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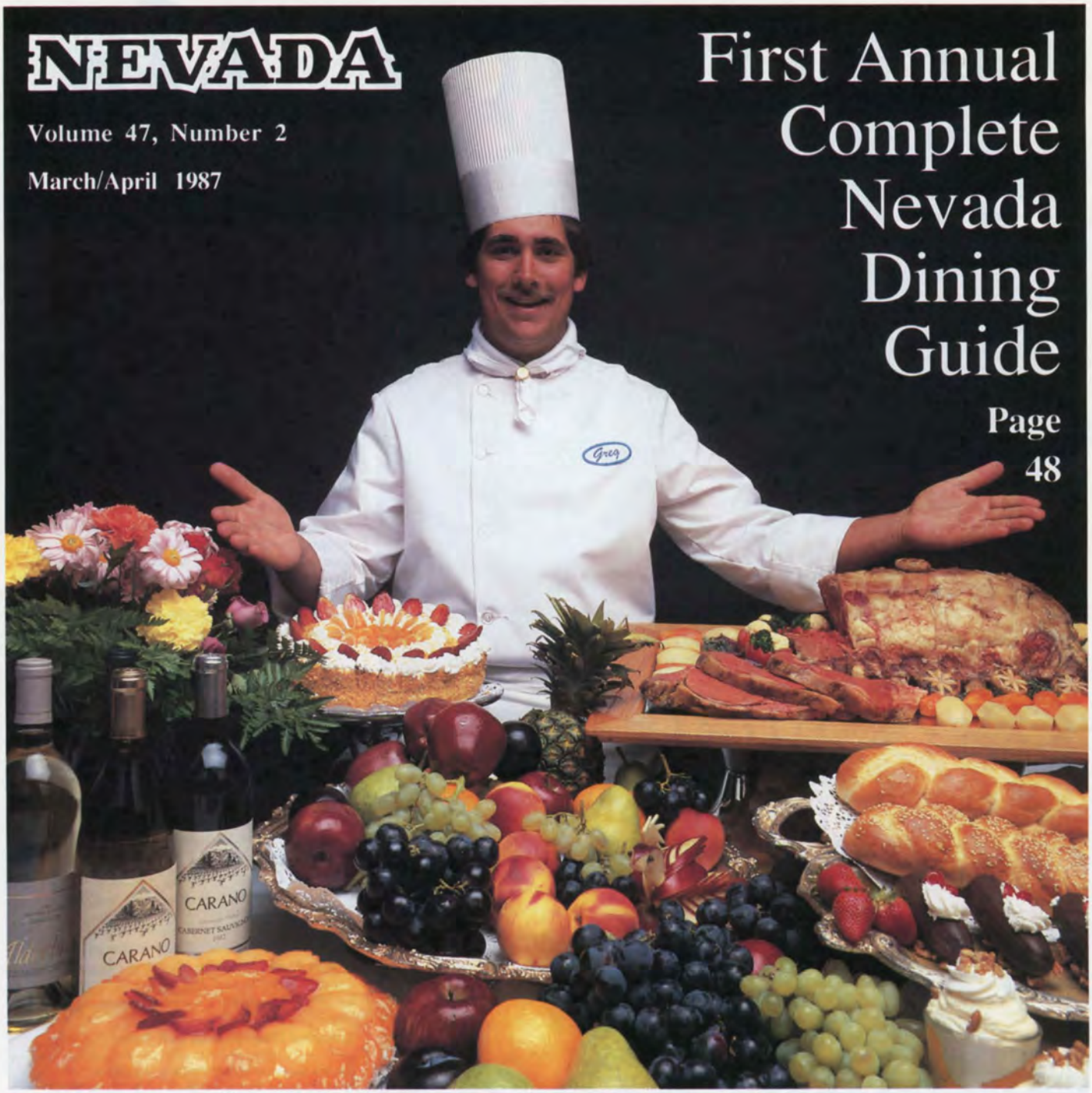
NEVADA

Volume 47, Number 2

March/April 1987

First Annual Complete Nevada Dining Guide

Page 48



Gregg Carano, director of food and beverage and part owner of Reno's Eldorado, displays his gourmet wares.

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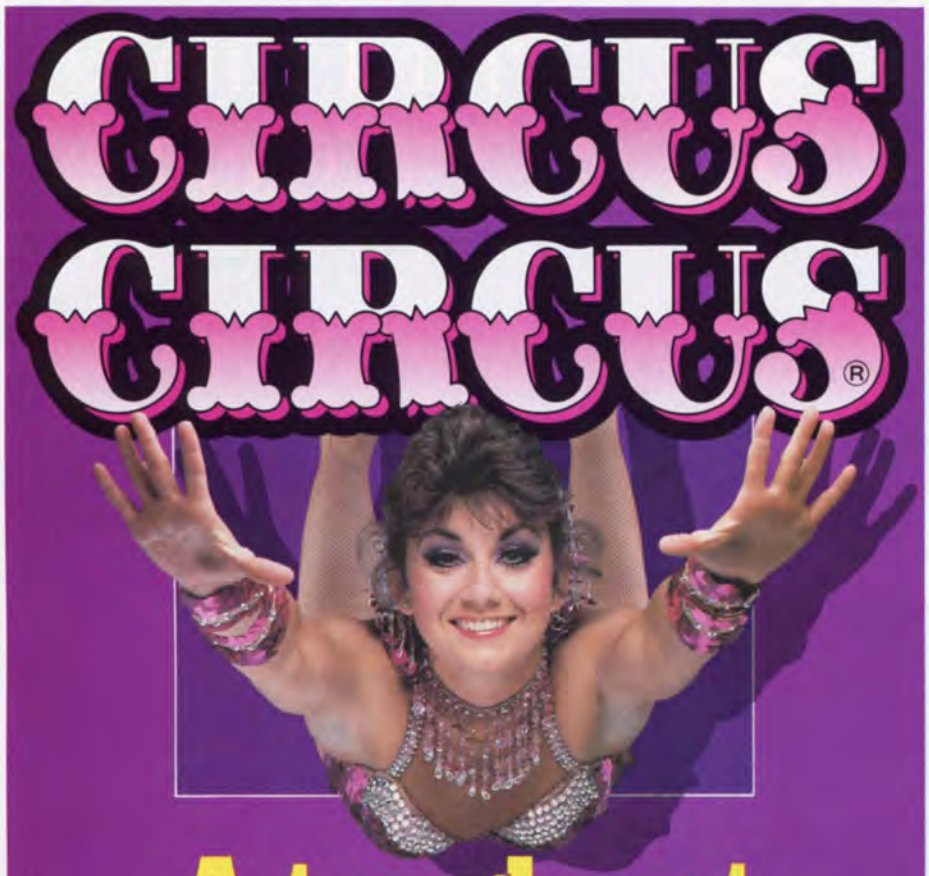
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Letters

Let Me Count The Days
Git yorself a *Nevada Magazine* calendar for the composing room.

Your Jan/Feb 1987 issue, received January 15, 1987 told us what we could see if we went to Nevada New Year's Eve parties December 31, 1986. What a laid-back subtle way to tell us where to go!

Incidentally, the 1958 Kentucky Derby goes in May. I like Silky Sullivan. What are his chances?

Jim Collier
Las Vegas

For years my uncle, Arthur C. Erwin of Boulder City, sent us as a gift your beautiful Historic Calendar. He passed away last April, and so far we have not received any advertising material concerning the calendar from you. WE CANNOT OPERATE IN OUR HOUSEHOLD WITHOUT THIS HISTORIC CALENDAR!

My husband loves the old photos, and can hardly wait to turn the page each month to see what the next picture will be. Each morning we record on it who won our daily cribbage game—and we also record funds coming in and/or going out. It is posted on our refrigerator, in an area that divides our kitchen from our breakfast nook—and is looked at, for one reason or another, several times each day. My husband's favorite photo last year was of a group of people sitting around a large table, obviously stuffed after a heavy meal...or maybe that was the year before. At any rate, please send us an order form, and we'll send you our check promptly.

Thelma T Royer
Porterville, CA.

The Big Picture
This letter is regarding the treatment of the photograph by Steve Nelson that appeared in the centerspread of the Jan/Feb 1987

Don't mess up a man's good work by putting all that printing on the side of his picture. Give him credit, and/or story, on another page, or at least off the picture.

This is my first letter to your magazine. I have been a reader of yours for some years. Keep up the good work.

Scott Griffis
Lake Charles, LA.

The picture on page 48 of the Nov/Dec 1986 issue, "Old Deserted Movie House,

(Continued on page 8)

From the Publisher

More than 10,000 of you responded to our recent readership survey, and we sincerely appreciate your input. We learned that our readership collectively spends more than $225 million a year on travel and dines out more than 666,000 times a week (hence this special restaurant issue). We also learned that in 1986 our readership made more than 595,000 person-trips to the Reno-Tahoe area, 414,000 person-trips to Las Vegas, and 248,000 person-trips to rural Nevada. We even learned that our readers take more vacations, fly more often, and are more likely to rent cars than readers of other travel magazines like *National Geographic Traveler* and *Travel and Leisure*.

Thanks to what we have learned from you, I hope that we can make the magazine even better.

I have been greatly impressed with the variety and quality of events and entertainment here in Nevada. The range is unmatchable anywhere with events like the Winnemucca Western Art Roundup, Olympic champions skating at Harrah's Tahoe, world-class magic at the Frontier in Las Vegas, rodeos and powwows everywhere, and so much more. And even getting here can be interesting with opportunities like the Reno Fun Train. I look forward to experiencing all the state has to offer—because everything I've seen is great!

Some events that I'm looking forward to—and I'm sure you are too—are the dedication of the Great Basin National Park in late spring and Ely's centennial celebration on the first weekend in August. For information on these events, call 702-289-8877 Expect more on these and other Nevada getaways in the next issue.

Kirk

NEVADA STYLE



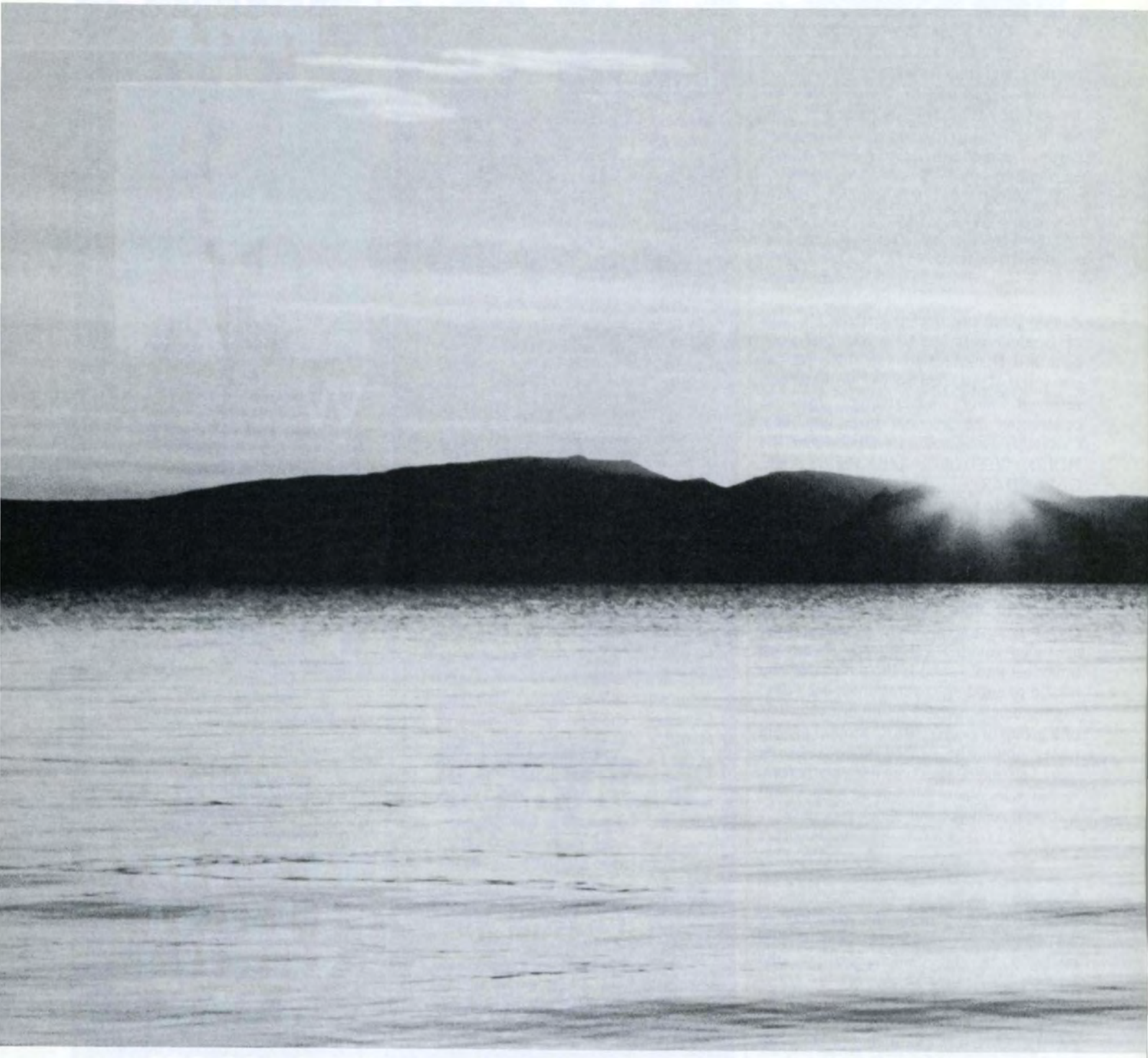
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Letters

(Continued from page 5)

Caliente," by Roy Herrick, brought back some good old memories.

In 1935 and 1936 I was working at the Union Pacific Railroad depot in Caliente and in the evening I sold tickets for movies at that movie house. On Saturday nights after the show we pushed back all the chairs and had a dance.

Hanging from the ceiling were two or three dozen white umbrellas, left behind after a parade or celebration at some even earlier time.

Those were the good old days. Love your magazine.

Avanell Farrell
San Pedro, CA.

Issues and Answers

I never thought I'd be writing this letter to the *Nevada Magazine*, but I am sorry to say that the Jan/Feb 1987 issue was almost a total misuse of print.

Some redeeming features are, in my mind, "Letters," "The Legislature: 100 Years..." by Guy Shipler, the dizzying photo of wild horses on Mustang Mountain by Stephen Nelson, "Famous Homes from Nevada's Past," "The Search For Shangri-Spa," by Chris Kary, artist Vicki Gallagher, "Scenic Drives" by Roger Smith, and Classified Ads. The balance, in my opinion, doesn't belong in the magazine.

Your new format, as far as I am concerned, is not going to make it. Go back to basics, the smell of a sagebrush campfire, the beautiful relaxing smell of the desert, and you've put your ideas on Nevada over!

Bill Smith
Willows, CA.

Just read your Jan/Feb 1987 issue, which we receive at work.

Once upon a time I sent gift subscriptions to my relatives in Iowa and Washington, D.C. They were impressed and what a great impression of Nevada they received. Alas—no more. All there is now is schedules, calendars, and advertisements.

What happened to the "meaty" magazine of ex-publisher C.J. Hadley? Sad, sad, sad.

Judy Jayo
Sparks

Congratulations! Your Jan/Feb '87 issue is the most readable and interesting in years. Come next issue we'll need a bit more on fishing, still one of the most active participant sports in the state!

John Mooney
Yerington

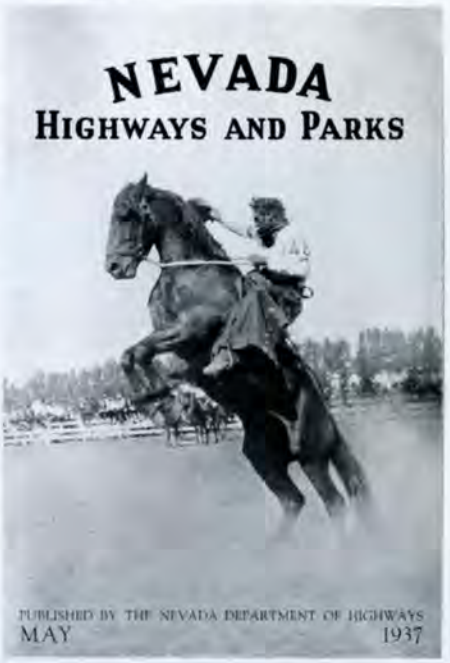
Nevadans in High Society

When Nevadans go to Washington, D.C. to toil in the federal bureaucracy, they yearn for wide-open deserts, mountains on the horizon, a let-live attitude, and any place fun that's open after 11 p.m.

These sentiments and a longing to share the camaraderie of Nevada inspired the creation of the Nevada State Society in Washington, D.C. 50 years ago. On March 12 the society will celebrate its golden anniversary with a Capitol Hill party honoring past society presidents and welcoming Rep. James Bilbray, D-Nev., into the fold.

In Nevada's unique political way, bipartisanship is the mood at society parties. It was in that spirit that Sen. Chic Hecht, R-Nev., hosted a recent society party for Sen. Harry Reid, D-Nev., after the swearing-in ceremonies.

The 50th anniversary party will feature a roll-call of all past society presidents, including the first one, Nick Bosta of



Ely. Bosta and the other past presidents will receive framed lithographs of a 1937 cover of *Nevada Highways and Parks* (now *Nevada Magazine*).

The membership roll includes some familiar Nevada political names—Laxalt, Santini, Cannon, and Hecht, to name a few. Also on the roster are entertainers Wayne Newton and Pete Barbutti.

The list goes on, thanks to efforts like those of current president Dan McLeod. He carries a stack of application blanks in his car. "If I see a Nevada license plate in a parking lot," McLeod says, "I stick one on the windshield." It works. The last recruit was an Air Force nurse from Reno who didn't even know the society existed.

Chris Crystal
Washington, D.C.

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Melissa Manchester
April 6 thru 9

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Lynda Carter
April 10 thru 16

Bill Cosby
April 17 thru 23

Engelbert
Humperdinck
April 24 thru 30
(Except April 27)

In Reno

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Thru March 11

Tony Orlando
March 12 thru 18

Don Rickles
March 19 thru 25

Dionne Warwick
March 26 thru April 1

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April 2 thru 8

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April 9 thru 22

Neil Sedaka
April 23 thru May 6

Alan King
May 7 thru 13

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Father Guido Sarducci
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Jim Nabors
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The Nevada Calendar

Las Vegas



APRIL 29-MAY 3
GOLF'S BIGGEST EVENT

In its fifth year, the Panasonic Las Vegas Invitational already is called Golf's Biggest Event. The tourney not only offers the PGA tour's richest purse—$1,311,000—but also the richest first prize—$225,000. Last year Australian Greg Norman (above) captured first place by seven strokes. Sponsored by the Founders Club of Las Vegas, which administers the charity share of the proceeds, the pro-am is held at the Desert Inn, Las Vegas, and Spanish Trail country clubs. Ticket packages range from the $40 clubhouse badge to the $200 patron clubhouse package. For details, phone 702-382-6616 inside Nevada or 800-722-GOLF outside Nevada.

Events

March

Art Exhibit, thru 3/4, mixed media sculpture by Lee Sido, Allied Arts Gallery, 731-5419

Canine Photographs, thru 3/14, exhibit of 75 photos of dogs taken from 1844-1983, Museum of Natural History, UNLV, 739-3101

"The Merchant of Venice," thru 3/15, Shakespeare's classic comedy, 8pm Thurs.-Sat., 2pm Sun., Dept. of Theatre Arts, Judy Bayley Theatre, UNLV, 739-3801

Wild Horses in Nevada Exhibit, thru 8/87, Nevada State Museum and Historical Society, 385-0115

Children's Exhibits, thru 11/88, return of the children's museum, Nevada State Museum and Historical Society, Lorenzi Park, 385-0115

Art Show, 1-31, works by Robert Marshall, Las Vegas Art Museum, Lorenzi Park, 647-4300

Photo Exhibit, 1-31, photos by Bear Simpson, Lost City Museum, Overton, 397-2193

Las Vegas Symphony Concert, 2, 8pm, Ham Hall, UNLV, 739-3420

Exhibit, 2-30, historic postcards and other artifacts on Southern Nevada, Clark County Museum, Henderson, 565-0907

"What Have I Done to Deserve This?" 3, film, 7pm, Charleston Heights Arts Center, 386-6383

ESPN/Top Rank Boxing, 5, doors open at 5pm, $15 reserved, $10 general, Showboat, 385-9192

"The Red and the Black," 5, film, Reed Whipple Cultural Center, 386-6511

Circle-8 Squaredancers 14th Annual Hoover Dam Festival, 6-7, Junior High School, Boulder City, 293-4918

Works on Paper, 6-4/1, national juried competition, Allied Arts Gallery, 731-5419

Mike Tyson v. James "Bonecrusher" Smith, 7 WBC-WBA heavyweight championship unification, tickets $75-$750, Las Vegas Hilton, 732-5320

Gold Coast 300, 7, off-road race consists of two laps around a 150-mile course south of Las Vegas on existing dirt roads and desert washes, starts 7am, start-finish line will be at Sloan, 15 miles south of Las Vegas; tech inspection of the race cars and trucks on 3/6 from 9:30am-6:30pm at the Gold Coast in Las Vegas, 361-5404

Mouse's Tank Hike, 7, half-mile trip, 10am, bring water, hiking shoes, Valley of Fire State Park, Overton, 397-2088

UNLV Wind Ensemble Concert, 11, 8pm, Ham Hall, UNLV, 739-3332

Disney on Ice, 11-15, Thomas and Mack Center, UNLV, 739-3900

"Mutiny on the Bounty," 12, film, Reed Whipple Cultural Center, 386-6211

National Chess Open, 13-15, prize fund is $20,000, Grand Masters representing over 15 different countries will be competing, Imperial Palace, 731-3311

Introduction to Desert Wildlife, 14, slide show and hike, 9am, no pets or small children, Spring Mountain Ranch State Park, Blue Diamond, 875-4141

St. Patrick's Day Celebration, 17, traditional Irish buffet, green beer, talent competition, Peppermill, Mesquite, 346-5232

Jazz Ensemble Concert, 17, 8pm, Ham Hall, UNLV, 739-3332

Duck Stamp Show, 18-5/10, framed prints of winning designs from the annual competitions for the Federal Duck Stamp Program, Nevada State Museum and Historical Society, 385-0115

"Barry Lyndon," 19, film, Reed Whipple Cultural Center, 386-6211

(Continued on page 13)



APRIL 6
HAGLER V. LEONARD

Las Vegas hosts two major prizefights this spring. On March 7, Mike Tyson fights James "Bonecrusher" Smith at the outdoor stadium at the Las Vegas Hilton in a WBC-WBA heavyweight championship unification. Tickets run from $75-$750. Then, on April 6, comes the big one—undisputed world middleweight champ Marvelous Marvin Hagler and challenger Sugar Ray Leonard battle it out in a scheduled 12-rounder at Caesars Palace's outdoor stadium. The match is a sellout, but you can buy tickets for the live broadcast on the giant-screen TV in Caesars' convention center for $40 each. See calendar listing for more details

Outings

An Exhibit to Bank On

A visit to the new Nevada Banking Museum in Las Vegas takes you through a century of banking history. Old loan documents, a 1921 adding machine, gold scales from a bank lobby, silver bars, and time certificates payable in gold are among the many exhibits. There also is currency bearing the names of Nevada banks from the early 1900s when all federally chartered banks could issue their own money. The museum, open during banking hours, is in the First Interstate Tower at the intersection of Paradise and Twain streets. For further information call 702-385-8011.

Rome in a Day

At the entrance to Caesars Palace's north-side people mover, a monument to Rome as it was 2,000 years ago has been built. The new "World of Caesar" offers mover-riders a trip past miniature replicas of Rome's ancient Colosseum, Forum, and Palatine Hill. Thanks to simulated holography you can see revelers enjoying a Roman festival and be greeted by Caesar and Cleopatra, who appear to speak and move. Laser-powered sound and audio, fiber optics, and other special effects add to the diorama. As you exit the tiny empire you pass gardens and the Strip before the ride ends at the resort's Olympic Casino. The ride is open 24 hours a day, free of charge.

Spring Weekends at the Ranch

Within a 30 minute drive of Las Vegas you can find one of the valley's most historic spots, Spring Mountain Ranch. Guided tours include visits to parts of the Old Spanish Trail that once led travelers to California. On the tour you pass a 110-year-old fig tree, peek through the windows of an 1867 bunk house, and see the oldest complete building in Southern Nevada, an early-1860s blacksmith shop that served riders heading west. You can tour the main ranch house on your own and see a secret passageway and spacious, comfortable quarters. Plan time for a picnic in the adjacent meadow, which is especially beautiful in the spring. A state park set in Red Rock Canyon, Spring Mountain Ranch, is open daily from 8 a.m. until about 5 p.m., depending on the season. The entry fee is $3 per automobile most of the year and $1 in winter. The ranch house is open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on weekends and most holidays, and tours of the ranch buildings start at 11:30 a.m., 1:30 p.m., and 3 p.m. For information call 702-875-4141.

Start at the Center

There's no better place to begin a tour of Lake Mead than at the Alan Bible Visitor Center, which overlooks the lake part way between Boulder City and Hoover Dam. Start with the movie, a 15-minute introduction to the wildlife of the Lake Mead National Recreation Area. Three other slide shows give tips on fishing, water recreation, and boating safety. Many free pamphlets and flyers offer hiking routes, scuba hints, driving maps, and boating rules. Books and tapes are on sale. Outside you can tour a cactus garden, and wildflowers will be blooming in spring throughout the park. Besides running the visitor center, rangers conduct programs on weekend evenings at the Boulder Beach amphitheater. The visitor center is open daily from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. free of charge, although donations are suggested. For more information call 702-293-8906.—*Kate Butler*

Casino Notes

•The **International Gaming Business Exposition** (IGBE '87) is slated for March 3-4 at the **Tropicana Hotel**. It offers a state-of-the-art exhibition and in-depth seminars on the nuts and bolts of gaming.

•**Caesars Palace** has unveiled a carousel of slot machines that take only $100 tokens. The specially-minted tokens are an alloy of 10-karat gold that is plated with pure silver. Each machine accepts one or two tokens per pull, with a top payoff of $100,000.

•Live televised greyhound racing is back in the race and sports book at **Circus Circus**. The races will be shown daily except Sundays, with first race post time at 4:45 p.m.

•The fourth tower expansion at the **Flamingo Hilton** has produced a new 13,000-square-foot health spa, with everything from whirlpools to saunas (wet or dry), and trampolines to rowing machines. Four massage rooms are staffed by professionals, and tanning beds, salt glows (for women) and soap rubs (for men) also are available.

•Last December, the **Lady Luck Casino** celebrated the completion of its new 16-story luxury tower in downtown Las Vegas with a display around the outside of the building of 1,000 over-sized balloons. The multi-colored balloons, each four feet in diameter, were supplied by Armando Ogaz of Los Angeles. They took three days and two nights to install and 17,000 cubic feet of air to fill. The effect was spectacular at the ribbon cutting ceremony.



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McCarran 2000

Events

(Continued from page 10)

"Cinderella," 19-22, ballet, 8pm Thurs-Sat., 2pm and 7pm Sun., Nevada Dance Theatre, Ham Hall, UNLV, 739-3838

ESPN/Top Rank Boxing, 20, doors open 5pm, $15 reserved, $10 general, Showboat, 385-9192

"Little Shop of Horrors," 20-4/5, musical, 7pm Fri.-Sat., 2pm Sun., Rainbow Company, Charleston Heights Arts Center, 386-6553

Edible Plants Program, 21, slide show and short hike, 10am, Valley of Fire State Park, 397-2088

Desert Landscaping Talk, 21, 2pm, Floyd Lamb State Park, 645-1998

"Paris 1900," 23, art film, 7pm, free, Charleston Heights Arts Center, 386-6383

Concert, 23, Brenda Ishikawa on piano, 8pm, Ham Hall, UNLV, 739-3332

"Godzilla Meets Mona Lisa," 24, art film, 7pm, free, Charleston Heights Arts Center, 386-6383

"The Scarlett Pimpernel," 26, film, Reed Whipple Cultural Center, 386-6211

"Cinderella," 26-29, ballet, 8pm Thurs.-Fri., 2pm and 8pm Sat, 2pm and 7pm Sun., Nevada Dance Theatre, Ham Hall, UNLV, 739-3838

AWA All-Star Wrestling, 28, doors open 6pm, $12 reserved, $10 general, Showboat, 385-9192

University Musical Society Orchestra Concert, 29, 2pm, Ham Hall, UNLV, 739-3332

Concert, 30, Luciano Berio, 7pm, Ham Hall, UNLV, 739-3420

April

Neon Photo Exhibit, 1-5/20, neon as an art form, Clark County Museum, Henderson, 565-0907

"The Revolution," 2, film, Reed Whipple Cultural Center, 386-6211

Photo Exhibit, 3-29, Alan Platzer's dye transfer photographs of restaurant interiors dating from the 1940s, Allied Arts Gallery, 731-5419

Reptile Program, 4, 10am and 1pm, Valley of Fire State Park, near Overton, 397-2088

"Candida," 4, George Bernard Shaw's comedy, performed by the Guthrie Theater, 8pm, Ham Hall, UNLV, 739-3801

Dance Concert, 4-5, by faculty and guest choreographers, Judy Bayley Theatre, UNLV, 739-3827

Henderson Industrial Days, 4-12, parade, chili cook-off, lip sync contest, beauty pageant, art show, Henderson, 565-8951

Desert Survival Talk and Hike, 5, hiking shoes recommended, 9am, no pets or small children, Spring Mountain Ranch State Park, 875-4141

Las Vegas Stars v. Seattle Mariners, 5, exhibition baseball game, Cashman Field, 386-7200

Art Exhibit, 5-5/10, works by Helen Meyer Harrison and Newton Harrison, Museum of Natural History, UNLV, 739-3381

Marvelous Marvin Hagler v. Sugar Ray Leonard: Middleweight Title Fight, 6, scheduled 12-round battle; training sessions begin 10-12 days before the fight; arena tickets ($100-$700) are sold out, but closed-circuit tickets for giant-screen live broadcast in the convention center are available at $40, Caesars Palace, 731-7324

Las Vegas Symphony Concert, 6, 8pm, Ham Hall, UNLV, 739-3420

Concert, 7, UNLV Clarinet Choir/Saxophone Quartet, 8pm, Alta Ham Fine Arts Bldg., UNLV, 739-3332

"The Shooting Party," 7, film, 7pm, Charleston Heights Arts Center, 386-6383

Concert, 8, piano recital, 7pm, Ham Hall, UNLV, 739-3420

"The Duellists," 9, film, Reed Whipple Cultural Center, 386-6211

Chamber Chorale Home Concert, 9, Ham Hall, UNLV, 739-3332

(Continued on next page)

Nightlife

HE DID IT HIS WAY

By Pete Mikla

As a boy, Frank Sinatra, Jr. grew up in Southern California, but as a singer, he grew up in the lounges and showrooms of Las Vegas. In the late '50s, teen-aged Frank often visited the Copa Room at the Sands where his famous father worked with Dean Martin, Sammy Davis, Jr., Joey Bishop, and Peter Lawford in the famous "Summit Meeting" shows.

