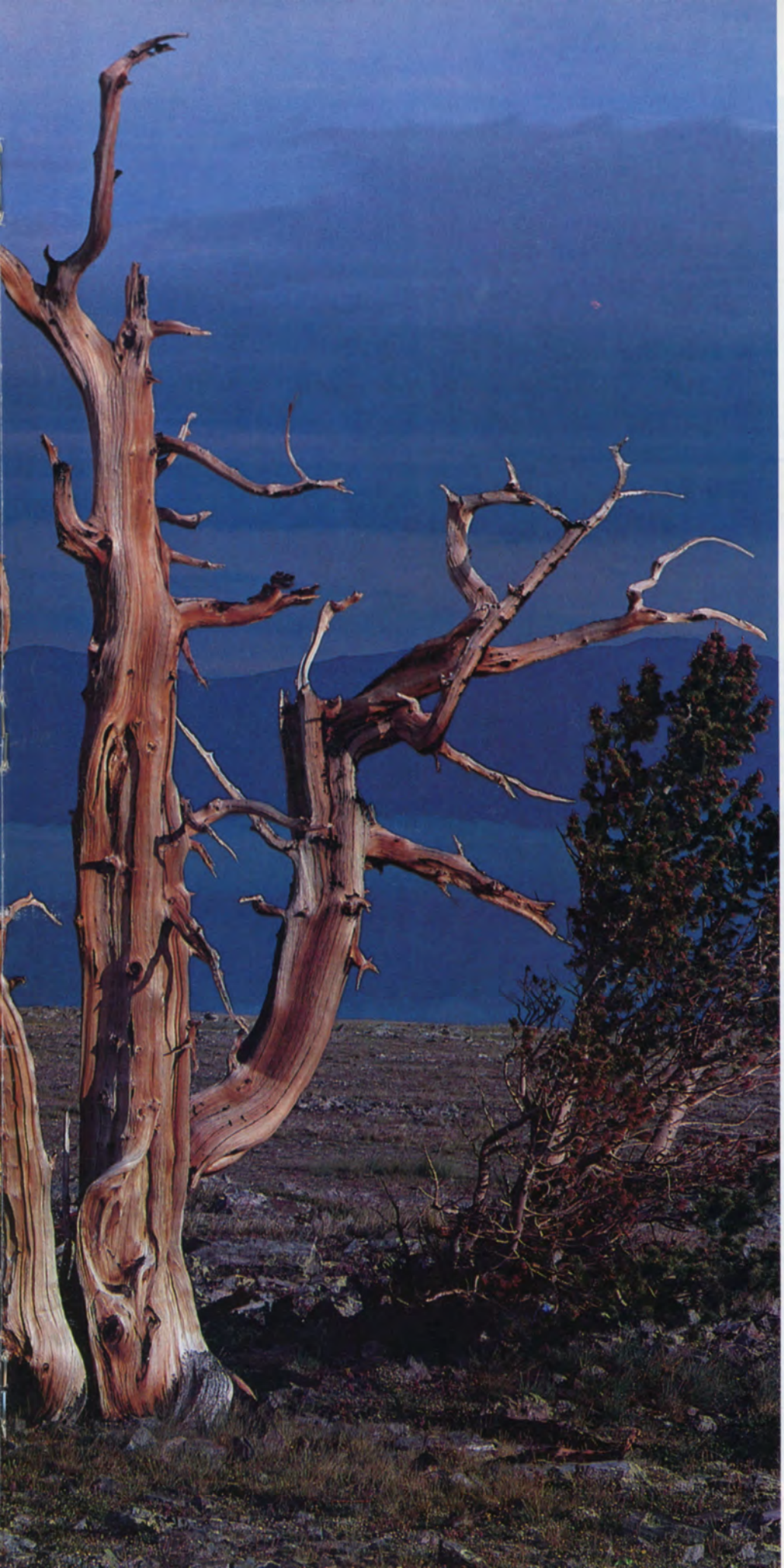

# Muench's Gallery

Twisting skyward, the skeletons of ancient bristlecone pines vividly recall the trees' stubborn battles for survival at the chilly 10,000-foot timberline. Some of the bristlecone pines we see today were born 4,000 years ago. Many grow in scattered spots in Nevada. David Muench found these trees high in the Snake Range east of Ely.

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

HORSE SENSE & NONSENSE

# Searching for Slim

He could have worked in Battle Mountain for a dollar a day, but no, Slim Powers had wanted to dig for gold.

**By Harry E. Webb**

When Josh Dean came galloping into John Baldwin's ranch one Sunday yelling, "Mine's caved in on Slim Powers!" it set things in motion like a boy fighting a nest of hornets.

"Knew it would!" John said as he tossed a saddle on a horse. "Slim knew no more about diggin' a tunnel than a jacksnipe! Grab some shovels, Josh!" On their way they picked up a friend named Billie and two other men, and all reviewed Slim's bullheadedness.

"Slim could have got a job in Battle Mountain as a carpenter at a dollar a day," Josh said, "but no, he allowed there was gold in that hill. Now he's got a hundred tons of dirt down on him!"

At Slim's claim the scene was even worse than expected. There was no semblance of a tunnel—just a wide depression in the slope where it had caved in. But it doesn't take a miner to know the frenzy of trying to rescue a cave-in victim, and this small crew was no exception.

It was hours later when Billie tossed his shovel aside and sat down. "T'ain't no use killin' ourselves, fellers. Slim's deader than a doornail long ago, so we might as well take 'er easy."

"We won't know for sure if he's dead," wheezed John, "until we dig him out, so get shovelin' "

"Well," said Billie, "unless he can live without breathin', any damn fool ought to know he's dead, an' I mean dead!"

"I don't know about you fellows but I want to go to bed with a clear conscience tonight," John huffed and puffed. "We must think of his wife and all his kids."

"That's right," Josh said. "Let's see, Slim had six kids and then he married that widow with that many of her own and they finally got two more—Lord God, let's dig a while longer, fellers."

The sun was setting when Josh said, "Damn it, I just happened to think what fools we are. More dirt and rocks keep cavin' in from the sides than we've mucked out so we'd have the whole hill to shovel away if we keep on. Besides, if we did get Slim out we'd just have to dig another hole to bury him! He's deeper now than most folks get so I say let's call it quits."

All except John were in agreement. "We could put some proper clothes on him for his funeral," he argued.

"Don't reckon the Lord gives a tinker's damn how a man's dressed, so let's have his funeral right here," Josh said.

"Guess you're right," John replied. "We'll call him buried and I'll whittle up a headboard later."

"Shouldn't you spill a few fittin' words over him before we leave?" Billie asked.

"I was coming to that," John replied.

Bowing his head, he reverently intoned: "Friends, somewhere in there lies Slim Powers, a good and productive soul who leaves a wife and 14 kids. And it was only that the Devil got the upper hand on this Sabbath day of nineteen hundred and five and caved Slim's tunnel down on him. Slim no doubt would have lived to father a heap more kids. So, Lord, we ask you to have mercy on Slim when or if you meet him. Amen." □

*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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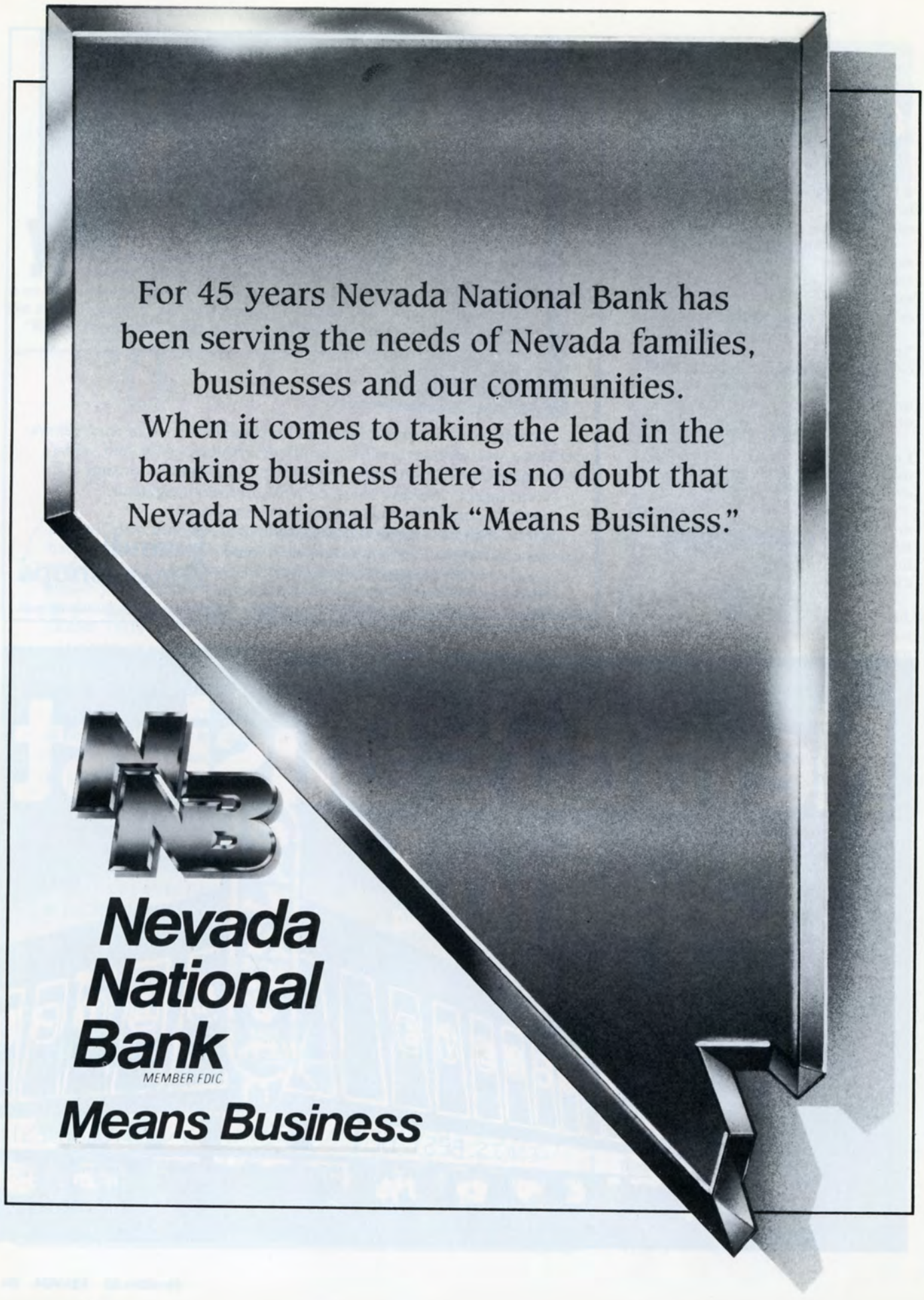
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# Belle of Blackjack

## Clara Williams of Austin's Golden Club is an old hand at 21.

**By Richard Menzies**

One of the advantages Austin enjoys over the glitzy gaming meccas of Las Vegas, Reno, and Lake Tahoe is that it doesn't overwhelm you with a multitude of night spots. Nor is it necessary in Austin to wander all over creation in search of the action. There's just one licensed casino in town and, inside, a single card table. As a matter of fact, the only decision you have to make is picking which of five vacant stools look lucky.

But then "casino" may not be the best word to describe the atmosphere of Clara's Golden Club. It's more like playing poker for peanuts in a neighbor's garage on Saturday afternoon. This is also one of the few places in Nevada where you can still play blackjack for a dollar a hand; no doubt it's the only place where you can lose that dollar to a dealer who looks like your great-grandmother.

Her name is Clara Williams, and at 78 she's the oldest active 21 dealer in the Silver State. Seven nights a week she shuffles in "about six-thirty, seven-thirty, eight—whenever I get ready" and takes up her station behind the homemade green felt table. There, her gray curls are set aglow by an overhead beer lamp and neatly framed by a hand-printed list of house rules and a sign warning that you must be 21 years old to play.

There's also a rifle hanging on the wall, which in the homey surroundings of the Golden Club seems no more menacing than, say, a potted plant. High above the ornate bar, several deer and elk trophies look on glassy-eyed, their antlers festooned with baseball caps. Some of the creatures are wearing neckties. Tacked to the blistering clapboard walls are barbed-wire wreaths encircling the bleached skulls of coyote, horse, and cow. The black-and-white floor tiles are worn through in places, and the floor itself slopes sharply toward the front door, whence unsteady customers pitch and roll like billiard balls to the corner pocket.

"We were gonna put a new floor in here last year," Clara explains, "but we didn't want cement, and we didn't want this and we didn't want that, so we didn't get anything.

