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NEVADA

THE MAGAZINE OF THE REAL WEST

APRIL 1986/\$2.25

Nevada's Untouched Wilderness

Here in the Nation's Most Mountainous State,
Nature Reveals New Life and Wonders



Bristlecone Pine, Wheeler Peak



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NEVADA

Volume 46, Number 2

March/April 1986

Features

Nevada's Untouched Wilderness
Our nearly 160 uninhabited ranges are full of life, beauty, and hope for an unspoiled future. Will it always be so? By Pete Bradley. Page 6

Fathers of Invention

These madly successful scientists are practical Nevadans with extraordinary dreams. By Rob Powers. Page 17

All in the Family

By using old-fashioned Italian ingredients, Don Carano, Reno's gambling gourmet, has found his Eldorado. By Warren Lerude. Page 28



Lake Mead Scuba Duba

Taking a dive offers the mystique of a moonshot and discoveries as varied as cars and tennis shoes. By Kate Butler. Page 32

Muench's Gallery

Photographer David Muench portrays the spirit of the blooming yucca. Page 40

Twilight Zones

Las Vegas shows the camera its artistic side when the light is right, according to Ed Opsitos. Page 48

Kit Fox

The quick brown fox doesn't always jump. Photography by Howard Schorn. Page 65

Nevada Art & Artists

Western artist Jim Bramlett has a Will to succeed. Page 72

Legend in Our Time

The Mapes' water may have run from hot to cold, but my memories of the distinguished Reno landmark will be forever warm. By Diane Sims. Page 78

Vacation Specials

Meet Me in Las Vegas

and Reno, Lake Tahoe, and the cow counties, because Nevada's 1986 hotel getaway guide is packed with fantastic vacation bargains. Bags aweigh! By Belle Hoppe. Page 42

Tours: The Bus Stops Here

Here are more than 100 ways to explore Nevada by land, sea, and air while you leave the driving to them. By Kate Butler and Jim Crandall. Page 54

Yesterday

Hailing Halley's

When the 'immense beam' visited in 1910, Nevadans responded with strange predictions and comet parties, including one in Austin that was really dynamite. By Sally Zanjani. Page 14

The First of the Bad Men

Sam Brown was known as Nevada's toughest gunman—until he picked on the wrong man. By Phillip Finch. Page 22

Henderson: The Giant War Baby

This spring the home of Basic Industries looks back 45 years to celebrate its birth and its postwar survival. By Marilyn Allen. Page 24

Nevada: In the Beginning

In the '30s tourists were discovering new frontiers in the Silver State. Page 52.

Shows & Events

Showguide

Where to see the stars and shows in Las Vegas, Reno, Tahoe, and the cow counties. By Melissa Loomis. Page 62

Show Notes

Columnists Guy Richardson and Pete Mikla report on Nevada show biz quirks and quotes. Page 62



The Nevada Calendar

Events and celebrations you can enjoy in March and April. By Melissa Loomis. Page 66

Departments

Up Front

A fond farewell. Page 4

Letters

Flying saucers, Denio, and the big blast of 1953. Page 5

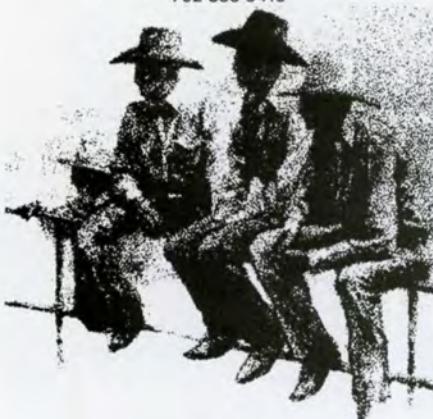
Nevada Notes

Keeping an eye on Goldfield, Lake Tahoe, and Yarrington. By Jim Crandall. Page 38

Cover: David Muench focuses on an ancient bristlecone pine near Wheeler Peak, east of Ely.

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Up Front

Hailing Hadley

Last December, as this issue was moving from fantasy to fact, Publisher-Editor Caroline Joy Hadley announced that she was leaving *Nevada Magazine* for the equally hectic but more independent pleasures of life as a freelance writer, editor, and photographer. There's no doubt she'll be an outrageous success in her endeavors. Happily, she'll also be a regular contributor to the magazine she re-created over the past 10 years. But still, we'll miss her.

Readers and other friends of the magazine will remember her reign for the spirit, sense of caring, and humor she brought to the publication; for the quality of its writing and photography; for her entertaining editorials (appropriately called "Up Front"); for the way she kept the magazine on its feet in tough economic times; and for her love of Nevada.

As the 50th anniversary issue of Jan/Feb pointed out, Caroline pulled the ship upright and filled the sails.

As the following remarks attest, no one could have done it better or with more pizazz.

A *Reno Gazette-Journal* editorial: "She didn't suffer fools or legislators gladly. But C.J. Hadley made *Nevada Magazine* glow and flourish. The battles she fought were fought for the magazine—and she won most of them. Under her leadership, the magazine grew in size and sophistication. This gave it a growing impact on tourism, especially by telling the world about that other Nevada beyond the gaming tables and showrooms."

A *Las Vegas Sun* editorial: "Those in the news business with any savvy learned in her 10 years at the helm to watch the slick magazine for what's happening next all around Nevada."

"Real sorry to see you go. Thanks a lot, and good luck. We will miss your diligence, the pride you put into your work—your magazine. We sympathize with the next wishy-washy publishing group you get your teeth into."

Ruth Deskin of the *Las Vegas Sun*: "I was privileged to work with C.J. in the beginning and I really loved the gal. She

was tenacious, dedicated, extremely intelligent, and terrifically talented. But most of all, I liked her forthrightness. She was outspoken, giving no quarter to those who would endanger the magazine she had nurtured, fussed over, and made into a tremendous success.

"The *Nevada Magazine* that we have all come to enjoy will always remain a tribute to Caroline J. Hadley. She has more talent in her little finger than most journalists have in their entire body. C.J. will continue to write and take photographs of her beloved adopted state of Nevada. But *Nevada Magazine* will never be quite the same."



Caroline J. Hadley

Guy Shipler in the *Nevada State Recorder*: "The record speaks for itself: In the process of putting out a good enough product to boost the circulation by almost seven-fold—from 11,000 to 70,000—C.J. had built *Nevada Magazine* into one of the most respected of its kind in the nation."

Mike O'Callaghan in the *Boulder City News*: "C.J. developed a state magazine that is recognized for excellence nationwide. We can all be proud of C.J. Hadley and her accomplishments and should be happy that she intends to remain in the Silver State."

Lee Adler in the *Nevada Appeal*: "Caroline was a hearty slice of pumpernickel in the often bland, white-bread world of state government."

"White bread is the material used to construct the cubicles of officialdom, the chameleon food that assumes the characteristics of whatever ingredients are sandwiched between its slices. That's probably why the output of the bureaucratic mind so often reeks of baloney."

"By contrast, Caroline was a hero sandwich—a meatball hero—full of sass, spice, and vinegar. Also full of passion, intelligence, and the kind of pride-in-performance that you don't find among those to whom government employment is a form of static cling."

Caroline, of course, brings a more exciting, unstatic kind of electricity to whatever she touches. Luckily she'll still be touching—and sometimes zapping—all of us in these pages from time to time.

—David Moore

Letters

Gold, Denio, and the Blast of '53

Recalling the Blast of 1953

Considering myself a pioneer in the early development of *Nevada Magazine*, formerly *Highways and Parks*, I read the 50th anniversary issue with great interest. In the last 35 years I have observed the magazine roller coaster in quality. It is now on a scale approaching 10. Many kudos to Hadley and staff.

A remark regarding the big blast of March 17 1953. The government knew little of the radiation hazards in those days. All of us observers were escorted close to ground zero the same day as the blast. Our only protection came from canvas bootees such as are worn by the monitor on page 45, whose picture I took. We were issued radiation film badges, but these were never collected. Since then I have received from the government an ID and a toll-free number to Bethesda Medical Center in Maryland in case any afflictions arise. I also receive periodical examinations from the VA hospital. So far, so good!

Adrian Atwater
Rancho Murieta, CA.

Our walls wouldn't be the same without your Historic Calendar. The picture for January of Reno around 1890 showing horse and sleigh is easily worth the price for the entire year.

Also, I have never been more moved than when I read "Saint Nick of the Strip" in your Jan/Feb issue. Author Tricia Hurst presented her experience in a most beautiful and feeling manner.

Harold B. Schneider
DeVac Chamberlain, Inc.
Seattle, WA.

Mornin' Near Eureka

The poem "Mornin' on the Desert" in Jan/Feb '86 reminded me of something my wife and I experienced years ago. We were both raised in White Pine County and graduated from high school there in the '50s. After a number of years away at college and traveling around the world in the service, I was finally released in November 1957 and we headed back to visit with our parents in Ely and McGill. As we came over the hill into another wide, open valley somewhere near Eureka, we pulled over and got out of the car to look at the vast open space before us. It was absolutely

still, and we could see for miles in every direction. The valley floor was a beautiful sagebrush-green carpet, and the mountains in the distance were purple, capped in fresh white against the blue sky. We looked at each other, and one of us—we don't remember who—said, "Now we are home."

Since then we have lived in Las Vegas and traveled throughout the state on many occasions. Metropolitan Reno and Las Vegas are all right, but what we like most about the *Nevada Magazine* is when it reminds us of that beautiful Nevada desert we love so much.

George G. Tate
Las Vegas, NV

In last issue's "Princes of the Fourth Estate" by David W. Toll, I was really happy to see an article on Dan De Quille instead of Mark Twain. It is apparent from historical accounts that Dan was the original humorist on the Comstock, and that Mark Twain just copied his style.

David McNeill
Mammoth Lakes, CA.

Deer Disaster

The article "Deer Diary" by Harry Chalekian in the Nov/Dec issue left the impression that Nevada deer hunters must be very poor or totally inexperienced campers. With the abundance of high-tech camping equipment available today, it is ridiculous to spend a miserable night in the bucket seat of a pickup truck. Have they never heard of Gore-Tex tents and Hollofill sleeping bags? Why subsist on half-frozen granola bars and peanuts when you can have beef almondeine or turkey tetrazzini simply by adding a little boiling water to a freeze-dried packet?

I have hunted deer under much more comfortable conditions.

PS: I love your magazine.

Richard Reul
Chatsworth, CA.

I refer to your issue for Jan/Feb '86. As a native son of Nevada, I always look forward to your magazine. However, the front pictures of this issue I find most misleading. Anyone would assume there would be stories regarding each of these individuals

(Continued on page 12)

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In the nation's most mountainous state, we have nearly 160 uninhabited ranges, each of them full of life, beauty, and hope for an unspoiled future. Will it always be so?

By Pete Bradley

spen leaves, burned gold by a week of frosty nights, tremble in the slight morning breeze. It is late September here in the Santa Rosa Mountains of Northern Nevada. The skin ice on the beaver pond shatters easily under the weight of my hands, but still I flinch from my traditional morning ritual, that of immersing head and torso in the mountain's lifeblood, its cool spring water. Finally, the plunge is taken, and with it comes that surge of energy symbolizing the beginning of a fresh new day in Nevada's high country.

Another season of transition has arrived here for life dependent on these mountains. Reduced daylight hours of autumn catalyze physical and behavioral changes in mule deer that biologists refer to as the rut. As I crest the divide separating east from west, the first rays of morning spill down upon a browsing herd of deer. Not yet in their winter coats, the animals' hides shine red-brown in good light. Suddenly the morning rays reflect the flash of clean-polished bone. The unmistakable sound of locking antlers reaches my ears. With field glasses, I watch dust fly and the flexing of lean muscle as two large bucks fight for herd dominance.

The shortening days are also signaling the great migrations of our birds of prey, the golden eagles, rough-legged hawks, and others like them. These massive birds pause in flight aside

untouched Wilderness

DAVID MUENCH



The Rubies are among the state's highest and most picturesque mountains. Above is the rugged Liberty Crest. The range's Shoshone name is a natural: "Takadoya," or Snow Mountain.





DAVID MUENCH

Wheeler Peak (left) is Nevada's second highest mountaintop and the centerpiece of a proposed national park.

West of the Santa Rosas is Quinn River Valley, where the author found enough water for a morning float.



PETE BRADLEY

precipitous western flanks of the Santa Rosa ridge in search of prey and afternoon thermals rising invisible from desert depths 6,000 feet below. Goldens, with their seven-foot-plus wingspans, suggest small aircraft making their way amidst floating cumuli, when in reality it was the eagle who suggested flight to man.

The changes taking place in the Santa Rosas are not unlike those occurring throughout much of Nevada's backcountry. This, the nation's most mountainous state, boasts nearly 160 uninhabited ranges, each of them grand rocky islands of life rising from seemingly lifeless desert plain. Associated valley basins often rival their mountain counterparts in instilling feelings of immensity and desolation in the hearts of their admirers. Valley elevations average 4,000 feet and dozens of summits rise above 10,000 feet. Boundary Peak, Nevada's highest mountain, tops out at 13,145 feet.

Twenty-two million acres of wild, untrammeled diversity. Imagine a total land area the size of Maine, devoid of pavement or roads of any kind, a land quake-broken and weathered to the point of obscurity. Break this landmass into large pieces and judiciously sprinkle these like jewels over a matrix of sparsely populated golden desert steppe—then you have desolate Nevada.

These wilderness lands are home to a wide variety of wildlife species: more than 700 kinds of birds, mammals, reptiles, and

amphibians. From the desert bighorn sheep, Clark's nutcrackers, and mountain goats of the high country, to the river otters, white pelicans, and desert tortoises of the bottomlands, the diversity is at times staggering. In addition, some 108 fish species inhabit backcountry lakes and streams.

Among the state's diverse botanical resources are the ancient bristlecone pines clinging to their subalpine environments; the nearly ubiquitous sagebrush, Nevada's state flower; and the creosote bush of low Mojave environments.

Nevada's climate is generally semiarid, but again it can vary dramatically depending on location and time of year. Low annual precipitation in the valleys gives way to heavy winter snows on cloud-raker ridges. It is the ability of these ridges to extract every last bit of moisture from passing storms that contributes most to the great diversity found here.

Wilderness Inventory

Nearly one third of the state's lands remain in pristine condition. These areas are all part of Nevada's federal land holdings. The original direction of the National Wilderness Preservation Act of 1964 states, "It is hereby declared the policy of the Congress to secure for the American people of present and future generations the benefits of an enduring resource of wilderness." Under this direction, federal

land agencies including the Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, Fish and Wildlife Service, and Park Service are continuing to inventory Nevada's roadless lands as they make periodic recommendations to Congress regarding numbers and acreages of areas deemed suitable for inclusion into the National Wilderness Preservation System.

In all western states, Congress has considered these recommendations and often modified them considerably before passing statewide wilderness bills. Almost without exception, the modifications have been slanted toward designating more wilderness than originally recommended by land agencies.

The Wilderness Act suggests guidelines such as sufficient size, minimum of 5,000 contiguous roadless acres, pristine character, and opportunities for solitude as criteria for measuring the worth of areas as representative examples of our wilderness heritage. And so, the winnowing process continues. As land managers, special interest groups, and ultimately our nation's legislators in Washington, D.C., swarm about their prospective hives, bandying about acreages and attributes, figures and fortunes, the ancient wilderness lands of Nevada's valleys and mountains wait in a quiet limbo between preservation and neglect.

The Ruby Mountains

The Ruby Mountains of Northeastern Nevada, for example, wait in this limbo. Referred to by many as "the Alps of the Intermountain West," this glaciated



Cold fog creates pinyon-juniper islands in this study of pagonip in the Stillwaters.

mountain wonderland once provided cool summer shelter for resident Western Shoshone. Bighorn sheep and sage grouse were hunted, and abundant roots, tubers, seeds, and berries were harvested from plenteous slopes. Early immigrants saw this mountain range not as a provider of plenty but rather as a formidable barrier, a major obstruction in their path to California. The ill-fated Donner Party spent days lost on the alluvial fans of the mountains' outwash plains in search of the way west.

Today, the fresh alpine slopes of the Rubies and their complement of wild plant and animal life remain relatively intact. Pink elephant's head bloom in profusion along clear rushing creeks chock-full of hungry brook trout. Heads of these introduced trout are often much larger than normal in relation to their body size, a consequence of meager diets and long, cold winters under deep ice and snow.



Unlike the brook trout's fare, winter can be a time of plenty for the largest carnivore of the Rubies. Mountain lion roam free on lower pinyon and mahogany slopes in search of their favorite prey, the mule deer. Deer migrate down from the high country in early winter, passing through staked-out lion territories on their way to wintering areas. These deer provide sustenance for the lioness, her yearling cubs, and the larger solitary toms.

Rather than migrate down in winter, two exotic introductions to the Rubies, the fleece-white mountain goat and the Himalayan snow partridge, choose to hold out on the highest wind-driven ridges. High winds displace heavy snows, depositing them on leeward slopes, thus exposing alpine vegetation important in the diets of these hearty creatures.

So, we have species coming down out of severe conditions and others choosing to stay put right where they are for the winter. Yet a third survival strategy has evolved in these mountains. The mountain blue grouse migrates thousands of feet uphill in the dead of winter to feed and roost in dense stands of conifers. Then as spring approaches, when the many mountain lakes are just beginning to thaw, when shrubs are sending out their first green leaders, and when many animals and birds are beginning their upward migrations, the blue grouse, as always, flies downhill in search of spring-green bracken fern, Oregon grape, and willow.

Along their vertical relief of 8,000 feet and length of over 140 miles, the Ruby Mountains have spared no expense in



Summer wildflowers and glacier-made lakes are colorful lures for hikers in the Rubies.

their evolution of a truly elaborate environment.

The Stillwater Mountains

A sister range of the Rubies, equally as elaborate, stands in awesome silence high above an unusual desert marshland in Central Nevada. The Stillwater Mountains keep vigil over one of the largest waterfowl breeding grounds in the West, the Stillwater Wildlife Management Area. In wet years, thousands of cinnamon teal and redhead ducks migrate to the base of these rugged mountains near Fallon to nest and brood their young.



Above the chatter and commotion of this marshland, desert bighorn sheep again roam the rocky ridges of the subalpine zone. Bighorn were once extirpated from this range, likely the victims of domestic sheep diseases, toward which they had evolved no immunity. Also, overhunting and competition with livestock for forage probably played a role in their extinction. Reintroduced here in 1981 by the Nevada Department of Wildlife, these majestic sheep have since doubled their population.

From both east and west, the Stillwaters appear vertical and totally impassable, almost as if someone had painted and propped up a pretty mountain scene for viewing pleasure. And, for the most part, they are vertical and impassable, a fitting retreat for the bighorn.

Mountain-building forces, staying far ahead of the forces of erosion, are extremely active in the Stillwaters, and nowhere is this more evident than on their eastern flank. Twenty-five-foot-wide stretches of bare earth and rock, visible from many miles away, scar the base of this range, a reminder that just 32 years ago an earthquake shattered the silence here and dramatically changed the level of the land.

Very near this catastrophic fault, on the wall of an abandoned cabin in a canyon not far from where an old miner 49er once excavated his mine, is scrawled this verse:

*People they come and people they go,
Mountains they come
and mountains they go,
The earth is our shepherd
from which all blessings flow,
The former go quickly,
the latter very slow.*

One cannot help but imagine that following one of these earth-shaking events, the old miner scrawled those words on his kitchen wall and very soon afterward took leave of these mountains forever. That is, one could imagine this, had not the script been written in 20th-century ball-point.

Soils on steep mountain slopes above the old miner's camp are held in place by vast stands of pinyon-juniper woodland. "P-J," as it is referred to in Great Basin circles, continues to colonize new areas in these mountains, but at a much faster rate than was thought physically possible for trees with such heavy seeds. It seems that two species of birds—the pinyon jay and the Clark's nutcracker—have been instrumental in the timely dispersal of these trees throughout the Great Basin, at times speeding up the process of colonization 200 times the normal rate. A nutcracker, for example, caches its seeds in the soil on windward slopes, presumably for future consumption in hard times. As its larder increases, the chances also increase that this nutcracker will not return to feed on all of its caches. In mast years—heavy seed years—a single nutcracker has been known to cache nearly 25,000 seeds when it requires only 10,000 to make it through the winter. Come spring, some of the forgotten seeds become the first colonizers of the mountain slope.

The trees are providing food for the nutcrackers and the nutcrackers are increasing the pinyons' rate of colonization—an association of mutual advantage, and the very definition of symbiosis.

The Grapevine Mountains

The mountains of Nevada are full of examples of symbiotic relationships. However, 300 miles to the south of the Stillwaters, in the mountains overlooking

the blast-furnace deserts of Death Valley, some organisms have evolved in a manner not nearly so accommodating to their neighbors. The Grapevine Mountains, the northern end of which protrude into Nevada from California, are home to a strange desert shrub. Almost nothing forages upon its leaves, and at times no vegetation can grow near it, not even its own kind. Aside from desert insects that pollinate it in the spring, there are few creatures that can even claim its use. The creosote bush is a large shrub replete with resins in its leaves that make it unpalatable, not to mention virtually indigestible, to most creatures. In addition, in response to its dry environment, it has evolved such an efficient root system that oftentimes competing plants find it hard to extract sufficient moisture from the soil and soon wither and die in the torturing heat. The result in some areas is a forest of evenly-spaced creosote bushes as far as the eye can see.

Water is extremely scarce in this desert environment. Random plots of earth have

“

The seeds of spring ephemerals can lay dormant for decades until the right combination of showers and sunshine release their dormancy, and the desert is made a carpet of orange, lavender, yellow, and white.

”

waited decades between rainstorms. But when spring rains come to the area, a finer show of life cannot be found. The seeds of spring ephemerals—short-lived flowers—can lay dormant for decades until the right combination of spring showers and sunshine release their dormancy, and the desert takes on a beautiful carpet of orange, lavender, yellow, and white.

Ephemerals dress even the steepest slopes of the Grapevine Range, slopes on which resident bighorn graze and joust, often in the last rays of evening. Unlike their next-of-kin in the Stillwaters, these desert bighorn are severely limited by the lack of available free water—that water that is not tied up in rock strata or plant parts. Spring rains do provide temporary sources of water



Four of Nevada's wildest: the Rubies, Stillwaters, Grapevines, and Wheeler Peak.

where impervious pockets in rocks called cisterns collect precious overland runoff. However, due to the unpredictability of the rains, these animals are ultimately tied to the very few perennial springs and seeps issuing from the mountains—those springs that provide year-round, predictable sources of water.

The Future

Natural forces—they have shaped this land, they have populated its hidden places, and they continue to nurture the dynamic essence of which human hearts have grown so fond. So it has been for eons, and so it always will be in this stark, silent Nevada wilderness.

Some people, however, aren't so sure. Roger Scholl, Reno resident and champion of grass-roots support for wilderness protection in Nevada, says, "Despite rural Nevada being the least densely populated region outside of Alaska, and despite the state's natural appearance—far different, for example from the Midwest—the fact is that land agencies responsible for the wilderness inventory have determined 85 percent of this state unfit for wilderness study." He goes on to say, "Given Nevada's current status as the nation's second fastest-growing state, this 15 percent will only shrink further." Asked at what rate this shrinking process occurs, he says, "Attrition of our remaining roadless areas continues almost daily. Also, failing to formally protect these areas leaves them vulnerable to unpredictable future degradation. One example would be the now abandoned MX Missile Racetrack



System, a project which would have drastically altered the pattern and intensity of use of wilderness in Nevada."

☆

The day's walk has left me perched far up in the highest knife-edge ridges of the Santa Rosa. I finish a pauper's fare of rice and beans, boiled over sagebrush coals. Cooking fire dead, and dishes done—one blackened pot, one silver spoon—I sit content, back propped against flat granite, nestled warm and deep in my bag, with only face exposed to the cool westerly breeze and the flush of evening alpenglow. Not a sound but the wind moaning over the ridge behind me. My eyes wander past the three farmhouse lights in the valley 6,000 feet below, to the mountains

and hidden deserts beyond, deserts with names like Black Rock and Smoke Creek and mountains like Limbo, Duffer, and Mahogany. Thousands of square miles of unspoiled, often uncharted land, all within arm's reach of my lofty wilderness vantage. As darkness approaches, a prayer of hope is fashioned out of love and respect for this wild land, most of which may never experience the benefit of Congressional benevolence—Nevada's heretofore untouched desolation. □

Pete Bradley of Reno is a graduate student in wildlife biology at UNR. He spent the last two summers exploring the rivers and backcountry of Elko County for a research project on the Nevada river otter.



A National Park for Wheeler Peak?

The South Snake Range, the home of Wheeler Peak and Lehman Caves, is known for its diversity of life and spectacular geology. Rising 8,000 feet above the surrounding valleys, these rugged mountains east of Ely have plenty to boast about—forests of rare bristlecone pines, blue cirque lakes, ice fields, herds of bighorn sheep and mule deer, Lehman's limestone caverns, and Wheeler itself, at 13,063 feet the second-highest peak in Nevada.

Because of its unique character, the area was nominated last fall to join the ranks of Zion, the Grand Canyon, and Yellowstone as the Great Basin National Park. Appropriately, it was on Nevada Day, October 31, that the House Subcommittee on Public Lands in Washington, D.C., approved a Nevada wilderness bill that included the park's creation. The fate of the proposal probably will be decided this spring as the bill makes its way through Congress and a series of hearings in the Silver State.

The park idea did not catch Eastern Nevadans entirely by surprise; conservationists have pushed for it since the 1950s, with the last serious effort coming in 1965. Over the years the citizens of Ely and the rest of White Pine County have been split on the issue. At Congressional hearings

last winter in Ely, only a few more people spoke in favor of the park than against. Ranchers and miners voiced strong concerns. Carl Hanks, vice president of the county farm bureau, declared, "Any time productive land is taken out of production for any reason, it is harmful to the nation as a whole and especially to the local economy."

Tourism and business leaders generally supported the park. The town of Ely has suffered since Kennecott closed its Ruth copper mine 12 years ago. Mayor Barlow White said, "The designation will boost the city and county economy. Ely must survive and prosper once again."

From yet another point of view, some conservationists have warned that the operation of the park could degrade the sense of wilderness it is supposed to preserve. They point to the beauty salon in Yosemite Valley, the 18-hole golf course in Death Valley, and the blacktop road around Crater Lake as examples of this phenomenon.

But whether or not the South Snake Range ever gets a beauty salon, the opposing groups seem to be seeking a common ground. In the meantime, all lovers of the Wheeler Peak area can appreciate the fact that it has been recognized as a national treasure.—PB

LETTERS (Continued from page 5)

pictured. However, I have failed to find anything pertaining to Harry, Clara, Bugsy, or Julia Bulette—*¿Porque?* Henceforth I shall peek before I buy.

J. Simms Jones

Desert Hot Springs, CA.

Jones, the six notables on the cover, all stars of past issues, were discussed in that issue's "Up Front" and three were featured inside.

Frisbee: A Marked Name

I am writing regarding the article "Summer on the Water" in the July/August '85 issue because I am concerned about the misuse of one of our company's registered trademarks.

Please understand that we do not wish to be unduly difficult in this matter, since we believe that the mistake was not intentional on your part. It would be appreciated if you would advise your staff writers that when using the word FRISBEE to follow it with the symbol ® and the common name, flying saucer or flying disc. We realize that it may be difficult for you to add the ® mark after the word "FRISBEE." Therefore, we ask you to capitalize "FRISBEE," at least, and add the common name disc, i.e. FRISBEE disc.

Stuart B. Schneek

General Counsel, KRANSO
San Francisco, CA.

Schneek, we appreciate your concern for the Frisbee trademark. However, having never heard of a "Frisbee disc," and since Webster's allows the common use of "frisbee," we used the lower-case "f" in James McKimmy's Lake Tahoe piece. In fact, the word used was "frisbie," a direct descendant of the Mother Frisbie's cookie-jar lids that Princeton students first tossed among the elms.—Ed.

All the Way With C.J.

I'm not going to renew my subscription. This is in protest to Publisher-Editor Caroline Joy Hadley's decision to quit.

Blair Van Orden
Reno, NV

Since C.J. Hadley has left the magazine, there is nothing in the *Nevada Magazine* that a true Nevadan could possibly want to read.

My grandchildren are fifth-generation Nevadans, and I wouldn't want to contaminate them.

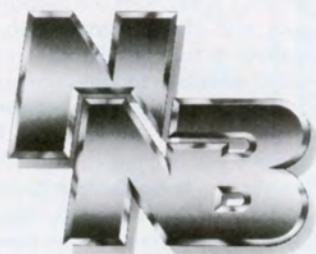
Janet M. Smith
Las Vegas, NV

Smith, hope you don't miss C.J.'s stories in future issues. She has left the publisher's chair, but she will still contribute wonderful words and photos on Nevada people and places.—Ed.

Congratulations upon the Jan/Feb issue, and your accomplishment with *Nevada*. It was great to be reminded of Fred Greulich,

(Continued on page 74)

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Hailing Halley's

When the 'immense beam' visited us in 1910, Nevadans responded with strange predictions and comet parties, including one in Austin that was really dynamite.

