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JUNE 1987 ■ \$2.25

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NEVADA

Volume 47, Number 3

May/June 1987

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LETTERS

Searchlight Makes the Map

In Search of Searchlight

As a regular recipient of your magazine I must say that I am quite impressed. The publication is always full of interesting facts about the state of Nevada. In reading the most recent issue, however, I found that there was a map of Nevada that did not include the city of Searchlight. As I am sure that this was merely an oversight, I would like to request that the necessary corrections be made.

Harry Reid
 Unites States Senator
 Washington, D.C.

Thanks, Harry. We've added your hometown, along with Gerlach. See page 9.—ED.

South of the Border

Since my *Nevada Magazine* calendar and "I love Nevada" snake poster have finally caught up to me, I thought you would like to hear how a "Nevadeno" is doing in Panama. The poster and the calendar fit right in. Almost everyone, it seems, has been to the Silver State at least once, and loves to talk about it. I am having a hard time correcting all of the native Spanish speakers who want to mispronounce our beautiful state name. Well, we convinced Walter Cronkite, so there is still hope.

Local gossip—the good ship *Artemisia* [sagebrush's Latin name], home port Elko, was tied up at the Pedro Miguel Yacht Club for a while, but I was TDY and never got to meet the crew. And here at USSOUTHCOM we have two majors named Ely, neither of whom has visited their namesake city.

Michael M. Smith
 Captain, USAR
 Panama

It's in the Mail

In your Jan/Feb '87 issue on page 60 you have an article called "Famous Homes from Nevada's Past" that features the Beckley House at the Clark County Museum in Henderson. It looks to me like a home that was sold from a Sears and Roebuck catalog in the period between 1912 and 1940. These homes were called "Houses By Mail." The lumber was numbered, and you put it together like Lincoln Logs. Do any of your readers know if the Beckley House is a Sears home? I will appreciate any answers.

Jean Simon
 Blue Island, IL.

Toasting the Tavern

We transplanted Nevadans in Alaska thoroughly enjoy getting the news of

home via *Nevada Magazine*. The article in the Jan/Feb '87 issue, "Tavern in the Sky," brought back memories.

I would like to add one name to the list of stars who frequented Sky Tavern, and that is Kay Starr. Kay played Harrah's recently, but in 1958 she was appearing at Harolds Club. Both my wife and I worked at Hal Coddling and Jerry Wetzel's ski shop and I was appointed instructor for Kay during her ski vacation. On Easter Sunday I accompanied her to the bottom of the ski lift (Yea, verily, ye olde go-like-hell rope tow).

Eighteen inches of new snow was down that morning and I worried about Kay being able to handle the slope. Not to worry. Ten feet from the door of the ski shop she leaned over and sat down.

"I think I broke my leg," she said, very matter-of-factly. She had, indeed, a serious break. Maybe some of the old-timey members of the ski patrol remember loading Kay Starr into an ambulance and taking her to the hospital. The following summer she sent me a photo of her on the beach at Waikiki. She was holding a snow ski and a water ski, and was in a bathing suit and a leg cast.

You are right. It was a "small, intimate area" and we treasure those evenings by the fire and in the bar.

Mickey and Martha Hershberger
 Anchorage, AK.

How Now Cow Chow?

With reference to the March/April '87 edition and Rich Moreno's article, "Cow County Chow Houses."

As a former resident of Gardnerville and now a resident of Midas, I have had the opportunity of enjoying meals at both Sharkey's in Gardnerville and Mike's Ristorante in Winnemucca. And I find your article was both very interesting and factual. However, I do believe you missed a very interesting item—the Midas Bar & Pack Station.

In the rebirth of Midas, 60 miles

Dear Readers,

With this issue we are offering you more of what you have grown to love in *Nevada Magazine*: more articles, more photos, more history pieces, and more color. In the future we are forecasting issues of this size (128 pages) and even larger.

Please keep the letters coming in—your views are important to us.

Sincerely,
 Kirk Whisler, Publisher

northeast of Winnemucca, there is established an unheard-of menu in the boondocks—if you desire, live Maine lobster or steak and lobster, the finest ever prime rib done in rock salt, delicious scampi in an original New Orleans sauce, and many other special dishes. These all served with home-made soup, crisp salad, various vegetables, French bread, sherbert, and tons of other goodies. The establishment is presided over by Les Matson and his wife Beverly. Hope someday soon you can verify this culinary artistry for yourself. Thanks for the good reading.

Ted Hanson
Midas

Freelancers Speak Out

I thought my article "How to Photograph Wildlife" in the March/April issue was just great. And, judging from the calls I have received, everybody else that counts does, too. It looks so good I'm going to get busy and do another one.

Tony Diebold
Gerlach

I feel I must speak out about the direction the magazine is moving. In two short issues, the character and fine quality of the state's magazine, built by former editor C.J. Hadley has been destroyed. *Nevada* has been reduced from "The Magazine of the Real West," a publication which showed the rich diversity of the state, to the equivalent of an in-house casino magazine.

I would hope that you would get out and listen to all the Nevadans.

Linda Dufurrena
Winnemucca

Your remarks are appreciated, Linda, but please don't judge us too soon. Indeed, the magazine is in a state of change. In fact, this is the largest regular issue ever which means more stories and more color pages for photos like yours (see page 56).—ED.

Silent Pictures

The picture, "Old Deserted Movie House, Caliente," by Roy Herrick in the Nov/Dec '86 issue brought back some good old memories.

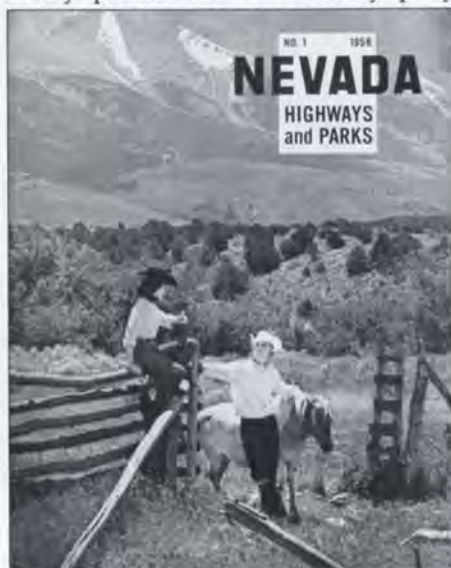
In 1935 and 1936 I was working at the Union Pacific Railroad depot in Caliente. In the evening I sold tickets for movies at that movie house. On Saturday nights after the movie we pushed back all the chairs and had a dance. Hanging from the ceiling were about three dozen white umbrellas, undoubtedly left behind after an earlier celebration. Those were the good old days. Love your magazine.

Avanell Farrell
San Pedro, CA.

In a 1958 *Nevada Highways and Parks*, there appeared on the cover a picture of my brother, Jack Christiansen, and Claudia Tidwell Goates. The picture was

taken at Dick Heinbaugh's ranch at the base of Mount Wheeler in Spring Valley.

Claudia, a former Miss Nevada, was at my parents' 50th anniversary party



this year. Edie Heinbaugh showed us a copy of the magazine. What a thrill to see the copy some 30 years later.

I enjoy your magazine very much. It's a great gift subscription, too.

Pat Christiansen
Reno

Rated X

In your article "Hollywood In Nevada" by Erik Joseph in the March/April '87 issue, you neglected to mention the film, *Powder Burns*, filmed on location in what used to be the Sutro Bar at Sutro. Just thought you might want to know.

Peter Leonard
Virginia City

Thanks, Leonard. That movie, billed as the "first hardcore western...a saga of eroticism," got by us somehow.—ED.

Tombstone Territory

For several years, I have frequented an informal shooting range on Mount Peavine. A couple of months ago, I found a tombstone there that someone had brought in and was using for a target. I have removed it to a safer place and am trying to find the descendants of the owners of the marker.

It is inscribed as follows:

Emma Wife of
T.M. Branton
Born Apr. 1, 1864
Died Aug. 18, 1903
T.M. Branton
1863-1935

The Nevada bureau of vital statistics (I may have that name a bit wrong) has no record of Emma or T.M. Branton. The people in the California office in Sacramento won't answer my letters. Does anybody out there know of this couple and where the marker belongs?

Duane Olesen
Reno □

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Baker (left) and Taylor

The Literary Cats

How two Carson Valley mousers became famous on the international bookworm circuit.

By Carol Vogel

Go ahead, take a cat nap in the Minden library. You'll be in good company. Or maybe you feel like pawing through the latest shipment of books, sniffing out a juicy romance novel, or sneaking a quick scratch behind your ear with your left foot. It's expected.

The library's top cats, Baker and Taylor, specialize in those and other demanding duties. When these pampered Scottish Folds don't have their faces buried in a bowl of Crave, you can find them lounging on the card catalog, greeting library patrons with looks of boredom, or sleeping on the checkout counter. Once in a while they'll scamper after a cricket.

Such is the life of these celebrity felines known in library circles as Baker and Taylor, the Literary Cats. They achieved that distinction after they were featured in advertisements for the Baker and Taylor Company, the largest wholesale book distributor in the country. The company printed more than 30,000 posters of the pair, and the posters have become collectors' items

for better libraries and bookstores.

When the library was built five years ago in Minden, a peaceful farming town 40 miles south of Reno, Jan Louch, assistant library director, thought it would be a good idea to keep a couple of cats among the books. Louch, an ardent English literary buff, says the British government paid people to keep cats in libraries, post offices, law offices, and public buildings in the 19th century. Mice love to chew on paper, and cats were the best mousetraps in those days.

"This library was built on an old alfalfa field, and I realized mice might be around," she says. "In fact, there was a grass snake in the lobby the other day."

Yvonne Saddler, the library's director, liked the idea and bought a Scottish Fold from a cat breeder in California. Of course, he needed a name. "We wanted a library name," Saddler says, "and our eyes fell on a Baker and Taylor box of books that had been shipped to us." They named the cat Baker and began to search for another one. In the meantime Saddler sent a letter to Bill Hartman, director of sales and marketing at Baker

and Taylor's division office in Reno, and told him they were going to name their cats after the firm.

"I never received such a quick response in my entire life," Saddler says. "He called and said, 'God, we think that's wonderful.'"

He also told her he would buy the other Scottish Fold and use the cats in a poster advertising campaign.

Nowadays Baker and Taylor are permanent fixtures at the library. Baker sleeps most of the time, and Taylor eats all day.

"If we had high-strung cats we couldn't keep them in the library," says Saddler. "Baker sleeps so much he doesn't have time for temper tantrums. And Taylor walks around groaning that nobody ever feeds him."

Like most celebrities, Baker and Taylor receive regular fan mail and Christmas cards. Some Carson Valley residents have become devoted Baker and Taylor followers. When their friends or relatives visit, residents insist they stop at the Douglas County Library to pay homage to the cats.

Children, in particular, love the cats. Saddler says that many people who normally would avoid books have taken up reading because of Baker and Taylor.

Often Taylor will snuggle up to high school girls doing homework. The girls will write reports with one hand while using the other to pet Taylor.

As far as Louch and Saddler know, only one person has objected to the presence of the library cats. Soon after the cats took up residence in the spring of 1983, a state health officer arrived to check out the complaint. "He took one look and said, 'I don't know what the problem is, and walked out the door laughing,'" Saddler says.

"There also was the time we received a call from animal control. The officer said, 'I think you should know we were asked to investigate a complaint from a woman, who thought it was just terrible what you did to the cats' ears.'" Scottish Folds' ears naturally fold over 21 days after they're born, Saddler explains.

Despite their fame, an occasional patron excitedly runs up to Louch to exclaim, "A cat got into your library."

What amuses Louch most, however, are the people who glance at the line of Baker and Taylor posters that decorate a wall and then remark, "How did you get two cats that look like the ones on the posters?"

Saddler says her proudest moment came at a library conference in England. "I was at a meeting in Oxford last year when I heard someone say, 'I have one of those cat posters. I quickly said, 'I'm their mother.'"

"They were terribly impressed." □

Carol Vogel of Minden writes for the National Enquirer, Woman's World, and other publications.

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THE NEVADA CALENDAR



Debra Kendrick, coordinator of the Las Vegas Museum of Natural History, shows no fear among the animated silicone-nylon dinosaur replicas that are constantly in motion and even growl.

HOT LINES

Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority: 733-2323

Las Vegas Stars: triple-A pro baseball, 5/1-7, 5/16-23, 6/1-8, 6/13-16, 6/30-7/3, Cashman Field, 386-7200

Nevada Commission on Tourism: 885-3636 or 800-237-0774

Nevada Division of State Parks: hikes, tours, stargazing, campfire programs at 21 parks around the state, District VI, 385-0264

Reed Whipple Cultural Center: concerts, film festivals, melodramas, 386-6211

UNLV Baseball: 5/8-10, Roger Barnson Field, UNLV, 739-FANS

For individual chamber of commerce phone numbers see page 35

EVENTS

May

"The Book of the Seven Lagoons" Exhibit, thru 5/9, findings in Sri Lanka by environmental artists Newton and Helen Mayer Harrison, Museum of Natural History, UNLV, 739-3237

Wild Horses in Nevada Exhibit, thru 8/31/87 Nevada State Museum and Historical Society, 385-0115

World Series of Poker, 4/28-5/21 13 different poker events to determine world champion poker player, \$4,500,000 prize money, Binion's Horseshoe, 382-1600

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

"Noises Off," 5/1-2, comedy, Clark County

Community College Theatre, North Las Vegas, 644-7529

Las Vegas Civic Ballet Spring Concert, 5/1-3, Charleston Heights Arts Center, 386-6383

Rodeo and Norvel "Anonymous" Smith Memorial, 5/1-3, Boulder City Horsemen's Assn., Boulder City Arena, 293-2034

"West Side Story," 5/1-3 and 5/6-10, Dept. of Theatre Arts, Judy Bayley Theatre, UNLV, 739-3801

Elks Helldorado Days, 5/1-10, 53rd annual rodeo and celebration, on 5/1 street dance; on 5/1-9 exhibit hall and barbecue; on 5/1-10 midway, carnival, Village Bar (continuous entertainment); on 5/2 9am parade; on 5/2-9 Helldorado Championship Rodeo; on 5/5 Whiskerino Contest; on 5/6-9 Wrangler Bull Fighting, most events at Thomas and Mack Center, 739-3900

Cinco de Mayo Celebration, 5/3, Mexican folklore dancing groups, marching teams, mariachi band, dance contest, regional food, circus acts, magicians, 10am-9pm, Lions Park, 386-0120

Wings of Freedom Air Show '87, 5/3, aircraft displays, Thunderbird aerial demonstration, food, Nellis Air Force Base, 643-2750

Nissan/Mint 400, 5/7-10, 400-mile off-road race; car and driver registration Thurs.-Fri., tech inspection Fri. on Fremont St. in front of Mint Hotel; on Sat. racers make four laps on a 100-mile course; start-finish line at Sloan, 15 miles south of Las Vegas, \$350,000 purse and contingency awards, staged by High Desert Racing Assn., 361-5404

"Puss-n-Boots," 5/8-10, 5/15-18, and 5/22-24, Rainbow Company Theatre, Reed Whipple Cultural Center, 386-6553

Greek Food Festival, 5/10, 11am-10pm, Sahara Space Center, 382-2750

Las Vegas Symphony Concert, 5/10, 2pm, Ham Hall, UNLV, 739-3420

Las Vegas Chamber Players Concert, 5/11 7pm, Ham Hall, UNLV, 739-3420

Tierra Incognita and Contemporary Hispanics of Las Vegas, 5/15-6/15, Nevada State Museum and Historical Society, 385-0115

Clark County Artists' Show, 5/16, Bicentennial Park, Boulder City, 294-9982

Las Vegas Easter Seal Golf Tour-



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, or toll-free 800-237-0774 outside Nevada.

nament, 5/16, Tropicana Country Club, 739-7771

Light Opera Selections, 5/16-17 8pm, free, Musical Arts Society, Judy Bayley Theatre, UNLV, 739-3332

Wet 'n Wild KLUC Slide-A-Thon, 5/16-19, Wet 'n Wild Water Park, 739-9383

Red Rock Canyon Photo Contest, 5/23-8/2, entries accepted from 5/23 to 6/2; show opens on 6/14 and runs through 8/2, BLM's Red Rock Canyon Visitor Center, 363-1921

June

Mr. Country Music America Contest, 6/3-7/29, Holiday Casino, 369-5112

International Sports, Fitness, and Martial Arts Convention, 6/4-7 trade show, championship full-contact karate fights, dinner with Chuck Norris and Bob Wall as masters of ceremonies, at Hacienda, Sahara, and Cashman Field, 737-2715

DeLorean Car Rallye, 6/5-7 Imperial Palace, 794-3114

"Hunger," 6/5 and 6/7 concert, Las Vegas Opera Company, Black Box Theatre, UNLV, 739-3420

"Noises Off," 6/5-7 and 6/11-13, comedy, Charleston Heights Arts Center, 386-6383

Mentos Super Classic X Pro Football Arm Wrestling Tournament, 6/7 pro football players arm wrestle, with free autograph party on preceeding Sat., Imperial Palace, 794-3114

"Guys and Dolls," 6/11-27, Spring Mountain Ranch State Park, 875-PLAY

Father-Son Trap Shoot Tournament, 6/14, Easter Seal Society benefit, Las Vegas Gun Club, 739-7771

Lake Mead Draw, 6/20-21, U.S. Bass fishing tournament open to members of U.S. Bass, \$80,000 purse, Callville Marina, Lake Mead, 602-834-5045

Las Vegas Civic Symphony Concert, 6/21, Reed Whipple Cultural Center, 386-6211

Damboree, 7/4, old-fashioned 4th of July celebration with speakers, food, band concert, and games, Central Park, Boulder City, 293-2034

NIGHTLIFE

Anka. A Strip Survivor



By Pete Mikla

Despite his popularity with audiences and casino owners for more than two decades, there are some people, believe it or not, who would rather not see Paul Anka headline in Las Vegas.

Who are these misguided souls? "It's the people who run the record companies," said Anka. "As far back as the early '70s, I was told that no Las Vegas act could expect to have a hit song on the charts. So I wrote 'Having My Baby' and it went to the top. They backed away from me a little, but to this day, they mention the Las Vegas thing."

With that kind of pressure, how does Anka still manage to record as well as work in Las Vegas? "Well, I've been at it so long, I guess I'm just a survivor," he explained. "One of the main reasons I'm still around, I feel, is that I'm a writer as well as a performer. I honestly don't know if they'd record me if I didn't write my own material." Anka wrote his first hit, "Diana," nearly 30 years ago. That's when he learned his



Among the special events surrounding the Nissan/Mint 400 (May 7-10) is the Friday technical inspection and manufacturers' row, which draws crowds onto Fremont Street in front of the Mint Hotel. The start-finish line for the race is at Sloan, 15 miles south of Las Vegas.

first lesson about survival. "Back then there weren't many people writing songs for rock 'n roll singers, so most of us 'pioneers' had to write our own music to get new material. That's how we survived," he said. He pointed out that in the late '50s, the rock 'n roll revolution was just getting started and there wasn't a huge demand for rock singers. "It was frustrating to realize that I was in a musical environment that was not really palatable to the masses. For a while, it seemed like nobody wanted us."

Eventually Anka wrote and recorded several

hit songs. For many years he starred in concerts across the country and even lived and worked in Europe. Then he decided it was time to begin working in nightclubs—and Nevada showrooms. He had to convince disbelievers that a one-time teen idol could attract people to a nightclub. "In a situation like that, you have to make whatever adjustments are necessary. If it means taking a cut in pay, then you do it," Anka explained. "The idea is to get there the first time and show them what you've got. I used that formula the first time I

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Las Vegas

played Las Vegas. It worked here as well as in New York and Miami. Bobby Darin did the same thing."

During the past two decades, Anka has appeared in most of the showrooms along the Las Vegas Strip. What does he look for when he takes a job in a Nevada showroom? "In addition to salary, I look at who's managing the hotel, what kind of cooperation I am going to get, and what kind of future the place has." The singer admits there are times he has made waves on the Strip. "There were a couple of times I spoke out—like when Caesars Palace installed Ticketron a few years back. I've also criticized what I felt was the absentee management of some operations. There were a few times I wasn't too popular with some hotels." The composer of "My Way" and many other hits has always been popular with Las Vegas audiences, even if the record companies don't think much of the idea. Paul Anka continues to survive quite nicely.

Paul Anka headlines at the Golden Nugget's Theater Ballroom May 28-June 8.

SHOWGUIDE

Bally's, 739-4567: Ziegfeld Theatre: "Jubilee!" indf.

Barbary Coast, 737-7111: Entertainment nightly

Bourbon Street, 737-7200: "Bourbon Street Folies," revue starring Melinda, The First Lady of Magic, indf., 7:30pm and 10:30pm Wed.-Mon., \$7.95 includes prime rib dinner and 2 drinks

Caesars Palace, 731-7333: George Carlin, 4/29-5/4; Diana Ross, 5/6-11 and 5/13-18; Joan Rivers, 5/19-25; Johnny Mathis/Jeanne Burnier, 5/27-6/1 Red Skelton, 6/3-8; George Burns, 6/10-15

Circus Circus, 734-0410: Free circus acts, 11am-midnight

Desert Inn, 733-4566: Larry Gatlin and the Gatlin Brothers/Alex Cole, thru 5/6; Melissa Manchester, 5/7-20; Judds/Dan Riley, 5/21-31 Suzanne Somers/Smothers Brothers, 6/2-24; Tony Orlando/Susan Anton, 6/25-7/15

Dunes, 737-4100: Comedy Store, indf., continuous entertainment in Casino and Oasis lounges

Edgewater, Laughlin, 298-2453: Lounge entertainment nightly

Flamingo Hilton, 733-3333: "City Lites," ice and music spectacular, indf.

Four Queens, 385-4011 Van-Dells, 4/14-5/3; Doug Kershaw, 5/5-24; Frank Sinatra, Jr., 5/26-6/7; Platters, 6/9-7/5; Inkspots, 4/14-5/24; Monday Night Jazz, indf.

Frontier, 734-0240: Siegfried and Roy in "Beyond Belief," thru 5/24 and 6/23-indf. (dark Mon.); Righteous Brothers/Paul Revere and the Raiders, 5/26-6/21

Gold Coast, 367-7111 Buddy Wilde Show, 4/28-5/10; Sliced Bread, 5/12-24; Sister Sister, 5/26-6/7

Golden Nugget, 386-8100: Frank Sinatra, 5/23-24; Paul Anka, 5/28-6/8; David Brenner, 6/11-16; Lou Rawls, 6/18-23; Don Rickles, 6/25-30

Hacienda, 739-8911: "Minsky's Burlesque," indf. (dark Thurs.)

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

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

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

Las Vegas Hilton, 732-5661: Temptations with Natalie Cole, thru 5/3; Engelbert

Humperdinck, 5/5-17: Dionne Warwick, 5/19-24
Marina, 739-1500: "Babes Ahoy," starring Jackie Vernon, indf.

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

Mint, 387-6468: Peppermints, 5/4-30; Smith Brothers, 5/4-7/11, Rave, 5/18-6/13; Tony Tillman, 6/1-7/4; Tommy Rocker, 6/15-7/4; Sandy Hackett's Talent Showcase, Sun., indf.

Palace Station, 367-2411 Crossover, thru 5/10; Jonathan, thru 5/31 Kristine and the Sting, 6/1-28

Peppermill Resort, Mesquite, 346-5232: Mark and Bill, 5/4-17; Gary Joe, 5/11-17; Arizona Outlaws, 5/18-31 Micheal John, 6/1-14

Regency, Laughlin, 298-2439: Piano bar

Riverside Resort, Laughlin, 298-2535 Tanya Tucker, 5/1-2; Lacy J. Dalton, 5/22-24, Roy Clark, 6/5-6

Riviera, 734-5301 "Splash" production show, indf., "An Evening at La Cage," revue, indf., "A.M.—A Blast from the Past," indf., "An Evening at the Improv," comedians, indf.

Royal Casino, 733-4000: Nightly entertainment

Sahara, 737-2424: Redd Foxx/Slappy White, indf. (dark Mon.)

Sam Boyd's California, 385-1222: Live entertainment, noon-6am

Sam's Town, 456-7777: Nightly entertainment

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

Sands, 733-5000: Jeff Kutash's "Back to the Beat," indf. (dark Mon.), Gallagher, 6/10-21

Silver Slipper, "Boylesque," revue, indf.

Stardust, 732-6325: "Lido de Paris," indf. (dark Tues.)