"I have to watch 'em," she confides, referring to both family members and customers. "They change things and take some of my old decorations down and put up new ones if I don't watch 'em. It bothers me when they move something 'cause I can't see 'em anymore. I look at one place and they're moved."

Looking around, one gets the impression that little has been moved since Clara took over the place back in 1943. Business at the time was "real, real slow," she recalls, but compared to the daily routine of a rancher's wife, nights at the Golden Club were as lively as the Stardust Ballroom on New Year's Eve.

"I used to stay home a lot. My husband worked out on the ranches as a cowboy, and my children were all small. So I used to come down here at night, my cousin and his wife, and my sister and I. We'd drink and play the jukebox and talk. So one night I said to the owner, 'Hey, this is a pretty good thing, Don. If you ever decide to sell it, I'd sure like to have it.' You know, just jokin'

"So he called me several months later, and he said, 'Well, you told me you wanted it. Now get down here and take it over.

RICHARD MENZIES

*Clara has played her cards right since 1943.*

"I said, 'I was only joking. I don't want that place!' "

Verbal contracts are not taken lightly in these parts, however, and Clara became a saloonkeeper. In spite of her conservative father's objections, she went partners with her sister and bought the turn-of-the-century building along with its furniture and liquid assets for a thousand dollars.

It didn't take long for Clara to build up the business and recoup her investment. The Golden Club became a family affair, with husband Bill dealing cards while Clara tended bar and the children. Clara remembers she took a few days off when her youngest daughter was born. When she returned to work, Gail came along in a basket.

Bill Williams died in 1966, but Clara's six children have pitched in to keep the Golden Club open. Today Gail tends the bar where she was weaned and directs traffic during the day while Mom sits at home resting up from the night before. Besides a stream of grandkids, the regular customers are an egalitarian mix of miners, drillers, cowboys, and tourists. During the afternoon Austin's only gaming table is staffed by Chuck Whealan, who looks old enough to retire but maintains, "I'm just a youngster yet."

The Golden Club has no set closing time, but in order to discourage low rollers from camping overnight, at 12 a.m. the minimum bet goes up to $2. Gail explains: "It went to $2 after midnight because we stayed here with one woman from eight o'clock one night till two o'clock the following afternoon playing $1 a hand, and she cashed in $13. I said, 'This stuff's gonna stop!' "

Even at the higher stakes, Clara doesn't exactly need to hire a Brink's truck to haul off the night's drop. But then she says she's not in it for the money.

"I just make a living. I just get by, and that's all I wanna do. The doctors have told me that I should be doing something with my hands and my mind, because I'm kinda forgetful."

However, as long as Clara can still shuffle a deck, the doors aren't likely to close at the Golden Club. "I would never sell it," she declares, "and I would never close it as long as I'm alive. After I'm gone, then they can do what they want with it.

"It's like my home," she says. "I know everybody, people who come in. When it starts to gettin' dark, I wanna get outta that house. You know, I wanna come down and see everybody.

"It's been a long time, and it's been a very short time that I've been away from here." □

*Richard Menzies, the widely-traveled Salt Lake City writer and photographer, says Austin is the most authentic unrehabilitated ghost town in the United States.*

8th Annual

# Great Nevada Picture Hunt Winners

# Photo Finish

These photographers relied on persistence, not luck, for their award-winning photos.

Nevada is an honest state. Little comes between a person's vision and what's really here. Either you love the stark surroundings and chrome glitter, or you hate them. Either you relish Nevada's brown earth, rawhide people, and decaying monuments, or you despise Nevada for its harsh and sometimes desperate ways.

Each winner of the Eighth Annual Great Nevada Picture Hunt saw the Silver State in plain and real terms, although each also pointed his or her camera at a slightly different angle. Some were attracted to uncluttered landscapes. Others searched for a person whose strength, or perhaps restraint, set him or her apart.

Walter E. Gist was looking for toughness when he roamed the Winnemucca Ranch, shooting more than 400 frames of color-print film during a recent roundup. Finally, at day's end, after conditioning his subjects to an ever-present Olympus OM-2, the Reno man got his picture: a buckaroo indulging in what *Nevada* chief and contest judge Caroline J. Hadley said "was probably the only pause in a very heavy day." (Later she joked about the cowboy's expression: "There are very few government officials who will look you in the eye like that guy will.")

Like Gist, other photographers relied on persistence rather than luck for their award-winning photos.

Tom Till of Moab, Utah, visited Lincoln County and spent half a day climbing a sheer mountainside with a rope tied around his waist to get a photo of Leviathan Cave's 50-foot-wide entrance.

Roy Herrick of Reno waited for just the right light to shoot Fort Churchill, a place photographed so frequently that judge Howard Hickson was forced to remark, "You see so many Fort Churchills, you

"Fort Churchill"
Roy Herrick,
Reno, NV.
3rd, $75

almost look at them and gag."

Linda Dufurrena hustled her family and friends out to Bog Hot Springs near Denio—in sub-freezing temperatures—to shoot a warm portrait.

Craig Stevenson knew that migrating mountain bluebirds enjoyed perching on a particular stretch of barbed wire fence near Lund. This spring Stevenson, assistant manager of the Kirch Wildlife Area, was back with his Canon AE-1, ready to snap a state bird for his first-place photo. "It's perfect," said judge Cliff Segerblom.

This year, the process of picking the best 15 was difficult. There were more than 1,200 pictures to choose from, and the quality was better than ever. Even though the judges didn't know the story behind each picture, somehow they zeroed in on the ones that required that special effort.—*Cliff Glover*

"Hiker in Leviathan Cave, Worthington Mountain"
Tom Till, Moab, UT.
2nd, $125

"Mountain Bluebird on Fence at Lund"
Craig Stevenson,
Lund, NV.
1st, $250

"Cowboys, Pogonip, and Hot Spring"
Linda Dufurrena,
Winnemucca, NV.
5th, $25

## Other Winners

8th: "Stormy, South of Orovada," Edward E. Walka, Astoria, NY; 9th: "Fremont Pac-Man," P.S. Sobol, Las Vegas, NV.; 11th: "Stormy Night," Glenn Fields, Henderson, NV.; 12th: "Moving Out," Linda Zunino, Jiggs, NV.; 13th: "Caesars Palace," Donald Carey, Yreka, CA.; 14th: "Mystic Nevada," Valerie D. Dutter, Carson City, NV.; 15th: "In the Bag," Mark Silvert, Las Vegas, NV

**Merit Awards**

"The Giant Monitor" and "Who Ghost There?" Larry Angier, Ione, CA.; "Camouflage," John C. Beaman, Reno, NV.; "Peek-A-Boo Squirrel," Shirley Yvonne Fraser, Minden, NV.; "Stripes," Keith L. Grove, Las Vegas, NV.; "Lightning Strike Overlooking Winnemucca Dry Lake," Chris Harris, Ogden, UT.; "Highway 50, Near Hickson Summit," Jim McGuire, Reno, NV.; "Elephant Rock and Brittlebush," Bill Serniuk, South Lake Tahoe, CA.; "March Snowstorm," Brenda Stone, Sparks, NV.; "Pogonip Fog," Muffy Greil Vhay, Washoe Valley, NV. □

"Buckaroo"
Walter E. Gist,
Reno, NV.
4th, $50

"A Pause
for Refreshing,
Colorado River"
Carol H. Bunker,
Henderson, NV.
7th, Nevada T-Shirt

"Winter Harvest"
Mark Klaich,
Reno, NV.
10th, Nevada T-Shirt

"Old Rocking Horse"
Roy Herrick,
Reno, NV.
6th, Nevada T-Shirt

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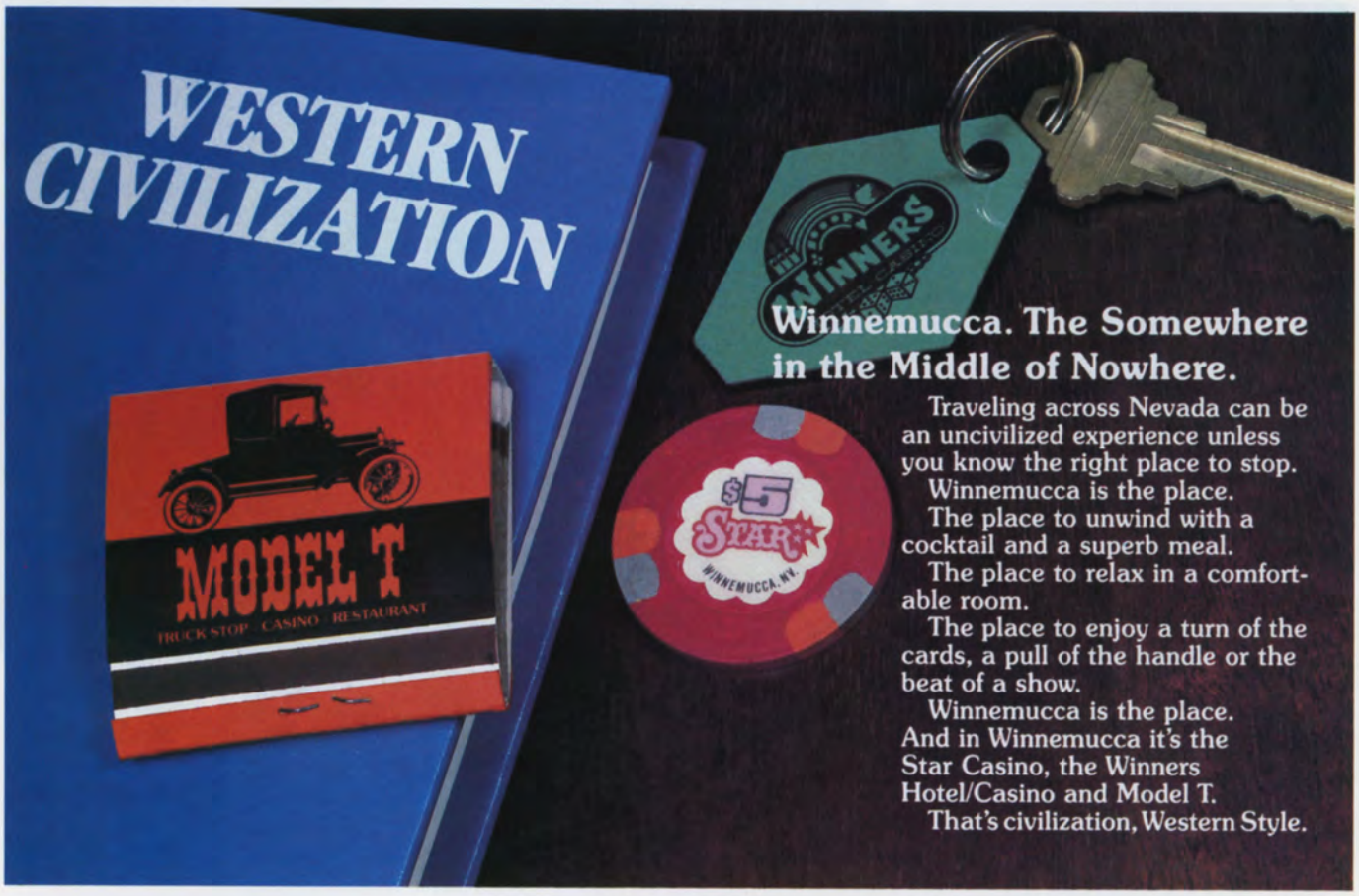


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# Bucks & Buckaroos

Las Vegas spells bucks, cowboy spells buckaroos, 1985 spells Buck Rogers.

**By Caroline J. Hadley**

Tall and lanky, with a voice as large and warm as Burl Ives, Bob Tallman knows about rodeo. He was a contestant all through high school and college but was smart enough to know that his voice was worth more than his rope.

Since his boyhood in Winnemucca, Tallman's goals have been set straight and true. He became a rodeo announcer in the late 1960s and traveled across the U.S. and Canada, first to obscure hamlets, later to major events at Cheyenne, Houston, and Calgary. Today his Great American Cowboy radio series can be heard on 200 stations nationwide. It's called the "Cowboy Network," and Tallman interviews the best in rodeo and tells tales about buckaroos.

He also has announced the ultimate cowboy event, the National Finals Rodeo, twice. This December, in Las Vegas, he will again work inside the arena during the NFR, and millions will see him call the action for the Hesston Corporation's seventh annual Sunday NFR television special.