By Sally Zanjani

When we got to the dark places between the cities, where the electric lights did not interfere with the sight, we noticed a hazy glow that faintly lit up the entire sky." That was how Charles Leeper, a streetcar conductor on the Reno-Sparks line, described his view of Halley's comet in May 1910.

"It was different from anything I have ever seen," he said. "All around the horizon the light hung, and in the upper arches of the heavens it glowed with a milky, luminous haze. Everywhere one looked it was the same—just like one would expect if the earth were placed in the path of an immense beam of faintly glowing light and no one could tell where the beam came from."

Although viewing conditions were better in 1910 than they will be this spring—the comet passed three times closer then, making a shining streak more than half-way across the evening skies—not all Nevadans were as fortunate as Leeper.

Earlier in 1910, impatient skeptics suggested that the Las Vegas who claimed the honor of the first sighting might have mistaken the lemon peel in the bottom of his glass for the comet. The *Goldfield Daily Tribune*, disappointed when clouds obscured what it called the "Celestial Big Circus," scolded the comet: "Shame on you, you cheap fourth-rate barnstormer. Pass on, and hide your diminished head for the next 75 years, or longer if you like, and take your ethereal satellites and wardrobe with you. This is the second fluke you have made in the last week. Forgiveness was yours for the first one last Friday night, but this is too much."

Thus did the celestial barnstormer capture the attention of Nevadans during its visit in 1910. Named for English astronomer Edmund Halley (rhymes with valley), who first computed its orbit in 1705, the comet passes the earth every 76 years while traveling on an elliptical path around the sun. Halley's has been com-

pared to a flying mountain of ice, gas, and dust about four miles long. As it draws near the sun, some of the gases are vaporized, forming a glowing tail that may swirl across the sky for millions of miles. It also has a shorter tail of dust particles. Because the gaseous tail is blown outward from the sun by solar wind, it precedes the comet on the return swing.

The tail was the object of intense interest in 1910 because some prominent astronomers expected the earth to pass through it on the night of May 18. (It is now believed that the gaseous tail in fact may have brushed the earth as anticipated.) Despite assurances from other scientists that no hazard was involved, wide public apprehension was aroused when French astronomer Camille Flammarion suggested that all life on earth might be poisoned by deadly cyanogen gas in the comet's tail.

Nevadans did not have to go as far afield as France for dire prognostications, however. They had Professor Henry Lund, an Oakland teacher who had fled to Reno to escape the huge, comet-triggered tidal waves that he believed would inundate coastal California. At night in Reno, Lund went forth to watch the approaching comet from the Riverside Bridge and expatiated to reporters upon the other unpleasant scenario he envisaged, the incineration of the planet in a fiery holocaust touched off when Halley's comet ignited the atmosphere.

Although there is no evidence that many Nevadans sought safety in the comet gas masks and comet pills that hucksters were selling, some residents were frightened by the predictions of doom. One Carson City woman, sure of her imminent demise and worried that her cat and chickens would be neglected, wrote a letter with instructions to her son and told the postmaster to be sure to deliver it right after the comet struck. In Elko several people cowered in their cellars, causing *Elko Independent* editor W.W. Booher to reassure his readers, "Don't get excited in regard to Halley's comet. The heavenly bodies are much like the works of a watch—they keep right on doing business in the same old way." *Las Vegas Age* editor Charles Squires drew consolation from the thought that if the comet began to "wobble and smash into the earth, grinding off the two hemispheres and five zones and getting the parallels and meridians all tangled up," at least the cataclysm would leave him no time to worry about getting out a special edition. Elsewhere a few bizarre happenings were attributed to Halley's influence, including a freak May snowstorm in Reno and the comet-shaped eggs, with tails an inch and a half long, that were laid by a Carson City hen.

Instead of taking to the cellars, many



MR. SCORCHER: "Don't be alarmed, my dear. I won't let the comet overtake us."

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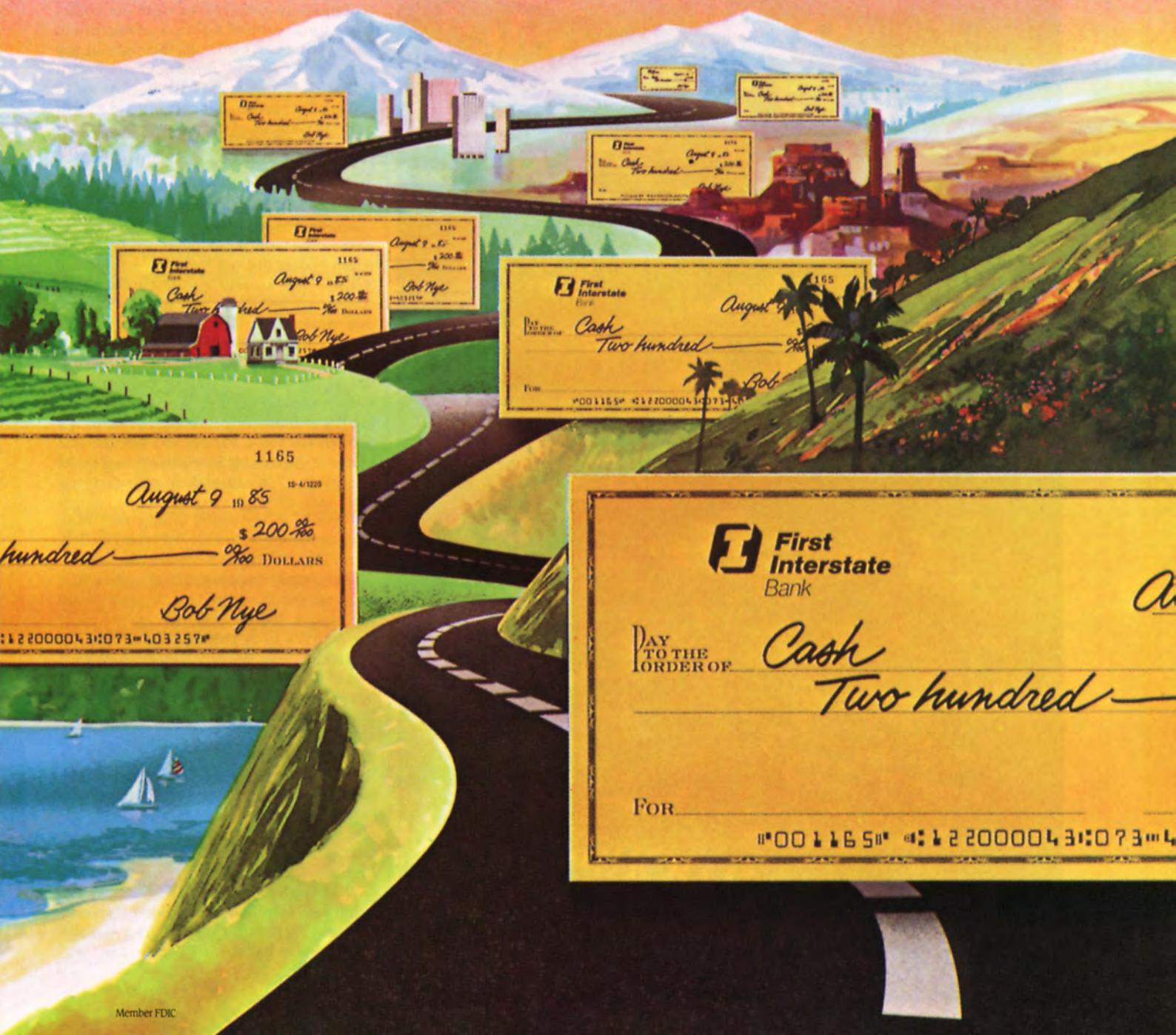
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Where to See It

Halley's comet watchers in Nevada this spring will find telescopes and comet shows at several locations ready for the bright traveler's final swing past earth. Major viewing places are the Clark County Community College Planetarium in North Las Vegas (702-643-6060), the Fleischmann Planetarium in Reno (784-4811), and McLean Observatory on Mount Rose above Lake Tahoe (831-1314). Be sure to see this issue's Nevada Calendar for details.

Nevadans found Halley's comet cause for celebration. On the Malapai Mesa, where Goldfielders gathered to view the comet and a lunar eclipse, bonfires of sagebrush and Joshua trees burned throughout the evening. In Austin, a thunderous explosion on the night of Halley's closest approach aroused sleepers from end to end in Pony Canyon. After finding the jail still intact, an excited and scantily-clad crowd gathered on Main Street to learn that some prankster had been hailing Halley's with dynamite.

In Reno and Carson City "comet parties" became a fad, even on the nights when Halley did not become visible until 3 a.m. One society editor clucked, "Of course 'tis only for the cause of science that they lose a few hours of precious sleep, to say nothing of the experience gained, especially when a bountiful breakfast at the home of one of the fair ones follows the star gazing." Apparently viewing the comet—or professing to—proved convenient for a variety of reasons. The editor of the *Nevada State Journal* expressed interest in a "census of the number of men who have given the excuse when returning home at unseemly hours that they have remained up merely to view Halley's comet."

The same editor was out of orbit when he predicted the comet's next visit would not arouse such a fuss. Still, as we view the comet's final passage across the sky this spring—its last appearance until 2061—we may remember "the immense beam" seen by streetcar man Charles Leeper and his passengers in May 1910, when Halley's swung close by the earth to say farewell. □

Sally Zanjani, who lives in Minnetonka, Minnesota, is the descendant of Carson Valley pioneers and has written many articles on western history. She and Guy Louis Rocha of Reno are coauthors of an upcoming University of Nevada Press release, *The Ignoble Conspiracy: Radicalism on Trial in Nevada*. The book deals with Goldfield labor-management rivalries and a 1907 murder trial.

Fathers of Invention

By Rob Powers

Thomas Edison could also be pretty inventive when turning a phrase. The father of the incandescent lamp, phonograph, movie projector, and myriad other devices that changed the world said that the formula for successful inventing was a little inspiration—and a lot of perspiration.

Truer words were never spoken, his modern-day brothers would agree. But while he was at it, Edison might have expounded on the importance of having a thick skin and lots of patience. Besides putting away all timepieces and taking the phone off the hook when they get in their workshops, inventors also realize that, on any project, failure may be an intimate if not welcome bedfellow.

But still they toil, driven by some inexplicable force that tells them there must be a way to build a better mousetrap, a more fuel-efficient car, or even a pen that works in outer space.

The following inventors, all Nevadans, would be prominent figures wherever they lived. The fact they reside in a state of fewer than a million people only increases their stature. Most have been inducted into the Nevada Inventors Hall of Fame at the University of Nevada, Reno. All share a deep desire to see what is—and, more importantly, what can be.



Paul Fisher

THE SPACE PEN

The man who once considered himself the dumbest kid in his class is now a multimillionaire who proved to the world that he had The Write Stuff.

Paul Fisher of Boulder City is inventor of the Fisher Space Pen, which NASA has called "the perfect inscribing tool." He is a persistent man who has made a lifelong career out of sailing over hurdles standing in the way of success.

"I had learning problems, I guess," Fisher says, pondering fifth grade in Ellsworth, Kansas, where he was put in the slow group. He chuckles softly. "I seem to have outgrown it because by the time I was in high school, I was the top student scholastically." The reason for his less-than-sparkling performance earlier? "I was a daydreamer."

These madly successful scientists are practical Nevadans with extraordinary dreams.

Fisher was a dreamer, but one with a difference. He made his dreams come true.

He showed his engineering acumen during World War II, when he became chief troubleshooter for a ball-bearing manufacturing company in Chicago. After the war he bought part ownership in a firm that made machine parts. It eventually became the victim of a recession, and Fisher sold his interest for about 10 cents on the dollar.

But Fisher, never one to dwell on fortunes won or lost, turned his attention to the ball-point pen, then in its infancy. His interest had been piqued a few years earlier when he was making parts and setting up assembly lines for Reynolds International Pen Company. By 1948 he had started his own firm, the Fisher Pen Company. His goal: to perfect the ball-point pen.

Paper Mate, however, beat him to it. The pen giant was the first to come out with a spirit soluble ink, which resisted running, dripping, and gunking. For the time being, Fisher quit making pens. "I refused to produce a second-rate product," he says. Then he pulled out an ace. His company came up with its own spirit soluble ink formula and with it developed the One For All Refill, a cartridge that fit most pens on the market. The One For All also made him a wealthy man.

Then the Space Age arrived, and it dawned on Fisher that astronauts had to record scientific data in space but had no practical way to do so. Conventional pens simply wouldn't work in zero gravity. "They were using lead pencils," he says, "but a lead pencil presented a hazard. If it broke, pieces of lead might get into the electrical equipment—maybe even in their lungs."

Thus in 1966 was born, following several years of research, the AG-7. This

pressurized pen—"AG" stands for anti-gravity—could function under the most extreme conditions. One reason was its thixotropic ink, which resisted oozing even in zero gravity. It was the pen that millions of television viewers saw floating around in the Apollo 7 cabin during transmissions from space.

The pen was patented the same year man first walked on the moon, 1969, and was testimony to Fisher's perseverance, a vital quality for an inventor, according to this one. "Because for every idea you come up with that is successful," he says, "generally you have at least a thousand failures. And you have to be able to live with that frustration.

"There really is no such thing as an inventor," he says. "We really discover things, and the discoveries are more or less accidents. Many times we know in advance what we want to discover. The key is that we have to be able to observe accurately and appreciate what we've observed.

"It's very frustrating to be an inventor, but the rewards are very great."

They undoubtedly have been for Fisher, who 10 years ago moved to Boulder City from Van Nuys, California, to take advantage of Nevada's favorable tax climate. Married three times and the father of seven, he is a millionaire several times over. (He recently got a huge chunk of money when pen companies he had sued over royalties for the erasable ball-point pen settled out of court.) And although he's earned a retirement, the 72-year-old Fisher wants no part of it. He divides his time between his plants in Boulder City and Forest Park, Illinois, supervising the annual production of millions of his pens, more than half of which are the pressurized Space Pens. His latest project is to produce novelty pens made of the gold and silver from the \$400-million *Atocha* shipwreck treasure found by Mel Fisher (no relation) off Key West, Florida. The pens will sell for \$50 to \$1,500.

Away from the pen business, Fisher has used his stature to push for economic reform in the U.S. He wrote an economics book in 1960, the same year he entered the New Hampshire Democratic primary in a short-lived presidential bid. "The reason I ran," he says, "is because I believe it is possible to apply scientific techniques to economics." He currently is working on a plan that would put a graduated tax on assets rather than income. The plan, he says, would make the U.S. government solvent again.

He is rather matter-of-fact about his patents, however.

"I have six or eight, I guess," he says. "I don't know that I ever really counted. Maybe it's 10."

Austin Cooley

PHOTOS BY WIRE

His name might not be familiar, but anyone who has ever read a newspaper has benefited from Austin Cooley's work.

Often called the Father of Facsimile, Cooley developed the technology that allows pictures and printed matter to be transmitted by wire or radio for reproduction. It could be said that his invention has had nearly as great an impact on newspapers as the camera.

Cooley started research on his invention while a student at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in the 1930s. The initial work was done by a faculty member, Cooley recalls. "He had an idea that he could transmit pictures by using X-ray techniques. Finally, he got the thing working from one side of the room to the other. He wanted to make it work by radio."

When the professor moved away, Cooley, who was in charge of an experimental radio station at MIT, "started re-inventing the whole thing," he says.

"I worked like hell on this thing, pretty near 24 hours a day, sleeping on the floor at night," recalls the Reno resident, who characterizes an inventor as "as guy who gets into trouble inventing something and then works his way out of it. It just went from one step to another."

Cooley eventually designed and engineered transmitters that develop a photo negative or X-ray into electrical signals, which are sent over radio or telephone wires or via satellite. The signals then are beamed onto recording film.

His place in history was secured in

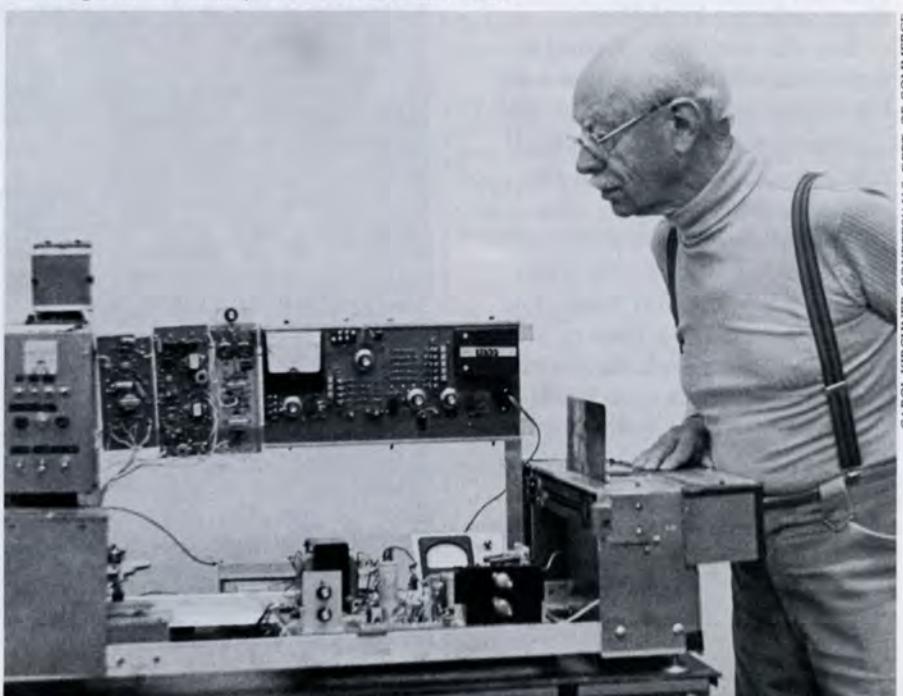
1935. That was the year the *New York Times* became the first paper to use his facsimile technology to transmit news photos. "It was very exciting," says Cooley, who holds about 75 patents in his field. "We accomplished what the telephone company could not do—transmitting pictures from the West Coast to New York. It upset all the other news agencies. My boss figured he had the world to himself."

Thus began Cooley's long and fruitful association with the *Times*, whose publisher gave him carte blanche to continue his research. "I was one of the damned few inventors who had support like that."

Cooley moved to Reno 16 years ago following his retirement from the *Times*. He had come to Nevada to get a divorce, he says, and liked it here. "I saw the opportunities. I could draw on the university kids to help me and carry on my studies in math," he says. He and his second wife, Helene, have a 13-year-old daughter, Donna.

Partially debilitated by a stroke he suffered in 1983, Cooley is unable to work as much as he'd like. His research on telegnosis (diagnosis by X-ray films over phone lines) has essentially ground to a halt, but he looks forward to one day resuming his work.

The *Times* has been generous to him, he says, and while he wouldn't call himself rich, money is not a worry. But then, it never was with Austin Cooley. What has always been important to him, he says, is "the challenge of solving technical problems."



CAROL KIRCHNER, COURTESY U.S. DEPT. OF COMMERCE



WAYNE C. KODEY

Robert Mendenhall

R E C Y C L I N G A S P H A L T

Robert Mendenhall has found that the road to success is paved with recycled asphalt. Along the way, the longtime Las Vegan has become recognized as the nation's premier authority on asphalt recycling.

True, finding a way to build a cheaper highway may not quite have the built-in romance of fathering the movie projector or phonograph. But there's one group that sees Mendenhall as a modern-day Edison—the Federal Highway Administration. Since his asphalt recycling patent was granted in 1976, the inventor says he's been told that he's saved the agency about one billion dollars.

Mendenhall, owner of Las Vegas Paving Corporation since 1958, says he was developing mechanical devices for asphalt recycling in the early 1970s when he realized the need for new materials to make the idea practical. He then developed a process whereby asphaltes, which make asphalt black and evaporate over time, were supplemented with aromatic hydrocarbons. That made asphalt soft instead of brittle, and it opened the door to recycling on a commercial level. For his work Mendenhall was honored in 1976 with U.S. Patent No. 4,000,000. Since

then he has been awarded more than 30 other patents related to recycling.

"The incredible changes due to the oil embargo are probably what accelerated the importance of interest in recycling," he says, referring to the fact that oil products are used to make asphalt.

Consider the implications of Mendenhall's work: In 1976, a few hundred tons of asphalt were recycled in the U.S. Last year, he says, the total was about 30 million tons. In 1975, Las Vegas Paving put down the first section of freeway in the country built completely of recycled asphalt on a one-mile stretch of I-15 near the Nevada-California line. A year later the section was expanded to 10 miles. Today his work is known around the globe, Mendenhall admits. "We have had visitors from all over the world."

It's attention well earned by this 57-year-old inventor who doesn't have a college degree. Mendenhall got his education the old-fashioned way—over a long career in the construction business and through hours of tireless research. "I think you have to recognize the need and apply your thoughts and creativity to solve those problems. I think that's the evolution of a patent," he says.

spheres I and II, spherical vehicles that are propelled by rotation over land or water. Today he continues research on solar energy through Solardan Corporation, his Reno-based company.

A typical day for Dandini, says Angela, his second wife of seven years, begins early in the morning when he "reads every newspaper and magazine he can get his hands on." He has breakfast in bed and later perhaps does a little gardening. "Then he goes upstairs and starts thinking," Angela says. "He just likes to think. I don't disturb him."

"I always think of what's next," says Dandini, who speaks in a soft, heavily accented voice. "Inventors," he says, "are anxious to know things, trying to find out the whys. You cannot sit down. Inventing comes by consequence."

Dandini, who speaks seven languages and holds four doctorates, came to Reno 37 years ago when a friend invited him to

PATRICIA MORTATI



teach languages at UNR. He fell in love with the city and decided to make it his home.

He and Angela still travel extensively—they vacationed in Argentina recently and visit Europe every year—between his brainstorms. Even at 86, Dandini still believes he has a few more projects in him.

When at home, he sometimes visits the Desert Research Institute north of town. He has contributed much to the DRI in the way of science and spirit, not to mention a donation of 470 acres of land. Fittingly, his name is attached to something nearby that doesn't need a patent: Dandini Boulevard.

Alessandro Dandini

3 - W A Y B U L L B

About, oh, half a century ago, a light went off in Alessandro Dandini's head. If someone could invent a better mousetrap, he reasoned, why couldn't he invent a better light bulb?

Why not indeed? The Italian-born Dandini in fact designed the three-way filament light bulb and socket, which resulted in 1933 in a patent for the new bulb. He went on to develop Hydro-

John A. Kleppe

S O U N D M E T H O D S

John A. Kleppe of Reno believes in sound research—literally. Calling himself an innovator rather than an inventor, Kleppe has taken sound as a measuring device out of the water, where it has long been used in sonar, and pointed it toward the heavens.

"The first work in sound was done at the turn of the century," says Kleppe, a professor of electrical engineering at

UNR. "Basically sound was put aside, except for sonar, but a lot of data was related to the military and so was classified. People ignored it as they jumped into lasers and radio waves. That was amazing to me—that people ran by sound as a way to measure things. I'm using sound now in a whole bunch of other applications."

He says his foray into sound research came about by a relatively simple process

of deduction. "I think it came from curiosity, solving a problem. I liked to sit down and think, 'Would sound solve it?'"

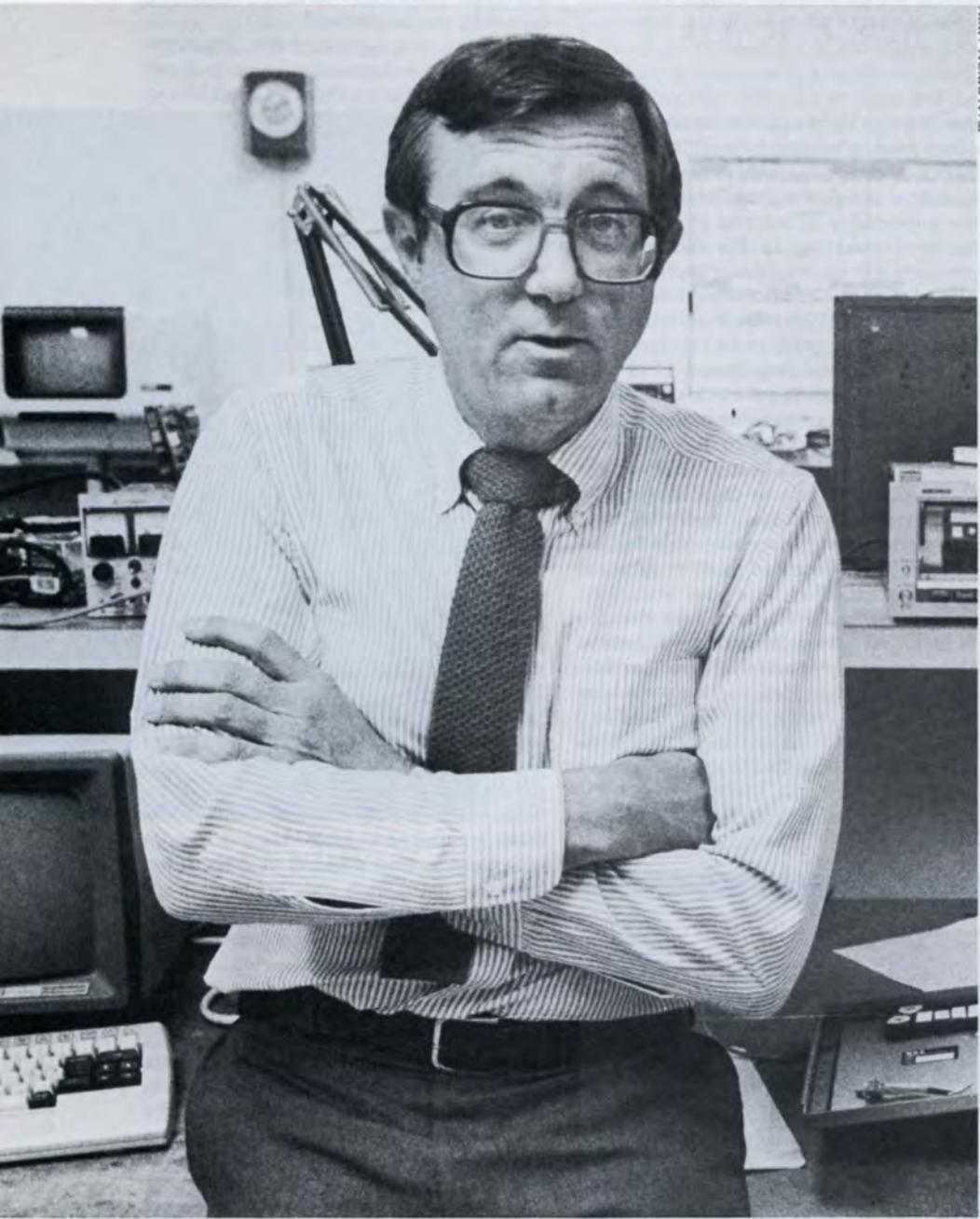
Kleppe is 47 a fourth-generation Nevadan whose great-grandfather hauled timber by wagon from Virginia City to Washoe Valley in the mid-1800s. He has three children and received his bachelor's and master's in electrical engineering from UNR, his doctorate from the University of California at Davis. His specialties are digital systems, telemetry, advanced radar systems, weather modification technology, and acoustic measurement systems.

One of Kleppe's inventions is an acoustic Doppler radar system he developed between 1976 and 1979. It measures inversions, the weather phenomenon in which cooler air rides underneath a blanket of warmer air, trapping pollutants within. Using sound waves launched from the ground—and new signal-processing techniques he developed—Kleppe can measure the inversion's height, its density, and even how the air inside it is moving, which can help determine when the inversion will break up. He can also tell the height of a fog layer, which has attracted the Navy's interest. He has developed sophisticated acoustic sensors that are being used to measure water levels, tides, and snow pack.

Kleppe is working on a system called POPCORN-Meteornet, part of which is being used by oil and gas engineers to help them "see" what's underground. And he recently found yet another use for sound—to measure the heat in a giant 12-story boiler in Valmy Power Plant near Winnemucca. "The question was how do you measure the temperature in a 2,200-degree inferno," he says. "We put a transmitter on one side and a receiver on the other, and by measuring the speed of sound, we could tell the temperature inside." Now his Sparks firm, Scientific Engineering Instruments, is producing the system, called Pyrosonic 2000, for Babcock-Wilcox, the world's largest builder of power plants.

This inventor prefers to be called an innovator. "There's a big difference between invention and innovation," he says. "Inventors hate me to say it, but they're a dime a dozen." The stereotypical inventor "is the guy sitting in the patent office with the robot on his lap." All too often the most important criterion for obtaining a patent is having enough money to pay an attorney's fee, he says. "You'd better have \$5,000 to file."

An innovator, by comparison, takes technology and uses it to benefit society—and himself. "Look at someone who has 100 patents," Kleppe asks. "How many of those ever made a nickel for him? Maybe one. In the complete process, the invention is just the beginning."





JAY ALDRICH

Minden-based Bently Nevada Corporation employs about 1,000 people worldwide; he is quite rich. But his definition of success does not derive its meaning from dollar signs.