After those shows, everyone headed for the lounges and the late-night fun.

"I remember those days very well," Sinatra says. "Entire big bands like the Harry James Orchestra and Count Basie were working the lounges then. They'd play dance tunes in the evening and then late at night, they played jazz—the blues."

A few years later Frank Jr. was working those same lounges. Despite his famous name, however, there was no instant stardom, just a lot of hard work.

"I was viewed as a curiosity item, like Tiny



Frank Sinatra, Jr.

or Mrs. Miller," he explains. "They put me in front of a big band and had me sing Tommy Dorsey tunes. It wasn't hard to figure out what was happening." While they were seeking an imitation of his father, not only was his voice not right but also he wanted his own style.

"Sometimes I would walk home at daybreak after doing four shows in the old Driftwood Lounge at the Flamingo and wonder, 'How long before I get thrown out of this business?'

"I died a thousand deaths up there on those little stages," he admits.

But young Sinatra stuck with it. Instead of getting the heave-ho, Sinatra got a job with the Sam Donahue Orchestra. For four years he traveled with the band.

"The best way to learn about something is to be around the experts. Pilots hang around with other pilots, mechanics hang around with other mechanics. I stayed around musicians. Formal education is important, of course, but you can't learn a profession by just sitting in a classroom. You have to go out there and do it."

Today Frank Jr. works in the French Quarter at the Four Queens. Things are different in Las Vegas lounges today, though. Late at night you'll most likely hear a rock band or a country combo. Except at the Four Queens when young Frank is in town.

"We've got the only lounge in town with a 17-piece big band," he says proudly. "I want to remind people what it was like in the old days in this town when a jazz band would belt out a tune or a lone trumpeter would play a sad song under a blue spotlight."

Frank Sinatra, Jr. appears March 31-April 12 at the Four Queens.

Showguide

Bally's, 739-4567: *Ziegfeld Theatre:* "Jubilee!" indf.; *Celebrity Room:* Tony Bennett and the Count Basie Orchestra, thru 3/4; Dean Martin, 3/5-11; Sammy Davis, Jr./Jerry Lewis, 3/19-4/1; Dean Martin, 4/9-15; Tom Jones, 4/16-29; Sammy Davis, Jr., 4/30-5/6

Barbary Coast, 737-7111: Entertainment nightly

Bourbon Street, 737-7200: "Bourbon Street Follies, revue, indf., 7:30pm and 10:30pm nightly, $7.50, includes 2 drinks and prime rib dinner

Caesars Palace, 731-7333: Debbie Reynolds/Donald O'Connor, thru 3/1; Rodney Dangerfield, 3/9-16; Kool and the Gang, 3/18-23; Pointer Sisters/Byron Allen, 4/4-5 and 4/8-13; David Copperfield, 4/15-20 and 4/22-27

Desert Inn, 733-4566: Ray Stevens/Louise Mandrell, thru 3/11; Suzanne Somers, 3/12-4/1; Larry Gatlin and the Gatlin Brothers, 4/16-5/6

Dunes, 737-4100: Lounge entertainment

Edgewater, Laughlin, 298-2453: Lounge entertainment nightly

Flamingo Hilton, 733-3333: "City Lites," indf.

Four Queens, 385-4011: Dondino thru 3/28; Ronnie DiPalma/Platters, 2/3-3/15; Frank Sinatra, Jr., 3/31-4/12; Van-Dells, 4/14-5/3; Monday Night Jazz, indf.

Frontier, 734-0240: Siegfried & Roy in "Beyond Belief," indf. (dark Mon.)

Gold Coast, 367-7111: Entertainment TBA

Golden Nugget, 386-8100: Lou Rawls, thru 3/3; Don Rickles, 3/5-10; David Brenner, 3/12-17; Paul Anka, 3/19-31; Frank Sinatra, 4/4-5; David Brenner, 4/9-14; Don Rickles, 4/16-21; Lou Rawls, 4/23-28

Hacienda, 798-0571: "Minsky's Burlesque," indf.

Holiday, 369-5222: "Rocky Sennes' Roaring '20s Revue," indf.

Imperial Palace, 794-3261: "Legends in Concert"

Landmark, 733-1110: "Academy of Country Music Presents the Best of New Country," Mon.-Sat., indf., 8:30pm-1am, continuous entertainment

Las Vegas Hilton, 732-5661: Bill Cosby, thru 3/1; Dionne Warwick, 3/10-15; Engelbert Humperdinck, 3/17-29

Marina, 739-1500: "Babes Ahoy" with Jackie Vernon

Maxim, 731-4300: "Playboy's Girls of Rock and Roll"

Mint, 387-6468: Entertainment TBA

Palace Station, 367-2411: Lounge entertainment nightly, 5:30pm-5am

Peppermill Resort, Mesquite, 346-5232: Live entertainment nightly

Regency, Laughlin, 298-2439: Piano bar

Riverside Resort, Laughlin, 298-2535

Riviera, 734-5301: "Splash!" production show, indf.; "An Evening at La Cage, revue, indf.; "An Evening at the Improv," comedians, indf.

Royal Casino, 733-4000: Nightly entertainment

Sahara, 737-2424: Entertainment TBA

Sam Boyd's California, 385-1222: Nightly entertainment, 6pm-6am

Sam's Town, 456-7777: Nightly entertainment

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

Sands, 733-5000: Entertainment nightly

Silver Slipper, 734-1212: "Boylesque," revue

Stardust, 732-6325: "Lido de Paris," indf.

Sundance, 382-6111: Kathy Dahl/Richard Yusco

Tropicana, 739-2411: "Folies Bergere," indf.

Union Plaza, 386-2444: Broadway entertainment

Whiskey Pete's, on I-15 at the California-Nevada border, 382-4388: Live entertainment

Events

(Continued from previous page)

Las Vegas Stars v. Calgary Cannons, 9-12, triple-A pro baseball, 7:05pm Thurs.-Sat., 1:05pm Sun., Cashman Field, 386-7200

Barbershop Harmony Show, 11, salute to Disney's favorite songs, 8:01pm, Las Vegas Gamble-Aires Barbershop Chorus, Ham Hall, UNLV, 739-3101

Wildflower Slide Show and Hike, 11, 2pm, Floyd Lamb State Park, 645-1998

An Afternoon in Old Vienna, 12, waltz and polka music, dancing, 1-4pm, Las Vegas Civic Symphony, Cashman Field Convention Center, 386-6211

Wildflower Slide Show, 12 and 18, 1pm, Valley of Fire State Park, near Overton, 397-2088

Las Vegas Stars v. Edmonton Trappers, 14-17, triple-A pro baseball, 7:05pm, Cashman Field, 386-7200

America's Cup Landsailing, 14-17, landsailing yachts will compete at speeds up to 100 mph on dry lake beds, host hotel is Whiskey Pete's on I-15 at the California-Nevada border, 382-4388

"That Hamilton Woman," 16, film, Reed Whipple Cultural Center, 386-6211

Wildflower Program, 18, 9am walk, 1pm slide show, Spring Mountain Ranch State Park, 875-4141

Easter Sunday Sand Drags and Easter Egg Hunt, 19, Peppermill Resort, Mesquite, 346-5232

Piano Concert, 20, 7pm, Ham Hall, UNLV, 739-3420

World Series of Poker, 20-5/21, Binion's Horseshoe, 382-1600

UNLV Chamber Recital, 22, 8pm, free, Black Box Theatre, UNLV, 739-3332

"Noises Off," 24-26 and 30-5/2, drama, Clark County Community College Theatre, North Las Vegas, 644-7529

Ballet Spring Concert, 24-26 and 5/1-3, Charleston Heights Arts Center, 386-6383

Desert Flower Program, 25, 1pm, Valley of Fire State Park northeast of Las Vegas, 397-2088

Dance Concert, 26, post-modern/performance-art with faculty cast, Black Box Theatre, UNLV, 739-3827

Collegium Musicum Concert, 28, 8pm, free, Black Box Theatre, UNLV, 739-3332

Panasonic Las Vegas Invitational, 29-5/3, major PGA event, top pro golfers compete for a $1,311,000 purse, $225,000 first prize; play is at Desert Inn, Las Vegas, and Spanish Trail country clubs, 382-6616

Las Vegas Stars v. Tacoma Tigers, 30-5/3, triple-A pro baseball, 7:05pm Thurs.-Sat., 1:05pm Sun., Cashman Field, 386-7200

"West Side Story," 30-5/3 and 5/6-10, Dept. of Theatre Arts, Judy Bayley Theatre, UNLV, 739-3801

Boulder City Jamboree, 5/1-2, celebration of the coming of spring with town-wide events and golf tournament, Boulder City, 293-2034



Tournaments

March

Blackjack, 1-3, Flamingo Hilton, 733-3117

Blackjack, 1-4, Frontier, 734-0385

Slots, 5-8, Sahara, 737-2713

Slots, 10-12, Marina, 739-1500

Blackjack and Craps, 15-18, Riviera, 734-5423

Slots, 17-20, Sands, 733-5000

Baccarat, 20-22, Las Vegas Hilton, 732-5537

Craps, 22-25, Frontier, 734-0385

Slots, 29-31, Flamingo Hilton, 733-3117

April

Slots, 10-13, Riviera, 734-5423

Slots, 12-16, Union Plaza, 386-2110

World Series of Poker Satellites, 12-16, Four Queens, 385-4011

World Series of Poker, 20-5/21, Binion's Horseshoe, 382-1600

Slots, 21-26, Sands, 733-5000

Blackjack, 24-26, Imperial Palace, 731-3311

Slots, 26-28, Bourbon Street, 737-7200

Museums

There are a variety of museums in Southern Nevada, and admission to most is free. Phone ahead for special exhibition dates and info.

American Museum of Historical Documents, 10-7 Mon.-Sat., 11-6 Sun., 3200 Las Vegas Blvd. South, Las Vegas, privately-owned, 731-0785

Clark County Museum, 8-5 Mon.-Fri., 9-5 Sat.-Sun., 1830 S. Boulder Hwy., Henderson, 565-0907

Las Vegas Art Museum, 10-3 Tues.-Sat., noon-3pm Sun., Lorenzi Park, 3333 W. Washington Ave., Las Vegas, 647-4300

Lost City Museum, 8:30-4:30 daily, Overton, 397-2193

Nevada State Museum and Historical Society, 11:30-4:30 Mon.-Tues, 8:30-4:30 Wed.-Sat., Lorenzi Park, 385-0115

UNLV Museum of Natural History, 9-5 Mon.-Fri., 10-5 Sat., University of Nevada-Las Vegas, 739-3381

Coming Events

Helldorado Rodeo, 5/1-10, Las Vegas, 385-1221

Mint 400, 5/9, Del Webb's Mint Hotel, 878-9490

Damboree, 7/4, Boulder City, 293-2034

A Reminder: To confirm times, use phone numbers listed with events. The area code is 702 throughout Nevada, and for hotels' toll-free phone numbers, call 800-555-1212.

The Nevada Calendar

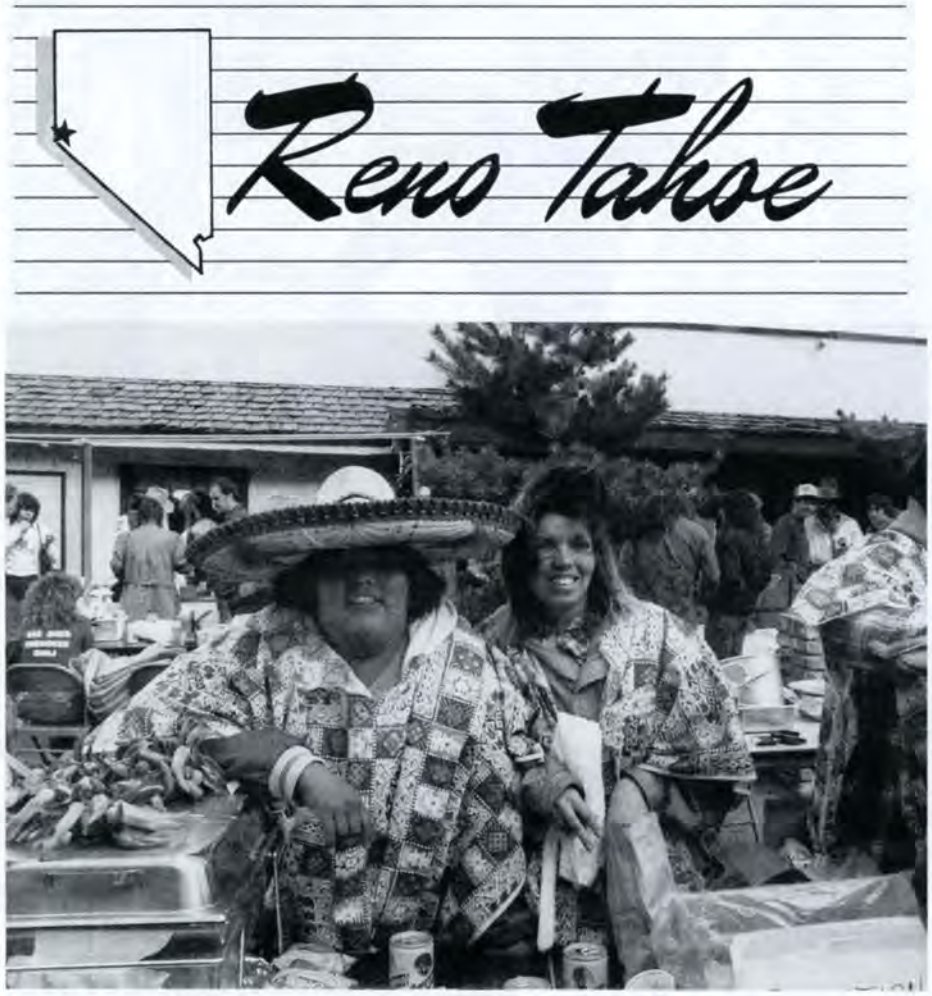


Photo: Gary Elam

MAY 2
CINCO DE MAYO

The date may be off, but that's all that's askew when the Cinco de Mayo Celebration in Virginia City begins at 10 a.m. on May 2. The day-long Mexican fiesta starts with a parade followed by a chili cook-off in which more than 50 cooks will be brewing up their best along blocked-off C Street. Tickets and kits with cups, spoons, and napkins can be purchased for chili sampling. That night a Mexican dinner and dance takes place at the high school gym.

Events

March

Canadian Friendship Festival, thru 3/8, discounts and special casino giveaways throughout Reno, 827-7366 or 800-367-7366

Master American Printmakers Exhibit, thru 3/22, original prints, Sierra Nevada Museum of Art, 329-3333

Courthouses of Nevada, thru 6/30, exhibit, Nevada Historical Society, 784-6587

Brewed in Nevada, thru 9/1, exhibit, history of Nevada's beers and breweries, Nevada State Museum, Carson City, 885-4810

Snowfest Winter Carnival, 2/27-3/8, North Lake Tahoe and Truckee's annual winter carnival with parades, contests, fireworks, concerts, gourmet delights; opening ceremonies on the 27th include the torchlight parade, crowning of the Snowfest Queen, dance, fireworks, and laser show at Squaw Valley; other events are at Squaw and various locations in the North Tahoe area, 916-583-7625

Cross-Country Ski Tour, 1, from Carson Pass to Lake Winnemucca, 10am, call the California Dept. of Parks and Recreation, 916-322-8993

The Great Ski Race, 1, 30-km. cross-country ski race from Lake Tahoe to Truckee at 9am; at 9:30 a tour for non-racers follows, Tahoe Nordic Ski Center, Tahoe City, 916-583-0484

Media Ski Race, 1, Northstar, 916-587-0286

Historical Photograph Exhibit, 1-31, hand-tinted photos of Nevada and the West dating from the 1920s, Great Basin Gallery and Frame, Carson City, 882-8505

Restaurant Relay Race, 2, Northstar, 916-587-0280

Mardi Gras Buffet and Jazz Festival, 3, Cajun buffet and Dixieland jazz, Carson Valley Inn, Minden, 782-9711

Egg Tempera Paintings and Mixed Media Works, 4-29, by Carolyn Cardenas, Sierra Nevada Museum of Art, 329-3333

Basketball With the Stars, 6, fundraiser for UNR's Child and Family Center featuring local celebrities, Old Gym, UNR, 784-6977

Steve Seskin and Friends in Concert, 6, original works in ballads, humorous songs, Cal Neva Lodge, Crystal Bay, 916-583-9048

"Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?" 6-7, drama, Proscenium Players, Brewery Arts Center, Carson City, 885-1520

"Curse of the Starving Class," 6-7, UNR's Repertory Theatre, Church Fine Arts Theatre, UNR, 784-6659

Reno Ramada Boccie Ball Tournament, 6-8, Reno Livestock/Events Center, 788-2000

Cabaret '87, 7, variety show, barbershop harmony, and buffet presented by SPEBSQSA (Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of Barber Shop Quartet Singing in America), 7pm, $8.50, Shrine Kerak Temple, 358-3349

Muir String Quartet, 7, Pioneer Theater, 784-4444

Miss Hawaiian Tropic Beauty Contest, 7, Boreal Ski Area, 916-426-3666

Karate Tournament, 7, Reno-Sparks Convention Center, 826-2121

Women's Pro Tour, 7-8, Squaw Valley, 916-583-6985

Far West Freestyle Division Championships, 7-9, Squaw Valley, 916-583-6985

Piano Concert, 8, pianist Sylvia Jenkins, 3pm, Reno Chamber Orchestra, Trinity Episcopal Church, 825-7358

Bliss State Park Tour, 8, cross-country skiing, 10am, meet at park office on Hwy. 89, California Dept. of Parks and Recreation, 916-525-7232

Kiwanis Club Cross-Country Ski Race, 8, 10-km. open to all abilities, 11am, Northstar, 916-587-0280

Stella-Artois Weekend World Cup Race Series, 8, recreational ski race for all abilities, Northstar, 916-587-0280

San Francisco Special Olympics Part II, 9-11, Boreal Ski Area, 916-426-3666

"Opera Scenes," 12-14, solo and choral scenes from five operas, 8pm, Lake Tahoe Community College Collegiate Theatre, South Lake Tahoe, 916-541-7597

Pogonip Winter Art Festival, 13-14, opens Friday with a performance by Banish Misfortune, a Renaissance jazz group, and art exhibits; continues Saturday with performances, exhibits, demonstrations, and children's activities, Pioneer Theater, 329-1324

"Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?" 13-14, drama, 8pm, Proscenium Players, Brewery Arts Center, Carson City, 885-1520

"Curse of the Starving Class," 13-15, drama, UNR's Repertory Theatre, Church Fine Arts Theatre, UNR, 784-6659

City Sports California Corporate Ski Cup, 13-15, Heavenly Ski Resort, 916-541-1330

"Emperor's New Clothes," 14, children's theater, 2pm, $3 adults, $2 children 12 and under, Storytime Players, Carson City Community Center, 887-2290

Full Moon Ski Tour, 14, guided cross-country skiing over groomed trails to the shelter for hot cider, tours begin at 6:30pm, free, Spooner Lake Cross-Country Ski Area, 749-5349

Snowshoe Thompson's Mail Run, 14, 12-km. cross-country ski race along part of Snowshoe's mail route from Hope Valley to Luther Pass and back, postcards will be available to carry and mail en route, Kirkwood Cross-Country Ski Area, 209-258-6000

Overnight Survival Hike, 14-15, must register in advance, Sugar Pine Point State Park, 916-525-7232

Master's Race, 15, amateur USSA alpine ski race, Kirkwood, 209-258-6000

Silver State Quarter Horse Show, 15, Reno Livestock/Events Center, 853-2882

Coca-Cola Cup Ski Race, 15, Northstar, 916-587-0280

Mexican Dance, 16, Reno Livestock/Events Center, 329-3658

(Continued on page 19)

Showguide

Bally's Reno, 789-2285: *Ziegfeld Theatre:* "Hello Hollywood, Hello!" indf., *Lion's Den:* live entertainment, TBA; *Leo's Lair:* live entertainment

Caesars Tahoe, 588-3515: *Cascade Showroom:* Kenny Loggins, 3/6-8; Julio Iglesias, 3/20-21; Gallagher, 3/27-29; *Crystal Cabaret:* Ritz Fashion Auction, indf.; Warren Miller's "Beyond the Edge, indf.; Bruce Baum/Don Ware, thru 3/1

Carson City Nugget, 883-3854: Entertainment TBA

Carson Valley Inn, Minden, 782-9711: David Proud, 3/2-14; Four Tunes, 3/16-21; Motifs, 3/23-28; Reta and the Wizz Kidz, 3/30-4/4; Nikki and the Goldrush, 4/6-11; Passion, 4/13-25; Garfin Gathering, 4/27-5/16

Circus Circus, Reno, 329-0711: Circus acts

Crystal Bay Club, North Tahoe, 831-0512: Nightly top 40 rock, dancing

Del Webb's High Sierra, Tahoe, 588-6211: Danny Marona, thru 3/15; Pat Collins, 4/7-19; Frankie Fanelli, 4/21-5/3

Eldorado, Reno, 786-5700: Krush, 3/9-29; Gary Raffanelli and Sandy Selby, thru 3/8; Cheers, 3/10-29; Cornell Gunter and the Coasters, 3/30-4/19; Dae Han Sisters, 3/31-4/19; Wright Brothers, 4/28-5/17

Harolds Club, Reno, 329-0881: Vision/Ricky and Bobby, 3/16-4/14; Femme Fatale/Hall and January, 4/13-26

Harrah's Lake Tahoe, 588-6611: *South Shore Room:* Loretta Lynn, thru 3/2; Steve Lawrence and Eydie Gorme, 3/9-11; Neil Sedaka/Nell Carter, 3/13-19; Gladys Knight and the Pips/Gregory Hines, 3/20-26; Crystal Gayle/Kelly Monteith, 3/27-4/2; Harry Anderson, 4/3-5; Melissa Manchester, 4/6-9; Rich Little/Lynda Carter, 4/10-16; Bill Cosby, 4/17-23; Engelbert Humperdinck, 4/24-26 and 4/28-30; *Stateline Cabaret:* "After Dark, revue, thru 3/9; Chad and Jeremy, thru 3/8; Coasters and Bobby Freeman, 3/10-15

Harrah's Reno, 329-4422: *Headliner Room:* Mac Davis, thru 3/11; Tony Orlando, 3/12-18; Don Rickles, 3/19-25; Dionne Warwick, 3/26-4/1; Glen Campbell, 4/2-8; Mickey Gilley, 4/9-22; Neil Sedaka, 4/23-5/6; *Casino Cabaret:* Sutro, indf.

Harvey's, South Lake Tahoe, 588-2411: Ron Rose, indf.; Sailwinds, 3/16-4/5; Wizz Kidz, 4/6-5/10

Hyatt Lake Tahoe, 831-1111 Jay Ramsey Band, thru 3/1 Dae Han Sisters, 3/3-29; Frenz, 3/31-4/19; Martha's Children, 4/21-5/10

John Ascuaga's Nugget, Sparks, 356-3300: *Celebrity Showroom:* Ray Price, thru 3/4; Montana Band, 3/5-18; Roger Miller, 3/19-4/1; Legends in Concert, 4/2-5/27; *Casino Lounge:* Four Tunes Plus One/Zella Lehr, thru 3/8; Darrel Clanton, 3/10-29; Kenny and the Cruisers, 3/10-29; Rainbow, 3/31-4/19; Starfire, 3/31-4/19

Mother Lode, Carson City, 883-0900: Ricky and Bobby, thru 3/8; Centerfold, 3/10-22; Ritzy Bizness, 3/24-4/5; Spice, 4/7-26

Ormsby House, Carson, 882-1890; Sunspots thru 3/8; Tamra Steele, 3/10-22; Big Tiny Little, 3/24-4/5; Sundance, 4/7-19; Irish Express, 4/21-5/3

Peppermill, Reno, 826-2121: Lelands, 3/1-15; Briefcase Blues Band, 3/2-8; Tommy Bell, 3/16-4/5; Coz, 3/31-4/12; Wrays, 4/6-19; Mark and Bill, 4/20-26; St. Romain, 4/20-5/3; Lelands, 4/27-5/3

Reno Hilton, 785-7100: Entertainment TBA

Reno Ramada, 788-2000: Brown and Diamond, thru 4/26

Sharkey's Nugget, Gardnerville, 782-3133

Tahoe Biltmore, 831-0660: Entertainment and dancing nightly, 10pm-4am

Topaz Lodge, Topaz Lake, 266-3339

Western Village, Sparks, 331-1069: Juice, thru 3/1; Wrays, thru 3/15; Gary Wade and the Bump, 3/16-22; David Proud, 3/16-29; Network, 3/23-4/5; Lelands, 3/30-4/19; Vital Signs, 4/6-12; Gary Wade and the Bump, 4/13-26; Tommy Bell, 4/20-5/3; Proof, 4/27-5/3



The Briefcase Blues Band plays rhythm and blues March 2-8 at the Peppermill in Reno.

Nightlife

ORLANDO'S FLIP SIDE

By Guy Richardson

Tony Orlando is one of those guys who sweats for a living, and it's easy for a critic to be cynical about that. A reviewer who worked for me a few years ago wrote that Orlando's performance had all the charm of the *Gong Show,* "but unfortunately, there's no gong."

Okay, Orlando will never supplant *Masterpiece Theatre.* But that's not what it's all about—at least not to Orlando, a Hell's Kitchen kid who moved to the Jersey side of the Hudson when he was 16. He recalls, "Going through the Holland Tunnel to Jersey was like going to London—it was overseas."

By then Orlando had been entertaining for five years. He first picked up a guitar when babysitting his retarded sister, Rhonda Marie. "First I played records, then I got a guitar and played for her. That was my first performance." It was the first time Orlando realized he had a talent for pleasing people.

And so developed Orlando's style—make 'em happy, make 'em laugh, and never, never let 'em be bored. That is Orlando's approach, and he does it better than anyone I've seen on a Nevada stage.

So he sweats, yells, leads singalongs, and occasionally scares the hell out of a writer. Here I was scribbling notes in a Harrah's booth when Orlando launched into "Bill Bailey." He headed into the crowd with the house lights up. He spotted me from about 30 feet away, and I could



Tony Orlando

see in his eyes what was coming. Hey, no problem. Anybody can sing "Bill Bailey." He stuck the microphone in my face, the spotlights converged.

And I froze. Total panic. Mind waving bye-bye as it went south for the season, adrenal glands pumping like an agent's heart at renewal time.

Later in the dressing room Orlando laughed and said, "I've always wanted to do that—I thought you'd like to know what it feels like to play the main room."

For all of his fun fun fun running on stage, Orlando has a thoughtful side. He doesn't show it publicly. "On stage, you can't burden people with a philosophy. People are there to enjoy."

There is a complexity to Orlando. One of the few moments it surfaced on stage was in 1977 when Orlando suddenly announced his retirement in the middle of a show in Rhode Island. Rhonda Marie had died the year before, his lookalike buddy Freddie Prinze—also a Hell's Kitchen kid—had committed suicide, and finally Orlando's balloon burst. He told the stunned crowd that "all the shows I do from now on will be with a guitar beside a hospital bed."

Instead, Orlando's publicist and friend Frank Lieberman got him to a hospital which treated him for emotional and physical exhaustion. It was two years before he returned to the stage.

"I had to learn not to take everything like it was the end of the world," he said later. "It bothers me sometimes that, because I bounce through the audience in a party mood, people don't think I have a brain. That they don't think I'm able to sit and speak deeply about the human condition. I enjoy political dialogue; I'm a spiritual man, but with what I've chosen to do, people don't see that side of me."

There is much more to Tony Orlando than sweat. There is also blood, toil, and tears.

And there is a delightful, depreciating sense of humor about his image and place in showbiz. In 1985, Orlando spoke to the graduating class at the University of Nevada-Reno. Students decorated the hall in the theme of his biggest hit. Said Orlando, "As I saw all the yellow ribbons, I thought to myself, 'What will happen in 1995 when Prince is your speaker—how many little red Corvettes [from Prince's first big hit] can fit in this building?'"

Tony Orlando appears at Harrah's Reno March 12-18.

THE OLD WEST HISTORY













History and the old west. .are waiting for you in Carson City, Nevada. Carson City is the perfect stop on your vacation. Located near the center of the historic Comstock Lode, Carson City offers you the Nevada State Museum, the V&T Railroad Museum, the Stewart Indian Museum and Trading Post, also numerous historic mansions. Nearby are old Fort Churchill, Virginia City and beautiful Lake Tahoe. Carson City's hospitality will please you and your family with beautiful countryside, great family accommodations and of course, gaming in the true Nevada tradition. Call toll free or write for information on Historic Carson City, Nevada.