Some people think Tallman has changed. But he's just more of what he always was. His haircut is shorter. His agent runs his life. He makes a good living, and each week he's in a different town, talking about rodeo, spending time with cowboys, stock contractors, sponsors, vets, and committeemen. But Tallman remains dedicated to the goal he's always had: to use the gift he has for the good of the sport of rodeo.

I talked to Tallman during the Reno Rodeo last June. He was lazing on a plush sofa in a fancy suite at John Ascuaga's Nugget in Sparks. It was just moments after he'd returned from a wild morning of tequila, orange juice, and golf with a hundred other cowboys. I wanted to know his views on cowboys, Nevada, family, and the National Finals. Between a few sips and a lot of laughs, here's what he said.

**ON COWBOYS**

The chandelier swings and people wonder why. The horses buck and people wonder why. The headlines read that cowboys are different, but they aren't special. Cowboys are cowboys.

*Bob Tallman: straight from the horse's mouth.*

You have allowed us to be in this position, you let us be heroes, but don't squeeze the reality out of us. We can only do what we can do. We pull our boots on the same way y'all do. One at a time.

Do you know that cowboy history in the State of Nevada is spelled with a capital B? For Benny Binion. He lived, paid his dues, some of them hard, but when it comes to hospitality for cowboys in Vegas, it's always been Binion.

Do you know why ladies love cowboys? Because there is love in a cowboy's life.

And do you know what rodeo is? It is rip your trigger, get a holt, that's h.o.l.t., then you squeeze.

**ON FAMILY**

I was raised by a good Italian mother, the Cozy Corner Bar, and the Catholic Church, all in Winnemucca. They were the bricks of my foundation.

**ON NEVADA**

I was born in Winnemucca, and normal is not in our dictionary. I am truly bred, born, and raised a Nevadan. Nevada is not a state; we're a place. The rest of the world has no idea how it is. We are a state only because we had silver, and the Civil War needed it. So they accepted us. We didn't need to be a state; they needed us.

If I had to epitomize the state of Nevada and call it a cowboy, I'd entitle it Joe Marvel. He's from Battle Mountain, was world champion bronc rider in 1978. He is Rosita and Tom's son, younger than Mike, older than Pete, but better than us all. He's real, just what God wanted cowboys to be. I can cry for this man. I could put his picture on every month of the calendar. He is everything I have ever wanted to be, everything I ever will be. The only problem with him is that he is mortal, and cowboys are not. He's not godly, but he is blessed. When it comes to Nevada, he is what we are for Las Vegas.

**ON TALLMAN**

My wife Kristen and daughter Nicole mean everything to me. We live in Oregon, bought a ranch, because Reno let too many people come in here, and I went to a little biddy town, population 30. I was raised with these Nevada skies, but the skies I live under now, in Nevada, Texas, Oklahoma, or Oregon, are the same skies I live under every day. And I love my life every day.

The only thing I need to continue working is to be near a pressurized 210, a single-engine plane. If you're afraid of the air, you're afraid of the Man. And if you have no fear of the Man, you know who controls the air. I live in those tubes. I'm sausage meat for 200,000 miles a year.

You know what I'm tired of? I'm tired of people not appreciating that I know what it takes to get an eight-year-old cow with bad teeth, with only three sections of a four-quarter bag, to raise a good calf. That's what I want 'em to know.

**ON THE NATIONAL FINALS**

The National Finals Rodeo is 26 years old. It was in Oklahoma 20 of those years. We were looking for some new ground, looking for some new dollars, looking for a million. We were tired of silver, and Las Vegas spells gold. The arena's too small and the money's too much, but we came to Las Vegas for the money not for the conditions. The best conditions of course would be outdoor size with indoor quality. And keep in mind, it's 40 degrees

*Brenda Tyler and her horse Keeper are ones to watch in women's barrel racing.*

better in Vegas, there's great hospitality, and there's $30-a-day hotel rooms. Rodeo needed a change, just like the Civil War, it was in a rut.

Las Vegas spells bucks, cowboy spells buckaroos, 1985 spells Buck Rogers. No bucks, no Buck Rogers. No Buck Rogers, no Bob Tallman.

**ON THE ODDS FOR NFR WINNERS**

In bareback riding it's Louie Field. He's had a lead all summer. He knows what he wants, and he'll push it and press hard for it.

In saddle bronc, Bud Pauley. He's been so close for so long. Top five, top three, top ten, top six. He doesn't have a killer desire, but he'll pull out all the stops. He wants it bad.

On the bulls, you can never take anything away from Donnie Gay, but he got hurt in Reno last summer, so he's out now. Charlie Sampson or Ted Nuce both have experience and know how close they are—they can see it coming. Sampson was the first black World Champion, and I know he'd like to repeat that. But Bobby Del Vecchio needs to win, and every once in a while God allows somebody who needs to win, to win.

And in calf roping, Joe Beaver. He's a rookie who is due to surprise everybody. He's a protege of Roy Cooper. If Joe doesn't make it, Cooper will. He's won six times but he seems to be behind the others; he just waits. He is the coyote of the bunch.

In the steer wrestling, Marty Melvin is young, big, aggressive, and he's never been more consistent or hotter. He's got a better game plan than anyone else in the business.

Jake Barnes and Clay O'Brien Cooper have been real consistent this year in the team roping. They've never won, and they want one. If anyone can slip by them, it's Dee Pickett and Mike Beers, last year's champions.

There's a new contestant in the barrel racing named Brenda Tyler. She's cute but she's real. She rides a good horse and the lady is going to win first.

For All Around, I'd bet on Dee Pickett, again. Right now he's leading in the two best paying events, team roping and calf roping, and he's just a clean-cut all-American in the top five. Not to take anything away from the rest of them. It's just his time, his era. The handwriting's on the wall, and you can read it. □

*Caroline J. Hadley is* Nevada *publisher and editor. She and Tallman have crossed paths in dusty saloons and arenas for the past 14 years.*

*Some of Tallman's NFR picks, top row from left: All Around, Dee Pickett; bareback, Louie Field; saddle bronc, Bud Pauley; bulls, Bobby Del Vecchio; bottom row: calf roping, Roy Cooper; steer wrestling, Marty Melvin; team roping, Jake Barnes and Clay O'Brien Cooper.*

PRCA PHOTOS

# The National Finals Rodeo: Blood, Sweat & Cheers

For the rodeo cowboy, the words National Finals Rodeo conjure up a swirl of images: the smell of manure, sweat, and fear; the feel of a magnificent animal's spring-steel muscles flexing; the swing of a gate; the explosion of an animal's wrath; and the cheers of thousands of awed fans encouraging a solitary figure to hang on and ride it out, or knock it down or tie it up—to finish the job none of them would ever consider starting.

But more than that. Beyond the smells, the sights, the sounds, there's that once in a lifetime chance to be a World Champion. That's worth a season on the road, away from home and family, 10 months living in pickup trucks and cheap motels. Worth the 100,000-mile scramble to compete in as many of the 643 Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association-sanctioned rodeos as possible to rack up enough points (dollars) to be in the top 15 and eligible for the Finals. Worth a few painful rides, plus maybe some busted bones, split ribs, and cracked teeth. Worth a year, or maybe 10, battling powerful animals who will spill you, stomp you, kick you, gorge you, trip you.

It's worth it all because just to be in the NFR is an honor reserved for champions. Of nearly 8,000 highly skilled competitors who start the season, only 105 qualify. That's 15 for each of the PRCA's six main events—saddle bronc, calf roping, steer wrestling, bareback, bull riding, and team roping. Then add 15 for women's barrel racing, a WPRA event in which cowgirls tear around a cloverleaf track on horses that sell for as much as $100,000.

The NFR determines not only the World Champion in each event, but also the World Champion All Around Cowboy. That title goes to the top money winner who competes in more than one event. Current champ Dee Pickett, for instance, competes in calf roping and, with Mike Beers, in team roping. Pickett won the title last year with earnings of $122,618. *(Continued)*

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This season Pickett will be defending his All Around title December 7-15 in Las Vegas, the first time Nevada has hosted an NFR. Las Vegas managed to win the prestigious event from Oklahoma City, which had hosted the rodeo for 20 years, by promising the PRCA much more prize money, much more room for fans, and much more publicity.

For openers this year, which is the first of a five-year contract, Horseshoe Club owner Benny Binion plopped down $21,000 to cover entry fees for all competitors. The total purse will be $1,790,000, almost twice that of last year's NFR. The arena will be the indoor Thomas and Mack Center, which with 16,500 seats can host nearly 30 percent more fans.

The only real worry the PRCA had about switching locations was the change from traditional cow town to slick city. But according to the NFR's promo man, Gene Bryan, the worry is unfounded. Bryan says, "In Oklahoma City, besides the event itself, the only diversion was the National Cowboy Hall of Fame. But here rodeo fans can use Las Vegas as a base to go to Disneyland, Death Valley, the Grand Canyon, Lake Mead, and Hoover Dam. Not to mention the night life in town."

Even though many Las Vegas showrooms will feature the best in country music, the real show will be in the arena. Besides the main events, fans can watch the best rodeo clowns vie for $100,000 in bullfighting competition and rodeo queens from 40 states compete in horsemanship, public speaking, and good looks for the title of Miss Rodeo America.

But hype aside, for contestants the meaning of the NFR is simple: It all boils down to those few heart-stopping seconds when it's just him or her, rodeoing better than anyone else in the world. And a smile when he or she takes home all that money.—*JC*

## The Ones to Watch

Here's a roster of last year's PRCA World Champions, most of whom will defend their titles at the National Finals Rodeo in Las Vegas December 7-15.

**All-Around Cowboy,** Dee Pickett, Caldwell, Idaho, $122,618; **Saddle Bronc,** Brad Gjermundson, Marshall, North Dakota, $78,151; **Calf Roping,** Roy Cooper, Durant, Oklahoma, $89,703; **Steer Wrestling,** John W Jones, Morro Bay, California, $63,863; **Bareback Riding,** Larry Peabody, Three Forks, Montana, $78,741; **Bull Riding,** Don Gay, Mesquite, Texas, $77,327; **Team Roping,** Dee Pickett, Caldwell, Idaho, and Mike Beers, Rufus, Oregon, $57,557 each; and **Women's (WPRA) Barrel Racing,** Charmayne James, Clayton, New Mexico, $53,500. For information on the '85 NFR, call 731-2115.

# Chubby Chukars

This natty game bird must beware of hunters, chefs, and polo players.

**Photo by Tony Diebold**

It is a rare moment in Nevada's wild kingdom. Near Gerlach, three male chukar step warily from the snow-hunched bushes that are their cover on the way to a patch of cheatgrass for dinner. Note their nervous glances and their attempt to blend in with the wire fence behind them. What worries the chukar?

Not the landscape. These relatives of the partridge from the Himalayas love the dry, high-country climate and foliage. First introduced to Nevada in 1935, chukar have settled in to stay. Today, up to two million roam hills and canyons throughout the state.

Humans are what chukar watch out for as they peer like maitre d's from their sagebrush resorts. Chukars are game—that's the problem. Hunters stalk them from mid-October until January, hoping for just such a sight as that shown above, since the birds are most vulnerable when silhouetted against a bleak and snowy landscape.