"I measure my satisfaction by the fact there wasn't anybody killed in this case," says Bently, referring to the power plant incident. "That's the real profit, the real enjoyment of it, the prevention of severe accidents. Money's just a gauge that we're doing a good job of it."

Bently, a divorced father of one, came to Minden in the early 1960s because of Nevada's two favorable climates—tax and weather. He had received his bachelor's and master's degrees in engineering from Iowa State and did graduate work at UCLA and Berkeley. He has been a lifelong tinkerer. About 30 years ago he patented what's called an Accelerometer. Used in missile and satellite guidance systems to measure acceleration rates, it helps determine an object's location in the vacuum of space.

Work that led to his transducer began inauspiciously. Bently was living in Santa Barbara, California, in the early '50s when, as an amateur archaeologist, he was asked by the curator of the Santa Barbara Museum to develop a device that could locate bones in the ground. He never did invent such a thing—no one has yet, he says—but his work led him to devise a kind of metal detector that not only could detect metallic objects but also determine how far under the ground they were. That was a forerunner of much of his subsequent research.

Since developing his transducer, Bently has done anything but rest on his laurels—or in an easy chair. An avid skier and racquetball player, he also maintains a busy business schedule. Between his duties as chairman and president of his corporation, he formed a research development firm a couple of years ago to study the behavior of mechanical machinery. Last year Bently Nevada sponsored an international symposium in Carson City. It focused on the instability of rotating machinery.

Plainly, Bently is too busy an inventor to bother applying for patents.

"I'm not much for getting pieces of paper with blue ribbons on it from the patent office," he says. "I don't do things for the purpose of inventing things. I do it for the purpose of getting useful things to sell."

Even a man who isn't married to money would agree that you can do more with green pieces of paper than blue ones. □

Donald Bently

GOOD VIBRATIONS

Donald Bently doesn't have the advantage that some inventors have. It's not easy for him to tell people what he's invented, sit back, and wait for the accolades.

"Aren't you the inventor, Don Bently?" someone might ask at a social gathering.

"Why, yes."

"Just what is it you invented?"

"Funny you should ask. I pioneered the development of the first commercially successful eddy current proximity transducer for general purposes."

"Gee, that's impressive."

"Thank you."

"What is it?"

Whoever came up with the Jacuzzi has it so much easier.

But even if the nature of Bently's transducer is somehow lost on the unscientific among us, its importance is clear to those who have used it.

A group of machinery specialists back East is chief among the believers. As

Bently tells it, they were recently trying to determine what was wrong with an expensive engine in a power plant. They used Bently's transducer, which can diagnose ailments in a piece of machinery—including pumps, compressors, gas and steam turbines, gears—while it's operating without taking it apart or even coming in contact with it.

The transducer detected a crack in a rotor, but the power plant people were skeptical.

"They said it wasn't cracked," Bently recalls. When the experts tore the machine apart, they found a severe crack right where Bently said it would be. A missed diagnosis, Bently says, could have amounted to a \$100-million repair bill—not to mention a possible loss of life.

That was an example, he says, of the rewards of his work that transcend material wealth and professional status. Make no mistake. The 61-year-old inventor's

Rob Powers, editor of the Living section of the Las Vegas Review-Journal, uses Cooley's, Mendenhall's, and Dandini's inventions frequently.



THE FIRST OF THE BAD MEN

Before Billy the Kid, before Jesse James, John Wesley Hardin, or Ike Clanton, there was Sam Brown. And Nevada had him.

Sam was the first of the bad men, prototype for every desperado who ever wore a black hat on a Hollywood back lot. He predated all the others by at least 10 years, and that may have been his problem. When Sam was at his peak, the country wasn't quite ready to embrace pathological killers as folk heroes.

Too bad; Sam had all the qualifications. By every account, he was as vicious and murderous as any gunman who ever wore a hog-leg Colt low on his hip. Had his career lasted just another few years, he might have claimed his share of notoriety. But on the night of July 6, 1861, not far

from the town of Genoa, a farmer named Henry Van Sickle ended Brown's life with 12 bits of buckshot at close range.

Brown had come to Nevada in 1859 from California, probably with the first wave of silver-seekers who were attracted by discoveries along what would be known as the Comstock Lode. He had killed before, and often: one man in Texas, another in Mariposa, California, three more in a gambling argument at the California gold camp of Fiddletown, among others. He had served two years in San Quentin.

Having joined the rush to Washoe, Brown found a region that would for several years be chronically violent. One of the first killings of 1859 was of a man known as French Pete, in a Virginia City

saloon, by one Billy Brown (no relation to Sam). A year later, Brown was killed by a deputy sheriff named Jack Williams in a billiard hall in Virginia City. Williams, in turn, was ambushed in Pat Lynch's saloon in 1862.

In January 1860, Isaac Lanier stabbed and killed a man named Henriques at Virginia City. Lanier later died of wounds from a pickax, inflicted by an avenging friend of the victim.

In November 1860, John L. Blackburn shot and killed James Stevenson in Carson City. A year later, Blackburn died when stabbed by William Mayfield.

It was a curious society that flourished in Western Nevada about 1860, a schizophrenic layering of criminal types and industrious, sober-minded men who



ILLUSTRATION BY JOHN BARDWELL

Carson Valley near Genoa. On the property he built a handsome house of grey stone. It sat beside the main highway between Genoa and Placerville, now a byway called Foothill Road, and he ran an inn for the itinerant trade and the locals.

In 1855 he became the first justice of the peace in Carson County. He took a wife and became a fixture of the Carson Valley community. Probably his trade at the inn increased as the hordes swarmed over the Sierra, bound for the Comstock discoveries. It is known that the desperado Sam Brown visited the place often when he traveled between the Genoa area and Virginia City.

Brown literally made his mark soon after he arrived in the Washoe territory. In February of '59 he shot and killed William Bilboa on a street in Carson. In January of '60, he used his Bowie knife to stab and kill Homer Woodruff. The Thompson and West history claimed that Brown was responsible for "many murders" during

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Justice mostly was in the hands of a man's vengeful friends. Brown, therefore, chose his victims carefully: men who had no friends, who were unarmed and probably too drunk to defend themselves.

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1859 and '60, including one of a man known as One-eye Gray.

Early in 1861, Brown attacked a man named McKenzie in a Virginia City saloon. Witnesses reported that Brown stabbed him in the chest, twisted the knife, wiped the bloody blade on his own pants, then laid down on a billiard table and went to sleep.

That he never was punished for the crimes says much about Brown and the territory's justice system.

Brown was fearsome, and was feared. Probably few town police or county sheriffs were willing to arrest him; many lawmen, like the aforementioned Jack Williams, were themselves known killers and thugs.

Even if Brown had been arrested, and even if he had not escaped, it is doubtful that any jury would have convicted him.

Justice mostly was in the hands of a man's vengeful friends. Brown, therefore, chose his victims carefully: men who had no friends, who were unarmed and probably too drunk to defend themselves. That

Sam Brown was known as Nevada's toughest gunman until he picked on the wrong man.

By Phillip Finch

were willing to sweat for their fortune. They existed side by side, even mingled in the saloons and the brothels, yet usually managed to stay distinct from one another.

Sam Brown was a classic of his type. Thompson and West's *History of Nevada* (1881) calls Brown "more dreaded than any other of his class—because of his treachery and utter meanness." The book portrays him swaggering about the saloons of the territory with a pistol and a Bowie knife stuck in his belt, "a brutal monster, with every instinct brutish, wearing the human form." He was heavy-set and red-faced, and he wore spurs on his boots.

Then there was Van Sickle, who in 1854 had claimed land for a ranch in the

was the way he made his reputation. And he might have reaped more of his gunman's glory if he had not one night strayed from his standards.

July 6, 1861, was Brown's 30th birthday. He traveled to Genoa to witness the trial of a friend, probably hoping to intimidate the court. But he found himself intimidated, instead, by attorney Bill Stewart, who was acting as district attorney in the case. Stewart, wielding a pistol, disarmed Brown in the courtroom.

One can only imagine how sullenly Brown must have retrieved his guns after the trial that evening. There would be no revenge against Stewart, who was powerful and popular in Virginia City, and a fighter as well, a brave man. So Brown carried his grudge to Van Sickle's inn. When he saw Van Sickle on the front porch, Brown drew his pistol and fired, unprovoked.

The shots missed Van Sickle. Brown chased him through the dining room and into the kitchen. Van Sickle escaped; Brown rode off toward Carson City.

Now Van Sickle reacted as none of Brown's chosen victims ever had. He decided to resist, to return the fight. He picked up a shotgun, mounted a horse, and chased Brown.

One account says the gun was loaded with birdshot. That may be so, for Brown was blown off his horse, but unhurt, by the blast that Van Sickle leveled at him. Brown missed with two pistol shots and then fled. Van Sickle, his shotgun empty, continued to chase the most notorious outlaw in the territory.

Accounts differ. One has Brown seeking refuge for a time in a nearby house. Another recounts a cross-country chase in the Carson Valley.

At one point a friend caught up with Van Sickle and gave him ammunition. And that night, after several hours of pursuit, Van Sickle surprised Brown.

"I got you," Van Sickle is said to have told Brown, "and I kill you."

And he did. The shotgun blast blew Brown into the dust of the road.

Two days later a coroner's jury handed down its verdict: "Samuel Brown has come to his death from a just dispensation of an all-wise Providence. It served him right."

Van Sickle, having found for himself justice in an unjust world, resumed the life of a farmer and innkeeper. He became one of the first three commissioners of Douglas County and twice was elected county treasurer. Later he was twice elected to the State Assembly.

The stone building that housed the inn he called Van Sickle Station is still standing near Genoa. □

Phillip Finch's latest book is The Reckoning, published by Crown Press in 1984.

Henderson: Nevada's Biggest War Baby

This spring the home of Basic Industries looks back 45 years to celebrate its birth and its postwar survival.

By Marilyn Allen

Henderson is Nevada's youngest city. It came to life 45 years ago when the U.S. government and Basic Magnesium Inc. scraped out a town-site and built a huge magnesium plant midway between Las Vegas and Boulder City. For three years the plant produced magnesium from ore that was trucked down from Gabbs, Nevada, and the metal, used for bombs and airplane parts, proved invaluable to the Allied cause.

On New Year's Day 1944, the community that had been known first as "that place out in the desert" and then as BMI, Basic, Basic Townsite, and sometimes even Roysen (a train siding), received its official name of Henderson, for one-time Nevada U.S. Senator Charles B. Henderson. That November, however, BMI shut down—the demand for magnesium was over—and two-thirds of the residents moved away. Henderson was expected to become a ghost town. But many strong-minded locals and Nevada officials fought for a state buy-out—and won. The plant was sold to new industries, people moved back, and Henderson now is a thriving city of 36,000.

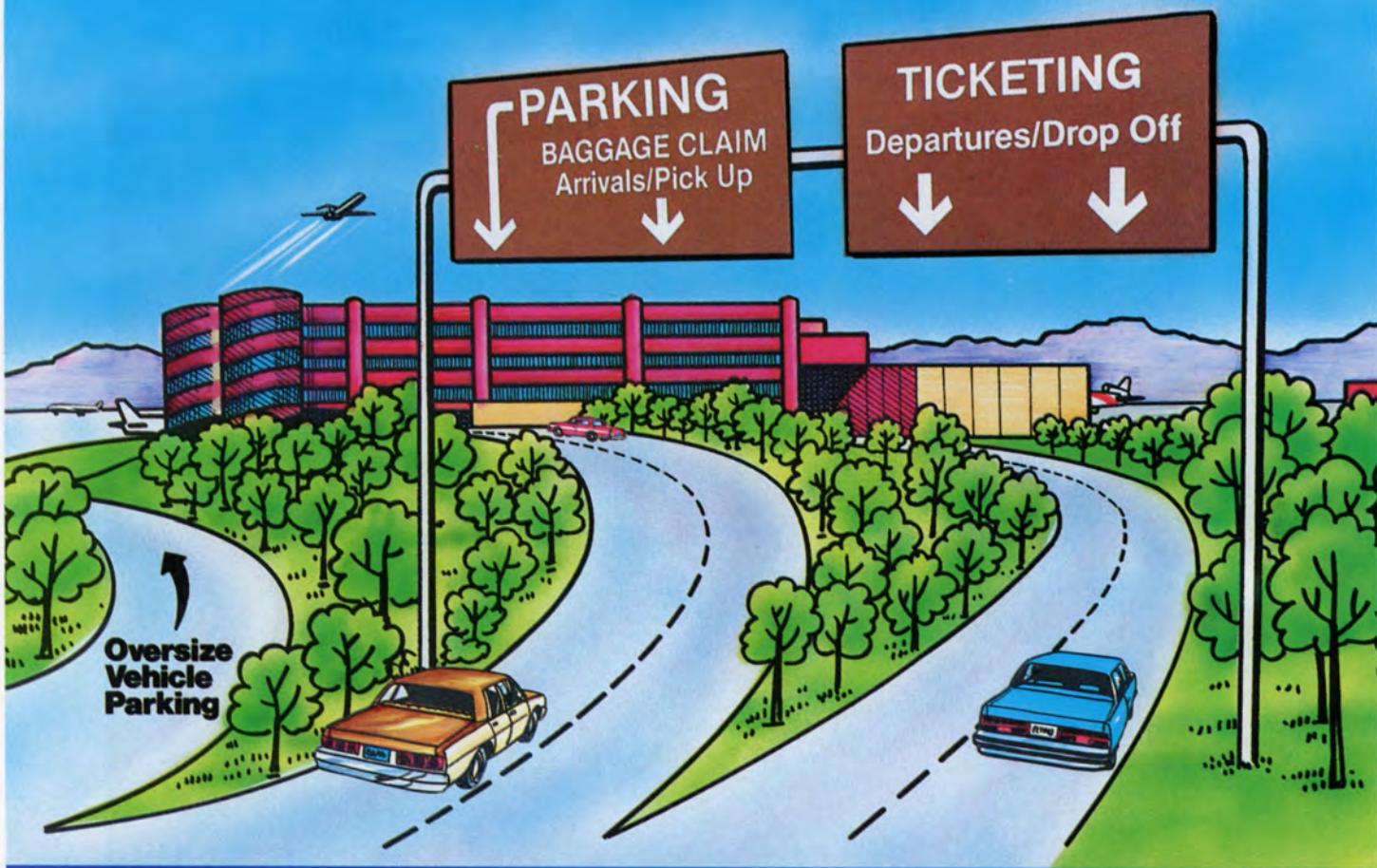
Thirty-five years ago, local citizens decided to celebrate their town's survival. Thus began Henderson Industrial Days. The annual town party will be held April 15-20 with a parade, rodeo, talent show, carnival, and more than a few toasts to Henderson's wartime beginnings.

Marilyn Allen has lived in Henderson for 30 years.



The production of magnesium ingots began with ore being shipped to Henderson from the Central Nevada town of Gabbs. After separating out the magnesium, workers would pour two-ton batches of molten magnesium into ingot molds. The pretty BMI worker talking with the visiting soldier used the tool in her hands to straighten the hot ingots that were carried on a conveyor belt. In the background can be seen stacks of ingots ready for shipment.

Finding your way at McCarran is easy . . . just follow the signs



Keep in mind while approaching the airport that if you want to park your vehicle, stay in the left lanes and follow the sign that says PARKING. Also in these left lanes you will see BAGGAGE CLAIM and ARRIVALS/PICK UP, which is just that, picking up people and their baggage when they arrive in Las Vegas.

Again, while approaching the airport, if you are dropping someone off, stay to the right under the sign that says TICKETING and DEPARTURES/DROP

OFF. Whether your passenger needs ticketing or not, this right lane is where you want to go.

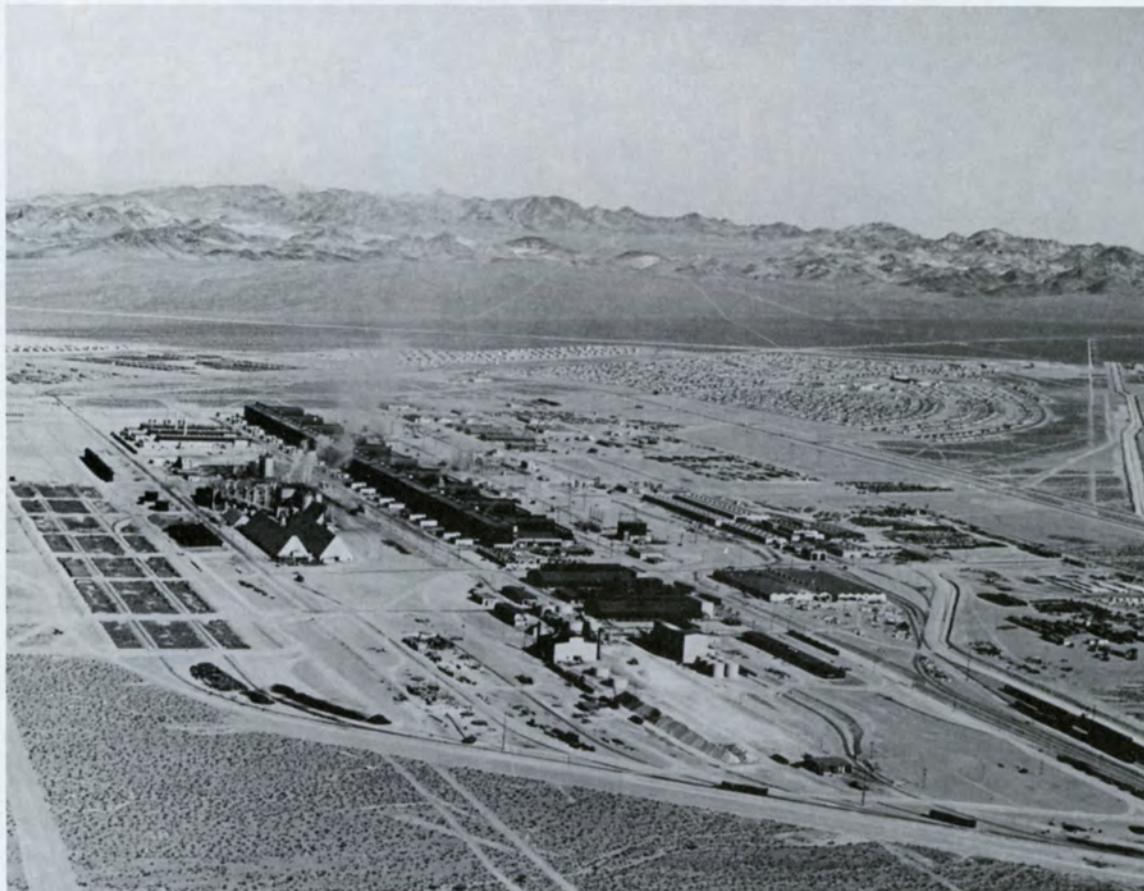
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The Clark County Board of Commissioners

BASIC MAGNESIUM, INC.



PHOTOS: CLARK COUNTY SOUTHERN NEVADA MUSEUM



Army Air Corps personnel visited in 1943 (top) to show workers what the magnesium they manufactured actually did when used in incendiary bombs. One night the flyboys staged a simulated attack using a light plane and a wooden shack. The plane flew over, and a magnesium fire bomb was set off in the shack, resulting in what observers called "an intense blue-green heat." (Bottom) With 13,000 people working at the BMI Plant (foreground), living quarters were scarce. The federal housing is in the background. From upper left to lower right can be seen these early Henderson landmarks: Anderson Camp, Carver Park, Victory Village, Townsite, and the McNeil Construction Company tents and boarding camp. The main business area was in the center of Townsite and in 1943 contained Nevada's largest grocery and market.



Early-day Henderson residents did not lack places of diversion. Richardson's Department Store (top), was a favorite of local shoppers both during and after the war. Many residents also enjoyed the town's small bowling alley and poolroom. Another big attraction was the Victory Theatre. It was open around the clock to provide entertainment for those who worked at the plant, which operated 24 hours a day. A beer bar was located at Anderson Camp, and 10 cents would buy you a glass of beer. If an individual wanted something stronger to drink, he had to go to Las Vegas, Pittman, or Railroad Pass. (Bottom) Only those employed by McNeil Construction Company or the Anderson Catering Company were able to rent a bed in a tent or dormitory in the early '40s. Each tent had a wooden floor and slept five. The dormitories had about 24 rooms with two beds each. Bath houses served all. Meals were served family-style, with 10 people per table in a 300-seat dining hall. Since cohabitation was not allowed, family men had to set up tents or trailers in the desert.



The Carano clan, from left: Don, Rhonda, Gary, Cindy, Gregg, Glenn, and Gene.

All in the Family

By using old-fashioned Italian ingredients, Don Carano, Reno's gambling gourmet, has found his Eldorado.

By Warren Lerude

Look just beyond the glitter of the \$35-million expansion of Don Carano's Eldorado Hotel in Reno and you may find his Uncle Willie. Chances are he'll be in the kitchen, nosing around inside one of those big walk-in refrigerators. There, Uncle Willie will have noticed that a case of apricots is being ignored despite the fact that each one of the little, golden spheres is absolutely at its succulent best and ready, right now, to eat.

So, why aren't the apricots en route to one of the Eldorado's five restaurants, happily tucked away in a freshly baked pie? Why are they just sitting there? Deep within Willie's Italian genes it is known to be an absolute given that if you don't use the apricots exactly when they are perfect, well, it just isn't right. Uncle Willie will have a word to say about that; who hears it simply depends on which other Carano he runs into first.

The final word, however, will be left to his nephew, Don Carano, a tough-minded lawyer who has made a mark in his home

town by using techniques that seem more suited to a comfortable family inn than a growing hotel.

Not that they haven't been successful. In this era of corporate casinos and massive entertainment budgets, Carano has carved a niche in the market by stressing such old-fashioned ingredients as good pasta, fine wine, and close family ties.

The Italian food is very important to Carano. His son Gary says, "He believes that our management people should eat the food to know that it is excellent. He's forever going around with little plates testing sauces." Fine wine also is special to this descendant of Italian immigrants who throws a big Italian Festival every summer. Even the Eldorado's downtown property is, in part, old family land, purchased by Carano's grandfather when Reno had one-tenth its present population and gambling was still illegal.

Fifty-four-year-old Don Carano is principal owner and general manager of the Eldorado. In practice he is also the patri-

arch of a clan that runs its hotel with unabashed family pride and spirit. That spirit, bred into his children as young athletes, calls for competitive excellence, or else.

"Never place second," explains 33-year-old Gary, who backs up his father as assistant general manager. Six-foot-six, lean and looming, the former all-state football and basketball star cracks a smile. A serious smile. He isn't kidding about competitive drive. He's learning from an expert.

Adds 30-year-old brother Glenn, former UNLV and Dallas Cowboys quarterback, now Eldorado sales director, "Dad put the competitive spirit into us growing up. We couldn't stand to lose."

What is it that so motivates Don Carano? With typically quiet understatement he says, "I think you want to do something for yourself and see what you can create."

What Carano has created is an emporium of entertainment that includes

1,000 slots, 50 gambling tables, five bars, five restaurants, 411 rooms, and his own wine label. To manage it all—to oversee the hotel's 1,350 employees and the millions of dollars that flow through it—Carano has put his wife, sons and daughter in key positions.

"We work together, and we have selective expertise," says Carano. Wife Rhonda, 32, his third, is the director of advertising and public relations. She came to the hotel as a management trainee and worked her way up in the business. Next to Don, who opened the hotel with partners 13 years ago, Rhonda has the most time on the job, 11 years.

Besides Gary, the assistant general manager, and Glenn, the sales director, three other Carano siblings help run the place. Thirty-year-old Gene, Glenn's twin, is casino manager. Gregg, 26, is in charge of food and beverage. Cindy, 24, is assistant hotel manager. Also on the premises at any time may be Uncle Willie, a pioneer of the property, and his daughter, Caryl Carano Stringham, who manages the gift shop.

And although the Caranos are clearly in charge, when the management team is assembled, about 20 other people join them at a series of squared-off tables. A third of the supervisors and managers are women, and everyone, rank aside, puts in his or her two bits' worth during these strategy meetings, which are not unlike a lively gathering at the family dinner table.

Visitors to the Eldorado will find the casino suitably dazzling, but the boss' own interests and tastes seem to be most reflected in two eateries: the Vintage, which offers complimentary wine tasting, and La Strada, the Italian specialty house.

Carano, who watches his weight, tries not to drink wine before 5 p.m., but he'll talk about it any time.

"Wine has always been a part of the family," he says. "Being around an Italian family, you never had whiskey on the table, you had wine. In my grandfather's house, he had wine on the table every evening. Sometimes at lunch it was just like drinking a glass of milk. Wine to the Italians is not an alcoholic beverage but is part of a meal."

So is good food. "For both Rhonda and me, food is a pastime. It's our hobby, so to speak—me eating and her cooking," Carano says with a laugh as he walks through an Eldorado kitchen filled with pasta machines he bought in Italy. He chats with the chefs—they're Italian, of course—and checks on the pasta.

The family's strategy is to develop a gourmet cuisine from Old Country recipes, he says. "The Italians who came here were peasants. They didn't come over with any money. They brought their pe-

asant recipes. We're taking those basic recipes and expanding them."

Carano's own Reno-Italian roots were planted by his great-grandfather, Bernardo Ferrari, who left the green hills of Genoa to work as a cook in the brown but silver-rich hills of Virginia City. His daughter, Amelia Ferrari, married Ben Carano; their offspring included sons Louis and Willie—Don's father and uncle—a third son, and a daughter, all proud Genovese Italian-Americans.

Louis Carano worked as a clerk for the Southern Pacific Railroad in Reno, a community of just 18,500 when Don was born on October 17, 1931. He grew up playing sandlot sports in Reno when the biggest rivalry was between the only two high schools in the area, Reno and Sparks. As

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'In my grandfather's house, he had wine on the table every evening. Wine to the Italians is not an alcoholic beverage but is part of a meal.'

”

Don turned 17 his father died, and he and his mother, Millie, moved to San Francisco. There, Don worked his way through the University of San Francisco by parking cars at Union Square.

After two years in the Army, he returned to Reno with no idea about what to do for a living. He tried to talk Lance Morton, owner of the Little Waldorf Saloon, which was located where the Eldorado now stands, into selling him the bar. Failing that, Carano took up insurance sales.

"After I ran out of friends to call, I found I didn't like that," he jokes. "So I decided to go to law school, figuring I'd better get something to keep me in the custom I wanted to be in the rest of my life." He graduated second in a class of 70 at USF, working as a law school librarian to pay for his studies.

It was as a young lawyer in Reno, working with powerful Democratic attorney Bob McDonald, that Carano began to learn the casino business. His clients included Harolds Club and MGM in Reno and, at Lake Tahoe, the Crystal Bay Club and the North Shore Club. The work ranged from labor negotiations to financing; his forte was dealing with gaming officials at licensing time. He also represented the Teamsters Union Pension Fund, which financed several casinos in Las Vegas.

"It gave me an opportunity to sit through a lot of conversations, a lot of planning and management meetings that you would normally not have," he recalls. "In many cases I was not that heavily involved in decision making other than just sitting back and watching and listening and learning."

With partners he developed an interest in both the Pioneer Inn and Boomtown. But in the back of his mind he hoped that one day he and his family might develop a hotel on property they owned on Virginia Street.

The property had been in the family since 1929, when his grandfather, Ben Carano, and George L. Siri bought a 50-foot-wide piece of land a block north of the Reno arch. A few years later Siri bought an adjacent 50-foot parcel. Using that foundation, Don and other members of the family bought more property on the block and set about planning the hotel.

During its planning and construction, Carano also pondered various names, such as the Downtowner. Then he recalled liking the sound of the Eldorado Country Club in Palm Desert, California. He particularly liked the one-word, lowercase-'d' usage and the Spanish meaning of "gold."

So, on May 24, 1973, Carano and partners opened the Eldorado with 282 rooms, a 10,000-square-foot casino, and 200 slot machines. In 1978 another 129 rooms were added. Last year Carano and his longtime partner, architect Jerry Poncia, expanded the casino to 40,000 square feet in a project that eventually will result in 800 rooms and six restaurants.

Standing in his new casino, Carano looks it over with the eye of a proprietor rather than the glint of a gambler.

"I'm not a gambler myself," he explains. He says he relies on the expertise of casino veterans like Al Lazzarone, who spent 30 years at Harolds Club. Carano also sent sons Gary and Gene to old friends in Las Vegas to learn the gambling end of the business.

They learned their lessons. Gary recalls an attempt by a cheater to recruit him when he was dealing one night: "I was working graveyard when this big old cowboy from Texas offered me a deal. After I helped him win \$5,000, we would split the profits after that. I faked getting sick, got off the table, told the shift boss about it. But the cowboy took off. If that happened today," the now more savvy executive observes, "I'd stay at the table and set it up so we could catch him."