Carson City

Carson City Tourism Authority

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Reno, Nevada 89510.
Send me more information on skiing in Reno/Tahoe.
Name _____
Company _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Events

(Continued from page 15)

Corporate Ski Challenge, 16-21, Alpine Meadows, 916-583-4232

St. Patrick's Day, 17, includes the Great Spud Derby, barrel stave obstacle beer race, and jelly bean counting contest, Sierra Ski Ranch, 916-659-7519

St. Patrick's Day, 17, ski race for prizes, Northstar, 916-587-0280

Subaru/USSA National Cross-Country Ski Championships, 17-22, Royal Gorge, 916-426-3871

Snaffle Bit Maturity, 19-22, Reno Livestock/Events Center, 916-846-4728

"Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?" 20-21, drama, 8pm, Proscenium Players, Brewery Arts Center, Carson City, 885-1520

Earl Dunn Memorial Northwestern Basketball Invitational, 20-22, $2 adults, $1 students, children 12 and under and seniors free, gymnasium, Nixon, 574-0104

"What the Butler Saw," 20-22, humorous farce, Reno Little Theater, 329-0661

"Emperor's New Clothes," 21, children's theater, 2pm, $2.50 adults, $1 children 12 and under, Storytime Players, Truckee Meadows Community College, 887-2290

Corporate Nordic Championships, 21-22, Tahoe Nordic Ski Center, 916-583-0484

Donner Party Escape, 22, snowshoes required, meet 10am at Donner Memorial State Park Museum 3 miles west of Truckee for parking and to arrange transportation to the foot of Donner Pass, 916-525-7232

Medal Fun Race, 22, easy slalom course open to all, Tahoe Donner Ski Area, 916-587-9400

Piano Concert, 24, soloist Leonard Pennario,

(Continued on page 21)

Outings

Tahoe Hot Tubs

After a busy day burning up the ski slopes, casino hopping, or sightseeing at Lake Tahoe, there's nothing better than a good, hot soak. In Kings Beach, the North Tahoe Beach Center offers a 26-foot diameter open-air hot spa that is a tingling 104 degrees. For the hearty, a dip in the lake's brisk spring waters might be tempting; it's only a quick dash away, and you can dry out in the sauna. Snacks are available. Rates are $5 per person per day, and the spa is open till 10 p.m. Call 916-546-2566. At South Shore, Nephele's and Shingle Creek's hot tubs are perfect for two. Both businesses have private, open-air tub enclosures with stereo and room service. Rates at both are $15 for two, per hour. Nephele's (916-544-8130) and Shingle Creek (916-544-5400) are both on Ski Run Boulevard in South Lake Tahoe, near Heavenly Valley. Reservations are advised on weekends.

An Auto for Opera

The annual fundraiser of the Nevada Opera Association, Classic Auction III, takes place on March 26 at John Ascuaga's Nugget in Sparks. Tickets for dinner, dancing, and entertainment are $50 per person. The auction offers items from jewelry to vacations and includes a drawing for a 1987 Porsche 928 S4. To take a chance on the Porsche you need to purchase a $100 "certificate of participation" (what other states call a "raffle ticket") from the association. To see the opera in action, the season's concluding production, "Desert Song," a romantic comedy, runs April 10-11 Tickets are $9 to $27 with discounts for seniors and students. To reserve for either 8 p.m. performance, or for information on the auction, call (inside Nevada) 786-4046, or (outside Nevada) 800-992-2072.

Train Tours and Museum in Sparks

The Sparks Heritage Foundation lets you step back into the town's early years with a museum and train display in downtown Sparks. With early photos of Sparks and railroad exhibits the museum at 820 B Street is open weekdays from 1 to 4 p.m. Across the street you can tour an engine, caboose, and the restored Presidential Car, said to be used by Harry Truman when he campaigned for president. The engine is on loan from the Nevada State Museum.

To arrange an individual or group tour, contact the Sparks Heritage Foundation during museum hours at 702-355-1144. Spur-of-the-moment train tours usually can be accommodated, too.

Time to Fly a Kite

If the urge to fly a kite comes with the first spring breeze, check out the kite action at Rancho San Rafael Park in northwest Reno. "It's ideal for kite flying—almost like the park was made for it," says Mike Martin, kite flying addict and owner of Air Fare in Reno. If you don't have a kite but long to fly one anyhow, look for Martin—and his kites—any weekend at the park. "We have stunt kites, high-flying kites and flying toys out there," he says, "and we'll let anybody give them a try." Other prime kite flying locales include Lake Lahontan, Washoe Lake, and Pyramid Lake.—*Deborah A. Mawhar*

Depending on space, we may be able to publish your organization's events. To be added to our mailing list, just send us your name and address.

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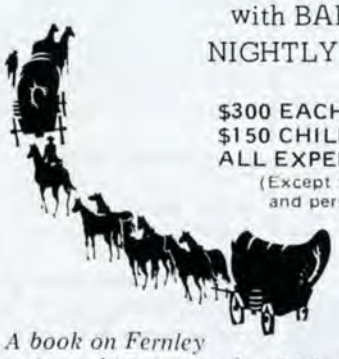
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Practically prepares the loan application for you line-by-line...the "proper" way.
All properly prepared applications are processed faster...no red tape!

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Guaranteed Loans...Direct Loans...and Immediate Loans are available now!

Most men and women seriously interested in starting their own business are eligible to apply — including those who already own a business and need capital fast for expansion...or to stay afloat...even if they've been flatly refused by banks and turned down elsewhere! Yet, too many never qualify, simply because they do not know how to "properly" prepare the loan application...

In order to help those people applying for these guaranteed and direct loans fill out their loan applications the "right way" our business researchers, with their diligent compilation and effective efforts, have successfully assembled and published a comprehensive, easy-to-follow seminar manual: The Business Opportunity Seekers' Loans Manual, that will **quickly show you practically everything you'll need to know** to prepare a loan application to get federally Guaranteed and Direct Loans.

Here are just **some of the many important benefits** the Business Opportunity Seekers' Loans Manual provides you with:

- **a completely filled in sample set of actual SBA loan application forms, all properly filled in for you to easily follow—aids you in quickly preparing your own loan application the right way. Each line on the sample application forms is explained and illustrated in easy-to-understand language.**
- **fast application preparation procedures for getting loans for both new start up business ventures and established firms.**
- **advises you on how to properly answer key questions necessary for loan approval and in order to help avoid having your application turned down—gives you advice on what you should not do under any circumstances.**
- **what simple steps you take to guarantee eligibility—no matter if you do not presently qualify.**
- **where you can file your application for fastest processing.**

At this point the most important question you want answered is: Just where is all this loan money coming from? Incredible as it may sound—these Guaranteed Loans, Direct Loans and Immediate Loans are indeed available right now — from the best and yet the most overlooked and frequently the most ignored and sometimes outright ridiculed "made-fun-of" source of ready money fast capital in America — THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT.

Of course there are those who upon hearing the words "UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT" will instantly freeze up and frown and say:

only minorities can get small business loan money from the government!"

Yet on the other hand (and most puzzling) others will rant on and on and on that:

don't even try, it's just impossible — all those Business Loans Programs are strictly for the Chryslers, the Lockheeds, the big corporations, not for the little guy or small companies" etc.



Still there are those who declare:

I need money right now and small business government loans take too darn long. It's impossible to qualify. No one ever gets one of those loans.

Or you may hear these comments:

My accountant's junior assistant says he thinks it might be a waste of my time!" "Heck, there's too much worrisome paperwork and red tape to wade through."

Frankly — such rantings and ravings are just a lot of "bull" without any real basis — and only serve to clearly show that lack of knowledge, misinformation and not quite fully understanding the UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT'S Small Business Administration's (SBA) Programs have unfortunately caused a lot of people to ignore what is without a doubt — not only the most important and generous source of financing for new business start ups and existing business expansions in this country — but of the entire world!

Now that you've heard the "bull" about the United States Government's SBA Loan Program — take a few more moments and read the following facts:

- **Only 9.6% of approved loans were actually made to minorities last year.**
- **What SBA recognizes as a "small business" actually applies to 97% of all the companies in the nation.**
- **Red tape comes about only when the loan application is sent back due to applicant not providing the requested information...or providing the wrong information.**
- **The SBA is required by Congress to provide a minimum dollar amount in business loans each fiscal year in order to lawfully comply with strict quotas. (Almost 5 billion this year)**

Yet, despite the millions who miss out — there are still literally thousands of ambitious **men and women nationwide** who are properly applying — being approved — and **obtaining sufficient funds** to either start a new business, a franchise, or buy out or expand an existing one. Mostly, they are all just typical Americans with no fancy titles, who used essentially the **same effective know-how** to fill out their applications that you'll find in the Business Opportunity Seekers' Loans Manual.

So don't you dare be shy about applying for and accepting these guaranteed and direct government loans. Curiously enough, the government is actually very much interested in helping you start a business that will make a lot of money. It's to their advantage — the more money you make the more they stand to collect in taxes. In fiscal 1986, our nation's good old generous "uncle" will either lend directly or guarantee **billions of dollars** in loan requests, along with technical assistance and even sales procurement assistance. Remember: **If you don't** apply for these available SBA funds **somebody else certainly will.**

Don't lose out — now is the best time to place your order for this comprehensive manual. It is **not sold in stores.** Available only by mail through this ad, directly from **Financial Freedom Co., the exclusive publisher,** at just a small fraction of what it would cost for the services of a private loan advisor or to attend a seminar.

For example:

*Initially, this amazing Guaranteed and Direct Loans Manual was specially designed to be the basis of a Small Business Loan Seminar — where each registrant would pay an admission fee of $450. But our company felt that since the manual's quality instructions were so **exceptionally crystal-clear** that anyone who could read, could **successfully use its techniques** without having to attend a seminar or pay for costly private loan advisory assistance services.*

Therefore, for those purchasing the manual by mail, no 3 day class, no course and accommodations are required. And rather than $450 we could slash the price all the way down to just a mere $20 — a small portion of a typical seminar attendance fee — providing you promptly fill in and mail coupon below with fee while this special seminar-in-print manual offer is still available by mail at this relatively low price!

Remember, this most unique manual quickly provides you with actual sample copies of SBA Loan application and all other required forms—already properly filled in for you to easily use as reliably accurate step-by-step guides—thus offering you complete assurance that your application will be properly prepared and thereby immediately putting you on the right road to obtaining fast, no-red-tape loan approval.

GUARANTEE #1

Simply look over this most effective money raising loan preparation assistance manual for 15 days and then if you are not convinced that it can actually help you obtain the Business Loan you need right away, just return it for a full and prompt refund.

GUARANTEE #2

Even after 15 days — here's how you are still strongly protected: If you decide to keep the manual and you apply for an SBA Loan anytime within 1 year — your loan must be approved and you must actually receive the funds or your money will be refunded in full.

Only because we are so confident that this is a fact do we dare make such a strong binding, seldom-heard-of Double Guarantee. **No stronger guarantee possible!**

Of course, no one can guarantee that every request will be approved—but clearly we are firmly convinced that any sound business request properly prepared—showing a reasonable chance of repayment and submitted to SBA—will be approved.

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GUARANTEED YOUR LOAN MUST BE APPROVED OR MONEY BACK — ONLY A SMALL PRICE TO PAY FOR THE LOAN YOU CAN GET NO RISK AND NO HASSLES.

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Events

(Continued from page 19)

8:15pm, Pioneer Theater, 329-8866

Fantasies in Chocolate, 24, an evening of chocolate samples, displays, music, benefits Lend-a-Hand Foundation, Bally's Grand, 788-6214

"Opera Scenes," 25-28, solo and choral scenes from five operas, 8pm, Lake Tahoe Community College Collegiate Theatre, South Lake Tahoe, 916-541-7597

Classic Auction III, 26, annual fundraiser for Nevada Opera Assn., dinner, dancing, auction, and drawing for a 1987 Porsche 928 S4, John Ascuaga's Nugget, Sparks, 786-4046

"What the Butler Saw," 26-28, humorous farce, Reno Little Theater, 329-0661

Peppermill Cup Senior Hockey Tournament, 26-29, the Reno Aces Senior Hockey Club competes in a tournament with 20 other select teams, Reno-Sparks Convention Center, 826-2121

Spring Ski, 26, for advanced skiers, meet 9am at Carson Pass Parking Area, California Dept. of Parks and Recreation, 916-322-8993

Reno Autorama, 27-29, Reno-Sparks Convention Center, 323-6055

Earth Grains Cup, 28-29, the final stop on the Women's Pro Tour featuring a celebrity ski fun race in conjunction with women's pro competition, Kirkwood Ski Resort, 209-258-6000

Echo to Kirkwood Cross-Country Race, 28, 14-mile race across rugged peaks, climbing 1,300 feet to the crest of the Sierra Nevada followed by rolling downhill terrain to Kirkwood Cross-Country Ski Area, 209-258-6000

Hallmark Photographic Collection Exhibit, 28-4/26, 75 prints by master photographers, Sierra Nevada Museum of Art, 329-3333

Animals in Winter Program, 29, see active winter animals and follow tracks, meet 10am at General Creek Campground Entrance Station at Sugar Pine Point State Park, 916-525-7232

April

Sculpture Exhibit, 1-5/3, works by Katrina Lasko, Sierra Nevada Museum of Art, 329-3333

Western Winter Sports Show, 2-5, Reno-Sparks Convention Center, 827-7650

Cotton Club, 3, gala event in a style reminiscent of the original Cotton Club with dinner, dancing, live entertainment, to attract new members to the Sierra Arts Foundation, VFW Hall, 329-1324

Reno Men's Sportcoat Dinner, 3, cocktails, dinner, raffle, auction, men only, Ducks Unlimited, Peppermill, 322-6937

UNR v. USF, 4, baseball, Moana Stadium, 784-4600

Coors Race Tour, 4, Boreal, 916-426-3666

Winter Railroading in the Sierra Program, 4, meet 10am at Donner Memorial State Park Museum, 3 miles west of Truckee, 916-525-7232

Horse Show, 4-5, Nevada State Horseman's Assn., Reno Livestock/Events Center, 852-3011

Violin Concert, 5, internationally acclaimed violinists Ida and Ani Kavafian, 3pm, Reno Chamber Orchestra, Trinity Episcopal Church, 825-7358

Gourmet Lunch Ski Tour, 5-19, cross-country skiing, Northstar, 916-587-0280

Mexican Dance, 6, Reno Livestock/Events Center, 329-3658

UNR v. Cal State Hayward, 7, baseball, Moana Stadium, 784-4600

Reno Home and Garden Show, 8-12, Reno-Sparks Convention Center, 827-7660

"Music Man," 9, musical with 18-piece orchestra, $15 and $20 reserved seats, 8pm, produced by Hadassah, benefit for hospitals in Israel, Reno Hilton, for tickets call 348-6551

All-Night Ski-A-Thon, 10, Boreal Ski Area, 916-426-3666

(Continued on next page)

Tournaments

March

Slots, 5, 9, 16, 21, and 28, Comstock, 329-1880

Blackjack, 6-7 Comstock, 329-1880

Keno, 6-7 Comstock, 329-1880

Video Poker, 10, Carson Valley Inn, Minden, 782-9711

Keno, 13-15, Caesars Tahoe, 588-3515

Baccarat, 18-22, Caesars Tahoe, 588-3515

Blackjack, 24, Carson Valley Inn, Minden, 782-9711

Keno, 29-31, Eldorado, 786-5700

April

Slots, 4, 9, 13, 18, 24, and 30, Comstock, 329-1880

Backgammon, 16-19, Caesars Tahoe, 588-3515

Blackjack, 17 Harolds Club, 329-0881

Video Poker, 21, Carson Valley Inn, Minden, 782-9711

Blackjack, 24-25, Comstock, 329-1880

Keno, 24-25, Comstock, 329-1880

Slots, 24-27, Caesars Tahoe, 588-3515

Blackjack, 28, Carson Valley Inn, Minden, 782-9711

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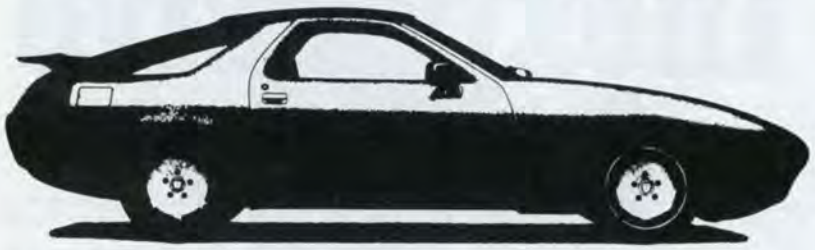
Coming Events

Virginia City Grand Prix Motorcycle Race, 5/9-10, 789-4892
Great Lake Tahoe Sternwheeler Race, 5/25, South Lake Tahoe, 916-541-3364
Nugget All-American Suffolk Sheep Show and Sale, 5/25-30, John Ascuaga's Nugget, Sparks, 356-3300
State Backgammon Championship and Masters Invitational, 6/3-7, Peppermill, 826-1984
Carson Valley Days, 6/12-14, Minden and Gardnerville, 782-8144
Kit Carson Rendezvous/Wagon Train Days, 6/13-14, Carson City, 883-7442
Reno Rodeo Celebration, 6/19-28, 329-3877
Stewart Indian Museum Arts and Crafts Fair and Pow Wow, 6/20-21, 882-1808

LOGO CONTEST

Logo-minded individuals are invited to enter the contest to create a symbol for the Great Basin National Park. Logos should best represent the unique characteristics of the new park, which, located 70 miles east of Ely, includes Wheeler Peak, Lehman Caves, and groves of ancient bristlecone pines. The winning design, which will become the official seal, will be unveiled at the park's dedication ceremonies this spring. Logo entries must be black and white (no color) and submitted on 8-1/2 x 11-inch paper. The deadline is March 20, 1987. Submit entries to: Great Basin Logo Contest, Nevada Commission on Tourism, Capitol Complex, Carson City, NV. 89710.

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Events

(Continued from previous page)

"The Desert Song," 10-11, classic romantic comedy, Nevada Opera, Pioneer Theater, 786-4046
UNR v. Pepperdine, 10-11, baseball, 2:30pm, Moana Stadium, 784-4600
Reno Home and Garden Show, 10-12, Reno-Sparks Convention Center, 323-6055
Donner Camp History Tour, 11, meet 10am Donner Memorial State Park Museum, 3 miles west of Truckee, 916-587-3841
Antique Doll Show and Sale, 11, Reno-Sparks Convention Center, 329-4590
"Music Man," 11-12, musical with 18-piece orchestra, $15 and $20 reserved seats, 8pm Sat., 2pm and 7pm Sun., produced by Hadassah, benefit for hospitals in Israel, Reno Hilton, 348-6551
Spring Wave Camp, 11-19, annual flying camp, rides available, Douglas County Airport, Minden, 782-7627
Concert, 12, Perry Jones and UNR Concert Choir, 2pm, free, open to public, Little Flower Church, 784-6145
Sierra Mountain Race and Relay, 12, 10-km. cross-country skiing, 10-km. running, and 10-km. biking, starts and ends at Squaw Valley Nordic Center, 916-583-2264
UNR v. Chico State, 14-15, baseball, Moana Stadium, 784-4600
"Music Man," 15-16, musical with 18-piece orchestra, $15 and $20 reserved seats, 8pm Sat., 2pm and 7pm Sun., produced by Hadassah, benefit for hospitals in Israel, Reno Hilton, 348-6551
Reno Home and Garden Show, 15-19, Reno-Sparks Convention Center, 323-6055
Birdwalk, 17, explore wildlife at Washoe Lake with Nevada Dept. of Wildlife personnel, meet 8am at the entrance of Scripps Wildlife Management Area, Washoe Lake, 885-4319
Silver State Quarter Horse Show, 18-19, Reno Livestock/Events Center, 853-2882
Paint Horse Show, 18-19, Reno Livestock/Events Center, 849-2240
"Music Man," 18-19, musical with 18-piece orchestra, $15 and $20 reserved seats, 8pm Sat., 2pm and 7pm Sun., produced by Hadassah, benefit for hospitals in Israel, Reno Hilton, 348-6551
Easter, 19, buffet breakfast, egg hunt, parade, Boreal Ski Area, 916-426-3666
Easter Sunday, 19, egg hunt for kids and golden egg hunt (for season passes) for adults, Donner Ski Ranch, 916-426-3635
Mexican Dance, 20, Reno Livestock/Events Center, 329-3658
Easter Week Games, 20-24, wax downhill, Easter bunny chase, snowman contest, Easter egg spoon race, obstacle fun race, tug-of-war, Sierra Ski Ranch, 916-659-7519
Angus Cattle Show, 20-28, Reno Livestock/Events Center, 827-7600
Fete Du Printemps, 21, lunch prepared by professional French chef served on ski trail, $24 includes picnic and trail fee, reservations needed, Royal Gorge Ski Resort, 916-426-3871
Wearable Art Exhibit, 21, designers show original, one-of-a-kind clothing, jewelry, and accessories, boutique set up for shopping, tax deductible donation for Sierra Arts Foundation of $25 includes refreshments, Eldorado, 329-1324
UNR Celebrations, 24, Cultural Awareness Day, Arbor Day, UNR College of Business hosts business games, opening of new Church Fine Arts wing with show, "Follies," which continues on 4/26, 4/30, and 5/1-3, 784-4941
Bird Ecology Talk, 24, slide show on Washoe Valley birds by Nevada Dept. of Wildlife, 7:30pm, Washoe Lake State Park, 885-4319
National Rifle Assn. Show, 24-26, Reno-Sparks Convention Center, 827-7660

(Continued on page 24)

15 SUCCESS MANUALS that could solve your money problems once and for all!

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6. HOW REAL ESTATE CAN MAKE YOU A FORTUNE . . . USING OTHER "FOLKS MONEY:"
Real estate has produced more millionaires than any other field. The plans inside this amazing fast, fortune-building book tells why and how, in easy-ABC fashion; learn how to let other folks money work for you; speculate in raw land and get back $5 for every $1 you put in; rake in huge profits on Uncle Sam's losses; set up a nice income for yourself and your family with little or no investment. (only $6.95)



7. WORK-AT-HOME SUCCESS GUIDE (For Men and Women)
Time and time again — successful spare time and full time businesses are made with out-of-the-ordinary methods; off beat money making ideas, prosperous home enterprises. Shows how plain every day folks from all walks of life can stack up good money. Here's your opportunity to go after incredible wealth. (only $6.95)



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Casino Notes

•The world's largest jackpot—a product of the **Megabucks** slot network around the state—was won February 1 at **Harrah's Reno** by Terry Williams, a family counselor from Los Gatos, California. Williams, who said a back injury had kept him from skiing, had played the machine for about an hour when he hit the coveted main prize—$4,988,842.14. The jackpot had accumulated at 185 Megabucks machines in 22 casinos; immediately the jackpot was reset for $1.9 million. The Megabucks system had paid off $88 million in smaller jackpots, according to Chuck Mathewson, president of the super slots' creator, International Game Technology, who was present at the award ceremonies at Harrah's. The payoff to Williams will be made in a series of 10 checks, each for $498,884. The happy Californian said he and his wife hope to donate part of his winnings to help abused children while also refinancing their house and taking a vacation. The mega-millionaire kept his sense of humor through the ceremonies, noting, "Five million to someone like me is like the Defense Department budget."

•For the ninth straight year **Harrah's Tahoe** has received 1987's Mobil Travel Guide's five-star hotel award, an honor bestowed on only six other hotels in the U.S. and Canada. In addition, the hotel has won AAA's five-diamond award for the 11th year in a row. Harrah's Tahoe is one of only two U.S. hotels to win both prestigious awards in 1987

•The world's largest fiber optic sign was lit for the first time at the **Peppermill** last December. The Peppermill sign is atop the hotel/casino's newly constructed 15-story tower. The two sets of 14-foot-high letters were built with 1,480 square feet of polished gold aluminum. Each sign is 140 feet long and is visible from five miles away. In all there are 60,000 points of light with wide angle viewing tips and 500,000 feet of acrylic optical fibers. The sign also has computer-controlled color sequencing for animation and changes colors by use of optical color wheels.

•The Nevada Gaming Commission has approved a parlay card Sports Book for the **Carson Valley Inn**. According to Carson Valley Inn General Manager Shawn Smyth, "We received many requests from our local customers to put in a sports book because there isn't one in Carson Valley." Now there is.

•Barney's, which closed last December, is being given a new life and new name by **Harrah's,** which purchased the club in January. Plans are to combine the Harrah's Tahoe sports casino and Barney's to make a new casino at Stateline. The casino will be owned and operated by Harrah's but will have its own identity. A late spring opening is planned.

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 hotels' toll-free phone numbers, call 800-555-1212.

Events

(Continued from page 22)

UNR Concert, 26, 8pm, Nightingale Hall, 784-6847

Western States Apprentice Championships, 27-28, golf event, Wildcreek Golf Course, 673-3100

Northern Nevada Bands Festival, 28-29, junior and senior high school bands compete, concert, free, Pioneer Theater, 784-6847

UNR v. Fresno State, 28-29, baseball, Moana Stadium, 784-4600

Team Roping, 28-30, Reno Livestock/Events Center, 827-7600

4-H County Fair, 29-30, Reno Livestock/Events Center, 784-4848

"Candida," 30, performed by the Guthrie Theater, Pioneer Theater, 784-4444

Cinco de Mayo Celebration, 5/2, 10am parade, chili cook-off, dinner, dance, Virginia City, 847-0500

MARCH 24

CHOCOLATES & CHAMPAGNE

Indulge in a completely chocolate dream at Bally's Grand Ballroom in Reno on March 24. During Fantasies in Chocolate, a benefit for the Lend-A-Hand Foundation, you can sip champagne while strolling by tables ladden with chocolate pastries, candies, cakes, liqueurs, and other sinful delights. The chocolate-tasting is from 7 to 10 p.m; evening wear is suggested.

THE GHOST TRAIN of OLD ELY



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Museum tours offered daily May 18 thru October 4. Exhibits include general office and depot from 1907, roundhouse, machine and blacksmith shops and historic rolling stock of steam, diesel and electric locomotives, passenger and freight cars and antique work equipment.

Call or write for informative flyer and train reservations. All groups accommodated by advance arrangement.

NEVADA NORTHERN RAILWAY MUSEUM

P.O. Box 40 East Ely, Nv. 89315 (702) 289-2085

The Nevada Calendar

Rural Areas



Photo: Lew Griswold

MARCH
CHARIOT RACERS TEAM UP

The sport of kings becomes the pastime of ranchers and cowboys when snow blankets Ely, Elko, and Wells. The weekend chariot races are great social occasions and a chance for the horses to get some good winter exercise. Fans can check out the action at the Bristlecone Chariot Races on March 7-8 at Ely's White Pine County Fairgrounds. The World Championship Chariot and Cutter Races follow on March 21-22 and 27-29 at the Elko County Fairgrounds.

Events

Covered Wagon Territory

March

Hunter's Pistol Silhouette, 1, French Ford Gun Club, rifle range, Winnemucca, 623-4117

Chamber of Commerce Spring Show, 7-8, area merchants display and sell merchandise, free, Elko Convention Center, 738-4091

Elko County Science Fair, 10-14, Elko Convention Center, 738-4091

St. Pat's Fair, 14, food, games, fairgrounds, Winnemucca, 623-2225

Rifle Silhouette, 15, 8am, French Ford Gun Club, Winnemucca, 623-4117

First Annual Ag Fair, 19-21, a forum for all phases of agriculture including exhibits, demonstrations, and seminars, open to public, free, Elko Convention Center, 738-4091

World Championship Chariot and Cutter Races, 21-22 and 27-29, fairgrounds, Elko, 738-7157

April

Elko General Hospital Fun-A-Roo, 3, games and contests for children, hospital auxiliary fundraiser, Elko Convention Center, 738-4091

Hunter Pistol Silhouette Match, 5 and 26, 8am, French Ford Gun Club, Winnemucca, 623-4117

Rifle Match, 12, 8am, French Ford Gun Club, Winnemucca, 623-4117

Good Friday Service, 17 Elko Convention Center, 738-4091

Coming Events

Spring Horse Show, 5/3, Winnemucca, 623-5071

Pony Express Race, 5/9, Wells, 752-3540

Pentecostal Festa, 5/30-31, Lovelock, 273-2566

Basque Festival, 6/6-7, Winnemucca, 623-2780

Pony Express Territory

March

Art Exhibit, 1-4/30, paintings by Esteban Valle, The Office Gallery, Fallon, 423-6078

Ducks Unlimited Dinner, 6, raffle, auction, men only, Elks Lodge, Ely, 289-8886

Spring Fling, 6-7, square dance, Ely, 289-6656

Bristlecone Chariot Races, 7-8, fairgrounds, Ely, 289-8877

"Klondike Kalamity," 13-14 and 20-21, Elks melodrama, Elks Hall, Ely, 289-8877

Nevada State Championship Bed Races, 14, fundraiser for Special Olympics, 11am bed assembly, noon judging, 1pm racing, 5pm pit-barbecue and teen-age dance at National Guard Armory, 8pm adult dance, Churchill County Fairgrounds, Fallon, 423-2544 or 423-3104

Moonlight Ski Tour, 14, cross-country creek-side ski trip, bring your own equipment, warm clothes, flashlight, snack, and hot drinks, 7pm, Cave Lake State Park, Ely, 885-4379

St. Patrick's Day Celebration, 14-15, parade, corned beef and cabbage feed, dance, hairiest legs contest, women's left-handed nail driving contest, boot throwing, and dog races, Main Street, Austin, 964-2627 or 964-2200

Hidden Cave Tours, 14 and 28, meet 9:30am, County Museum, Fallon, 882-1631 or 423-3677

Slide Show on Jesse T. Reno, 15, narrated by William McConnell, Hazen Bar, on U.S. 50-A, Hazen, 867-3066

Ducks Unlimited Dinner, 21, raffle, auction, men only, Hotel Nevada, 635-5321 or 635-2453

April

Hidden Cave Tours, 11 and 25, meet 9:30am, County Museum, Fallon, 882-1631 or 423-3677

Austin VFD Easter Egg Hunt, 19, prizes for children 12 and under, 10am, Rodeo Grounds, Austin, 964-2440

Coming Events

Eureka High School Rodeo, 5/23-24, 237-5361

Fallon's Wild Bunch Stampede, 5/23-25, 423-6006

Railfair, 5/23-25, Ely, 289-2085

Centennial Photo Contest, 7/1, Ely, 289-2900

White Pine Basque Festival, 7/18-19, Ely, 289-4095

Pioneer Territory

March

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

El Capitan Cutthroat Derby, thru 4/25, Hawthorne, 945-3321

Si Zentner Orchestra Concert, 15, free, open to public, high school, Panaca, 739-9369

AACT/FEST 87, 27-29, hour-long plays, statewide competition to select a winner to represent Nevada in the regional one-act play festival this April in Phoenix, Convention Center, Tonopah, 882-5763

April

Junior Ranger Program, 4, 11, and 15, for children, 10am, Cathedral Gorge State Park, Panaca, 728-4467

Cemetery Walk, 12, old mining camp of Bullionville, Cathedral Gorge State Park, Panaca, 728-4467

Russ Martino Concert, 13, 1:45pm concert at Tonopah High School, 8:30pm dance at Tonopah Convention Center, free, open to public, 739-9369

Coming Events

Armed Forces Days, 5/13-17, Hawthorne, 945-5896

Jim Butler Days, 5/28-31, Tonopah, 482-3859

Reminder: To confirm times, use phone numbers listed with events. The area code is 702 throughout Nevada, and for hotels' toll-free phone numbers, call 800-555-1212.