Another but less likely chukar-worry concerns polo players. Although no such incident has yet been reported, chukar fear that poor-spelling polo players, whose game is played in seven-and-a-half-minute *chukkers*, will come galloping through the draws, trying to make them another kind of game. Impossible? Tell that to a chukar.—*Roger Smith*

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# THE NEVADA CALENDAR

# November & December 1985

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

**Compiled by Melissa Loomis, Prose by Lee Adler**

## LAS VEGAS TERRITORY

### November

**Art Show,** 10/20-11/21 paintings by Nick Boisvert, Reed Whipple Center, 386-6211

**Hobie 14-foot U.S. Nationals,** 10/27-11/2, 10am, Boulder Beach, Lake Mead, 368-2885

**Intermountain Open Tennis Championship,** 10/28-11/3, Desert Inn, 733-4488

**Nevada 85,** 10/30-11/27 photo show, Las Vegas Library, 382-3493

**Nevada Day Celebration,** 10/31, chuck wagon, dancing, rides, and contests, Landmark Hotel, 733-1404

**UNLV v. New Mexico State,** 10/31 football, 6pm, Sam Boyd Silver Bowl, 739-3267

**Lost City Museum Exhibit,** thru 1985, photos and displays honoring the museum's 50th anniversary; prizes awarded each day in November and December to every 50th visitor; a birthday party on Nevada Day, 10/31 7-9pm, Overton, 397-2193

**Museum Exhibit,** thru 9/27/86, on effects of light and color, Nevada State Museum and Historical Society, 385-0115

**Nite of Stars,** 1 benefit for St. Judes Ranch for Children by star entertainers, Las Vegas Hilton, 648-5159

**EUR-AM 1985 Las Vegas Race of Champions,** 1-3, Formula K (135cc) Kart racing featuring teams from 13 countries, Sahara Hotel, 737-2111

**Art Show,** 1-29, paintings by Chris Nield, Lost City Museum, Overton, 397-2193

**Jackpot Team Roping,** 2, open to public, Peppermill's Western Village, Mesquite, 346-5232

**Stargazing,** 2, 7-8:30pm, Red Rock Canyon Visitor Center, 363-1921

**Las Vegas Civic Symphony Concert,** 3, 2pm, Reed Whipple Cultural Center, 386-6211

**Horseshoe Pitchers Competition,** 3-7, open to the public, Hacienda, 739-8911

**Art Shows,** 3-27 juried art show, and oils by Stella Kovats, Las Vegas Art Museum, 647-4300

**Art Show,** 3-12/5, drawings by William Berry, Charleston Heights Arts Center, 386-6384

**Worldwide Women's Professional Bowlers Showboat Open,** 4-5, Showboat, 385-9123

**Photo Shows,** 4-30, on the growth of gaming in Southern Nevada, plus the winners of museum's photo competition, Clark County Southern Nevada Museum, Henderson, 565-0907

**Art Exhibit,** 4-12/6, enameling on metal works by Rita Deanin Abbey, Alta Ham Fine Arts Gallery, UNLV, 739-3237

**"The Best Years of Our Lives,"** 5, film, $1 7pm, Charleston Heights Arts Center, 386-6384

**Craft Festival,** 6-10, Cashman Field, 733-2203

**Concert,** 7 8pm, Orchestra du Capitole de Toulouse, Ham Concert Hall, UNLV, 739-3535

**Fall Horse Show,** 9, semiannual dressage horse show, Silk Purse Ranch, 8101 Racel Road, Las Vegas, 645-3223

**Roller Derby,** 9, 7pm, Showboat Hotel, 385-9190

**Amateur Rodeo,** 9-10, open to public, Peppermill's Western Village, Mesquite, 346-5232

**Pan Tournament,** 10-13, Union Plaza Hotel, 386-2110

**ESPN/Top Rank Boxing,** 13, 6pm, Showboat

GENE HERTZOG

### Deck the Hulls and Bows With Holly

The warm glow of the holiday season will be enhanced by a flotilla of fantasy formed by 50 illuminated vessels making their way along the southern shore of Lake Mead. Scheduled for December 14, the nautical parade starts at Lake Mead Marina, swings two miles over to Boulder Beach and Hemenway Harbor, and then circles back to the marina. The annual Parade of Lights is perhaps the brightest but not the only Yuletide procession in the state. Others include a landlocked Christmas parade and fair on December 7 in Boulder City. That evening North Las Vegas holds a night-lighted parade. Henderson stages a children's Christmas parade on December 14, and Caliente does the same on December 20.

# Walker Lake

Fishing DERBY

## Nov. 29 - Dec. 1 1985

(1) Special Tagged Fish

**$5000.00**

(4) Special Tagged Fish

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Each

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P.O. Box 1635
Hawthorne, Nevada 89415

Name _____

Address _____

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City _____

State _____ Zip _____

For Additional Information Call 702-945-5896

Hotel, 385-9190
**Hagler v. Mugabi and Hearns v. Shuler,** 14, boxing, 7:30pm, tickets $50 to $400, Caesars Palace, 731-7865
**"Baby,"** 15-16, musical, 8pm, Clark County Community College Theatre, 643-6060 ext. 370
**Ballet,** 15-17 "Snow White" and "Pas de Quatre, 8pm Fri., 2pm Sat.-Sun., Charleston Heights Arts Center, 386-6384
**Poker Tournament,** 15-17 Marina Hotel, 739-1500
**Jackpot Team Roping,** 16, Peppermill's Western Village, Mesquite, 346-5232
**Silver Dust 400,** 16, final race of the Nevada Triple Crown Off-Road Championship Point Series, in and around Henderson, 459-0317
**A Look at the Burro,** 16, slide show and guided hike, 9-11am, Spring Mountain Ranch, 20 miles west of Las Vegas, 875-4141
**Violin Recital,** 17 featuring Kathy Judd, Flamingo Library, 733-7810 ext. 26
**Nevada Camera Club Slide Competition Exhibit,** 17-12/13, Flamingo Library, 733-7810
**"Baby,"** 21-23, musical, 8pm Thurs.-Sat., 2pm matinee Sat., Clark County Community College Theatre, North Las Vegas, 643-6060 ext. 370
**UNLV v. UNR,** 22, basketball, Thomas and Mack Center, UNLV, 739-3207
**"The Torch-Bearers,"** 22-23, comedy, 8pm, Judy Bayley Theatre, UNLV, 739-3353
**Ballet,** 22-24, "Snow White" and "Pas de Quatre, 8pm Fri., 2pm Sat.-Sun., Las Vegas Civic Ballet Co., Charleston Heights Arts Center 386-6384
**Indian Prehistory,** 24, lecture and discussion, 1pm, Valley of Fire State Park, 55 miles northeast of Las Vegas, 397-2088
**Golden Nugget Poker Satellite,** 24-27 Four Queens Hotel, 385-4011
**Art Show,** 24-12/20, Nevada Watercolor Society, Flamingo Library, 733-7810 ext. 26
**Art Exhibit,** 24-12/26, wood sculptures by Carol Setterlund, Reed Whipple Center, 386-6211
**UNLV v. South Carolina,** 25, basketball, Thomas and Mack Center, UNLV, 739-3207
**"The Torch-Bearers,"** 28-12/1 comedy, 8pm Thurs.-Sat., 2pm Sun., Judy Bayley Theater, UNLV, 739-3353
**Team Roping,** 29-30, open to public, Peppermill's Western Village, Mesquite, 346-5232

## December

**Gin Tournament,** 1-5, Union Plaza, 386-2110
**Art Show,** 1-24, acrylics by Donna Beam and Charles Ford, Las Vegas Art Museum, 647-4300
**Art Show,** 1-24 and 26-31 works by Bernice Breedlove, Lost City Museum, Overton, 397-2193
**Golden Nugget Grand Prix of Poker,** 2-19, $2-million prize money, Golden Nugget, 385-7111
**World's Richest Slot Tournament,** 3-8, $650,000 prize money, Sands Hotel, 733-5285
**Coors $20,000 Uninvitational Dart Tournament,** 4, open to public, Hacienda, 739-8911
**Coin Show,** 4-7 Sahara, 737-2361
**Ultimate Challenge II Dart Tournament,** 5-8, $101,000 purse, Hacienda, 739-8911
**"The Torch-Bearers,"** 5-8, comedy, 8pm Fri.-Sun., with additional 2pm matinee Sun., Judy Bayley Theatre, UNLV, 739-3801
**Frontier 250,** 6-7, off-road race, tech inspection at Frontier Hotel on Fri., race starts in Sloan (15 miles south of Las Vegas) Sat., Frontier, 361-5404
**Wrestling Invitational,** 6-7 top teams from 42 universities, Showboat Hotel, 385-9123
**Christmas Exhibit,** 6-1/10/86, the Clark County Southern Nevada Museum's Heritage Street and Beckley House are decked out in Christmas finery of '20s and '30s, Henderson, 565-0907


A juried and judged show open to all serious photographers of Nevada subject matter **NEVADA 86** will be the Northeastern Nevada Museum's 12th production of the state's most-attended art exhibit. Seen by more than 100,000 people, last year's exhibition was shown 12 times in 11 Nevada communities.

Cash awards will total $1,000.

# NEVADA 86

Subjects: anything in Nevada ghost towns, buildings, people, industry, landscapes, nature, contemporary communities, potpourri.

Send for entry forms and rules no later than December 12, 1985. Deadline for receipt of entries in Elko is January 20, 1986.

**Write to: NORTHEASTERN NEVADA MUSEUM**
**Attn: NEVADA 86**
**P.O. Box 2550, Elko, Nevada 89801 or call (702) 738-3418**

"THE WHITE CHURCH" BY ANSEL ADAMS

## Ansel Adams in Elko

Ansel Adams' photographic passion for what poet James Whitcomb Riley called "the land the Lord's love rests upon" will be exposed in all its fine detail at Elko's Northeastern Nevada Museum. Photographs by Edward Weston also will be shown. The collection of 24 rare pictures will be on display during the museum's October 30-November 25 tribute to the American West as seen through the camera's eye.

## Showdown in Vegas

The "Beast" meets the best and "Hitman" faces a test as four top fighters tangle in championship bouts November 14 at Caesars Palace in Las Vegas. Translation: Middleweight king Marvelous Marvin Hagler will be fending off John "The Beast" Mugabi, and super-welterweight champ Thomas "Hitman" Hearns will be fisticuffing James Shuler who, in total disregard of boxing tradition, has no nickname.

LISA SMITH

## High Plains Shifters

The world's best rally drivers will labor against the clock and tough terrain during the Carson City International Pro Rally, which growls to life December 6 at the Legislative Mall. The three-day, 650-mile event—decisive in determining the nation's driving championship—traverses the mountains and gritty deserts of Western Nevada. It follows a variety of Rally Week activities (November 30 to December 5) in the capital city.

DAVID BROWN

## Tchaikovsky On His Toes

Visions of sugarplums won't be dancing only in your head this Christmas season as the "Nutcracker" ballet glissades across four Nevada stages. Among those keeping Tchaikovsky on his toes will be the Santa Barbara Ballet Troupe, December 2 at the Elko Convention Center; the Nevada Dance Theatre, December 12-23 at the Judy Bayley Theatre, University of Nevada, Las Vegas; the Theatre Ballet of San Francisco, December 13-15 at Caesars Tahoe at Stateline; and the Nevada Opera Association, December 21-22 and 24 at Reno's Pioneer Theater.

## Dead-Panning for Gold

Ever wonder what a real poker face looks like? Or how someone can maintain one while his innards are twitching for up to $2 million in prize money? You can find out by watching the likes of Amarillo Slim Preston and 1984 champ David Baxter (above) go for the gold and the glory at the Grand Prix of Poker, December 2 through 19 at the Golden Nugget in Las Vegas.

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HOTEL / CASINO / ELKO

**Storytelling and Puppet Show,** 7 followed by short hike, 1:30-2:30pm, Spring Mountain Ranch, 20 miles west of Las Vegas, 875-4141

**Sweet Adelines Concert,** 7 8:01pm, Ham Hall, UNLV, 294-0073

**Hidden Valley Trail Ride,** 7 30-mile ride that begins and ends at Pop's Casino in Jean, followed by dinner, awards, and entertainment, benefiting American Lung Assn., 454-2500

**Team Roping,** 7 open to public, Peppermill's Western Village, Mesquite, 346-5232

**Christmas Parade and Penny Fair,** 7 11am parade down Nevada Highway followed by visit from Santa at Boulder Theater and Penny Fair at Gazebo Park, Boulder City, 293-2034

**Night-Lighted Christmas Parade,** 7 5pm, No. Las Vegas Chamber of Commerce, 642-9595

**National Finals Rodeo,** 7-15, world's top ropers and riders compete in the Super Bowl of Rodeo, almost $1.8 million in prize money, plus bonuses, Thomas and Mack Center, UNLV, 731-2115

**Serenata Chamber Orchestra Concert,** 8, 3pm, Flamingo Library, 733-7810 ext. 26

**Gin Tournament,** 8-12, Sahara, 737-2713

**Art Show,** 8-1/8/85, bronze sculpture by Ed Echeveste, opening reception 2-4pm on 8th, Charleston Heights Arts Center, 386-6384

**Art Exhibit,** 9-27 by Suzanne Klotz-Reilly, Alta Ham Gallery, UNLV, 739-3237

**"Nutcracker,"** 12-23, ballet, special appearance by Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs, 8pm Mon.-Sun., with additional 2pm matinees Sat.-Sun., Nevada Dance Theatre, Judy Bayley Theatre, UNLV, 739-3838

**Parade of Lights,** 14, 50 boats decorated with Christmas lights leave Lake Mead Marina at 5pm and parade down Boulder Beach to Hemenway Harbor and back; the public is invited to watch from Boulder Beach, Lake Mead, 293-5665