When the subject of cheating is brought up around the senior Carano, his demeanor stiffens. "We need to strengthen gaming control," says Carano, who credits Governor Richard Bryan with building a



Out in the kitchen, pasta chef Giuseppe Zappala and pasta taster Don Carano don't leave any loose ends when it comes to linguine.

stronger agency. "We've got to get people just as skilled and smart as the cheaters."

Nor is Carano timid about discussing other issues. He serves on the Reno-Sparks Convention Authority and is an avid supporter of tourist promotion. When plans for cleaning up downtown Reno faltered last year, he brought opponents together and organized a cost-effective plan that won the city's endorsement.

Some in Reno will say Carano is a driving force for community good if it happens to coincide with the good fortune of the Eldorado—thus his involvement in tourism and downtown beautification. Carano himself acknowledges an ego that drives him toward new adventures, and his wife Rhonda allows that he's a bit stubborn.

But if Carano has his detractors, his children are not among them. Says daughter Cindy, the assistant hotel manager, "I think my dad is a man of integrity, and that is what I respect mostly, his morals. The casino business, to me, is something that could go the other way very easily, and I've seen my father as a straight shooter. That's what I respect and that's why I can work there."

Cindy worked at the Eldorado as a kid growing up, and she studied hotel management at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. But after graduation she did not go

to work in the family operation. Instead she went to San Francisco, got a job at the Hyatt, and worked her way up to assistant restaurant manager before the Nevada spirit called her home last fall.

Joining in the family effort is not always an easy task, she says. "Working for the family, there's a lot of personal pressure that comes into it, and you don't relate the same way with a boss as you would with your brothers." Her brother Gary, the assistant general manager, is her boss. "There's a personal link in there and it does make it a lot different. I'm female and I'm more emotional," she says with a laugh. "It hits me in a special spot when my brother's telling me that maybe that decision I made is not the correct one."

The young Caranos keep a close eye on their father, the ever-present perfectionist, knowing he's watching their performance. Gary says, "He's so competitive, he's never satisfied with the status quo. If we're at one level of revenues, no one gets fat, dumb, and happy."

Recently Don Carano got involved in a new but logical venture. Wine, Carano will tell you over a bottle of chardonnay at lunch, is for drinking and enjoying. Now it's also for business. He and Rhonda are putting that last notion to the test at their 60-acre ranch near Sonoma, California, where Carano is making cabernet sauvignon, chardonnay, and other wines. He

has plans for a \$6 million winery that will produce top-quality wines. The label will be Ferrari-Carano, in honor of his forebears.

Carano's premium red table wine won a gold medal last fall at the Sonoma County Harvest Fair, no small accomplishment for a son of the Nevada sagebrush competing with the seasoned vintners of the Golden Bear State.

The wine, of course, ties in with Carano's strategy of building the Eldorado's reputation for fine food. Consider the menu Rhonda developed for a recent dinner for 80 wine merchants, growers, and friends:

*Braesola with Parmesan Cheese
Herb Caviar Crepes and Cheese Straws*

Puff Pastry with Asparagus and Chervil

Basil Ravioli with Chevre, Radicchio and Lobster in a Tomato Cream Sauce

Fillet of Veal with Fiddlehead Ferns and Mushrooms

Intermezzo

Kiwi and Champagne Sorbet

Grilled Bleu Costello with Butter Lettuce Champagne Vinaigrette

*Frozen Lemon Mousse with Raspberry Sauce
Chocolate Grapes*

Stilton Cheese and Fancy Sweets

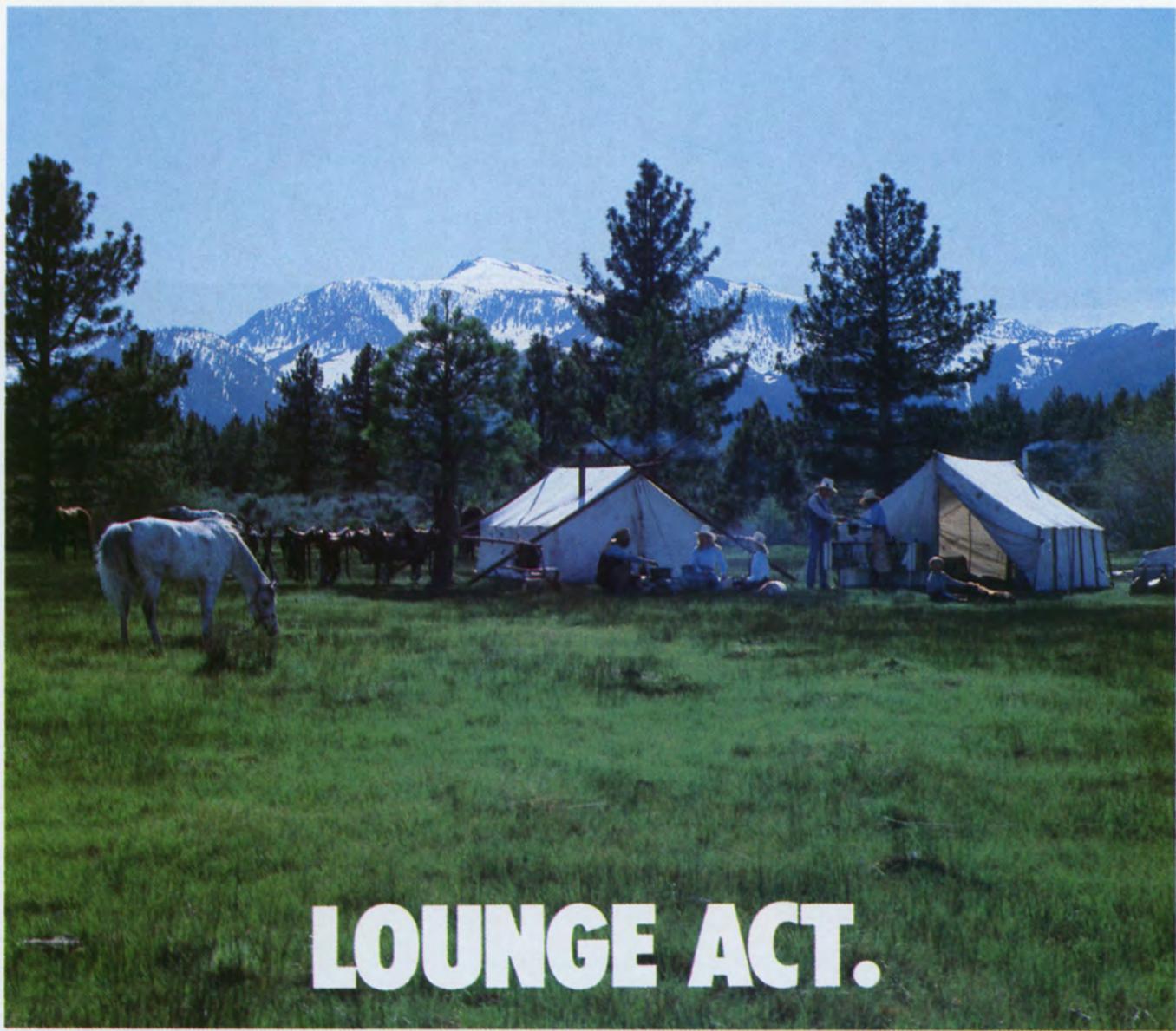
The dinner's success was not unexpected. Rhonda Carano, nee Bevilacqua, learned to cook in her own Reno-Italian home.

Such efforts at the hotel are also praised by folks who can't tell a Riesling from a Ripple. If your name is Snodgrass, the hostess at the Vintage will pass your name on to Hans Mueller, the maitre 'd, and Hans will say, "Good evening, Mr. Snodgrass, it's good to have you with us." It's an old trick but it works. Every time. Hans is sincere and Mr. Snodgrass feels pretty good about it.

Mr. Snodgrass also can feel good that the preparation of his entree has probably passed the scrutiny of a gang of Caranos. On occasion the whole family troops into a special room for an official food-tasting, marking scores for the chefs to note. Uncle Willie is often there, of course, for if the apricots aren't served at the zenith of their succulence, he's going to say something.

And Don Carano, loyal great-grandson of Italy, will make sure something is done about it. □

Pulitzer Prize winner Warren Lerude, professor of journalism at the University of Nevada Reno, is coauthor of American Commander in Spain, a biography of Robert Hale Merriam, leader of the Abraham Lincoln Brigade in the Spanish Civil War, to be published by the University of Nevada Press this spring.



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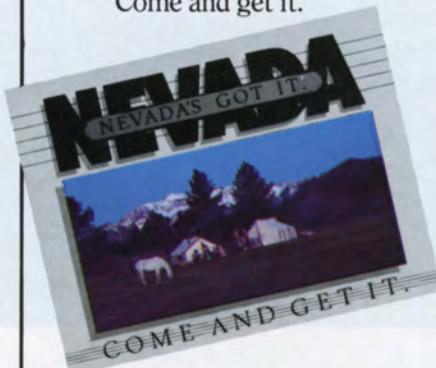
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Nevada's lakes are A-OK with fans of scuba, which stands for self-contained underwater breathing apparatus.



KATE BUTLER

Las Vegas scuba club members are ready to flip for their annual Easter egg hunt.

L A K E M E A D

Scuba Duba

Taking a dive in the lake's liquid space offers the mystique of a moonshot and discoveries as varied as cars and tennis shoes.

By Kate Butler

We launched our boat at Hemenway Harbor and headed for the Boulder Islands, off to investigate the sunken *Tortuga*, a 45-foot Cris Craft cabin cruiser that rested 50 feet under the surface of Lake Mead.

It was a superb summer day. The sky was cloudless; the lake was calm and clear. Because we were starting early, there were few boats on the water and the site we had selected for beaching was available. We cut our motor and glided to shore.

Las Vegas dive instructor Jerry Saldana had warned me about the perils of diving in

old wrecks. He had further bolstered my caution with a ghost story. "It's just possible that the *Tortuga* is haunted," Saldana, who works at Desert Divers, had said. "In fact, when Desert Divers decided to sink it for practice dives, I wasn't sure I wanted to help tow it out there."

According to Saldana, the *Tortuga* had sunk inexplicably six times. Also, security guards at Lake Mead Marina, where the boat had been moored, had reported that they'd heard voices coming from the ship. But when they investigated, they found it empty. Saldana had assured me, "It's well sandbagged and settled on the bottom now, but it seems to shift strangely sometimes when you dive on it."

After standing for a moment in the bright sunlight and thinking of ghost ships, I began helping my husband, Thorne Sr., and my 26-year-old son, Thorne Jr., prepare for the dive. We laid out our gear—wet suits, air tanks, and all the paraphernalia from fins and goggles to weight belts and zipper grease—and began suiting up.

We slipped into the water and snorkeled out into the lake. About 100 feet out, we started down. Immediately I swallowed water. Half choking, I rose quickly to the surface to gulp air. It was an embarrassing moment: I had forgotten to substitute my air regulator for my snorkel. My family watched from below as I

calmed myself and descended to them.

We swam just above the sandy bottom, taking care not to disturb the resting algae. A tiny bluegill darted into the recess of a large rock. Our bubbles rose silently, enlarging into transparent silver spheres which were illuminated by the sunlight that streamed through the water. Just as silently, the stern of the *Tortuga* came into view.

She was shrouded by dim light and floating particles. She was a clean wreck; her hull was undamaged except for the hole that had been cut in the cabin roof so divers could get in safely. We circled the boat before swimming across the stern and into the cabin. Inside were two marine engines, a small refrigerator, and several sandbags. The propeller shaft hinted at the boat's old brass trim.

After poking around for about 30 minutes, we swam back out through the cabin hole. Outside, I looked at the wreck in the dim, murky water and remembered Saldana's ghost story. We heard a boat passing by above us, and I flinched. Suddenly, something seemed to move inside the cabin. My heart beat rapidly; I sucked in air and flashed my camera. The strobe flared and dimmed, but we saw nothing unusual and heard no strange noises.

Our air was diminishing, so we decided to return to the beach. As we ascended, I glanced back down and watched the boat vanish in the dark water. I knew I'd laugh again about spooky boats—as soon as I was back on shore.

Like our trip to the *Tortuga*, scuba diving in Lake Mead and nearby Lake Mohave is often an adventure. Just to float in liquid space carries with it the mystique of a moonshot, and the underwater world is full of wildlife, geologic wonders, and fallen treasures. Fishing lures, boat anchors, and sunglasses are common finds. Divers have also discovered motorcycles, cars, and boats. You may not be able to claim ownership over all that you find, but there's excitement in the discoveries and at times money to be made in raising things to the surface.

"It's fun to be a Lake Mead scavenger," says Dick Hurlbit, dive instructor and part-owner of Dive West and Dive West II. "This is a good lake for finding things because it has year-round use by boaters and fishermen."

About six years ago, a stolen MG that was abandoned in Mead near Las Vegas Wash became a fund-raiser for the Silver Flippers dive club. The sports car had been taken for a joyride and sent wheeling off a cliff by a group of teenagers. With permission from the National Park Service, the Silver Flippers floated the car to the surface by creating makeshift airbags out of 55-gallon drums and then towing it to shore with a rope. They sold the car for \$300 to augment the club treasury.

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A site that continues to profit divers is Monkey Hole on Lake Mohave about four miles south of Willow Beach. A popular spot with bass fishermen, the hole is an equipment trap because of twisted tree roots and rocks that lie beneath the surface. Divers can collect anchors and fishing equipment there, especially in the winter months when water visibility improves.

For pure interest, there is a cove in Las Vegas Wash, locally called Tennis Shoe Graveyard, which is filled with hundreds of sneakers lost by teenaged cliff divers.

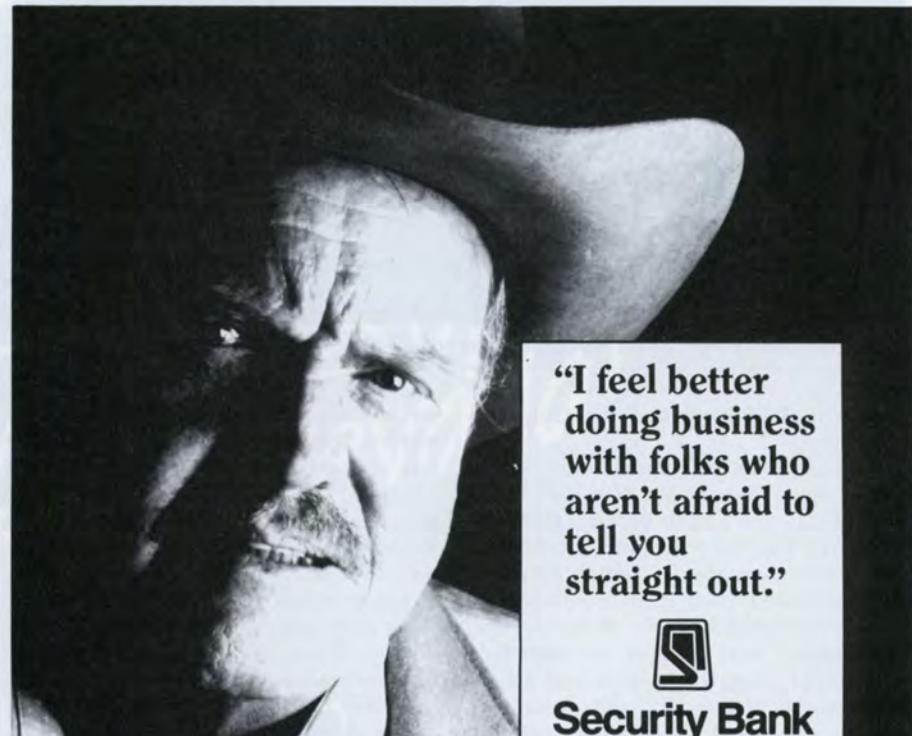
Besides such treasures, Mead and Mohave abound with freshwater life. Along with fish and algae, there are Oriental freshwater clams, a Lake Mead delicacy. They are about the size of half-dollars, brownish in color, and often open, with their inner shells partly visible. Gourmet clam eaters say you can find them around Las Vegas Wash, but most people prefer the ones that thrive in cleaner water in the Virgin Basin. A careful wildlife observer may also find eel grass, sponges, freshwater jellyfish, and soft-shelled turtles.

Dr. Larry Paulson, director of the Lake Mead Limnology Research Center at UNLV suggests several underwater wildlife sites. At Arizona Bay in Lake Mohave, razorback suckers spawn in three feet of water. The walls of Boulder Canyon and Black Canyon are alive with algae. During spring and early summer, in many Mead and Mohave coves largemouth bass build nests and guard their eggs or schools of fry.

Paulson asks divers to respect the fish and their habitats, and points out that razorbacks are an endangered species. Striped bass and carp are not, however, and are the only varieties of fish that can be caught spearfishing. As with above-water fishing, a Nevada license and Arizona stamp are required.

Although sport divers can spearfish year-round, most activities change with the seasons. Gathering clams and observing nest building are possible only in the warmer months. In summer, when water temperatures range from 70 to 85 degrees, you don't need a wet suit above 30 feet. In winter, wet suits, hoods, and gloves are needed. When you dive in Lake Mohave below Hoover Dam, full suits are a necessity throughout the year. Even though summer air temperatures bouncing off the canyon walls may be blisteringly hot, the water that spills out of the bottom of Lake Mead is frigid.

Visibility is best from October through April, when it ranges between 20 and 50 feet depending on location and depth. In summer, you can see only up to about 30 feet. Mead's Virgin Basin usually has clearer water than the Boulder Basin, while there is good visibility year-round.



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ARCHIE HAUGEN

They say the Tortuga, now a diving site, always did have a hard time staying afloat.

in parts of Mohave and the Colorado River.

For experienced divers, one of the most popular spots is Wishing Well Cove east of Callville Bay in Boulder Canyon. The cove has steep dropoffs, caves, privacy, and clear water. Ringbolt Rapids below Hoover Dam is an exciting drift dive for advanced divers. A buddy line and surface boat support are essential. Also in Mohave, about four and a half miles south of the dam, rests a sunken barge once used for repair work on Hoover's spillway tunnel. The current is moderately swift, but the visibility is good. Treasure hunters should note that the barge is protected by the Antiquities Act.

Close to the Boulder Islands near the *Tortuga*, a second Cris Craft named the *Cold Duck* was recently submerged for exploration and practice in underwater compass navigation. This boat rests at 35 feet and is a good adventure for the less experienced but supervised diver.

Nearby the ruins of an old Hoover Dam batch plant, where asphalt was made

for roads, offers an interesting dip into history. This dive requires a plunge of 100 feet and should be undertaken only by advanced divers. Like most of the better dive spots in the Lake Mead National Recreation Area, this one is accessible only by boat.

Many Mead scuba enthusiasts wish there were more good shore locations for diving. There is often heavy use of beaches reached easily by road, and as yet there are no boat charters that can help divers get to lesser-used shorelines.

Of course, one of the best ways to dive in Mead or Mohave is to join a club (see sidebar) and let the experts guide you to sunken treasure. They know the best places to go, and group outings are social, if soggy, affairs. Besides, there's safety in numbers—just in case you run into any spirited shipwrecks. □

Freelancer Kate Butler has lived in Las Vegas for 19 years. She's a swimmer, sailor, water-skier, and certified Lake Mead diver.

Tahoe and Soda Underwater

Lake Mead and Lake Mohave aren't the only places in Nevada where you can get your flippers wet. To the north, there are other lakes with their own underwater wonders.

Lake Tahoe is renowned for its alpine clarity. Because it is a deep lake—1,645 feet down at one point—such treasures as sunken boats are out of reach. Fishing lures and flotsam abound at places like Cave Rock on the southeast shore and Carnelian Bay on the north, but divers must be wary of speedboats and anglers. Carnelian Bay is a favorite diving spot at night, when you can see hungry trout stalk swarms of crayfish that come out of hiding to scavenge for food.

Rubicon Point on the west shore is a geologic wonder. Rising 600 feet above the lake, it plunges straight down nearly 1,400 feet below the surface, giving experienced deep divers something to hold onto when they take their plunges.

Tahoe is cold, and high, and divers must

seek instruction on high-altitude diving from experts.

Pyramid, Walker, and Topaz lakes are great for fishing and boating, but most divers avoid their murky waters because of poor visibility. Soda Lake near Fallon, however, offers one of the state's most intriguing dives. The lake is small, less than half a square mile, but its water covers an abandoned soda factory and the frame buildings, silos, train cars, and heavy equipment create a paradise for explorers.

For instruction, equipment, and site tips in Western Nevada, there are several dive shops that will gladly help. The Outdoorsman has stores in Carson City (702-883-2755), Incline Village (831-0446), and South Lake Tahoe (916-541-1660). In Reno contact Mountain Lakes Diving Center (825-2147). There also is a dive club in Reno, the Reno Area Interested Divers (RAID). Their number is 329-0206.—Jim Crandall

The Scoop on Vegas Scuba

To learn to dive or refine your scuba skills, you can check out the Las Vegas YMCA's dive courses and Clark County's five dive shops, which offer scuba training, equipment, and supplies. Bubble Blowers (702-796-6969), Catalina Discovery (385-4884), and Desert Divers (438-1000) are located in Las Vegas; Dive West (459-DIVE) is in North Las Vegas; and Dive West II (564-DIVE) is in Henderson.

Catalina Discovery has special training packages that include diving at its Catalina Island facility off the California coast, and all shops schedule oceanic trips.

The area also has two local dive clubs, the Knight Divers and the Silver Flippers. These clubs have monthly in-town meetings as well as outings in the Lake Mead area. Annual events include underwater pumpkin-cutting contests, Easter egg hunts, ecology dives, houseboat trips, and spear-fishing contests. The dive shops have information on the clubs.

Be sure to pick up a copy of the scuba diving guide for the Lake Mead area,



KATE BUTLER

Dawn Gordon shows off her prize from the Silver Flippers' Easter dive at Pumphouse Cove near Lake Mead Marina.

which was prepared by Dave McLean, the regional dive officer for the National Park Service dive teams. The guide lists several species of aquatic life, regulations, restricted areas, potential hazards, and preferred dive sites. For a copy, write the Lake Mead National Recreation Area, 601 Nevada Highway, Boulder City, NV 89005. The guide will help you enjoy the underwater world of Southern Nevada.—KB

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Nevada Notes

Keeping an eye on Goldfield, Lake Tahoe, and Yerington.

By Jim Crandall



Do You Spell That 'New York'?

When Seagram's V.O. placed an ad in *Sports Illustrated*, *People*, and other publications that featured cowboys Steve Wade (left) and Ernest Paine on the Flying M Ranch near Yerington, the folks around town were ecstatic—until they read the fine print. In the ad Seagram's had committed the ultimate blasphemy. They had spelled Yerington "Yarrington."

Mayor Tom Grady dashed off a friendly letter of complaint to the New York advertising agency of Ogilvy and Mather, and the ad was fixed. But Seagram's V.O. brand manager Rich McCarthy took things a step further, as the folks in Yerington

soon discovered. Jim Sanford, editor of the *Mason Valley News*, says, "When we got a call from a New York ad agency to schedule a doubletruck (two page) ad, we couldn't figure out why they'd want to do that. But when we got the ad in the mail, we understood."

The left-hand page featured the erroneous ad with an asterisk next to Yarrington. The explanation appeared on the right-hand page.

Scrawled across the page like a child's blackboard assignment was the message, "We apologize for misspelling Yerington," written 21 times.

No More Stateline

Last November the Douglas County Commissioners voted to change the name of Stateline to Lake Tahoe, Nevada, in an effort to attract more tourists.

However, the name change requires the official stamp of approval of the U.S. post office. Although the commissioners are said to have sent a letter to Postmaster Bill Stockton, who oversees the Stateline P.O., Stockton says he never got it. "There is no such place as Lake Tahoe, Nevada," he says, adding that name changes are usually done in Washington, D.C. "It's the kind of thing that could go on forever."

Douglas County Deputy Clerk Bonnie Cribbs confirms that the letter was sent to Stockton. Could be that the letter—and the name change—are lost in the mail, or maybe stuck in Stateline, Nebraska.

The Eyeful Tower

If you're paranoid, don't go to Goldfield. The side of the town's old bank has been peeled back as if by giant alien hands to reveal a green eye as big as a bad dream. "It's looking at you everywhere you go," says Virginia Ridgway of Goldfield's Glory-hole antique shop. "It seems to follow you to the post office, the courthouse, wherever."

A non-paranoid, Ridgway says she loves the eye. "It stops tourists, and that brings money to town."

The eye actually was a backdrop for a scene in the sci-fi movie *Cherry 2000*. Due to be released in July, the movie used the rustic mining camp of 600 for a space-age showdown. When film crews left town, the eye remained.

Stanley Skiba, who owns the building, says he plans to make the eye a permanent Goldfield fixture. "I can't tell how to preserve the particle board it's painted on, or even how they attached it to the building, but we'll figure something out."

The rest of the town is split down the middle on the eye issue. "Half like it, half don't. But it gives us something new to bicker over," Ridgway says with a laugh.



Plant of the Century

When Gil Glenn's century plant grew like Jack's beanstalk last spring, the Boulder City resident couldn't believe it. "I was dumbfounded," Glenn says. "It grew two feet a day until it was as high as the power poles on Monterey Drive."

Glenn says the 12-year-old plant's yearly growth is usually only a few inches; great heights are reached perhaps once every 20 years. He doesn't expect a repeat performance this spring but says a new plant has sprouted near the old one.



BILL HARBOUR



The Long, Hot Limo

The Villa Roma Wedding Chapel on Convention Center Drive in Las Vegas is stretching things a bit. Its \$200 wedding package includes not only photos, flowers, and vows, but also a champagne cruise down the Strip in a 32-foot stretch limo that comes complete with an open-air hot tub.

"Nine out of 10 couples wind up riding in the hot tub when we cruise the Strip in summer," says chapel owner Ted Buban. "Some wear swim suits, but a lot of them go in wedding gowns and tuxedos."

Besides the hot tub, the limo's interior is a marvel of decadence. Red velvet caresses passengers in the lounge, while a bartender attends to the bubbly. A color

TV offers video abstractions, while two stereos—one in the lounge, one in the velvet rumble seat—can play anything from Beethoven to the wedding march. The limo has appeared on *Lifestyles of the Rich and Famous*, on *Knight Rider*, and in the *National Enquirer*.

When Buban bought the limo, a modified 1978 Lincoln, from a California owner, it already had been stretched twice. He ordered a complete renovation, beefing up the drive train and frame and redecorating the interior. "If anyone wants to know how to build a hot-tub limo," Buban says, "I'm the guy to talk to." □

Jim Crandall is Feature Editor of Nevada.

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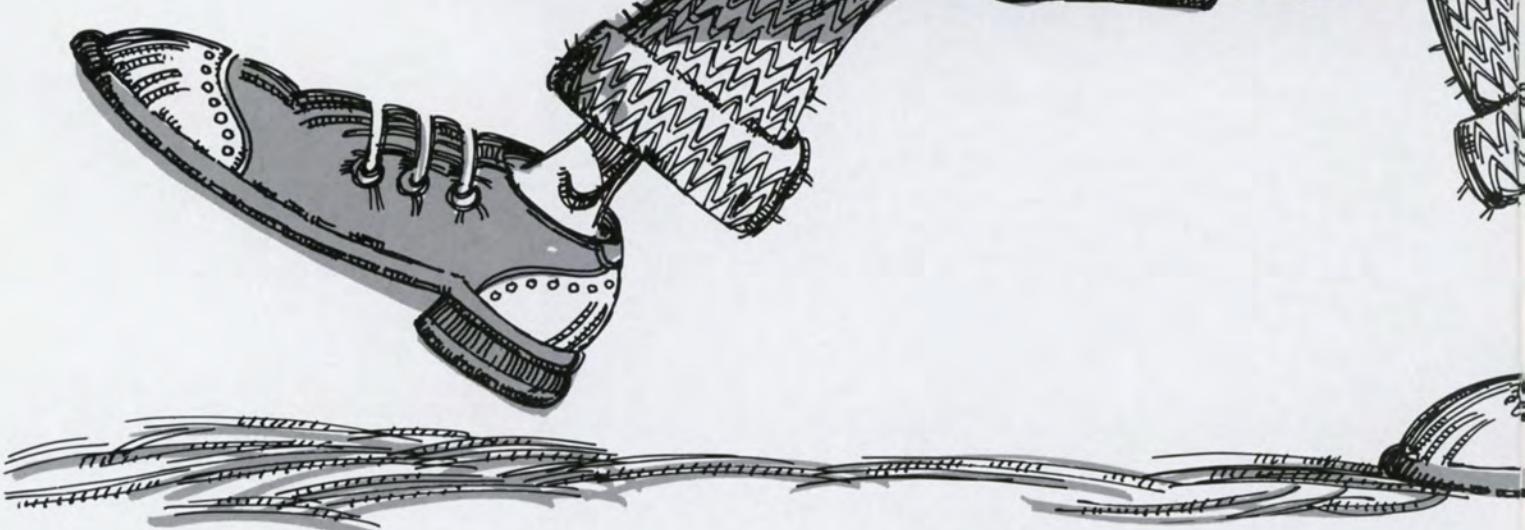


Muench's Gallery

David Muench visits Yucca Country.