Seen at last year's World Series of Poker are runner-up Mike Harthcock, tournament host Jack Binion, and champion Berry Johnston (from left). This year's tournament runs through May 21

Sundance, 382-6111 Kathy Dahl/Richard Yusco

Tropicana, 739-2411 "Folies Bergere," indf. (dark Thurs.); Larry King Show, radio broadcast from hotel, 6/1-3

Union Plaza, 386-2444: "Never Too Late," starring Larry Linville, Broadway comedy, indf.

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

OUTINGS

Dinosaurian Delights

The Las Vegas Museum of Natural History, which recently moved to the south end of the Las Vegas Strip, features growling, moving dinosaurs, including allosaurus, triceratops,

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The Age of Dinosaurs. An Age that continues to astonish and baffle the minds of modern man. What was a world dominated by these creatures like? What caused their extinction. Share the mystery and wonder of an Age past at the new Las Vegas Museum of Natural History, open daily from 9 a.m. until 9 p.m., on the Strip across from the Aladdin Hotel. One of the largest prehistoric dinosaur collections

in the world is on display. Marvel at the size and appearance of such dinosaurs as the Tyrannosaurus Rex, Bracheosaurus, and Triceratops. See prehistoric mammals like the Mammoth and Sabre-Tooth, as well as a large collection of modern-day animals.



LAS VEGAS MUSEUM of NATURAL HISTORY

—Share The Wonders of the World—

3700 Las Vegas Blvd., across from the Aladdin Hotel, Adults \$3.00, Children \$1.50.

and tyrannosaurus rex. These gargantuan gobots, replicas of the "terrible lizards" of the Mesozoic Era, bend down toward visitors from towering heights, their arms trembling and mouths opening and closing in ferocious grins. Also on display in the lower-floor exhibit hall are skeletal models of dinosaurs, the giant sloth, mastodon, and other prehistoric creatures. There is a walk-in cave dwelling, and the upper floor houses about 1,000 exhibits of present-day flora and fauna. A gift shop has dinosaur-related books, T-shirts, toys, and decorations. The museum is open daily from 9 a.m. until 9 p.m., admission is \$3 for adults, \$1.50 for children 4 to 12, and free to children 3 and under. Group rates are also available; there's no charge to school groups. Because of the similarity in names, the museum often is confused with UNLV's Museum of Natural History. You'll find the Las Vegas Museum of Natural History is located in front of the Jockey

Club, just south of the Dunes Hotel. For more information, call 702-798-7757

Picnic in the Park

When spring flowers into summer, a day at Floyd Lamb State Park provides a great change of pace from the hustle and bustle of urban life. Ten miles north of Las Vegas off U.S. 95, the 680-acre park has 25 developed acres with four ponds, paved pathways for biking and jogging, barbecue areas with verandas, an arboretum, horseshoe pits, trap-shooting range, and many large grassy areas for kite flying, volleyball, and badminton. Because of the large number of waterfowl, bird watching is a popular activity in the park, which also is known as Tule Springs. Fishing is popular as the ponds are stocked with catfish and bluegill. (A Nevada fishing license is required for anglers 12 and over.) The best relaxation of all may be stretching out on the green grass under blue skies and drifting

clouds. On Sundays during May, guided tours of the historic Goumond Ranch are conducted at 2 p.m. Special areas for groups of up to 300 people can be reserved for a nonrefundable \$50. The park is open from 8 a.m. until sunset. The entrance fee March through October is \$3 per car; it's \$1 the rest of the year. Senior citizens 60 and over can obtain a free permit. For further information call 702-645-1998.

—Kate Butler

MUSEUMS

Admission to most public museums in Southern Nevada is free. Phone ahead for special exhibition dates and information. If you're calling from out of state, the area code is 702 throughout Nevada.

American Museum of Historical Documents, 10-7 Mon.-Sat., 11-6 Sun., 3200 Las Vegas Blvd. S., 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-3 Sun., Lorenzi Park, 3333 W. Washington Ave., Las Vegas, 647-4300

Las Vegas Museum of Natural History, 9-9 daily, 3700 Las Vegas Blvd. S., Las Vegas, 798-7757

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

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

Olde Tyme Gambling Museum, 9am-1am daily, Stardust Hotel, 732-6111

Ripley's Believe It or Not!, 9am-midnight Sun.-Thurs., 9am-1am Fri.-Sat., Four Queens Hotel, admission fee, 385-4011

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

ART GALLERIES

The following Southern Nevada art galleries offer original works. Phone ahead for special show and exhibit dates. If you're calling from out of state, the area code is 702 throughout Nevada.

AA Gallery—5213 W. Charleston Blvd., 10-6 Mon.-Fri., Sat.-Sun. by appointment, commissioned portraits, 877-6847

Allied Arts Gallery—3207-1/2 Las Vegas Blvd. S., 9-5 Mon.-Fri., contemporary work by Nevada artists, 731-5419

Alta Ham Fine Arts Gallery—University of Nevada-Las Vegas, 4505 S. Maryland Pkwy., 8-5 Mon.-Fri., nationally known artists, 739-3893

American Museum of Historical Documents—3200 Las Vegas Blvd. S., 10-6 Mon.-Wed., 10-9 Thurs.-Fri., 10-6 Sat., 12-5 Sun., historical documents framed as art, 731-0785

Art Exchange—444 Hotel Plaza, Boulder City, 10-5 Mon.-Sat., 12-5 Sun., iron sculpture, photography, and original prints, 293-0172

Art Lover's Gallery—953 E. Sahara Ave., 10-6 Tues.-Fri., 10-5 Sat., contemporary limited editions and graphics, 734-2822

Boulder City Art Guild and Gallery—1495 Nevada Hwy., Boulder City, 1-5 Sun.-Sat., oils and watercolors by local artists, 294-9982

Brent Thompson Art and Framing—1672 Nevada Hwy., Boulder City, 10-5 Tues.-Fri., 10-4 Sat., contemporary Southwest, 293-4652

Burk Gal'ry—400 Nevada Hwy., Boulder

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Each spring in Las Vegas, Elks Helldorado Days is cause for dancing in the streets. The big dance, along with rodeo and other events will be held in the Thomas and Mack Center, on the University of Nevada-Las Vegas campus during the 53rd Helldorado May 1-10.

City, 10-5 Mon.-Fri., 10-4 Sat., 12-4 Sun., western themes and polage, 293-3958

Canterbury Arts—1566 Western, 8:30-5 Mon.-Fri., weekends and evenings by appointment, original graphics and limited edition prints, 384-9640

Charleston Heights Arts Center—800 S. Brush St., 1-8 Mon.-Thurs., 1-5 Fri.-Sun., students' work, 386-6383

Circle Gallery Ltd.—Bally's Hotel Shopping Arcade, 10-10 Sun.-Sat., lithographs and serigraphs, 734-0000

Clark County Library District—1401 E. Flamingo Rd., 9-9 Mon.-Thurs., 9-5 Fri.-Sat., 1-5 Sun., local photography, 733-7810

Discovery, The Children's Museum—2744 N. Green Valley Pkwy., Henderson, 10-6 Mon.-Wed. and Fri., 10-8 Thurs., 10-5 Sat., 1-5 Sun., exhibits for children illustrating the link between science and art, 382-3445

Downtown Art and Gift Gallery—321 Las Vegas Blvd. S., 11-2 Mon.-Fri., weekends and evenings by appointment, oils, acrylics and sculpture, 384-3884

Emperor Galleries—3000 Paradise Rd., 9-10 Sun.-Thurs., 9-12 Fri.-Sat., portraits and Violet Parkhurst seascapes, 731-0456

Habitat—4300 Meadows Ln., 10-9 Mon.-Fri., 10-6 Sat., 11-6 Sun., Southwestern prints, watercolors, 878-2434

Herigstad's Gallery—2290 E. Flamingo Rd., 10-6 Mon.-Sat., Peggy Hopper Hawaiian landscapes, Neiman and Dali signed lithographs, 733-7366

Las Vegas Art Museum—3333 W. Washington Ave., 10-3 Tues.-Sat., 12-3 Sun., youth, Nevada, and guest artist displays, 647-4300

Las Vegas Artists Cooperative—4300 Meadows Ln., 10-9 Mon.-Fri., 10-6 Sat.-Sun., 200 local artists, 877-0761

Markus Galleries—3200 Las Vegas Blvd. S., Suite 309, 10-6 Mon.-Wed. and Sat., 10-9 Thurs.-Fri., 12-5 Sun., contemporary art by area artists, Austine Wood polages, 737-7307

Mary Lou's—5079 Arville, 9-6 Mon.-Fri., 9-1 Sat., Southwest Indian art, baskets, and pottery, 367-6465

Minotaur Fine Arts Ltd—3200 Las Vegas Blvd. S., 10-6 Mon.-Fri., 10-9 Thurs.-Fri., 10-6 Sat., 12-5 Sun., oils, etchings, and lithographic drawings, 737-1400

Nevada Frames and Gallery—3061 Sheridan, 10-5 Mon.-Sat., floral and animal paintings, 876-6734

Newsom's Art Gallery—1141 S. Maryland

Pkwy., 10-5 Tues.-Sat. and by appointment, western paintings, bronzes, and woodcarving, 384-9865

Portfolio Ink—2350 S. Jones Blvd., 2-7 Tues.-Fri., 11-6 Sat., limited edition serigraphs and lithographs, 876-3587

Raphael Galleries, Ltd.—3200 Las Vegas Blvd. S., 10-6 Mon.-Wed. and Sat., 10-9 Thurs.-Fri., 12-5 Sun., oils, lithographs, porcelain figurines, and plates, 732-9523

Reed Whipple Center Gallery—821 Las Vegas Blvd. N., 2:30-8 Mon. and Thurs., 10-8 Tues., Wed., and Fri., 9-5 Sat., 12-5 Sun., local artists, 386-6383

Ryan Galleries—3661 S. Maryland Pkwy., 10-5 Mon.-Fri., serigraphs and oils, 734-0650

Sandor Art Studio/Gallery—3390 Oneida Way, 9-6 daily, western and Indian subjects, 732-4808

Studio West—2708 N. Green Valley Pkwy., Henderson, 10-6 Mon.-Sat., paintings, etchings, and limited edition prints, 458-2535

Studio Workshop and Gallery—608 E. Sahara Ave., 10-5 Mon.-Fri., 10-4 Sat., local artists, 734-8962

Sturman Fine Arts—101 Convention Center Dr., private collection open for viewing to major collectors, private dealers, and universities by appointment only, 734-2787

Torres Gallery and Frame Shop—2470 E. Tropicana Ave., 9-6 Mon.-Sat., original and limited edition prints, 454-6622

Touch of the West Gallery—Dunes Hotel, 10-8 Sun.-Thurs., 10-10 Fri.-Sat., Charles Smith paintings, western paintings, serigraphs, 731-1315

Winged Horse Gallery—6380 Eastern Ave., 10-5 Mon.-Sat., contemporary ceramic, wood and bronze sculpture, paintings, 798-0778

CASINO NOTES

•The **Aladdin** has reopened under the first foreign owner of a Nevada casino, Japanese businessman Ginji Yasuda. In 1986 Yasuda bought the resort for \$54 million in a federal bankruptcy court sale. After an intensive 10-month investigation into the background of Yasuda, who has made fortunes in real estate in Tokyo and Los Angeles, the Nevada Gaming Commission granted him a license in February. The public is invited to grand opening ceremonies May 22-24.

•The **Tropicana** will introduce what it calls

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the world's first outdoor casino in June. The games will include outdoor keno and slot machines as well as the present swim-up blackjack table.

•In addition to a new shopping mall, the **Stardust** is opening in May a museum largely devoted to gaming machines and other notable devices of yesteryear. The Olde Tyme Gambling Museum will house a multi-million-dollar collection of rare coin-operated machines featuring antique slots, arcade and vending devices, cash registers, scales, barber chairs, gas pumps, and wood burning stoves.

•In Laughlin, the **Riverside Resort's** new tower has increased its total number of rooms to 650. Each features a private balcony with a view of the Colorado River and surrounding mountains. A two-story lounge overlooking the swimming pool is planned, and a 1,000-seat showroom will be opening soon in the new tower.

TOURNAMENTS

May

Pan, 5/1-29, every Fri., Sahara, 737-2317
Craps, 5/2-5, Flamingo Hilton, 733-3117
Poker, 5/6-27, every Wed., Sahara, 737-2317
Blackjack, 5/2-30, every Thurs. and Sun., Royal Casino, 733-4000
Pan, 5/3-7 Union Plaza, 386-2110
Blackjack, 5/8-10, Marina, 739-1686
Blackjack, 5/10-13, Frontier, 734-0385
Blackjack, 5/15-19, Las Vegas Hilton, 732-5111
Blackjack, 5/29-6/1 Las Vegas Hilton, 732-5111
Slots, 5/31-6/3, Caesars Palace, 731-7777

June

Gin, 6/1-4, Union Plaza, 386-2110
Poker, 6/3-24, every Wed., Sahara, 737-2317
Blackjack, 6/4-27 every Thurs. and Sun., Royal Casino, 733-4000
Pan, 6/5-26, every Fri., Sahara, 737-2317
Slots, 6/14-17 Frontier, 734-0385
Slots, 6/14-18, Union Plaza, 386-2110
Slots, 6/19-22, Marina, 739-1686
Blackjack, 6/28-30, Riviera, 734-5249

COMING EVENTS

Laughlin River Days, 7/29-8/2, 298-2214
U.S. Team Open 8-Ball Pool Tournament, 9/10-12, Imperial Palace, 731-3311
Clark County Basque Festival, 9/12, Silk Purse Ranch, Las Vegas, 385-2662
Las Vegas Silver Cup Unlimited Hydroplane Races, 9/25-27 Lake Mead, 731-2115
Las Vegas Jaycees State Fair, 10/6-11 732-3247
Henderson Expo, 10/16-18, 565-8951
Imperial Palace Antique Auto Run, 10/23-25, 731-3311
Fairshow, 10/23-25, North Las Vegas, 642-1944
National Finals Rodeo, 12/4-12, Las Vegas, 731-2115

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.

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HOT LINES

Lake Tahoe Visitors Authority: 916-544-5057 or 800-822-5922

Nevada Division of State Parks: District II, 885-4379

Palomino Valley Gun Club: 323-3950

Piper's Opera House: jazz concerts held every Sun., daily musicals, subscription series with guest artists, Virginia City, 847-0433

Reno Padres: class-A pro baseball, 5/5-10, 5/19-26, 6/1-7, 6/16-21 and 6/29-30, Moana Stadium, 825-0678

Reno-Sparks Convention and Visitors Authority: 827-7600 or 800-FOR-RENO

UNR Baseball: 5/1-2, 5/5, Moana Stadium, 784-4600

For the phone numbers of individual chambers of commerce see page 35

EVENTS

May

UNR Chamber Orchestra Concert, 5/1 784-6145

"Chapter Two," 5/1-2, 5/8-9, 5/15-16, Neil Simon comedy, 8pm, Proscenium Players, Brewery Arts Center, Carson City, 883-1976

Team Roping, 5/1-3, Reno Livestock/Events Center, 916-253-3284

4-H County Show, 5/1-3, Reno Livestock/Events Center, 784-4848

Silver State Square Dance Festival, 5/1-3, Reno-Sparks Convention Center, 323-1366

Spring Art Show, 5/1-3, Nevada Artists Assn., Shoppers Square Mall, 853-0394

"The Glass Menagerie," 5/1-3 and 5/7-9, drama, Reno Little Theater, 329-0661

"A Shayna Maidel," 5/1-3, 5/6-10, 5/13-16, 5/20-23, drama, The Actors' Project, Laxalt Auditorium, Old College, 329-1324

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

Spring Concert and Wine and Cheese Tasting, 5/2, UNR Concert Choir, UNR, 784-6145

Concert, 5/3, pianist Laura Spitzer and Carson City Chamber Orchestra, free, Ormsby House, Carson City, 883-4154

Mexican Dances, 5/4, 5/24, and 6/8, Reno Livestock/Events Center, 329-3658

Reno Philharmonic Concert, 5/5-6, Pioneer Theater, 329-8866

Farm City Festival, 5/6-8, Reno Livestock/Events Center, 852-0420

Junior Livestock State Show, 5/6-10, Reno Livestock/Events Center, 784-6135

UNR Opera Theater Concert, 5/7-10, 784-6145

Harrah's 50th Anniversary Art Competition, 5/8, open to visual artists residing within a 100-mile radius of Reno-Sparks, works submitted must relate to Harrah's 50th anniversary, Sierra Arts Foundation will exhibit all entries in the Reno City Hall Galleries, 329-1324

Western States Craft Jamboree, 5/8-10, Reno-Sparks Convention Center, 882-7608

Reno Spring Antique Show and Sale, 5/8-10, Reno-Sparks Convention Center, 415-771-3492

Monster Truck Event, 5/9-10, Reno Livestock/Events Center, 331-1531

Ballet, 5/9-10, "Peter and the Wolf," "Romeo and Juliet," and "Paquita," 2pm, Nevada Festival Ballet, Pioneer Theater, 329-2552

Biggest Little Quilt Show in the West, 5/9-10, Lawlor Events Center, 323-7526

Virginia City Grand Prix Motorcycle Race, 5/9-10, 789-4892

Mother's Day Concert, 5/10, violinist Roy Malan and Reno Chamber Orchestra, Trinity Episcopal Church, 786-3388

Nevada 87, 5/12-6/9, traveling photo show, Washoe County Library, 785-4190

Comstock Arabian Horse Show, 5/15-17, Reno Livestock/Events Center, 852-3011

Sierra Nevada Rabbit Club Show, 5/16, Reno Livestock/Events Center, 359-3010

Reno Rodeo Queen Horsemanship Competition, 5/16, Reno Livestock/Events Center, 329-3877

International Museum Day, 5/17, docent tours, music, refreshments, free, Nevada State Museum, Carson City, 885-4065

Tennis World Record Marathon, 5/20-25, continuous tennis play of the Junior Tennis Program for the purpose of setting a world record, Easter Seal benefit, Plumas Tennis Courts, 359-2880

Reno Firefighters Circus, 5/22, Reno Livestock/Events Center, 331-8139

Railroad Opening Weekend and Steam-Up, 5/22-25, photography and watercolor exhibits, on Sat. and Sun. restored Virginia and Truckee Railroad engines No. 22 (the *Inyo*) and No. 25 will operate; motor car No. 50 (the *Washoe Zephyr*) will carry passengers around almost a mile of track, Nevada State Railroad Museum, Carson City, 885-4810

Silver State Quarter Horse Show, 5/23-25, Reno Livestock/Events Center, 853-2882

Opera House Opening Festival, 5/23-25, on 5/23 performances by the Dukes of Dixieland from New Orleans, melodramas, jazz, silent movies, music, Piper's Opera House, Virginia City, 847-0433

PASCO Region II Contest, 5/23-25, a total of 60 sailplanes participating, Pacific Soaring Council, Douglas County Airport,



Bragging rights are on the line for crews and fans of the M.S. Dixie and the Tahoe Queen during the Great Lake Tahoe Sternwheeler Race, on the lake at south shore on May 25.

Minden, 782-7627

Great Lake Tahoe Sternwheeler Race, 5/25, annual feud with *Tahoe Queen* v. *M.S. Dixie* on Lake Tahoe; also carnival, Dixieland, air show, South Lake Tahoe, 588-3508

All-American Suffolk Sheep Show and Sale, 5/25-30, John Ascuaga's Nugget, Sparks, 356-3300

Antique Bottle Show, 5/30, Reno-Sparks Convention Center, 972-8697

Comstock Gold Show, 5/30-31, Reno Livestock/Events Center, 826-1616

Nevada Paint Horse Show, 5/30-31, Reno Livestock/Events Center, 849-2240

Miniatures and Dollhouse Show and Sale, 5/30-31, Bally's Reno, 826-2959
Tour to Historic Lovelock and Winnemucca, 5/31, bus leaves from Nevada Historical Society in Reno at 9am, 789-0190

June

Outdoor Art Show and Music, 6/1-5, Nevada Artists Assn. exhibits, band, 11:30am-1:30pm, Wingfield Park, 882-6411

Celebrity Cutting Classic, 6/2-12, Reno Livestock/Events Center, 801-373-2600

Nevada State Backgammon Championship and Masters Invitational, 6/3-7, open to competitors and spectators, \$200,000 purse, Peppermill, 826-1984

"Bullshot Crummond," 6/5-7 and 6/11-13, parody of 1930s detective movies, Reno Little Theater, 329-0661

Super Run III—America's Race, 6/6-7 two amateur runners from each state compete for \$1 million prize in 10-km. race through Lake Tahoe area, 916-544-5050

Reno Chamber Orchestra Concert, 6/7 Trinity Episcopal Church, 786-3388

Lake Tahoe Summer Music Festival, 6/10-18, Homewood, 916-583-7625

Wine Tasting, 6/12, wines available for tasting from the annual West Coast Wine Competition, Eldorado Hotel, 786-5700

Photography Campout and Contest, on 6/12-13 campout at Pyramid Lake includes hints and demonstrations on photography which will be helpful for Friends of Pyramid Lake photo contest. Contest is thru 7/30 and the winners will be shown at Nevada State Fair 8/11-16 in Reno, 826-4441

Carson Valley Days, 6/12-14, parade, rodeo, art show, softball tournament, beard contest, concerts, barbecue, arm wrestling, tug-of-war, fire department waterfights, most events held at Minden City Park, Minden and Gardnerville, 782-8144

Nevada 87, 6/12-25, traveling photo show, Nevada Historical Society Downtown Gallery, 788-0190

Northern Star, 6/13, sailboat race open to all classes, Crystal Bay, North Shore, Lake Tahoe, 831-0183

Kit Carson Rendezvous/Wagon Train Days, 6/13-14, music jamboree, black powder shooting contest, Indian dance, authentic Indian village setting, wagon train encampment, street dance, barbecue dinner, train rides, arm wrestling, amateur boxing championship, Mills Park, Carson City, 883-7442

"Fantasies in Color," 6/14, dance and song concert with local students in a journey of the color spectrum, Pioneer Theater, 825-3494

Annual Pops Concert, 6/14, free, 2:30pm, Carson City Chamber Orchestra, Governor's Mansion, Carson City, 883-4154

Autocross, 6/14, Reno Livestock/Events Center, 323-6156

Carson Valley Art Show, 6/15-7/15, Genoa Courthouse Museum, Genoa, 265-2850

Rod Hall's Ghost Town Adventure, 6/18-21, 3-day trail ride starting at Lake Tahoe

through scenic Nevada backcountry with catered meals and western entertainment, open to Dodge 4x4s only, 786-6748

Festival Reno, 6/19-26, six weekends of food festivals, gaming tournaments, entertainment, themes of Cajun, Caribbean, Country and Western, All American, or Mexican Fiesta, downtown Reno, 827-7366

Reno Rodeo, 6/19-28, begins with traditional parade down Virginia Street; rodeo events start 6/23 and include saddle bronc, bareback and bull riding, calf roping, steer wrestling, barrel racing, and wild horse race; competitions are held for rodeo clown bull-fighting, drill teams, chili cook-offs, country music, and businessmen's steer decorating, most events at Reno Livestock/Events Center, 329-3877

Stewart Indian Museum Arts and Crafts Fair and Pow Wow, 6/20-21, with American Indians from throughout the West, dance competitions and exhibitions, Indian artifacts, beadwork, buckskin, and leather work, Stewart Indian School campus, Carson City, 882-1808

Nevada 87, 7/1-8/5, traveling photo show, Nevada State Museum, Carson City, 885-4810

Railroad Steam-Up, 7/3-5, restored Virginia and Truckee Railroad engine No. 25, Nevada State Railroad Museum, Carson City, 885-4810

Dixieland Jazz Festival, 7/3-5, John Ascuaga's Nugget, Sparks, 356-3300

Concert in the Park, 7/4, park opens 3pm, concert 5pm, free, Reno Philharmonic, Mormon Station State Park, Genoa, 883-5009

Skyfire, 7/4, fireworks show, Mackay Stadium, UNR, 827-7662

Fireworks, 7/4, sponsored by John Ascuaga's Nugget, I-80 and McCarren Blvd., Sparks, 356-3300

July 4th Celebration, 7/4, parade, picnic, fair, games, breakdancing, train rides, contests, fireworks, Carson City, 882-1565

July 4th Celebration, 7/4, parade followed by Municipal Band concert at Miners Park, Virginia City, 847-0311

July 4th Celebration, 7/4, picnic, Mills Park, Carson City, 882-9278

Star Spangled Fourth, 7/4, fireworks, acrobatic art show, sailboat regatta, South Lake Tahoe, 916-544-5050

NIGHTLIFE

Simply Skelton

By Guy Richardson

Over the past 64 years Red Skelton's stage character evolved into a funny fellow who's a bit simple and innocent. When the audience gives a standing ovation at the end of his show, he'll do a double take and say, "Boy, that's a relief—I thought you were walking out on me."