**Children's Christmas Parade,** 14, 11am parade for 18-year-olds and under, Henderson, 565-8951

**$50,000 Slot Tournament,** 14-16, Marina Hotel, 739-1500

**Blackjack and Craps Classic,** 15-18, Frontier Hotel, 734-0110

**Pan Tournament,** 15-19, Union Plaza Hotel, 386-2110

**Blackjack Tournament,** 16-19, Desert Inn, 733-4562

**ESPN/Top Rank Boxing,** 18, 6pm, Showboat Hotel, 385-9190

**Frontier Speedweek,** 18-22, races for radio-controlled cars, Frontier Hotel, 734-0110

**U.S. Motor Racing Awards Expo,** 19-21 races take place behind the Union Plaza and include the U.S. Rally, U.S. Kart Prix, and U.S. Quarter Midget Championships; Union Plaza, 386-2110

**Rebel Round-Up,** 20-21 UNLV basketball tournament with Florida, Iona, and San Diego State, Thomas and Mack Center, UNLV, 739-3207

**Team Roping,** 21 open to public, Peppermill's Western Village, Mesquite, 346-5232

**Nevada State Championship Chili Cook-Off,** 21-22, first prize is a large trophy, $3,500, and entry into the International Chili Society World Championship; also country-western band contest, free samples, Circus Circus, 734-0410

**Christmas Concert,** 22, 2pm, Las Vegas Civic Symphony, Reed Whipple Cultural Center, 386-6211

**UNLV Holiday Basketball Classic,** 27-28, with Alabama-Birmingham, Ball State, and TCU, Thomas and Mack Center, 739-3207

**New Year's Eve Fireworks,** 31 celebration downtown on Fremont Street with live music and fireworks at 9pm at the Union Plaza, 386-2317

# PIONEER TERRITORY

## November

**El Capitan Cutthroat Derby,** thru 4/25/86, $600 for largest cutthroat, $250 for 2nd, $150 for 3rd, $100 for all 10-pound cutthroats, registration at El Capitan Casino, Hawthorne, 945-3321

**First Annual Three-Day Walker Lake Derby,** 29-12/1, $5,000 prize for catching special tagged fish, $1,000 for four other tagged fish; Walker Lake, rules available from Hawthorne Chamber of Commerce, 945-5896

## December

**Christmas Bazaar,** 7-8 (tentative), Convention Center, Hawthorne, 945-5896

**Carson City International Pro Rally,** 7, off-road rally comes through in the afternoon, Hawthorne, 945-5896

**Christmas Tree Lighting and Children's Parade,** 20, tree lighting, parade, and visit from Santa Claus, Main Street, Caliente, 726-3129

# PONY EXPRESS TERRITORY

## November

**Halloween Dance and Masquerade Ball,** 1 live music and dancing, prizes for best costume, Town Hall, Austin, 964-2440

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

**Slide Show,** 17 fishing in Alaska narrated by Charley Mann, free, Pub Room, Hazen Bar on U.S. 50-A, 867-3066

**Hidden Cave Tour,** 23, meet 9:30am at County Museum, Fallon, 882-1631 or 423-3677

## December

**Christmas Faire,** 6-7 handcrafted items for sale, free, 6-9pm Fri., 9am-6pm Sat., Convention Center, Fallon, 867-3576 or 423-2181

**Nevada 85,** 7-1/2/86, photo show, White Pine County Library, Ely, 738-3418

**Hidden Cave Tour,** 14 & 28, meet 9:30am at County Museum, Fallon, 882-1631 or 423-3677

# COVERED WAGON TERRITORY

## November

**Art Show,** 10/30-11/25, works by Fred Reid, photos by Ansel Adams and Edward Weston, Northeastern Nevada Museum, Elko, 738-3418

**Dinner and Dance,** 2, fundraiser for Northern Nevada Community College, Convention Center, Elko, 738-8493

**Antique Show,** 2-3, Cactus Pete's, Jackpot, 755-2321

**Senior Citizens Bazaar,** 2-3, Senior Citizens Center, Winnemucca, 623-6211

**Concert,** 7 Elko Community Concert Orchestra, 7:30pm, Convention Center, Elko, 738-4091

**Bull Sale,** 8-9, fairgrounds, Elko, 738-5294

**Pheasant Hunt,** 9-10, Pershing County 4-H sells permits to hunt pheasants on private land near Lovelock, 273-7574 or 273-2923

**Children's Christmas Party,** 14, children decorate Christmas tree with handmade ornaments, music, Convention Center, Elko, 738-4091

**Arts and Crafts Show,** 15-17 Cactus Pete's, Jackpot, 755-2321

**Fashion Show,** 17 door prizes, dessert, and clothing, Convention Center, Elko, 738-4091

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**Winnemucca, NV 89445**

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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 items. Enjoy reasonably priced meals served in an intimate and relaxing atmosphere in the **Comstock Dinner House.** Full-course dinners are a bargain at $5.99 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.

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1 LB. NEW YORK
STEAK DINNER
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**ELDORADO HOTEL/CASINO**
4th & Virginia Street
Reno. 786-5700
Fine outstanding restaurants at the Eldorado offering excellent meals at reasonable prices. Steaks, seafood and prime rib are featured in **The Vintage,** where complimentary wine tasting is a part of the fine dining and intimate atmosphere. Authentic Northern Italian cuisine is found in the **LaStrada.** Homemade gnocchi, ravioli and fettuccine are house specialities. The **Mardi Gras Coffee Shop** is open 24 hours and features delicious Chinese food in addition to regular menu. Reno's best buffets are served daily in the newly-expanded **Market Place Buffet** seating 350 people. Sunday champagne brunch is the highlight of the week. **The Deli** features great shrimp cocktails, super subs, snacks and sweets. All major credit cards accepted. Valet parking.

**LOUIS' BASQUE CORNER**
301 E. 4th Street
Reno. 323-7203
Louis' restaurant offers a warm, unhurried atmosphere that hints of yesterday. Master chefs prepare genuine Basque cuisine such as Tripes Callos, Poulet a la Basquaise, Paella, Boeuf Bourguignon, and entrees including Coq au Vin (chicken in red wine sauce), Lapin Chasseur (hunter's rabbit), and Ris de Veau (sweetbreads) as well as many other delicious French and Spanish Basque dishes all served family style with complimentary wine. You can enjoy a famous picon punch, cafe 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., 11:30-2:00, Dinner: 6 p.m., nightly. All major credit cards accepted.

**MARTIN HOTEL**
Railroad & Melarkey Streets
Winnemucca, NV. 623-3197
"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.

LOUIS & LORRAINE ERREGUIBLE'S
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Authentic Northern Italian cuisine. Enjoy homemade gnocchi, ravioli and pasta along with your favorite veal, chicken and seafood dishes. Experience the flavors of Italy!

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**Winter Carnival and Craft Show,** 23, fairgrounds, Winnemucca, 623-2225
**Pre-Holiday Show,** 24, local businesses display Christmas items, entertainment, and drawings, Convention Center, Elko, 738-7135
**Art Show,** 27-12/18, works by Med Lobocki and museum collection exhibits by Howard Hickson, Northeastern Nevada Museum, Elko, 738-3418

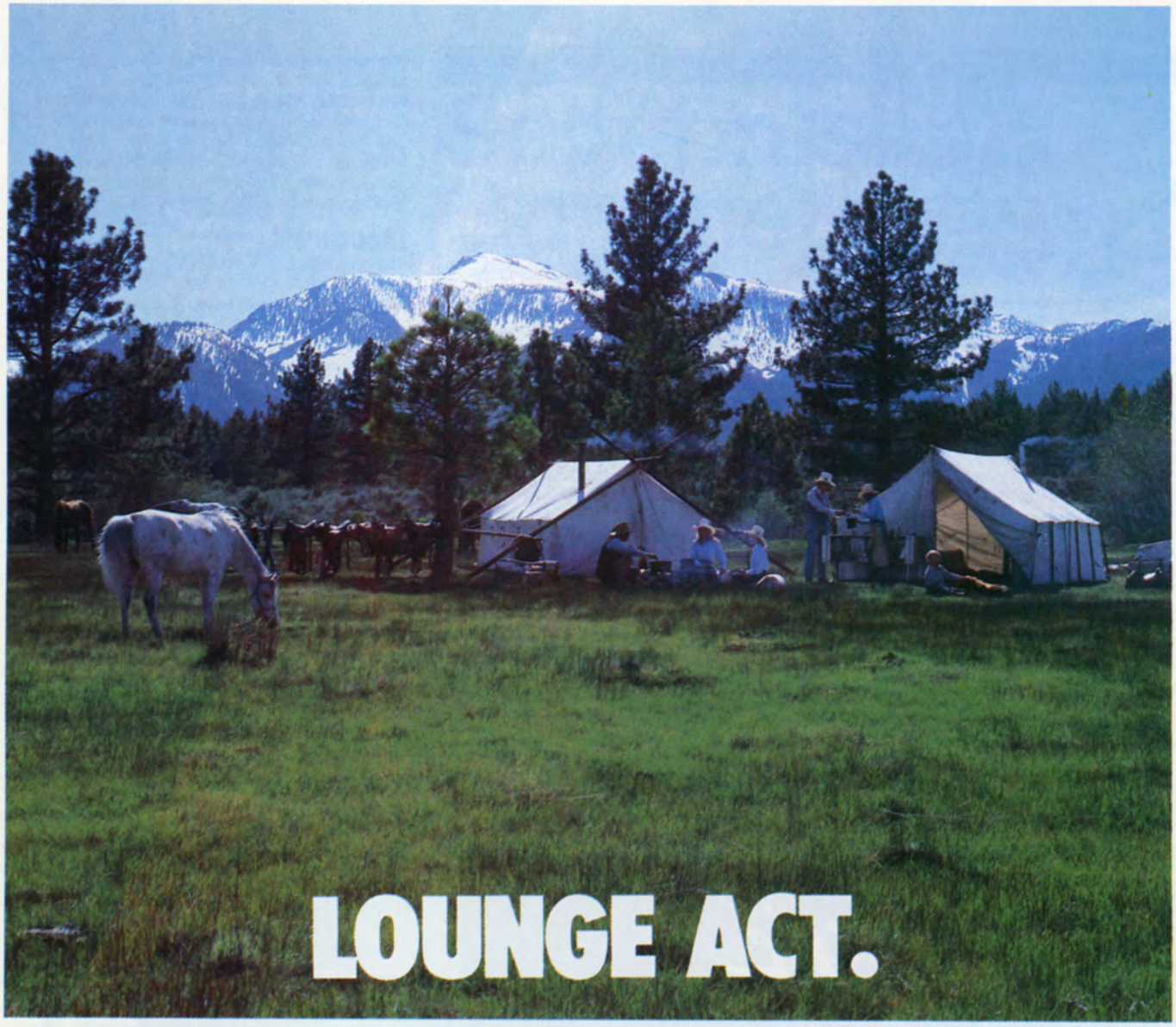
## December

**"Nutcracker,"** 2, Santa Barbara Ballet Troupe, 7pm, Convention Center, Elko, 738-4091
**Nurses' Christmas Bazaar,** 7, Convention Center, Elko, 738-4091
**Winnemucca Crafters,** 7-8, crafts sale, Convention Center, Winnemucca, 623-3704
**Art Exhibit,** 20-1/22/86, works by Mary Harper and Charlie Paul, Northeastern Nevada Museum, Elko, 738-3418
**Chariot Races,** 21 horse-drawn chariot races scheduled for every Sat. thru March, noon at the chariot track, Wells, 752-3344
**New Year's Eve Celebration,** 31 town's fire sirens will sound at stroke of midnight, Cactus Pete's and Horseshu casinos, Jackpot, 755-2321
**New Year's Eve Celebrations,** 31 celebrate the new year twice, once at midnight Utah (Mountain) time, and again at midnight Nevada (Pacific) time, Red Garter Casino, Wendover, 664-2111