Each spring the Mojave yucca blooms like a desert sundae as a rich scoop of vanilla-colored petals appears above a cradle of green leaves. In this view toward the Sheep Mountains north of Las Vegas, other plants, such as the creosote bush and the up-reaching Joshua tree, populate the same gravel beds, but the yucca demands a closer look whenever it shows off its spring finery

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.



Fourth Annual Pamper, Spoil, and Generally Indulge Yourself Roundup



Meet Me in Las Vegas...

and Reno, Lake Tahoe, and the cow counties, because Nevada's 1986 hotel getaway guide is packed with fantastic vacation bargains. Bags aweigh!

By Belle Hoppe

The first sign of joy for some Nevada vacationers comes not when they shout gleefully at the craps table or smile at the scent of freshly-mowed grass on the first tee. Instead the moment usually comes when they check into their hotel and rediscover, with scenes of extra mad money dancing in their heads, what a great deal they have found.

Those great deals—vacation packages as your travel agent calls them—are the subject of this fourth annual Pamper, Spoil, and Generally Indulge Yourself Roundup, a compendium of low rates and high times available at Silver State resorts this year.

The packages are designed to lure casino-goers, of course, but enticements go beyond the proverbial pocketful of nickels. As a guest you are offered shows, meals, shrimp cocktails, real cocktails, fun books stuffed with coupons, tennis and bowling, discounts at championship golf courses, T-shirts, and workout and steam-bath privileges at hotel spas. Some places even cover your tips.

When inquiring about a package, be sure to learn the details. There may be new inducements added. As noted in the

listing, some deals do not apply on weekends and holidays while others are available then at the same or a slightly higher rate. Hotels often require pre-payment for the package deals, most of which are for three days and two nights (3D/2N) and for ages 21 and over. Also, prices are based on two people to a room.

So make reservations early by yourself or through a travel agent. If you're flying into town, ask if the hotel has a shuttle service from the airport; many of them do.

Then, after you've tipped the bellman (although often gratuities are part of the bargain) and unpacked your bags, you can head leisurely down to the baccarat table or tennis court, knowing everything is taken care of. And that's a good deal, too.

Las Vegas

Caesars Palace 731-7222, "Roman Holiday," 3D/2N, through 1986, ticket to Omnimax Theatre, 2 cocktails, tennis, keno ticket, bellman service; Sun.-Thurs. includes a show, \$111.11/person, Fri.-Sat. includes a show or dinner, \$135.95/person.

California Hotel—385-1222, "IT Package," 3D/2N, through 1986, 2 breakfasts,

ILLUSTRATIONS BY JOHN BARDWELL

lunch, prime rib dinner, cocktails, tips, \$54.95/person.

Castaways — 731-5252, "Vacation Sports Book Package," 3D/2N, through 1986, lounge show, 2 dinners, cocktails, gaming coupons, \$65.33/person Sun.-Thurs., \$69.61/person Fri.-Sat.

Circus Circus — 734-0410, "Circus Caravan," 3D/2N, through 1986, Sun.-Thurs., 2 breakfasts, buffet brunch and dinner, fun book, bellman gratuities, \$45.95/person.

Dunes 737-4110, "Oasis Holiday," 3D/2N, through Dec. 23 except holiday weekends, no Sat. check-ins, breakfast, dinner or a cocktail show with 2 drinks,

special golf rates at Dunes Country Club, \$65/person Sun.-Thurs., \$85/person Fri.-Sat.

Flamingo Hilton — 733-3111, "Flamingo Fling," 3D/2N, through 1986 except major holidays, "City Lights" cocktail show, breakfast, dinner, 2 cocktails, bellman tips on arrival; \$63/person. Also "Honeymoon Package," 3D/2N, good through 1986, breakfast in bed, "City Lights" cocktail show, bottle of champagne, \$106.80/couple.

Fremont — 385-3232, "Ruff Rider," 3D/2N, through 1986 except holidays, no Sat. arrivals, 2 breakfasts, lunch, dinner, cocktails, fun book, tips, \$49/person.

Golden Nugget — 385-7111, "Golden Getaway," 3D/2N, through 1986 except major holidays, buffet dinner, use of health spa, keno ticket, Golden Nugget T-shirt, \$66.30/person.

Hacienda 739-8911, "Champagne Fiesta Package," 3D/2N, through Nov. 30, cocktail show, buffet breakfast, buffet dinner, 2 cocktails, discount tickets to Wet 'n Wild, 2-for-1 green fees at Black Mountain Country Club, tennis, bellman tips, fun book, \$49.86/person.

Holiday Casino/Holiday Inn — 369-5000, "Blackjack Special," 2 to 4 nights, through 1986, cocktail show, 2 cocktails, \$21/person/night.

Imperial Palace — 731-3311, "Imperial Holiday," 3D/2N, through 1986 except holidays, Sun.-Thurs., \$5 dinner discount, \$5 cocktail show discount, Auto Collection admission, welcome cocktail, tips, \$39/person.

Lady Luck — 384-4680, "Winner's Holiday," 3D/2N, through 1986, Sun.-Thurs. except holidays, food discounts, free long-distance phone call, cocktails, gaming coupons, \$24.95/person.

Landmark — 733-1121, "Grand Slam," 3D/2N, through 1986, cocktail show, 2 buffet breakfasts, cocktails, fun book, bellman tips, \$49.77/person.

Las Vegas Inn — 731-3222, "Las Vegas Inn Getaway," 3D/2N, through 1986 except holidays, cocktail show, breakfast, cocktails, tips, \$39.95/person. Also "Summer Fling," 3D/2N, May 1-Oct 15 except holidays, cocktail show, breakfast, cocktails, tickets to Wet 'n Wild, \$49.95/person.

MGM Grand 739-4591, "Grand Choice Entertainment Package," 3D/2N, through 1986 except holidays, cocktail show, lounge show, cocktails, MGM movie theater admission, \$109/person.

Marina — 739-1500, "Marina Voyage," 3D/2N, through 1986, 2 breakfasts, prime rib dinner, fun book, bellman gratuities, \$65/person.

Maxim — 731-4411, "Toast of the Town," 3D/2N, through 1986, no Sat. arrivals, cocktail show, breakfast, prime rib dinner, cocktails, \$76/person.

Mint — 385-7440, "Las Vegas Excitement Holiday," 3D/2N, through Dec. 24, lounge show, prime rib or N.Y. steak dinner, cocktails, fun book, tips, \$48.95/person.

Riviera — 734-5411, "Celebration Package," 3D/2N, through 1986, cocktail show, 2 buffet breakfasts, 2 cocktails, \$79/person. Also "Showtime Package," 3D/2N, through 1986, show with 2 cocktails, gourmet buffet, 1 day of unlimited cocktails, tips, \$39/person.

Royal — 733-4000, "Royal Gamblers Special," 3D/2N, through April 30, Mon.-Wed., breakfast two days, prime rib dinner, cocktails, \$25 gaming money, \$49.95/person.

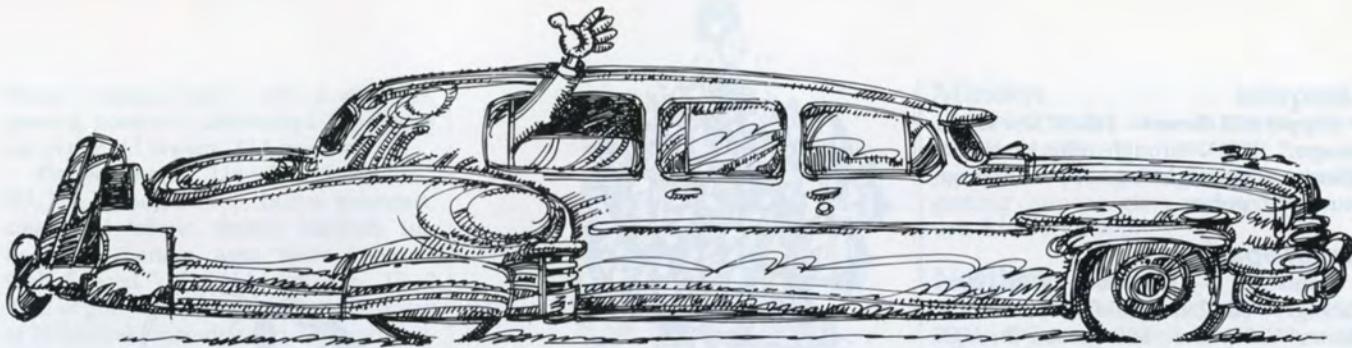
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Sahara—737-2424, "Sahara Safari Package," 3D/2N, through Dec. 27 dinner, cocktails, fun book, discount tickets to Wet 'n Wild, tips, \$64/person Sun.-Wed. arrivals, \$88/person Thurs.-Fri. arrivals.

Sam's Town—456-7777 "Wagon Train Package," 3D/2N, through 1986, no Sat. arrivals, 2 breakfasts, lunch, steak dinner, 2 cocktails, tips, \$54.95/person.

Sands—733-5200, "Funbreak Vacation," 3D/2N, through Dec. 28, breakfast, 2 hours tennis, 2 visits to health spa, discounts on gift shop, beauty shop, and auto rental, tips, \$65/person. Also "Gourmet Dinner Vacation," 3D/2N, through Dec. 28, gourmet dinner, 2 visits to health spa, 2 hours tennis, tips, \$86/person.

Showboat—385-9164, "Super Sports Package," 3D/2N, through 1986, round of golf including cart, tennis, 2 lanes free bowling, breakfast or buffet lunch, buffet dinner, cocktail, tips, \$69.99/person. Also

Dialing for Reservations

You can make reservations for Nevada hotel packages through a travel agent or by calling directly to the hotel desk. The area code is 702 throughout Nevada. Also, many hotels have toll-free numbers; call 800-555-1212 for that information.

"Showboat Excursion Package," 3D/2N, through 1986, dinner, 3 games of bingo, \$49/person. Also "Showboat American Bowling Congress," 3D/2N, through June 30, buffet lunch, buffet dinner, 3 cocktails, 4 games of bowling, tips, \$51/person.

Stardust—732-6441, "Show Package," 3D/2N, through 1986, cocktail show, buffet dinner, cocktails, tips, \$56.90/person.

Sundance—382-6111, "Super Holiday," 3D/2N, through 1986, buffet breakfast, cocktail, tips, \$42/person.

Tropicana—739-2645, "Tropicana

Tropics," 3D/2N, through Dec. 28, except holidays, "Folies Bergere" cocktail show, buffet breakfast and dinner, cocktail, gaming book, special rates for golf course and health spa, tips, \$49.95/person Sun.-Thurs., \$59.95/person Fri.-Sat.

Union Plaza—386-2444, "Plaza Playtime Package," through 1986, dinner show, lounge show, shrimp cocktail, souvenir, cocktails, \$69.95/person.

Laughlin

Riverside—298-2535, "Riverside Getaway," 3D/2N, through 1986, Sun.-Thurs. except holidays, 2 buffet breakfasts, 2 buffet dinners, cocktails, gaming coupons, \$48/person.

Sam's Town Gold River—798-2242, 3D/2N, through 1986, Sun.-Thurs. except holidays, 2 breakfasts, 2 lunches, and prime rib dinner, 2 cocktails, casino coupons, \$39/person

(Continued)



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Mesquite

Peppermill Resort—346-5232, "Great Escape," 3D/2N through 1986, breakfast, dinner, cocktails, gaming coupons, lounge show, \$32/person.

Reno/Sparks

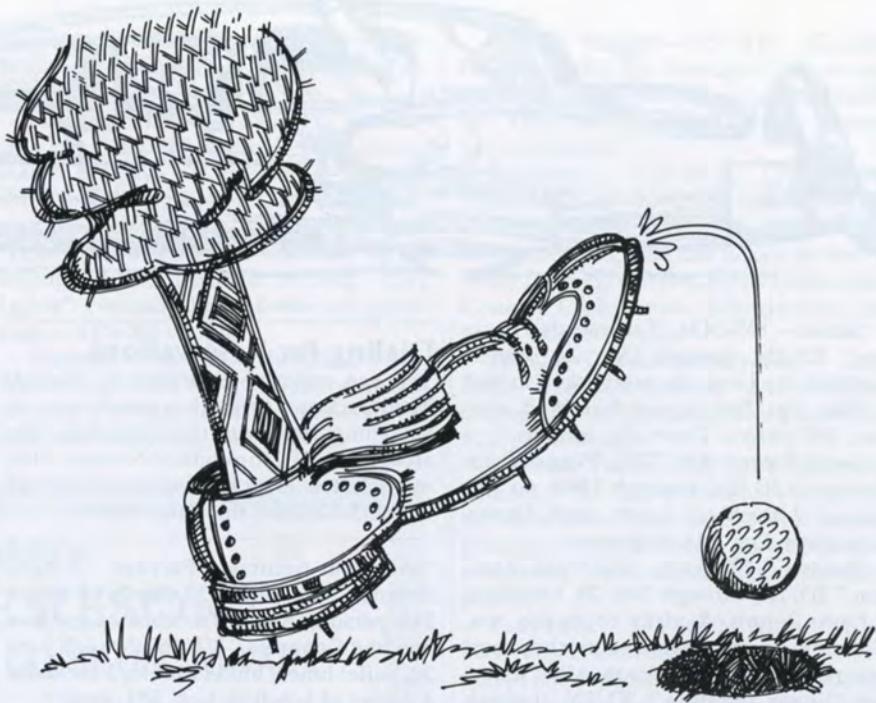
Comstock—329-1880, "Wild West Package," 3D/2N, breakfast, N.Y. steak dinner, VIP packet, \$39/person through July 3 and Nov. 16-Dec. 31, \$49/person July 4-Nov. 15.

Eldorado—786-5700, "Go For The Gold," 3D/2N, through 1986, Sun.-Thurs. except holidays, 2 buffet breakfasts, cocktails, gaming coupons, glass of wine, 2 lucky bucks, 2 keno credits, 2-for-1 shrimp, discount in gift shop, \$47/person March 1-31, \$57/person April 1-July 10.

Harrah's Reno—329-4422, "Ski Connection," 3D/2N, through April, Sun.-Wed. except holidays, lounge show, buffet breakfast, cocktails, fun book, interchangeable lift ticket valid at nine ski areas, tips, \$125/person.

Holiday—329-0411, "Holiday For Two," 3D/2N, through Dec. 29, breakfast, prime rib dinner, 3 cocktails, gaming coupons, \$58/person.

John Ascuaga's Nugget—356-3355, "Showcase," 3D/2N, through May 31, cocktail show, dinner, cocktails, admission and tour of the William F. Harrah Auto Museum, \$69/person.



MGM Grand—789-2129, "Grand Escape Package," 3D/2N, through 1986, "Hello Hollywood Hello" dinner show, keno ticket, cocktail, tips, \$91/person. Also "Grand Getaway," 3D/2N, Sun.-Thurs., dinner show, \$77/person.

Onslow—786-7310, "Super Fun

Spree," 3D/2N, through 1986 except holidays, 2 breakfasts, \$3.50 credit towards lunch, prime rib dinner, 2 cocktails, 15% discount in gift shop, gaming coupons, \$59.50/person.

Peppermill—826-2121, "Ski 'n Stay With Us," 2D/1N, through April 3, Sun.

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Pioneer Inn — 329-9781, "Playtime," 3D/2N, through 1986, buffet breakfast, steak and lobster dinner, cocktail, fun book, \$44/person. Also "Reno Summer Golf Special," 3D/2N, April-Nov. 15, 2 days of golf with 1 day at Lakeridge, 1 day at Wildcreek, includes cart and golf souvenir, \$93/person if golfer, \$32.10 if non-golfer.

Riverside — 786-4400, "Reno Round-Up," 3D/2N, through 1986, 2 breakfasts and 2 shrimp and steak dinners, 3 cocktails, gaming coupons, \$35/person.

Sands Regent — 348-2200, "Super Tour," 3D/2N, 2 breakfasts, 2 dinners, fun books, \$10 gaming chips, health club visit, \$59/person, add \$20 per room Sat.

Lake Tahoe

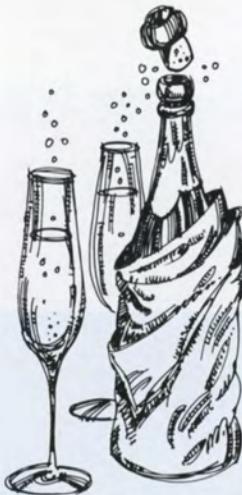
Caesars Tahoe 588-3515, "Majestic Holiday," 3D/2N, through 1986, Sun.-Wed., buffet dinner, cocktails, use of health spa, \$139/person except \$155/person June 15-Sept. 13 and Dec. 14-31.

Del Webb's High Sierra — 588-6211, "High Sierra Round-Up," 3D/2N, lounge show, 2 cocktails, coupon book, \$5 food credit. Through May 29 Sun.-Thurs. \$79/person and \$10 cash back bonus; from June 1-Sept. 21 \$99/person; from Sept. 22-Dec. 31 \$79/person. Also "Happy

Hop," 3D/2N, through June 30, Sun.-Thurs., \$99/person when flying AirCal from San Francisco or San Jose, \$129/person when flying AirCal from LAX and Orange County.

Harrah's Tahoe 588-6611, "Season Sampler," 3D/2N, through Dec. 17 Sun.-Wed. except major holidays, cocktail show, breakfast, health club visit, tips, \$119/person through June, \$144/person July through Aug.

Harvey's Resort — 588-2411, "Holiday At Harveys," 3D/2N, Sun.-Thurs. except holidays through Sept. 30, advanced reservations required, \$20 restaurant credit, cocktails, gaming coupons, \$78/person. Also a second 2D/1N package avail. for \$42/person.



Minden

Carson Valley Inn — 782-9711, "Carson Valley Inn-Vite," 3D/2N, through June 30, breakfast and dinner, cocktails, gaming coupons, glass enclosed hot spas use, \$39.50/person.

Northern Nevada

Cactus Pete's Resort, Jackpot — 755-2321, "Winning Style," 2D/1N, through April, Sun.-Thurs. except holidays, \$10 off dinner show, gaming coupons, \$19.95/person.

Red Lion Inn, Elko — 738-2111, "Drive Out," three nights maximum, through 1986, cocktails, gaming coupons, \$19/person weekday, \$25/person weekends.

Stockmen's, Elko — 738-5141, "Fun Package," 2D/1N, space available, through May, continental breakfast, cocktails, gaming coupons, \$14.95/person.

Nevada Crossing, Wendover — 664-4000, "SuperBook Package," 2D/1N, Sun.-Fri. except holidays, breakfast, cocktails, lounge show, \$5 food credit, gaming coupons, \$15/person.

Casino West, Yerington — 463-3144, "Winter Wonder Weekend," 3D/2N, weekends only through March, breakfast, dinner buffet, \$12.50 person. □

Renowned hotel bargain sleuth Belle Hoppe modestly insists that she couldn't have done this guide without the help of the Nevada staff.

WESTERN CIVILIZATION

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Twilight Zones

Las Vegas photographer Ed Opsitos sees his town with an artist's eye. "Vegas sometimes has the reputation of being too gaudy," says Opsitos, "but it has its own unique art. And that art is best studied at twilight, when the neon mixes with the soft tones of dusk or dawn."

A bartender by trade, Opsitos enjoys exploring the city's bright life with a camera when he's not mixing drinks in the Circus Maximus showroom at Caesars Palace. He took these two photos in 1983 for McCarran International Airport during its ongoing multi-million-dollar expansion. The convention center was shot in the early evening, while the McCarran arch was captured at daybreak. □



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Travel Guide

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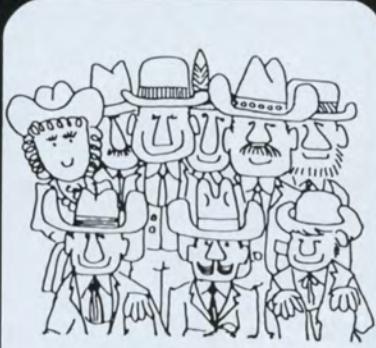


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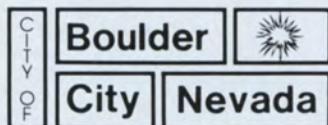
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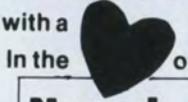
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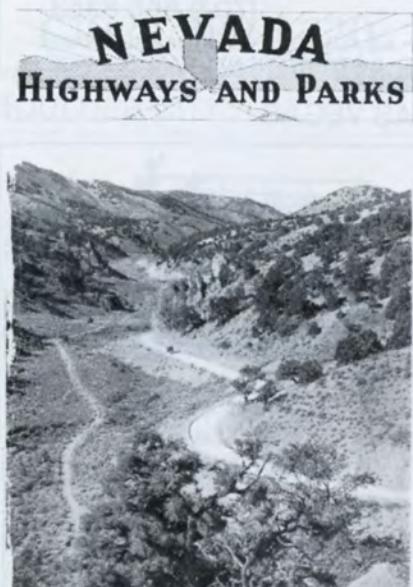
Nevada Magazine: In the Beginning

Silver State highways and parks helped travelers discover new frontiers in the '30s.

When the first issue of *Nevada Highways and Parks* rolled off the press in January 1936, the cover and most of the booklet's 18 pages touted the state's New Deal road-building bonanza. That might seem rather mundane today, but in the '30s, to a nation warming to the idea of the car's practicality and affordability, roads were the portals to new frontiers.

Because you can only say so much about overpasses and centerlines, editor Fred Greulich and his staff of Highway Department photographers grew more inventive. The result was a lively mix of features and photos showcasing Nevada's tourist appeal—the new Boulder (Hoover) Dam, Lake Mead, Lake Tahoe, vast landscapes, rustic towns, and memorable people.

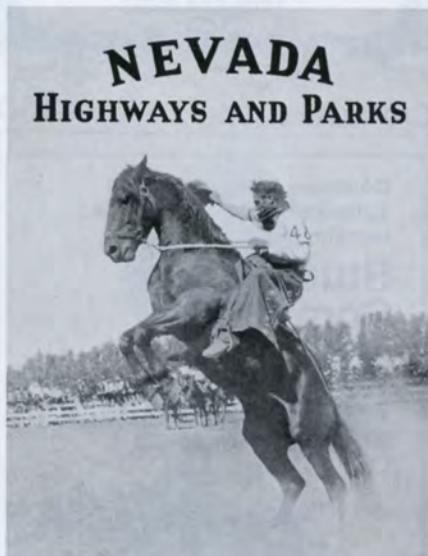
The following photos and their original captions from the '30s illustrate the magazine's enthusiastic and sometimes fanciful attempt to promote Nevada's attractions. Each is a rare glimpse of that era. Like any good scrapbook photos, they have gotten better with age. □



PUBLISHED BY THE NEVADA STATE HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT
JANUARY 1936

JANUARY 1936

Our cover picture is a scene on Lincoln Highway, U.S. Route 50, and known as Carroll Summit. It shows a typical section of this modernized highway, and is located between Fallon and Austin in central Nevada. Fallon is the center of a rich agricultural region, while Austin is noted for its mines.



PUBLISHED BY THE NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF HIGHWAYS
MAY 1937

MAY 1937

Our Cover Illustration. This bucking horse, high-strung and fractious, assumes, in spite of its anger, a thoroughly graceful posture, but is making it very tough for entry number forty-eight, participating in the Reno Rodeo show, to hold his contact with the hot seat. We have camera-captured the scene at a tense and very exciting moment.



PUBLISHED BY THE NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF HIGHWAYS
MAY 1938

MAY 1938

Our Cover Picture. In the fashion of the 90's a young Virginia City matron is enjoying a moment of leisure on the porch swing. The photograph was taken about 45 years ago.

J U L Y 1 9 3 7

Scenery up the Colorado is not all of the hard-rock variety, as is evidenced here by the fair damsels enjoying the cooling waters of Mead Lake, above Boulder Dam. A combination of feminine pulchritude and natural scenery gives the picture a perfect balanced setting.



J U L Y / A U G U S T 1 9 3 9

Carson City has never grown to be a large city. Its present population is less than 4,000, which marks it as the smallest capital city in the Nation. While touches of modern architecture have changed the face of the business section, the town has never lost its old-fashioned friendly charm and quaintness.



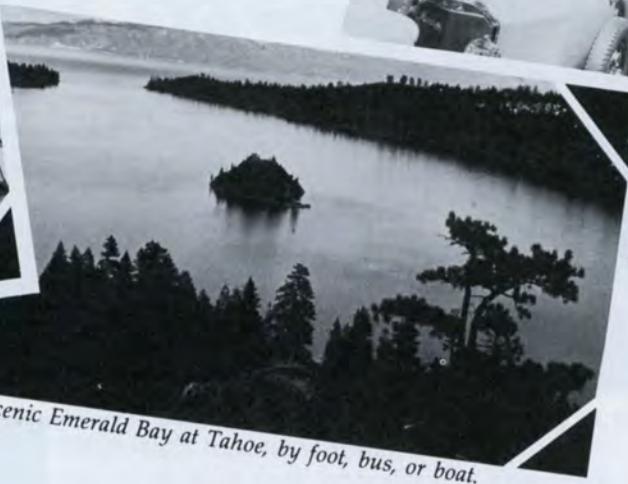
D E C E M B E R 1 9 3 6

Rock formation in Cathedral Gorge State Park, Lincoln County, Nevada, showing one of the many varieties of natural scenery in the State. Spires, domes, caves, and fluted rocks are sculpted in grotesque shapes and deeply carved by the desert winds.





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GREAT NEVADA TOURS **THE BUS STOPS HERE**

Here are more than 100 ways to explore Nevada by land, sea, and air while you leave the driving to them.

By Kate Butler and Jim Crandall

This spring, tour companies in Las Vegas, Reno, and Lake Tahoe are offering travelers more than 100 intimate encounters with the state's premier attractions. You can view the sweep of Hoover Dam from a helicopter, take a river-boat ride on Lake Tahoe, and even help pilot a raft down the Carson River under the light of a full moon.

Whether you decide to tour afield or by stream, you'll be in good hands. Like miners who can't keep their bonanzas to themselves, tour guides want to share their love of the land, a zeal that can result in stirring and entertaining narrations.

Of course, the best thing about taking a tour is the sheer luxury of leaving the driving and tour-directing to someone else while you relax and enjoy the scenery.

Following is a roster of warm-weather tours you'll find this year in the Silver State. Most tour companies operate on a limited basis in spring and fall and are in full swing in summer. If you make reservations, most outfits will pick you up at your hotel or motel and chauffeur you to the point of departure. The prices listed, unless otherwise specified, include meals and admission to points of interest. You're

encouraged to write or call ahead for more details. Addresses and phone numbers are provided; the area code throughout Nevada is 702.

The tours are listed by place of origin and by operator. Prices are per person.

Las Vegas Around Town

The Ethel M Chocolate Factory is open daily from 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. for self-guided tours of the confection plant owned and operated by candy king Forrest Mars. Ethel M, which is located near the intersection of Sunset and Mountain Vista, also has a botanical garden that features plants of the Southwestern deserts. Both tours are free. Ethel M Chocolates, Box 18413, Las Vegas, NV 89114. Phone 458-8864.

The Imperial Palace Antique Auto Collection is open daily from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 p.m. for self-guided tours. With more than 200 automobiles, it's one of the world's largest private collections. Cost is \$3.75 adults, \$2 for seniors over 65 and kids under 13. Imperial Palace, 3535 Las Vegas Blvd. South, Las Vegas, NV 89109. Phone 731-3311.

The Liberace Museum is open Monday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Sunday from 1 to 5 p.m. for self-guided tours of memorabilia that helped make Liberace famous. Cost is \$3.50 adults, \$3 for seniors, \$2.50 for students, and \$2 for kids under 12. Liberace Foundation, 1775 E. Tropicana, Las Vegas, NV 89119. Phone 798-5595.

Ripley's Believe It or Not! museum of mysteries, with more than 1,000 rare and strange items, is located at the Four Queens Hotel. The downtown "odditorium" is open daily from 10 a.m. to midnight and till 2 a.m. Friday and Saturday nights. Four Queens, 202 E. Fremont, Las Vegas, NV 89101. Phone 385-4011.

City Tour by Ray and Ross takes you past the homes of celebrities and stops at Ethel M Chocolate Factory's botanical garden. You also visit the Liberace Museum, have lunch at a major hotel, and spend the afternoon at the Meadows Shopping Mall. The 7½-hour tour costs \$18.85. Ray and Ross Transport, 300 W Owens, Las Vegas, NV 89106. Phone 646-4661.

Cultural Focus Tours visits art galleries, studios, museums, historical sites, and

other places of local interest. It's for groups only, and prices vary in this non-profit program of the Allied Arts Council. Cultural Focus Tours, 749 Veteran's Memorial Drive, Las Vegas, NV 89101. Phone 382-7198.

Night Flight Over Las Vegas is a glowing city view offered by Action Jet Helicopters, which leaves from its heliport near Caesars Palace. A 4-minute flight costs \$10, 8 minutes is \$18, and 12 minutes is \$27. Action Jet Helicopters, 3450 Las Vegas Blvd. South, Las Vegas, NV 89109. Phone 796-6151.