Outings

New Life for Goldfield Hotel

In 1908 it was the state's largest city with a population of more than 20,000, but Goldfield at one time was nearly a ghost town. Now the town's population is 550, and the ongoing restoration of the historic Goldfield Hotel is bringing the town some new excitement.

San Francisco real estate developer Lester O'Shea is spending $4 million to restore the hotel to its former grandeur. Built in 1908, the hotel was a monument to easy money and high living, reflecting Goldfield's stature after gold was discovered at nearby Columbia Mountain. The hotel had one of the first electric elevators west of the Mississippi, gold leaf ceilings in the lobby and bar, imported Italian marble, and telephones in all 154 rooms at a time when Las Vegas was advertised as "The Gateway to Goldfield, Nevada."

Target opening date is in the spring of 1988. Tours are available on a limited basis during construction through the Goldfield Historical Society. Visitors are urged to call ahead for information at 702-485-9957

Peaceful Detours

Here's how to spend a relaxing weekend on I-80. You start by visiting Lovelock, about 90 miles northeast of Reno. Lovelock can best be seen on a walking tour, stopping at the town's unusual round courthouse and the old-time railroad district. About 25 miles further is Rye Patch Reservoir, where you can fish for walleye and bass from shore or boat. There's also fishing below the dam in the Humboldt River. This is a good place to camp out for the night if a yearning for clean air and star-lit skies hits you. Or, if you feel like doing more exploring, see Unionville on State Route 400, off I-80. It's off the beaten track, but the area offers nice hikes in tree-shaded Buena Vista Canyon and the restful Old Pioneer Garden bed and breakfast.

New Map: The Price is Right

For an accurate guide to Nevada's roads and towns, the Department of Transportation has come out with a new state highway map. The cover shows Wheeler Peak, representing the new Great Basin National Park. In addition to showing important highways, the map includes updated information on the park and other new attractions. The map is free and may be obtained by writing the Nevada Commission on Tourism, Capitol Complex, Carson City, NV. 89710, or it can be picked up at chambers of commerce and visitor centers.

Museums

There are a variety of museums in the rural areas, and admission to most is free. Phone ahead for special exhibition dates and info.

Covered Wagon Territory

Northeastern Nevada Museum, 9-5 Mon.-Sat., 1-5 Sun., 1515 Idaho St., Elko, 738-3418

Pony Express Territory

Churchill County Museum and Hidden Cave, 10-4 Mon.-Wed. and Fri.-Sat., 12-4 Sun., 1050 S. Maine St., Fallon, 423-3677. Regarding Hidden Cave tours call Carson City BLM, 882-1631

Lyon County Museum, 1-4 Sat.-Sun., 215 S. Main St., Yerington

Nevada Northern Railway Museum, 8:30-5 daily, May 18-Oct. 4, Ely, 289-2085

Eureka Sentinel Museum, noon-5pm Mon.-Fri., 10-3 Sat.-Sun., May 23-Sept. 7

White Pine Public Museum, 9-4 Mon.-Fri., 10-3 Sat., 2000 Aultman St., Ely, 289-4710

Pioneer Territory

Central Nevada Museum, 12-5 Tues.-Sat., May-Sept., Logan Field Road, Tonopah, 482-9676

Lincoln County Museum, 9-5 Mon.-Sat., 10-5 Sun. (closes from 12:30-1:30 for lunch), Main St., Pioche, 962-5207

Mineral County Museum, 2-4:30 Mon.-Fri., Hawthorne, 945-3185



Using this map as a key, you'll find each town's events under the territory designated by the Nevada Commission on Tourism. For more travel information, write the Commission on Tourism, Capitol Complex, Carson City, NV. 89710, or call 702-885-3636

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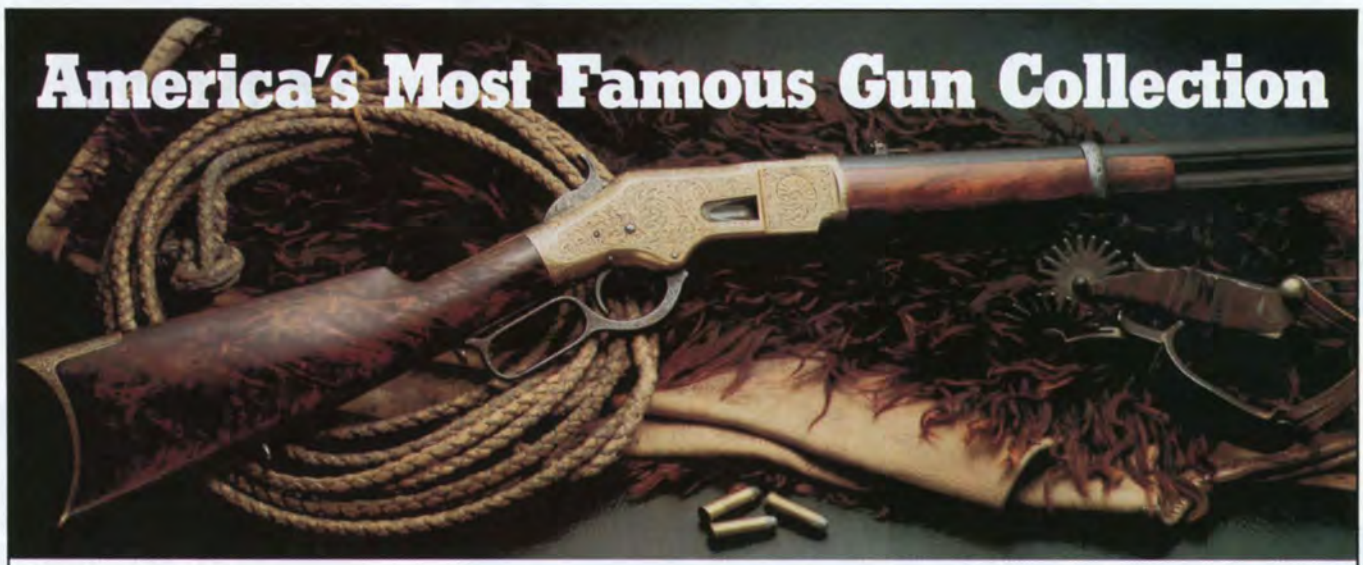
MARCH 14
FALLON'S BED RACES

The Nevada State Championship Bed Races, a Fallon Optimist Club benefit for Special Olympics, is scheduled for March 14 at the Churchill County Fairgrounds. Decorated beds go on display at 11 a.m., with judging to follow and racing at 1 p.m. Wacky events include a 100-yard dash, a half-mile marathon, and a mud bog race. A barbecue and dance for teens and adults also will take place. Groups wishing to compete should contact the Churchill County Chamber of Commerce, 702-423-2544, or Terry Kendrick, 702-423-3104.



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Contemporary country music fills the showroom when Kristi Lyndell and her five-piece band play at Cactus Pete's in Jackpot, March 3-8.

Showguide

Covered Wagon Territory

Elko: Commercial Hotel, 738-3181; Red Lion, 738-2111; Stockmen's Hotel, 738-5141
Jackpot: Cactus Pete's, 755-2321: Breeze, thru 3/1; Kristi Lyndell, 3/3-8 and 3/10-15; Horseshu, 755-2331
Wendover: Nevada Crossing, 664-4000: Live entertainment Tues.-Sun.; Peppermill, 664-2255; Red Garter, 664-2111; Silver Smith, 664-2231; State Line, 664-2221

Pony Express Territory

Battle Mountain: Owl Club, 635-5155
Fallon: Fallon Nugget, 423-3111
Yerington: Casino West, 463-2481; Dini's Lucky Club, 463-2868: Live entertainment weekends
Winnemucca: Winners Hotel-Casino, 623-2511

Pioneer Territory

Pahrump: Saddle West Casino, 727-5953
Tonopah: Station House, 482-9777

MARCH 19-21
ELKO AG FAIR

Everything from beef to bees will be discussed as the agricultural world convenes at the first annual Ag Fair on March 19-21 at the Elko Convention Center. Admission is free to exhibits, demonstrations, and seminars.

MARCH 27-29
QUICK ACTS

Theater groups from around the state will compete in a showing of one-act plays March 27-29 at the Tonopah Convention Center. The winning troupe in the seventh annual competition will go to the regionals in Phoenix this April

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Cosby: Old Friends, New Fans, the Same Magic

America's most popular father figure reflects on Las Vegas, Reno, and the ties that bind.

By Guy Richardson

Black comics were different in 1964. For one thing, they weren't black comics. They were "colored" or "Negro" first, comics second—not necessarily by choice, but by pigeonhole.

Bill Cosby and Bill Harrah changed that. Even before Cosby soared with his colorless role on *I Spy,* Harrah and his people believed that the bright young man with a 20-week contract at San Francisco's hungry i nightclub could draw white patrons in Nevada—not a state known for liberal views.

So in June, 1964, Cosby opened for Andy Williams and the Osmond Brothers at Harrah's Tahoe. Cosby, as they say on the *Variety* beat, wowed 'em with boffola yock-bringers.

Or, as they say in cowboy bars from Ely to Pahrump, he done good.

Bill Cosby wasn't a black comic, or Nevada comic, or any other label comic. Cosby is hard to label, easy to describe: When he talks, people laugh until they hurt. Nevada was one of the first mainstream places where Cosby worked his magic.

While his TV career wavered through the years, Cosby's Nevada success hardly quivered. "Nevada means a couple of things to me," said Cosby. "It's been a state I made an awful lot of income from. Also, it represents a vacation that no other state could give.

"For instance, I've worked the Las Vegas Hilton for as many as 28 straight days—but I'd get up about 11, and play tennis from 1 to 4 outdoors." And he and his family would commune with the desert.

Well, the family communed. "I'm not the kind of guy that likes to go walking through the woods," said Cosby. "My wife loves it. One time, while I'm feet up at the duck pond, our kids went about 25 miles into the desert, brought back ALL these rocks which we had to have immediately analyzed to see if they'd found silver.



When Cosby's TV show hit three years ago, execs at first considered it an "urban" hit, saying that any show about a black family wasn't going to be big in the boonies.



The first ratings came in from the big cities. Big winner He recalled, "Then they said, 'These numbers will get smaller because Cosby is an urban person.'"



"Little do they know that I do better in places like North Dakota and Utah than in Carnegie Hall." The rural ratings also soared. "So that was my little smile, because they really didn't know."

"They were sooo disappointed," he said with that rumbling Cosby chuckle, a har-har toned to a subtle pitch.

But seriously folks, and there is a serious side to Cosby: "Nevada is also a chance for the children to see Americans, to go from New York's heavy Jewish environment to what might be termed 'Pilgrim's Progress'—an area where black Americans really have small numbers in the community—to see rural, open spaces."

To Cosby, Las Vegas feels much different from Nevada's north. "Las Vegas has a really big-city feel. And even though the kingpins hold the political powwows in the north end of the state, the southern end is much more political."

The network bosses at NBC think a lot of big cities. When Cosby's current TV show hit three years ago, it was considered an "urban" hit. Read that: Any show about a black family isn't going to be big in the boonies.

The first ratings came in from the big cities. Big winner. He recalled, "Then they said, 'These numbers will get smaller because Cosby is an urban person.'"

Pause. Stare.

"I knew what they meant, but little do they know that I do better in places like North Dakota and Utah than in Carnegie Hall." The rural ratings also soared. "So that was my little smile, because they really didn't know."

During his quarter-century of performing, Cosby saw changes in the country's nightclubs, a venue he says no longer exists outside Nevada. "I watched this entire business change. I used to work the hungry i 12 weeks a year, and clubs in Dallas, New York, Los Angeles, and those places no longer exist.

"After them came what I call 'The Bill Graham Period, when you had rock bands moving from warehouses to coliseums to the ballpark.

"Now today's headliners are so out of it in terms of price you would have to come up with a million dollars a week to get a Lionel Richie or a Kenny Rogers off the road."

Through it all, Cosby headlined Nevada showrooms. Only one period of Nevada's history was tough for Cosby: "When the Hilton chain closed showrooms, and Las Vegas decided to go with revues. I worked there, but the place did not look like Las Vegas.

"People looked like they came to see what Las Vegas was about, and get a hotel room for $39.95—for three nights—but not like they came to gamble and be a little naughty."

The problem started, Cosby believes, when Howard Hughes bought casinos like they were going out of style and then did his best to make sure they DID go out of style. Small things. "They stopped giving away cigarettes," said Cosby. "They stopped giving away free drinks unless you gambled a certain amount."

And big things. "The hotels took the philosophy that everything must make a profit—each division must pay for itself. That's when people started going for the $39.95 rooms. I always believed Bill Harrah's philosophy—make the customer feel good, give him some things, and then see if he'd like to gamble a little."

There was a Harrah's policy Cosby appreciated on a personal level back when the Cosby name didn't lead NBC's winners. "If I had a slow night for reservations, but played to a packed house, I knew what was going on. It was Harrah's invitees, and Harrah's employees."

Cosby knows the Nevada ropes. He also knows Nevada acts. He'll drop into a lounge to see the Treniers, or play drums with the Checkmates. That leads us to a Cosby observation about the rest of the country vis-a-vis Nevada: "One of the cheap shots out-of-state reviewers take at an act they don't care for is to call it 'a Las Vegas act.

"I remember a reviewer in New York saying 'Joe Williams came on with his Las Vegas act. Joe Williams hardly ever works Las Vegas, and obviously these reviewers haven't seen a real Las Vegas act for 25 years. A bad act is NOT a Las Vegas act."

Las Vegas News Bureau photos



Nevada casino magnate Bill Harrah took a gamble on an up-and-coming black comedian named Bill Cosby back in 1964. As luck would have it, both men shared the winnings and a long friendship.

To Cosby, the Nevada show business scene means old friends, new audiences ("they're putting on suits again"), a source of income, a source of peace, and an education.

Education? Doctor of Education (University of Massachusetts) Cosby? "I've learned a lot about business here, how to handle money, how to say goodbye to people when they no longer required my services—and how to say hello when they need me again."

Right now he is saying hello again to the Las Vegas Hilton, where he began performing in the late '60s. Three years ago, after the Hilton switched to production shows, he moved to Caesars Palace, but now he's back in the Hilton's huge, 1,600-seat showroom.

One place he never said goodbye to is Harrah's. Cosby, who is known as a shrewd businessman, has admitted, "He was always able to get me for a dime," referring to the fine treatment he received from Bill Harrah. For instance, Harrah lent Cosby a Ferrari to use on his first gig 23 years ago. Such touches of faith and friendship still seem to be important, although one gesture may be no longer needed: It's been a long time since they had to pad the guest list to give Bill Cosby a full house.

Guy Richardson is a columnist and reporter for the Reno Gazette-Journal.



Photo: Harrah's

How To Photograph Wildlife

They are unpredictable subjects, but with animals and birds you don't have to wing it completely Here are some ways to have a great time with your camera outdoors while trying for that perfect shot.

By Tony Diebold



"Knowing your subjects' habits is important. This carrion character's habit of warming his wings in the morning sun enabled me to get this shot with my big 600mm lens. Each spring a flock of vultures visits the same group of trees south of Gerlach."

The alarm brought me out of my dreams and into the blackness of my camper shell. Four o'clock in the morning! My lower back ached as I reached for my small coffee pot. The day before I had banged along 30 miles of boulder-strewn roads to the top of this mountain. Then I had packed nearly 40 pounds of camera equipment another half mile up a steep trail.

Here at 7,000 feet I built a blind. First I dug a pit big enough for me and the camera gear. Next I surrounded the pit with sagebrush, leaving a small opening overlooking a spring where I hoped to get some shots of an animal I had seen in the area—a monster antelope with horns of gigantic proportions.

It was still dark when I arrived at the blind, and with my flashlight I made sure that there weren't any undesirable varmints waiting for me inside. Snakes and scorpions don't bother me much, but I don't like sharing small spaces with them.

I made myself as comfortable as possible and used the remaining pre-dawn hour to check my equipment. In two previous trips I had tried and failed to get the kind of shots I hoped to get of this antelope. I did on those trips get great shots of some other antelope, wild horses, sage hen, deer, and coyotes as well as some scenics, which made the trips at least partially successful.

That was one of the first lessons I learned when I began photographing wildlife seriously 10 years ago—no matter how much you plan in advance, luck plays a large role. So does persistence. The patient and well-prepared photographer not only may get the shot he wants, but he also will be ready for the unexpected opportunity. Imagine suddenly seeing a mountain lion perched in a tree—and then discovering that you forgot to put a new roll of film in the camera. Or you get fooled by the backlighting and use the wrong f-stop. Chances are you'll be ready for such a rare shot the next time.

Still, planning can pay off with crisp, candid portraits. Of course, you have to meet the animals on their ground, in their environment, and seek out the places they frequent. Watering holes are excellent in this way. All animals must come to water, so springs and rock tanks that fill up with rainwater are ideal locations to wait.

There is an art to hiding, but the shelter or blind doesn't have to be a big production. With a little rearrangement, rock formations and brush can do nicely. I also use a portable blind made of plastic pipe and camouflage netting. When it's set up, I am completely hidden and can shoot through holes in the sides. When broken down, it's easy to pack and carry. I have found my truck makes a surprisingly good blind. Many animals are not afraid of vehicles. As long as you stay inside and keep quiet, your subjects will pay little attention to you. Just remember to keep the windows rolled down so you'll have a clear shot.

I also stalk the animals. The key is to move slowly and quietly and keep your camera preset by constantly checking your light meter and making sure your lens aperture is adjusted accordingly. I





"Keeping a camera with you at all times can be rewarding. I came upon this bobcat caught in a trap set for a sheep-killing coyote. Although I was on horseback, I had taken the trouble to pack my camera. The effort paid off with this shot I took before releasing the cat."

try to anticipate where the subject will appear, such as around a rock or shrub, and focus my camera on that location.

Since there are feathered and furry varmints everywhere, it is not necessary to take an extended safari to get good wildlife photos. During hunting season, many of the ducks eating bread out of people's hands at Reno's Virginia Lake were shot at the day before at Stillwater Marshes near Fallon, 60 miles to the east. Likewise, waterfowl used to dodging bullets at Lake Mead's upper end near Overton can relax more at Tule Springs at Floyd Lamb State Park north of Las Vegas. You can stalk these creatures at the easier location, and, unless the background is strange, the ducks and geese will look just as natural and untamed.

In my opinion, fall and winter are the best seasons to take wildlife pictures. Cool, stormy weather at this time of year makes for clear, snappy shots while the low angle of the sun provides better lighting than the high sun of summer. Heavy snows bring deer and antelope to



"I often get bonus photos while looking for other animals. I came upon this prickly non-target varmint while trying to get a portrait of a deer in the Buffalo Hills."



"Animals approaching watering holes keep a sharp eye out for predators. This female antelope waited and watched for a long time before bringing her little ones in for a drink. A good blind concealed me long enough to take this shot with a 300mm lens at about 50 feet."

"While in Las Vegas taking bighorn sheep photos, I drove up on this coyote looking for breakfast near Lake Mead. I stopped my truck and sat very still. After a few watchful minutes, the coyote went back to his hunting. Again using my truck as a blind, I made this shot with a 300mm lens."



the valley floors, and ducks and geese are here in great flocks from the north. Many hungry animals and birds can be baited with food in winter.

Good camera equipment helps. It is possible to spend vast amounts of money on camera gear; I have one lens that cost $3,000. But for the amateur photographer there are many low-cost 35-millimeter cameras and lenses that will get you set up for less than $400. Besides being the most common kind of camera, a 35 millimeter is the best all-around for wildlife. It is small, lightweight, and easy to adjust as outdoor conditions change. The two basic lenses I use are a telephoto and a wide angle. An 80-200 millimeter telephoto lens is a good investment for general shooting. With a 35-70 wide-angle for shooting scenic or close shots, you have just about every situation covered with only two lenses. The telephoto will be on your camera most of the time. A great photographer and friend of mine, Linda Dufurrena, seems to have welded an 80-200 zoom on her battered Nikon, which shows that you don't need a whole bag of lenses, at least in her case, to be one of the most-published photographers in the state.



"I took this shot when I was helping a rancher friend feed cows in the Gerlach desert. Every morning there would be a number of rabbits in the way. Using the hay truck for my blind, this shot was really quite easy."

The majority of my great wildlife photographs have been taken when my camera was on a tripod, and most of my good shots would have been great if I had used a tripod. The subject matter, lighting, and photo sharpness all have equal billing in a great picture. To achieve that sharpness you need a tripod or other camera support.

In composing the shot, pay attention to the background. What you see is what you get. Unfortunately, sometimes unwanted background objects can ruin a good shot. One of the best shots I ever took was ruined by some power lines that turned up in the background. I was concentrating so much on the subject, a family of kit foxes, that I failed to see the wires, and I could have composed the shot easily without them. So remember, the background can make a photo. A shot of a hawk on a fence post is nice, but add a snow-covered mountain in the background and it becomes a great shot.

Film today is available for a wide variety of lighting conditions, both for prints and slides. I shoot slide film almost exclusively, mainly because that is what magazines want. Slides also are a lot more economical than print film. However, many photographers use print film because they keep albums or want to make lots of large, framable prints. But whatever kind of film you use, don't skimp. Film is cheap compared to a good photo, so shoot lots and then shoot some more.

That's what I was ready to do, hidden behind my natural blind at 7,000 feet waiting for the monster antelope. It had been three hours since the sun had come up out of the Black Rock Desert. Soon it would be too high for what I call the "magic hours" when the light is low. I heard hooves clicking on rocks, and a bunch of wild horses came into view. They began to drink at the spring. I took some shots of the horses while trying to put my disappointment aside. Hell, I could get wild horse shots anywhere.

I started to put my cameras away when the big stud in the bunch snapped his head around and pointed his ears up the mountain. The adrenaline started flowing as I turned on the Nikon's motor drive and looked up the trail. I was poised. I was ready. I was all set to snap the monster antelope as planned.

Then my subject rounded the corner and froze in his tracks. Ears twitching, eyes wide, the cottontail rabbit stood on his haunches, looking at the horses. Then I watched him hop off into a cluster of rocks, leaving me laughing and in a slightly better mood. It looked like the monster antelope would have to wait till next time.

Tony Diebold of Gerlach is a widely-published photographer whose wildlife photographs have appeared in National Geographic Books, the Great Basin series of the University of Nevada Press, Nevada Magazine, and many other publications. Wildlife prints are available by writing him at Box 10, Gerlach, NV 89412.

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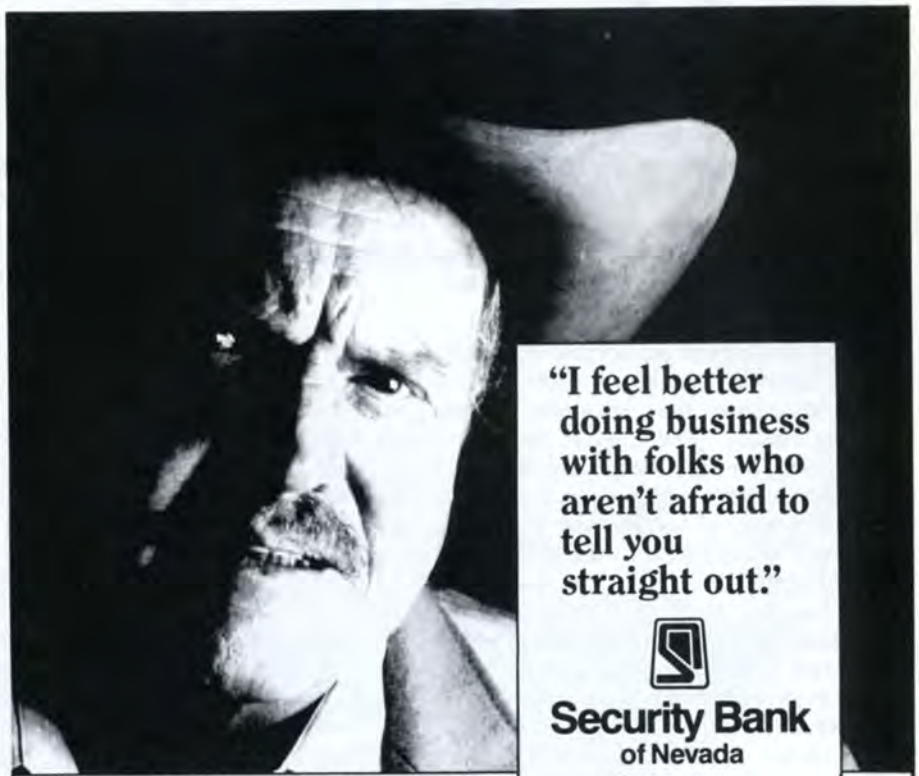
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The Quotable Mark Twain

The one-time Comstock reporter's observations about Nevada Territory still ring irreverent, hilarious, and often true.

By Patrick Burke

One of the most memorable comments about early-day Nevadans came from a man who knew the characters he was talking about. "The lawyer, the editor, the banker, the chief desperado, the chief gambler, and the saloon-keeper occupied the same level in society, and it was the highest," wrote Mark Twain. "To be a saloon-keeper and kill a man was to be illustrious."

Although Twain probably exaggerated here and there when describing his three years in silver country, he did have a front-row view of the region's strange seasonal and social climates. In 1861 Sam Clemens had arrived in Carson City with his brother, Orion, who had been appointed territorial secretary under Governor James Nye. Sam, then in his mid-20s, explored the countryside, camped at Lake Tahoe, prospected at Aurora and Unionville, and generally tried to avoid the prospect of being an unemployed resident of the capital.

After a year he joined the *Territorial Enterprise* in Virginia City as a reporter. A few months later he began using the name Mark Twain.

As he would memorialize forever the world of Huck Finn and Tom Sawyer, so he left us wonderful observations about Nevada's early days. In his letters home to Missouri and in works like *Roughing It,* Twain described such things as Washoe Zephyrs, Lake Tahoe, rivers, sagebrush, coyotes, "jackass rabbits," and other features of a place he called, in a borrowed phrase, "the damnedest country under the sun." Here are some of those glimpses of Nevada as Twain saw it.

"

Writing about his first day in Carson City, Twain described the daily Washoe Zephyr, a fixture of spring afternoons: "A soaring dust-drift about the size of the United States set up edgewise came with it, and the capital of Nevada Territory disappeared from view. Still, there were sights to be seen which were not wholly uninteresting to newcomers; for the vast dust-cloud was thickly freckled with things strange to the upper air—things living and dead, that flitted hither and thither, going and coming, appearing and disappearing among the rolling billows of dust—hats, chickens, and parasols sailing in the remote heavens; blankets, tin signs, sage-brush, and shingles a shad lower; door-mats and buffalo-robes lower still; shovels and coal-scuttles on the next grade; glass doors, cats, and little children on the next; disrupted lumber yards, light buggies, and wheelbarrows on the next; and down only thirty or forty feet above the ground was a scurrying storm of emigrating roofs and vacant lots.

"It was something to see that much. I could have seen more, if I could have kept the dust out of my eyes."

"

"The coyote," he wrote, "is a long, slim, sick and sorry-looking skeleton, with a gray wolf-skin stretched over it, a tolerably bushy tail that forever sags down with a despairing expression of forsakenness and misery, a furtive and evil eye, and a long, sharp face, with slightly lifted lip and exposed teeth. He has a general slinking expression all over. The coyote is a living, breathing allegory of Want. He is always hungry. He is always poor, out of luck and friendless. The meanest creatures despise him, and even the fleas would desert him for a velocipede

"We soon learned to recognize the sharp, vicious bark of the coyote as it came across the murky plain at night to disturb our dreams among the mail-sacks; and remembering his forlorn aspect and his hard fortune, made shift to wish him the blessed novelty of a long day's good luck and a limitless larder the morrow."

"

Nevada's state flower, the sagebrush, said Twain, is "the fag-end of vegetable creation." In a letter to his mother soon after arriving in Nevada, he added, "If you will take a lilliputian cedar tree for a model, and build a dozen imitations of it with the stiffest article of telegraph wire, set them one foot apart and then try to walk through them, you'll understand (provided the floor is covered 12 inches deep with sand) what it is to wander through a sage-brush desert. When crushed, sage-brush emits an odor which

Photo: Bancroft Library, University of California, Berkeley

isn't exactly magnolia and equally isn't polecat—but it is a sort of compromise between the two. It looks a great deal like greasewood, and is the ugliest plant that was ever conceived of."

"

Twain, the former Mississippi River pilot, also liked to poke fun at Nevada rivers. In one letter he described the Carson as "twenty yards wide, knee-deep, and so villainously rapid and crooked, that it looks like it had wandered into the country without intending it, and had run about in a bewildered way and got lost in its hurry to get out again before some thirsty man came along and drank it up."

But Twain gave a fond description of Virginia City: "The mountainside was so steep that the entire town had a slant to it like a roof. Each street was a terrace, and from each to the next street below the descent was forty or fifty feet

"From Virginia's airy situation one could look over a vast, far-reaching panorama of mountain ranges and deserts; and whether the day was bright or overcast, whether the sun was rising or setting, or flaming in the zenith, or whether night and the moon held sway, the spectacle was always impressive and beautiful. Over your head Mount Davidson lifted its gray dome, and before and below you a rugged canyon clove the battlemented hills, making a somber gateway through which a soft-tinted desert was glimpsed, with the silver thread of a river winding through it, bordered with trees which many miles of distance diminished to a delicate fringe; and still further away the snowy mountains rose up and stretched their long barrier to the filmy horizon—far enough beyond a lake that burned in the desert like a fallen sun, though that, itself, lay fifty miles removed. Look from your window where you would, there was fascination in the picture. At rare intervals–but very rare–there were clouds in our skies, and then the setting sun would gild and flush and glorify this mighty expanse of scenery with a bewildering pomp of color that held the eye like a spell and moved the spirit like music."

In a satirical description of Washoe, printed in the *Golden Era* in 1864, Twain said the landscape "looks something like a singed cat."