# RENO/TAHOE TERRITORY

## November

**Lost City Exhibit,** 10/27-11/27 on Nevada's ancient Pueblo Indians, from the Lost City Museum, Nevada Historical Society, 789-0190
**Nevada Day Art Show,** 10/27-11/9, Brewery Arts Center, Carson City, 882-9723
**Nevada Day Celebration,** 10/31 the 121st anniversary of Nevada's statehood on Thurs. includes the 10am parade and World Championship Single Jack Rock Drilling Contest, Carson City, 882-2600
**Carson Indian Colony Powwow,** 31-11/3, follows the Nevada Day parade and features competitive dancing, authentic arts and crafts, Little Princess contest, traditional hand games, tug-of-war, jackrabbit run, horseshoes, and Indian foods, Carson Indian Colony, 2900 S. Curry St., Carson City, 885-9759 or 883-6431
**Sierra Nevada Biennial,** thru 11/24, invitational show of contemporary art in Nevada, Sierra Nevada Museum of Art, 329-3333
**"The Birthday Party,"** 1-2, drama, Reno Little Theater 329-0661
**Great American Craft Show,** 1-3, booths, stage demonstrations by the Northern High Sierra Chefs Assn., live bluegrass music, Reno-Sparks Convention Center, 747-6392
**Barbershop Show,** 2, concert with S.P.E.B.S.Q.S.A. and the Capitolaires from Sacramento, 7:59pm, Community Center, afterglow with buffet follows at Carson Nugget, Carson City, 883-3800
**UNR v. Montana State,** 2, football, 1pm, Mackay Stadium, UNR, 784-4500
**UNR v. Spirit Express,** 5, exhibition basketball game, Lawlor Events Center UNR, 784-4500
**Winter Wonderland,** 7-8, Santa, luncheon, arts and crafts, 9am-6pm, Washoe Medical Center Mack Aud., 77 Pringle Way, 785-4166
**"A Birthday Party,"** 7-9, drama, Reno Little Theater, 329-0661
**Wine and Cheese Tasting,** 8, 6:30-8:30pm, Caesars Tahoe, 916-544-2195




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

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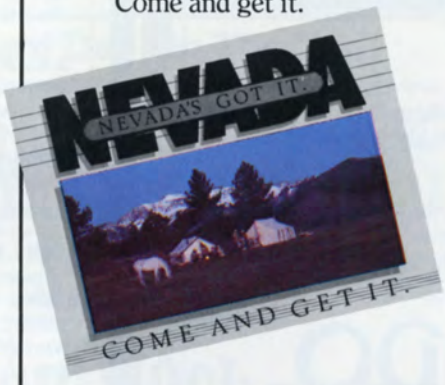


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NV6

NEVADA
NEVADA'S GOT IT

**Oktoberfest,** 8-9, on Fri. beer tasting, on Sat. food, music, dancing, and German beer garden, John Ascuaga's Nugget, Sparks, 784-5268
**Planetarium Show,** 8-4/27/86, relates to Halley's comet reappearance, Fleischmann Planetarium, 784-4812
**UNR v. Idaho State,** 9, football, 1pm, Mackay Stadium, UNR, 784-4500
**Concert,** 10, Reno Sparks Interfaith Gospel Choir, Pioneer Theater, 323-5812
**Turkey Shoot,** 10, 8am, Palomino Valley Gun Club, 22 miles north of Sparks on Pyramid Lake Hwy., 323-3950
**Slot Marathon,** 11-12, 8-hour long marathon, purse of $25,000, Eldorado Hotel, 786-5700
**"The Birthday Party,"** 14-16, drama, Reno Little Theater, 329-0661
**Slot Tournament,** 14-18, Fitzgeralds, 786-3663
**"Cat on a Hot Tin Roof,"** 15-16, Tennessee Williams drama, 8pm, Nevada Repertory Co., Church Fine Arts Theater, UNR, 784-6123
**Gold's Gym Fall Classic,** 16, body-building championships, Pioneer Theater, 747-4944
**UNR v. UNLV,** 16, football, 1pm, Mackay Stadium, UNR, 784-4500
**Acrobatics Show,** 20, touring acrobats from Taiwan, 8pm, Pioneer Theater, 784-6589
**Southern California Old-Timers Hockey Tournament,** 21-23, Reno-Sparks Convention Center, 827-7600
**"Cat on a Hot Tin Roof,"** 22-24, Tennessee Williams drama, 8pm Fri.-Sat., 2pm Sun., Church Fine Arts Theater, UNR, 784-6123
**Ski Season Opening Party,** 22, 7pm, Tahoe Nordic Ski Center, Tahoe City, 916-583-0484
**Craft Festival and Reno Home Improvement Show,** 22-24, Convention Center, 827-7600
**Holiday Home Bazaar,** 23, homemade crafts and baked goods, 10am-4pm, Rancho San Rafael, 786-8825
**Christmas Fair,** 23-24, Community Center, Carson City, 887-2291
**Hunter Pistol Silhouette,** 24, 8am, Palomino Valley Gun Club, 22 miles north of Sparks on Pyramid Lake Hwy., 323-3950
**Reno Philharmonic Orchestra Concert,** 26, 8:15pm, Pioneer Theater, 329-1324
**UNR v. San Francisco,** 26, basketball, Lawlor Events Center, UNR, 784-4500
**Lost City Exhibit,** 29-1/10/86, on Nevada's ancient Pueblo Indians, Nevada State Museum, Carson City, 885-4810
**Voices Unlimited Holiday Concert,** 30, 8pm, Pioneer Theater, 825-2592
**Carson City International Pro Rally Week,** 30-12/5, on 11/30-12/1 the first annual Pro Rally Kart Race kicks off a week of auto-related activities including a vintage and classic auto show, rally cars on display, meet and talk with professional drivers from the Pro Rally circuit; rally is 12/6-8; Carson City, 883-7442

## December

**Concert,** 3 and 7-8, UNR Symphonic Choir and UNR Concert Choir perform alternately, 8pm, First United Methodist Church, 784-4030
**Art Exhibit,** 3-30, works by Will James, Sierra Nevada Museum of Art, 329-3333
**Concert,** 4, UNR Symphonic Band and UNR Jazz Ensemble, 8pm, Pioneer Theater, 786-5105
**Christmas Mini Art Show,** 4-25, public reception on 8th from noon-5pm, East Fork Artists Gallery, 1427 Main St., Gardnerville, 782-3141
**UNR v. Washington,** 5, basketball, Lawlor Events Center, UNR, 784-4500
**Sierra Nevada Chorale Holiday Concert,** 6,

*(Continued on page 76)*


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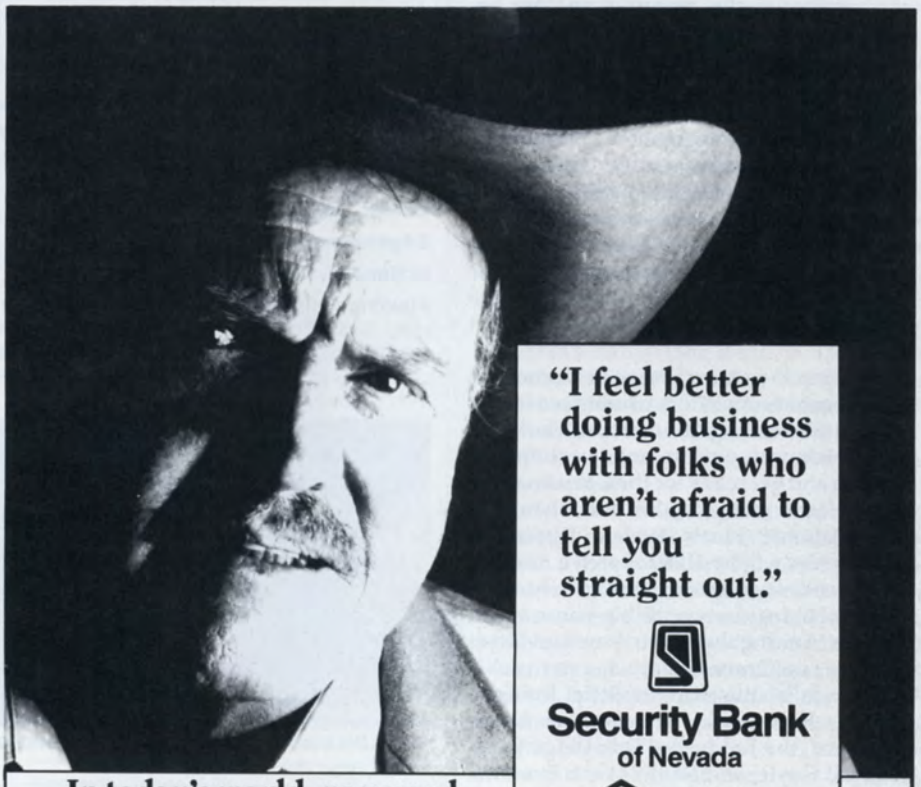

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## Southern Nevada Show Notes

By Pete Mikla

Old-timers in Las Vegas fondly remember the days when hotel lounges on the Strip featured the late night comedy of Don Rickles and Shecky Greene and entire orchestras such as the Harry James Band.

One fellow who remembers the old days is Frank Sinatra, Jr., who, as a boy, visited the lounges with his famous father and later worked in them as a novice singer. During the last two weeks in November, Frank Jr. and Larry O'Brien's 17-piece big band will be making music at the Four Queens Hotel in the French Quarter, whose stage can be seen from the casino. "This room is a great place to re-create the atmosphere of the old lounges," he said. "I want to try to recapture that after-hours feeling and show people what Las Vegas was like 20 years ago."

☆

Sammy Davis, Jr., who is spending most of November at the Desert Inn, is singing and dancing better than ever these days, and he candidly admits that it's due to the fact that he's stopped drinking. "I was a ritual drinker," he explained. "An eye-opener in the morning, another before going on stage, and a few more after the show. It was a habit that built up over the years."

Eventually all those drinks slowed down Davis' performances. "I used to have back problems and my legs ached. I blamed it all on old age," he said. "Then I found out it was all connected to the alcohol. Now I'm dancing again, and I love it. Three years ago if I had tried to do the show I'm doing now, I'd have been in the hospital by the fifth number."

☆

During the second week in December, Las Vegans and visitors usually see lots of marquees reading "Showroom Dark," as the hotels wait out the holiday shopping season and get ready for the Christmas-to-New Year's rush. But this year, thanks to the National Finals Rodeo, December showgoers will be able to catch a number of top country-western stars and shows at hotels that regularly book big-name entertainers. Among the rodeo crowd-pleasers will be Lee Greenwood, who started his career as a musician in Strip lounges, Sylvia, Roy Clark, Brenda Lee, Merle Haggard, the Judds, the Oak Ridge Boys, Crystal Gayle, and Shelly West. Even the Hilton's stage show "Moulin Rouge" will go country with Tammy Wynette. □

*Pete Mikla is entertainment editor and a columnist for the* Las Vegas Review-Journal.

# SHOWGUIDE

## Where the stars and shows are playing this winter.

By Melissa Loomis

Following is a muster of the stars, revues, and extravaganzas you can see in Nevada showrooms in November and December. 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 Lounge entertainment

**Barbary Coast,** 737-7111: Irish Showband, thru 12/11 Jay Ramsey Band, thru 11/6

**Caesars Palace,** 731-7333: Johnny Mathis, 11/13-18; David Copperfield, 11/26-12/2 and 12/4-8; Merle Haggard/The Judds, 12/10-15; Pointer Sisters, 12/26-31

**Circus Circus,** 734-0410: Circus acts

**Desert Inn,** 733-4566: Sammy Davis Jr./Jack Wakefield, 10/31-11/14; Sammy Davis Jr./Guy Marks, 11/15-27· Crystal Gayle, 11/28-12/15; Bobby Vinton/Smothers Brothers, 12/26-1/15

**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; *Casino Lounge:* Gwen Brisso/Dae Han Sisters, 10/29-11/11; Sonny Turner/Jonas, 11/12-12/2

*Sylvia, the country queen of you-done-me-wrong songs, plays the Frontier in December.*

**Four Queens,** 385-4011 Kingston Trio, 10/29-11/10; Frank Sinatra, Jr., 11/19-12/1; Shelly West, 12/3-8; Doug Kershaw, 12/10-15; Marlene Ricci, 12/26-1/12; Dondino, indf., Monday Nite Jazz featuring Emily Remlor and Larry Coryell, 11/11

*Roy Clark will be pickin' and grinnin' at the Frontier and Harrah's Tahoe.*

**Frontier,** 734-0240: Siegfried & Roy in Beyond Belief, thru 11/27 and 12/26-indf., 7pm & 11pm cocktail shows Tues.-Sun., dark Mon., family show (no nudity) on 11/2 at 6pm plus regular shows at 9:15pm & 12:15am; Roy Clark/Brenda Lee, 11/28-12/4; Lee Greenwood/Sylvia, 12/5-18

**Golden Nugget,** 386-8100: Paul Anka, 10/31-11/12; Alan King, 11/14-19; Lou Rawls, 11/21-26; Paul Anka, 11/28-12/10

**Hacienda,** 798-0571 Fire & Ice, ice spectacular, indf., 8pm optional dinner show from $14.95, 8pm and 11pm cocktail shows $10.95, dark Thurs., country-western music, 12/8-15

**Holiday,** 369-5222: Rocky Sennes' Roaring '20s, indf., 9pm & 11:30pm 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: Mickey Finn Show, indf.