Offstage he is sometimes funny, but never simple.

He is loved by literally millions of people. However, Skelton says he trusts only himself, God, and his wife Lothian. Years ago business associates stole from him, he says, and people he was kind to took him for a sucker. So in a business where stars collect go-fers, hangers-on, and sycophants to augment a circle of friends, Skelton travels alone.

He paints, writes music, works on college concerts, and lectures—and writes a daily love letter to Lothian. Skelton is unfailingly polite to fans, always ready with a joke and a glide into that simple on-stage persona, who can answer a compliment with "God bless" said in good-little-boy tones, and make it sound believable and sincere from a man who turns 74 this July 18.

I've interviewed him sundry times over the years, and the constants are his quick wit and hatred of television, which he feels is filthy.

And yet in 1983 he told me his favorite comic was Richard Pryor. Sort of like catching the Pope listening to Oral Roberts on shortwave.

Skelton called Pryor "the funniest man alive right now." Holy, uh, cow. "But he talks pretty damn dirty," said Skelton whose raciest word in public is damn. "Eventually, it will kill him with audiences."

Maybe that sounds naive. Eddie Murphy probably has a more explicit word for it. And yet Skelton, who was finished on television two decades ago, is one of America's most sought-after funnymen. On the same Caesars Tahoe stage where Joan Rivers closes her act with a line about performing an unnatural act with a



Rooted deep in the American West, the modern rodeo continues to thrive and the Reno Rodeo is one of the best. The rodeo, June 19-28, will include a parade along with all the traditional events.

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Coors Classic Bicycle Race, August 13

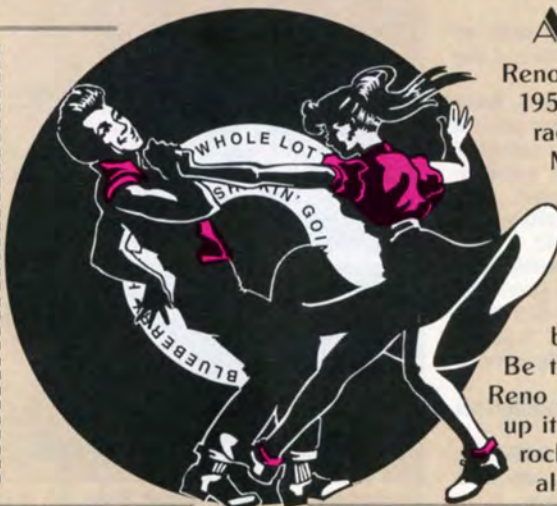
You've got the best seat in the West when the annual San Francisco to Boulder race wheels through downtown Reno Aug. 13. Don't miss Reno's leg of America's premier long distance race.



Hot August Nights, August 1-8

Reno rocks out with its annual 1950s and '60s bash. Drag races. Great entertainment. Motown Night. The "I Found My Thrill on Blueberry Hill" Prom, plus the dazzling vintage car parade and swap meet. Even a beach party.

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duck, Skelton will do Klem Kadiddlehopper, the Mean Whittle Kid, Gertrude and Heathcliffe (the dotty seagulls), and other simple characters—including the one that's introduced as Red Skelton.

While he's on that stage, Skelton will be awash in a love he's been able to trust, probably because he's learned exactly what to do to earn it. He ran away from home to perform in medicine shows at age 10, worked the homeless vaudeville circuit, made movies in rootless Hollywood, and slid easily into TV.



He slid off TV after he claimed the network ordered him to put in "filthy jokes." Now he takes his act directly to his public. I've watched him work from backstage. He is a man with incredible energy doing physical

humor. One time, when he walked into the wings to wait for a curtain call, I thought he was going to collapse. Covered with sweat, he gasped for breath, then straightened and went out with a bouncy stride and youthful waves.

Skelton likens his show to a ballet (dancers also come off stage like a feather, and then gasp like winded buffalo). "In two hours I lose five pounds in sweat," Skelton said. "A lot of the time my legs hurt when I'm out on stage, but I do the act. The audience doesn't know that half the time I'm on stage I'm under the influence of money—Lothian stands in the wings and silently mouths, 'The money.'"

It isn't the money, of course. If it were, Skelton could stay home and paint clowns; he says his clown paintings sell for \$75,000 and up. "I make more money in a year from my artwork than I did in my biggest year in showbiz," Skelton said. We are talking \$2.5 million a year from oils, prints, plates, pastels, and the rest. No, what keeps him coming back to the stage is that indescribable feeling that keeps performers working, no matter whether they need the money or exposure.

Call it a love fix.

One can make much psychoanalytical hay of Skelton's life—father dead before young Richard was born, divorce from first wife Georgia, who was called "Little Red," his only son dying three decades ago of leukemia at age 9. I suppose the Freudians would say that Skelton's audiences represent a love that won't go away.

Skelton is much happier with Lothian saying, "The money." As close as he'll get to the subject is "Why do I work? Because it's the only thing I know. I like to go out and meet people, and laugh at my own jokes. People ask why I laugh at my jokes, and the answer is—why should I be the only one not getting them?"

Red Skelton appears at Caesars Tahoe June 12-14.

SHOWGUIDE

Bally's Reno, 789-2000: *Ziegfeld Theatre*: "Hello Hollywood, Hello!" ind., *Lion's Den*: Miss Pat Collins/Leon Hughes and the World Famous Coasters featuring Ted Miller and the Exciters; Gary and Sandy/Valentino, 5/20-6/16

Caesars Tahoe, 588-3515: *Cascade Showroom*: Gregg Allman Band, 5/9; Red Skelton, 6/12-14; *Crystal Cabaret*: Ritz Fashion Auction, ind.; Laff Trax, comedy show featuring Doug Ferrari/Tom McGillen, thru 5/10; Fielding West/Jose Simon, 5/11-24



Manuel Mena, an Aztec Indian, takes a break in between dances at last year's Kit Carson Rendezvous and Wagon Train Days. This year's gathering in Carson City is June 13-14.

Carson City Nugget, 883-3854: Motifs, thru 5/10; Four Tunes, 5/12-31, Jaguars, 6/2-28
Carson Valley Inn, Minden, 782-9711
Garfin Gathering, 5/1-16; Passion, 5/18-23;
Whiskey Ridge, 5/25-30; Motifs, 6/1-27
Circus Circus, Reno, 329-0711 Free circus acts, 11am-midnight

Crystal Bay Club, North Tahoe, 831-0512: Nightly top 40 rock, dancing
Del Webb's High Sierra, Tahoe, 588-6211
Breck Wall's "Bottoms Up" revue, thru 6/30;
Willie Tyler and Lester, 5/5-17; Danny Marona, 5/26-6/14; Pat Collins, 6/16-28
Eldorado, Reno, 786-5700: Wright Brothers,



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thru 5/10; Imperials, thru 5/10; Marvels, 5/19-6/7; Indian River Boys, 6/16-28; Pat Collins, 6/30-7/12

Harolds Club, Reno, 329-0881 Hall and January (dark Tues.)/Femme Fatale (dark Wed.), thru 5/10; Pride and Joy (dark Tues.)/Hall and January (dark Wed.), 5/11-17; Pride and Joy (dark Wed.), 5/18-31

Harrah's Tahoe, 588-6611 *South Shore Room*: Dionne Warwick/Garry Shandling, 5/1-7; Andy Williams/George Kirby, 5/8-21, Sammy Davis, Jr., 5/22-26 and 5/28-6/4; Howie Mandel, 5/23-24; Judds, 6/5-11, Mac Davis, 6/12-18; George Benson, 6/19-21 and 6/23-26; Tony Bennett, 6/27-7/2; *Stateline Cabaret*: Frederic Apcar's "Fast Company," revue, thru 6/30; Dan Hicks and the Acoustic Warriors, thru 5/3; Bill Medley, 5/5-17; Al Stewart, 5/19-24; Big Bang Beat, 5/26-31, Bus Boys, 6/2-14; Southern Pacific, 6/16-21 Sweet Louis-Sonny

Charles: The Checkmates, 6/23-28; Pete Escovedo, 6/30-7/5

Harrah's Reno, 329-4422: *Headliner Room*: Neil Sedaka, thru 5/6; Alan King, 5/7-13; Smothers Brothers/Father Guido Sarducci, 5/14-27; Jim Nabors/Jerry Van Dyke, 6/4-17; Loretta Lynn, 6/18-24; *Convention Center*: Roy Clark/Mel Tillis, 5/28-6/3; Everly Brothers, 6/25-7/1 *Casino Cabaret*: Sutro, indf., Vital Signs, thru 5/11, Bill Medley, 5/19-24; Band on the Run, 6/3-15; Sweet Louie-Sonny Charles: The Checkmates, 6/16-21 Command Performance, 6/23-7/5; Indigos, 7/1-14

Harvey's, South Lake Tahoe, 588-2411 Ron Rose Sound, indf., Wizz Kidz, thru 5/10; Band on the Run, 5/11-31 702, 6/1-21 "SIN-sational," revue, indf., "Broadway Varieties," revue, indf., Steppen Stones, thru 5/10; Big Tiny Little, thru 5/17; Sonny Turner, 5/11-6/21 Rainbow, 5/18-31 Zella Lehr, 6/1-21 Terry

Gregory, 6/22-7/12; Coast to Coast, 6/22-7/19 **Hyatt Lake Tahoe**, 831-1111 Martha's Children, thru 5/10; Coast to Coast, 5/12-31 Leno and Company, 6/2-21 Dae Han Sisters, 6/23-7/19

John Ascuaga's Nugget, Sparks, 356-3300: *Celebrity Showroom*: Legends in Concert II, thru 5/27; Sha Na Na, 5/28-6/10; Donna Fargo, 6/11-7/2; Dixieland Jazz Festival, 7/3-5; *Casino Lounge*: Band on the Run/Vince Cardell, thru 5/10; The Wanted/ Motifs, 5/12-31 Garfin Gathering/Laura Vinson and Red Wyng, 6/2-21, Cameron Molloy and the Silver Weasel Express/Zella Lehr, 6/23-7/12

Mother Lode, Carson City, 883-0900: ETS, 5/12-31 Vanness Express, 6/2-21

Ormsby House, Carson City, 882-1890: Irish Express, thru 5/3; Rainbow, 5/5-17; Vermilion, 5/5-24; Big Tiny Little, 5/26-6/7; Steller Unit, 6/9-21 Passion, 6/23-7/5

Peppermill, Reno, 826-2121 Lelands/St. Romain, thru 5/3; Metro, thru 5/10; David Proud/Briefcase Blues Band, 5/4-10; Whiz Kids, 5/11-17; Tommy Bell, 5/11-31 Network, 5/18-31, Lelands, 6/1-14; Wrays, 6/8-28; Sutro, 6/15-21 Tommy Bell, 6/29-7/3; Lelands, 6/29-7/12

Reno Hilton, 785-7100: Paul Revere and the Raiders, 5/22-24 and 7/3-5

Reno Ramada, 788-2000: TBA

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: Tommy Bell/Proof, thru 5/3; St. Romain, 5/4-17; Wrays/Foxworth, 5/18-24; Gary Wade and the Bump, 5/25-6/7; David Proud, 6/1-14; Lelands, 6/15-28; Briefcase Blues Band, 6/22-28; Big Band Night every Tues. 7-11pm

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OUTINGS

Stewart Indian Museum and Complex

More than 50 stone buildings dot the grounds of what was, until 1980, the Stewart Indian Boarding School. Now on the National Register of Historic Places, three of the buildings house the Stewart Indian Museum. You can tour the Western Indian exhibits and browse the assorted Native American crafts for sale in the trading post. Museum hours are 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily. Stroll around the buildings to appreciate the native rock work, and picnic under the cottonwoods. On June 20 and 21, catch the museum's sixth annual Arts and Crafts Fair and Pow Wow. Stewart Indian Museum, Snyder Avenue and Crescent Drive, Carson City, 702-882-1808.

Songbird Garden

The warm weather of late spring brings an influx of birds to the Reno area. One place to observe a variety of species is the Song Bird Garden at Rancho San Rafael Park in Northwest Reno. This half-acre garden is designed to attract birds with its trees and shrubs, which were selected for shelter and food.—Deborah A. Mawhar

MUSEUMS

Comstock Firemen's Museum, 10-4 daily, May-Oct., Virginia City, 847-0717

Genoa Courthouse Museum, 10-4:30 daily, May-Oct., Genoa, 782-2940

Nevada State Museum, 8:30-4:30 daily, 600 N. Carson St., Carson City, 885-4810

Nevada State Railroad Museum, 8:30-4:30 Fri.-Sun. and holidays from May 22 to Oct. 31, 2180 S. Carson St., Carson City, 885-5168

Sierra Nevada Museum of Art, 10-4 Tues. and Thurs.-Fri., 10-8 Wed., 12-4 Sat.-Sun., 549 Court St., Reno, 329-3333

Warren Engine Co. No. 1 Museum, 1-5 Mon.-Fri., 111 N. Curry St., Carson City, 887-2200

Wilbur D. May Museum, 10-5 Wed.-Sun., 1502 Washington (Rancho San Rafael Park), Reno, 785-5961

ART GALLERIES

Abell House—1114 Curry St., Carson City, 10-5:30 Mon.-Fri., 10-4 Sat., monthly shows by local artists, 883-5300

Addi Galleries—Bally's Hotel, 9-11 Sun.-Sat, Red Skelton clown paintings, 323-1920

Artist's Co-op Gallery—627 Mill St., 10-5 Tues.-Sat., 1-4:30 Sun., 20 local artists' work, 322-8896

Austin Arts—1505 N. Carson St., Carson City, 9-5:30 Mon.-Fri., 9-1 Sat., visiting and local artists, 883-5531

Barnwood Is Beautiful—135 N. Sierra, 12-5 Mon.-Sat., antique Nevada photos lacquered onto barnwood, 329-6106

Casazza Art Gallery and Studio—2200 Thornwood, by appointment, watercolors, winterscapes, abstracts and florals, 322-0233

Custom Framing by Clark—135 W. Liberty, 10-4:30 Mon.-Thurs., 10-4 Fri., oils and watercolors, 329-1177

DeCurtis Art Gallery—Round Hill Mall, Zephyr Cove, 10-5 Mon.-Sat., Sun. by appointment, oils, watercolors, 588-7310

Donna's Gallery—1307 S. Carson St., Carson City, 11-5:30 Tues.-Sat., handcrafted gifts by local artists, 883-9132

Earth Window: American Indian Art—2001 E. Second St., 10-5:30 Sun.-Sat., Indian artwork, 786-5999

Fallen Leaf Gallery and Framery—907 W. Moana Ln., 10-6 Tues.-Fri., 10-4 Sat., Frank McCarthy western prints, 826-7477

Feats of Clay—20 C Hillcrest Dr., 10-5 Mon.-Sat., 60 western potters' works, 826-1131

Frame Shop—3366 Lakeside Dr., 9:30-5 Mon., 10-6 Tues.-Fri., 9:30-5 Sat., duck stamps and limited edition prints, 825-7117

Frame-Up—145 W. Plumb Ln., 10-6 Mon.-Fri., 10-3 Sat., Lyle Ball western paintings, Mary Chadwell miniatures, 329-7557

Great Basin Gallery and Frame—110 S. Curry St., Carson City, 9-6 Mon.-Sat., early Nevada hand-colored photos, oils, watercolors, bronze, ceramics, 882-8505

Hagar's Gallery—4056 Kietzke Ln., 9:30-5:30 Tues.-Sat., Phillippe Noyer, Luongo, Jerry Schurr, 826-0323

Hermitage Gallery—245 California Ave., 10-6 Mon.-Fri., 10-4 Sat., George Foster oils, graphics, limited editions, 786-6880

High Sierra Gallery—Del Webb's High Sierra, Stateline, 9-5 Mon.-Fri., 9-9 Sat.-Sun., oils and photos, Tahoe themes, 588-6707

Kate Hanlon Weaving Studio and Craft Gallery—45 Lockwood Rd., Sparks, call ahead, hand-woven clothing, custom chess sets, 342-0196

Lone Tree Frame and Gallery—1592 Esmeralda, Minden, 10-5:30 Tues.-Fri., 10-2 Sat., Mimi Jobe acrylics, 782-2522

Manville Gallery—School of Medicine, UNR, 8-5 Mon.-Fri., contemporary paintings and sculpture, 784-6063

Nevada Artists Assn. Gallery—449 W. King St., Carson City, 10-4 Mon.-Sat., primarily Nevada themes, 882-6411

Norris-Allovio Gallery—3430 Lakeside Dr., 10-5:30 Mon.-Sat., lithographs and fine art, 825-5000

Potlatch—324 Ski Way, Incline Village, 10-5:30

Sun.-Sat., Anthony Sinclair western oils, 831-2485

Powers Frameworks—2317 Kietzke Ln., 10-6 Mon.-Fri., 10-5 Sat., Roy Powers prints, Steve Davis photography, 825-8060

Riata Gallery—88 South C St., Virginia City, 10-5 Tues.-Sun., Olag Wiegthorst lithographs and western prints, 847-0502

Sierra Galleries—Caesars Tahoe, Stateline, 8:30-9:30 Sun.-Thurs., 8:30-11 Fri.-Sat., western and Tahoe paintings, 588-8500

Sierra Nevada Museum of Art—549 Court St., 10-4 Tues.-Sun., 10-8 Wed., visiting and Great Basin artists' works, 329-3333

Stremmel Galleries—1460 S. Virginia St., 8-5:30 Mon.-Fri., Sat. by appointment, leading American artists, 786-0558

Valle Art Gallery and Studio—213 E. Plumb Ln., 12-6 Mon.-Sat., watercolors by Esteban Valle, pottery by Kelsie Harder, 323-1887

Wildlife Galleries—565 California Ave., 9-5 Mon.-Fri., Nevada issue duck and trout stamps, 322-0323

XS Gallery—Western Nevada Community College, 2201 W. Nye Lane, Carson City, 8-10 Mon.-Thurs., 8-5 Fri., student displays, 887-3000

CASINO NOTES

•The public is invited to view a collection of branding tools and other mementos of early-day Nevada at **John Ascuaga's Nugget** in Sparks. The collection is on loan from the University of Nevada-Reno's Department of Agriculture.

•The **Eldorado Hotel** celebrates its 14th birthday May 26-28 by giving away cash prizes and serving complimentary champagne and birthday cake.

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•On April 1 Reno's **Club Cal-Neva** celebrated 25 years under the same ownership. Principal owner Leon Nightingale and partners Warren Nelson and Adrian Tolen are all in their 70s, but none plans to give up the club they brought to maturity. Nightingale says that the Cal-Neva was the first to install a \$1-million slot machine; first to introduce 22-ball keno; and first to offer profit-sharing to employees, in 1964.

•For those who want to learn the rules of craps, keno, and other games, the **Peppermill** is giving free daily gaming lessons. The lessons could come in handy if you decide to visit the Peppermill's new poker room, which opened last April upon the completion of its 15-story tower. For information on lessons, call their Tournament Hotline at 826-2121 ext. 7100.

•Six hotels and three restaurants in Nevada received four-star rankings in the 1987

Mobil Travel Guide. The hotels are **Caesars Palace** and **Golden Nugget** in Las Vegas, **Harrah's Reno**, **Hyatt Lake Tahoe** at Incline, and **Caesars Tahoe** and **Harvey's** at Stateline. The restaurants are the **Palace Court** at **Caesars Palace** in Las Vegas, **La Table Francaise** in Reno, and the **Summit** at **Harrah's Tahoe**.

TOURNAMENTS

May

Backgammon, 4/30-5/3, Caesars Tahoe, 588-3515

Blackjack, 5/1-3, 5/12-14, 5/26-28, 6/9-11 and 6/23-25, Peppermill, 826-2121 ext. 7100

Slots, 5/5-7, 5/15-17 6/7-8, and 6/18-21 Peppermill, 826-2121 ext. 7100

Blackjack, 5/16-17 Western Village, Sparks,

331-1069

Slots, 5/17-19, Eldorado, 786-5700

Video Poker, 5/19 and 6/16, Carson Valley Inn, Minden, 782-9711

Craps, 5/19-21, 6/2-4, and 6/30-7/2, Peppermill, 826-2121 ext. 7100

Blackjack, 5/26 and 6/30, Carson Valley Inn, Minden, 782-9711

Slots, 5/29 & 6/26, Club Cal-Neva, 323-1046

June

Keno, 6/5-7, Caesars Tahoe, 588-3515

Blackjack, 6/7-8, Eldorado, 786-5700

Seventh World Championship of Race Horse Handicapping, 6/10-13, Club Cal-Neva, 323-1046

Slots, 6/14-17, Caesars Tahoe, 588-3515

Northern Nevada All-Around: Blackjack, Craps, Roulette, Baccarat, 6/26-29, Peppermill, 826-2121 ext. 7100

COMING EVENTS

Summer Music Festival, 7/10-18, North Lake Tahoe, 916-583-7625

Music Festival, 7/16-19, Sand Harbor, Lake Tahoe, 916-583-9048

Carson Valley Heritage Days, 7/17-19, Minden and Gardnerville, 782-8144

Comstock Firemen's Muster, 7/18-19, Virginia City, 847-0503

Capitol City Fair, 7/23-26, Carson City, 885-4680

Reno Basque Festival, 8/1 Reno Livestock/Events Center, 322-5517

Hot August Nights, 8/1-8, Reno, 827-RENO
Nevada State Fair, 8/11-16, Reno Livestock/Events Center, 322-4424

Coors International Bicycle Classic, in Lake Tahoe area 8/12, in Reno 8/13, 827-RENO

World's 10th International Whistle-Off, 8/22-23, Carson City, 882-1565

Numaga Days Celebration, 9/4-6, Reno/Sparks Indian Colony, 389-2936

Great Reno Balloon Race, 9/11-13, Rancho San Rafael, 786-1131

Virginia City Camel Races, 9/12-13, 847-0311

National Championship Air Races, 9/17-20, Stead Airport, 10 miles north of Reno, 826-7500

SUCH A DEAL

During National Tourism Week, May 17 to 23, tourists and local residents will find a variety of special deals in the Reno-Tahoe area. For instance, visitors will get in free at the Wilbur D. May Museum, the Reno-Tahoe Gaming Academy, Fleischmann Planetarium, William F. Harrah Automobile Museum, and the Sierra Nevada Museum of Art from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Friday. Sneak previews will be offered at Great Basin Adventure, a theme park planned for Rancho San Rafael. Bally's Reno will admit two people for the price of one to "Hello Hollywood, Hello!" cocktail shows, and offer free backstage tours at 4 p.m. Monday through Thursday.

Send your tourism-related events to Nevada Magazine, Capitol Complex, Carson City, NV. 89710-0005. Acceptance of events is subject to editorial policy and availability of space.

Art Collectors Limited Edition Prints

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FRED
Boyce

WINNER OF 1987 NEVADA TROUT STAMP ART CONTEST



1987 NEVADA TROUT STAMP ART PRINT

This is the second year of the Nevada Trout Stamp Program. Last year's 1st edition prints are virtually all sold and have already increased substantially in value.

Fred Boyce is the first Nevada artist ever to win a Nevada Wildlife stamp art contest. His design, shown here, was selected from 52 national entrants. The painting depicts a Brook Trout going for an artificial fly — some of the most popular fly patterns used to catch trout are also in the painting.

Phone or write for FREE Color Brochure

BOYCE *Art Images*

NEVADA RECORD BOOK RAM

This is the first in a series of what is predicted to become a very valuable set of Limited Edition prints.

Fred was commissioned by the Nevada Wildlife Record Book Committee to paint each of the record book animals taken in Nevada. The committee plans to reproduce the paintings in the next edition of the Record Book. This painting is the first in the planned series of eight paintings, and depicts the Record Desert Ram taken in December 1982. The next paintings will be of the Mule Deer, Antelope, Mountain Lion, Elk, Mountain Goat, California Big Horn Sheep and Non-typical Deer

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RURAL HOT LINES

Nevada Commission on Tourism: 885-3636, or 800-237-0774 outside Nevada

Nevada Division of State Parks: District IV office in Elko: Northfork 6493; District III office in Fallon: 867-3001 District V in Panaca: 728-4467

For phone numbers of individual chambers of commerce see page 35.