"

In a letter on Steamboat Hot Springs, between Reno and Carson City, Twain said "the devil boils the water, and the white steam puffs up out of crevises in the earth, along the summits of a series of low mounds extending in an irregular semicircle for more than a mile. The water is impregnated with a dozen different minerals, each one of which smells viler than its fellow

"You get up here about six o'clock in the morning and walk over to the bathhouse; you undress in an ante-room and take a cold shower-bath—or let it alone, if you choose; then you step into a sort of little dark closet floored with wooden grating, up through which come puffs and volumes of the hottest steam you ever performed to (because the awkwardest of us feel a hankering to waltz a little under such circumstances, you know) I had company always, and it was the pleasantest thing in the world to see a thin-skinned invalid cavorting around in the vapory obscurity, marveling at the rivers of sweat that coursed down his body, cursing the villainous smell of the steam and its bitter, salty taste—groping around meanwhile, for a cold corner, and backing finally into the hottest one, and darting out again in a second, only remarking 'Outch!'—and repeating it when he sits down, and springs up the same moment off the hot bench."

"

In an article first printed in the *New York Sunday Mercury* in February 1864, Twain had this to say about Nevada jackrabbits:

"We have an animal here whose surname is the 'jackass rabbit. It is three feet long, has legs like a counting-house



Even the sly coyote couldn't avoid Twain's generous observations.



Steamboat Hot Springs near Reno was one of Twain's least-favorite watering holes.

Photos: Nevada Historical Society



According to Twain, the Carson River was little more than a misguided creek.



Twain described the state flower which is the sagebrush, as the fag end of creation.



Virginia City held a special place in Twain's heart.

stool, ears of monstrous length, and no tail to speak of. It is swifter than a greyhound, and as meek and harmless as an infant. I might mention, also, that it is as handsome as most infants: however, it would be foreign to the subject, and I do not know that a remark of that kind would be popular in all circles."

In the same article, Twain penned a mock ad offering all state officials for sale or rent:

"One Governor, entirely new. Attended Sunday-school in his youth and still remembers it. Never drinks. In other respects, however, his habits are good. As Commander-in-Chief of the Militia, he would be an ornament. Most governors are....

"One Lieutenant-Governor—also new. He has other merits, of minor importance, besides. No objection to going into the country or elsewhere.

"One Secretary of State [his brother, Orion]. An old, experienced hand at the business. Has edited a newspaper, and has been Secretary and Govenor of Nevada Territory—consequently, is capable; and also consequently, will bear watching; is not bigoted—has no particular set of religious principles—or any other kind....

"One small treasurer (second hand). Will make a good officer. Was Treasurer once before, in (the) States. Took excellent care of the funds—has them yet

"Also, a large and well-selected assortment of State Legislators, Supreme Judges, Comptrollers, and such gimcracks, handy to have about a State Government, all of which are for sale or rent on the mildest possible terms, as, under present circumstances, they are of no earthly use to the subscriber.

"For further particulars, address Mark Twain. Carson, N.T "

,,

Overcast, drizzly weather inspired Twain to write this report in the *Enterprise:*

"The weather still continues cloudy, misty and rainy. The clouds wrap themselves lovingly about the neighboring mountain peaks even at noonday, while as the shades of the evening approach they descend to similar liberties with all the little hills in the country, lingering fondly over them till shamed by the glaring eye of old Sol to a reluctant retreat to the more staid and elevated society of the hoary-headed granite peaks. Though some folks may not like this sort of weather, it is admitted by all to be much bullyer for the country than what dry weather is—as for us, give us rain or give us lager beer!"

Patrick Burke is a Mark Twain buff and occasional Nevada history writer

Photos: Nevada State Highway Department;Nevada State Muesum



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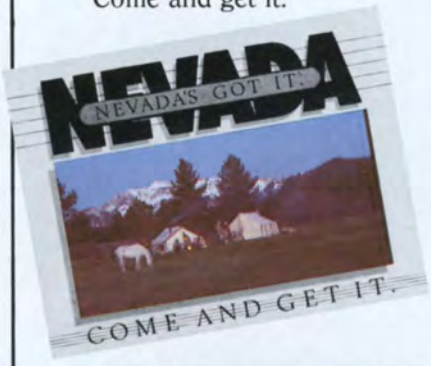
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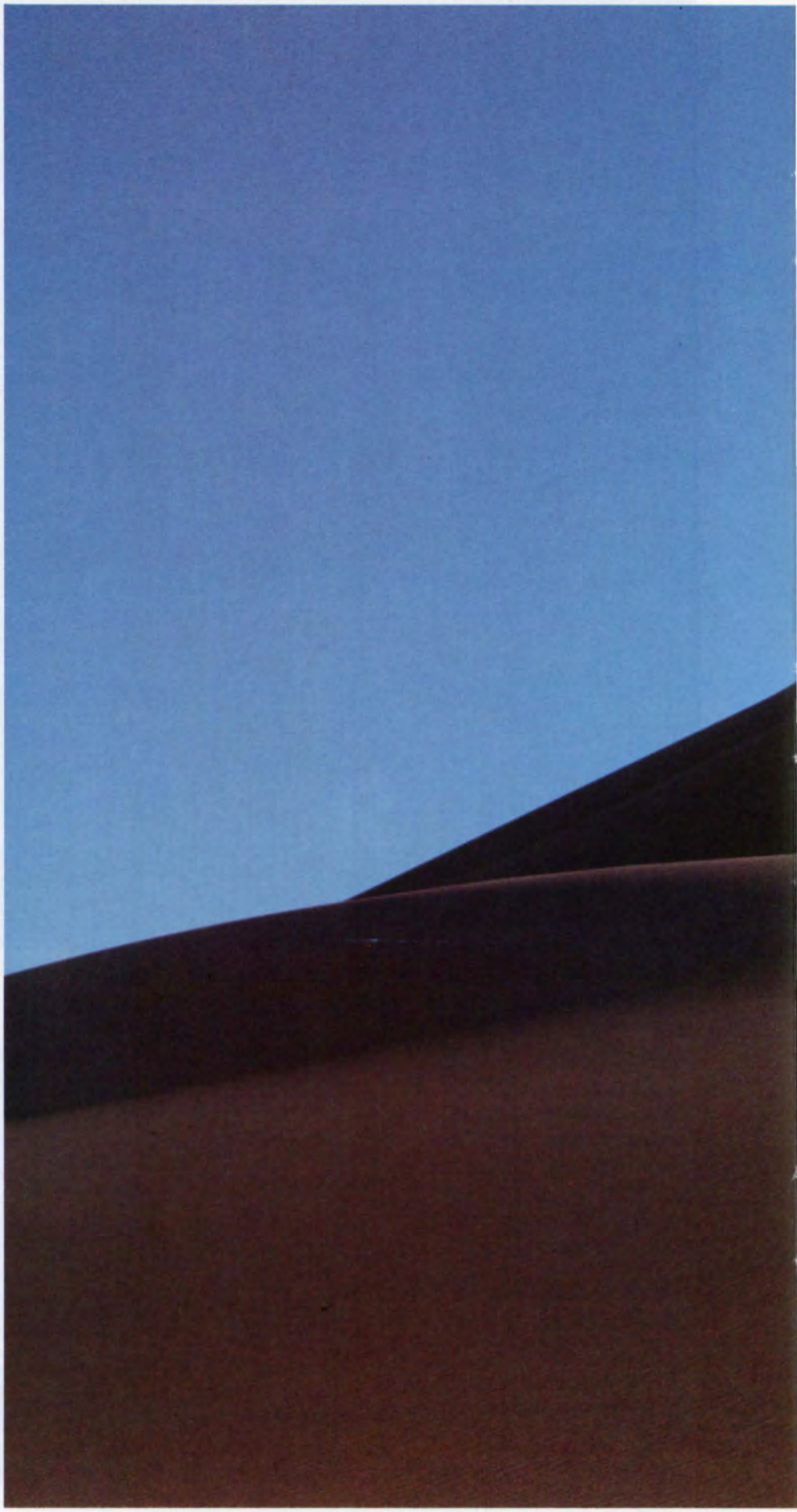
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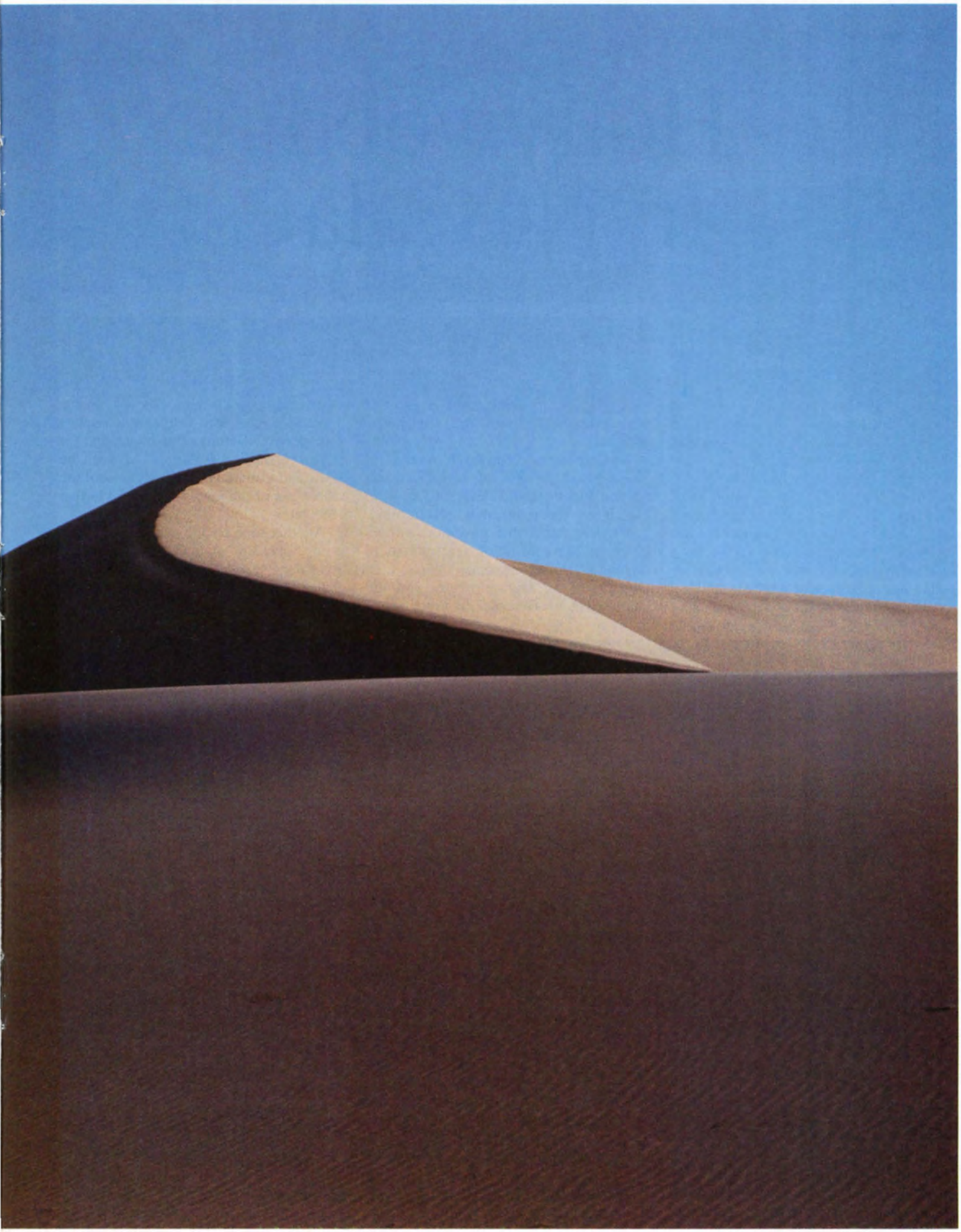
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PI3

NEVADA
NEVADA'S GOT IT

From the highway, the Crescent Sand Dunes tend to blend in with the scenery, but Don Thackrey of San Francisco found them proud and distinctive when he took this portrait of the largest dune, 10 miles northeast of Tonopah. He and his wife Barbara were returning from a photography and rockhounding trip to Death Valley when they decided to stay overnight in Tonopah before seeing the dunes, which can be reached by a paved road off U.S. 95. The next day he used his Canon F-1 with a 50-millimeter lens and slow-speed Ectachrome film. "I wanted to take the photo real early in the morning, after the wind had settled the sand," says Thackrey, a retired UPI reporter who keeps his camera with him when he travels. "It turned out just right."





Hollywood In Nevada

Thanks to great locations and cooperation, more and more film makers are putting the Silver State on the silver screen.

By Erik Joseph

Ask Bob Hirsch about movies, and chances are he won't talk about taking lunch with Hollywood hotshots. Instead his stories will be about red tape, highways, and casting calls for dogs.

There was the time director John Carpenter wanted to close several miles of Interstate 15 northeast of Las Vegas for a scene in *Starman*. The script called for a full-scale roadblock and auto check by police and government agents searching for Jeff Bridges and Karen Allen, who were hiding in a semi rig. The logistics were complicated, but the scene was important.

So Carpenter called Hirsch. As the Las Vegas-based director of Nevada's state Motion Picture and Television Division, Hirsch got the political wheels turning. Calls went out to the governor's office, the state Department of Transportation, Nevada's Congressmen, the U.S. Department of Transportation, and the Department of Defense. In other states such requests often produce long, hopeless delays. But Carpenter's request was approved within a few hours, and for three days traffic was rerouted between the Apex and Caliente turnoffs as he shot the scene, one of the most suspenseful in that 1985 hit.

Another time Hirsch was asked to find a tiny, obedient mutt to do some tricks for *Glory Years*, a six-episode HBO comedy show. While reviewing various canines, Hirsch and his staff discovered



Over the Top, *starring Sylvester Stallone and Rick Zumwalt (above), was filmed in Las Vegas.*









Clockwise from top left: Tom (Top Gun) *Cruise, Karen Allen and Jeff* (Starman) *Bridges,* Cherry 2000, *and Sally* (Surrender) *Field.*

some trained cockatoos. He says, "The birds could do everything the dogs could do, and more, so we sent them over, too. But a dog got the part anyway."

The frequency of such calls, and the prompt attention they get, are indications of Nevada's growing success in attracting movie and TV productions. After the state film division was created in 1983 by Governor Richard Bryan and the Legislature as part of the state Commission on Economic Development, the state had $13 million in film production revenue in the first fiscal year, a strong showing. Then a film office was established in Carson City, headed by Hirsch's deputy, Julie Wilcox.

Now, a little more than three years after the division's creation, film revenue has nearly tripled, which is good news for the state's own big picture of economic diversification. And Nevada's status as a prime shooting location continues to improve. A 1985 survey by the National Conference of State Legislatures ranked Nevada 13th among the 50 states in film production. According to Hirsch, a top-10 spot isn't far off.

For filmmakers, he says, the state's attractions include a state agency that offers one-stop permit shopping, cost-saving room packages, all sorts of support services, and an irresistible variety of scenery and settings. "Filmmakers come to Nevada for an ambiance that can't be duplicated on a sound stage or back lot," he says.

A recent example was *Over the Top,* the second major Nevada film starring Sylvester Stallone (*Rocky IV* was the first). Director Menahem Golan, who spent three weeks filming in Las Vegas, was able to use an international arm-wrestling tournament at the Hilton as the backdrop for the movie's wrist wars. Burt Reynolds' new film, *Heat,* also was filmed in Las Vegas. *Assassination,* the Charles Bronson action flick, was set in part on the picturesque southern shore of Lake Tahoe, as was the upcoming Sally Field-Michael Caine-Steve Guttenberg comedy *Surrender*

Thanks to its glamorous image and longtime links to Los Angeles, Las Vegas is often featured in TV series and specials. Last fall a Walt Disney TV movie, *You Ruined My Life,* was filmed in town with Caesars Palace as the principal location. "This is what we call filming Las Vegas as Las Vegas," Hirsch says. Other such TV features include *The Las Vegas Strip Wars,* one of Rock Hudson's last shows; *Stark* and *Stark II: Mirrored Image;* and episodes of *Remington Steele* and *Hill Street Blues.* Southern Nevada also has starred in *Crime Story,* the NBC early-'60s police drama, since Lt. Torello and his squad of Chicago crime busters moved to Las Vegas in mid-season.

Sometimes Nevada's vivid settings are meant to evoke other places and times. In last year's megahit *Top Gun,* the spectacular aerial fight sequences that seemed to be shot over San Diego were, in fact, filmed at the Fallon Naval Air Station. In a recent French production called *The Arrogant,* areas near Beatty doubled as a Spanish desert. Amargosa, Beatty, and Goldfield became post-nuclear war Las Vegas for *Cherry 2000,* a sci-fier starring Melanie Griffith that was shot entirely in rural Nevada.

Then there's the case of *The Hitcher* which stars C. Thomas Howell and Rutger Hauer. When a *Newsweek* reviewer commented on the "moody and evocative Texas landscape," Hirsch was quick to point out that the majority of the film was shot within a 25-mile radius of Las Vegas. He says, "This is further proof that Nevada can represent nearly any time and any place when it comes to locations."

Actors on location here appreciate the state's qualities, too. While *Assassination* was being filmed at a private home on Tahoe's south shore, the beautiful setting prompted Bronson's wife and costar, Jill

Photo (lower left): Tony Aloi





Sylvester Stallone and Dolph Lundgren from Rocky IV *(left), and Nicholas Sorovey and Kirstie Alley from* Stark: Mirrored Image.

Ireland, to declare, "I want to buy a house here. I want this house. I don't want to be moved off this porch. I love the trees and the sky and the sparkling lake. I want to stay." She later was persuaded to leave, but the lake clearly had won another fan.

Sally Field and Michael Caine got to know Tahoe's indoor attractions when they spent a week filming *Surrender* in and around Harvey's at Stateline. During the shoot the two-time Academy Award-winning actress rode an escalator, strolled through the casino, and pulled slot machines for countless takes. A high point was when Field hit a $5 million jackpot and hundreds of $5 bills flew out of the film's Blizzard of Bucks machine. After the carefully arranged shot was completed, the assistant director shouted, "Everybody freeze!" But Field, excited as a Sunday slot player, quickly sat down on the floor with the designated helpers, stacking and counting the bills and laughing as if it were Christmas morning.

For Donna Pescow, star of HBO's *Glory Years*, the lure in Las Vegas was the great shopping. "They've named a wing after me at the mall," said the actress known for her roles in *Angie* and *Saturday Night Fever*

Mood swings sometimes lead to love and marriage. During the filming of a docu-drama for German television in Las Vegas, the leading man and lady were to stage a mock marriage, but in an impulsive moment they made it official.

Another story of marital vows and moviemaking comes from Harry Shearer, director of *Viva Shaf Vegas,* a takeoff on *Viva Las Vegas* in which Elvis' title role is filled by balding band leader Paul Shaffer of *The David Letterman Show.* Shearer recalls an incident involving Albert Brooks, director and star of 1985's *Lost in America.*

"A few years back I drove from Los Angeles to Las Vegas in the middle of the night to get married," Shearer says. "There was me, my prospective wife, Albert Brooks, and Linda Ronstadt. Albert and Linda came along for the ride. We arrived early in the morning, stopped at the first chapel we saw, got married, and immediately drove back home.

"Remember the scene from *Lost in America* where Albert Brooks and Julie Hagerty decide to drive to Vegas and get remarried? Art imitates life."

And art, as Bob Hirsch well knows, will continue to make strange but fascinating demands as long as the state film division exists. Like the talent search requested by a rock-video director who needed 200 cockroaches for his final scene. "The director was panicky," says the ever-resourceful Hirsch, "so I enlisted a group of youngsters by offering a bounty of 25 cents per roach. The kids returned to our office with more than 400 roaches stuffed into dozens of coffee cans." He deadpans: "We have since moved out of those offices."

Such efforts come with the job for Hirsch and his northern counterpart, Julie Wilcox. They assist with permits and help to arrange hotel or motel room packages for cast and crew, another cost-saving factor in Nevada. They scout locations, arrange transportation, and help set up casting, animals, and wardrobe. They put filmmakers in touch with the state's unions, guilds, and other groups whose members range from actors and cameramen to caterers and heavy equipment operators.

Hirsch and Wilcox also can provide location photos and data instantly with a new Computerized Location Access System (CLAS). The system links their offices with more than 10,000 slides of possible film sites around the state. If a director wants a certain setting with certain support services, the system will select and print photos of those sites in five minutes.

At times they also enlist the persuasive powers of the governor. Bryan's involvement in movies began with a bit role in *Hilda Crane*—an otherwise unimportant 1956 melodrama that was filmed at UNR and starred Jean Simmons and Guy Madison—and as governor he has made trips to Hollywood to sell studio executives on Nevada. One trip resulted in last fall's filming of *You Ruined My Life* in Las Vegas. His approach "isn't just 'taking lunches' but meeting executives on a business level, which has proved very effective," Hirsch says. Thus the state's movie mania starts at the top.

It also extends to the general populace, as Las Vegas, Reno, Tahoe, and the rural areas are known for providing enthusiastic extras. Bob Radler, who directed a Cinemax comedy short, *Guy's Way,* on what he calls "a wardrobe budget," says, "I have to stress that the people of Reno and Sparks who were our extras were great. I could not believe that these people stayed into the wee hours of the morning every night for virtually no pay." Nuts perhaps, but enthusiastic.

Recently Sylvester Stallone said he'd like to film part of the next Rambo movie in Southern Nevada if enough Afghan nationals could be found to play extras. A small ad was run in the *Las Vegas Review-Journal*, and the calls poured in. However, despite the great response, Hirsch says the liberation of Afghanistan apparently will take place elsewhere.

But then there's always *Rambo IV.*

Erik Joseph is a Las Vegas writer who often works with the state film office.

10 Great

Nevada Movies

These films are the real thing.

By Joe Ansolabehere and Scott Shelley

In 1923, director James Cruze decided to film *Covered Wagon* in the most realistic frontier setting possible—Snake Valley in Eastern Nevada. The movie was a huge success and blazed a trail from Hollywood to Nevada that filmmakers continue to travel. Sometimes they are looking for non-Nevada settings. In *The Greatest Story Ever Told,* Pyramid Lake became the Sea of Galilee. In *The Professionals,* Burt Lancaster chased Jack Palance across Mexico, which in reality was the Valley of Fire. Frequently Nevada's deserts have doubled as lunar landscapes in sci-fi flicks.

But there also are some great "Nevada" movies that take the Silver State as their theme. Now that it's Academy Award time, it seems appropriate for us to recall 10 of those standouts.

1. *The Misfits* (1961): Filmed in and around Reno and Dayton, *The Misfits* is the only film to really capture what it means to be a Nevadan: a misfit in the modern age. In this powerful film, the mustang becomes a metaphor for its hunter, the cowboy, and one endangered species hunts the other in an eerie twist of irony. Directed by John Huston and written by Arthur Miller, this complex, finely acted film featured Clark Gable, Marilyn Monroe, and Montgomery Clift.

2. *The Godfather Part II* (1974): Winner of five Oscars, including best picture and best director, this provocative sequel pulls no punches in portaying Nevada's role in the dark underbelly of 1950s America. *Part II* is the story of Michael Corleone (Al Pacino), who directs his family's operations from his Lake Tahoe headquarters. Director Francis Coppola meticulously recreates the Nevada of this period, contrasting the beauty of the lake with the brutality of Corleone's life.

3. *One from the Heart* (1982): Here Coppola turned again to the Silver State for inspiration, this time to make an old-fashioned Hollywood love story about two "average" Nevadans who live and work amid the glitzy, electronic world of Las Vegas. Rather than film on location Coppola decided to recreate Las Vegas at his Hollywood studio, building intricate models of the Strip, a full-size McCarran Airport terminal, and a desert junkyard. It was a costly and often criticized decision, as the $26-million picture flopped at the box office. But it nevertheless is an engaging movie, one of those rare films that rises into the realm of art.

4. *The Ox-Bow Incident* (1943): Based on the novel by Nevada author Walter Van Tilburg Clark, this film tells how a cowboy (Henry Fonda) tries to stop a lynch mob. The movie, which was made in 1941 and held two years before its release, was a powerful indictment of Nazi Germany's mob mentality. Unlike most westerns of the time, the movie was filmed almost entirely on surreal sets, presenting Nevada's landscape as dark and brooding. Often considered the first serious western, it influenced films like *Shane* and *High Noon.*

5. *The Women* (1939): If you're interested in seeing how the rest of the country perceived Nevada in the 1930s, look for this fascinating movie. Filmed in Hollywood, *The Women* follows upper-crust Eastern wives who come to Reno to get divorced. It is one of George Cukor's classic comedies, full of fast dialogue, slapstick humor, and great catfights. The stars include Norma Shearer, Joan Crawford, Rosalind Russell, and Paulette Goddard.

6. *Lost in America* (1985): This yuppie comedy focuses on a young couple (Albert Brooks and Julie Hagerty) who quit their jobs, buy a Winnebago, and drive across the country "in the spirit of *Easy Rider*" only to get detoured in Las Vegas. Brooks, also the director and co-writer, uses Las Vegas as a microcosm of capitalist America. A high point is a rip-roarin' argument between husband and wife at Hoover Dam.

7 *Melvin and Howard* (1980): One of Nevada's great fortunes won and lost stories, the saga of Melvin Dummar, Howard Hughes, and the infamous Mormon will is sure to be retold until the deserts turn green. Under Jonathan Demme's direction, each performance is true to life, and the film develops a documentary quality. Mary Steenburgen won an Academy Award for her performance as Melvin's wife Lynda. Paul Le Mat as Melvin is a sympathetic lead, and Jason Robards is a great Howard Hughes.

8. *The Electric Horseman* (1979): This modern western paints a moving portrait of a cowboy hero (Robert Redford) who embodies the don't-fence-me-in credo of Nevadans past and present. Also starring Jane Fonda, Willie Nelson, and Caesars Palace, this Sydney Pollack film is guaranteed to choke up any true Nevadan.

9. *California Split* (1974): Two compulsive gamblers (George Segal and Elliott Gould) wind up on a wild gambling spree in Reno, and the movie's final scenes, filmed in downtown casinos, are a poetic treatment of gambling fever. After watching this picture, it's hard to understand why Robert Altman doesn't make more movies and why the ones he does make aren't seen by more people. *California Split* belongs next to *M*A*S*H* as one of his finest.

10. *Diamonds Are Forever* (1971): Nevada proves to be one of the best James Bond locations in director Guy Hamilton's testament to the Las Vegas of fast women, expensive cars, and daring high-stakes gamblers. Out to find a diamond-smuggling ring, Bond (Sean Connery) survives the nightlife, but not without effort. He scales tall casinos and wrecks half the city's cop cars in a downtown chase.

Happily, more Nevada movies are being made than ever before, letting us see more of those special qualities that make the Silver State familiar—and real—to us on the silver screen.

Joe Ansolabehere, who grew up in Reno, is now a Hollywood screenwriter His frequent collaborator Scott Shelley, lives in Carson City and is a former associate editor of Nevada.

Casino Dining: The View From the Top

Fine dining is on the ascendancy as Nevada casinos take the sure way to a player's heart.

By Elliot S. Krane and Connie Emerson

Since the 1950s, Nevada's hotels and casinos have been known for good meals at bargain prices. At first, food was simply the lure—the hook that got people into the clubs and made sure they stayed awhile. But through the years the dining spectrum has broadened in most major casinos to include top-of-the-line restaurants that can turn the most casual player into a devoted casino gourmet.

Located only a hoot and a holler away from the gaming areas, many of the clubs' finer eateries are worlds away in atmosphere. Instead of green-felt tables you find white linen set with china and imported crystal, surrounded by carpets and drapes in muted colors rather than chrome and glitz.

A sense of pride has developed with this dining evolution. Visit the restaurants, and you'll see. A waitress in black dress and white apron says candidly, "Our service is as fine as anywhere else in the world." A food and beverage manager fairly beams as he describes his fresh fowl and produce and goes on to say that his club's top restaurant is the best in Nevada, a frequent claim you can enjoy testing yourself. There's camaraderie, too, in the admiring comments that pastry chefs from one casino make to those from another about their entries in a regional culinary competition.



The Union Plaza's Center Stage restaurant offers fine food and a brilliant view of Las Vegas' Glitter Gulch. The attention to ambiance, here and at other downtown clubs like the Four Queens, Golden Nugget, and Lady Luck, represents the exquisite lengths Nevada casinos go to in order to keep customers content.

Accordingly, rather than feeding diners quickly and getting them back onto the gaming floor, many casino people are encouraging their customers to savor the fine food they have to offer—and to please stay for dessert.

Customers seem to like that attitude, as witnessed by the three gourmet rooms that opened over New Year's. The largest resort hotel in the world, the Las Vegas Hilton, swung back the massive doors of Le Montrachet, a $1.4 million restaurant with a wine cellar that has more than 400 labels. A few blocks away, Delmonico's at the Riviera reopened with a menu reminiscent of its famous, now-departed New York namesake. Then the Peppermill in Reno christened its Le Moulin with a series of inaugural feasts.

"The general public is traveling more, is more sophisticated, and has adopted higher standards "

Paul Houdayer,
Vice President,
Food and Beverage,
Las Vegas Hilton

"Our guests are looking for the top-of-the-line cuisine," says Dov Odents, the Riviera's food and beverage director. "We found that this was the time to reopen Delmonico's."

"The general public is traveling more, is more sophisticated, and has adopted higher standards," says Paul Houdayer, VP of food and beverage for the Las Vegas Hilton, who took that view seriously enough to send the new room's chef on a dream tour of some of the world's great restaurants.

Of course, when Nevada casinos seek out the best food and training, it's not just a matter of reputation. Since the house advantage is the same at most hotels, establishments try to outdo each other in providing food and refreshments



Le Moulin, the Reno Peppermill's gourmet room, is part of the ongoing expansion that will eventually include three high-rise towers and restaurants for every taste.

in a style that will keep gambling guests "at home" in the hotel and fully satisfied. Great restaurants also draw new players from other hotels.

Gamblers often have as great an appetite for flambe as for cards. At Caesars Palace, Pierre Fort, senior VP of hotel operations, says, "Our gourmet restaurants are very important to our gaming operation. When a player enjoys a good dinner, with our compliments, he is in a good mood and tends to spend more time in the casino."

"Our restaurants are marketing tools," says Houdayer of the Hilton, which has 12 eateries. "The restaurants create business for us in three areas: convention, in-house, and casino. When the hotel expands, we will expand and increase the number of restaurants. After all, they say the way to a player's heart is through his stomach."

And what extreme methods they use.

Exotic foods are flown in daily from world-wide ports of call. Strawberries are a daily commodity as are blueberries and kiwis from New Zealand. What was once an Australian perch at $1 a pound is now an exotic orange roughy from New Zealand at $5 a pound.