Gray Line's **Mini City Tour** is a 4½-hour swing through the city that stops at the Ethel M botanical garden and Sam's Town. The tour costs \$13.20. The **City Sightseeing Tour** includes lunch and stops at Liberace Museum, Ethel M, and UNLV. It lasts 5½ hours and costs \$21.10. The **Deluxe Nightclub Tour** takes you to the Tropicana for the "Folies Bergere" dinner show and then to the Flamingo for the midnight show of "City Lights." This tour lasts about 9 hours and costs \$52.30. Gray Line, 1550 S. Industrial Rd., Las Vegas, NV 89102. Phone 384-1234.

LTR's **Mini City Tour** cruises the Strip and downtown and includes stops at Ripley's Believe It or Not Museum and Ethel M's botanical garden. The 3½-hour trip is \$11.25 adults, \$5.65 for kids under 12, under 4 free. The **City Sightseeing Tour** stops for lunch at the Sahara, tours the Liberace Museum and Ethel M, and then cruises past the homes of the stars. It lasts 6½ hours and costs \$20.75 adults, \$10.40 kids. LTR, Box 42130, Las Vegas, NV 89116. Phone 384-1230.

Buses and Boats to the Dam, Lake Mead, Laughlin, and the Lost City

Bonnie Springs/Old Nevada offers a ride 18 miles west of town through Red Rock Canyon en route to the model frontier town of Old Nevada. There, you can have 1) tour the town and lunch at Bonnie Springs Ranch or 2) a horseback ride and discounted town visit. This tour takes about 5 hours and costs \$18.50. Bonnie Springs/Old Nevada, Blue Diamond, NV 89004. Phone 875-4191.

All State Tours offers four Nevada trips. The **Hoover Dam/Arizona Tour** takes you to Boulder City for a film on the construction of the dam, to the Arizona side for a high-up view of the dam, and back to the dam for a tour of the interior (\$1 fee not included) or more sightseeing. Cost of the 4-hour tour is \$17.50. The **Lake Mead Cruise/Hoover Dam/Arizona Tour** includes the movie, a cruise on Lake Mead, a buffet lunch, a tour of Ethel M, and a ride past celebrity homes. The 8-hour tour costs \$27.50. The **Grand Canyon/Hoover Dam/Lake Mead Tour** takes

you to the Boulder City airport for a flight over the Grand Canyon on Lake Mead Air. Afterwards, there's a buffet lunch at the Gold Strike Inn and a tour of Hoover. The 7½-hour tour costs \$99. The **One-Day Trip to Laughlin** visits the mining town of Searchlight, Davis Dam at the foot of Lake Mohave, and Sam's Town Gold River casino on the Colorado River in Laughlin. This tour includes a buffet lunch and a lounge show. It takes about 11 hours and costs \$20. All State Tours, 999 E. Tropicana, Las Vegas, NV 89109. Phone 798-5002.

Gray Line's **Original Hoover Dam Tour** visits the dam's interior and includes a movie. This tour lasts 4½ hours and costs

\$17.60. The **Hoover Dam/Lake Mead Tour** takes you to the Lake Mead Marina for lunch and a cruise to the dam. This tour lasts 6½ hours and costs \$17.60. The **Hoover Dam/Old Vegas Tour** visits the dam, stops at Railroad Pass for lunch, and then visits the Old Vegas theme park. It lasts 5½ hours and costs \$21.20.

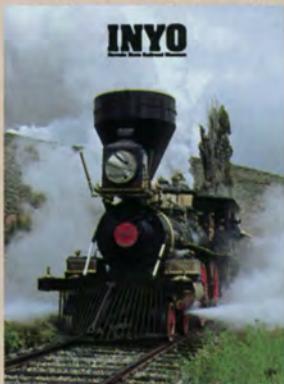
Other Gray Line tours go farther north and south. Its **Desert Tour** goes to the Valley of Fire, the Lost City Museum in Overton, and Echo Bay for lunch. This tour lasts 6½ hours and costs \$25.80. The **Colorado River Raft Tour** takes you to the base of Hoover Dam for a Black Canyon Inc. raft trip down Lake Mohave. Cost of the 6½-hour trek is \$58.50. The **Lake**

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Mohave/Davis Dam/Laughlin Tour stops at Katherine's Landing and Davis Dam before heading to Sam's Town Gold River in Laughlin for lunch. The tour lasts 8 hours and costs \$20. The **River Gambler Tour** is an overnight venture to Sam's Town Gold River in Laughlin. Cost is \$43.40 per person for doubles and \$66.60 for singles, with second-night rates available. Gray Line also has tours to Death Valley, the Grand Canyon, Zion, and Bryce. Gray Line of Southern Nevada, 1550 S. Industrial Rd., Las Vegas, NV 89102. Phone 384-1234.

Keene's Hoover Dam/Lake Mead/City Tour passes celebrity homes en route to Lake Mead Marina and the dam. There's lunch at Old Vegas, a stop at Ethel M, and a Liberace Museum visit on the return trip. The 6½-hour excursion costs \$28. Keene Tickets and Tours, 5115 Industrial Road, Suite 513, Las Vegas, NV 89118. Phone 732-9225.

LTR's Hoover Dam/Old Vegas Tour visits the dam and the Old Vegas theme park. The 6½-hour tour costs \$17.50 adults, \$8.75 kids under 12, and under 4 free. The **Deluxe Hoover Dam/Lake Mead Cruise** features a boat trip as well as a down-in-the-dam tour and lunch at the Gold Strike Inn. The 7½-hour tour costs \$28.50 adults, \$14.25 kids. The **Hoover Dam/Grand Canyon Tour** includes a 1½-hour flight and a bus trip to the dam. It lasts 8 hours and costs \$110. The **Valley of Fire Tour** stops at the Lost City Museum with a lunch break in Overton. The 6½-hour trip costs \$25.75 adults, \$12.90 kids. The **Colorado River Raft Trip** floats you from below Hoover Dam to Willow Beach on Lake Mohave. It costs \$60 adults, \$30 kids, and lasts 7½ hours. LTR, Box 42130, Las Vegas, NV 89116. Phone 384-1230.

The Hoover Dam/Old Vegas Tour of Ray and Ross stops at Boulder City for the dam movie, at the dam, and at Old Vegas. The 6-hour tour costs \$15.50. The **Hoover Dam/Lake Mead Tour** includes a lake cruise, a stop at the Gold Strike Inn, and a visit to the dam. It takes about 7 hours and costs \$21.55. Ray and Ross Transport, 300 W Owens, Las Vegas, NV 89106. Phone 646-4661.

Nevada Discovery Tours takes groups on outings of two to seven days around the state and the West. Trips are tailored. Nevada Discovery Tours, 3593 Tioga Way, Las Vegas, NV 89109. Phone 735-5450.

**Hoover Dam/Lake Mead
By Land, Air, and Sea**

Black Canyon Inc. offers gentle **One-Day Raft Trips** down Lake Mohave from the base of Hoover Dam. A shuttle takes rafters from the Gold Strike Inn to the launch site at the dam. The 3-hour float ends with a lunch at the Willow Beach Resort. The entire tour takes about 5½



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hours and costs \$49.95 adults, \$25 for kids under 12. Black Canyon Raft Trips, 1630 Foothill Dr., Boulder City, NV 89005. Phone 293-3776.

The **Hoover Dam Tour** takes you via elevator 528 feet down to the power plant. The guided interior tour takes 35 minutes and costs \$1 for adults, 60 cents for seniors over 62, and kids under 15 are free. Bureau of Reclamation, Visitor Services, Box 299, Boulder City, NV 89005. Phone 293-8367

Based at the Boulder City airport, Desert Soaring offers lofty views of **Hoover Dam/Lake Mead/Boulder City** from the seat of a sailplane. You'll soar above Eldorado Valley, Lake Mead, and Hoover Dam. The 25-minute trip costs \$32.50. Desert Soaring, Box 637 Boulder City, NV 89005. Phone 293-4577

Lake Mead Air, also at the Boulder City airport, offers plane tours of the **Hoover Dam/Lake Mead** area. Takes about 30 minutes and costs \$25. **Hoover Dam Only** is a 15-minute aerial tour of the dam and costs \$15. **Grand Canyon** flights are \$79 per person. (Prices are based on a two-person minimum.) Lake Mead Air, 1499 Nevada Highway, Boulder City, NV 89005. Phone 293-1848.

Lake Mead Yacht Tours offers excursions on the *Echo*, a 114-passenger cruise boat based at Lake Mead Marina. You pass the Boulder Islands, Arizona Paint Pots, and Centennial Island en route to Hoover Dam. The 45-minute ride costs \$6.50 adults, \$4 for kids under 12. Lake Mead Yacht Tours, 2200 Patrick Lane, Suite 21, Las Vegas, NV 89119. Phone 736-6180.

Laughlin Cruises

Blue River Safaris, based at the Riverside Resort, offers cruises down the Colorado River through the Topock Canyon Gorge to the London Bridge and English Village at Lake Havasu. The 9-hour excursion costs \$49.95. Their **Davis Dam/Laughlin Tour** cruises a mile up the Colorado to Davis Dam. The hour trip costs \$5. Blue River Safaris, Box 526, Laughlin, NV 89029. Phone 298-2535, ext. 5770.

The **Lady Katherine Tour** is based at Katherine's Landing Resort on Lake Mohave. The 65-foot cruise boat visits Davis Dam, Telephone Cove, and other sites. This tour takes 1½ hours and costs \$6.50 adults, \$4.50 for kids under 13. Lake Mohave Resort, Katherine's Landing, Bullhead City, AZ. 86430. Phone 602-754-3245.

Grand Canyon Air Tours

There's a squadron of airplane and helicopter companies that offer scenic visitations to the Grand Canyon. Short trips over Hoover Dam, Lake Mead, and up the canyon cost about \$100 per person. More



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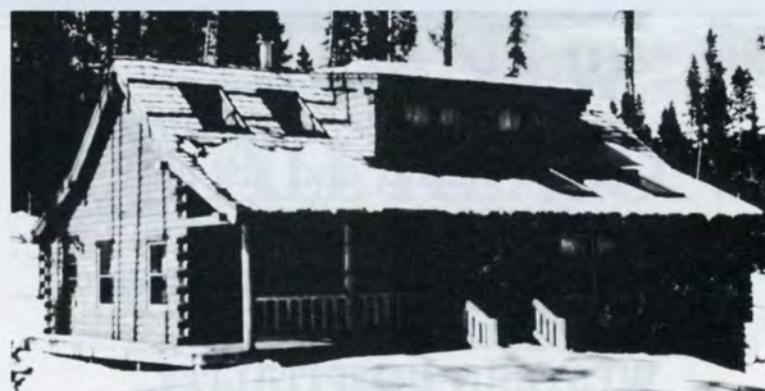
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extravagant trips that include flights plus bus tours, raft trips, or overnight lodging in the canyon cost about \$200 per person. For information check with these Las Vegas air-tour companies: Adventure Airlines (736-7511), Air Nevada Tours (736-2702), Air Vegas (736-3599), GCC Tours (385-7359), Las Vegas Airlines (735-8007), Scenic Airlines (739-1900), Action Jet Helicopters (796-6151), and Bauer Helicopters Inc. (293-4022).

Reno

Around Town

Behind the Scenes Gaming Tour teaches the elements of casino games at the Reno-Tahoe Visitors Center and then goes to the Club Cal Neva for a security guard's view from the catwalks. The 2-hour tour costs \$5. Reno Tahoe Company, 135 N. Sierra, Reno, NV 89501. Phone 348-7788.

The **Harrah Auto Museum** has some of the world's finest antique cars. Vintage shuttle buses offer free rides daily from Harrah's Reno and other clubs. Or take Glendale Avenue and follow the signs to the museum in Sparks, just north of the MGM. The museum is open daily from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Cost is \$6.50 adults, \$5.50 for seniors over 65, \$3.50 for kids under 15, and children 5 and under free. Harrah Auto Museum, Box 20039, Reno, NV 89515. Phone 355-3500.

Buses and Boats to Tahoe, Virginia City, and Genoa

Gray Line Scenic Tours, which is based at the MGM, visits Tahoe, Virginia City, and Carson City. You can take the **Tahoe Special**, a gambler's junket, to the Stateline clubs on the south shore. Cost is \$18 and includes gaming coupons. The **M.S. Dixie Tour** offers a river-boat excursion from Zephyr Cove to Emerald Bay. Cost is \$27 adults, \$17.50 for kids under 13. The **Top of Tahoe** features a ride up the tram at Heavenly Valley, with lunch and breathtaking views at the Top of the Tram Restaurant. Cost is \$29 adults, \$16 kids. Each of these three tours lasts 8½ hours and stops at the Ponderosa Ranch at Incline Village on the way back to Reno.

Reno to Virginia City Tour drops you at Virginia City's Delta Saloon for 2½ hours. Then you swing through the old mining camps of Gold Hill and Silver City, stop at the State Museum in Carson City, and return to Reno via Washoe Valley's old Franktown Road. Cost of the 6-hour tour is \$19 adults, \$9.50 kids. Gray Line Scenic Tours, 1675 Mill St., Reno, NV 89502. Phone 329-1147

LTR Stage Lines offers four tours out of Reno Cannon International Airport. The **Lake Tahoe Rim Tour** swings through Carson City and up to Stateline at Tahoe. Then it takes a clockwise loop around the

lake, stopping at Emerald Bay, Fanny Bridge at the lake's outlet in Tahoe City, and the Ponderosa Ranch. The tour lasts 8 hours and costs \$28 adults, \$14 for kids under 12, under 4 free. The **Lake Tahoe and Virginia City Tour** crests four Nevada summits for sweeping panoramas. It goes up Spooner Summit to Tahoe, over Kingsbury Grade to Genoa, Nevada's oldest town, and on to Virginia City for a 2-hour stop. The bus then tops Geiger Summit, dips into the Truckee Meadows, and crests Mount Rose en route to Stateline, and finally back to Reno. Cost of the 10-hour tour is \$34 adults, \$18 kids. The **Tahoe Queen Lake Cruise** delivers you to the river-boat's headquarters at Ski Run Marina on the south shore for a cruise to Emerald Bay. Cost of the 6-hour tour is \$22 adults, \$12 kids. The **Night Life Tour** takes you to the casino show of your choice at Stateline. Cost of the 9-hour tour is \$16, and does not include admission to the show. LTR Stage Lines, 1155 E. Glendale, Sparks, NV 89431. Phone 358-9666.

Sierra Tahoe Tours has four scenic outings and uses the MGM as its base. The **Ponderosa Ranch Tour** is \$29 adults, \$14.50 for kids under 12. The **Tahoe Special Tour** drops tour-goers at the south shore's Stateline clubs. The \$18 price includes about \$10 in coupons. The **Tahoe Queen Tour** features a cruise to Emerald Bay. Cost is \$29 adults, \$14.50 kids. These

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three tours last about 7 hours each.

The **Lake Tahoe and Virginia City Tour** visits the Comstock before heading to a Stateline club for lunch. Then you motor to Emerald Bay, Tahoe City, Squaw Valley, and back to Reno. Cost is \$37 adults, \$18.50 kids for the 8-hour ride. Sierra Tahoe Tours, Box 2321, Reno, NV 89505. Phone 355-0400.

The **Motorcoach Tour** goes to Truckee, Fanny Bridge, Emerald Bay, and Stateline for a 1 1/2-hour lunch at the top of Harrah's. Then you see Carson City's historic district before visiting Virginia City and returning to Reno. The 9-hour tour is \$37 adults, \$32 for kids under 16. Sierra Nevada Stage Lines, 655 S. Stanford Way, Sparks, NV 89431. Phone 359-1750.

Our World Tours, a small-town gambling jaunt, runs to Truckee and up to Tahoe's Crystal Bay Club, to Carson's Mother Lode Casino and to Virginia City's Delta Saloon before the return to Reno. Cost of the 9-hour tour is \$20, but you get about \$15 in gaming tokens. Lew Hardy and Associates, 530 W 2nd, Reno, NV 89503. Phone 329-3114.

See Tahoe Tours runs six round-trip shuttles each day from the airport to the Hyatt at Incline Village, where you can link up with buses to the south shore. Fare to the Hyatt is \$11 one way. See Tahoe Tours, Box 8128, Incline Village, NV 89450. Phone 832-0713.

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Rafting the Truckee and Carson

For the explorer who doesn't mind getting wet, RAM River Expeditions has three river trips, using the MGM for its base. For the **One-Day Truckee**, river runners are driven to a launch site at Verdi, near the California state line. The raft cruises down the Truckee River, and a gourmet deli lunch is served on the riverbank before rafting through downtown Reno to a pickup spot near the MGM. Thrill seekers are advised to take the trip in spring, when the river is white with rapids. The less adventuresome should seek the calmer waters of late summer. Cost for the 13-mile, 6-hour trek is \$40 adults, \$25 for kids under 12.

The **Truckee Trophy Trout Trip** runs in September and October. It takes anglers to a mile-long stretch set aside for trophy fishing. Cost is \$40 for this 6-hour trip.

The **Moonlight Run** shoves off only twice each summer, when the moon is full in May and June. Rafting romantics are shuttled 60 miles south to the East Fork of the Carson River near Markleeville. About midway through the 13-mile raft trip, you put ashore at a natural hot springs to soak while the hosts prepare a steak and wine dinner under the full moon. After dinner, rafters shoot the mild rapids en route to Gardnerville. Cost is \$45. RAM River

Expeditions, Box 70892, Reno, NV 89502. Phone 826-2307

Virginia City

Renowned for the fabulous silver strikes of the late 1800s, Virginia City tours showcase its fabled beginnings. There are two **Mine Tours**, at the Ponderosa Saloon (847-0757), and the Chollar Mine (847-0155). Three **Historic Mansions** open their doors to the public, the Mackay (847-0173), the Savage (847-0574), and the Castle (847-0275). Also, the **Virginia & Truckee Railroad** (847-0380) offers a steamy 2.2-mile train ride on the original route of the V&T to Gold Hill. There's an open-air **Trolley** that features narrated tours as it cruises down C Street and past such landmarks as **St. Mary's in the Mountains Catholic Church** (open daily). Leaving from the Delta Saloon, the 20-minute ride costs \$1.50. Virginia City Chamber, Box 464, Virginia City, NV 89440. Phone 847-0311.

Carson City

Hoofbeats is an offbeat way to tour Carson City's historic district. A pair of matched Belgian horses tow a shaded wagon past the Governor's Mansion, the Bliss Mansion, the Edwards House, and other Vic-

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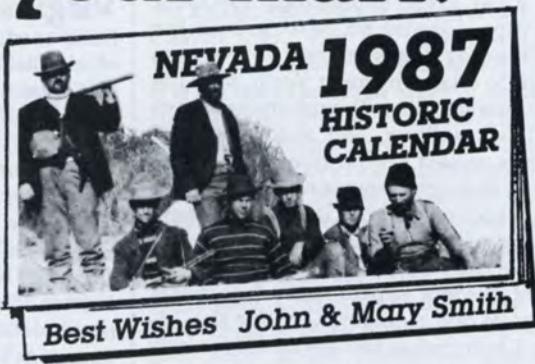
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torian treasures. The tour runs weekends from Memorial Day through Labor Day and meets at the State Museum every 1 1/2 hours beginning at 10 a.m. Cost is \$5 adults, \$4 for seniors over 55 and kids under 15. Kids under 5 are free, and for families of four or more, the total price is \$15. Hoofbeats, Box 2346, Carson City, NV 89702. Phone 882-8147

It's based on the **Carson City Walking Tour**, available from the Chamber of Commerce, 1191 S. Carson, Carson City, NV 89701. Phone 882-1565.

Lake Tahoe Around Town

The **Heavenly Valley Tram** in South Lake Tahoe whisks passengers to the Top of the Tram Restaurant perched on a ridge 2,000 feet above the lake. The food is good, the panorama spectacular. Cost is \$8 adults, \$5 for kids under 13. Heavenly Valley Tram, Box 2180, Stateline, NV 89449. Phone 916-541-1330.

Buses and Boats Around the Lake

Gray Line's **Tahoe to Virginia City Tour** takes passengers over Kingsbury Grade to Genoa, the State Museum in Carson City, and the Delta Saloon in Virginia City before returning to Stateline. Cost of the 5-hour tour is \$16 adults, \$8 for kids under 13. **Rim of the Lake Tour** stops at Emerald Bay and Fanny Bridge, makes a short detour to Squaw Valley, then stops at the Ponderosa Ranch before returning to the south shore. Cost of the 5-hour tour is \$20 adults, \$10 kids.

The **M.S. Dixie Tour** features a cruise from Zephyr Cove to Emerald Bay. Cost of the 4-hour tour is \$14 adults, \$11 kids. The **Top of Tahoe Tour** shuttles people to Heavenly Valley for a tram ride and lunch at the top. Cost of the 3-hour tour is \$14 adults, \$10 kids, and includes lunch. Gray Line Scenic Tours, 1675 Mill St., Reno, NV 89502. Phone 329-1147

LTR's **Lake Tahoe Tour** stops at Emerald Bay, Fanny Bridge, and the Ponderosa Ranch before returning to its base at Caesars. The 5-hour tour costs \$20 adults, \$12 for kids under 12, under 4 free. The **Lake Tahoe and Virginia City Tour** stops at Genoa and Virginia City. Cost of the 7-hour tour is \$26 adults, \$14 kids.

The **Tahoe Queen Tour** delivers excursionists to the Queen's berth at Ski Run Marina for the Emerald Bay cruise. Cost of the 4-hour tour is \$14 adults, \$7 kids. On the **Night Life Tour**, LTR makes reservations for the show of your choice in Reno. Cost of the 9-hour tour is \$16 and does not include show price. LTR Stage Lines, 1155 E. Glendale, Sparks, NV 89431. Phone 358-9666.

Sightseeing Tours' **Lake Tahoe Tour**

stops at Emerald Bay, Fanny Bridge for lunch, then on to the Hyatt or the Ponderosa Ranch. Cost is \$25 adults, \$12.50 for kids under 17. The **Virginia City Tour** stops at the State Museum in Carson City and visits the Mackay Mansion in Virginia City. The 6-hour tour costs \$20 adults, \$10 kids. The **Reno Night Life Tour** takes you to the show of your choice in Reno. The 7-hour tour costs \$20, and does not include show price. Sightseeing Tours, Box 18630, South Lake Tahoe, CA. 95706. Phone 916-541-0208.

See Tahoe Tours runs five round-trip shuttles each day from Caesars to the Hyatt at Incline, where you can link up with their shuttles to Reno. Fare to the Hyatt is \$7 one way. See Tahoe Tours, Box 8128, Incline Village, NV 89450. Phone 832-0713.

Also on the north shore is **Tahoe Area Rapid Transit** (TART), a public transportation system that is an inexpensive way to see the north end of the lake. Buses run from Incline on the north shore to Tahoma on the west shore. The 1½-hour trip costs 75 cents. TART, Drawer CC, Tahoe City, CA. 95730. Phone 916-581-6365.

The **M.S. Dixie**, a renovated Mississippi cotton barge, has been on the lake since 1947. She's fitted with oak bars, a dining room, dance floor, and galley. Her home port is Zephyr Cove. Tours include dinner-dance, brunch, breakfast, and Emerald Bay cruises. Adult prices range from \$9 to \$26. *M.S. Dixie*, Box 1667 Zephyr Cove, NV 89448. Phone 588-3508.

The **Tahoe Queen** is a late-model reproduction of a Mississippi sternwheeler. Her dining room is dressed in fine linen, and her bar and dance floor gleam darkly in oak. She's the largest cruise boat on the lake and docks at Ski Run Marina in South Lake Tahoe. Emerald Bay and dinner-dance cruises (with dinner optional) range from \$11 to \$14.50 for adults. In ski season there's also a shuttle to the north shore. *Lake Tahoe Cruises*, Box 14292, South Lake Tahoe, CA. 95702. Phone 916-541-3364.

The **Woodwind** is a sleek 41-foot trimaran sailboat that hails from Zephyr Cove. Cost for a 1½-hour lake cruise is \$9 adults, \$4.50 for kids under 12. The 1½-hour sunset champagne cruise costs \$16. During May, all prices are cut in half. *Woodwind*, Box 1375, Zephyr Cove, NV 89448. Phone 588-3000.

Horseback in the Sierra

For those who want to smell the pines and view Lake Tahoe from the back of a horse, there's a herd of riding stables open in the summer. On the north shore, there's the Ponderosa Ranch (831-2154), Northstar (916-562-1010), Alpine Meadows (916-583-3905), and Squaw Valley (916-583-7433). To the south are Cascade Stables (916-541-2055), Camp Richardson (916-

541-3113), Stateline Stables (916-541-0962), Sunset Corral (916-541-9944), and Zephyr Cove (588-6644).

Rural

Two cave tours offer glimpses into the geologic and historic underpinnings of the state. **Lehman Caves**, 66 miles east of Ely, are haunted with the eerie forms of stalactites and stalagmites. Tours last about 2 hours and cost \$2 adults, \$1 for kids under 16 and for seniors over 61. Lehman Caves National Monument, Baker, NV 89311. Phone the Visitor Center, which is open daily, at 234-7331.

The **Hidden Cave Tour** near Fallon

shows off Indian artifacts dating back 4,000 years. Free, 2-hour tours are conducted at 10 a.m. on the second and fourth Saturdays of each month. Dress for hiking and meet at the Churchill County Museum, 1050 S. Maine, Fallon, NV 89406. Phone 423-3677. Or contact the Bureau of Land Management, 1535 Hot Springs Rd., Suite 300, Carson City, NV 89701. Phone 882-1631.

The **Arvada Game Ranch** on the Virgin River near Mesquite offers horseback rides to see exotic wildlife like sika deer and feral hogs. A 2-hour ride costs \$15 (four-person minimum), and cook-outs are available, too. Arvada Game Ranch, Box 451, Mesquite, NV 89024. Phone 346-5288. □



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Southern Nevada Show Notes

By Pete Mikla

Rich Little says that President Reagan often invites him to the White House, something his predecessors never did. "The president enjoys it when I imitate him. He's got a good sense of humor," says Little. "When he knows that I've done a long engagement in Las Vegas, he'll ask, 'Well, Rich, how'd I go over?'"

★

Another favorite Reagan act is Bobby Beresini's orangutans, long-haired performers in the Stardust's "Lido de Paris" who performed for the Reagans last year. "The people in Washington told me that when my orangutans performed," Beresini says, "it was the only time they had ever seen Reagan's Secret Service bodyguards laugh."

★

Billy Eckstine admits he was skeptical when a record company recently approached him. "I was afraid those young fellows wouldn't appreciate my music," says the big band man. "I said, 'Listen, if you're thinking of turning me into a 70-year-old James Brown and have me record a bunch of that rock-soul stuff, forget it.' The executives told the Four Queens headliner they wouldn't dream of changing a thing, and his new album, "I Am A Singer," is now on the racks.

★

Siegfried and Roy make animals disappear nightly in the Frontier's stage spectacular, "Beyond Belief," but now the master illusionists are trying something even more difficult—making rare white tigers reappear. "We want to bring the endangered white tiger species back for future generations," Roy says. "We have two females and a male, and hopefully we can begin expanding the breed soon."

★

Jonathon Von Brana, who portrays Elvis Presley in "Legends in Concert" at the Imperial Palace, was literally tricked into a show business career. "I did an imitation of Elvis' dance style for some friends one night. Later we went to a disco and my pals told the owner I was a famous Elvis impersonator," Von Brana recalls. "Was I ever surprised, and scared, when I heard my name announced and felt my friends pushing me onto the stage." Von Brana did so well that he started getting job offers—which eventually brought him to Las Vegas. □

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

SHOWGUIDE

Where the stars and shows are playing this March and April.

By Melissa Loomis

Following is a muster of the stars, revues, and extravaganzas you can see in Nevada showrooms in March and April. 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 Sam Butera, thru 5; Irish Showband, 3/6-5/14



Charlie Vespia (left) and Bob Mitchell fawn over Bambi in "Burlesque '86" at the Marina.

Caesars Palace, 731-7333: Entertainment TBA

Circus Circus, 734-0410: Circus acts

Desert Inn, 733-4566: Lynda Carter/Ray Stevens, 2/27-3/19; Charo/John Davidson, 3/20-4/9; Rich Little, 4/10-30

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: Then and Now/Chris David, 3/4-17

Four Queens, 385-4011 Dondino, thru 3/8; Frank Sinatra Jr., thru 3/9; Billy Eckstine, 3/10-3/30; Gina Eckstine, 3/10-4/5; Tex Beneke, 3/31-4/6; Dondino, 4/7-7/5; Monday Nite Jazz, indf.

Frontier, 734-0240: Siegfried and Roy in "Beyond Belief," indf., 7pm and 11pm cocktail shows Tues.-Sun., dark Mon.

Golden Nugget, 386-8100: Paul Anka, 3/6-18; David Brenner, 3/20-4/1

Hacienda, 798-0571 "Norman Is That You?" Broadway entertainment, indf., 8pm option dinner show from \$14.95, 8pm and 11pm cocktail shows \$9.95, dark Thurs.