COVERED WAGON Territory

E V E N T S

May

Winnemucca Crafters Show, 5/1-3, handmade crafts by locals, Nixon Hall, Winnemucca, 623-3518

Photo Exhibit, 5/1-27 Ansel Adams and Edward Weston photographs, Northeastern Nevada Museum, Elko, 738-3418

Winnemucca High School Rodeo, 5/2-4, rodeo grounds, Winnemucca, 623-5071

Professional Arts and Crafts Sale, 5/2-3, Cactus Pete's, Jackpot, 755-2321

Ruby View Pro Am, 5/4-5, Ruby View Golf Course, Elko, 738-6212

"You're A Good Man, Charlie Brown," 5/7-9, Elko High School spring musical, Elko Convention Center, 738-7281

North American Pony Express Championship Races, 5/9, calcutta on Fri., 1pm race on Sat., team penning held after the race, rodeo grounds, Wells, 752-3540

Spring Horse Show, 5/9, rodeo grounds, Winnemucca, 623-6355

Cabin Fever Reliever Dance, 5/15-16, square and round dancing, refreshments, Grammar School No. 2, Elko, 738-3666

Simonsen Members Senior Championship, 5/16-17 open to women over the age of 45 and men over 50, Ruby View Golf Course, Elko, 738-6212

First Annual Fishing Festival, 5/15-17, tackle exhibits, artwork, barbecue, Cactus Pete's, Jackpot, 755-2321

Old Timers Team Roping, 5/22-25, rodeo grounds, Winnemucca, 623-3587

Pigeon Races, 5/23, release of 4,000 homing pigeons that will fly to the San Francisco Bay Area, Bay Cities Racing Pigeon Assn., Cactus Pete's, Jackpot, 755-2321

Invitational Softball Tournament, 5/23-24, Lovelock, 273-7144

Pentecostal Festa, 5/30-31 53rd annual, dinner, dance, Mass, and auction at Meisekothan Hall, I.D.E.S. Society of Lovelock, Lovelock, 273-2566

Gem, Mineral, and Art Show, 5/30-31 Cactus Pete's, Jackpot, 755-2321

June

Wasatch Team Ropers, 6/4-7 prizes, arena, Wendover, 664-2221

Mule Show and Parimutuel Races, 6/5-7 games, concessions, county fairgrounds, Winnemucca, 623-5071

Denio Barbecue and Old-Fashioned Get Together, 6/6, team roping, barrel racing, kids' rodeo, and dance, Denio, 941-0383

Horseshoe Pitching Tournament, 6/6-7, Cactus Pete's, Jackpot, 755-2321

Elko High School Rodeo, 6/6-7 fairgrounds, Elko, 738-3616

Elko County Amateur Golf Tournament, 6/6-7 Spring Creek Golf Course, 10 mi. south of Elko, 753-6331

Elko Mining Expo '87, 6/11-13, surface mine rescue, headframe contest, small equipment rodeo, ore mucking, single and double jack drilling, seminars, and demonstrations, open to the public, free admission, forum for all aspects of mining, Elko Convention Center, 738-4091

Annual Great Western Flea Market, 6/13, State Line Casino, Wendover, 664-2221

Northeastern Nevada Quarter Horse Assn., 6/13, free admission, 9am, fairgrounds, Elko, 738-3616

Rye Patch Dam Tour, 6/13 and 6/20, wear sturdy hiking shoes, meet at dam, between Lovelock and Winnemucca, Rye Patch State Rec. Area, 538-7321

Winnemucca Basque Festival, 6/13-14, on Sat. parade and sporting events including weight-carrying, wood-chopping, *soka tira* (tug-of-war), and sheepdog working, Basque dances and music, at fairgrounds; on Sun. 11am Mass followed by picnic, *irrintzi* (warning cry) contest, and *jota* (dance) at City Park, Winnemucca, 623-3277

Lovelock High School Rodeo, 6/13-14, Lovelock, 273-2469



Grab your beret, fill your bota, and join the fun during the Winnemucca Basque Festival, June 13-14. Later this summer Elko, Ely, Reno, and Las Vegas host similar festivals.



In celebration of the man who founded their town, Tonopah residents will throw their annual party in Jim Butler's name May 22-25. Among the popular mining contests is the mucking event (above).

Golf Tournament, 6/14, open to public, Ruby View Golf Course, Elko, 738-6212

Red Mountain Indian Pow Wow, 6/19-21, competitive ceremonial dancing, Indian stick games, princess contest, Fort McDermitt Rodeo Grounds, McDermitt, 532-8259

Slot Tournament, 6/19-21 Silver Smith Casino, Wendover, 664-2231

Mountain Trail Appaloosa Show, 6/20, Spring Creek Horse Palace, 10 mi. south of Elko, 753-6587

Silver State Stampede, 6/20-21, professional rodeo, fairgrounds, Elko, 738-3493

Volunteer Fire Dept. Father's Day Barbecue, 6/21, Paradise Park, Paradise Valley, 623-5071

Wells Bustin' and Dustin' PRCA Rodeo, 6/26-28, 6pm barbecue on Fri., 11am parade followed by 1pm and 5pm rodeo performances on Sat., 1pm rodeo on Sun., rodeo grounds, Wells, 752-3384

Elko Firefighters Truck and Tractor Pull, 6/27

fairgrounds, Elko, 738-3211

Hot Summer Nights, 6/27-28, '50s theme with classic car rally, street dance, Silver Smith Casino, Wendover, 664-2231

Elko Classic, 6/27-28, round-up of Corvettes, Elko Convention Center, 738-4091

Lamoille Country Fair, 6/28, arts, crafts, food, Women's Clubhouse, Lamoille, 753-6757

July 4th Rodeo, 7/3-5, annual adult and junior rodeo, pow wow, parade, horseshoe and softball tournaments, barbecue, fireworks, Owyhee, 98 miles north of Elko, 757-3211

COMING EVENTS

Western States Hollering Contest, 7/4, Jackpot, 755-2321

Twin States Stampede, 7/4-5, McDermitt, 532-8240

National Basque Festival, 7/4-5, Elko, 738-7135

Lovelock's Frontier Days, 8/1-2, 273-7213

Western Art Roundup, 9/4-5, Winnemucca, 529-0452

Tri-County Fair, 9/4-6, Winnemucca, 623-5071

PONY EXPRESS Territory

EVENTS

May

Special Occasion Faire, 5/8-9, handcrafted gift items, demonstrations, free, Fallon Community Center, 867-3576

Fort Churchill to Lahontan Canoe Trip, 5/9, bring canoe, life jackets, provisions for a full day, meet 9am at picnic area of Fort Churchill State Historic Monument, 577-2345

Sentimental Journey, 5/9-10, train trip from

Join us for great times on:

May 23 & 24 High School Rodeo

June 20 & 21 Horse Show

July 4 Old Fashioned Fourth & Barbecue

July 18 & 19 VFW Rodeo

August 21 & 23 County Fair & Horse Show

Visitors: This ad is your free pass to these events.



Contact

Eureka!

County Chamber of Commerce

P.O. Box 14

Eureka, NV

89316

Phone: (702) 237-5484

Hazen to Sacramento's railroad museum and Old Town, \$220 per couple includes round-trip rail fare and motel, Hazen Bar, U.S. 50-A, Hazen, 867-3066

Hidden Cave Tours, 5/9 and 23, meet 9:30am, County Museum, Fallon, 882-1631 or 423-3677
String Belongs Concert, 5/17 string group, Hazen Bar patio, U.S. 50-A, Hazen, 867-3066

Hot Air Balloon Launch, 5/17, barbecue, launch by Truckee Meadows Balloon Club members, Out of Town Park, Fernley, 575-4459

Ely Centennial Grand Ball, 5/23, hors d'oeuvres, live music, bar, convention center, Ely, 289-3368

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

Wild Bunch Stampede, 5/23-25, rodeo and stock auction, Fallon, 423-6006

Railfair '87, 5/23-25, parade, steam-up of locomotive No. 40, train rides, spike-driving contests, slag races, badger fight, Indian handicrafts display, antique autos, museum tours, events at Nevada Northern Railway Depot and throughout town of Ely, 289-2085

Carnival, 5/30, In Town Park, Fernley, 575-4053

June

White Pine Rodeo, 6/5-6, rodeo and dance, fairgrounds, Ely, 289-8513

Covered Wagon Train Ride, 6/5-12, to celebrate bicentennial of U.S. Constitution, festivities start at the Fernley Historical Railroad Depot with a square dance and barbecue on 6/5; wagon train rolls out of Fernley at 8am on 6/6 and goes through rural Nevada including Silver Springs, Fort Churchill, Dayton, and Virginia City with nightly entertainment and barbecues, contact Fernley Chamber of Commerce, 575-4459



Patriotic Hawthorne citizens celebrate their 37th annual Armed Forces Day May 14-17

Fort Churchill Celebration, 6/13, living history demonstrations, battle reenactments, displays, 11am-4pm, Fort Churchill State Historic Monument, 557-2345

Ely Centennial Fashion Show, 6/13, 289-8261

Hazen Days, 6/13-14, on Sat. flea market, displays, food; on Sun. 10am parade, antique cars, horseshoes, barbecue, street dance, Hazen, on U.S. 50-A, 867-3066

Hidden Cave Tours, 6/13 and 27, meet 9:30am, County Museum, Fallon, 882-1631 or 423-3677

Gridley Days, 6/19-20, fiddlers' contest, sack of flour race, breakfast, free RV parking, Austin Park, Austin, 964-2200

Nevada State High School Rodeo Finals, 6/19-21 fairgrounds, Ely, 289-3368

Eureka Horse Show, 6/20-21, rodeo grounds, Eureka, 237-5314

American Bashkir Curly Horse Show, 6/26-28, fairgrounds, Ely, 289-4228

Concert, 6/27 6:30pm, free, Lahontan Valley Concert Choir and Reno Concert Band, high school, Fallon, 423-3871

July Fourth Celebration, 7/4, 10am parade, breakfast, deep-pit barbecue, sack race, horseshoes, dunk-a-punk, fish pond, greased pig contest, dance, fireworks, Out of Town Park, Fernley, 575-4459

Eureka's July Fourth Celebration, 7/4, parade, fireworks, Eureka Volunteer Fire Dept., 237-5263

Jaycees' July Fourth Celebration, 7/4, Ely, 289-8877

July Fourth Fireworks, 7/4, Yerington, 463-3721

July Fourth Celebration, 7/4, parade, barbecue, games, fireworks, Lions Park, Battle Mountain, 635-2193

Austin Volunteer Fire Dept. Dance, 7/4, live music, refreshments, Austin, 964-2440

Independence Day Weekend Celebration, 7/4-5, steam-up of locomotive No. 40, Nevada Northern Railway Depot, Ely, 289-8877

COMING EVENTS

All-Indian Stampede and Pioneer Days, 7/17-19, Fallon, 423-3968

White Pine Basque Festival, 7/18-19, Ely, 289-4789 or 289-8586

Ely Centennial Celebration, 7/31-8/2, 289-3368

Great Basin National Park Dedication, 8/15-16, dedication ceremonies on 8/15 at park, with related festivities in Ely and Baker more events on 8/16 in Ely, 289-4653

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THE GHOST TRAIN of OLD ELY



The "Ghost Train" of old Ely will make five runs on only the following dates in 1987:

May 23-24-25, July 4-5, Aug. 1-2, Sept. 5-6-7 and 26-27

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

On your trip to or from California, Utah or Colorado come by way of Ely. Savor the real west and step back into time as you explore the "Best Preserved" shortline in North America. Visit the Railroad Museum of the Nevada Northern Railway and experience the wonderful sight, sound and smell of a real oldtime steam railroad. Relive the early days of a western mining camp and ride the legendary Nevada Northern behind No. 40, a handsome Baldwin ten-wheeler dating from 1910.

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.

White Pine County Proudly Welcomes the Great Basin National Park!

It's always been here, part of the scenic beauty we call home, but now the secret is out! So join us and see for yourself what else we have to offer:

- Operating Historic Railroad
- Pony Express Days Horse Races
- Charcoal Ovens State Monument
- Unlimited Recreation
- W.P. County Museum
- Cave Lake State Park
- Weekly Special Events



PEAKS & PINES...SAGE & SUN

Most of all, we offer lots of space, sunshine, and serenity in White Pine County, the Home of the Great Basin National Park.

Write for a calendar of special events and other information

WHITE PINE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

636 Aultman Street Ely, Nevada 89301

(702) 289-8877

PIONEER Territory

EVENTS

May

Armed Forces Day, 5/14-17 Hawthorne, 945-5896

Jim Butler Days, 5/22-25, parade, state drilling and mucking championships, chili cook-off, stock car races, liars' and beard contests, arts and crafts, 10-km. and 2-mile runs, barbecues, horseshoes, dances, shoot-outs by the Blue Canyon Gang, Tonopah, 482-3859
Caliente Homecoming and Art Show, 5/22-25, concert, foot races, horseshoes, softball, barbecue, demolition derby, gymkhana, Caliente, 726-3129

Tonopah Monument Dedication, 5/23, in honor of World War II servicemen, 2pm, Central Nevada Museum, Tonopah, 482-9676

June

Trail Ride, 6/5, with the Las Vegas 4-H Club, public is invited, Caliente, 726-3101
Motocross Racing, 6/14, Pioche, 962-5207
Delamar 250, 6/20, 250-mile off-road race, barbecues, in and around Caliente, 459-0317
Manhattan Volunteer Fire Dept. Barbecue and Dance, 6/20, 10am flea market, 5pm barbecue, 6pm-midnight dance with the Middle of the Road Band, Manhattan, 487-2344
Burro Days, 6/20-21, Pioche, 962-5207
Steve Owen Memorial Liar's Race, 6/21, anything that floats except racing craft are allowed, Walker Lake, 945-LAKE
Lincoln County Rodeo Series, 6/26-27 8 rodeo events, Caliente, 728-4502

Fourth of July Celebration, 7/4, barbecue and fireworks, Alamo, 725-3382
July Fourth Celebration, 7/4, 10am parade, horseshoes, gymkhana, races, fireworks, Caliente, 726-3748
July Fourth Celebration, 7/4, children's parade, games, watermelon eating contest, firemen's water fight, Beatty, 553-2721
July Fourth Celebration, 7/4, booths, games, deep-pit barbecue, stock car races, dance, fireworks, Pahrump, 727-5658

COMING EVENTS

Heritage Days, 7/30-8/1, Pioche, 962-5544
Goldfield Treasure Days, 7/31-8/1 485-9957
Lincoln County Fair and Rodeo, 8/14-17 Panaca, 962-5123
Pioche Labor Day Celebration, 9/4-7 962-5811
The Big Picture, 9/6, Lincoln County photograph, Panaca, 962-5544
Pahrump's Harvest Festival, Fair, and PRCA Rodeo, 9/18-20, 727-5791

SHOW GUIDE

Covered Wagon Territory

Elko: Commercial Hotel, 738-3181, Red Lion, 738-2111 Stockmen's Hotel, 738-5141
Jackpot: Cactus Pete's, 755-2321 Bruce Hauser, 5/4-17; Caudle Brothers, 5/18-24; David Proud, 5/25-31, Orlando, 6/1-14; Wright Brothers, 6/15-28; Michael John, 6/29-7/12; Horseshu Casino, 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 Live entertainment nightly
Winnemucca: Winners Hotel-Casino, 623-2511

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

Pioneer Territory

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

OUTINGS

A Preserved Town and Its Fish

About 180 million years ago large fish-lizards called ichthyosaurs swam in a sea that covered much of Nevada, and today their fossils can be seen at the Berlin-Ichthyosaur State Park near Gabbs. These animals were *really* big—as long as 70 feet and as heavy as 60 tons. With 30 of them at the park, it is the largest known fossil deposit of prehistoric ichthyosaurs. On the way to the Fossil Shelter you pass through the ghost town of Berlin, an early 20th-century mining town where a number of buildings are preserved. The park is located 23 miles east of Gabbs and 134 miles north of Tonopah off State Route 361.

A Not-So-Trivial Contest

Nevada trivia buffs have a chance to win three silver bars while cruising U.S. Highways 95 and 93 this summer. The Silver Trails Trivia Contest includes two sets of 10 questions, one for

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travelers on Highway 95 and another for Highway 93. Contestants only need to answer one set of questions. The answers are supplied by businesses in the communities on the roads, in hopes that motorists will stop to find what each settlement has to offer. The prize bars of silver—worth a total of \$1,000—are from Silver Peak, the small mining town 56 miles west of Tonopah. All correct entries will be placed in a special drawing in which one winner will be picked August 2 at Goldfield Treasure Days. A brochure listing the questions is available at towns along the way or by contacting Silver Trails Trivia Contest, Box 213, Goldfield, NV. 89013.

Angler's Hideaway

One hundred miles north of Elko, in the northernmost part of the state, lies a little-known fishing spot on the Duck Valley Indian Reservation. Sheep Creek Reservoir is a high-desert lake full of rainbow trout for the taking. Since it's on the reservation, you'll need a tribal permit to go fishing. You can pick up a permit on your way to Sheep Creek at Tremewans store in Mountain City on State Route 225. The reservoir is located 20 miles north of Mountain City. A one-day fishing permit is \$4; other fees vary. There are campsites along the shore for \$3 per night with tables, barbecue pits, outdoor privies, and an RV dumpsite. The reservoir, which has a boat ramp and dock, is open through October 31. For more information write: Shoshone-Paiute Tribes, Fishing Dept., Box 219, Owyhee, NV. 89832 or call 702-757-3161

MUSEUMS

Admission to most museums in rural Nevada is free. Phone ahead for special show dates.

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, 10-4 Sat., 1-4 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

ART GALLERIES

Gallery—2051 North St., Ely, 10-5 Mon.-Fri., Sat. and Sun. by appointment, pastels, watercolors, and oils by local artists, 289-4750

Northeastern Nevada Museum—1515 Idaho St., Elko, 9-5 Mon.-Sat., 1-5 Sun., photos, pen and ink, sculpture, and oils on Nevada themes, 738-3418



Train rides will be given during Nevada Northern Railway's Railfair and season opening May 23-25 in East Ely. There also will be steam-ups of historic locomotives and mining contests.

The Office Gallery—178 S. Maine St., Fallon, 8-5:30 Mon.-Fri., 8:30-5 Sat., original artwork of all kinds, 423-6078

Planet X Pottery—Box 4, State Highway 81-447 outside of Gerlach, hours vary, call ahead; original pottery, 557-2500

characteristics of Nevada's first national park. The winning design will be unveiled at the park's dedication ceremonies on August 15. Logos should be black and white (no color) and submitted on white 8-1/2-by-11-inch paper. For more information write: Great Basin Logo Contest, Nevada Commission on Tourism, Capitol Complex, Carson City, NV. 89710.

Send your tourism-related events to Nevada Magazine, Capitol Complex, Carson City, NV. 89710-0005. Acceptance of events is subject to format and availability of space.

LOGO UPDATE

The deadline for the Great Basin National Park logo contest has been extended to July 1. To participate, individuals should design a logo that they think best represents the unique

T · O · N · O · P · A · H



Come Help Us Celebrate Our 17th Annual Jim Butler Days

Memorial Day Weekend
May 22, 23, 24 and 25, 1987

Four Day Celebration with events and fun for everyone.

Costume and Western Dances
Parade

State Championship Mining Contests

Stock Car Races

Liars and Beard Contests

Arts & Crafts Show

10k and 2 mile runs

Shootouts by the Blue Canyon Gang

Arm Wrestling

Barbeques & Chili Cookoff

Horseshoe Pitching

40 Prize Raffle

(1st Prize 100oz Silver Bar)

Memorial Day Services in Goldfield & Tonopah

Join us for the Festivities

For Information and entry blanks contact:
Tonopah Chamber Of Commerce & Mines
P.O. Box 869
Tonopah, Nevada 89049
702/482-3859

Highways To Summer Holidays

Nevada's endless horizons lead to ghost towns, glitter, and mountains of summer pleasure.

By Richard Moreno

From the time the first tourists wagon scouts and trappers—braved its wide open stretches, Nevada has always appealed to people with a sense of adventure.

It's the kind of place where a person can spend a day communing with the ectoplasmic inhabitants of a crumbling ghost town and a couple of hours later be dining in a fancy gourmet restaurant or catching a star in a casino showroom.

One of the best things about exploring the Silver State is the fact that it can accommodate any vacation a person

could want. If you want quiet and solitude, there are rustic bed and breakfasts serving up scrumptious homemade victuals in rural corners of the state. If your idea of roughing it is room service, there are dozens of elegant hotels waiting to pamper you like a visiting foreign potentate.

In either case, the fun is in the exploration.

Take Nevada's most famous attraction, Las Vegas. From the moment you arrive you know you're not in Kansas with Toto. Las Vegas is a place where the lines between reality and illusion have blurred. It is somehow appropriate that one of the first things you notice when you climb off the plane at McCarran

International Airport are the giant chrome palm trees. In Las Vegas, it really doesn't matter if it's live or if it's Memorex.

Even driving to your hotel can be a visual feast. At night, multi-colored neon and incandescent lights jostle for your attention. Buildings become billboards, while billboards become buildings. It's no wonder that the hottest show in town includes elephants and tigers that disappear by magic.

Las Vegas is one of America's great beach resort cities—without the ocean. Part of the fun is just walking around in the tropical summer evenings soaking up the electric, eclectic atmosphere and indulging in that

hidden pleasure known as people-watching.

At night in downtown Las Vegas, the people-watching reaches Olympic levels. Amid the crowd on Fremont Street a couple in blue jeans and T-shirts sneak a candid look at a dressed-to-the-nines, bouffant-haired beauty strutting arm-in-arm with a tall blonde man with one red shoe. They look back.

Fremont is the most surreal street in the world. Above your head a giant neon cowboy thumbs a ride. Across the street rows of yellow and red lights jump like agitated bumble bees, frantically

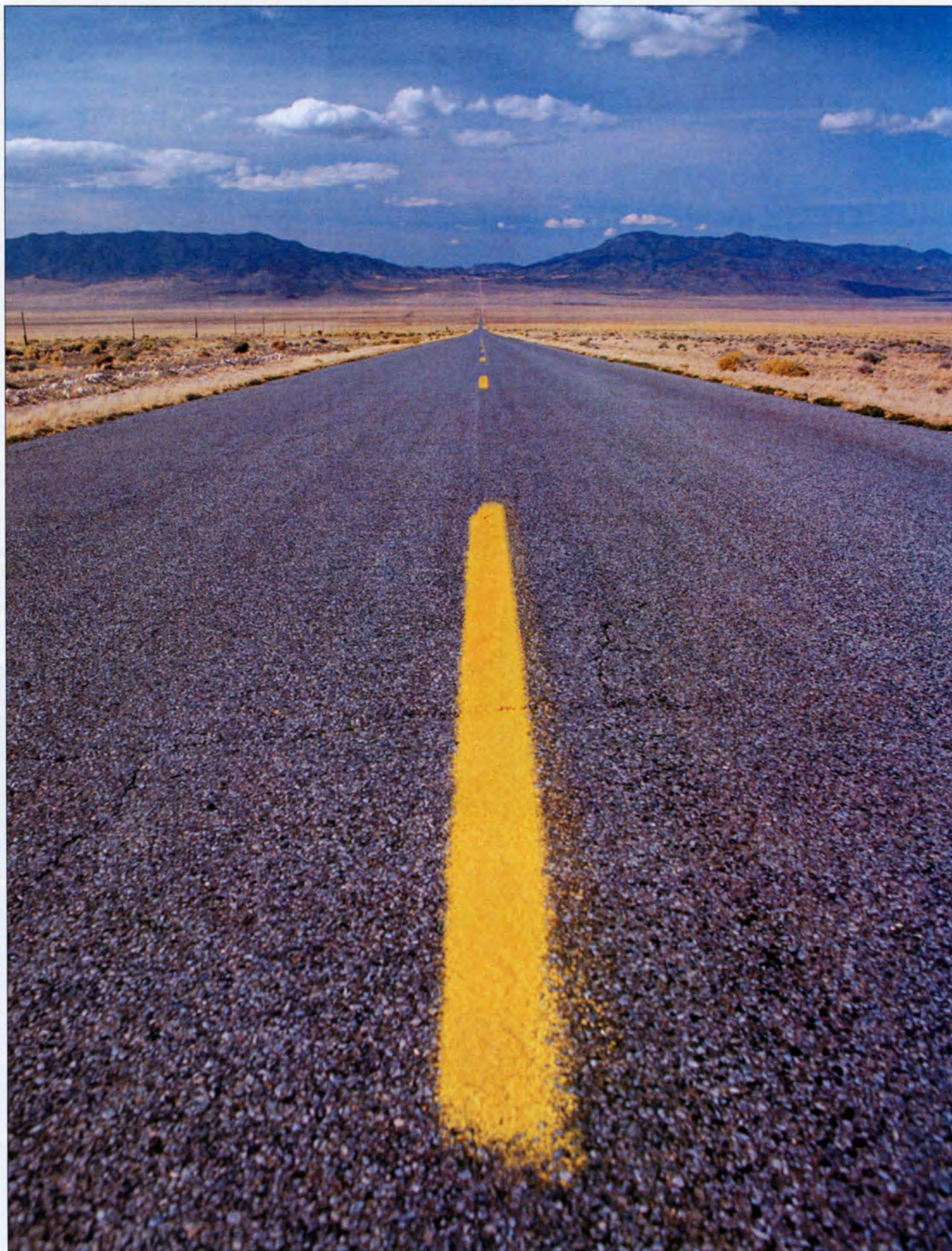
blinking for your attention. It's so bright in this place called Glitter Gulch that you can easily sit on a curb at midnight and read a detective novel.