**Las Vegas Hilton,** 732-5661 Bal Du Moulin Rouge, indf., 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:* Tom Jones, 11/7-27· Oak Ridge Boys, 11/28-12/4

**Marina,** 739-1500: Old Burlesque '85 with Bob Mitchel, indf.; 8pm & 10pm; dark Mon., $6.95

**Maxim,** 731-4300: Entertainment TBA

**Mint,** 387-6468: Bottoms Up and Flam-BOY-ant Follies alternate, indf., Mon.-Sat.; Sandy Hackett's Talent Showcase, indf., 8pm Sun.

**Palace Station,** 367-2411 Lounge shows

**Peppermill's Western Village,** Mesquite, 346-5232: Arizona Outlaws, 10/29-12/8; Ira Allen, 12/10-22; Don Lee & the Ron Dons, 12/24-1/12

**Regency Casino,** Laughlin, 298-2439: Tommy McDowell, indf., Wed.-Sun.

**Riverside Resort,** Laughlin, 298-2535

**Riviera,** 734-5301 Splash! production show, indf., starring the 5th Dimension thru 11/4; An Evening at La Cage, indf.

**Royal Casino,** 733-4000

**Sahara,** 737-2424: "A Chorus Line," Broadway musical, thru 11/24; Don Rickles, 11/7-17· George Carlin, 11/20-23; Roger & Roger, 12/1-31

**Sam Boyd's California,** 385-1222: Nightly entertainment in lounge, 7pm-7am

**Sam's Town,** 456-7777· Continuous entertainment; western dancing with free lessons Sun.-Thurs., 7-9pm

**Sam's Town Gold River,** Laughlin, 298-2242

**Sands,** 733-5000: Outrageous, revue, indf., 8pm, 10pm & midnight, dark Mon., $9.50, includes 2 drinks

**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, $17.50, includes 2 drinks

**Sundance,** 382-6111 Kathy Dahl/Richard Yusco, indf.

*Danny Marona lights up the MGM Reno and the High Sierra in November and December.*

**Tropicana,** 739-2411 Folies Bergere, 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: Star Street, revue, indf., Pointer Sisters, 11/21-23; Joan Rivers, 11/28-30

**Carson City Nugget,** 882-1626: Michael John and Kimberly with Special Delivery, thru 11/10; Lelands, 11/12-24

**Carson Valley Inn,** Minden, 782-9711: Nightly music and dancing, no cover or minimum

**Circus Circus,** Reno, 329-0711 Circus acts

**Comstock,** Reno, 329-1880: Weekend music

**Crystal Bay Club,** N. Tahoe, 831-0512: Sutro, 12/17-1/5 (dark Mon.); live jazz Mon. nights

**Del Webb's High Sierra,** Tahoe, 588-6211 Doug Kershaw, 10/28-11/10; Willie Tyler & Lester, 11/11-24; Maria Muldaur, 11/25-12/8; Martha's Children, 11/25-12/8; Danny Marona, 12/9-22

*Doug Kershaw fiddles around at the High Sierra and the Four Queens.*

**Eldorado,** Reno, 786-5700: Music, Tues.-Sun.

**Harolds Club,** Reno, 329-0881 Lin Maureen & Dennis, Ricky Santos & Bobby Reynon alternate 11/4-12/30

**Harrah's Lake Tahoe,** 588-6611 *South Shore Room:* Donna Summer, 10/31-11/3; Lee Greenwood/Louise Mandrell, 11/4-7· Roy Clark, 11/8-14; Eddie Rabbitt/Brenda Lee, 11/15-21 Engelbert Humperdinck, 11/22-12/1 Wayne Newton, 12/20-1/1 *Stateline Cabaret:* Breakin' Loose, revue, indf.; Wed.-Mon.; Joe Savage, 10/29-11/17 (dark Mon.); Kingston Trio, 12/3-8; Mamas and the Papas, 12/10-22 (dark Mon.); Platters, 12/24-1/5 (dark Mon.)

**Harrah's Reno,** 329-4422: *Headliner Room:* Loretta Lynn, 10/31-11/13; Mel Tillis, 11/14-27· Captain & Tennille, 11/28-12/4; Jim Nabors/Patti Page, 12/5-8; Suzanne Somers/Fred Travalena, 12/26-1/8; *Casino Cabaret:* Kingston Trio, 11/26-12/1 B.B. King, 12/10-22 (dark Mon.); Mamas and the Papas, 12/24-1/5 (dark Mon.)

*Frank Sinatra, Jr. is the king of the Four Queens in November.*

**Harvey's,** Tahoe, 588-2411 *Top of the Wheel:* Ron Rose Sound, indf., Windsong, 11/1-10; Bruce Zarka, 11/11-12/8; *Theatre Lounge:* Body Language, indf., Feminine Touch, indf.; Winchester Cathedral, 11/1-17· Reycards, 11/1-12/1 Gina, Dean & Scoundrel, 11/18-12/8; Kimberly

# Northern Nevada Show Notes

## By Guy Richardson

Sure, Roy Clark, who plays Harrah's Tahoe in November, is a respectable ol' boy now, but there once was a time. Hooboy, was there a time. About 30 years ago, Jimmy Dean was onstage at the Rusty Cabins outside Washington, D.C., and Clark, who Dean had fired three days earlier, rode a motorcycle up to the club, asked a guy to hold the door open, and blasted the bike up to the stage. Dean looked down, saw his ex-guitarist, and, says Clark, "dropped his accordian."

☆

Then there's Doug Kershaw, the mad fiddler hisself, who worked the Harrah's Tahoe main room a few years back with Dolly Parton as his opening act. Kershaw, who will be in the High Sierra lounge at Tahoe (and the Four Queens in Vegas) this winter, is as talented, exciting, and bow-shreddingly berserk as when his "Louisiana Man" became the first tune broadcast from orbit to earth. The main difference between then and now is that he hasn't had any hit records lately.

☆

If Gary Xavier, playing piano afternoons at Karl's Silver Club in Sparks looks familiar, it's because you've seen him tickling the plastics (ivory is illegal) on TV's *Austin City Limits,* backing Merle Haggard, Willie Nelson, and Freddy Powers.

☆

So how come, if B.B. King's real first name is Riley, he's called B.B.? And what do the initials stand for? Glad you asked. Before becoming a music legend with "The Thrill Is Gone," King, who plays Harrah's cabaret in Reno in December, was a disc jockey, calling himself "Beale Street Blues Boy." That got shortened to "Blues Boy," and finally to "B.B."

Hold your applause until we're finished, please.

Now for King's guitar, Lucille. King was playing a little joint in Twist, Arkansas, when two men got in a fight over a woman named Lucille. They knocked down a heater, and the place burned. King ran out, realized his guitar still was in the club, and ran back into the smoke. He got the guitar, but almost got killed. So, says he, "I named her Lucille to remind myself not to do that again." By now he's several guitars down the road, but each one is named Lucille.

You may now applaud. □

*Guy Richardson covers the entertainment beat for the* Reno Gazette-Journal.

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Springs, 12/2-15; Sonny Turner, 12/9-1/5

**Hyatt Lake Tahoe,** 831-1111 Martha's Children/Frank and Leah, thru 11/3; Chazz/Scooter and the Bee, 11/5-17· Jay Ramsey Band/Abbey Road, 11/19-12/1 Garfin Gathering, 12/17-1/5

**John Ascuaga's Nugget,** Sparks, 356-3300: Showcase '85, revue, indf., B.J. Thomas, 10/29-11/11 5th Dimension, 11/12-25; Carol Lawrence, 12/26-31

**Karl's,** Sparks, 358-4771 Gary Xavier at the piano, 1-8pm, indf., entertainment nightly

**MGM Grand Hotel,** Reno, 789-2285: *Ziegfeld Theatre:* Hello Hollywood Hello, indf.; 8pm dinner show from $22; midnight cocktail show $18.50; *Lion's Den:* Diamonds, thru 11/12; Danny Marona, 11/13-12/3; Hypnotist Pat Collins, Diamonds, Vince Cardell, Cleveland, 12/31

**Mother Lode,** Carson City, 883-0900: Spice, thru 11/10; Leon Michaels and Diana Roan, 11/12-24; Cameron, 11/26-12/15

**Ormsby House,** Carson City, 882-1890: Two of Clubs, thru 11/3

**Peppermill,** Reno, 826-2121 Perfect Circle, thru 11/17· Tommy Bell, 10/28-12/1; Gloria Michaels, 11/18-12/14; Wray Brothers, 12/2-8; Lelands, 12/16-1/26; Tommy Bell, 12/9-29

**Pick Hobson's Riverside,** Reno, 786-4400: Nightly dancing, Tues.-Sun.

**Reno Hilton,** 785-7100: *Opera House Theatre:* Rhythm on Ice, starring Vic Damone & Jack Carter thru 11/17, starring Allen and Rossi & Katie Blackwell 11/19-12/1 *Cabaret:* Sonny Turner 10/15-11/11

**Reno Ramada,** 788-2000: Live entertainment

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

**Topaz Lodge,** Topaz Lake, 266-3339

**Western Village,** Sparks, 331-1069: Mainstream, 11/4-17· Wray Bros., 11/4-12/1; Buckboard, 11/18-12/15; Wray Bros., 12/9-1/5

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**Battle Mountain,** Owl Club, 635-5155

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

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

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

**Hawthorne:** El Capitan, 945-3322 or 945-3321

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

**Pahrump:** Saddle West Casino, 727-5953

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

**Wendover:** Nevada Crossing, 664-4000; Peppermill, 664-2255; State Line Casino, 664-2221; Red Garter Casino, 664-2111

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

**Yerington:** Casino West, 463-2481 Dini's Lucky Club, 463-2868: Live entertainment weekends □

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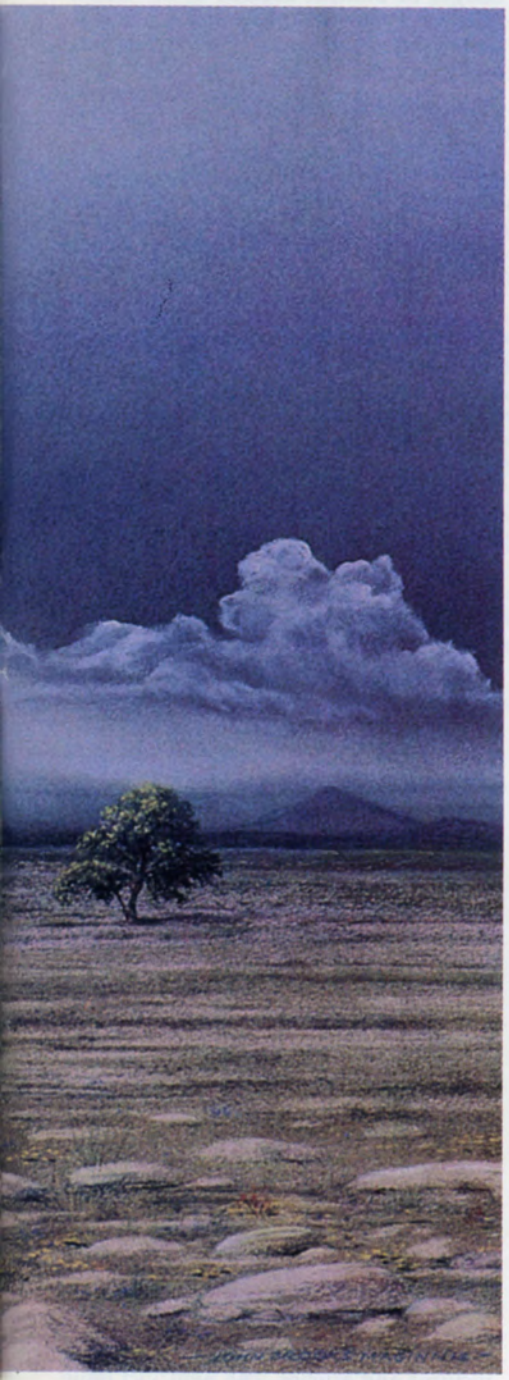

*"Calf Roper"*

PASTEL, 16x20"

*"That's based on a picture taken at the Reno Rodeo in 1984. It was an overcast day, but I liked the angle."*

# John Brooks Maginnis

When John Brooks Maginnis was growing up on Cape Cod, he felt great pressure from his family to match the achievements of his father and grandfather, who were successful artists and architects. So he became an engineer instead.

Then in 1980, at age 40, he quit his job and began painting. "The urge just kind of bubbled up in me," Maginnis says. "Besides, there was no one around anymore to care if I made it or not."