Rare mushrooms, the finest white veal, Russian caviar, and French snails are listed on the menus of the restaurants, while imported and domestic wines, priced from $20 to $2,000 a bottle, are presented by the sommeliers.

Throughout the state, fine casino restaurants have atmospheres and service to match their food. Of course, eating well is not without its cost. The bill might run $25, or maybe $100, per person. But that's what credit cards are for, aren't they?

At the Hilton's new Le Montrachet, an elegant entrance in brown and beige marble is surrounded by damask-covered walls. Rich leathers contrast with the gleaming linens and imported place settings to establish the French atmosphere. Making sure the food lives up to the surroundings is Chef Christopher Mihy, who served at the hotel under world-class chef Yves Menes as well as chef garde-manager. In preparation for his new duties Mihy visited fine restaurants across the U.S. and Europe. He started at Le Francais in









Clockwise from top left: Ristorante Italiano at the Riviera in Las Vegas; Cafe Gigi's Palace of Versailles decor at Bally's in Reno; The Primavera at Caesars Palace in Las Vegas; and a sampling of Oriental dishes from the Eldorado in Reno.

Wheeling, Illinois, and then journeyed to La Cote Basque, Le Cirque, and Aurora in New York. In Paris he visited the Bristol Hotel, Jamin, Rostang, Taillevent, Pavilion Elysees, and Tour d'Argent before seeing the Riviera's Moulin de Mougins and Le Royal Gray. Las Vegas diners will undoubtedly benefit from his grand tour.

The Riviera's Delmonico's, once one of the most popular gourmet restaurants on the Strip, has been completely rebuilt. Dishes such as fresh Atlantic mussels with shallots (Moules Dijonnaise) and tender bay scallops sauteed in a sauce of butter and oregano (Les Coquilles Sautees Oreganato) are just a few of its exotic offerings.

One of the most original restaurants in town is the Bacchanal at Caesars Palace. A seven-course fixed-priced dinner is served Roman-style with costumed waiters and wine goddesses, who pour at command and even massage patrons as the meal moves into its third hour.

One flight up is the French-style Palace Court, where you are served by white-gloved waiters. The imported caviar is presented on a cart, nestled in a large ice carving with a border of egg, onion, and capers.

Across the street at the Dunes, two restaurants have played host to the casino crowd for many years. At the Sultan's Table, a string ensemble serenades diners. There also is music at the Dome of the Sea, where a mermaid floats through the room on a raft while playing a harp.





The Flamingo Room at the Flamingo Hilton in Las Vegas (top) offers a seafood salad bar Friday's Station at Harrah's Tahoe (bottom) is appointed with leaded glass.

Cafe Gigi in Bally's has candelabra, heavy drapes, and 18th-century furnishings that create a Napoleonic atmosphere. The food is French with exquisite service.

Having survived many changes in the hotel, the Regency Room at the Sands is famous for its beef Wellington and flaming desserts. The room recently started serving Chinese dim sum at lunch.

Another favorite with the gaming crowd is the Monte Carlo Room in the Desert Inn. The hobo steak is a popular entree and the flaming desserts are a show in this formal room.

Although the Frontier has a western theme for its casino, its Diamond Jim's gourmet room has retained its posh looks and a menu that features Florida stone crab and prime rib with Yorkshire pudding.

Another room that has survived the modernization and expansion of a hotel is the Rhapsody in the Tropicana. Romantic candlelight settings with a view of the new pool and gardens are augmented by piano music and a continental menu.

Piano music is part of the atmosphere at Claudine's, the steak and seafood room of the Holiday Casino that has an excellent wine list.

When the Barbary Coast was built in the midst of four major hotels on the Strip, an elegant restaurant was placed near its small casino. Michael's has become an "in" spot for both visitors and local executives. The shrimp cocktail is served on a frosted globe and lit from inside, providing a dramatic display for the appetizer.

Among other well known casino top rooms are the Captain's Cabin at the Marina, Da Vinci's at the Maxim, the Sahara's House of Lords, and Diamond Lil's at Sam's Town.

Downtown, the fast-expanding Golden Nugget has two gourmet restaurants, Elaine's and Stefano's. Originally created as one room at a cost of more than $2 million, the lavish expanse proved unmanageable for gourmet dining. So it was divided in half, another million went to change the decor and kitchens, and presto—a continental room and an Italian restaurant.

Next door and downstairs, Hugo's Cellar at the Four Queens presents such entrees as rack of lamb Indonesian style, filet mignon stuffed with crab meat, and Dover sole. Each woman guest receives a fresh rose, and after dinner you will be offered complimentary strawberries, figs, and apricots dipped in chocolate and whipped cream. On Mondays you can adjorn to the cabaret for Alan Grant's Jazz Night.

Overlooking Fremont Street is the Union Plaza's Center Stage, where the menu follows a theme set by the hotel's Broadway plays, running from Overtures to Encores with main courses like prime rib, abalone, and lobster in between.

Down the street the new Burgundy Room at the Lady Luck offers chateaubriand, mountain trout, and other dishes in a gourmet setting.

The whole city can be seen from the Top of the Mint, where steaks, seafood, and flaming desserts are served with the striking view.

In Laughlin, where the Colorado River provides a soothing backdrop for diners and gamblers, restaurants like the Gourmet Room at the Riverside and the Embers at the Edgewater are leading this boomtown into a new gastronomical era.

In Reno, a number of casino restaurants present the finer tastes in life. Harrah's Steak House guests, who include many locals, find white tablecloths, a single rose in the silver bud vase at each table, and waiters and waitresses in conservative black and white. For an appetizer you might try frog legs provencal, sauteed with bits of fresh tomato and garlic, and for an entree broiled noisette of lamb with baked avocado and mustard seed sauce. And save room for dessert.

Chances are you won't notice that the china at the Top of the Hilton is Royal Doulton. You'll be too busy admiring the 21st-floor view, the best of any of Reno's casino restaurants. Dinner can include the likes of steak Diane or duck a la Madagascar, prepared tableside.

The Vintage at the Eldorado Hotel reflects owner Don Carano's Italian heritage, not so much on the menu, which is continental, but in the close attention to both food and wine. In fact, several of the wines come from Carano's own California vineyards. For those whose craving runs to pasta, La Strada is under the same roof.

Having dinner in Harolds' Presidential Car evokes memories of the days when dining cars were symbols of a civilized way of life. With its wood paneling, art glass, and upholstered chairs, this seventh-floor restaurant offers a sense of well-being as you enjoy prime rib (the house specialty) or other offerings. The room is a bit hidden but well worth finding; ask a Harolds employee for directions.

Le Moulin, the Peppermill's new addition to la creme de Reno, translates into "The Mill," but the decor mixes casual country and more than a few hints of Paris. Blending a touch of adventure with continental cooking and California Nouvelle, each night's bill of fare includes one dish prepared with exotic game such as Arctic hare, alligator, elk, and even rattlesnake.



Claudine's Steak House at the Holiday Casino in Las Vegas is a local favorite.

Cafe Gigi in Bally's Reno is as French as the Palace of Versailles. In fact, this gourmet room is said to be a replica of the room in the palace where the Treaty of Versailles was signed in 1919. Private dining alcoves, with mirrored walls reflecting crystal chandeliers, and shimmering electric candles provide an intimate backdrop for the memorable continental fare.

At John Ascuaga's Nugget you can trade French cuffs for a western cut, as the accent at the Roundhouse Steak House is on comfort, beef, and plenty of both. Try the brochette of filet mignon or a charcoal-broiled New York. For fine seafood there's John's Oyster Bar.

Lake Tahoe's rooms at the top begin literally with Harrah's Summit, where the impressive view is matched by entrees like roast saddle of veal foret noir. For dessert, the souffle Grand Marnier is a standout. The prices at the Summit are steep, but the food is worth it.

Across the street at Harvey's, the Sage Room is rich in Tahoe history and has an eclectic decor with hand-hewn beams, western art, and crystal. Starting with appetizers such as oysters Rockefeller, though, the dining is consistently gourmet.

The top restaurant at Del Webb's High Sierra, Stetson's, has, like the rest of the hotel, a strong western theme. A full page of the menu is devoted to steaks and seafood cooked on the mesquite broiler, and the walls sport genuine Stetson hats.

In the recently refurbished Le Posh (formerly the Edgewood) at Caesars Tahoe, the accent is on elegance, from the peach color scheme to the crystal chandeliers. Then to entrees like veal piccata, and the desserts that arrive, temptingly, by cart.

Overlooking the lake on the north shore is Hugo's, a gourmet room of the Hyatt in Incline that has fresh seafood, lamb, and a great view.

As fine dining becomes further linked to casino strategies at the lake and in the cities, some excellent steak and seafood rooms are making themselves known in the smaller towns. Among them are clubs in Carson City, Gardnerville, Winnemucca, Elko, Jackpot, Wendover, and Laughlin where chefs have been given the chance to prove their mettle.

They know that for many casino-goers, fine food is more than just a hook.

Elliot S. Krane is the restaurant editor of the Las Vegas Review-Journal. *Connie Emerson of Reno has written on food and cooking for many national publications.*

NOTABLE CHEFS

The Executive Chef

To see what Christopher Johns has cooking, try any one of the Sands' three restaurants.

By Rob Powers

Some food for thought about the life of an executive chef at a Las Vegas hotel: Even those who can stand the heat have to get out of the kitchen from time to time.

A case in point is Christopher Johns, executive chef at the Sands Hotel. A boyish-looking 39 years old, with sandy hair and a smooth, unlined face, Johns talked about his job recently while walking through the Sands' labyrinthine kitchen complex.

He is carrying plates filled with salmon and beef steaks of various sizes, new menu items he is preparing to show to a hotel executive committee. "I didn't plan on working to impress you," Johns says modestly in his English accent as he delicately arranges parsley on the plates and brushes corn cobs with a clear solution to make them shiny.

Indeed. For despite the trademark towering white hat and white cotton smock, Johns finds himself handling paperwork almost as often as he handles food. This he does from a cramped office located just off a busy area of the stainless steel facility. "In some ways," he says, "I feel it's too much administration and not enough cooking. I'd like to find a happy medium."

Johns supervises a staff of 70 and is responsible for food preparation and service in the hotel's three restaurants, an employees' cafeteria, a bake shop, and a butcher shop. Each restaurant has a sous chef who looks after day-to-day operations; they, in turn, report to Johns. As executive chef he also orders food and keeps up with inventories and market prices.

One of Las Vegas' youngest executive chefs, Johns, who was born in Wales, attended the Oxford School of Catering, and soon found himself cooking at the Claridge's Hotel in London. He subsequently worked at a number of other hotels in England and then took a job as a sous chef at the Sheraton in Puerto Rico.

He found a challenge when he arrived in the United States in the early '70s. In England, he explains, "I was lucky to get all the right jobs. It was no frozen this, frozen that. All the food was freshly prepared. Here, in the big-volume hotels, you can't have as much finesse." Still, he maintains that big volume doesn't have to translate into mess-hall mentality: "In Las Vegas, there's a lot of talent hidden behind $2.99 specials."

Johns says his biggest hurdle when he took over at the Sands, following a stint as assistant executive chef at the Frontier Hotel, was discouraging comparisons with his predecessor. "The last chef had been here 20 years," he says. "People were watching me at first." And if he was lucky in England, Johns' timing here wasn't the greatest. He took over one month before the Culinary Union strike of early 1984. But he survived, and eventually made his own mark at the hotel.

Among his favorite projects at the Sands, he says, was a breast of chicken stuffed with lobster mousse and spinach for special dinner guests in town for a Placido Domingo concert. At the other end of the food spectrum, he liked a low-calorie, low cholesterol dish he and his staff prepared for an American Dietetic Association gathering at the hotel. The dish included skinned, boneless breast of chicken stuffed with red and green bell peppers, scallions, sliced mushrooms, and diced tomatoes, among other ingredients, and then wrapped in parchment so that it cooked in its own juices—"what every health-conscious American needs."

"Right now it's difficult to come up with a brand-new dish," says Johns. He explains that most chefs do variations on familiar food themes. A current trend, as he sees it, is toward lighter dishes and sauces. "People's tastes are varying," Johns says. "They're getting away from classical menus."

The chef himself can sympathize with that approach. After a 12-hour work day, he says, he's not about to go home and play galloping gourmet in his kitchen. He'd just as soon gallop off to a restaurant and let someone wait on him for a change.

But when he does cook at home, "I like to keep it simple. I'll stop at a supermarket and buy a steak or something." He likes home cooking—"and I've got no objections to eating pizza, either."

Johns also likes going to the homes of friends from time to time, although he has found that his title can intimidate people. "They get a little apprehensive about cooking for a chef," he says, smiling. "But I'm easy to please. I enjoy just relaxing with a meal cooked by someone else."



Executive Chef Johns, left, helps pastry chef Benny Finale sample some wares.

Photo: Las Vegas News Bureau

Rob Powers is editor of the Living section of the Las Vegas Review-Journal.

NOTABLE CHEFS

A True Culinary Artist

Chef and ice sculptor Otto Helfenstein of the High Sierra has carved out new pinnacles in his profession.

By James McKimmey

In Lucerne, Switzerland, in the late 1950s, Otto Helfenstein was a teenager finding his way into the world of food as a *chasseur* or apprentice. Working in a small hotel restaurant, he cleaned tables, acted as a waiter at banquets, sold pastries and cakes, and ran errands for the owner of the establishment. Sometimes, in the afternoons, he would be left to watch the kitchen, and he would experiment by making simple omelets.

At the same time in Houston, Texas, Charles Finance was firmly established at the top of that food world. He was famous as a writer of cook books and as executive chef of the Rice Hotel, specializing in the mastery of ice carving to enhance dining tables.

Today Helfenstein has ascended to his own pinnacle. He is now employed in Del Webb's High Sierra Hotel at Lake Tahoe as executive chef, in charge of all food production and preparation. He attributes much of his success to his path crossing that of Finance's.

It was no accident.

Says Helfenstein, "The year as an apprentice awakened my interest in becoming a chef. So I then signed up for a three-year, on-the-job training with one day a week spent in school, in order to become a certified cook. After that I worked in four or five Swiss restaurants. And I also discovered Charles Finance's cook books."

By that time Helfenstein had an adventurous desire to see what was going on in the United States. He wrote to Finance, who offered knowledge as well as connections.

Otto Helfenstein went to Houston.

Now he rules over his own culinary empire. Eschewing the service end of the food business, Helfenstein prefers his compact office just above the cavernous five-kitchen area of the High Sierra. His office window overlooks the stoves where as many as 140 people prepare the delights that reach the tables of six restaurants. It's a lofty position.

But Helfenstein—a gentle, well-spoken man who will proudly show you one of Charles Finance's books personally inscribed to him—has not forgotten the mentor who helped so much to get him where he is today.



Chef Otto, blue-ribbon chef at Del Webb's High Sierra Hotel at Lake Tahoe.



Last Christmas, Helfenstein turned 3,000 pounds of ice into this fantasy castle.

In Europe, Helfenstein had learned how to prepare food for small gatherings. But he knew nothing about readying tables for those Texas banquets attended by thousands of citizens. Finance taught him.

Helfenstein knew French and Swiss cuisine, but nothing about American cooking such as that traditionally served at holidays, admitting now, "I'd never cooked a turkey in my life!" But Finance taught him.

And Finance, a painter and movie photographer, also taught him ice carving, at which Helfenstein excells.

Helfenstein moved on to San Francisco, where at age 28 he became executive chef of the Mark Hopkins Hotel. "The three years I spent there," he says, "prepared me for the responsibilities I've had here at the High Sierra for the past 14 years.

The work is demanding.

"I can write a beautiful menu in French," he states. "But that has to be backed up by what's done in our kitchens."

Not only is the quality of the food involved. There is also the fact that more than 6,000 meals must be served in a single day.

Add to that the pressure of employees' personal problems, which come to Helfenstein 24 hours a day because that is how long food is served in the High Sierra, every day of every week of every year.

He doesn't cook at home except on festive occasions, preferring to leave to his wife the simple preparations that he enjoys eating. But he doesn't want to forget how to be a chef.

"So I do a couple of items now and then. I like to cook a milk-fed veal dish such as scallops of veal with wild cepe mushrooms, for example. Or, on a holiday such as Easter, I'll do something with lamb such as a crown roast."

Helfenstein is also able to travel. Last year he spent four weeks visiting Germany, Switzerland, and France with his family.

And there is always his ice carving to round out his activities, such as the fantasy castle, reindeer, and wagon he carved out of 3,000 pounds of ice last Christmas.

In 1985 one of his sculptures won best of show at the High Sierra Culinary Arts Show, a nationally-guided competition. He has been named chef of the year by the Chefs Association and has won many blue-ribbon awards.

He relishes his position.

"I have the privilege of living in Zephyr Cove, on the beautiful shore of Lake Tahoe. I have my wife and two children. I have my work. And I still love to cook."

James McKimmey of South Lake Tahoe is a widely published writer and gourmet cook.

Celebrity Dining

Reaching for the stars is a lot easier if you can catch them sitting down.

Want to dine with a star? Well, not at the same table with a star, but at least in the same restaurant? In Nevada, you have several options. You can sit close to the stage at a casino dinner show. This way, you can at least feel like you're listening to table conversation from say, Bill Cosby. You can hang around the big, posh casino restaurants, where the famous are bound to dine. Or you can search out those smaller joints where famous folk like to eat. Whether you actually see a star or not, at least you'll know that you are eating like one.

Las Vegas by Elliot S. Krane

There are a number of restaurants that provide the ambiance celebrities look for.

State Street, at 2570 State Street, is owned by Gianni Russo, who played Carlo in the *Godfather* and it is a natural watering hole for performers. During the early hours violinist Sasha Semenoff and guitarist Elek Bacsik provide background music. As the evening progresses, the host performs in three musical shows, and later the guests move to a disco-dance hall adjoining the restaurant. The food is Italian featuring dishes such as pasta pesci ala Russo and pasta carbonara.

Frank Sinatra has made a number of appearances at the restaurant, as have Eddie Murphy, Don Rickles, and Engelbert Humperdinck. Sinatra enjoys the pasta pomodora and Rickles the pasta Nicoise. According to Russo, Eddie Murphy came in to check the action and Engelbert is treated to Cafe Russo, a flaming dessert-coffee poured down a long orange peel. State Street is open till 5 a.m.

One of the first restaurants in Las Vegas to offer outdoor dining, Cafe Michelle is a popular lunch and dinner location for performers in production shows. Singers and dancers spend many afternoon hours sipping Kir or Perrier while watching the traffic pass in and out of the Mission shopping center on East Flamingo.

For some reason comedians seem to be attracted to this French restaurant, with David Brenner dropping in for lunch and the Smothers Brothers for dinner. Bill Cosby also enjoys the veal dishes during his engagements here.

The Aristocrat, in a shopping center at 850 South Rancho, draws famous customers by providing a fine continental menu and excellent service.

Michael Smyth, who trained in London's Savoy Hotel, operates the 80-seat dining room and has served Wayne Newton, Lola Falana, and other stars dishes such as baked oysters topped with seafood in lobster sauce and crepe de fruits de mer Yves Menes. Celebrity diners generally make their reservations for middle to late evening, advises Smyth.

Collie and Barbara Orcutt present gourmet dishes in the Mount Charleston Lodge, a hideaway restaurant that provides a quiet location for dinner. A fireplace in the center of a lounge provides warmth almost year-round as the mountain temperatures are 15 to 20 degrees lower than in the valley.

Marvin Hagler was a recent diner at the restaurant and he ordered the wild game platter (naturally). Diana Ross and Wayne Newton have also dined there and David Brenner divides his free time between Cafe Michelle and Mount Charleston.



Toni Tennille and Daryl Dragon offered a testimonial for Dragon Town in Reno.

Brenner, who usually goes to the mountain on the day before his engagement starts, was eating lunch when a fan came up and asked for his autograph.

"Why, David," she said, "we're impressed that you'd come all the way up here."

He replied after signing his autograph, "I generally come up here just to accommodate my fans who can't get to the Strip to see me."

A deli, Herbie K's in the Fashion Show Mall, is a good place to "dine" with Jerry Lewis and Rip Taylor. Both comedians like the kosher-style deli and at lunch time they can be seen with a sandwich and soda.

"The celebrities generally come in toward the end of the lunch hour," said Jackie Fields, manager of the restaurant.

"Rip likes to order a chicken breast on rye and Jerry loves the knockwurst."

Reno/Tahoe by Guy Richardson

In the Reno area, there are two approaches to celebrity dining.

One: You can hang around the hundred-bucks-a-pop palaces. Like shooting fish in a barrel. You can find Debbie Reynolds at Harrah's Steak House or



Dancer Lola Falana has gone continental at the Aristocrat in Las Vegas.

Chuck Yeager at Gigi's in Bally's. Almost all of Harrah's stars sup at the posh Summit at Tahoe or elegant Steak House in Reno.

Two: If you don't have the budget, you can take advantage of Reno's casual atmosphere and find little places where showbiz people hang out, colorful joints that are delights in themselves.

The model for them all is the late lamented Kiah's Squeeze Inn with the health board's B rating proudly hung on the wall. And Jim Nabors sometimes behind the counter.

Kiah moved on to other things, alas, but the spirit lives on.

At Dragon Town, 201 East 2nd Street (just east of Harrah's and west of the pool hall), Frank Wong makes delicious Chinese food in an atmosphere termed by a *Reno Gazette-Journal* columnist as "greasy chopstick."

The place is spotless, but the floor is linoleum, and the tea comes in those plastic things that Denny's uses to keep coffee hot. Keeps the tea hot longer than elegant china, too.



The Smothers Brothers sometimes dine at Cafe Michelle in Las Vegas.

On the wall are testimonials from the Smothers Brothers, Tony Orlando, Jim Nabors, Debbie Reynolds, Roy Clark, Captain and Tennille, Joel Grey, Wayne Newton, Susan Anton, and the ever-popular Many Others.

On the menu are standards like fried rice, and exotics like lotus root and duck ($5.75). Specials of the day are posted on the wall, written in Chinese. Neat place. It should have the Chinese equivalent of "Good Eats" flashing in neon.

Musicians, writers, and other late-night types hang out at Landrum's, 1330 South Virginia, where the only thing sharper than the chili is the waitress/cooks' wit. Once, when the governor dropped in to the eight-stool diner, he asked Irene Martell what she recommended. She reparteed: "The restaurant down the street." Don't mess with Landrum's waitresses.

Landrum's—which is formally named "Landrum's Hamburger System No. 1"—became a chain operation in January. A second place opened on Rock Boulevard, this one with 24 stools. Martell's daughter manages the place.

Reno businessman Luther Mack owns several McDonald's franchises in Reno. His friend Bill Cosby was a guest at Mack's last opening, signing autographs and drawing such a crowd that Reno police put a guy on duty to direct traffic. Musicians everywhere eat Big Macs—when you're on the road and need to drive another 500 miles, you don't risk stopping at a place named "Mama Clyde's." So you get a McHabit. Mack has a lot of showbiz friends, and occasionally one such as Sweet Louis of the Checkmates will pop behind the grill and fry a burger or two.

All right, you want something more—how to say it—fou-fou. The opera crowd hangs out at Rivoli's, 221 West 2nd Street, and at Leonardo's, 2450 South Virginia Street. Jan Sanders at Leonardo's had the distinction of fixing Luciano Pavarotti's dinner when the tenor performed in Reno. "He had prawns and Perrier," said Sanders. "He doesn't eat much before a performance." On the other hand, or stomach, Sugar Ray Leonard ate a double order of lasagna, and still made his weight at the next day's weigh-in. "Shows how light our lasagna is," said Sanders with a chuckle.

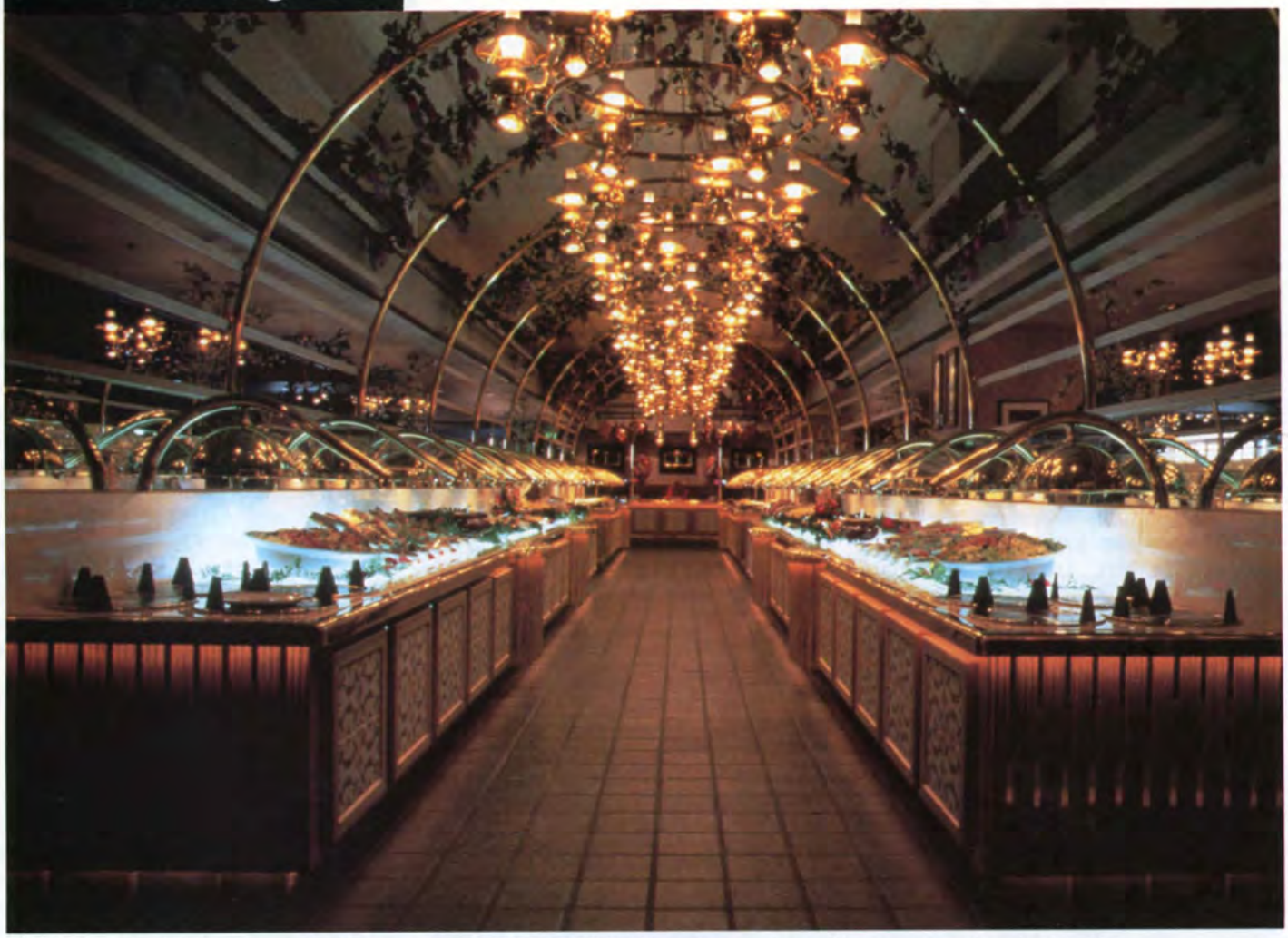
People's Court Judge Wapner had Sanders' veal saltimbocca, Suzanne Somers had the fetucchini Alfredo, Jack Klugman walked in one night to eat and talk race horses, Jim Nabors dropped in (he does get around in Reno restaurants), Eddie Murphy

Well, a lot of showbiz people eat at Leonardo's. "Be sure to mention Tony D'Andrea," said Sanders. Why D'Andrea, who jokes at his lack of fame? "He opens for Tom Jones," explained Sanders, "and he's a really nice guy."

There is some etiquette involved when spotting stars: Don't stare too much, don't for God's sakes point, do be brief if going to their table to ask for an autograph—and bring your own pen and paper.

D'Andrea? He'll come to your table with his own pen and paper.





The Rotisserie at John Ascuaga's Nugget entices with a lavish buffet and menu items like scampi and rack of lamb.

Bountiful Buffets: The Magic Aisle



The Forest at Harrah's Tahoe has an 18th-floor view and salads supreme.

The western-style 'chuckwagon' has developed into today's luxurious lines of plenty

By A.D. Hopkins

No other Nevada institution cuts across class lines as does the buffet. It appeals as much to a sophisticated Sweetbriar palate as to the tastes of some player weaned on Texas pool-hall provender. It's a Las Vegas art form, as much a part of the Southern Nevada experience as a flesh-and-feathers show or a visit to Hoover Dam.

Buffets started 40 years ago at western-theme resorts like El Rancho Vegas. Often called "chuckwagons," these early buffets brought a friendly dude-ranch informality to the act of dining. Now only a few western hotels remain, but the buffet has prolilferated. As Las Vegas changed from a resort town for the few



The decor has an attractive flavor in some buffet rooms. Above is the Peppermill's.

into a mass tourist destination, casino executives saw that the buffet was the only feasible way to feed thousands of people at every breakfast, lunch, and dinner—numbers that would overwhelm even the largest coffee shops. Reno, Lake Tahoe, and Carson City casinos also have had great success with the buffet and its cousin, the Sunday brunch. So have rural centers like Elko, Laughlin, and even Hawthorne.

Today, however, even modestly-priced buffets have taken on an elegant air. True, a guest still has to stand in line, but the queue flanks a bank of slot machines that keep the visitor amused while subsidizing his meal. And once he has paid to enter the dining room, he probably won't have to wait again. A long time ago Las Vegas buffet chefs realized the frustrations of going through a salad-to-beverage line just to pick up a forgotten pat of butter. Now each course can be reached separately. Here is a snowbank of crushed ice bright with fruit—punchbowls of peach halves, sectioned whole pineapples, platters of melon slices in rows like fallen red and green dominoes, gallons of shining black olives and sliced red onions. Yonder is a steel steam table with hot entrees from shrimp creole to Canadian bacon. There is a separate butcher-block table bearing a roast of rare beef so mountainous one thinks of Paul Bunyan's ox. Behind the table stands a tall, cheerful man with a craving knife as long as a shortsword, slicing a fresh, succulent serving as each guest steps up. How does his starched apron stay so beautifully white?