The next best free show in town can be seen by driving or walking the Strip. For first-time visitors, each brightly-lit hotel is the most outrageous thing they've ever seen—until they pass the next. The Strip is a cornucopia of fantasies—the tropical island, arabesque temples, the glitter of Hollywood's golden years, a Roman coliseum, electric palm trees, Mississippi riverboats, Oriental palaces, and even an icon to man's exploration of space.

Of course, if you would rather toast marshmallows than champagne, there



Washoe Lake, framed by the Sierra, is a paradise for catfishers and windsurfers.



Dubbed "The Loneliest Road in America" by Life magazine and the 1987 Nevada Legislature, Highway 50 across Nevada offers travelers soothing panoramas, unique Great Basin topography, and a string of historic rural towns.



Just 25 miles east of Las Vegas, Lake Mead offers refreshing summer diversions to everyone from kids to kayakers.

are lots of places in Southern Nevada where you can have an entirely different vacation. An example is Red Rock Canyon, an oasis of dramatic, fertile, multi-colored cliffs just 20 miles west of the Strip.

Further destroying the stereotypical view that Southern Nevada is nothing but sand and slot machines is nearby Spring Mountain Ranch State Park. Here you'll find lush, green picnic grounds on a ranch once owned by Howard Hughes. For a unique desert landscape, Valley of Fire State Park, 55 miles northeast of town, offers hiking and camping among formations of strange and fascinating wind-carved red sandstone.

One way to combine adventure with all the conveniences of home is to take a houseboating trip on Lake Mead or Lake Mohave. Spend the day drifting along in the warm sun, soaking up rays, and at night forget about trying to sleep comfortably on hard ground.

At the other end of the state, the Reno-Lake Tahoe area was ranked number one in the U.S.A. for outdoor recreation fun last year by Rand McNally.

Just as Las Vegas is a man-made wonderland, Lake Tahoe illustrates nature's powers. It's hard not to be impressed by the perfectly crafted mountains that ring this crystal blue lake. Or the water. Mark Twain is frequently quoted when people write about Lake Tahoe. (In fact, Mark Twain is frequently quoted when it comes to writing almost anything about Nevada.) Still, his words about the lake ring true: "So singularly clear was the water that where it was only 20 or 30 feet deep the bottom was so perfectly distinct that the boat seemed floating in the air."

Like Las Vegas, both Reno and Lake Tahoe have plenty of hotels that offer gaming and comfortable rooms and suites. Reno's Virginia Street compares favorably to the electricity and excitement of Fremont Street or the Strip. This is prime people-watching turf. Like moths, visitors are attracted to the bright lights of downtown Reno, especially on warm summer nights.

Amid the lights is a one-of-a-kind Virginia Street attraction: the Arch. There actually have been three Reno arches, and a fourth is being erected this July. But part of the Reno experience is driving or walking under the Arch. It's like kissing the Blarney Stone or going to the top of the Empire State Building—something that just has to be done. For a time this spring Virginia Street will be Arch-less while the third, which brightened downtown since 1963, makes way for the fourth. But there is a hidden blessing for the span's fans, who will be able to take rare before-and-after photographs as the scene changes.

Like the many ranchers and miners

who use Reno as a base for supplies and entertainment, visitors can fan out from the Biggest Little City in the World to explore Western Nevada. Besides Lake Tahoe, there's Carson City, home of the State Capitol, the Nevada State Museum, the State Railroad Museum, and a historic district with attractive 19th-century homes. Genoa, Nevada's oldest permanent settlement, is a quiet, historic village in the shadow of the Sierra Nevada that has a hot-springs resort and the state's (allegedly) oldest saloon. Virginia City is one of the best remaining old-time mining towns in the country. Despite fires and tapped-out mines, Virginia City has survived with dignity intact. Assay offices have been replaced by candy stores, but the sidewalks are still wooden and the bars are lively. Virginia City prides itself on its ability to show a good time.

Further out, just beyond the glitter of the cities, there is an entirely different Nevada where the pace of life is a tad slower, the air clearer, and the roads lonelier.

Nevada is the most mountainous state in the country, and there are dozens of ranges where you can hike for days or weeks if you so desire. In the Toiyabe and Humboldt national forests, you can hike through long stretches of aspen and pine, then camp beside a peaceful creek or relax on a cliff

*Further out, just beyond the
glitter of the cities, there is an
entirely different Nevada
where the pace of life is a tad
slower, the air clearer, and
the roads lonelier*

overlooking a lush meadow. There's something purifying about sitting around a campfire there, breathing crisp mountain air and not once thinking about Oliver North.

Elko in Northeastern Nevada has been called the last true cow town in America. As home of the Cowboy Poetry Gathering every winter (and the National Basque Festival every summer), it is a place where western boots and hats are de rigueur and there are plenty of places to buy them.

Just outside Elko begin the Ruby Mountains, which may be the state's most picturesque range. Rising dramatically from the valley floor, the range's impressive peaks appear to be painted on a cloudless canvas. Take a drive through scenic Lamoille Canyon and go hiking up to one of its high,

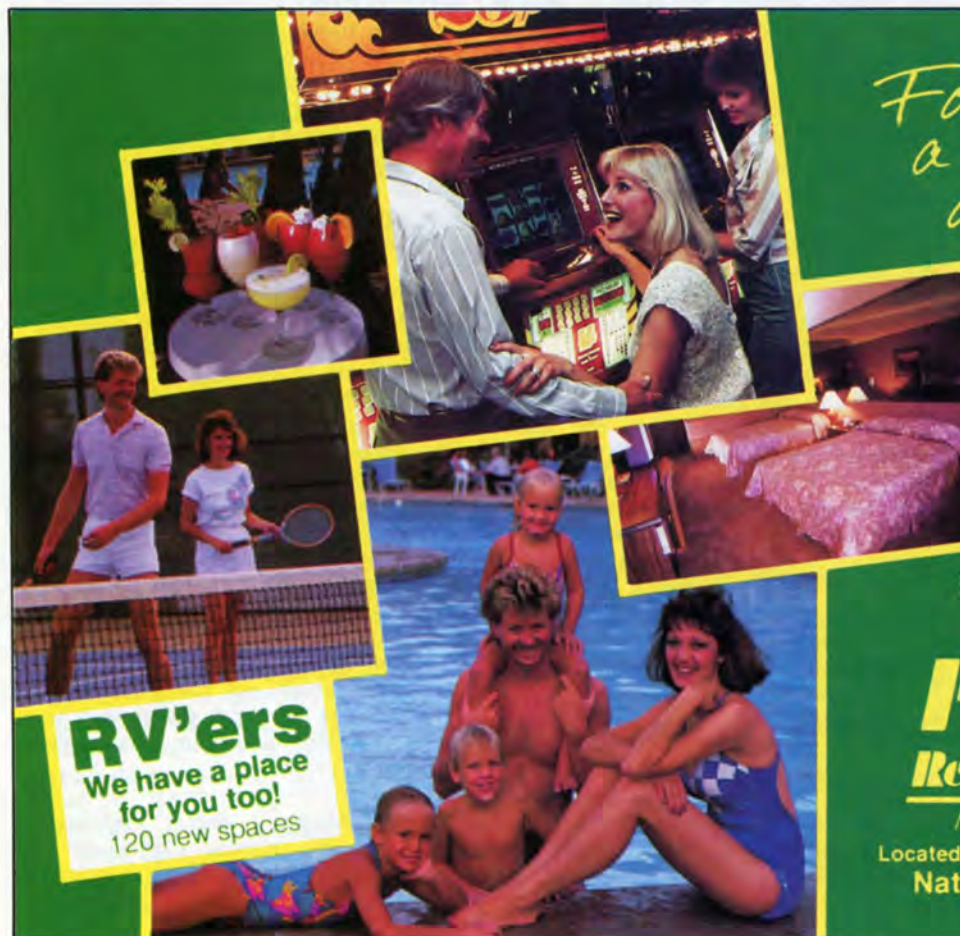
wilderness lakes. Later you can stop by the small country town of Lamoille for dinner.

Equally remote and peaceful refuges can be found in places like Unionville, halfway between Lovelock and Winnemucca. The Pioneer Garden bed and breakfast offers comfortable accommodations in the former mining camp, which is best known for being briefly the home of a tinhorn prospector named Sam Clemens. Luckily, he later became a reporter in Virginia City, where he took the name Mark Twain and found his life's work.

Perhaps no other part of Nevada is more rural than U.S. Highway 50, which stretches across Central Nevada from Utah to California. Last year, *Life* magazine called Highway 50 from Ely to Fernley "The Loneliest Road in America." While it may not be quite that unpopulated, it certainly doesn't resemble the Santa Monica Freeway at rush hour.

When traveling Highway 50, don't forget to pick up an official Highway 50 Survival Kit at any of the chambers of commerce along the route. The kit contains a state map, lists of the route's services and attractions, and a special map that can be validated in each town and redeemed for a survival certificate and bumper sticker.

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At the top of Lamoille Canyon south of Elko, the Ruby Crest Trail offers a 40-mile footpath through some of the most picturesque country in Nevada.

ties along Highway 50 are Austin and Eureka, two historic mining towns that haven't changed much since the turn of the century. Both have many century-old buildings, including Austin's three churches and the Eureka Courthouse and Eureka Sentinel Museum. A unique adventure would be a few days' stay in either community to absorb its historical character.

At the eastern end of the Loneliest Road is Ely, a former copper mining town that is experiencing a rebirth as the gateway to the new Great Basin National Park. Ely is the home of the Nevada Northern Railroad Museum (see page 48), where on selected summer weekends you can ride the museum's antique steam locomotive and rail cars, all restored to their former glory.

Miles of open desert highway will take you to two other historic towns, Tonopah and Goldfield, in the west-central part of the state. Eighty years ago, they were thriving silver and gold camps. Both remain looking glasses through which you can see Nevada's past and present.

In 1907 Tonopah was a blossoming metropolis with dozens of silver mines, two newspapers, several banks, lodging houses, and more bars than churches. Tonopah is a historical treasure, its hill-sides littered with aging mine head-frames and tailing piles.

Goldfield, 25 miles south, was the largest city in Nevada in 1908. Probably no other town illustrates the cyclical nature of the mining industry better than Goldfield. By 1908 major silver strikes had helped push Goldfield's population to more than 20,000. Within two decades,

the mines were played out and the population dwindled. Today, Goldfield is one of the state's best semi-ghost towns. The population has grown back to a few hundred and there are plenty of old buildings to photograph and interesting bars to explore.

Like those old-time miners, people who love a good challenge seem to be attracted to Nevada's wide open spaces. It's not unusual to drive along one of the state's loneliest roads (Highway 50 isn't the loneliest, by far) and come upon bicycle riders pedaling across the state. It's amazing that you can reach the summit of a remote mountain in the Santa Rosas, thinking you're the first person in decades to conquer it, and then feel your mountain-man self-image deflate when you spot a Sierra Club summit book.

Still, Nevada is a land filled with vacation challenges. Water enthusiasts can canoe the Colorado River or raft the Truckee. Backcountry aficionados can find plenty of rugged hiking trails through untouched mountain ranges. It's always a thrill to hike over a ridge and stumble onto a hidden alpine lake or mountain stream that hasn't been defiled by beer cans.

From snowy mountains to Fremont Street, you might say that's the essence of a Nevada vacation: cloud watching, crowd watching, and your own choice of adventure. □

Richard Moreno, public information officer for the Nevada Commission on Tourism, is trying to decide whether to vacation at Gabbs or Gerlach this summer.

Getaway Hot Lines

A roster of the state's chambers of commerce, visitors centers, and tourism agencies, plus state parks and national forests.

When planning your Nevada vacation, be sure to write or phone these one-stop sources for information on scenic attractions, hotels, motels, sports, recreation, and historic sites. The chambers of commerce (C of C) will be happy to send you their brochures and guides to local services. If you plan to stop by a chamber office, chances are it will be open in the daytime Monday through Friday. The area code is 702 throughout Nevada. All 800 numbers are toll-free.

STATEWIDE INFORMATION

Nevada Commission on Tourism: Capitol Complex, Carson City, NV 89710; 885-3636, or 800-237-0774 outside Nevada

TOLL-FREE HOT LINES

Carson City Tourism Authority: 800-634-8700 outside Nevada

Elko Convention and Visitors Authority: 800-248-ELKO outside Nevada

Incline Village/Crystal Bay C of C: 800-GO-TAHOE outside Nevada

Lake Tahoe Visitors Authority: 800-822-5922 anywhere in U.S.

Las Vegas 24-Hour Room and Show Hot Line: 800-423-4745 outside Nevada

Reno-Sparks Convention and Visitors Authority: 800-FOR-RENO outside Nevada.

Tahoe North Visitors and Convention Bureau: 800-824-8557 in Calif., or 800-822-5959 outside Calif.

Jackpot Visitor Information: 800-821-3935 in Nevada, 800-821-1103 outside Nevada

LAS VEGAS AREA

Boulder City C of C: 1497 Nevada Hwy., Boulder City, NV 89005; 293-2034

Downtown Progress Association of Las Vegas: 302 E. Carson, Suite 808, Las Vegas, NV 89101; 382-6397

Henderson C of C: 100 E. Lake Mead Dr., Henderson, NV 89015; 565-8951

Henderson Convention Center: 200 Water St., Henderson, NV 89015; 565-2171

Las Vegas C of C: 2301 E. Sahara Ave., Las Vegas, NV 89104; 457-4664

Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority: 3150 Paradise Rd., Las Vegas, NV 89109; 733-2323

Latin C of C: 829 S. Sixth St., Las Vegas NV 89101; 385-7367

Laughlin C of C: Box 2280, Laughlin, NV 89029; 298-2214

Moapa Valley C of C: Box 361, Overton, NV 89040; 397-2160

Nevada Black C of C: Box 4850, Las Vegas, NV 89106; 648-6222

North Las Vegas C of C: 1023 E. Lake Mead Blvd., North Las Vegas, NV 89030; 642-9595

RENO-TAHOE AREA

Carson City C of C: 1191 S. Carson St., Carson City, NV 89701; 882-1565

Carson City Tourism Authority: 1937 N. Carson St., Suite 232, Carson City, NV 89701; 883-7442, or 800-634-8700 outside Nevada

Carson Valley C of C: Box 1200, Minden, NV 89423; 782-8144

Greater Reno C of C: 133 N. Sierra St., Reno, NV 89503; 329-3558

Reno-Sparks Convention and Visitors Authority: 4590 S. Virginia St., Reno, NV 89502; 827-7600, 827-RENO, or 800-FOR-RENO outside Nevada

Reno-Sparks Indian Colony Tribal Council: 98 Colony Rd., Reno, NV 89502; 329-2936

Reno Tahoe Visitors Center: 135 N. Sierra St., Reno, NV 89501; 348-7788

Sparks C of C: B St. and Pyramid Way, Sparks, NV 89431; 358-1976

Virginia City C of C: V&T Railroad Car, Virginia City, NV 89440; 847-0311

LAKE TAHOE

Incline Village/Crystal Bay C of C: Drawer CS, Incline Village, NV 89450; 831-4440, or 800-GO-TAHOE outside Nevada

Lake Tahoe Visitors Authority: Box 16299, South Lake Tahoe, CA. 95706; 916-544-5057 or 800-822-5922 anywhere in U.S.

North Lake Tahoe C of C: Box 884, Tahoe City, CA. 95730; 916-583-2371

Sierra Ski Marketing Council: Box 9137 Incline Village, NV 89450 for free skier's guide

Tahoe-Douglas C of C: Box 7139, Stateline, NV 89449; 588-4591

Tahoe North Visitors and Convention Bureau: Box 5578, Tahoe City, CA. 95730; 916-583-3494, 800-824-8557 in Calif., 800-822-5959 outside Calif.

RURAL AREAS

Austin C of C: Box 212, Austin NV 89310; 964-2200

Battle Mountain C of C: Battle Mountain, NV 89820; 635-2171

Beatty C of C: Box 946, Beatty, NV 89003; 553-2225

Caliente C of C: Box 553, Caliente, NV 89008; 726-3129

Churchill County C of C: 100 Campus Way, Fallon, NV 89406; 423-2544

Dayton C of C: Box 408, Dayton, NV 89403; 246-3435

Elko C of C: 1601 Idaho St., Elko, NV 89801; 738-7135

Elko Convention and Visitors Authority: 700 Festival Way, Elko, NV 89801; 738-4091, or 800-248-ELKO outside Nevada

Ely's Bristlecone Convention Center: Box 958, Ely, NV 89301; 289-3720

Eureka County C of C: Box 14, Eureka, NV 89316; 237-5484

Fernley C of C: Box 1606, Fernley, NV 89408; 575-4459

Goldfield C of C: Box 225, Goldfield, NV 89013; 485-9957

Great Basin C of C: Baker, NV 89311; 234-7302

Jackpot Visitors Information: Box 508, Jackpot, NV 89825; 755-2321, 800-821-3935 in Nevada, 800-821-1103 outside Nevada

Lincoln County C of C: Box 553, Caliente, NV 89008; 726-3209

Lovelock C of C: Box 821, Lovelock, NV 89419; 273-7213

Mason Valley C of C: Box 327 Yerington, NV 89447; 463-3721

Mineral County C of C: Box 1635, Hawthorne, NV 89415; 945-5896

Pahrump Valley C of C: Box 42, Pahrump, NV 89041; 727-5800

Pioche C of C: Box 51, Pioche, NV 89043; 962-5840 (hours: 11am-3pm weekdays)

Tonopah C of C: Box 869, Tonopah, NV 89049; 482-3859

Wells C of C: Box 307 Wells, NV 89835; 752-3355

Wendover USA Visitors/Convention Bureau: Box 2468, Wendover, NV 89883; 801-665-7721

White Pine C of C: 636 Aultman, Ely, NV 89301; 289-8877

Winnemucca C of C: 48 W. Winnemucca Blvd., Winnemucca, NV 89445; 623-2225

Winnemucca Convention and Visitors Bureau: 50 W. Winnemucca Blvd., Winnemucca, NV 89445; 623-5071

STATE AND NATIONAL PARKS

Nevada Division of State Parks: Capitol Complex, Carson City, NV 89710; 885-4387

Death Valley National Monument: Death Valley, CA. 92328; 619-786-2331

Great Basin National Park: Baker, NV 89311; 234-7331

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

MORE CAMPING AND HIKING

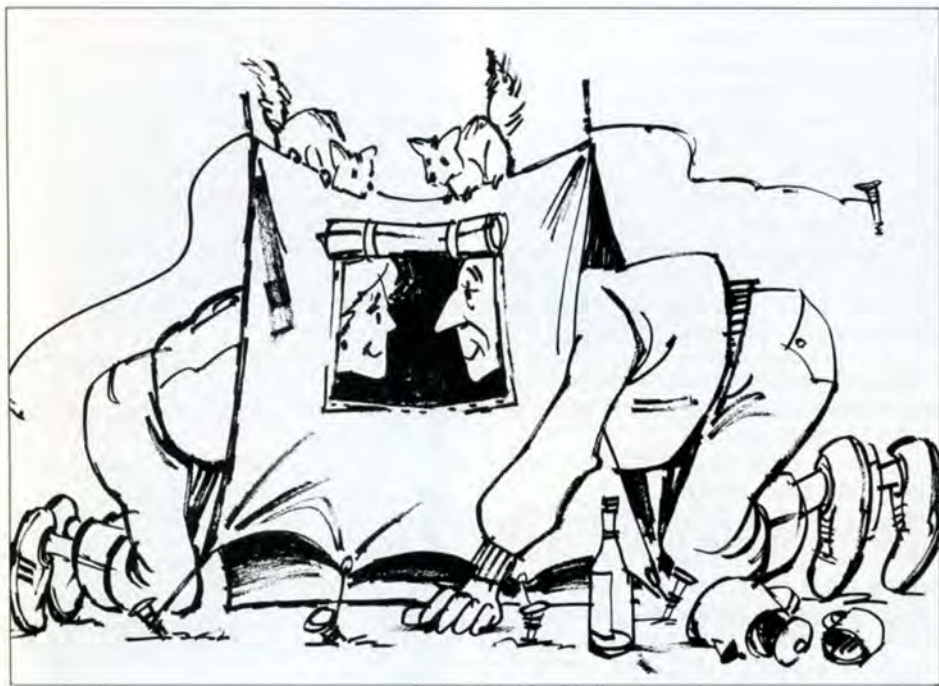
Bureau of Land Management: Box 12000, Reno, NV 89520, 784-5496; Box 26569, Las Vegas, NV 89126, 388-6403; 1523 Hot Springs Rd., Suite 300, Carson City, NV 89701, 882-1631; Box 831, Elko, NV 89801, 738-4071

Humboldt National Forest: 976 Mountain City Hwy., Elko, NV 89801, 738-4071

Toiyabe National Forest: 1200 Franklin Way, Sparks, NV 89431, 784-5331; 550 E. Charleston, Las Vegas, NV 89104, 388-6255 (for Mount Charleston area)

FISHING AND HUNTING

Nevada Dept. of Wildlife: Main: 1100 Valley Rd., Reno, NV 89503, 789-0500; Southern Nevada: State Mail Complex, Las Vegas, NV 89158, 385-0285



Past Tents

Or how to turn a romantic campout calamity into a smashing success.

By Carolyn L. Pierpoint

The sky was red-gold with the first light of day. Frank busily loaded the camping gear into the car while I double-checked the list to make sure we hadn't forgotten anything. When Frank sneezed and then announced that he thought his back had just gone out, I should have known. Our romantic escape for a long weekend of camping at Lake Tahoe was doomed.

We left early and made it through the

L.A. interchange without facing too much traffic. The long day of driving from Southern California passed uneventfully, broken only by Frank's frequent stops to take aspirin. Still, his back got worse. It was midafternoon when we caught our first glimpse of the wide, dark blue water of Lake Tahoe. By this time Frank's main concern was not the purple mountains' majesty or breathing the clean, pine-scented air,

but where to find the nearest chiropractor.

Instead of checking into the campground, we hit the nearest phone booth. Frank found a chiropractor open on Saturday much to our joint relief. After about an hour in a waiting room thumbing through dog-eared magazines, I was rejoined by a sore but straight husband ready to tackle the joys and romance of the great outdoors.

Soon we pulled into the campground and found our reserved campsite. It was nestled among the tall pines and had a beautiful view of the lake. The air was crisp and fresh. We heard jays scolding the squirrels that scampered about as we began unloading the car. Raising the tent was more of a project than we had foreseen. The ground was hard and rocky and nearly impossible to penetrate. It didn't seem that cold, but after watching Frank pound a stake to no avail, I was convinced that Lake Tahoe must be in a permafrost zone. After repeated efforts, none of the stakes would hold.

"Boy this is as romantic as hell," Frank announced, perspiring heavily despite the rapidly cooling late afternoon air.

We finally wedged a good-sized rock between each stake and tent loop, solving the problem.

Next we very carefully put the air mattresses into the tent and unrolled the sleeping bag. Yes, bag, singular, not bags, plural. I thought both bags had been zipped together. That dim shape up in the rafters of the garage at home must have been the other sleeping bag. Well, it looked as if it was going to be a cold night anyway.

Rather than unpack all the cooking gear and try to cook and eat by flashlight, we decided we'd grab a bite at one of the casinos. First we hiked over to the restrooms, where we discovered the running water was cold only, and was it cold! Vigorously refreshed, we headed for the bright lights of Stateline.