Holiday, 369-5222: "Rocky Sennes' Roaring '20s," indf., 9pm and 11:30pm Mon.-Fri., 8pm, 10pm, and 12:30am Sat., dark Sun., \$6.95, includes 2 drinks

Imperial Palace, 733-0234: "Legends in Concert," indf., 8pm and 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 and 11:30pm shows; Louise Mandrell/Jim Stafford, thru 4/1

MGM Grand Hotel, 739-4567: *Ziegfeld Theatre: "Jubilee!"* indf., 7:30pm and 11pm, dark Wed., \$25; *Celebrity Room*: Johnny Mathis, thru 3/5; Engelbert Humperdinck, 3/6-12; 8pm and 11:30pm, \$27.50

Marina, 739-1500: "Burlesque '86" with Bob Mitchell, indf., 8:30pm and 11pm, \$6.95; dark Mon.

Maxim, 731-4300: Entertainment TBA



Linda Carter puts on a super show at the Desert Inn in March.

Mint, 387-6468: "Sandy Hackett's Talent Showcase," indf., 8pm Sun.

Palace Station, 367-2411 Lounge shows

Peppermill Resort, Mesquite, 346-5232: Nightly entertainment

Regency Casino, Laughlin, 298-2439: Piano bar, Wed.-Sun.

Riverside Resort, Laughlin, 298-2535

Riviera, 734-5301 "Splash!" production show, indf., "An Evening at La Cage," indf.

Royal Casino, 733-4000: Nightly entertainment

Sahara, 737-2424: "A Chorus Line," Broadway musical, indf.

Sam Boyd's California, 385-1222: Nightly entertainment, 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, and midnight, dark Mon., \$9.50, includes 2 drinks

Silver Slipper, 734-1212: "Boylesque," revue, indf.; 8pm, 10pm, and midnight, dark Thurs., \$6.95

Stardust, 732-6325: "Lido de Paris" starring Bobby Berosini's orangutans, indf., 7pm and 11pm, \$17.50, includes 2 drinks



Sherman Hemsley (alias George Jefferson) stars in "Norman, Is That You?" at the Hacienda.

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

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: "All New Star Street," revue, indf.; Julio Iglesias, 3/6-8; Kenny Loggins, 3/13-15; Pointer Sisters, 4/10-12

Carson City Nugget, 882-1626: Michael John and Kimberly, thru 3/2; Cheryl Cotten, 3/4-30; Motifs, 4/1-5/4

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

Circus Circus, Reno, 329-0711 Circus acts

Crystal Bay Club, North Tahoe, 831-0512: Rock 'n' roll, Tues.-Sun.

Del Webb's High Sierra, Tahoe, 588-6211 Danny Marona, thru 3/9; Pat Collins, 3/11-23; Doug Kershaw, 3/25-4/6; The Diamonds, 4/8-20



Sammy Davis Jr., a Nevada stage star for four decades, appears at Harrah's Reno in April.

Eldorado, Reno, 786-5700: Music Wed.-Mon.

Harolds Club, Reno, 329-0881 Doug Cooper and Country Wind, thru 3/23; Hall and January, thru 4/6; Rickey Santos and Bobby Reynon, 3/24-indf., Lin Maureen and Dennis, 4/7-indf.

Harrah's Lake Tahoe, 588-6611 South Shore Room: Loretta Lynn/Kelly Monteith, thru 3/6; Wayne Newton, 3/7-20; Engelbert Humperdinck, 3/21-4/3; Stateline Cabaret: "Breakin' Loose," revue, indf., Wed.-Mon.



The Pointer Sisters will be exciting audiences at Caesars Tahoe.

Harrah's Reno, 329-4422: Headliner Room: Joel Grey/Charlie Callas, thru 3/5; Roy Clark Show, 3/6-12; Rich Little, 3/13-26; Sammy Davis Jr., 3/27-4/1 Harry Anderson, 4/2-3; Sammy Davis Jr., 4/4-9; Casino Cabaret: "Bottoms Up '86," revue, indf., Wed.-Mon., Gary Raffanelli and Sandy Selby, 3/11-23

Harvey's, Tahoe, 588-2411 Top of the Wheel: Ron Rose Sound, indf., Perfect Circle, 3/3-30; Theatre Lounge: "Feminine Touch," revue, indf.,

Northern Nevada Show Notes

By Guy Richardson

Down in Glitter Gulch he's the Midnight Idol, but up here in the tall end of the state Wayne Newton is Nevada's answer to Narvel Felts. (Never mind Narvel *who*? Keep reading because the guys at Sharkey's guffaw mightily at this droll wit.) Anyway, Wayne's big stuff now, but back in August of 1960 he was billed third at Harvey's—below the Wilder Brothers and the Characters. The *Nevada State Journal* review of Wayne and brother Jerry said, "The charming and humble youngsters play guitars and sing. They are favorites with South Shore audiences." Charming and humble himself is still a fave with Tahoe crowds. The crowds (now at Harrah's) are just a tad bigger these days.

★

Speedy Garfin and his fine little band trekked across Nevada for a couple of generations, personnel changing from time to time. A few years back, Garfin hired a good-looking gray-eyed singer named Lynda. Garfin always has good girl singers. (Note to sexist-phrase monitors: Female singers of any age are called girl singers in pop music, just as male singers are called boy singers.) As we were saying, Garfin's girl singers always are good, so no one paid much notice of this one until she went to H'wood and got the lead in a campy TV show. So while Speedy tooted his clarinet at the Ormsby House in February, his ex-girl singer Lynda Carter headlined at Harrah's Reno in January.

★

Harry Anderson, the likeable and cheerfully muzzy judge on NBC's *Night Court*, was a likeable and cheerfully muzzy comic on Nevada stages until Bill Cosby's shirttails boosted Anderson's excellent show in Thursday's ratings. Anderson will appear at Harrah's Reno April 2-3 during Sammy Davis' two-day vacation. That's great for us and for Anderson, who may draw well because of his TV exposure but whose name on earlier marques was dwarfed by the 49-cent shrimp cocktail.

★

Richardson's unknown pick: Jeneane Marie wallop songs across the side of the head and beats 'em into submission with a voice that, if it were visible, would be dressed in black leather. She's a big, strong woman (in this league forget girl) and will be at Harvey's and at Elko's Red Lion this spring. Worth a trip. □

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

Gentleman in the Outdoors

A Portrait of Max C. Fleischmann
by Sessions S. Wheeler
Foreword by Governor Mike O'Callaghan

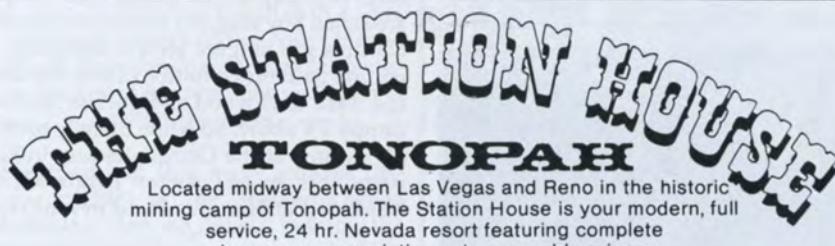
Most Nevadans have probably noticed the name of Max C. Fleischmann on plaques across the state — in hospitals, museums, libraries, university buildings, youth centers and many other institutions of benefit to mankind. In this informal biography author Sessions S. Wheeler focuses largely on Major Fleischmann's experiences in the outdoors. "This memorable book is about one of Nevada's greatest benefactors" Governor Mike O'Callaghan.

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"Body Language," revue, indf., Cathy O'Shea, 3/1-23; Jeneane Marie, 3/24-4/13

Hyatt Lake Tahoe, 831-1111; Frenz, thru 3/9; Liz Damon Show featuring Edda, 3/11-23; Jay Ramsey Band, 3/24-4/6; Leno and Company, 4/8-20

John Ascuaga's Nugget, Sparks, 356-3300; *Celebrity Room*: Montana, thru 3/2; Barbara Eden, 4/28-5/11 *Casino Lounge*: Bach, thru 3/2; Kenny Laursen Show, thru 3/2; Motifs, 3/3-16; Garfin Gathering, 3/4-16; Kristi Lyndell Show, 3/17-30; Bobby Dee and Company, 3/18-30

Karl's, Sparks, 358-4771 Gary Xavier at the piano, days, indf.; entertainment nightly

MGM Grand Hotel, Reno, 789-2285; *Ziegfeld Theatre*: "Hello Hollywood Hello," indf.; *Leo's Lair*: Pat Collins, thru 3/4; Santa Fe, 3/5-4/1

Mother Lode, Carson City, 883-0900: Scooter and the Bee, thru 3/9; Marcy and Ray, 3/11-30; Two's Company, 4/1-20; Lin Maureen and Dennis, 4/22-5/11

Ormsby House, Carson City, 882-1890: Sundance, thru 3/16; Ron Dons, 3/18-4/6

Peppermill, Reno, 826-2121 Lucky, thru 3/16; Wray Brothers, thru 3/30; Tommy Bell, 3/17-5/4; Lelands, 3/30-4/27

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

Reno Hilton, 785-7100: Entertainment TBA

Reno Ramada, 788-2000: 24-hour live entertainment in circular showbar

Sharkey's Nugget, Gardnerville, 782-3133

Topaz Lodge, Topaz Lake, 266-3339

Western Village, Sparks, 331-1069: Mainstream, thru 3/9; Tommy Bell, thru 3/16; Lelands, 3/10-23; Ira Allen, 3/17-30; St. Romain, 3/24-4/20; Wray Brothers, 3/31-4/27

COVERED WAGON PONY EXPRESS & PIONEER TERRITORIES

Battle Mountain: Owl Club, 635-5155

Elko: Commercial Hotel, 738-3181 Red Lion, 738-2111 Sonny Turner, 3/4-17; Jeneane Marie, 3/18-24; Gary and Sandy, 3/25-31 Command Performance, 4/1-7; Summit featuring the De Marche Sisters, 4/8-21 Dae Han Sisters, 4/22-28; Stockmen's Hotel, 738-5141

Ely: Hotel Nevada, 289-4414

Fallon: Fallon Nugget, 423-3111

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: Live entertainment nightly, Tues.-Sun., Peppermill, 664-2255; Red Garter Casino, 664-2111 State Line Casino, 664-2221

Winnemucca: Winners Hotel-Casino, 623-2511

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



Kit Fox

The quick brown fox doesn't always jump.
Photograph by Howard Schorn.

The kit fox is a wizard of evasion. As Howard Schorn, a geologist-paleontologist from Berkeley, discovered, the smallest member of the canine family also is an opportunist.

Schorn's Nikon captured this fox shortly after a cloudburst 15 miles southeast of Gabbs in Stewart Valley. "I was just driving through the valley when I saw the little fellow," says Schorn, who was on assignment for the BLM. He was able to walk within 10 feet of his subject. "I only took six pictures. I could have taken more, but I didn't want to bother him."

Although members of this species are neither rare

nor exceptionally timid, finding one so curious to the point of peril is unusual. The nocturnal, solitary kit fox stays alive, in fact, because of its speed. Its small size—most kit foxes are just under a foot tall and weigh less than five pounds—and amazing agility enable the animal to run fast and outmaneuver both prey and predators.

"He was young, probably that season's pup, although he was full-grown," says Schorn, who adds that "rocks and clouds and things" are his usual photo subjects. "He seemed as curious of me as I was of him."

—Scott Shelley

THE NEVADA CALENDAR

March & April 1986

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

Listing by Melissa Loomis, Prose by Lee Adler

LAS VEGAS TERRITORY

March

"AAA" Division II Basketball Playoffs, 2/26-29, and 3/1 boys and girls, Thomas and Mack Center, UNLV, 739-3761

Western Art Show, 2/27-3/1 Convention Center, Sahara Hotel, and Caesars Palace, 382-0084

Desert Baseball Classic, 2/27-3/2, UNLV v. Lewis and Clark State, Washington State, and Texas Tech, UNLV, 739-3207

"A" Division II Basketball Playoffs, 2/28-3/1 boys and girls, Bonanza High School, 870-7238

Hoover Dam Square Dance Festival, 2/28-3/1 13th annual square and round dance gathering hosted by Circle 8 Square Dance Club; workshops and dances; on Sat. from 9-10am exhibition dancing at Hoover Dam, Boulder City, 293-4918

"Vagabonds," 2/28-3/2, historical play about Mark Twain and a young visitor, Rainbow Company Children's Theatre, Reed Whipple Cultural Center, 386-6553

Triple Crown Futurity Barrel Race, 2/28-3/2, Peppermill Hotel, Mesquite, 346-5232

"The Plough and the Stars," thru 2, poetic drama, Dept. of Theatre Arts, Judy Bayley Theatre, UNLV, 739-3801

Lost City Exhibit, thru 17 on Nevada's ancient Pueblo Indians, Valley of Fire State Park, 55 miles northeast of Las Vegas, 397-2088

Art Exhibit, thru 31 paintings by Joyce Jones, Max Bunnell, and Phyllis Carpenter, Lost City Museum, Overton, 397-2193

Fur Trade Exhibit, thru 31, Clark County Southern Nevada Museum, Henderson, 565-0907

Contemporary Art Exhibit, thru 4/4, Museum of Natural History, UNLV, 739-3381

Museum Exhibits, thru 4/27 showcasing one hundred years of fire fighting, and fur trading between 1800 and 1840, Clark County Southern Nevada Museum, Henderson, 565-0907

Planetarium Shows, thru 5/17 "Illusions," film narrated by Leonard Nimoy, and "Comet Halley Update," Thurs.-Fri. 6:30 and 8pm, Sat. 3:30, 6:30, and 8pm, Clark County Community College Planetarium, North Las Vegas, 643-6060

Banquet, 1 fund-raiser for Far Western Country

and Western Music Foundation, Caesars Palace, 382-0084

Dual Slalom Ski Race, 2, Lee Canyon Ski Area, 47 miles northwest of Las Vegas, 872-5462

Concert, 2, University Musical Society Orchestra, 2pm, Charleston Heights Arts Center, 739-3101

"A Long Day's Journey Into Night," 4, film, 7pm, \$1 Charleston Heights Arts Center 386-6383

Craps Tournament, 4-6, Frontier Hotel, 734-0385

UNLV v. Oklahoma State, 5-6, baseball,

2:30pm, UNLV, 739-3207

Basketball, 6-8, PCAA tournament, Thomas and Mack Center, UNLV, 739-3101

"The Plough and the Stars," 6-9, poetic drama, Dept. of Theatre Arts, Judy Bayley Theatre, UNLV, 739-3801

Beer Convention, 6-9, over 400 collectors display their beer cans, 9am-5pm, Showboat Hotel, 385-9123

UNLV v. Brigham Young Univ., 7-8, baseball, 3pm, UNLV, 739-3207

Fantasies In Chocolate, 7-9, benefit for DISCOVERY: The Children's Museum. On Fri. champagne dessert gala; on Sat. Madam Chocolate's Kitchen with cooking seminars and demonstrations by top chefs; on Sun. chocolate bazaar with sampling and sales, Sahara Hotel, 382-3445

Amateur Rodeo, 8-9, open to public, Peppermill Hotel, Mesquite, 346-5232

Easter Seals Telethon, 8-9, local televised production, site TBA, 739-7771

Concert, 9, 2pm, Las Vegas Civic Symphony, Reed Whipple Cultural Center, 386-6211

Hagler v. Mugabi and Hearns v. Shuler, 10 (tentative), boxing, tickets \$50 to \$400, Caesars Palace, 731-7865

Art Exhibit, 10-4/4, featuring artists from throughout Nevada, Fine Arts Gallery, UNLV, 739-3893

Art Exhibit, 10-4/9, mixed media works by West Coast artists, Reed Whipple Cultural Center, 386-6211

UNLV v. Univ. of Alabama, 11-13, baseball, 2:30pm, UNLV, 739-3207

Dual Slalom Ski Race, 13, Lee Canyon Ski Area, 47 miles northwest of Las Vegas, 872-5462

UNLV v. Arizona State, 14-15, baseball, 2:30pm Fri., noon Sat., UNLV, 739-3207

National 1986 Chess Open, 14-16, public invited to view, free, Imperial Palace, 731-3311

Jackpot Team Roping, 15, open to public, Peppermill Hotel, Mesquite, 346-5232

Lost City Exhibit, 19-4/19, on Nevada's ancient Pueblo Indians, Nevada State Museum, Las Vegas, 385-0115

UNLV v. Univ. of Utah, 21-22, baseball, 2:30pm, UNLV, 739-3207

Concert, 23, Las Vegas Civic Symphony, Reed Whipple Cultural Center, 386-6211

UNLV v. Univ. of Nebraska, 24-26, baseball, 1pm, UNLV, 739-3207

Spring Ski Week, 24-30, races, Easter-egg hunt for children Easter Sunday, Lee Canyon Ski Area, 47 miles northwest of Las Vegas, 872-5462



Super-Sonic Swingers

Golf is too poetic a pastime to be left entirely to the pros. The play-for-pay boys will share the greens and the headlines with top amateurs and celebrities during the Panasonic Las Vegas Invitational, April 30 through May 4. First prize money in what is billed as "golf's richest event" will be \$207,000. For information call 800-722-GOLF or 382-6616. Shown above is Tom Watson in last year's tourney.

Art Exhibit, 24-4/24, watercolors by Jo Harding and R. Viki Richardson, Charleston Heights Arts Center, 386-6383

Old Timers Team Roping, 27-29, Peppermill Hotel, Mesquite, 346-5232

Tropicana/KLAS-TV Easter Run, 27-29, 10km run, half marathon, and 2 mile fun run, races start at 7:30am, also sports activity show, Tropicana, 368-2885

Walks on the Wild Side

The 65-acre Echo Canyon Reservoir, just east of Pioche, will be the site of a ranger-led nature and bird-discovery walk on March 22. And if you're winter-weary, why not plan to join the April 19 search for "signs of spring" along the park's Ash Canyon trail?

ESPN Boxing, 28, Showboat Hotel, 385-9123
"Quilters," 28-29, all-female cast recreates the world of the pioneer woman, 8pm, Black Box Theatre, UNLV, 739-3801

Nevada Easter Seal Society Golf Tournament, 29, Tropicana Country Club, 739-7771
"As You Like It," 31 The Acting Company presents the Shakespeare comedy, 8pm, Ham Concert Hall, UNLV, 739-3801

April

"Norma Rae," 1 film, 7pm, \$1 Charleston Heights Arts Center, 386-6383

"Orchards," 1 The Acting Company presents stories by Chekov, 8pm, Ham Concert Hall, UNLV, 739-3801

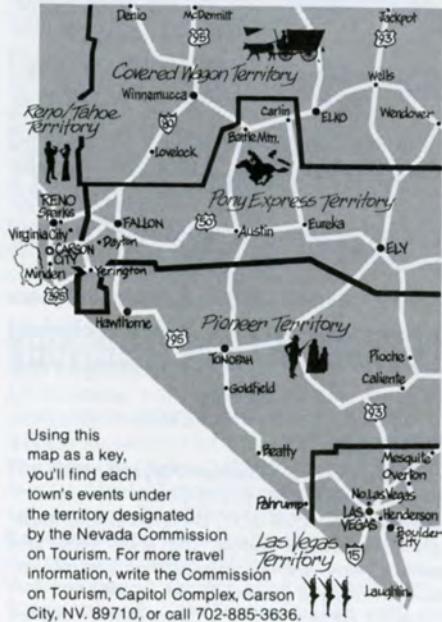
Art Exhibit, 1-5/30, contemporary and traditional art by members of the Moapa Indian Tribe, Lost City Museum, Overton, 397-2193

"Quilters," 3-13, all-female cast recreates the world of the pioneer woman, 8pm Thurs.-Sat., 2pm Sun, Black Box Theatre, UNLV, 739-3801

"The Miss Firecracker Contest," 4-5, written by Beth Henley, 8pm, Clark County Community College Theatre, North Las Vegas, 643-9118

Amateur Rodeo, 5-6, open to public, Peppermill Hotel, Mesquite, 346-5232

An Afternoon In Old Vienna, 6, dance and listen to waltzes and polkas of Johann Strauss Jr.



Henderson Hootenanny

Henderson, Nevada's industrial hub, will be up to its hubcaps in parades, pageantry, pomp and pom-poms during the city's annual Industrial Days celebration, April 15-20. But horsing around will be kept to a decent and decorous minimum—owners of equines having been put on notice to "keep your horses off of hay or green pasture 24 hours prior to the parade."



BIFF OMALIA

Cutthroat Competition

Fishermen will be casting more than aspersions—reeling in bills as well as gills—during the Walker Lake Cutthroat Trout Derby, under the auspices of the El Capitan Lodge and Casino in Hawthorne, and during Topaz Lodge's fishing derby on Topaz Lake. Both competitions continue through April 25. Shown above is Dixie Neilsen with her prize-winning catch last year.

by the Las Vegas Civic Symphony, 2-5pm, Reed Whipple Cultural Center, 386-6211

World Series of Poker Satellites, 6-8, Four Queens Hotel, 385-4011

Concert, 7 8pm, Las Vegas Symphony Orchestra, Ham Concert Hall, UNLV, 739-3420

Art Exhibit, 7-5/2, paintings by New York artists, Fine Arts Gallery, UNLV, 739-3893

"The Miss Firecracker Contest," 10-12, 8pm Thurs.-Fri., 2pm Sat., Clark County Community College Theatre, North Las Vegas, 643-9118

UNLV v. Cal. State Long Beach, 11-13, baseball, 7pm Fri.-Sat., 1pm Sun., UNLV, 739-3207

Las Vegas Stars v. Portland Beavers, 11-14, triple-A pro baseball, 7:35pm Fri.-Sat. and Mon., 1:35pm Sun., Cashman Field, 386-7200

Jackpot Team Roping, 12, open to public, Peppermill Hotel, 346-5232

Indian Powwow and Craftsmen Fair, 12-13, traditional dancing for a \$5,000 purse, arts and crafts, traditional food booths, contemporary Indian fashion show, contests, raffle, 10am-6pm, Henderson Convention Center 642-6674

World Series of Poker Satellites, 13-15, Four Queens Hotel, 385-4011

An Evening With John Wilkes Booth, 14, Clinton Case performs gripping, thought-provoking drama, 8pm, Charleston Heights Arts Center, 386-6383

Las Vegas Stars v. Tacoma Tigers, 15-18, triple-A pro baseball, 7:35pm, Cashman Field, 386-7200

Henderson Industrial Days, 15-20, town party with beauty pageant at 7pm on 15th, 7pm talent contest on 17th, noon parade on 19th, Henderson, 565-8951

Craps Tournament, 18-20, Marina Hotel, 739-1500

UNLV v. UC Irvine, 18-20, baseball, 7pm Fri.-Sat., 1pm Sun., UNLV, 739-3207

Homage to the Grape

There will be an added touch of glass at Harrah's Convention Center when connoisseurs gather for a four-day celebration of the world of wine, featuring tastings, seminars, gourmet food, and the choice offerings of 100 vintners. The Reno Wine Adventure is April 17-20.

A Meeting of Mimes, 18-27 entertainment by some of Las Vegas' finest silent artists, 7pm Fri.-Sat., 2pm Sun. with an additional 7pm performance 4/27 Reed Whipple Cultural Center, 386-6553

World Series of Poker Satellites, 20-22, Four Queens Hotel, 385-4011

ESPN Boxing, 22, 6-9pm, Showboat Hotel, 385-9123

Halley's Comet Observation Workshop, 24, registration required, 7-9pm, Humanities Bldg., UNLV, 739-3394

Jackpot Team Roping and Amateur Rodeo, 25-26, open to public, Peppermill Hotel, Mesquite, 346-5232

UNLV v. Fresno State, 25-27 baseball, 7pm Fri.-Sat., 1pm Sun., UNLV, 739-3207

World Series of Poker Satellites, 27-29, Four Queens Hotel, 385-4011

PGA Panasonic Las Vegas Invitational, 4/30-5/4, top pro golfers and celebrity amateurs compete, \$1,205,000 tournament purse, play is at Desert Inn, Spanish Trail, and Las Vegas country clubs, 382-6616

World Series of Poker, 5/1-22, \$4 million purse, Binion's Horseshoe Hotel, 382-1600

Boulder City Spring Jamboree, 5/3, 11am parade, booths, food, 293-2034

Spring Program, 5/3-4, featuring Vassili Sulich's "Walls in the Horizons," Nevada Dance Theatre, Ham Concert Hall, UNLV, 739-3838

bike endurance race, Rhyolite City Park, Rhyolite No. 2

PIONEER TERRITORY

March

El Capitan Cutthroat Trout Derby, thru 4/25, \$600 for 1st place, \$250 for 2nd, \$150 for 3rd, and \$100 for all 10-pounders, El Capitan Casino, Hawthorne, 945-3321



A Ubiquity of Antiquity

Heirlooms, quilts, and Oriental Early American paraphernalia Antique toys and prints and pottery...Stacks of venerable this-and-thottery Ivory, jade, and mugs of pewter Folk art, glass, an old six-shooter More, still more, shouldst thou enter Ye Olde Reno-Sparks Convention Center. (April 11-13)

Ichthyosaur Fossil Shelter Guided Tours, thru 5/23, 10am and 2pm Fri.-Mon., Berlin Ichthyosaur State Park, 23 miles east of Gabbs, 867-3001

Kiwanis Club Annual Talent Show, 15, Hawthorne, 945-2765

Migratory Bird Walk, 22, ranger leads walk along reservoir to identify bird species, discuss natural history of park, Echo Canyon State Rec. Area, 12 miles east of Pioche, 728-4467

Good Friday Service, 28, 2pm, Rhyolite No. 2

Easter-Egg Hunt, 30, train depot, Rhyolite No. 2

April

Carnival, 11-12, food, games of chance, Hawthorne Lion's Club, Hawthorne, 945-2333

Spring Hike, 19, ranger leads hike along the Ash Canyon trail, bring lunch, 10am-2pm, Echo Canyon State Rec. Area, 12 miles east of Pioche, 728-4467

Hell 100 Hare and Hound Moto-Cross, 26, dirt

PONY EXPRESS TERRITORY

March

Topaz Lodge 1986 Fishing Derby, thru 4/25, 16 weekly winners receive \$1 per ounce for their lunkers, and are eligible for grand prize drawings of \$1000, \$500, or \$250 on 4/26, Topaz Lake, 266-3338

Museum Opening, thru 5/31 open weekends only, 6/1-10/31 open every day, Nevada Northern Railway Museum, Ely, 289-8877

Bristlecone Chariot Races, 1-2, futurity, derby, and invitational, Calcutta auction betting, fairgrounds, Ely, 289-8877

Hidden Cave Tours, 8 and 22, meet 9:30am at County Museum, Fallon, 882-1631 or 423-3677

Slide Show, 16, on Nevada, narrated by Nevada State Museum docent member Jack Gibson, 2pm, free, Hazen Bar, on U.S. 50-A, Hazen, 867-3066

April

Lecture, 4, Smithsonian's National Associate Program presents "Beyond the Ocean, Beneath a Leaf," 7pm, \$2.50, Fallon Community Center, 423-3677

Lecture, 5, Smithsonian's National Associate Program presents "25 Years of Space Exploration," 7pm, \$2.50, Fallon Community Center, reception following at Churchill County Museum, 423-3677

Wildlife Photography Seminar, 12, bring camera, 9am, meet at main entrance of Silver Springs Beach, Lahontan State Rec. Area, Silver Springs, 577-2226

Hidden Cave Tour, 12, meet 9:30am at County Museum, Fallon, 882-1631 or 423-3677

Slide Show, 20, Amy Dansie, anthropologist with Nevada State Museum will show the latest findings of the Stillwater archaeological site, 2pm, free, Hazen Bar, on U.S. 50-A, Hazen, 867-3066

Free Admission Day, 20, all day boating, day use, and overnight camping free, Silver Springs Beach, Lahontan State Rec. Area, Silver Springs, 577-2226

Lost City Exhibit, 21-5/21, on Nevada's ancient Pueblo Indians, Lyon County Museum, Yerington, 397-2193

Tour of Lahontan Dam Works, 26, tour of the inner workings of dam, 10am, Lahontan State Rec. Area, meet at Lahontan Dam, 10 miles east of Silver Springs, 867-3500

Hidden Cave Tour, 26, meet 9:30am at County Museum, Fallon, 882-1631 or 423-3677

COVERED WAGON TERRITORY

March

"A" Division I Basketball Playoffs, 2/28-3/1 high school, Lovelock, 273-2625

Nevada 86, 2/28-3/31 on 2/28 photo show premieres with a special 7pm slide show and exhibit; photo show continues thru 3/31, Northeastern Nevada Museum, Elko, 738-3418

Chariot Races, thru 29, horse-drawn chariot

races every Sat., noon at the chariot track, Wells, 752-3344

Concert, 2, UNR woodwind orchestra, Elko Convention Center, 784-6622

Elko General Hospital Funaroo, 8, international food festival, carnival games, auction, baked goods sale, Elko Convention Center 738-5475