Here are plenty and splendor together. The appeal is more than that of the bargain too good to be passed. Here the pickiest eaters can always find something they like, and the accomplished cook can select only what is perfectly prepared.

Here are plenty and splendor together. The appeal is more than that of the bargain too good to be passed. Here the pickiest eaters can always find something they like; here the accomplished cook, often disappointed in conventional restaurant fare, can select only what is perfectly prepared. Some are here for haute cuisine, but to a self-made man who grew up in the Depression, chipped beef on toast, properly prepared, may be worth a drive across town. Ethnic and religious tastes also are considered. One hotel devotes an entire table to traditional Jewish foods, and the Friday night seafood spread may take on the look and ocean scent of a San Francisco Bay oyster house.

The most important part of the buffet's appeal is probably intangible—the warm feeling of well-being that flows over the diner forced to choose from a dozen desserts. It is a feeling associated with family and good times. In the back of the mind it is once again Christmas at Grandma's house, and there's enough marshmallow ambrosia for a third helping.

A.D. Hopkins is editor of the Nevadan, *the Sunday magazine of the* Las Vegas Review-Journal.



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Ethnic Dining

From Basque to Chinese, Nevada's melting pot shows up best in the kitchen. Introductions by Connie Emerson, Elliot S. Krane, and Andrea Michelsen





Jill S. Simpson, a waitress at Bailywick's in Reno, tries an All-American favorite.

AMERICAN

Saluting home-cooked values.

What is American food? It's a hamburger and fries at Evah's Copper Queen in Ely. Fried chicken at Yerington's Mason Valley Country Club. The potato salad on the Dunes' buffet table in Las Vegas. Banana cream pie at the Carson Valley Inn in Minden. The pasta salad served at Steven in Incline Village.

Hey, wait a minute, you say. Pasta's Italian.

Right. And pickles originally came from German kitchens. Which points up one of the main ingredients in American cooking: Many old-world dishes are so integrated into our daily menus that we don't stop to think of what came from where. Some dishes, of course, are pure All-American inventions.

Many of the places that serve American food, Nevada-style, don't put on airs. They're places like Landrum's, the green-and-white Reno landmark with its eight stools. Jim and Lorraine's on Main Street in Eureka, and the Windmill Cafe in Lovelock. The restaurant in Bruno's Country Club, a ravioli haven in Gerlach. Two Gals, a small and cozy spot on the Las Vegas side of Boulder City.

Although you'll occasionally find such restaurants gussied up with fine antiques or avant garde chrome and leather, the decor usually is not fancy—maybe a plant or two on the window sills and a half-dozen pictures on the walls. Even in a well-decorated casino coffee shop, the atmosphere most likely is fancier than the prices.—*CE*

LAS VEGAS

Alias Smith and Jones—541 E. Twain, 732-7401. Beef stroganoff, catch of the day, total blackout cake. L, D. $, AE, MC, V, res.

Circus Circus/Skyrise—734-0410. Prime rib, steak and shrimp. B, L, D. $, major.

Ellis Island—4178 Koval Lane, 734-8638. Steamed clams, seafood, large and varied lamb selection, 24 hours. $$, AE, CB, V.

Ferdinand's—5006 S. Maryland Pkwy, 798-6962. Complimentary shrimp, salmon marinated in whiskey. D. $$, major, res.

Flamingo/Lindy's Deli—733-3111. Grilled

Photos: Stuart Murtland

Rueben, New York steak, marble cheesecake. B, L, D. $, major.

Flamingo/Flamingo Room—733-3111. Seafood salad bar, fresh fish of the day, veal cutlet Viennoise. B, L, D. $-$$, major.

Imperial Palace/Teahouse—731-3311. Full coffee shop selections. B, L, D. $, major.

Mint/Promenade—387-MINT. Eight different food outlets including steaks, pizza, Chinese, and salad bar. B, L, D. $-$$, major.

Mount Charleston Lodge—Kyle Canyon, 30 miles NW of Las Vegas, 368-6899. Escargot omelet, duck with black bean sauce. B, L, D. $$$, AE, MC, V, res.

Sands/Garden Room—733-5000. Spring chicken, salmon steak. B, L, D. $$, major.

Union Plaza/Center Stage—386-2110. Prime rib, lobster, bouillabaisse. D. $$$, major, res.

LAUGHLIN

Del Webb's Nevada Club/Wheelhouse Coffee Shop—Laughlin, 298-2512. Breakfasts, steak and lobster. B, L, D. $, MC, V.

Edgewater/The Embers—Laughlin, 298-2453. Steak, seafood, prime rib, stockyard midwestern beef. D. $$, major, res.

Riverside/Gourmet Room—Laughlin, 298-2535. Chateaubriand, Cajun dishes, steak and quail, rack of lamb. D. $$, major, res.

Sam's Town Gold River/Sutter's Mill—Laughlin, 298-2242. Mesquite-broiled steaks. Brunch Sat.-Sun. D. $$, AE, MC, V.

RENO, SPARKS, CARSON AREA

Bailywick's—124 Wonder St., 786-7154. Gourmet hamburgers, ribs, nachos, sundeck. L, D. $, major.

Blue Heron—902 S. Virginia, 786-4110. Natural foods. L, D. $, res.

Boomtown—I-80 at Verdi, 345-6000. Changing buffet, regular menu. Separate trucker's restaurant. B, L, D. $, major.

Cafe 32—8195 S. Virginia St., 853-3200. Capellini duck salad, London broil, smoked chicken. L, D. $$, major.

Carson Valley Inn/Katie's—Minden, 782-9711. Four-course prime rib dinner, steak and lobster, half-pound burgers. B, L, D. $, major.

Comstock Hotel/Miner's Cafe—329-1880. One-pound New York steak dinner, breakfasts, hot sandwiches. 24 hours. $, major.

Delta Restaurant—Virginia City, 847-0353. Hamburgers, sandwiches, breakfasts. B, L, D. $.

Doc and Eddy's—515 Nichols, Sparks, 355-8636. Seafood burger, nachos. B, L, D. $$, major.

Eldorado/Mardi Gras—786-5700. English sole, shrimp salad croissant sandwich, won ton soup. B, L, D. $, major.

John Ascuaga's Nugget/General Store—Sparks, 356-3300. Prime rib, giant apple pancake, seafood Louis. B, L, D. $, major.

John Ascuaga's Nugget/Rotisserie—356-3300. Buffet with menu that includes rack of lamb and scampi, Sunday brunch. L, D. $-$$, major.

Harolds Club/Nickelodeon—329-0881. Chinese food, custom omelets. B, L, D. $, major.

Harrah's/Garden Room—786-3232. Eggs Benedict, avocado clubhouse, triple dragon. B, L, D. $, major.

Harrah's/Skyway—786-3232. Buffets, brunch on Sunday. B, L, D. $$, major.

Holiday Inn/Greenhouse—5851 S. Virginia St., 825-2940. Sandwiches, burgers, dinners. B, L, D. $, major.

Marie Callendar's—3255 S. Virginia St., 826-1065. Chicken pot pie, pasta dishes, pies. L, D. $$, MC, V.

Ormsby House/Comstock—Carson City, 882-1890. Juicy burgers, prime rib, all day breakfast menu. B, L, D. $, major.

Peppermill/Coffee Shop—2707 S. Virginia St., 826-2121. Fruit salads, vegetarian lasagna,

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sandwiches, gourmet omelets. B, L, D. $$, major.
Scotty's Family Restaurant—1480 N. Carson St., Carson City, 882-2982. Make your own omelet, daily specials. B, L, D. $, no credit cards.
Sharkey's Nugget—Gardnerville, 782-3133. Prime rib is house specialty. B, L, D. $, no CC.
Walley's Hot Springs Resort—South of Genoa on Foothill Rd., 883-6556 or 782-8155. Prime rib, lobster tail, chicken Chardonnay. L, D. $$, AM, MC, V

LAKE TAHOE
Caesars Tahoe/Cafe Roma—Stateline, 588-3515. Lamp chops, prime rib, breakfasts. B, L, D. $-$$$, major.
Fire Sign Cafe—Tahoe City, CA., 916-583-0871. Huevos rancheros, crepes. B, L. $, major.
Harrah's/Tahoe Forest—Stateline, 588-6611. Honey-dipped fried chicken, veal stew madeira, mahi mahi. B, L, D. $$$, major.
Harrah's/Sierra—Stateline, 588-6611. Daily specials, Chinese entrees. B, L, D. $$, major.
Harvey's/Cafe Metro—Stateline, 588-2411. European sweet shop, coffees. B, L, D. $.
High Sierra/Sugar Pine Bistro—Stateline, 588-6211. Croissants, quiche, specialty coffees. B, L, D. $.
High Sierra/Chicken and Rib Barn—Stateline, 588-6211. Baby back ribs, chicken, 16-oz. ribeye steak. D. $, major.
High Sierra/Four Seasons—Stateline, 588-6211. Coffee shop, steak. B, L, D. $, major.
Hyatt/Alpine Jack's—Incline, 831-1111. Fajitas, pizza, sandwiches. B, L, D. $, major.
Steven—341 Ski Way Blvd., Incline, 832-0222. Homemade pasta, fresh seafood, mesquite-grilled lamb, outside deck. L, D. $$, major, res.
Tahoe Queen—S. Lake Tahoe, CA., 916-541-3364. Evening dinner-dance cruise, prime rib or halibut. D. $$$, major.

ELKO
Benny's—1349 Idaho St., 738-6745. Chicken, gourmet hamburgers. B, L, D. $, major.
Commerical Hotel—738-3181. Breakfasts, specials, dining room. B, L, D. $, major.
Red Lion Inn—738-2111. Coffee shop and gourmet restaurant. B, L, D. $-$$, major.
Stockmen's Motor Hotel—738-5141. Casino coffee shop, breakfasts and specials, evening dinner house. B, L, D. $-$$, major.

AROUND THE STATE
Bruno's Country Club—Gerlach, 557-2220. Homemade ravioli and sauce, rib steak, homegrown pork chops. B, L, D. $, AE, MC, V
Burro Inn—Beatty, 553-2445. Homemade stews and soups, steak, seafood. B, L, D. $-$$, major.
Cactus Pete's/Plateau Room—Jackpot, 1-800-821-3935 (Nevada) 1-800-321-1103 (outside Nevada). Shrimp Mediterranean en flambe, pepper steak Michelle. D. $$, major.
Evah's Copper Queen—Ely, 289-4271. Prime rib, prawns, Mexican dishes. B, L, D. $-$$, major.
Fallon Nugget—Fallon, 423-3111. Buffets, specials. B, L, D. $-$$, major.
Jailhouse/Cell Block Dining Hall—Ely, 289-3033. Prime rib, scampi, ribs. D. $$, major.
Lee's Restaurant/Old Fogy's Bar—Dayton, 246-3435. Green chili burrito, steak. B, L, D (closed Tues.). $-$$, major.
Peppermill—Mesquite, 346-5232. Nightly dinner specials, Sunday champagne bunch. B, L, D. $$, major.
Searchlight Nugget—Searchlight, 297-1201. Homemade soup, 10-cent coffee, daily specials. B, L, D. $. MC, V
Silver Smith/White Swan—Wendover, 664-2231. Crab legs, filet mignon. D. $$, major.
Station House/Whistle Stop—Tonopah, 482-9777. Hamburgers, steak, seafood. B, L, D. $, AE, MC, V
Stockman's/Nevada Room—Reno Highway, Fallon, 423-2117. Steak and lobster, prime rib. B(weekends only), L, D. $-$$, major, res.
Winners/Grandma's House—Winnemucca, 623-2511. Steak, prime rib, lobster. D. $-$$, major.



Mount Charleston Lodge

THE NRA

As the number of Nevada restaurants grows to more than 1,000—with 725 in the Las Vegas area alone—the Nevada Restaurant Association is busy serving all manner of eateries from fast-food franchises to gourmet rooms.

Begun in 1982, the nonprofit NRA helps its members run their restaurants more efficiently. Directed by Executive Vice President Van Heffner, the NRA lobbies for members, organizes seminars and conventions, provides information about places to eat around the state, and publishes *Nevada Hospitality*, a bi-monthly trade magazine.

Currently the NRA represents 275 restaurants and 119 allied members. Its sister organization, the Nevada Hotel and Motel Association, represents more than 28,000 rooms, 72 member properties, and 128 allied memberships.

Heffner summarizes the need for high-quality service in the state: "When a waitress provides a freshly-brewed cup of coffee, a cocktail waitress is courteous to a customer, and a maitre d' is gracious in seating a dinner party, the visitor enjoys his trip, and that's what makes Nevada successful."

For more information on the NRA or NH&MA, write them at 3017 W Charleston Blvd., Suite 50, Las Vegas, NV 89102.—*EK*

RESTAURANT KEY

Each restaurant's listing gives sample dishes; whether breakfast, lunch, or dinner are served; relative prices ($ to $$$$); credit cards; and if reservations are recommended or required. Restaurants include NRA members and restaurants responding to information queries. To phone, the area code is 702 throughout the state.



Lucy Lowy serves owner Lorraine Hunt and GM Joel Davies at The Bootlegger

ITALIAN

Traditions from north and south.

Visitors often are pleasantly surprised at the number of Italian restaurants in this desert state, and especially in Las Vegas. In fact, one out of every seven restaurants in Las Vegas serves Italian food in one form or another.

Among the state's longest-running family operations is The Bootlegger. Owner Lorraine Hunt says, "My folks, Albert and Maria Perry, came to Las Vegas in 1943 for their health, and at that time Italian was the popular ethnic food. My mother was an exceptional cook, and she and my father later opened a series of Italian restaurants." Maria, at 70, is one of the state's oldest active chefs, coming in every morning to oversee the kitchen and season all the sauces.

"There's no right or wrong way to cook an Italian dish," Hunt adds. "We serve lighter sauces since my mother's background is from Padua, near Venice, in northern Italy."

In this country, Italian fare at first followed the recipes of immigrants from Sicily, Naples, and other parts of southern Italy. They tended to use tomato-base sauces, olive oil, and garlic as well as fish, eggs, cheese, and lamb.

In recent years, northern cooking has become popular, with dishes prepared with butter, ponchetti (bacon), and virgin olive oil. Important also are beef, pork, poultry, and veal, which when braised produce rich brown sauces and are served with rice and fresh pasta. It is said that because of northern Italy's colder climate, meats there traditionally are cooked longer over the fire, both for the sauce and for warmth in the home.

At Nevada's Italian restaurants, that warmth is sure to be there whether the cooking is from north or south.—*EK*

LAS VEGAS

Bally's/Caruso's—739-4444. Saltimbocca alla Romana, Novello alla Vesuvio. D. $$$, major.

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Photo: Patricia Mortati

Battista's Hole in the Wall—4041 Audrie, 732-1424. Tortellini, veal piccante. D. $$, major, res.
The Bootlegger—5025 S. Eastern, 736-4939. Veal Lorraine, seafood diabolo with linguine, angel hair pasta. L, D (closed Mon.). $-$$, major.
Di Martino's—2797 S. Maryland Pkwy., 732-1817. Lasagna, seafood. D. $-$$, major, res.
Fortunato's—3430 E. Tropicana Ave., 458-3333. Shrimp Italiano, chicken angelo. L, D. $, major.
GoldenNugget/Stefano's—385-7111.Cioppino, pastas. L (except Sun.), D. $$$$, major, res.
Manfrede's Limelight—2340 E. Tropicana, 739-1410. Veal marsala, linguini tutto mare, scampi diavolo. D. $$, major, res.
Napoli—4180 S. Jones Blvd., 876-0080. Steamed clams, seafood. D (except Sun.). $$, V
Olive Garden—1545 E. Flamingo Rd., 735-0082. Venetian grilled chicken. L, D. $, AE, DC, V
Palace Station/Pasta Palace—Off I-15, 367-2411. Spaghetti, linguine. D. $, MC. V
Piero's—900 Karen Ave., 369-2305. Italian-style veal, seafood, chicken. D. $$$$, major, res.
Poppa Gar's—1624 W. Oakey, 384-4513. Giant breakfasts, quail, unusual soups. B, L, D (closed Sun.). $, no CC.
That's Italian—4601 W. Sahara Ave., 873-8055. Veal Milanaise, linguine. D. $$, AE, MC, V, res.
The Vineyard—3630 S. Maryland Pkwy., 731-1606. Bountiful salad bar, fresh-baked bread and pizza. L, D. $, AE, MC, V
Tropicana/Rhaposody—739-2222. Scampi and salmon, northern Italian. D. $$$$, major, res.
Two Guys from Italy—1280 S. Decatur, 870-5192. Cioppino, fettucine specialties, eastern milkfed veal. L, D. $$, major.

RENO, SPARKS, CARSON AREA
Bally's/Caruso's—789-2000. Fresh oysters, cannelloni, calamary. D. $$$, major, res.
Cicero's—1695 S. Virginia St., 329-2581. Continental, fresh seafood, lobster on a bed of pasta. L (Mon.-Fri.), D. $$$, major, res.
Eldorado/La Strada—786-5700. Saltimbocca, gnocchi al pesto, raviolli verdi con spinaci. D (closed Wed.-Thurs.). $$, major res.
Leonardo's—2450 S. Virginia St., 827-6200. Nightly 4-course special. D. $$-$$$, major, res.
Marrone's—2729 N. Carson St., Carson City, 883-7044. Design your own dish from selection of pastas and sauces. L, D. $-$$, major.
Reghetti's—6431 S. Virginia St., 851-0300. Seafood, The Roman Orgy. L, D. $$, major, res.
Spaughi's—1573 S. Virginia St., 323-5339. Scampi, spinach fettucini. D. $$, major, res.
Two Guys From Italy—3501 S. Virginia St., 826-3700. Italian cuisine. L, D. $-$$, major.

LAKE TAHOE
Caesars Tahoe/Primavera—Stateline, 588-3515. Seafood frittata, crepes. D. $$, major, res.
Michaelangelo's Cafe—Ski Run and U.S. 50, South Lake Tahoe, CA., 916-541-5966. Fettucini Alfredo, chicken Oscar. B, L, D. $, major.



Right touch at Harolds Presidential Car



Michel and Muriel Cervantes welcome French food lovers to La Table Francaise.

FRENCH & CONTINENTAL

Classical gastronomics.

In French cooking, the dishes are classic. As Julia Child, probably the best-known authority on French cooking in the U.S., says, "The French are seldom interested in unusual combinations or surprise presentations. With an enormous background of traditional dishes to choose from the Frenchman takes his greatest pleasure from a well-known dish impeccably cooked and served."

Nevada isn't nouveau as far as French food is concerned. In the 1870s in Virginia City, frogs legs and crepes were served at the International Hotel.

But visitors to Nevada are often surprised to discover the abundance of good French and continental restaurants in the Silver State. In Reno, La Table Francaise has guests who regularly make the four-hour drive from San Francisco just for dinner. In Las Vegas, French devotees can dine in settings ranging from Gigi's posh room in Bally's to Cafe Michelle's outdoor patio.

The French food they serve can be divided into two basic categories—haute cuisine and country French. Included in the former are dishes such as fish souffles and an endless array of foods encased in puff pastry, many of them created for 19th-century nobility. Although its beginnings were more humble, country French—with peasant dishes such as cassoulets (beans cooked with meat) and thick soups such as bouillabaisse—has caught up with haute cuisine so that now it is quite as sophisticated to dine on ragout of beef as on veal Cordon Blue.

Most of the following restaurants are more properly called continental than French since they offer menu items from other European cuisines as well, such as Swiss fondue; Italian veal piccata; and dobos torte, the many-layered chocolate-filled cake from Hungary.—*CE*

LAS VEGAS
Alexis Park Hotel/Pegasus—375 E. Hamon, 796-3300. Roast duckling, escargot. D. $$$$, AE, MC, V res.
Andre's—401 S. 6th St., 385-5016. French, Dover sole veronique, souffles. L, D. $$$, major, res.
Aristocrat—850 S. 6th St., 870-1977. French, classique osso bucco. L, D. $$$, major, res.
Bally's/Gigi—739-4444. French, foie de veau saute Gigi, cote de veau nouveau Prince Orloff. D. $$$$, major.
Barbary Coast/Michael's—737-7111. Imported Dover sole, chateaubriand for two. D. $$$, major.
Botany's—1700 E. Flamingo Rd., 737-6662. Chicken Frangelico, shrimp. D. $$$, major, res.
Caesars Palace/Bacchanal—731-7110. Roman banquet. D (closed Tues.-Wed.). $$$$, major, res.
Caesars Palace/Palace Court—731-7110. Langoustines, steak Diane. D. $$$$, major, res.
Four Queens/Hugo's Cellar—385-4011. Veal Dijonaise, rotisserie duckling flambe anise, filet DeBoeuf-Atlantis. D. $$-$$$, major, res.
Frontier/Diamond Jim's—734-0110. Roast prime rib with Yorkshire pudding, veal francaise. D (closed Mon.-Tues.) $$$$, major, res.
Golden Nugget/Elaine's—385-7111. Veal chop, brace of quail. D. $$$$, major, res.
Lady Luck/Burgundy Room—384-4680. Deep sea scallops, tournedos Rossini. D, $$, maj., res.
Las Vegas Hilton/Le Montrachet—732-5111. Dover sole, medallions of veal, extensive wine list. D. $$$$, major, res.
Marina/Captain's Cabin—739-1500. Veal chop with bourbon sauce, scampi. D. $$$, major.
Pamplemousse—400 E. Sahara,733-2066. French, waiter recites the day's special dishes, no menu. D (except Mon.), $$$, major, res.
Riviera/Delmonico's—734-5110. Moules Dijonaise, boullabaisse. D. $$$$, major, res.
Sahara/House of Lords—737-2111. Steak Diane, roast rack of lamb. D. $$$, major.
Sands/Regency Room—733-5000. Scampi provencale, beef Wellington. D. $$$-$$$$, major.
Tropicana/Rhapsody—739-2222. Dover sole, clams casino. D. $$$$, major, res.

RENO, SPARKS, CARSON AREA
Adele's—1112 N. Carson St., Carson City, 882-3353. Moroccan, Spanish dishes, Cajun food, fresh seafood. L, D. $$-$$$. MC, V res.
Bally's/Cafe Gigi—789-2000. French, cracked crab, snails, lobster bisque. D. $$$$, major, res.
Chez Bernard—432 E. 4th St., 323-6262. French continental cuisine. D. $$$, major res.
Eldorado/The Vintage—786-5700. Fresh Sonoma duckling, chateaubriand, prawns amaretto. D (closed Mon.-Tues.). $$, major, res.
Galena Forest Inn—17025 Mt. Rose Hwy., 849-2100. Swiss continental, rahmschnitzel, scampi. D (except Mon.-Tues.). $$$, AE, MC, V, res.
Harolds/Presidential Car—329-0881. Steak, lobster, shrimp, veal Oscar. D. $$, major, res.
Harrah's/Steak House—786-3232. Steak Diane, fresh fish daily, roast rack of lamb. L (Mon.-Fri.), D. $$$, major, res.
La Table Francaise—3065 W. 4th St., 323-3200. French cuisine, Mobile Guide 4-star restaurant. D (closed Sun.-Mon.). $$$, major, res.

Photo: Stuart Murtland

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Dining

OG's Classic Cuisine—442 Flint, 329-1173. Pheasant, trout, flaming dishes served tableside, set in Victorian home. L, D. $$$, major, res.

Ormsby House/Woody's—Carson City, 882-1890. Rack of lamb persillade, veal Cordon Bleu. L (Tues.-Fri.), D (Tues.-Sat.). $$-$$$, major.

Reno Hilton/Top of the Hilton—322-1111. Continental, steak Diane, veal Oscar, bouillabaisse. D. $$$, major, res.

LAKE TAHOE

Caesars Tahoe/Le Posh—Stateline, 588-3515. (Formerly the Edgewood.) Fetttucine, crayfish annisette. D (closed Sun.-Mon.) $$$$, major, res.

Harrah's Tahoe/The Summit—Stateline, 588-6611. Cajun blackened red fish, filet mignon, bananas Foster. D. $$$$, major, res.

Harvey's/Sage Room—Stateline, 588-2411. Rack of lamb Persaille, prime dry aged cuts of beef, beef Wellington. D. $$$, major, res.

Harvey's/Top of the Wheel—Stateline, 588-2411. Continental cuisine, mahi mahi with macadamia bourbon. D. $$$, major, res.

High Sierra/Stetson's—Stateline, 588-6211. Rack of lamb, chateaubriand, duck a la presse. D. $$$, major, res.

Hyatt/Hugo's—Incline, 831-1111. Five-star duckling, fresh seafood, lamb. D. $$$, major., res.



OG's Classic Cuisine, Reno

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Louis' tables are full of luncheon guests on Friday, also known as Hang Loose Day.

BASQUE

Where eating also means meeting.

No one ever went away from a Basque dinner hungry.

And no one ever went away from the table a stranger.

When you sit down to a dinner in a Basque restaurant, you may not know the people you're sitting with. But after an hour or so of sharing the contents of a steaming tureen of soup, of passing platters heaped with roast lamb and sweetbreads, of pouring the wine, you'll have met an English professor from Brigham Young, a ranch hand from outside Elko, the local district attorney, and a half dozen other such characters.

Making friends at a Basque table is a rather strange phenomenon, when you think of it, because putting away all the food that appears on your plate can be a fulltime job.

Two meat dishes per meal are obligatory—maybe fried chicken, often steak. Calamary, tongue, and lamb are also popular. There's vegetable soup; French fries, spaghetti, or rice; tossed salad; and thick slabs of French bread to keep the meat platters company on the long, family-style tables. For dessert, flan (a caramelized custard) or ice cream are traditional, and there's always red wine.

Although you are assured of plenty of food and conversation, don't expect more than a red-checked tablecloth as far as decoration is concerned. Chances are, though, you'll be too busy talking and eating to notice.—*CE*

RENO

Louis' Basque Corner—301 E. 4th St., 323-7203. Sweetbreads, tripe, paella, other seafood dishes. L, D. $$, major, res.

Santa Fe Hotel—235 Lake St., 323-1891. Stew, chops, chicken, Basque card games. L, D. $$, no CC.

GARDNERVILLE

Carson Valley Country Club—U.S. 395 two miles south of Gardnerville, 265-3715. Beef tongue stew, crab sandwich, cabbage soup. L (except Sun.), D. $-$$, no CC.

J&T Bar—1426 Main St., 782-2074. Top sirloin steak, oxtail, tongue stew, chicken and rice. L, D (closed Sun.). $$, no CC.

Overland Hotel—691 Main St., 782-2138. Lamb chops, steak, chicken, homemade French fries. L, D (closed Mon.). $$, MC, V

WINNEMUCCA

Martin Hotel—Railroad and Melarkey, 623-3197. Liver and onions, hamburgers, steak, tongue. L, D. $$, MC, V

Ormachea's Dinner House—U.S. 95 and Melarkey St., 623-3455. Steak, chicken, oxtail soup. D (closed Sun.-Mon.). $, MC, V

Winnemucca Hotel—95 Bridge St., 623-2908. Steak, lamb. L, D. $, MC, V DC.

ELKO

Biltoki—405 Silver St., 738-9691. Tongue, prime rib, clams, squid. D (closed Wed.). $, MC, V

Nevada Dinner House—351 Silver St., 738-8485. Spaghetti, pork chops, shrimp, lamb ribs. D. $$, AE, MC, V.

Star Hotel—246 Silver St., 738-9925. Chicken, Spanish omelets, steaks, and chops. D (except Sun.). $, MC, V

ELY

Ely Hotel—765 Aultman St., 289-9900. Steaks, lamb, pork, French bread, wine, and cheese. D (closed Sun.). $$, no CC.

Photo: Stuart Murtland

ORIENTAL

From Szechwan to sushi.

Oriental food in Nevada traces immigration trends over the years. Chinese food here dates back to the coming of the railroad and gold mines to the Silver State. A hundred years later, Vietnamese and Thai cuisine have surfaced as people flee troubled homelands. And yes, the sushi craze has hit as well.

The end result is a plethora of places to choose from, whether you crave familiar chow mein or exotica with more than a hint of chile. No matter what, look for fresh vegetables cooked crisp, the zip of cilantro, and absolutely fresh fish. Try to eat with friends, for the fun of Oriental eating is trying lots of different dishes. Using chopsticks is not mandatory; in fact, many places don't even put them on the table. —*AM*

LAS VEGAS

Bally's/Tracy's—739-4444. Mongo ngow, kung pao gai. D. $$$, major.

Chinese Garden—5485 W. Sahara, 876-5432. Oyster foo young, duck. L, D. $$, major.

Chin's—Fashion Show Mall, 3200 Las Vegas Blvd. S., 733-8899. Shark fin soup, Chin's beef, gourmet Chinese. L, D. $$$, major, res.

Eli and Wong's—4110 S. Maryland Pkwy., 737-3400. More than 600 Italian and Chinese items. B, L, D. $$, major.

Flamingo/Peking Market—733-3111. Nine-course family dinner, lemon chicken and lobster Cantonese. D. $, major.

Imperial Palace/Ming Terrace—731-3311. Shrimp egg foo young, almond duck. L, D. $$$, major, res.

Las Vegas Hilton /Benihana Village—732-5111. Four restaurants: tempura, robata, sukiyaki, hibachi; animated show. D. $$$, major, res.

Riviera/Rik'shaw—734-5110. Fine Cantonese cuisine. D. $, major, res.

Sahara/Don the Beachcomber—737-2111. Specializing in Polynesian dishes. Shrimp Hong Kong, bahala na combo. D. $$, AE, MC, V

Silver Dragon—1510 E. Flamingo Rd., 737-1234. Chinese fish steak, sizzling rice soup. L, D. $$, major.

Tokyo Japanese—953 E. Sahara Ave., 735-7070. Sushi hibachi tempura. L (except weekends), D. $$, major.

Tropicana/Mizuno's Teppan Dining—739-2222. Tempura, hibachi. D. $$$, major, res.

RENO, SPARKS, CARSON AREA

Asian Garden—1945 S. Virginia St., 825-5510. Mandarin, Szechwan. L, D. $$, major, res.

Bally's/China Seas—789-2000. Mandarin cooking, Mongolian beef, cashew chicken. D (closed Mon.-Tues.). $$, major, res.

Eldorado/Mardi Gras—786-5700. American and Chinese, war won ton soup, shrimp dishes. 24 hours. $-$$, major.