We had an excellent and reasonably priced dinner, and on the way back Frank stopped at the liquor store and bought a bottle of wine. He thought it would be great to sit and sip and watch the stars, rarely seen so brightly in Southern California. I figured his back was hurting more than he was letting on, and a little fortification would help us both with the cold night ahead.

After much rummaging in the car we discovered that we did not have a corkscrew. Naturally, Frank had gotten good wine, not cheap stuff with an easy-to-open top. By this time the temperature had dropped considerably. It was getting chilly.

Frank attacked the cork with his pocket knife and finally managed to shake out a measure of wine, laced with bits of cork, into tin cups. We chewed more than drank the contents of the

*Tired, cold, and half drunk,
we made a beeline for the
tent....with a few minutes of
effort, we were able to locate
each other's lips for a gritty
goodnight kiss.*

bottle as the air was now freezing and stargazing had lost its appeal.

Tired, cold, and by now half-drunk, we made a beeline for the imagined warmth of the tent. As I was trying to get situated in the sleeping bag, Frank began crawling into the tent, bumping the front pole on the way. The front half of the tent collapsed, requiring him to reset the stakes and pole, which he did in a fit of muttering. He then began trying to wedge himself into the sleeping bag with me. Ten minutes later we were both in the sleeping bag and, miraculously, the tent was still standing. With a few more minutes of coordinated effort, we were able to locate each others lips for a gritty goodnight kiss. After spitting out a few more pieces of cork, we both fell sound asleep.

I awoke the next morning feeling much like the bottom olive in a gallon jug. After many minutes of wrestling with the zipper on the sleeping bag, which probably had a piece of cork stuck in it, Frank and I managed to wriggle out of our cocoon.

Brought suddenly wide awake by the frosty morning air, we decided to forego the pleasure of instant coffee prepared in a majestic setting. Instead we jumped in the car, prayed for heat, and raced to the nearest coffee shop. After all, who wouldn't give up pure arctic air for warmth and freshly brewed coffee? I've heard people kill for less.

After three cups of steaming hot coffee and very little deliberation, we drove back to the campground. We took down the tent—an easy job as it was on the verge of collapsing anyway—and loaded all our gear back into the car in record time.

Leaving the campsite to the jays and squirrels, we drove to the casino area. We immediately checked into one of the hotels and ended up with a room with an even better view of the lake. We took hot showers, called room service for breakfast, and settled into the cozy comfort of stereo music and a king-sized bed. It wasn't as poetic as the great outdoors, but on that weekend it was definitely more comfortable. □

Carolyn L. Pierpoint and her husband Frank now live in Sparks.

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THE GREAT NEVADA OUTDOORS

GREAT BASIN NATIONAL PARK

A traveler's guide to America's newest national park.

By Pete Bradley

The Great Basin National Park, signed into being on October 27, 1986, is the first new area to be made a national park in the lower 48 states in the last 15 years. It's also the first for Nevada, which has been home to a national recreation area, Lake Mead; a national monument, Death Valley; and national forests and wildlife refuges, but never a national park.

Our newest national treasure has been a long time in the making. Wheeler Peak, the park's 13,063-foot quartzite crown, was already 50 million years old when small bristlecone pine seedlings emerged from its rocky soil, later to be shaped by 5,000 years of wind and moisture and, in the process, became the oldest living things on earth. Through time, geological and evolutionary forces joined to produce a startling landscape and great variety of life forms in this region between Ely and the Utah border. That is why the Wheeler Peak area, out of an interior-drainage province covering parts of six states, was chosen as the Great Basin National Park—because of its rich diversity.

As a prime representative of the Great Basin environment, the park harbors seven of eight biotic provinces found in the region. Salt desert shrublands in the valleys give way to sagebrush steppes and pinyon-juniper woodlands. Higher still, mahogany stands and spruce-fir and bristlecone-limber pine forests thrive in ever more forbidding environments. Finally, timberline at 11,000 feet marks the transition from stunted forest to alpine

tundra and talus. From the mountain's upper reaches, perennial streams lined with aspen and chokecherry flow with meltwaters locked in Great Basin watersheds.

These ecosystems today remain largely undisturbed, and together they support a great variety of wild plants and animals.

Among the area's endemic animals is the Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep, once locally extinct but reintroduced seven years ago by the Nevada Department of Wildlife. Built for quick and sure-footed climbing in steep terrain, the bighorns with their heavy musculature and cloven hooves can elude even the king of Great Basin carnivores, the stealthful mountain lion.

Porcupines, evolutionary leftovers that predate the age of mammals, over time have opted to stand up to their predators rather than run away. These big, slow-moving rodents feed on the bark-protected tissue of conifers and willows and are second only to mule deer as the preferred food of lions. Some lions, battle-scarred from their encounters with quick-tailed porcupines, spend the rest of their lives with quill-infested muzzles, reminders of meals they might rather forget.

Sharp-shinned hawks, smallest of the region's bird-eating hawks, pair up and begin defending nest territories in May. Male sharpies must hunt throughout the day, catching up to 15 sparrow-sized birds between dawn and dusk to feed the hatchlings and their mother.

For thousands, possibly millions of

years, these species and dozens of others have lived in the South Snake Range, a range typical of the north-south trending mountains in the Great Basin, born of great subterranean turmoil, the result of two giant crustal plates pulling apart. Much of Wheeler's parent rock is metamorphosed limestone (marble) and sandstone (quartzite), layers of prehistoric inland seas that are now exposed nearly three miles above their original elevation. Mountain glaciers of the Pleistocene ripped Wheeler apart, leaving behind U-shaped valleys and crystal-clear paternoster lakes. An ice field clings to the northern face of Wheeler as either a remnant or progenitor of the world's recurring ice ages.

The first archaeological evidence of humans inhabiting the area dates from about 400 A.D., when people of the Fremont Culture, a blend of Basketmaker and Pueblo, migrated north into Eastern Nevada and Utah. A farming people, they diverted streams for irrigation. By 1300 A.D. these people had left the region, possibly victims of extended drought, and soon were replaced by seed-gathering Shoshone groups. In Spring and Snake valleys, the Shoshones' population density reached one person per 6.3 square miles, or 83 families in all—three times the present-day population. There were several villages near what is now the town of Baker in Snake Valley, where permanent streams were valued sources of water.

In mast years, when pine nuts were plentiful, families would join in



*Looking toward Wheeler,
Stella Lake is
pictured in a reflective
mood. This scene
is near the trail
to the top.*



Top: The park has three campgrounds along the scenic drive, but some campers prefer grassier settings. Bottom: Hikers can admire bristlecones higher up.



communal nut-gathering expeditions up the mountain's lower flanks. However, because mast years were irregular, the people also depended on the mahogany-aspen and spruce-fir forests, ranging from 7,000 to 9,000 feet, to provide seed-bearing foods such as wheat grass, serviceberry, and chokecherry.

Wild game was important to the Shoshones, particularly smaller animals such as black-tailed jackrabbits and golden-mantled squirrels. Far more difficult to hunt were the big game species. During the bighorn rut lone hunters would conceal themselves and thump logs to attract rams. Some years pronghorn antelope were herded in large communal drives into enclosures built in the foothills below Wheeler. Before a drive, antelope shamans would

sing for five nights in an effort to capture the animals' souls.

Today Wheeler Peak has a similar shamanizing effect on travelers who stop to admire its 7,000-foot rise from the valley floor, and it is easy to understand why white pioneers were quick to settle in the mountain's cradle.

It is fitting that one of the earliest white settlers in Snake Valley gave the area national recognition not for its economic promise but because of its exceptional beauty. Absalom Lehman arrived in 1868 and by the 1880s was spending most of his time guiding people through the ethereal travertine caverns that came to be known as Lehman Caves. Other ranchers settled in the valley, and their descendants own and run ranches there to this day.

After Lehman Caves became a national monument in 1922, naturalists grew to appreciate the area's other unique characteristics. There had been word of a glacier, but it was not well known until explorers Weldon Heald and Albert Marshall found it in 1955. In an article in *Nevada Highways and Parks* three years later Heald described their encounter with the ice field after descending Wheeler's northern face: "When we laboriously passed the portal-like cliffs and looked into the depths beyond, we both shouted at once. For there, cradled in the gigantic rock basin, was not just merely ice but an active glacier. All the signs of moving ice were readily apparent—bergschrunds, crevasses, and fresh moraines. True, this was no giant river of ice we had



A storm lends a dramatic backdrop to Mount Jefferson Davis (left) and Wheeler Peak (right). The park's glacier is located below Wheeler on the other side of the ridge. In some places the snow stays on the mountains all year long.

found—triangular in shape, its greatest dimension probably does not exceed 2,000 feet—but the wonder is that it is still there at all in the midst of the Nevada desert.”

Like the glacier, many things are slow to change in this land of interior drainage. Life styles and landscapes seem fixed in time.

As erosion wears away at Wheeler's massive summit, the mountain keeps just ahead of the game, its fault blocks still rising, its valleys still descending, providing some assurance that the South Snake Range will be there when the Appalachians have washed away. And Wheeler's bristlecone pines, seemingly immortal, stand in ageless defiance of the climatic changes that eliminated most of the species from the Great

Basin. Once climax forests that reached down to the shores of great glacial lakes, the bristlecones made an unprecedented elevational retreat as drought in the region intensified. Today the trees exist only on the mightiest Great Basin peaks.

Just as Wheeler has weathered climatic shifts, it also has experienced changes in ownership. Once the mountain belonged to no one. Then it came under the jurisdiction of the U.S. Forest Service. Later, Lehman Caves became a national monument, and now the National Park Service administers the park's 77,109 acres. With the change in administration comes some changes in land use. No hunting, trapping, new mining, and tree cutting are allowed in the park. All animals, flowers, and trees

are protected. But valid mining claims can continue to be worked, and cattle can still graze in the park as lawmakers have tried to accommodate those century-old traditions.

Still, the mountain remains a national treasure, a symbol of an even greater national treasure, the Great Basin. Besides helping to preserve the area, the park will encourage us to explore and understand one of nature's most diverse works. It also offers hope that this sense of appreciation will reach far beyond the borders of the park and bring respect and honor to the entire Great Basin. □

Pete Bradley is an outdoor writer from Ruby Valley.

(Continued)



Top: The Sunken Garden Room in Lehman Caves. Bottom: Lexington Arch.

WHAT TO DO IN THE PARK

Great Basin National Park has many attractions for hikers, campers, photographers, and even travelers who hate to leave their cars.

At 77,109 acres the park is about the same size as Arches National Park in Utah, or about one-tenth the size of Yosemite. That makes Great Basin one of the more compact national parks, but its elevational range, nearly 7,000 feet, is surely one of the greatest. The lowest elevation is about 6,200 feet on the park's east side; the highest is Wheeler Peak at more than 13,000 feet.

Aside from the new entrance and

directional signs, visitors may not notice major changes as a result of the switch from U.S. Forest Service to National Park Service. It's likely there will be more interpretive programs such as hikes and talks and perhaps a little more patrolling by the park's 15 full-time and seasonal rangers, but no one will be looking over your shoulder. You'll be hard pressed to find crowds and traffic jams, too. Before the park's creation, about 50,000 people drove into the area each year. That number probably will rise, but there should be ample elbowroom, especially on weekdays.

Here are some things to look for:

Visitor Information: Make your first stop at the park's visitor center, which is in the old headquarters at Lehman Caves. At the visitor center you'll find exhibits, brochures, and advice. The building is open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily.

Services: The visitor center also has a gift shop and a cafe, which are open during the same hours from April through October. Five miles east at the small ranching town of Baker you can find a restaurant, motel, saloons, and gas. Ely, the seat of White Pine County, is 68 miles west and has all services.

Park Fees: The only fees charged to visitors are for camping (\$4) and cave tours (\$1-\$2).

Wheeler Peak: Nevada's second-highest mountain at 13,063 feet, Wheeler can be climbed by way of a moderately difficult five-mile trail that leaves Wheeler Peak Campground and climbs past Stella Lake and timberline. The views from the top are outstanding. Plan this to be an all-day hike. Good time *not* to take this walk: during an electrical storm.

Bristlecones: Wheeler Peak's 150-acre bristlecone forest can be reached from the same campground by a 1.5-mile trail that winds around Teresa Lake. Bristlecones here and on other Great Basin peaks are considered the oldest living things on earth, some being more than 4,000 years old.

Lehman Caves: Discovered about 1885 and protected as a national monument in 1922, Lehman Caves is one of the most elaborately-decorated limestone-solution cave systems in the West. A two-thirds-mile paved trail winds among rooms filled with stalactites and stalagmites. Guided tours last about 90 minutes and are conducted each day. Groups are taken into the caves at least hourly between Memorial Day and Labor Day weekends and four or more times daily the rest of the year. Because the temperature inside averages 50 °F, be sure to bring a sweater or jacket. Fees are \$2 for adults age 16 and over, \$1 for U.S. seniors 62 and over (the required Golden Age passports are available free to U.S. seniors), \$1 for ages 6 to 15, and free for youngsters 5 and under. Children under 16 must be accompanied by an adult on the tour.

Scenic Drives: The key route is the 12-mile Wheeler Peak Scenic Drive, which starts near the visitor center and winds about 3,000 feet up the mountain past the park's three campgrounds. Great views of valleys and other ranges extend north and west. The drive ends at Wheeler Peak Campground, elevation 10,000 feet. Elsewhere, three graded dirt roads lead to scenic points. The easiest road is the one to Baker Creek, which is fine for passenger cars when conditions are dry. Snake Creek's road is suitable for high-clearance two-wheel vehicles.

The road toward Lexington Arch can be rough; four-wheel drive usually is recommended. But before taking any of the three, ask at the visitor center about road conditions.

Hikes: Good Forest Service trails have served hikers here for many years. Destinations include Stella and Teresa lakes, the bristlecone forest, and Wheeler Peak; Baker Lake via Baker Creek; Johnson Lake via Snake Creek; and the photogenic Lexington Arch. At the visitor center you can get advice and buy topographic maps.

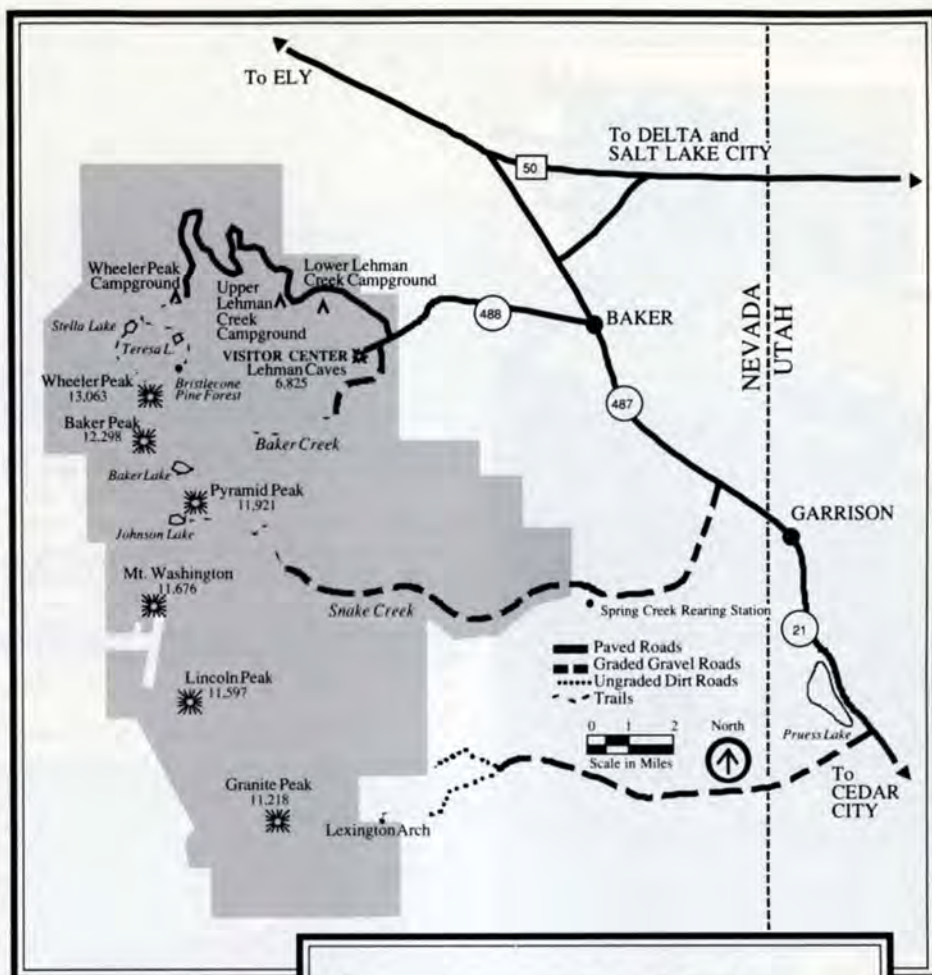
Camping: The park's three campgrounds are located on the main road. The first area, Lower Lehman Creek Campground, sits at 7,200 feet and has 11 sites, including some pull-throughs for RVs. The NPS tries to keep this area open all year. Less than a mile up the mountain, at about 7,500 feet, is Upper Lehman Creek Campground. It has 24 campsites set in two sections among pines and firs. From there you can take a beautiful four-mile hike on a marked trail to the third camping area, Wheeler Peak Campground, which is set at 10,000 feet at the top of the road in a bowl surrounded by spruce, aspen, and limber pine. The five-mile trail to the peak starts at the campground, as do paths to the lakes and bristlecones. Each campground has drinking water, picnic tables, and barbecues. The overnight fee is expected to remain \$4. Hikers also can camp in the backcountry; check with rangers for more information.

Fishing: The park's creeks hold some rainbows and brookies. Anglers over age 11 will need a Nevada fishing license and trout stamp, which are available in Ely and Baker.

Spring Creek Rearing Station: Each year about 200,000 trout are reared from fingerling to planter size at the Spring Creek Rearing Station, operated by the Nevada Department of Wildlife and located on the Snake Creek road about a mile east of the park boundary. You can stop to see the rainbows (and this year, some browns) swimming in the station's 19 raceways or, if you arrive early on a Monday morning, watch the fish being loaded for hauling to such spots as Wild Horse Reservoir, Ruby Marsh, and Cave Lake.

Nearby Parks: Between Ely and Great Basin National Park are two Nevada state parks. Cave Lake has good trout fishing and camping; to get there, go eight miles south of Ely, then east about seven miles on the Success Summit Road. Ward Charcoal Ovens, a historic state monument, features six large stone ovens built in the 1870s and used to make charcoal for nearby mine smelters. The turnoff is five miles south of Ely, followed by 11 miles of bouncy dirt road to the ovens.

In Baker: This small town five miles east of the park entrance in Snake Valley has a restaurant, two bars, a motel, gas



GREAT BASIN NATIONAL PARK

The park's dedication has been scheduled for Saturday, August 15, and the public is invited. The morning ceremonies at Lehman Caves will be followed by a barbecue, and Ely and Baker will be hosting events all weekend. For room reservations in Ely, call 702-289-4653.



station with convenience store, and post office. Eight miles from Baker at the state line on U.S. 50, the Border Inn has a restaurant, motel, gas station, and convenience store.

In Ely: The biggest town in the area, Ely (pop. 5,000) is 68 miles west of the park. Ely's attractions include the Nevada Northern Railway Museum, the County Museum, a nine-hole golf course, a public pool in nearby McGill, two RV parks, and numerous restaurants and motels. (See page 46 for Ely's Centennial Celebration.)

More Information: To get the park's

brochure and other information, write Great Basin National Park, Baker, NV 89311, or call 702-234-7331. For additional material, contact the Nevada Commission on Tourism, Capitol Complex, Carson City, NV 89710; call 702-885-3636 or, from outside Nevada, 800-237-0774 toll-free. Other good sources: White Pine Chamber of Commerce, Box 239, Ely, NV 89301, 702-289-8877; and Great Basin Chamber of Commerce, Baker, NV 89311, 702-234-7302.—David Moore

(Continued)

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THE IDEA / DARWIN LAMBERT

The idea of creating a national preserve in the Wheeler Peak area isn't brand-new. It dates back at least to 1922, when Lehman Caves became a national monument. The notion of a larger national park has had strong support from conservation and park groups since 1959. The only problem over the years was getting all the members of Nevada's Congressional delegation to go along with the idea. And this time we did it.

One of the park's first backers was Tonopah mining man C.C. Boak, who reportedly got lost on Wheeler during a storm and discovered the beauty of the glacier and other little-known features of the area. At Boak's request, Senator Key Pittman of Nevada offered a bill in 1924 to protect about 10,000 acres, but it did not pass.

In 1955 Weldon Heald of Tucson confirmed the presence of the Wheeler glacier and helped cause a stir in conservation circles.

However, the original and most sustained push for the present park came from the citizens of Ely and specifically from those of us on the White Pine Chamber of Commerce and Mines, of which I was manager. Led by president Elwin Robison, who now lives in Reno, in 1955 we began a concerted campaign to create the park, which we believed would be a great tourist attraction for Eastern Nevada. Elwin and I developed the notion of a park that would represent the whole region and thus fit the National Park Service's mandate. So we came up with the name Great Basin Range National Park, thinking of Wheeler as the "Range." A few months later Heald made his trip to the glacier, and he joined us in urging the Interior Department to back the park.

While waiting for Interior's response, we White Piners heard reports of an impressive stone arch and massive-trunked bristlecone pines. However, Forest Service rangers said Wheeler's bristlecones did not grow more than 18 inches thick. They had heard of an arch "big enough to ride a horse under" but considered it a tall tale.

When the tall tales proved to be solid reality we spread the word, with photographs. We organized the Great Basin Range National Park Association (eventually the Range was dropped), enrolling members throughout Nevada and 17 other states. We made a 28-minute movie to be shown to civic groups and on TV. We got the state's new Department of Economic Development to print a brochure and endorse the park. In 1959 a key boost



The park's high country trails.

came when Interior's influential Advisory Board on National Parks declared the area was "worthy of national park status."

That endorsement helped keep the cause alive even after the failure of park bills in the early and mid-1960s. The park's backers then included Governor Grant Sawyer, Lieutenant Governor Paul Laxalt, Senators Alan Bible and Howard Cannon, and even President Johnson. But after listening to the complaints of local ranchers and miners, Representative Walter Baring forced the matter to be tabled. Still, the Forest Service was able to designate 28,000 acres as Wheeler Peak Scenic Area.

Although Congress took no action, the park remained on the National Park Service's list of top candidates. Then in 1985 Representative (now Senator) Harry Reid introduced a bill creating new wilderness areas in Nevada. The park idea was revived in the House and added to his bill. Reid's measure called for a 174,000-acre park, which was approved by the House. A 44,000-acre size was preferred by Senators Paul Laxalt and Chic Hecht and Representative Barbara Vucanovich, but they and Reid worked out a compromise.

In the end the park was approved at 77,109 acres, and those tall tales we heard about 30 years ago are now protected. □

Darwin Lambert lives in Luray, Virginia. He attended high school in Ely and later served as Ely Daily Times editor, Chamber manager, state assemblyman, president of the Great Basin National Park Association, and trustee of the National Parks and Conservation Association. He is working on two books.



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Aultman Street in early 1900s had the landmark Riepe Building and Northern Hotel on left.

Ely Comes of Age

A proud Nevada town's first 100 years.

By Jack Fleming

Ely an upbeat Eastern Nevada town struggling with a deflated economy is not letting any thoughts of missed fortune get in the way of its 100th birthday celebration this summer.

Ever since Kennecott Mineral Company closed its mines at Ruth and reduction plant at McGill, everyone except the community's faithful hometowners considered Ely a down and outer.

Skeptics should ask Bob Swetich and Jim Bath, native sons and co-chairmen of the Ely Centennial Committee, to find out just how lively Ely can be. "The whole community is behind the Centennial," says Swetich with the conviction of a prospector who knows he's found paying ground. "Everyone wants a piece of the action. It's bound to be a big year."

Although the celebratory mood will last all year long, the major Centennial events are scheduled for the weekend of July 31-August 2.

Before then, enthusiastic citizens and visitors will have a chance to warm up with a number of preliminaries. The big



Pioneer William N. "Billy" McGill was a big man in county politics and chairman of Ely's Railroad Day in 1906.

kickoff will be the Grand Ball at the Bristlecone Convention Center on May 23, when Xi Tau Chapter of Beta Sigma Phi Sorority welcomes celebrators. The rules of dress are simple: Each guest should wear a costume suited to his or her favorite era over the last 100 years.