Today the Reno artist works only in pastels because, he says, that medium best suits his knack for detail. For portraits he works from slides, but when he goes into the field for landscapes, he doesn't lug his paints—he takes a tape recorder along. Finding a scene he likes, he sits down, turns on the machine, and says things like, "The mountains look purple, but they're really PL 137." Having reminded himself of such paint-color codes, he does what he calls his skyscapes at home, from memory. Maginnis' work can be seen at the Hermitage Gallery in Reno and the Gold Hill Bank Art Gallery in Gold Hill.—*JC*

tion, it is a violation of the trespass laws. The homeowners of Glenbrook are outraged that your magazine would detail ways to circumvent our security and gain access to our community.

David Dobbins, Vice President
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*Sorry, Dobbins. The suggestion was meant as a joke and came from a Glenbrook employee. By the way, the Glenbrook Golf Course is open to the public.—JC*

**Why Are Those Snakes Dancing?**

Ritualized "dancing" is a behavior displayed by many kinds of snakes (page 32, March/April '85), including rattlesnakes and some pythons. It is a common mistake to assume this behavior is part of courtship, as Art Vollmer stated in his letter in the May/June '85 issue. This behavior is in fact ritualized "combat" between two males, which may or may not involve competition for a female.

I would refer Mr. Vollmer and others to Lawrence M. Klauber's *Rattlesnakes, Their Habits, Life Histories and Influence on Mankind* for future information on this subject.

W.E. Gill, Jr., Vice President
Northern Nevada Herpetological Society
Reno, NV

Visiting my sister and bro-in-law in Elko last month, I was taken around on tours by them, to land that looked mighty homey to me. Bruce kept promising me rattlesnakes, but he never produced. But he said they were there. I'm still waiting.

Robert J. Cloud
Bellingham, WA.

Ordinarily I forbid any "I Love" posters, badges or bumper stickers in my office; however, your new rattlesnake poster is definitely the exception. It is truly unique, and I love the "I Love Nevada" poster.

Robert M. Petersen
Salt Lake City, UT

*Thanks, Petersen. We hope all our readers will want our classic poster, "Dancing Rattlers." It's just $6.95.—Ed.*

**Taking Aim At 'Trophy Game'**

With regard to your article on "Trophy Game" in the current issue, shooting a sleeping sheep is sport?

E. Donald Kaye
Aurora, CO.

**From The Gallery**

Regarding info pertaining to Muench's Gallery and Wheeler Peak (Sept/Oct '85), and Nevada's only glacier—there's a glacier or two in Lamoille Canyon.

Doris Cerveri
Spring Creek, NV

I look forward to reading each issue from cover to cover. You have had many very interesting articles in each issue. I particularly enjoyed the "History of Boulder/Hoover Dam" in the May/June issue and "The Suite Life of High Rollers" by A.D. Hopkins and "Backroad Bed & Breakfasts" by Cliff Glover in Sept /Oct. Articles of the type above show a lot of ol' dig-um-out research. Keep up the good work and I shall be a continual subscriber.

James McAllister
Las Vegas, NV

Too much on Las Vegas and Reno casinos and not enough on Nevada and its wonders.

E. Layne
Lancaster, CA.

Really a great magazine—best I have seen and read of the 30 years I've been out here. Where were you all this time? Read every word from cover to cover.

John W Gross
Tempe, AZ.

Every issue of *Nevada* is so very special from the editorials and letters to the pictures and articles. The Sept/Oct issue has an article written by Kurt Markus, and he said it all in one line: "No one has an ordinary day in Nevada." All else faded—this is it! These words should be on our Nevada Calendar and heralded in every issue. I like. I like it.

Louise McConnell
Reno, NV

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### PHOTOGRAPHY

**STOCK PHOTOS,** early Reno, Tahoe & Carson area. Aerial photos from 1950 on. Don Dondero, Box 7256, Reno, NV. 89510

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## CALENDAR *(Continued from page 65)*

8pm, Pioneer Theater, 329-1324

**Carson City International Pro Rally,** 6-8, season finale and National Championship of Sports Car Club of America Pro Rally Series; top drivers in the world compete against the clock and challenging conditions on the road and in the dirt; begins Fri. afternoon at Legislative Mall and covers areas in Carson City and Washoe Valley; restart 9am on Sat. at Governor's Mansion with route including Mount Rose, Incline Village, Spooner Summit, Kingsbury Grade, Minden, Hawthorne, and Yerington; on Sun. special exhibitions by drivers at Tahoe-Carson Speedway in Carson City; routes are subject to approval; rally pack with complete map will be available, Carson City, 882-8181 883-2101 or 883-7442

**UNR v. UC Davis,** 7 basketball, Lawlor Events Center, UNR, 784-4500

**Boy Scouts of America Exposition,** 7 Reno-Sparks Convention Center, 329-4025

**Concert,** 8, UNR choirs and Reno Chamber Orchestra perform "The Messiah," 2:15pm, Pioneer Theater, 329-1324

**Smallbore Rifle Silhouette,** 8, 8am, Palomino Valley Gun Club, 22 miles north of Sparks on Pyramid Lake Hwy., 323-3950

**Learn to Ski Special Clinic,** 9-13 and 16-20, Northstar, North Lake Tahoe, 916-562-1010

**Long's Drug Senior Citizens Christmas Party,** 12, Convention Center, 826-0884

**Ski Free Day,** 13, free champagne, Donner Ski Ranch, Norden, 916-426-3635

**"The Elephant Man,"** 13-15, drama, 8pm Fri.-Sat., 2pm Sun., Reno Little Theater, 329-0661

**"Nutcracker,"** 13-15, Theatre Ballet of San Francisco, Caesars Tahoe, 588-3515

**UNR v. UNLV,** 14, basketball, Lawlor Events Center, 784-4500

**UNR v. Santa Clara,** 16, basketball, Lawlor Events Center, 784-4500

**Christmas Craft Show,** 18-23, Reno-Sparks Convention Center, 827-7600

**"The Elephant Man,"** 19-21, drama, 8pm, Reno Little Theater, 329-0661

**Christmas on the Comstock,** 20-21 lights and decorations contest among business people and homeowners, community tree in center of town, music by the Municipal Band, caroling, shopping, until late evening, Virginia City, 847-0311 or 847-9400

**UNR v. Puget Sound,** 21 basketball, Lawlor Events Center, 784-4500

**"Nutcracker,"** 21-22 and 24, ballet, 2:15pm, Nevada Opera Assn., Pioneer Theater, 786-4046

**Christmas Eve Children's Fun Race,** 24, Alpine Meadows, Tahoe City, 916-583-4232

**Equitable Family Ski Challenge Race,** 22, Northstar, North Lake Tahoe, 916-562-1010

**Christmas Eve Torchlight Parade and Party,** 24, Squaw Valley, Tahoe City, 916-583-6985

**Ski With Santa,** 25, family races, Donner Ski Ranch, Norden, 916-426-3635

**Wolf Pack Classic,** 27-28, basketball tournament with Portland, Loyola Marymount, and Cal-Irvine, Lawlor Events Center, UNR, 784-4500

**Full Moon Ski Tours,** 27-28, $7 Tahoe Nordic Ski Center, Tahoe City, 916-583-0484

**Torchlight Parade,** 31 6pm, Tahoe Donner Ski Area, Truckee, 916-587-6028 □

**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 numbers, call 800-555-1212. □**

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# Deer Diary

## Confessions of a hunt camp manager on safari in the Ruby Mountains.

**By Harry Chalekian**

As we drove east on Interstate 80, nearing Elko, the tension mounted. Ahead were the Ruby Mountains, one of the best deer hunting areas in Nevada.

The scuttlebutt at work had only sharpened the excitement. It wasn't a matter of harvesting an animal; it was a matter of being selective and patient enough to wait for the largest trophy deer of the hundreds we would see. The unanimous advice at the office was, "Don't get an itchy trigger and fill out too early, or you'll regret it when you see a *real* Ruby Mountain buck."

Little did we know what was in store for us.

After a quick stop for gas and a meal (our last civilized one), we left Elko and headed for Secret Pass. As we started to climb, the rugged mountains overwhelmed and inspired us. Suddenly, there were deer—a group of four, darting across the road and into the sagebrush.

It was true! Our quest for a trophy animal was assured; my partner—he would do the hunting—only needed to be patient.

Crossing Secret Pass, we drove south on the eastern edge of the Rubies. Our landmarks were well established—Ruby Dome, Ruby Valley, and finally the turnoff to Joe Billy Canyon. The road over the last flat land required a switch to four-wheel drive and soon became two deeply-rutted tracks that reflected the intense traffic of prior hunters. After some winding, hilly driving, we reached the end of the road.

It was a spectacular view. To the east, a vista of enormous flatland; to the west and up, the awesome wooded peaks that gave cover to the waiting trophy deer. With no hassle for advanced reservations, we settled into our "Datsun Hilton."

Our room, with view, consisted of reclining bucket seats in a King Cab pickup truck. From behind the seats, we unloaded the cooler and groceries to the bed of the truck. Our clothes, weapons, and snacks were neatly compressed behind our reclined seats. We decided an early sleep would promote an early start toward the waiting deer.

As the cab cooled, the reality of the mountain evening emerged. Have you ever tried to get comfortable enough to sleep in a semi-reclined bucket seat? The cold night air of the higher altitude triggered a search for coats and clothing to wrap around us. Our breath condensed into an icy coating inside the windshield and windows. Our feet cooled as the truck body lost its heat. It was *cold!* Numbed and struggling to find warmth under whatever cover was available, we fell into a fitful sleep.

The alarm sounded a merciful end to the night. Our cold and aching bodies responded slowly to our efforts to stimulate circulation. But it was time for the hunt; the thought of the waiting deer helped the adrenalin flow.

The darkened path away from the truck was cluttered with rocks, roots, and bushes as it rose into the emerging dawn. As my partner left, I projected a long and tiring day for him.

As base camp manager, my day was filled with performing maid service

> **"As our feet numbed, we started the engine and heater, our macho pride giving way to our desire to survive."**

(straightening out the sleeping bags and piles of clothes), planning the day's menu (selecting the canned goods to be opened), and picking a site for the evening cookout. The rising sun provided welcome warmth to the day—and time for a nap.

The morning wore on, and the shot reserved for the trophy deer was not fired. Shortly after noon, my tired partner returned. Over a gourmet repast of beer, chips, and cold-cut sandwiches, I got the word. "Lotsa deer. Mostly doe. But the bucks are around." Then he shouldered his rifle and marched off again.

As the sun settled into the clouds and peaks, the fire was ready. Brandy was poured, Ruby Burgers formed, and beans were warming in the corner of the stone fire pit. The lantern flickered from the truck bed as the rain started and slowly developed into a drizzle. I was fighting to preserve the fire when my partner stumbled into the light. "We'd better eat. It's going to get worse."

That was the news of the day? Where was our deer?

The brandy quickly disappeared as the frying meat spattered over the rain-soaked logs; the Ruby Burgers would be served rare. Fortunately, the beans were warm, but the rain thinned the sauce to produce a variation of pork and bean soup. We ate quickly, banked the remains of the fire, and headed for the shelter of the truck. The rain was turning to snow.

The cab cooled, and our breath again vaporized to form an icy film on the glass. The wind howled and intensified, rocking the truck. As the temperature dropped and our feet numbed, we unanimously voted to start the engine and heater, our macho pride giving way to our desire to survive the night.

After another fitful sleep, the alarm rudely announced the start of another hunting day. My partner worked more slowly to get ready, but he voiced enthusiasm for the snow, which would reveal tracks from the early morning deer movement. He left the truck and disappeared up the path. I reluctantly decided to sleep in for an extra hour or two.

The warming cab woke me as the sun rose in the east. It was time to clean up, take inventory, and plan a celebration for the trophy buck that would surely be arriving soon. Our celebration would feature a brunch. The liquid refreshment would include coffee, brandy, and beer; the appetizer would be slightly frozen granola bars; the entree would feature canned Vienna sausages and cheese; and the dessert would be leftover peanuts.

With my camp support functions under control, I lazed in the sun and waited for the shot that would tell me to start preparing the banquet. The snowy quiet that surrounded the camp added yet another dimension of beauty to the day.

But it was too quiet. When would he shoot?

Soon it was noon.

A slow moving form plodded down the path to the truck. We ate our food in silence; it was all we had left. After packing the truck, we slowly inched down the muddy rutted road to the valley below.

As we descended to the main road and turned south, we gazed back at the untamed wilderness we had left. The trophy deer of the Ruby Mountains were safe for another year. □

*Harry Chalekian of Carson City is looking forward to another Elko County hunting trip this fall. In preparation he's searching for a bigger truck.*

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