Golden Chopsticks—3335 Kietzke Ln., 827-1515. Cantonese, Szechwan. B, L, D. $$, major.

Great Wall—1717 S. Wells, 322-1002. Szechwan, sizzling lobster platter, moo shu pork. L, D. $$, major.

John Ascuaga's Nugget/Trader Dick's—Sparks, 356-3300. Szechwan specialities, flaming dagger brochette. L, D. $$, major.





Ichiban Japanese—635 N. Sierra St., 323-5550. Chef cooks lobster, vegetables at your table. Seating family-style. L, D. $$$, major.

Mandarin—5089 S. McCarran Blvd., 827-0222. Beef with orange skin flavor, seafood sizzling plate, strawberry chicken. L, D. $$, major.

Miramar House—202 Fairview Dr., Carson City, 882-0262. Pu pu platter, loveboat, Thai food also. L, D. $, major.

Panda Kitchen—2416 Hwy. 50 E., Carson City, 882-8128. Peking shrimp, house special duck, Mandarin and Szechwan. L, D. $, MC, V

Sharon House—Virginia City, 847-0133. Chinese food in a historic 19th-century building. L, D. $$, major.

Yen Ching—565 W. Moana, 825-2451. Mandarin and Szechwan. L, D. $$, major.

LAKE TAHOE

Caesars Tahoe/Empress Court—Stateline, 588-3515. Szechwan, Mandarin, Cantonese, lobster. D. $$, major, res.

Sato Japanese—3436 Hwy. 50, South Lake Tahoe, CA., 916-541-3769. Chicken teriyaki, tempura, California roll salad, sushi. L, D. $, major.

Sushi House—3733 Hwy. 50, South Lake Tahoe, CA., 916-542-1242. Chicken teriyaki and tempura shrimp. L (except Mon.) D. $$, major.

MEXICAN

Salsa, beans, and margaritas.

Because Nevada has a good selection of Mexican restaurants, it's not hard to relieve a craving for menudo or rellenos. But what truly makes a good Mexican meal? There are probably as many answers as diners; here are a few clues:

• Fresh salsa, preferably made from fresh tomatoes and sprinkled with parsley's spicy cousin, cilantro.

• Shredded beef in tacos. Hamburger is purely an American aberration.

• Chunky refried beans—and enough spice to take away the blandness.

• Generous amounts of good quality cheese and onions in cheese enchiladas, which should be prepared as carefully as their meaty counterparts.

• Non-frozen margaritas. Slurpies were meant for convenience stores, not for mixing lime juice and tequilla.

• And carnitas, a delectable mixture of roast pork, salsa, and spices all folded into a soft flour tortilla. A little hard to find, but worth the search.—*AM*

LAS VEGAS

Hacienda Hotel/La Cocina—739-8911. Taco salad, seafood stir-fry. B, L, D. $, major.

Ricardo's—2380 E. Tropicana, 798-4515, and 4300 Meadows Lane, 870-1088. Steak picado, carne asada. L, D. $$, AE, DC, MC, V res.

Sam's Town/Willy and Jose's—5111 Boulder Hwy., 456-7777. Enchiladas, rellenos de Cangrejo. D. $, AE, MC, V

Taqueria Mexico—1612 Civic Center Dr., North Las Vegas, 649-7000. Posole, menudo. L, D (closed Tues.). $, major.

Viva Zapata's—3540 W. Sahara Ave., 873-7228. Flauta camerones, pollo ala Zapata. L, D. $, AE, MC, V, res.

RENO, SPARKS, CARSON AREA

El Charro Avitia—4389 S. Carson St., Carson City, 883-6261. Flauta, chimichanga, combinations, margaritas. L (Mon.-Fri.), D. $$, AE, MC, V.

Hacienda Del Sol—2935 S. Virginia St., 825-7144. Giant burritos, chimichangas, margaritas. L, D. $$, MC, V, res. for 8 or more.

Mama's Mexican—1553 S. Virginia St., 323-1520. Mama's original nachos, margaritas. L, D. $$, MC, V.

Miguel's Mexican—1415 S. Virginia St., 323-2722. Menudo, carne asada. L, D. $$, major.

Pipeline Inn—1681 Hwy. 395, Minden, 782-7408. Shrimp and crabmeat tostadas, quesadillas, Spanish omelets, fried ice cream. L, D. $, major.

Western Village/Pancho and Willie's—Off I-80, Sparks, 331-1069. Fajitas, chili verde. L (res.), D. $$, major.

LAKE TAHOE

Hacienda de la Sierra—931 Tahoe Blvd., Incline, 831-8300. Fajitas, chimichangas, combination plates. D. $, AE, MC, V

Harvey's/El Vaquero—Stateline, 588-2411. Camerones Veracruz, fajitas, carnitas. L, D. $$, major.



The Pipeline Inn in Minden, one of many south of the border Nevada eateries.

Photo: Jay Aldrich



Flavors of the pampas at the Tropicana.

SURF&TURF

Steak and seafood spots.

Nevada's first steakhouse was probably a flap-doored tent in some mining camp a million miles from white linen and fine china. Or it might have been a cookhouse on a ranch just a few feet away from where the cattle grazed.

You'll find today's steakhouses in big-city casinos, on small-town main streets, and along highways throughout the state. Many of those establishments also serve seafood. Surf and turf seem to go hand in hand—if not on the same plate, at least they are often on the same menu. It may seem incongruous in a state known for its deserts, but many Nevada restaurants, including those that specialize in fish, have fresh catches flown in daily.—*CE*

LAS VEGAS

Bally's/Barrymore's—739-4444. Roast rack of lamb, prime rib, assorted seafoods. D. $$$, major.

Bourbon Street Casino/French Market—120 E. Flamingo, 737-7200. Cajun food, chicken, seafood. B, L, D. $$, major.

Circus Circus/Steak House—734-0410. Steak, prime rib, lobster, seafood appetizers flown in fresh daily. D. $$, major, res.

The Flame—1 E. Desert Inn Rd., 735-4431. Filet mignon, porterhouse. 24 hours. $$$, major.

Flamingo/Beef Barron—733-3111. Prime rib special, chateaubriand, crisp roast duck. D. $$-$$$, major.

Gold Strike Inn/Bill's Steak House—Between Boulder City and Hoover Dam, 293-5000. Steaks, lobster. B, L, D. $$, major.

Golden Corral—4711 Spring Mountain Rd., 367-6703. Sirloin, ribeye, shrimp. L, D. $, major.

Golden Steer—308 W. Sahara, 384-4470. Steak, quail, game dishes. D. $$$, AE, DC, MC, V, res.

Hacienda/Charcoal Room—739-8911. Veal chop, queen and king filet mignon, mesquite-broiled seafood. D. $$$, major.

Holiday Casino/Claudine's—369-5000. Steak and seafood, open kitchen, cozy piano lounge nearby, excellent wine list. D. $$, major, res.

Jeremiah's—171 E. Tropicana, 736-3044. Steaks, salads, desserts. D. $$, major.

Landmark/Sunset Room—733-1110. Choice seafood, prime rib and steak. D. $$$, major.

Marina/Port of Call—739-1500. Shrimp and seafood Veniceo, Alaskan king crab legs, prime rib dinners. D. $$-$$$, major.

Miller's Family Steak House—1401 N. Decatur, 646-3354. Steaks, chops. L, D. $$, AE, MC, V

Port Tack—3190 W. Sahara Ave., 873-3345. Seafood appetizers, steaks, lobster. 24 hours. $$, major, res.

Red Lobster—2325 E. Flamingo, 731-0119. Fisherman's platter, steak. L, D. $$, major.

Starboard Tack—2601 Atlantic, 457-8794. Seafood, salad bar. L, D. $$, major.

Stardust/Moby Dick—3000 Las Vegas Blvd. S., 732-6111. Roast prime rib, chicken angelo, shrimp scampi. D. $, major.

Tropicana/El Gaucho Steak House—739-2222. Porterhouse steak, oysters on the half shell. D. $$, major, res.

The Tillerman—2245 E. Flamingo Rd., 731-4036. Sole, bay scallops in cream sauce, Cajun swordfish. D. $$, major.

RENO, SPARKS, CARSON AREA

Bally's/Bounty—789-2000. Steamed clams, cracked half crab, oysters. L, D. $, major.

Bally's/Steak House—789-2000. Broiled T-bone steak, Columbia River salmon. L (except Sat.-Sun.), D (except Sun.-Mon.). $, major.

Carson Nugget/Steak House—Carson City, 882-1626. Steaks and seafood. D. $$, major.

Cattlemen's—555 Hwy. 395 South in Washoe Valley, 849-1500. Sirloin, filet mignon, lobster, Alaska king crab. D. $$, AE, MC, V

Circus Circus/Hickory Pit—329-0711. One-pound prime rib, New York steak. D. $$, major.

Harrah's/Seafare—786-3232. Fresh fish specials, calamary, lobster tail, veal parmigiana, eggplant Romano. L, D. $$$, major, res.

Heiss'—107 E. Telegraph St., Carson City, 882-9012. Petite filet, Alaskan crab. L, D. $$, major.

Hungry Tiger—3127 S. Virginia St., 827-4111. Live Maine lobster, chicken teriyaki, stuffed trout. L, D. $$-$$$, AE, MC, V res.

Inn Cognito—Genoa, 782-8898. Calamary, scallops Suzanne, chicken Inn Cognito. D (closed Tues.). $$, major.

Jeremiah's—880 E. Plumb Ln., 827-2080. Baby back pork ribs, filet Oscar, fresh seafood. L, D. $$-$$$, major, res.

John Ascuaga's Nugget/John's Oyster Bar—Sparks, 356-3300. Lazyman's cioppino, seafood stews. L, D. $$, major.

John Ascuaga's Nugget/The Steak House—Sparks, 356-3300. Prime rib, steak and lobster, snapper, shrimp Louis. L, D. $$, major.

Liberty Belle—4250 S. Virginia St., 825-1776. Prime rib, spinach salad. L, D. $$, major.

MacKay's—336 Mill St., 348-6222. Marinated lamb chops, fresh seafood, crepes, scotch bar. L (Mon.-Fri.), D. $$, AE, MC, V, res.

Pink House—Genoa, 782-3939. Fresh fish, grenadines of beef, lobster. L, D (closed Mon.). $$-$$$, MC, V, res.

Rapscallion—1555 S. Wells, 323-1211. About 30 selections of fresh fish daily. L, D. $$$, AE, MC, V, res.

The 19th Hole—1200 Razorback Rd. at Lakeridge Golf Course, 825-1250. Steaks, scampi. L, D. $$$, major, res.

Western Village Casino/Steakhouse—Off I-80, Sparks, 331-1069. Prime rib, Australian lobster, veal scallopini, steak Diane. D. $, major.

LAKE TAHOE

Caesars Tahoe/Broiler Room—Stateline, 588-3515. Steak, fresh fish. D. $$$, major, res.

Harrah's Tahoe/Friday's Station—Stateline, 588-6611. Seafood, steaks. L, D. $$$, major, res.

Harvey's/Seafood Grotto—Stateline, 588-2411. Wide seafood selection. L, D. $$$, major.

Hyatt/Pines—Incline, 831-1111. Seafood fettucine, prime rib. D. $$, major.



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Mining and Dining

As the author describes in *Bacon, Beans, and Galantines,* a new University of Nevada Press book, western miners revolutionized the art of dining out.

By Joseph R. Conlin

For half a century after 1849, fresh strikes of precious metal in Nevada and other parts of western North America resulted in repeated rushes and those brief heady epochs when a camp was "wide open." Then the dream of sudden riches kindled anew in the breasts of the miners and those who accompanied them in their zig-zagging, criss-crossing odyssey from California to Colorado, from Alaska to southern Arizona.

The repeated reinvigoration of notions and practices born in California led to the creation of a culture, or at least a mentality, that included within it a number of foodways that, had they thought about them much, Americans "back East" would have found peculiar.

"Eating out" at restaurants, which comparatively few Americans did in the 19th century, was common practice among gold and silver miners until the high-grade veins of ore beneath Goldfield pinched out during the 1910s.

The frontier miners' taste for spicy, saucy, fancy, "Frenchy" food, at least on special occasions, was a foodway most Americans would have found pretentious, if not subversive and risky to the digestion. To most Americans during the late 19th and early 20th centuries, quantity, and not particularly the quality of the feed, was the index of a special meal.

Another curiosity among the miners' foodways is that while the customs forged in California in the 1850s were passed along from new camp to new camp, there was comparatively little "development" in the food culture. When Jim Butler, as crusty a sourdough as ever Hollywood could create, hammered his pick into a mountain in southern Nevada in 1900 and discovered it was "solid silver," his burro was carrying the same utilitarian grub—beans, bacon, flour, and saleratus—with which, five decades earlier, the '49ers trudged from Sacramento or Stockton into the Sierra. The only advantage over his predecessors Butler might have enjoyed was in canned goods.

The miners' boarding restaurant was not unique to the West, but in its centrality in the meal-taking customs of the mining frontier, the eating house at which one could board by the week or buy a meal as a "walk-in" was peculiar. Virtually unique to the mining country was the fact that such eateries often—usually—remained open 24 hours a day. We owe our own all-night businesses to the age of cheap electrical power, of course. But the western miners developed them first, for better or for worse, even before the gaslit age.

Photo: Central Nevada Historical Society

The miners used the term "boarding house" to apply to all sorts of eateries. San Francisco's What Cheer and Butte's "Big Ship," which served thousands of meals daily, were sometimes called boarding houses, as was the table set for two or three boarders in the silicosis widow's small house, and the "boarding tent" kept for 10 men at Fairview, Nevada, "by a big raw-boned farm woman from Kansas who smoked a corncob pipe filled with Bull Durham tobacco."

Whatever they meant, gold and silver miners shunned the practice of eating and sleeping at the same address, and particularly at company-operated cookhouses. Even at very small mines, employees expected to find their own dining accommodations.

Like the miners' yen for highly spiced foods, this preference contrasted sharply with the habits of western loggers, who virtually insisted on company-provided meals as part of their pay.

In addition, while mining towns were, like logging camps, usually far from major urban centers, they were fixed sites and often cities, where private entrepreneurs offered competitive prices, variety, and, in the case of the finer houses, some extraordinary meals. A company cookhouse, particularly if eating there was compulsory, would have been an unacceptable imposition.

Finally, because capital preceded labor in the forests—there had to be an employer before there was large-scale logging—the loggers were inclined to "think proletarian." Being employees was fundamental to their self-perception. Their camaraderie on the job carried over to collective ways after hours, including while at table.

The world of the miners, however, was shaped by strong individualism and entrepreneurship. Neither the wild-eyed '49er nor the tens of thousands of men who rushed to the site of new strikes throughout the second half of the 19th century thought in terms merely of "a good job," with or without good meals. The gnawing hope that, just maybe, they would strike it rich and retire to the good life on Nob Hill, or to nothing more than a spree at some high desert hog ranch, continued to inform miner mentality to the very last days of the mining frontier.

Reprinted with permission from Bacon, Beans, and Galantines: Food and Foodways on the Western Mining Frontier, *© Joseph R. Conlin, 1986 (246 pages, 60 photos and illustrations), University of Nevada Press. This hardcover book ($27.50) is available at bookstores or from the University of Nevada Press, Reno, NV 89557-0076*

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Cow County Chow Houses

So you think you've seen haute cuisine? You haven't eaten till you've tried Bruno's ravioli, Sharkey's prime rib, or Mrs. Wah's legendary won tons.

By Richard Moreno

One of the best things about traveling in rural Nevada is discovering a great new eatery in some far-off corner of the state. Nevada is filled with all kinds of diners-in-the-rough that serve up good food as well as healthy side portions of atmosphere.

There's nothing like pulling into a new town after a long haul and finding a real gastronomic gem. It's not important if the counter is cracked, the booth upholstery is taped, or the kitchen fan rattles as long as the faces are friendly and the food hits the spot.

While I don't pretend to have eaten at every restaurant in rural Nevada—and I'm sure I've overlooked at least a few places that deserve mention—the following establishments have, for one reason or another, offered memorable meals.

A culinary oasis in the desert is Bruno's Country Club in Gerlach, which is located about 100 miles north of Reno past Pyramid Lake on State Route 447 Sitting on the edge of the lunar expanse of the Black Rock Desert, Bruno's serves up some of the best Italian food in the state.

This is no sushi bar or quiche house. Eating is serious business at Bruno's. The look is basic formica and stainless steel; the specialty of the house is ravioli. Each massive dumpling is handmade by owner Bruno Selmi and his family. The ravioli are round, with the dough cut by a wine glass. The sauce has never seen the inside of a can. In addition, Bruno makes an incredible baked Italian chicken stuffed with proscuitto and other goodies. Call ahead and bring friends, because it's served only to groups.

When it comes to no-frills dining with plenty of good food, few places can compare to the Basque restaurants in Elko, Winnemucca, Ely, Gardnerville, and Reno. Food is served boarding house-style, which means there's no way to avoid making a few friends.

While all the Basque dinner houses have special treats, two favorites are the Star Hotel in Elko and the Martin Hotel in Winnemucca. Besides regular fare like marinated steak and lamb, the Martin serves perhaps the tastiest French fries you'll ever eat. The marinated steak is notable at the Ely Hotel, where owner Maryanne Goihenetche pours a powerful picon punch, a traditional Basque drink that should be consumed in moderation.

Ely is also home of the Rainbow Cafe, a roadside diner that you know has to be good because it's where the locals eat. The Rainbow may not look like much—vinyl booths, formica tables, and stainless steel cabinets—but it offers good, solid, All-American breakfasts with staples like hotcakes, eggs, and bacon at ridiculously reasonable prices. Consistently good meals are also dished up in Ely at the Jailhouse and Evah's Copper Queen.



At the Outlaw, home of the state's most pun-filled menu (above), it's best not to mention the new national park. The park has split the community, and the Outlaw is neutral turf.

Seventy miles east of Ely at the entrance to the new Great Basin National Park is the Outlaw restaurant in Baker. The Outlaw is worth a visit if only to pick up a copy of its menu. One of the state's most creative bills of fare, the menu offers a graphic representation of the dishes served in the restaurant (you can imagine what they do with the breast of chicken sandwich).

The Outlaw is good for colorful atmosphere, conversation, and generous steak sandwiches. However, one word of advice—don't mention the new park at the Outlaw. There's a sign saying, "National Park Not Spoken Here." The park has split the community, and the Outlaw is neutral turf.

Eight miles east of Baker, the Border Inn on the Nevada-Utah line has gas, showers (for those who've been on the road awhile), and good food. Hamburgers cost just over two bucks, and the buns are giant homemade kaiser rolls.

Highway 50, which crosses Central Nevada from Ely to Lake Tahoe, has been called "The Loneliest Road in America" by *Life*, but that doesn't mean you can't find good restaurants along the route.

In Austin, Carol's Country Kitchen spoons up homemade soups in a quaint country store setting, while Mel's Pizza Deli offers a tasty combo.

Eureka's Jackson House, located in a historic hotel, has only one entree per night—such as excellent seafood crepes—but it's always good. Across the street, the Eureka Cafe offers Chinese dishes cooked to order, including a flavorful pork fried rice.

In the near-ghost town of Caselton, near Pioche in Southeastern Nevada, the

legendary Mrs. Gue Gim Wah has been cooking authentic Chinese dinners for more than 60 years. Mrs. Wah, who is in her 80s, serves only groups of six to 10 people. She requires at least two days' notice and is open only by appointment. If you're lucky enough to eat there, be prepared to enjoy an eight-course meal prepared from scratch by Mrs. Wah, who can tell you about local history and past guests like Herbert Hoover.

Lamoille, 20 miles east of Elko, is Nevada's answer to New England with its green, rolling hills and picturesque church tucked in the shadows of the scenic Ruby Mountains. Lamoille's Breitenstein House is a two-story farm house that doubles as a romantic bed and breakfast inn where the excellent spreads include homemade bread and soup.

Along Interstate 80 there are a number of restaurants that offer good food to the foraging traveler. Among them are the Stockmen's Coffee Shop in Elko; Mike's Ristorante and Cantina, for Italian and Mexican, and the Griddle, a great breakfast place, in Winnemucca; the Windmill and Sturgeon's in Lovelock; and Mary and Al's Wigwam in Fernley.

Not all of Southern Nevada's best dining spots are in Las Vegas. For instance, the Searchlight Nugget, 56 miles south, has solid roadside fare at prices reminiscent of the 1950s. The hamburgers and Sunday prime rib are generous, and a cup of coffee is still a dime.

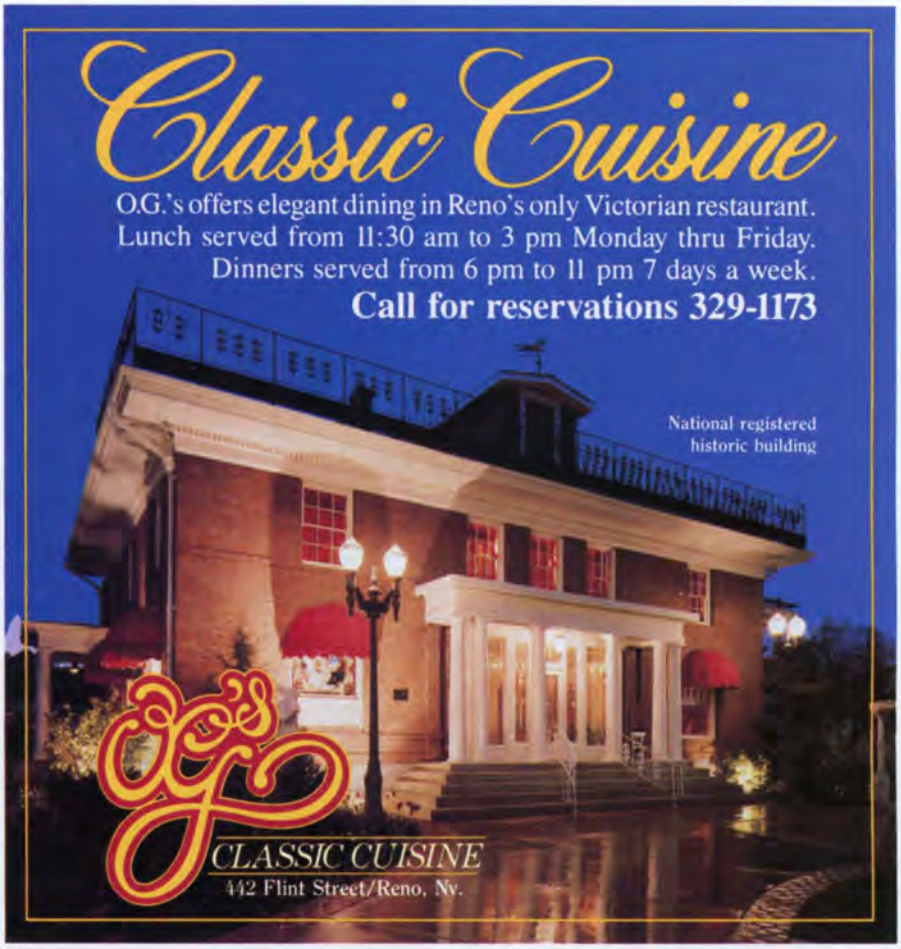
The Burro Inn in Beatty, two hours north of Las Vegas on U.S. 95, is a welcome place to refuel. Owner Zoe Cathcart says that a Las Vegas couple regularly makes the 230-mile round trip just for the chicken-fried steak. Other treats are the miner's stew and a steak and eggs breakfast that costs only $3.95.

Up north, Carson Valley has three Basque places and several other outstanding eateries. One is Katie's in the Carson Valley Inn. The classy garden atmosphere in the restaurant of this Minden casino is backed up with great steaks, prime rib, scampi, and giant half-pound burgers.

Down the street is another unusual culinary experience. Sharkey's Nugget in Gardnerville specializes in prime rib—and we're talking huge prime rib here. Mastodon prime rib. It's rare that customers don't have to take home doggie bags, and Sharkey Begovich probably wouldn't have it any other way.

After all, word does get around.

Richard Moreno often eats his way across the state as public information officer for the Nevada Commission on Tourism.



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Gene Speck

This artist paints it like it is, come rain or come shine.



Artist Gene Speck had one thing on his mind when he moved to Nevada in 1976—seclusion. The Concord, California-native was tired of selling his paintings in shopping malls and on touristy San Francisco street corners. He was also tired of scrambling to produce 50 paintings twice a year for his one-man shows.

Ironically, the relaxed life style of the Dayton Valley east of Carson City increased his productivy while enhancing his creativity. Speck had worked mainly in oils, but in Nevada he began to experiment with gouache, or opaque watercolors. The results, represented on these pages, have been brilliant.

But whatever the medium, Speck's attention to detail is unflagging. He'll spend days peering through a magnifying glass while adding fine touches to sagebrush leaves or barn shingles.

Speck spent 10 years in Dayton before moving to his current home and studio in the Mount Rose area near Reno. Today he's represented by five art galleries—the Riata Art Gallery in Virginia City; Zantman's and Loran Speck galleries in Carmel, California; Husberg Gallery in Scottsdale, Arizona; and the Favell Museum of Western Art and Artifacts in Klamath Falls, Oregon. Speck's work also is used by Leanin' Tree, a major distributor of Western greeting cards.—*Laura Tennant*

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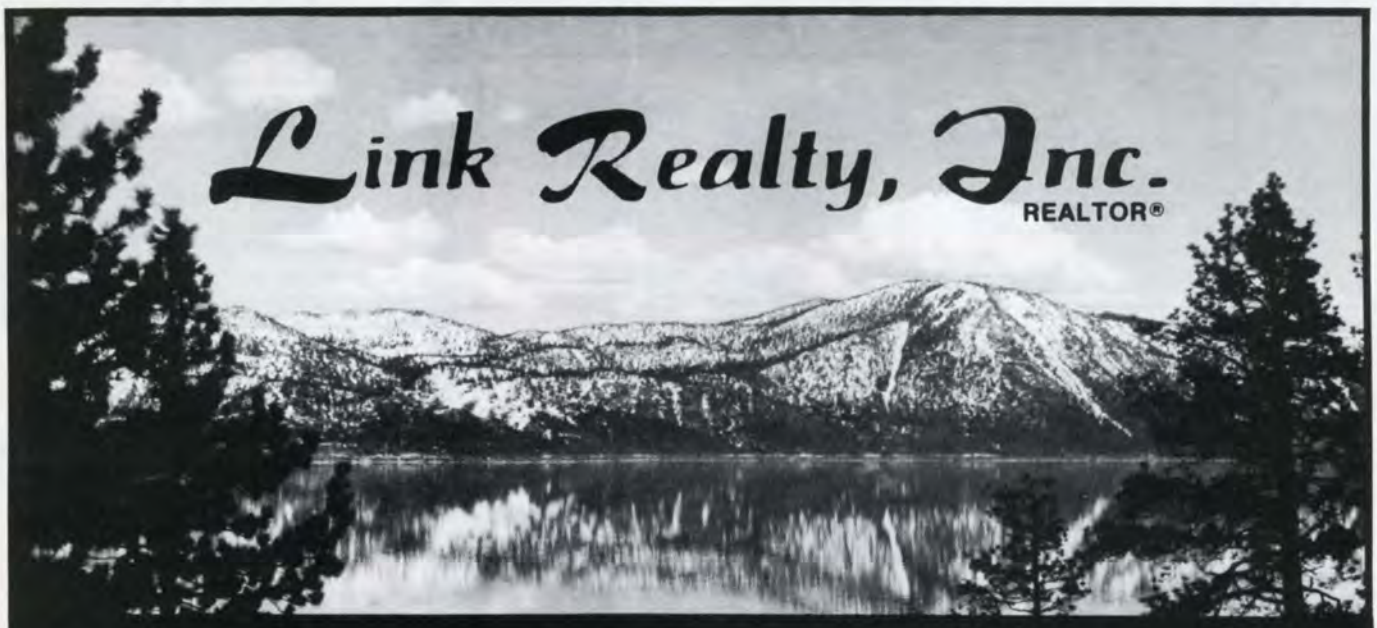
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Sunset at Burro Bay

A houseboat serenade. By Geoff Schneider

A houseboat lets you see the country, and on Lake Mead that means seeing a lot. From Hoover Dam the lake winds 80 miles east to the mouth of the Grand Canyon and another 30 miles north. The lake creeps into canyons and washes that once emptied into the Colorado and Virgin rivers, leaving countless fingers of water working their way into the desert. Because there are so many fingers, you can cruise into one and hide for days.

Like the lake, a houseboat has the ability to handle a lot of people and attitudes at one time. With plenty of room on board, partiers and readers can peacefully coexist. You can sleep outside or in, and cook over a campfire or on a modern kitchen range. Best of all, you can take a swim any time you feel like it.

Houseboats are rented at two marinas, Callville Bay and Echo Bay, respectively 29 and 53 miles northeast of Las Vegas. Below Hoover Dam, Cottonwood Cove and Katherine's Landing on Lake Mohave carry the crafts. Depending on the boat's size, the rent in summer will run $600 to $900 for a three-day weekend and $1,000 to $1,500 for a week; rates are about 30 percent lower the rest of the year. If you have several couples or families chipping in, the cost is even more reasonable.

On first boarding a 50-footer, you will discover a pontooned vessel that from the inside resembles a high-quality mobile home, with galley, head, berths, stereo, and air conditioning.

Out on the lake you can tow a smaller ski or fishing boat, which also can be rented. Cruising speed is about 10 mph. Other boaters will be out, but at times the only traffic will be ducks on their way to the refuge at Overton.

On my most recent trip we stopped the first night at Burro Bay, one of perhaps 200 coves on the lake. As always, mooring was easy. We nestled the bow into the shore and then attached ropes from the stern to stakes in the beach, which would keep the craft secure even in high winds.

In camp, the waterskiers rode off in the ski boat while explorers headed for the hills. The camptenders opened the beer and sat relaxing on the deck. A barbecue dinner followed siesta.

At sunset the mountains turned red and orange. The air was filled with the smell of sizzling steaks and the propane grill. Anglers in the group dropped their lines off the stern, hoping a striped bass or catfish would be interested in frozen anchovies. Other crew members played games, read, and listened to the sounds of night.

Among the sounds were the honks of wild burros. A band of them put on a nightly serenade for us and anyone else lucky enough to be within braying distance of Burro Bay.

Geoff Schneider is a writer for the Las Vegas News Bureau and avid houseboater

Photo: John Litty/Las Vegas News Bureau

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