As the sounds of music and revelry thus pervade the town at the start of Memorial Day Weekend, May 23-25 also will hear the steam-up of locomotive No. 40 of the Nevada Northern Railway Museum. There will be four nostalgic trips a day to Ruth leaving from the old depot in East Ely (see page 48).

Apparel from bygone days will be featured in a fashion show on June 13.

The major Centennial weekend of July 31-August 2 begins with Friday entertainment and then a Saturday morning parade down Aultman Street. The entire downtown will be outfitted to match the theme "Past Impressions," with activities centered at the County Park for an arts and crafts show. Tours will be conducted through the 78-year-old county courthouse. As a reminder of olden times, antiquated drilling rigs and



Set in Robinson Canyon on the edge of Steptoe Valley, Ely has a legacy of copper mining, railroading, and high-country camping and fishing.

ore cars will be set up in empty lots.

On Sunday morning a united service will be held at Broadbent Park in tribute to the Centennial and the 100 years of recollections the event has prompted. Afterward, Kiwanis Club chefs will serve breakfast at the County Park.

And all weekend the Nevada Northern Railway Museum will be open for tours and steam-powered rides at the East Ely depot.

The celebration is being staged against a backdrop of financial shortfall due to the 1983 withdrawal of the copper industry, for 75 years the prime employer in the district.

But White Pine County is fighting back. For starters, the county's shopping trip for diversity has paid off with the establishment of a West Coast distribution center for driver-education material and novelty baseball caps in Kennecott's former administrative offices in McGill, which has provided 20 new jobs. A processing plant to leach ore from leased Kennecott property near Ruth for silver and gold is already in place and employs about 60 workers.



The courthouse dome is made of copper. Strollers on Centennial weekend will find festivities and shade trees.

The upcoming construction of a state minimum-security prison in nearby Butte Valley promises a flurry of economic improvement. The eventual prospects: 150 employees.

Furthermore, the creation of Great Basin National Park on 77,109 acres in the Wheeler Peak area is expected to add greatly to Eastern Nevada's promising tourist industry.

The community's optimistic mood is, in a sense, a carryover from the original Railroad Day of 1906, when the future looked forever bright. Of course, residents are used to sudden changes in destiny, in which the path to prosperity veers off in uncertain directions. Ely's history shows that well.

From the very beginning, Ely seemed to be graced with good fortune at one moment and abandoned by providence the next.

An early turning point came in 1885 when flames destroyed White Pine County's first courthouse at Hamilton, leaving county commissioners with an

(Continued on page 51)



Revitalized by local citizens, the Nevada Northern is now a tourist attraction.

Back on Track in Ely

The copper town's trains are steaming up again.

By Jack Fleming

The old Nevada Northern Railway comes alive again this Memorial Day Weekend as it offers rides on the vintage copper route's nine-mile run between Ely and Ruth.

That's the promise of a host of Ely-area supporters who are resurrecting the 81-year-old railroad and turning it into a tourist attraction. The revival movement began moments after the Nevada Northern shut down in June 1983 and gained momentum when Kennecott Mineral Company, owner of the railroad, supported the drive to preserve the local line and its 40 acres of property in East Ely.

In a series of separate commitments, the company donated not only the depot, listed in 1984 on the National Register of Historic Places, and the surrounding buildings to the city, but also the 22-mile section that runs from the old smelter at McGill, through Ely, and on to the old mine sites at Ruth and Copper Flat. In addition, the company turned over the 77-year-old mothballed queen of the Nevada Northern's

passenger fleet, steam engine No. 40.

Donated cars have included freight cars, an assortment of passenger coaches, a baggage-mail car, a cook-bunk car, and a 1909 Mount Vernon caboose. Unique items in the Kennecott gift pack were a snowplow and a diesel-electric locomotive—called a "dinkey"—that was used to move ore cars.

Thanks to Kennecott's generous gifts, Elyites can bank on the formation of a first-class railroad museum with 1906-era buildings and vintage hardware to fulfill its future tourist needs.

The city-appointed White Pine Historical Railroad Foundation already has recruited Dick Reynolds, a railroad man from the Bay Area, to manage the affairs of the line, which has been dubbed promotionally the Ghost Train of Old Ely. There will be at least five other steam-ups this year: July 4-5, August 1-2 for the Centennial, August 15-16, and September 5-7 and 26-27. The last will commemorate the line's 81st birthday.

Restoration work, now in progress, will bring the depot back to life as a true

replica of a turn-of-the-century railroad station. Dave Tilford, chairman of the foundation, says that fortunately most of the depot's original furniture and fixtures are in storage. "Nevada Northern Railway crews kept everything possible in shipshape condition," he says.

The project was launched when local citizens created the Friends of Nevada Northern Railway. Under chairman Joy M. Bybee, a longtime Ely businessman, the Friends promptly started raising money. Their objective was to develop a tourist center to help offset the effect of Kennecott's shutdown.

Among the gifts was a surprise \$2,000 contribution from Kennecott and thousands of additional dollars from all corners of the nation—mostly from present and former White Pine residents. The largest check came from the state—\$100,000 toward making the Nevada Northern a major tourist attraction. In April Kennecott made its major donation of track, rolling stock, and buildings, while Los Angeles Water



Old No. 40 is the centerpiece of the Nevada Northern collection. The 1910 steam engine made its last regular run in 1964, but shop crews kept the 10-wheeler in excellent condition. Local railroader Jerry Steiner is at left.



Led by Old No. 40, passenger excursions will go from the East Ely depot to the mine sites at Ruth and Copper Flat.



Crew members Pierce Powell and Chris deWitt check the water on the steam engine's revival run last fall.

and Power acquired the rest of the line, between McGill and the Southern Pacific link-up at Cobre 100 miles to the north.

To stimulate further interest, the Friends and the foundation have staged Railfair celebrations over the past two Memorial Day Weekends. The third annual will be this May 23-25. Passenger excursions to Ruth and Copper Flat will depart from the East Ely station.

The museum's summer program features tours conducted by volunteers. Besides offering views of the rolling equipment and buildings, the museum has a gift shop with emphasis, naturally, on railroad memorabilia. From May 18 to October 4, the museum will be open daily with hourly tours given from 8:40 a.m. to 4:40 p.m. Admission is \$2 adults, \$1 juniors (ages 12-18) and seniors (65 and over), and 50 cents for ages 5-11. Younger children can enter free.

The museum suggests making reservations for the rides. Tickets are \$12 for adults, \$10 for juniors and seniors, and \$4 for ages 5-11. Write the Nevada Northern Railway Museum, Box 40, East Ely, NV 89315, or call 702-289-2085 for details. This may be an old-time attraction, but MasterCard and Visa are gladly accepted. □

Ely Comes of Age

(Continued from page 47)

immediate crisis on their hands: Should the governmental seat be moved? The fire aside, Hamilton's charm as a mineral bonanza had pinched out, and at 8,000 feet above sea level it wasn't the easiest place to reach.

Soon the county commissioners were presented with a solution. A Canton, Ohio, mining company with interests in the area offered to donate 16 acres of prime property if the commissioners would move the seat to Steptoe Valley. The site included a stagecoach stop called Ely or Murry Creek.

The Murry Creek station was being run by a one-time prospector named Harry Featherstone, who provided his guests with overnight lodging and stables. The name of Ely had been affixed to the place when it was assigned a post office in 1878. The name had been submitted by a local mill operator in honor of Smith Ely a Vermont mine speculator who had bankrolled the milling operation.

There were other advantages to the donated site. Besides serving as the main stage depot between Eureka and Pioche, the station had become a regular stop for freighters and travelers going up and down the valley. The station served as the doorway to Robinson and Murry

*County officials met
in Sol Hilp's
mercantile store until the
courthouse was
completed in the spring
of 1888 Its
opening naturally
prompted an all-night
shindig*

canyons, which hopeful prospectors followed into the mountains. Most importantly Ely was more accessible than Hamilton, particularly in winter.

The commissioners made their decision: Ely it was.

The company assigned William N. McGill, a prominent miner and rancher, to survey a courthouse location and the new townsite. On the day he completed his work, the town lots were auctioned off to a handful of White Piners. In tribute to Cornelius Aultman, the Ohio benefactor, Ely's main drag, already blazed for years by wagon wheels and livestock hooves, became Aultman Street.

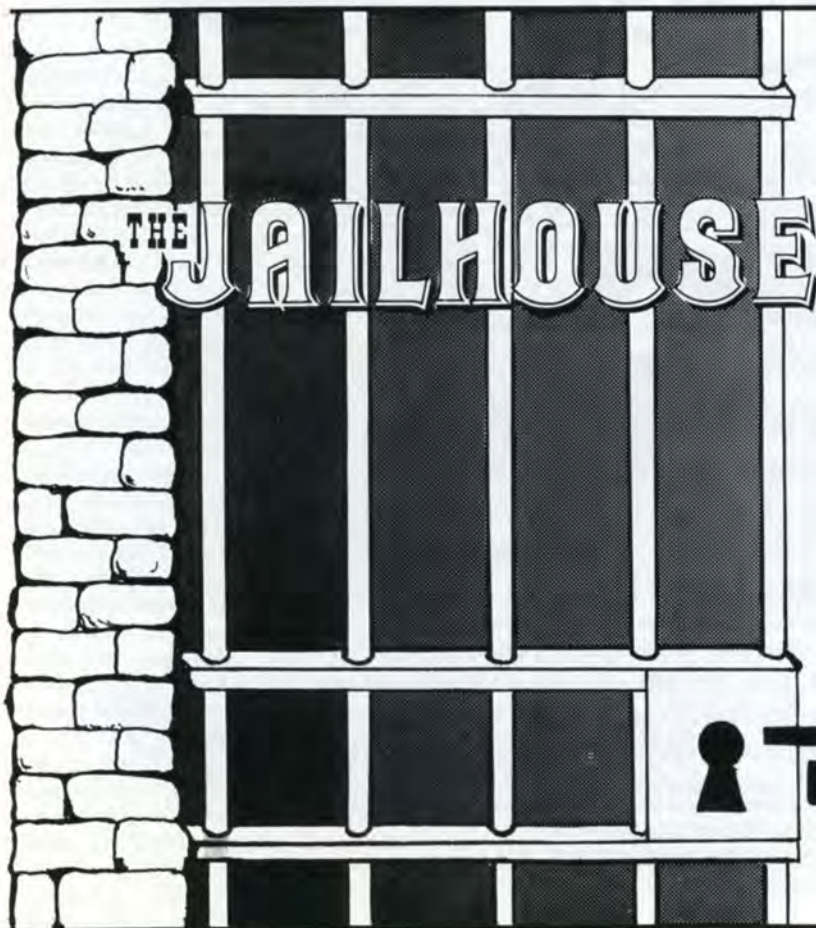
One of the most far-sighted bidders was Aaron D. Campton, who bought up most of the lots and held tight. When boom times arrived later, he sold hundreds of lots to newcomers and then parlayed his windfall into one of Nevada's first mercantile chains with stores at Ely and the satellite towns of Kimberly McGill, and Ruth.

While Campton and others were buying lots, the mineral wealth was diminishing at Taylor, 14 miles away. Abandoning their faltering camp, the citizens of Taylor began to rebuild in the new county seat. Richard Riepe led the way by buying the Featherstone property and turning the old-time stage stop into Ely's first hotel and saloon.

The landmark year for fledgling Ely was 1887. On January 28 a statute giving Ely the county seat was passed by the Legislature and signed by Governor Charles C. Stevenson. The formal transfer took place August 1.

County officials met in Sol Hilp's mercantile store until the courthouse was completed in the spring of 1888. The opening of the courthouse naturally prompted an all-night shindig.

Ely in the late 1890s was a simple village, motivated primarily by a handful of stubborn believers. The county's population dwindled as only a few ranches and mines kept the local economy alive. The community was hurt

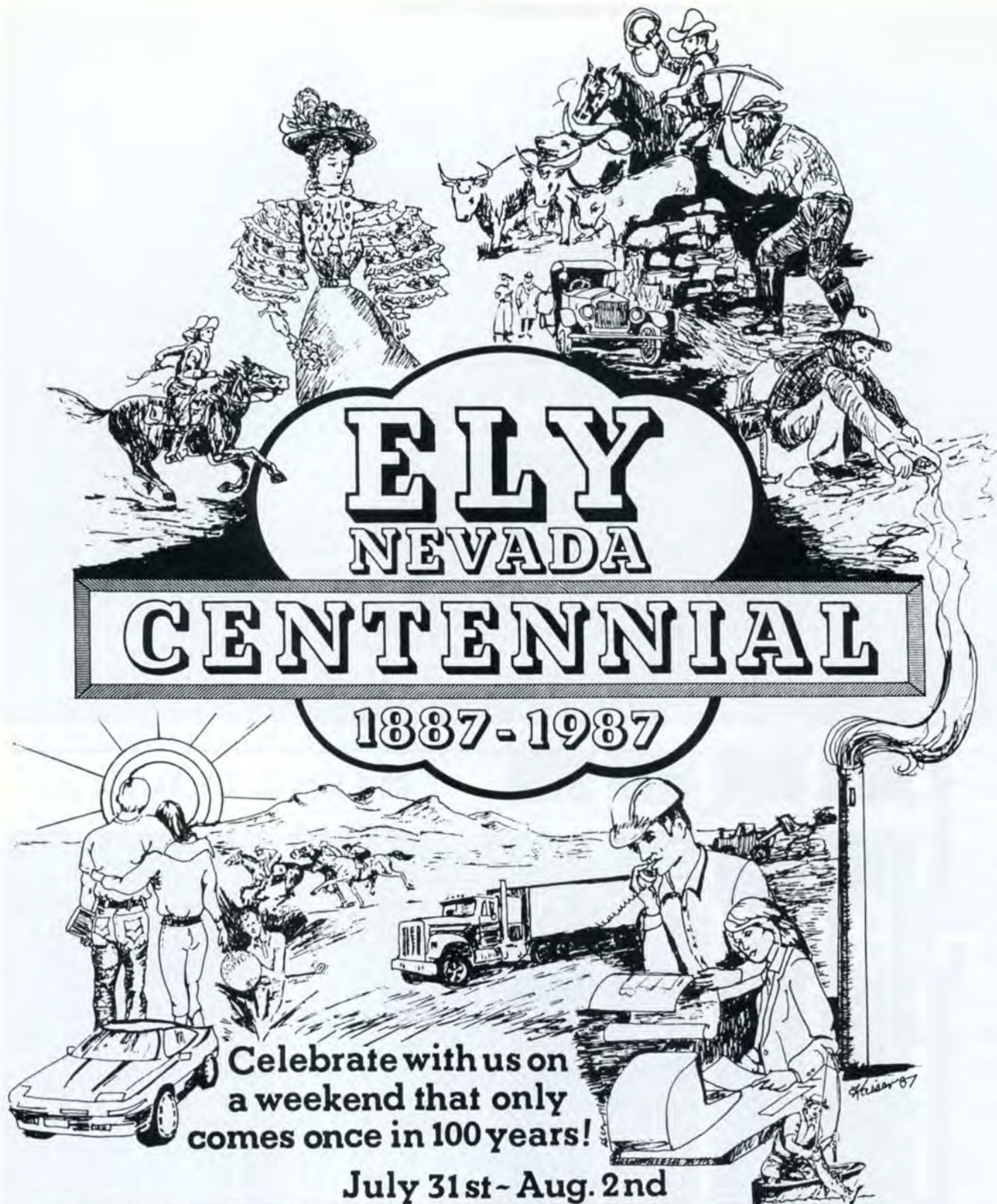


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by the demonetization of silver. Also, stockmen such as McGill suffered with that decade's national depression. In 1896 the crisis forced McGill and another major landholder, former governor Jewett Adams, to merge into what became one of the county's most successful ranches, a mammoth spread that extended into Nye and Lincoln counties.

Not much happened in Ely in the next few years, but when the new century arrived, so did the Copper King.

There had been copper workings in the area since the 1870s, but interest perked up in the late 1890s as the demand for copper increased and ore-processing methods improved. Then in 1900 a pair of miners, David Bartley and Edwin Gray, dug a shaft on claims in the Ruth area west of town and confirmed that surface deposits did extend underground. Their grubstake had been sponsored by Ely merchant W.B. "Billy" Graham. With great faith in his fellow man, Graham backed many a prospector and often commented, "No one has ever cheated me. I've got every cent back."

Another Ely man who contributed to copper-mining lore was D.C. "Dan" McDonald, who located the original mine and named it for his baby daughter, Ruth.

Because Tonopah and Goldfield, the lusty boomers to the southwest, were the headliners at the time, the Ely find did not receive overwhelming publicity. Still, in 1902 the main claims were acquired by Mark Requa, son of a Virginia City mine superintendent and himself the head of the Eureka and Palisade Railroad. Later he formed the new Nevada Consolidated Copper Company and made plans to build a railroad. Despite predictions that the excitement would be short-lived, it eventually led to Kennecott Copper Corporation's vast Nevada Division and the mining of more than two million tons of copper over the next three-quarters of a century.

In fact, success came quickly; after 1910 the Ely area was the most important mineral producer in the state.

Ely's transition from a crossroads settlement to a community of promise was symbolized by two developments. The first was the arrival of Mark Requa's Nevada Northern Railway on September 29, 1906. The second sign of prosperity was the arrival of G.L. "Tex" Rickard, promoter of the famous Gans-Nelson fight at Goldfield, who stayed long enough to build the Northern, Ely's first major hotel and gambling house.

As the copper companies geared up, newcomers flooded the district to work in the mines and mills or to service the needs of the growing population, which soon hit 5,000. Coming from afar were hundreds of hopeful emigrants from Southern and Eastern Europe who formed the nucleus of the work force and



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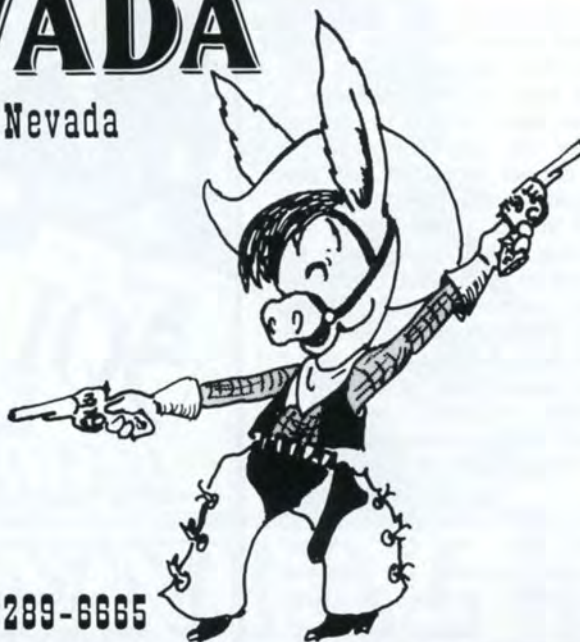
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helped to give White Pine the unique ethnic mix that it has to this day.

Ely's citizens voted to incorporate the town in 1907 and elected Fred M. Clark, a druggist from Taylor, the first mayor. In 1909 a new courthouse was built with a dome made of Ruth copper.

But all was not perfect. With the influx of new residents and capital, conflict was inevitable.

Blood pressures rose when a developer tried to establish a rival town immediately to the east. William B. Thompson, a capitalist who had helped the Guggenheim trust gain control of Nevada Consolidated Copper, had obtained a large area of neighboring property to develop a bedroom community. He called it Ely City, which the postal service changed to East Ely.

His plan went awry when the copper moguls decided to create a company town 12 miles north at McGill—a site on Billy McGill's ranch—for the convenience of its employees. Management also had decided it would be best to isolate the workers, many of whom were single, in a protective company-town environment rather than expose them to the off-shift evil influences in Ely, where gambling, boozing, and prostitution were legal.

However, all was not lost for Thompson's new burg. The railroad established its headquarters, as promised, in East Ely, and the company built its subsidized Steptoe Valley Hospital there. Most of the railroad workers chose to move to the new townsite. (In 1974, after years of smoldering resentment, East Ely finally was annexed to its namesake.)

Ely saw steady growth until the end of World War I, which caused a year-long shutdown of the mines because of a market glut. In 1922 flames of unknown origin destroyed the McGill mill. That resulted in a mini-panic when Ely business people feared the entire operation would leave, but Nevada Con rebuilt the mill.

During World War II, Ely made national headlines when Mayor John Gallagher, defying the wishes of the city council, shut down the copper capital's prosperous red-light district. He acted in response to the military's threat to close the city to servicemen if prostitution continued.

After the Korean War a series of labor strikes plagued the copper economy. The longest strike, in 1955, lasted 46 days. Meanwhile, Ely continued to grow and even became a daily stop for United Airlines. Until the copper collapse of the last decade, Ely served as the center of Nevada's most productive mining industry.

In the meantime, the town also proved to be a rich vein of gubernatorial mettle. Three of the Silver State's chief executives could count Ely as the starting

Ely: What to do in town



Ely offers many in-town attractions and some of the highest and most beautiful mountain country in the state. Here are some tips:

General Info:

Write White Pine Chamber of Commerce, 636 Aultman St., Box 239, Ely,

NV 89301; call 702-289-8877

Lodging: Ely has three hotels and 17 motels, with a total of 1,104 rooms, and two RV parks.

Restaurants: The Ely area has 26 restaurants, including Greek, Italian, Basque, and gourmet.

Casinos: There are four—the Bank Club, Copper Queen, Hotel Nevada, and Jail House.

Sports: The nine-hole White Pine County Golf Course, tennis courts, McGill public pool, bowling at Sunset Lanes, cross-country skiing in winter.

Fishing: Popular spots include Cave, Comins, and Bassett lakes.

Local Attractions: Nevada Northern Railway Museum, White Pine County Museum, Great Basin National Park, Ward Charcoal Ovens State Historic Monument.

Summer Events: Railfair '87 May 23-25, White Pine County Rodeo, June 5-6; American Bashkir Curly Horse Show June 26-28; NNR Steam-Up, July 4-5; White Pine Basque Festival, July 18-19; Centennial Celebration, July 31-August 2; Dedication of Great Basin National Park, August 15-16; Pony Express Days Horse Racing, August 22-23 and 29-30; White Pine County Fair, Aug. 28-30; NNR's 81st Anniversary Sept. 26-27

block for their political careers: Denver Dickerson was governor in 1908-10, Vail Pittman in 1946-50, and Charles Russell, a Carson City resident, in 1951-58. All three published newspapers in White Pine, and Pittman, a Democrat, and Russell, a Republican, were arch rivals.

These days Elyites look more and more to the area's heritage and natural wonders to boost the local economy. The new prison, the revitalized Nevada Northern Railway, and Great Basin National Park, whose early boosters were White Piners, all will help the cause.

Thus Ely residents look ahead with optimism while celebrating the 100th birthday of their never-say-die town. ♡

Jack Fleming, a Seattle writer grew up in McGill. His book, Copper Times, commemorates Ely's Centennial.

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Life on Planet X

A visit to the Bogards' solar pottery studio near Gerlach.

By Carolyn Dufurrena

Hello, this is Planet X Pottery, Power, and Light Company. We're located outside of Gerlach on Highway 81. And we do mean out. Eight miles past the end of the main road, and eight miles past the power lines. Take a left at the sign. You can't miss us."

This is the message you get when you call Planet X, as any sane person should do before venturing into the desert to find it. Getting to Gerlach isn't a problem. The tiny railroad town is just 100 miles north of Reno when you go east on I-15 to Fernley and north on Nevada Highway 447. If you come from the east across the Black Rock Desert like John C. Fremont did, be ready for a visually stunning but slow and dusty trip. You can still see ancient wagon tracks in the concrete-hard mud.

The other alternative is to get one of the locals to show you the way out to the playa where Britisher Richard Noble set the world land speed record of 633.468 mph in 1983. That makes the trip a lot shorter although you have to pick the route and time of year carefully if you don't want to walk the rest of the way.

But first, at Gerlach, you can have lunch at Bruno's Country Club, just about the only place to eat in greater downtown that has air-conditioning, cheeseburgers, and an unobstructed view of the Union Pacific freight trains that occasionally rumble through.

Gerlach feels like the edge of the world. Flanked by huge alkali flats and dry volcanic mountains, it is the essence of desert. All space and light—the perfect setting for an artist's studio, right?