St. Pat's Fair, 15, games, bingo, kids' games, drawings, fairgrounds, Winnemucca, 623-2928

April

"Merchant of Venice," 2, performed by National Shakespeare Company of New York, \$5, Elko Convention Center, 738-8493

Cabin Fever Reliever Dance, 4-5, square dancing, Sagebrush Spinners Square Dance Club, Elko Junior High School Gym, 738-3666

Nevada 86, 4-17, photo show, Humboldt County Library, Winnemucca, 623-6388

Nevada 86, 24-5/8, photo show, Pershing County Library, Lovelock, 273-2216 or 273-7397

RENO/TAHOE TERRITORY

March

Art Show, thru 2/28, collection of old photos, prints, and drawings of Reno and surrounding areas by Mitchel I. Pomerantz, Washoe County Library, 322-6105

"AAA" Division I Basketball Playoffs, 2/26-28 and 3/1 boys and girls, Lawlor Events Center, UNR, 784-4659

"Fifth of July," 2/27-3/1, contemporary drama, 8pm, Reno Little Theater, 329-0661

Snowfest, 2/28-3/9, winter fun all over North Lake Tahoe and Truckee includes parade, Mr. Lake Tahoe contest, Miss Sierra Snowfest pageant, Great Ski Race, professional ski patroller's race, snowmobile races, crab & pasta feed, wine tastings, Monte Carlo Night, street dance, torchlight parade, Trivial Pursuit tournament, dress up your dog contest, ice cream eating contest, model railroad and photo shows, call for complete schedule, 916-583-7625

Canadian Friendship Festival, 2/28-4/20, special events including a boxing match on March 15, a Canadian-American Old-Timers Hockey Tournament 4/17-20, world class cross-country ski competition March 19-28, and basketball games March 6-8, Reno area, 827-7660

Planetarium Show, thru 4/27 on Halley's Comet, accompanied by film "Riches: The Story of Nevada Mining," Fleischmann Planetarium, UNR, 784-4811

Nevada History Exhibit, thru 5/30, on the territorial period of the state's history, Nevada Historical Society Downtown Gallery, 789-0190

Henry Weinhard's College Cup Race, 1, Boreal Ski Area, Truckee, 426-3666

Flea Market, 1-2, 8-9, 15-16, 22-23, and 29-30, state fairgrounds, 785-4307

Art Exhibits, 1-30, paintings by Sam Francis, prints and drawings by James McCormick, Sierra Nevada Museum of Art, 329-3333

The Great Ski Race, 2, 30km cross-country ski race, 9am start at Tahoe Nordic Ski Center, part of Snowfest activities, Tahoe City, 916-583-9858

Concert, 2, 3pm, Reno Chamber Orchestra, Trinity Episcopal Church, 826-8742

Vuarnet Day, 2, ski race open to public, 1pm, Squaw Valley, N. Lake Tahoe, 916-583-1569

"Captive City," 3, film made in 1955 at UNR, 7pm, Jot Travis Student Union, UNR, 784-6682

"AAA" State Basketball Tournament, 3-5, boys and girls, Lawlor Events Center, UNR 885-4390

Corporate Ski Challenge, 3-8, open to all recreational racers, Alpine Meadows, Tahoe City, 916-583-4232

Corporate Ski Challenge, 5-8, Tahoe Nordic Ski Center, Tahoe City, 916-583-9858

"The Lion In Winter," 6-8, drama, 8pm, Community College Theatre, South Lake Tahoe, 916-541-7597

Big Sky Conference Tournament, 6-8, basketball, Lawlor Events Center, UNR, 784-4500

"AA" State Basketball Tournament, 6-8, boys and girls, Reno-Sparks Convention Center, 885-4390

"Evita," 7-8, musical, 8pm, Church Fine Arts Theatre, UNR, 784-6505

Crazy Craft Sled Race, 8, participants race their zany, homemade sleds in double-elimination races, prizes awarded to fastest sled, Ski Incline, Incline Village, 832-1177

UNR v. Univ. of San Francisco, 8, baseball, noon, UNR, 784-4180

U.S.S.A. Race, 8-9, Ski Incline, Incline Village, 832-1175

Cross-Country Ski Race, 9, 15km., Northstar, North Lake Tahoe, 916-562-1010

Concert, 9, presented by St. Paul's Methodist Church, 8pm, Pioneer Theater, 786-5105



Concert, 12, University of Nevada bands, 8pm, Pioneer Theater 786-5105

"The Lion In Winter," 13-15, drama, 8pm, Community College Theatre, South Lake Tahoe, 916-541-7597

"Evita," 13-16, musical, 8pm Thurs.-Sat., 2pm and 8pm Sun., Church Fine Arts Theatre, UNR, 784-6505

Reno International Polled Hereford Sale, 14-15, 50-head of the top of the breed from North America to be sold, John Ascuaga's Nugget, Sparks, 356-3300

Bunny Hop

They'll be running like rabbits for a crack at \$5,000 in prize money and free trips to Hawaii during the Las Vegas Easter Fun Run. The March 27-29 event is sponsored by the Tropicana Hotel and television station KLAS.

Lockett's Reno Autorama, 14-16, Reno-Sparks Convention Center, 323-6055

Charity Bowl, 15, football game, UNR, followed by party at Peppermill Inn, 826-2121

KONE/KOZZ Bazaar '86, 15-16, Reno-Sparks Convention Center, 329-9261

Gourmet Ski Tour, 16, cross-country skiing and gourmet lunch, noon, \$17, Tahoe Nordic Ski Center, Tahoe City, 916-583-9858

St. Patrick's Day Celebration, 17, races, green beer, live band, 9am-4pm, Echo Summit Ski Resort, South Lake Tahoe, 916-659-7154

St. Patrick's Day Celebration, 17 citizens ski race, Northstar, North Lake Tahoe, 916-562-1010

"Apartment For Peggy," 17 film starring Jeanne Crane and William Holden on the UNR campus in 1952, 7pm, Jot Travis Student Union, UNR, 784-6682

California Special Olympics, 17-20, winter games for special athletes, Echo Summit Ski Resort, South Lake Tahoe, 916-659-7154

Mother Lode Special Olympics, 17-21 Boreal Ski Area, Truckee, 916-426-3666

Concert, 18, 8:15pm, Reno Philharmonic, Pioneer Theater, 329-1324

Molson's Restaurant/Tavern Race, 19, Homewood Ski Area, West Lake Tahoe, 916-525-7256

Western Gold Nugget Futurity and Sale, 20-22, Gelbvieh and Gelbray breeds, John Ascuaga's Nugget, Sparks, 356-3300

"Steambath," 21-23, black comedy, 8pm Fri.-Sat., 2pm Sun., Reno Little Theater, 329-0661

USRSA Henry Weinhard's College Cup State Championships, 22, Alpine Meadows, Tahoe City, 916-583-4232

PASCO Wave Camp, 22-30, soaring meet, Pacific Area Soaring Council, Minden Airport, 782-7627

Concert, 23, UNR Choir and Reno Chamber Orchestra, 2pm, St. Therese the Little Flower Church, 784-4030

Tanner's World-Wide Flea Market, 23, Reno-Sparks Convention Center, 827-7600

Smallbore Rifle Silhouette, 23, Palomino Valley Gun Club, 22 miles north of Sparks, 323-3950

Cross-Country Ski Tour, 23, 10km tour with a gourmet lunch, Northstar, North Lake Tahoe, 916-562-1010

Gourmet Ski Tour, 23, cross-country skiing and gourmet lunch, noon, \$17, Tahoe Nordic Ski Center, Tahoe City, 916-583-9858

Chrysler/Dodge Series Race Championships, 23, Northstar, North Lake Tahoe, 916-562-1010



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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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DOWNTOWN RENO



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 Erreguique 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 & Mesarkey 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.

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Lamb • Banquets • Drinks
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849-1500

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555 Highway 395 South. Washoe Valley

UNR v. Lewis and Clark State, 24, baseball, 1pm, UNR, 784-4180

Easter Fun Week, 24-30, events for children 12 and under, Sierra Ski Ranch, 12 miles west of South Lake Tahoe, 916-659-7519

"Steambath," 27-29, black comedy, 8pm, Reno Little Theater, 329-0661

UNR v. Oregon Tech, 27 baseball, noon, UNR, 784-4180

Snaffle Bit Maturity Show, 27-30, Reno-Sparks Convention Center, 827-7600

UNR v. Univ. of San Diego, 28-29, baseball, 2:30pm Fri., 2pm Sat., UNR, 784-4180

Echo to Kirkwood Race, 29, Kirkwood Cross-Country Ski Area, 45 miles from South Lake Tahoe, 209-258-8864

Cross-Country Ski Tour, 30, 10km ski tour with gourmet lunch, Northstar, North Lake Tahoe, 916-562-1010

Easter Festivities, 30, Easter-egg hunt, raw egg toss, wacky bonnet contest, Easter Bunny on skis, Northstar, North Lake Tahoe, 916-562-1010

Easter Celebration, 30, Easter buffet breakfast, sunrise service, Easter-egg hunt, skiing with Easter Bunny, Boreal Ski Area, 916-426-3666

Spring Luau, 30, Echo Summit Ski Resort, South Lake Tahoe, 916-659-7154

Easter-Egg Hunt, 30, egg hunt for children, admission \$1 per vehicle and one dozen eggs per child, Ramblin' Wheels Motorcycle Club, Fort Churchill, 972-0132

April

"Othello," 1 performed by the National Shakespeare Company, Pioneer Theater, 784-6505

April Fools Relay, 1 cross-country ski race, 10am, Tahoe Nordic Ski Center, Tahoe City, 916-583-9858

UNR v. San Jose State, 1, baseball, 2pm, UNR, 784-4180

UNR v. Laverne, 2, baseball, 2pm, UNR, 784-4180

Lecture, 3-4, on Thurs. the Smithsonian's National Associate Program presents "The American Cowboy," at Jot Travis Student Union, UNR, reception following at Nevada Historical Society, 789-0190; repeats on Fri. at Brewery Arts Center in Carson City, 883-1976

Reno International Jazz Festival, 3-5, amateur competition between jazz bands and jazz choirs from elementary schools, high schools, and universities from the Western U.S., guest artists include Maynard Ferguson and Orchestra, and John Hendricks and Company; Reno-Sparks Convention Center and Pioneer Theater, 786-5409

Lecture, 4, the Smithsonian's National Associate Program presents "Beyond the Ocean, Beneath a Leaf," 3pm, \$2.50, Jot Travis Student Union, UNR, 789-0190

Multiple Sclerosis Ski-A-Thon, 5, open to public, Squaw Valley, North Lake Tahoe, 916-583-6985

Coors Race Tour, 5, open to all, Boreal Ski Area, Truckee, 916-426-3666

Biathlon Race, 5, 10km, 10am, \$12, Kirkwood Cross-Country Ski Area, 45 miles from South Lake Tahoe, 209-258-8864

Concert and Nature Photography Seminar, 5, part of the Smithsonian's National Associate Program; \$20 photography seminar includes book; American folk songs concert \$5, Jot Travis Student Union, UNR, 789-0190

UNR v. St. Mary's, 5, baseball, noon, UNR, 784-4180

Flea Market, 5-6, state fairgrounds, 827-5475

Folk Song Workshop, 6, \$20 includes record, 2-5pm, Brewery Arts Center, Carson City, 883-1976

UNR v. Chico, 8, baseball, 2pm, UNR, 784-4180

All Night Ski-A-Thon, 11 band, party, open 24 hours, Boreal Ski Area, Truckee, 916-426-3666

Reno Antiques Show and Sale, 11-13, noon-9pm Fri.-Sat., noon-5pm Sun., Reno-Sparks Convention Center, 827-7600

Art Exhibits, 11-27 juried show of UNR art students and show by Northern Nevada high school students, Sierra Nevada Museum, 329-3333

Flea Market, 12-13, state fairgrounds, 827-5475

Sierra Mountain Race Triathlon, 13, 10km cross-country skiing, 10km run, and 30km bicycle, Squaw Valley, North Lake Tahoe, 916-583-8951

Tanner's World Wide Flea Market, 13, Reno-Sparks Convention Center, 827-7600

Black Powder Pistol Silhouette, 13, Palomino Gun Club, 22 miles north of Sparks, 972-7203

Concert, 13, Reno Chamber Orchestra, 3pm, Trinity Episcopal Church, 826-8742

UNR v. Sonoma State, 15, baseball, noon, UNR, 784-4180

Harrah's Reno Wine Adventure, 17-20, wine tastings, seminars, luncheons, gourmet dinner, and winners of Harrah's National Wine Competition for cabernets, Harrah's Reno, 788-3008

Nevada State Gymnastic Championships, 18-19, site TBA, 331-2200

"The Elixir of Love," 18-19, comedic opera, 8pm, Pioneer Theater, 786-4046

Reno Home Improvement Show, 18-20, Reno-Sparks Convention Center, 323-6055

Reno Dillier's Show, 19, Reno-Sparks Convention Center, 826-7028

Horse Show, 19-20, Nevada State Horsemen's Assn., state fairgrounds, 852-3011

Flea Market, 19-20, state fairgrounds, 827-5475

Blackjack Tournament, 19-21 Peppermill Inn, 826-2121

Mexican Dance, 21 state fairgrounds, 329-3658

Northern Nevada Bands Festival, 23-24, Pioneer Theater, 784-6525

Arbor Day Celebration, 25, ceremonial tree planting and presentation of Tree City USA award to city of Reno, location TBA, 785-2270

"Agnes of God," 25-27 drama, 8pm Fri.-Sat., 2pm Sun., Reno Little Theater, 329-0661

Truck Pull, 25-27 state fairgrounds, 785-4307

Concert, 26, 8pm followed by wine and cheese tasting, UNR Concert Choir, St. Therese the Little Flower Church, 784-4030

UNR v. Santa Clara, 26, baseball, noon, UNR, 784-4180

Highpower Shoot, 26-27 Palomino Valley Gun Club, 22 miles north of Sparks, 782-3800

Western National Angus Futurity, 26-29, held at the state fairgrounds in Reno and John Ascuaga's Nugget in Sparks, 356-3300

Concert, 29, 8:15pm, Reno Philharmonic, Pioneer Theater, 329-1324

UNR v. U.C. Davis, 29, baseball, 2pm, UNR, 784-4180

Jack Gomez Roping, 30, state fairgrounds, 785-4307

Livestock Show, 30, state fairgrounds, 784-4848

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. □

**"Will James
in Reno Town"**

A tribute to James' time in Nevada, when he helped publicize Reno's rodeo. The poster is based on the James original; the rest is Bramlett's





**"Jinglin'
the Horses"**

Bramlett paints from experience. He was born on a ranch in Oklahoma, wrangled for outfits around the West, and even threw a few loops in rodeos.

JIM BRAMLETT

A western artist with a Will to succeed.



If Willie Nelson's heroes have always been cowboys, western artist Jim Bramlett's hero has always been Will James. He has dogged James' heels in Arizona, Wyoming, and Nevada, following the trails James took in the early 1900s and studying the mood and temperament of the writer-artist. Bramlett's research has evolved into a series of paintings and sculptures on James, into articles for magazines, and into a book that he hopes to publish on James' life.

But in Bramlett's own work as a western artist, the resemblance stops. His style is smooth yet boldly dramatic, with striking colors lending glowing complexions to skin and sky. Lauded by collectors, his work has been shown in major galleries and featured on numerous magazine covers.

Bramlett does share with James a tendency to roam. In fact, we're not sure where the Yerington resident is at present. The talk around town, and at the nearby Flying M Ranch, is that Bramlett lit out over the Sierra for a while.

—Jim Crandall

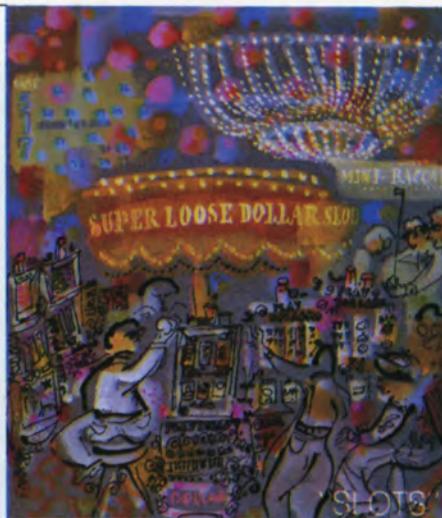
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LETTERS (Continued from page 12)

Adrian Atwater, Jack McCarthy, Don Bowers, Guy Shipley, and others. The photographs brought back memories of working with issues up through 1954 as we prepared the index to the first 14 volumes of *Nevada Highways and Parks* at the Nevada State Library. I was a reference librarian in 1951 and state librarian for three years during Grant Sawyer's administration.

Joseph F. Shubert
State Librarian and Asst.
Commissioner for Libraries
Albany, NY

I noticed that in the May/June '85 issue you published the winning photos in the Nevada '85 photo contest. However, I



"SORENSEN'S BARN" BY JOHN BIALE

didn't see my slide, "Sorensen's Barn, Gardnerville," which won first place for color slides.

John Biale
Carson City, NV

Biale, that was our oversight. Here's a belated look at "Sorensen's," and good luck in Nevada '86! —Ed.

Denio in a Snowstorm

We've enjoyed *Nevada Mag* this last year, and we'd like one each of those calendars, the '86 Classic and the '86 Scenic. We figure folks will see 'em on our walls. Probably they'll figure out where we got hitched, three years ago—at Winnemucca. It never came out in the local papers. My sister-in-law said she didn't believe we were married. I told her it's a big world out there.

It sure seemed big when we wandered later through the flats in a snowstorm. Those friendly folks at Denio wanted to wine and dine us on our honeymoon before telling us "just keep heading north till you come to Fields." Now those are real folks.

By the way, couldn't you just call that dam Boulder and have it over with?

Adria Blakeney
LaGrande, OR.

Grew 2 More Wheels?

Thought you might be interested that we found a small flaw in your fine magazine. On page 76, May/June '85, you show a photo of the 110-year-old *Inyo* leaving the

(Continued on page 76)



Classified

BOOKS

"TALES OF TAHOE" by David Stollery, Lake Tahoe newspaper columnist. Fourth printing. 250 pages of Tahoe history and legend. Illustrated. Order from David Stollery, P.O. Box 1792, Encino, CA 91316. \$10.80 postpaid.

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NEVADA'S FIRST BUSINESS, THE CARSON BREWING COMPANY By Arnold Millard. A personal history of the brewery & Carson City from an insider's viewpoint. Many previously unpublished photographs. \$11.50 ppd to BAC, 449 W. King, Carson City, NV. 89701

FREE. To extent of current supply. Bookettes on Northeastern Nevada. Also, fishing and rockhounding maps. Write: Carl Hayden, Box 528, Jackpot, NV. 89825.

NEVADA & THE WEST Send SASE for list of books on ghost towns, prostitution, lost mines, cookbooks, etc. McDonald Publishing, Box 20443, Reno, NV. 89515.

COLLECTIBLES

BUY SNAKES! Award-winning photographic poster "I Love Nevada" with the heart-shaped dancing rattlesnakes. Send \$6.95 to Nevada Magazine Snakes, Capitol Complex, Carson City, NV. 89710-0005.

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MISCELLANEOUS

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NEVADA PINUPS: Three of NEVADA Magazine's finest color photographs, enlarged to 24x18" capture the essence of Nevada beauty. "In God's Light," by Linda Dufurrena; "Elephant Rock" and "Winter at Tahoe" by David Muench. **\$5.50 each. Set of three: \$12.** Please see insert envelope to order.

PHOTOGRAPHY

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

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DELUXE HUNTING LODGE in ghost town of Jarbidge, NV. Three separate bldgs: 4,500 sq. ft. Main Home; Party House & Barn with caretakers/guest quarters. Property borders Jarbidge River, surrounded by Humboldt Nat'l Forest. Hunt and fish in Nevada/Idaho. Unique property, only \$389,000. Broker inq. welcome. Write/Call for brochure/info: Sue Angelo, Box 773, Pagosa Spgs, CO. 81147 (303) 731-2778 eves.

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LETTERS (Continued from page 74)

ol' barn at the Nevada State Railroad Museum in great style. On page 77 we see a photo of the *Glenbrook* being restored, and on the right the *Inyo* "simply gleams"—but with two new drivers (the large wheels). Could this beautiful engine be the second No. 25, (Baldwin, 1905), a 4-6-0?

Gary L. DeLapp
Pasadena, CA.

DeLapp, you're right. According to the museum's curator, Richard Datin, that is No. 25, powered by six driver wheels. The Inyo has four. Good catch!—Ed.

A Weighty Issue

Your feature, "Invisible Gold" by Carolyn Dufurrena, July/August '85, is incorrect in part. The weight of gold is in troy ounces, 12 to the pound, not 16. So the 75-pound bar mentioned in the article has 900 troy ounces, which, at \$325 per ounce, would bring \$292,500—not \$360,000 as stated.

C. Cummings

Half Moon Bay, CA.

Cummings, Nevadans go by the everyday avoirdupois pound, which contains 14.583 troy ounces. (Since the article was for general interest, I didn't get that technical.) A 75-pound gold bar thus contains 1,093.725 troy ounces and, at \$325, sells for \$355,460.62. It turned out I was off by \$4,540.38. Sorry about that.—Carolyn Dufurrena.

All Downhill

What a super job you people did with the article on Eva Twardokens and fellow skiers, by Jim Crandall, in the Nov/Dec '85 issue!

Fred Sharf and Heather Underhill
Sharf Sports Group
Canton, MA.

I would like to see the *Nevada* change from a rag one would find in an airplane to a publication one would want on his bookshelf.

PS: Ever read *Arizona Highways*?

Dave Lazok
Las Vegas, NV

I resubscribe. However, please give us more real West and less glitter and city stuff.

James Bonner
Pasadena, CA.

Disappearing in Black Rock

Consider this another love letter as to the contents of your *Nevada Magazine*. My hubby and I enjoy all the articles. We make it a point to visit my brother-in-law Herb Harris, who lives in Sparks, twice a year, and we three go out into the Black Rock Desert and just disappear for a few days.

Marian Roberta Harris
Temple City, CA. □

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Index to Advertisers

Authentic Homes	60
Boulder City Chamber of Commerce	50
Bristlecone Convention Center	50
Cabat Collectibles	74
Callville Bay Resort/Marina	51
Carson City Chamber of Commerce	50
Carson Valley Inn	46
Cattlemen's	71
Classified/Marketplace	75-77
Comstock Hotel	70
Cowboy Poster	61
Dunlap Boat Mfg.	59
Eldorado Hotel	16
Elliot-Chartz House	51
First Federal Savings	37
First Interstate Bank	15
Fitzgeralds	34
Forever Resorts	51
Frontier Savings Association	59
Gambling Poster	61
Harolds Club	39
Harvey's Resort Hotel	80
Hilton Hotel	55
Holiday Casino	79
Karl's Silver Club	57
Louis' Basque Corner	71
McCarran International Airport	25
MGM/UA Home Video	2
Martin Hotel	70
Maxim Hotel	45
Mining Poster	61
Del Webb's Nevada Club	58
Nevada First Thrift	5
Nevada National Bank	13
Owl Club & Motel	50
Pershing County Convention Center	51
Personalized 1987 Calendars	60
Play Mate Resort Marinas	35
R & K Shellers	50
Rattlesnake Poster	56
Real Log Homes	57
Riverside Casino, Laughlin	44
Security Bank of Nevada	35
Sierra Nevada College	64
Sierra Nevada Museum of Art	51
Sierra Shangri-La	58
State Flag	60
Station House, Tonopah	64
Stuart Land Company	51
Travel Nevada	31
Union Plaza	46
University of Nevada Press	64
V & T State Museum	56
Women Poster	61
Winnemucca Convention Center	50
Winners	47



TED ROBERTSON

Legend in Our Time

The Mapes Hotel's water may have run from hot to cold, but my memories of the distinguished Reno landmark will be forever warm.

By Diane Sims

Braced against the chilling blast of a Sierra Nevada morning, I stood on the corner of First and Virginia streets staring up at the darkened windows of the Mapes Hotel. The old place was shut tight. The lights on the marquee were out, and there was no trace of the tourist crowds that used to surge in and out of the casino doors.

Every spring for nearly two decades I had swung through those doors to meet my sisters and friends at the Mapes for our once-a-year reunions, and in the fall, without fail, my husband and I would check out of Albany, Oregon, and into the Mapes for a much needed furlough.

There was something about the Mapes that appealed to us. Surely one attraction was the stylish atmosphere of this elegant Reno landmark built by Charles W. Mapes and family in 1947.

In the old days the Mapes had its own legends—the big bands and entertainers of Sky Room fame, like Dick Shawn, Lili St. Cyr, and Gary Crosby, to name a few. Marilyn Monroe stayed there after the filming of *The Misfits* in the '60s. The smart set always dropped in at the Mapes.

But while glamour was part of the appeal, it wasn't the main attraction. The Mapes was big enough to be accommodating and yet small enough to be friendly. That was what always brought us back.

I remember one spring holiday when we walked into the hotel coffee shop and the waitress recognized us from the year before. We were immensely flattered to be elevated to the status of regulars. After driving 480 miles, there's no better feeling in the world.

The next best feeling that weekend would have been the soothing spray of a shower. For that we had to wait. We were six weary women who had decided democratically who went first. Then we ran out of hot water. The boiler was on the fritz. A few hours later, when piping-hot water finally sang in the pipes, we still weren't out of the woods. The shower spigot only functioned in one position—straight over the curtain and down the opposite wall.

Then there was the asthmatic air conditioner that wheezed so badly one night that we shut it off and opened the windows, only to be vibrated out of bed at sunrise by the earth-shattering commotion of jackhammers ripping Virginia Street to shreds. Nonetheless, we knew that old hotels, like old homes, suffer from idiosyncrasies, and overall our rooms were spacious and comfortable. We also possessed a view of the Truckee River and the Sierra that has never been duplicated.

There were charming elevator operators at the Mapes who not only shuttled guests up and down 24 hours a day but also offered, free of charge, unsolicited advice on the best dining and entertain-

“

When we walked into the coffee shop, the waitress recognized us from the year before. After driving 480 miles, there was no better feeling in the world.

”

ment bargains around town. Over the years we had come to expect those same faces and, with each recurring visit, noticed a peculiar phenomenon: We aged and they didn't.

One night an operator caught my husband and I dead to rights as we were returning to our room for coats before venturing out of the casino. With an approving nod, he said, "You folks are smart—turning in *before* you lose all your money." He had us. Rising to the occasion, we picked up our wraps and trudged down six flights of stairs, slipping unnoticed from the casino. After all, we had an image to maintain.

The Sky Room offered a wonderful Sunday brunch with a panorama of Reno from a 12th-story perch. On one such visit I was happily making my way through the line when I spotted a chef making omelettes on request. He was turning out one perfect omelette after another. I had never cooked an egg in my life without a crispy ruffle, and I was mesmerized.

He caught my eye, and with a twinkle in his he said, "I'll show you how it's done." He patiently explained each step, the hot oil, properly beaten eggs, good rubber spatulas, and, most important, the timing. I was duly impressed, and to this day I can make a respectable omelette.

Entertainment at the Mapes? That was special, too. We usually watched the lounge shows, which ranged from adequate to excellent. Several years ago my husband and I were sitting in the corner showroom enjoying the talented David Proud when in waltzed the Ink Spots. They had just concluded their show at Fitzgerald's and had come to the Mapes to unwind. On their heels was a member of Neil Sedaka's band down from the lake. Because of the late hour and unseasonably cold weather, the audience was sparse—we were practically it. So while David Proud, one of the Ink Spots, and Sedaka's musician delighted us with a bit of ad-libbed entertainment, we sat at a table next to the other Ink Spots, basking in a magic moment that can only happen in Nevada.

Sometime around 1980 the Mapes underwent a number of changes. Oak and leather appointments accented a newly-expanded casino floor. New carpeting appeared in the hallways, and the rooms took on a fresh, appealing look.

We liked the overall effect, but some of the alterations were unsettling. The addition of a video arcade with adjoining snack bar was not a big hit, and worse yet, the restaurants were moved. Our beloved coffee shop was moved to the Coach Room while the more splendid dining graduated to the Top of the Mapes. The idea of scarfing down a hamburger in the once gracious Coach Room was unthinkable for us, and it was in the midst of these changes we began to sense that something special was slipping away.

Then, in December 1982, I read in the newspaper that the Mapes Hotel had permanently closed its doors, a victim of financial misfortunes. Almost immediately we began to miss it.

Our traditions, nevertheless, have remained intact. I still meet my sisters and friends in the springtime, and my husband and I check into town every fall. Our hotel is modern, convenient, and affordable. With three restaurants, an enormous casino, and fine entertainment, we lack for nothing, and the good times still prevail.

But alas, no one recognizes us in the hotel coffee shop. We operate our own elevators, and I haven't had a good cooking lesson in years. The hot water, of course, never runs out; the shower spigot doesn't shoot over the curtain. But it's funny. I really miss those things, too. □

Diane Sims is meeting her sisters in Reno soon.

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