So thinks John Bogard, maverick biochemist, solar engineer, and potter extraordinaire. He left the lush California coast 12 years ago for the Smoke Creek Desert, which stretches for 40 miles west from Gerlach. At first Bogard thought he would spend the summer, but soon the austere beauty of the Black Rock country caught his fancy. He bought an old farmhouse on 200-odd acres near Gerlach and renamed it Planet X.

Eight miles northwest of Gerlach, two things catch your eye: a bizarre bicycle-wheel objet d'art and the Planet X Pottery signpost. You suspect a twisted sense of humor, and when you turn the corner of the gravel drive, you know you're right. A traffic counter snakes



Ornate glazings depict the beauty of the nearby Black Rock Desert. At left, the Planet X Pottery sign welcomes visitors to the Dry Creek National Pothole Refuge.

across the road, and a sign warns: Now Entering Dry Creek National Pothole Refuge.

The potholes are pretty much gone now courtesy of a truck driver who got stuck last winter after he discovered this wasn't the way to Sacramento and tried to turn his 18-wheeler around. But drive slowly anyway. Then you won't miss the bizarre sculptures that decorate the entry and lawns of Planet X. A few things are downright odd, like the canoe skeleton filled with bones that appears to sail through the air over your head.

The old stucco farmhouse at Planet X nestles under a grove of ancient cottonwoods. A new gallery and studio flank the shops out back. The shops house throwing rooms, a glaze shop, a couple of kilns, tons of clay and the solar-battery bank that gives Planet X its Power and Light.

A pith-helmeted head pokes out of the first building. The hat has a solar-powered fan, but although the day is sweltering, the fan barely turns.

"I have a degree in biochemistry from UC Santa Cruz," says the pith helmet after an exchange of greetings, "but if I

were a biochemist, I'd be living in a laboratory."

Under the helmet is John Bogard, who is 38 but looks 16. He and his wife Mary throw pots for a living out here, at least when they're not building more gallery space, visiting the hot ponds, or playing with the Smoke Creek Irregulars. Besides occasional bar dates and ranch parties, the band plays for major area gatherings like the Denio Jubilee on July 4 and Gerlach's Labor Day Street Dance. Mary's the drummer, and John plays rhythm guitar and sings, "mostly rockabilly," he says. "The band practices at night. We've gotta get the horn section together," he mutters to himself as he insinuates the upper half of his lanky person into the kiln.

Mary is sanding the rough corners off tall vases before the bisque, or first, firing. Bogard loads them into the kiln. "I've had to cut back on the band this year," he admits. "We have a pretty full schedule, but we're organized about it all. We work in cycles: two weeks of throwing, two weeks of glazing, one week of show." The Bogards also do commissioned work, most recently 12



Potter extraordinaire John Bogard at the wheel. Bathtubs filled with solar-pumped water provide Planet X with hot baths.

dozen urns for a Reno pet cemetery. Pointing to the tall, slender vases, John says, "These are going to the Navy. Ammo holders." Dry sense of humor.

There are experimental ceramic pieces, including wall hangings and a floor sculpture that offers an apocalyptic vision of the end of the dinosaur era. But the bread and butter of the place is thin-glazed porcelain, called Desert Ware I and II. These graceful pieces are regular dinner ware—plates, bowls, cups, and pitchers, each painted with a desert panorama. You can pick out some of the scenery if you know the topography around Planet X. The Bogards transform the often harsh desert view into a series of ethereal cloud shapes and flowing ridge lines. It's the desert at its kindest, something most people passing through will never see.

"The pots stay in there about 12 hours," Bogard explains. "The bisque firing is first. It goes up to about 1,800 degrees Fahrenheit and drives all the water out of the clay. Then we apply the glaze, and a first glaze firing comes next."

Pointing to a new series of black-on-black porcelain, he says, "The first glaze puts on the glossy black background. Then I put a wax layer over the glaze and with a thin brush apply the iron oxide wash. The firing goes up to 2,400 degrees, and at that temperature both the glaze and the clay itself melt a little. They actually soak into each other, and the longer you can hold that optimum temperature, the clearer and glossier the finish becomes."

The black finish produces the kind of reaction sought by Impressionists such as Renoir and Gauguin. The artists had mirrors that, behind the glass, were painted black instead of silver, so they

could see shapes but not colors. After a long day of work, the artist would stare into his mirror to renew his reaction to color and drain the fatigue from his eyes. That is the effect the black stoneware has, too, after the brightness and adamant clarity of the other pieces, like shadows on a midnight lake.

The two inhabitants of Planet X admit they were fatally attracted to each other at the Gerlach Hot Ponds, which are officially known as the Great Boiling Hot Springs. "I was an X-ray technician in Sacramento," Mary says, "but I used to come out here to the desert a lot just to get away."

John says, "I started out coming for the hot ponds, too. I was going to move my pottery studio up here from Santa Cruz just for the summer, but after the fifth truckload I realized I wasn't going to be moving out in October."

Bogard, who grew up in Berkeley remembers his early fascination with pottery. "I had been throwing pots since I was 19, at the University of California at Santa Cruz. After I changed my mind [about biochemistry], I went to Big Creek Pottery School in Santa Cruz and really got serious about it." There Bogard met master potter Al Johnsen, with whom he later worked as an apprentice. Johnsen still influences his work; Mary says he comes up to check on his pupil a couple of times a year. "They've been experimenting with watercolors recently," she says, and John launches into an animated description of huge platters glowing with "wet-on-wet" color. "It's just for fun, strictly non-financial at this point," he shrugs as he stuffs his hands into the large pockets of his khakis and grins.

"Let's go throw a few plates," he announces and walks off to the throwing room, where three wheels and lots of clay are stored. He exchanges his helmet for a baseball cap that says "Rudy." "Rudy's the only one who works around here. Everybody else just sits around drinking beer." (Bogard gestures at the pith helmet.)

He shakes a five-pound brick of gray clay out of a plastic bag and leans on it, muttering to himself. "Well, want something functional? A butter plate? Naah. How about"—he flings the kneaded mass onto the exact center of the wheel—"a bowl!"

As much as Bogard goofs around, it's serious business when he sits down to work. He kicks up the wheel, and in a few seconds it is spinning steadily and fast. As he leans into the blob, somehow a shape arises under his hands. He hunkers way down, and it grows a big, wide-arching lip. His head moves back and forth, checking the inside and outside surfaces of the bowl for wobbles. All the while his leg rhythmically kicks the wheel to keep it spinning. "There are only so many hours you can do on the wheel," he says, his eyes on the now-giant shape. "More than six hours will kill you. It's the concentration."

The bowl is finished, and John lets the wheel come to a slow halt. He carefully touches up the edges, slides a strand of wire under the piece—and then crushes the bowl. "Too heavy," he explains. Mary comments that some pots should be heavy, like mortars and pestles, but big bowls need to be thin or you have to really muscle them around. She adds, "If you take a class from him, you'll be doing that for months. People get attached to their work. They're so happy

just to get something round, and then he says to throw it out." She chuckles.

Mary should know. Although she now is an accomplished potter, John taught her all aspects of pottery, including several years of crushing wobbly pots. She started by sweeping clay scrapings off the wheel. "To do skilled work," John says, "you have to do everything, be part of the whole process. It's a real commitment, learning pottery. Just to learn the basics you have to commit yourself for five years and just do the whole thing." (As a side benefit for those so inclined, Bogard offers a five-week course for \$500, which doesn't include room and board. Planet X comes complete with bunkhouse, shower, and dry sauna for visiting students.)

"The hardest thing to throw is a big vase," he says, "although I spend as much time on a small piece like a mug as I do on a large one. Teapots are difficult, too, because there are so many shapes to integrate. You have to make the different pieces become one." John says he'll have several new teapots as well as large vases for the next show season.

"We're getting pretty gentrified now," he grins as he shows off the new gallery, which had its grand opening Labor Day Weekend and sports hardwood floors, cathedral ceilings, and track lights—solar powered, of course. "I'll put the new Echinoid Series in here maybe," he ruminates. Bogard, being at least half biologist, knows his marine-life taxonomy. One year he created an entire tide pool of huge, anatomically correct sea urchins, brittle stars, and clams. The Asymmetrical Echinoid, from Bogard's own collection, is a shimmering lavender sea urchin the size of a big Dutch oven. Admittedly, a sea urchin the size of your coffee table isn't for everyone's living room, but I know a few paleontologists who would find the work technically flawless as well as beautiful.

There is even ancient biota around here. I comment on a trilobite; the 400-million-year-old sea-crawler seems to be inching its way across a ceramic tile. "That's an Olenellus," Bogard explains. "I made a whole huge sculpture, which I sold to a collector in Las Vegas. It's a bank of tiles blocked with black Olenellus trilobites, mimicking a solar panel." The title: "Fossil Fuel."

Bogard also sells solar panels that really work. Planet X Power and Light is a bona fide solar power distributor. Bogard has a partner in PXPL, Brian Covey, who is Planet X's resident graphic artist and Gerlach's on-call sanitation engineer. They market solar panels that they purchase in bulk and set up power systems for people like themselves who live beyond the reach of power lines. "A set-up of eight panels charges about five kilowatts of energy on a typical summer (Continued on page 92)

PLANET

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Fun in the sun at Circusland, the RV retreat at Circus Circus, in Las Vegas.

Casino Camping

RV parks you can really bet on.
by Betty Martinson

For some motorhome and trailer owners, slot machines and blackjack tables are as much a part of the outdoor scene as barbecue grills, fish, and cactus.

Casino camping, unique to the Silver State, combines the freedom of the road with gaming's not-so-rustic attractions. Of the state's 70-odd private RV parks, 15 are operated by casinos. For example, Bally's Camperland in Reno is one of the biggest at 452 spaces, and it is filled almost every day with vehicles sporting license plates from all over the U.S. and Canada. Campers have full access to hotel facilities such as pools, arcades, and tennis courts.

As an RVer, I have noticed that the casinos try to extend their festive and luxurious atmospheres to the RV parks. Service buildings are attractively designed and landscaped. The streets have names like Midway, Acapulco, and Magic. At the Hacienda in Las Vegas, RVers enjoy the lush landscaping and many trees of a former golf course. Closet cowboys get a kick out of Sam's Town's Old West atmosphere. Swimming pools, hot tubs, tennis courts, and jogging tracks are par for the course.

There is convenience, too, in the mini-markets that most parks have.

Dogs seem to rate special treatment at casino campgrounds. Canine luxury

peaks at Circus Circus in Las Vegas, where the Circusland RV Park has several pet runs, complete with fire hydrants and pooper scoopers. Considering the amount of time the owners spend standing around talking, they seem to enjoy the runs more than their pooches.

Aside from pets, the talk usually centers around gambling and fishing. However, when men and women exchange pleasantries at the pet run, the opening gambit may not be fishing but, "Did you win any money last night?"

Naturally the gambling conversations sometimes begin to resemble fish stories. At the Stardust my husband and I once met a regular from Long Beach who had a keno system based on his trailer space numbers. Perfectly serious, he claimed to be "just a little bit ahead."

Many vacationers have favorite spots based on the freebies and bargains. Traffic is often heavy on Circus Circus' monorail and minibus, where attendants hand out casino coupons. Several resorts provide fun books with coupons for drinks, two-fer bets, free pulls, and discounts on food and lodging.

Thus on casino safaris the campfire and hibachi give way to the Giant \$3.99 Ham and Roast Beef Buffet. The clubs offering such items as 99-cent shrimp

cocktails are often favorites of the RV crowd.

Bargains are especially attractive to full-timers, who live in their rigs all year, and to snowbirds, the retirees who seek the warmth of Laughlin and Las Vegas in the winter. Of course, you can't stay in one park for a whole season. Fourteen-day stays are usually the maximum allowed, and some casinos have a seven-day limit, so full-timers go from camp to camp. Most campers stay about three days before moving on.

Laughlin is generally a little more relaxed about how long campers can park, especially when the campers take jobs in the casinos. Then, awnings become more elaborate, and portable fencing springs up for pets.

One night at Laughlin we thought we heard rain and decided to investigate. We found an Iowa snowbird surreptitiously watering his campsite. He told us he was homesick for the family farm, which his son had taken over, but his wife was happy working at the hotel. "We came here the winter before last, and we just never went home," he said, then proudly pointed out a few blades of grass that were beginning to poke out of the gravel.

At the other end of the RV spectrum, bargain living probably doesn't mean as much to those who arrive in 36-foot

RV Camping: A Statewide Guide

Charting Nevada's motorhome meccas from Laughlin to Jackpot.

South, West-Central

	RV Park	Phone	Location	No. Spaces	Max RV Size	Basic Fee*	gasoline	propane	ice	parts	tents ok	children	pets	swim pool	rec room	showers	laundry	groceries	rest./snack bar
LAS VEGAS	American Campground	643-1222	3440 LV Blvd. N.	19	none	\$8		S											
	Boulder Lake RV Resort	435-1157	6201 Boulder Hwy.	417	none	\$9.99		S											
	California Hotel	385-1222	Downtown	222	68'	\$8													
	Cheyenne Motel 7 RV	642-0155	3227 Civic Cen. NLV	47	35	\$8.50		S											
	Circusland (Circus Circus)	734-0410	Strip	421	none	\$10		S											
	Desert Sands RV Park	565-1945	1940 Boulder Hwy.	250	none	\$10.50		S											
	Hacienda Hotel	739-8911	Strip	451	none	\$7.77													
	Hitchin' Post Camper Park	644-1043	3640 LV Blvd. N.	79	40'	\$9.63		S											
	Holiday Travel Trailer Park	451-8005	3890 S. Nellis Blvd.	376	40'	\$12		S											
	King's Row Trailer Park	457-3606	3660 Boulder Hwy.	160	40'	\$8		S											
	Las Vegas KOA	451-5527	4315 Boulder Hwy.	300	45'	\$14.95		S											
	Nevada Palace	451-0232	5325 Boulder Hwy.	204	40'	\$7		S											
	Riviera Travel Trailer Park	457-8700	2200 Palm	137	35'	\$12		S											
	Road Runner RV Park	456-4711	4711 Boulder Hwy.	200	45'	\$10.75		S											
	Sam's Town	454-8056	Boulder Hwy.	208	40'	\$8		S											
	Silver Nugget	649-4133	2240 LV Blvd. N. NLV	152	none	\$8													
	Stardust Camperland	732-6466	Strip	375	40'	\$8		S											
LAKE MEAD	Lakeshore Trailer Village	293-2540	6 mi. from Boulder City	80	40'	\$9.50													
	Callville Bay Marina	565-8956		10	30'	\$9.50		S											
	Echo Bay Resort	394-4000		58	none	\$9.50													
	Overton Beach Resort	394-4040		13	35	\$9.50													
LAKE MOHAVE	Cottonwood Cove Resort	297-1464	14 mi. E. of Searchlight	75	none	\$9.50													
LAUGHLIN	Riverside Resort	298-2535	Laughlin	500	50'	\$12													
OVERTON	Robbins Nest Mobile Village	397-2364	479 S. Main St.	145	40'	\$8													
GLENDALE	Glendale Service	864-2277	1-15-50 mi. NE. of LV	22	none	\$8.50													
MESQUITE	Peppermill Resort	346-5232	1-15-80 mi. NE. of LV	120	40'	\$5													
BEATTY	Bailey's Hot Springs	553-2395	6 mi. N. on U.S. 95	14	none	\$9.50													
	Little General RV Park	553-2722	U.S. 95 S.	18	35'	\$7													
	Rio Rancho	553-2238		35	none	\$10													
PAHRUMP	RV Pioneer Camperland	727-5923	Hwy. 160	80	none	\$8													
TONOPAH	Station House	482-9777	U.S. 95	21	35'	\$12													
MINA	Mina Trailer Park	573-2214	U.S. 95	30	none	\$8		S											
HAWTHORNE	Cornell's	945-2906	Walker Lake	26	none	\$8													
	Frontier RV Park	945-2733	5th & L	40	35	\$9													
TOPAZ	Holbrook Station	266-3434	Hwys. 395 & 208	45	35'	\$10													
	Topaz Lake Marina	266-3550	U.S. 395	15	none	\$9													
	Topaz Lodge & RV Park	266-3339	U.S. 395	36	none	\$12													

*Basic price may not include full hookups

S = Propane service

(Continued)



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RV Camping (Continued)

West, Central, East, North

	RV Park	Phone	Location	No. Spaces	Max RV Size	Basic Fee*	gasoline	propane	ice	parts	tents ok	children	pets	swim pool	rec room	showers	laundry	groceries	rest./snack
WELLINGTON	Wellington Station Resort	465-2304	Hwy. 208	24	none	\$8	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
YERINGTON	Pioneer Mobile Home Ranch	463-2426	815 West Bridge St.	15	none	\$10	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Yerington Mobile Village	463-2989	South Main	5	none	\$5	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
CARSON VALLEY	KOA-Carson Valley	267-2161	7 mi. S. of Carson City	98	40'	\$12.75	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
LAKE TAHOE	Zephyr Cove Resort	588-6644	Southeast Shore	105	none	\$16.75	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
CARSON CITY	Camp N Town	883-1123	2438 N. U.S. 395	74	none	\$11	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Comstock RV Park	246-3129	U.S. 50 & Alfonso	24	40'	\$12	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Oasis Trailer Haven	882-1375	4550 S. Carson	18	none	\$11.66	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Snedaker's Comstock	882-2445	5400 S. Carson	84	40'	\$12	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
RENO/SPARKS	Bally's Camperland	789-2129	2500 2nd St.	452	none	\$14.98	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Cedar Lodge RV Park	853-3232	12765 S. Virginia	35	35'	\$13	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Chism Trailer Park	322-2281	1300 W. 2nd	35	35'	\$11	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Four Seasons RV Park	853-1423	13109 S. Virginia	36	40'	\$12.84	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Green Acres Trailer Park	827-2482	501 W. Moana	23	30'	\$9.10	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Hill-Top Bonanza RV Park	329-9624	4800 Stoltz	72	35'	\$10.50	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Reno RV Park	323-3381	735 Mill	46	none	\$15	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Reno/Sparks KOA	323-1447	600 Newport	250	55'	\$12.75	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Rivers Edge RV Park	358-8533	1405 S. Rock, Sparks	164	40'	\$13.91	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Tiki Village	825-1507	4055 S. Virginia St.	10	35'	\$14.98	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	United Campgrounds of Reno	329-0688	2220 Clearacre	110	35'	\$12	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
VERDI	River Bend RV Park	345-0574	Old U.S. 40	60	28'	\$10	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
FERNLEY	Kornegay's	575-4455	530 West Main	12	40'	\$9	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
FALLON	Hub Motel	867-3636	3 mi. W. on U.S. 50	44	42'	\$10	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
LOVELOCK	KOA-Lovelock	273-2276	East end of town	79	none	\$17.95	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
WINNEMUCCA	Hi-Desert RV Park	623-4513	5575 E. Winn. Blvd.	132	none	\$11	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	KOA-Winnemucca	623-5797	E. Winn. Blvd.	136	none	\$11	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Westerner Lodge	623-2907	800 E. 4th St.	25	none	\$9	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
AUSTIN	Baptist Church & Campground	964-2300	U.S. 50	20	35'	\$10	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
ELY	KOA-Ely	289-3413	On U.S. 93, 6, & 50	102	none	\$12	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	West World RV Park	289-8468	1 mi. N. of overpass	30	none	\$8.50	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
ELKO	Cimarron West	738-8733	1400 Mt. City Hwy.	160	none	\$11.75	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	KOA-Elko	738-6898	10 mi. E. on I-80	78	40'	\$9	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Red Lion Motor Inn	734-8421	2050 Idaho	41	40'	\$12.72	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
WELLS	Crested Acres	752-3557	3 1/2 mi. W. off I-80	100	none	\$10	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
WENDOVER	Nevada Crossing KOA	664-3221	I-80	139	none	\$12.95	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
JACKPOT	Cactus Pete's East Park	755-2321	U.S. 93	56	none	\$7	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Cactus Pete's South Park	755-2321	U.S. 93	30	none	\$4	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
WILD HORSE	Wildhorse Resort	NF 6472	60 mi. N. of Elko	34	none	\$6	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

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motor homes and soon are setting up satellite dishes, underskirting, and cabanas. Such campers like the full hook-ups, drive-through parking, and tight security. Last summer we witnessed a remarkable scene of upscale casino camping when a dozen Burger King owners brought their luxury RVs to a convention at Bally's. They proceeded to hold a marathon rotating cocktail party that might have rivaled anything ever seen inside Bally's.

Families with small children may find these parks less attractive, but school-age kids seem to find plenty to do at the swimming pools, arcades, and playrooms.

Reservations are almost a necessity. "We're full every night except between Thanksgiving and Christmas," says Roy Ingram, Circusland reservation clerk. The Hacienda advises that a reservation two months in advance is not a bad idea during the winter months, although space is not so tight in the summer. Be sure to specify if you need a pull-through space.

A water pressure regulator is also advised, since most large RV parks have strong water pressures. Some parks have adapters available at the office.

If you go casino camping this summer, may you be as lucky as Arthur Winterkorn of Honolulu. At age 55 he bought a motor home to see the country. With lots of scrimping, he stretched out his trip for 10 years. Then, almost out of funds, he put \$1.50 in a Bally's slot machine and won \$250,000. "This is the highlight of my life," he said. "Now I can help my grandchildren go to college, and keep on traveling." □

Betty Martinson of Bishop, California is a freelance writer and photographer. She and her husband John are active RVers and have stayed in most of the casino campgrounds in the state.

Casino Campgrounds

Fourteen Nevada casinos have RV parks, and a greater number have informal parking arrangements for motorhomes and trailers. Here are the 14 with the works:

Elko: Red Lion.

Jackpot: Cactus Pete's East and South parks.

Las Vegas: California Hotel, Circus Circus, Circusland, Hacienda Hotel, Nevada Palace, Sam's Town, Silver Nugget, and Stardust Hotel.

Laughlin: Riverside Resort.

Mesquite: Peppermill Resort.

Reno: Bally's Camperland.

Tonopah: Station House.

Topaz: Topaz Lodge.



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GALLERY

David Muench discovers early bloomers in the Black Rock Desert.

After a spring shower, a yellow carpet of bee plants pushes up between polygons of dried mud. Photographer David Muench discovered this scene 120 miles north of Reno in the Black Rock Desert. This same mud proved to be a curse to the flood of settlers who passed through the desert in the mid-1800s on their way to California and Oregon. Many of those pioneers were forced to abandon their livestock and wagons in the mire. Nowadays the desert is crossed in places by paved roads, but the modern explorer can still enjoy the solitude, nightly displays of stars, and bee plants in their spring bloom.



Kids find thrills and spills under waterfalls and on slides, ropes, and paddle-boards while lionhearted teens and adults test their mettle on Der Stuka (top right).

TRIP OF THE MONTH

Fear, Fortitude, and Fun at Wet 'n Wild

The splashiest spot on the Las Vegas Strip.

By A.D. Hopkins

Please look after my wife and boy and forgive me my sins and especially, oh Lord, the razorback hog in the police car and also the eeeaaaarrrrrggggghhhh wow wow wow!!!"

These are the thoughts of an adult American male as he begins his descent of Der Stuka, the fastest, highest, and scariest water slide in the water park that is set, improbably, on the Las Vegas Strip, where traditional visitors have not seemed especially given to fresh air and exercise.

Wet 'n Wild opened its first water park near Disney World at Orlando, Florida, and a second near Six Flags Over Texas at Arlington, Texas. When the company built another park on the adult-oriented Las Vegas Strip, it took insurance on its bet by picking a location near Circus Circus, most famous of the few casino-hotels designed for the family trade.

The gamble paid off, all right. More than 300,000 people splashed into Wet 'n Wild in 1985, the year it opened, and



While the temperature atop the Sahara reaches into the 100s, Wet 'n Wilders stay cool with chilling rides.

1986 figures were about 20 percent higher. This year the park is scheduled to be open from May 9 to September 27.

But it's not all family business. Here are not only toddlers following girlish moms but also lithe teams of young single women wearing bare-thigh tank-suits, sizing up yuppie studs wearing male bikinis and Nautilus muscles. Here are drugstore cowboy couples in cutoff jeans, hipsters showing off rose tatoos, and retirement-age daredevils riding the Raging Rapids on a bet with the wife.

Some Las Vegas families frequently let older children spend whole days here, for it's a great entertainment value. The admission is \$12.95 for adults and \$9.50 for kids. Toddlers under three get in free. There are discounts later in the day and for groups, and once visitors are inside the gate they need not spend another nickel for an entire day of frolic. Sunglasses, shirts, food, and soft drinks are all for sale, but there is no hustle to sell them. Wet 'n Wild actually encourages families to bring their own picnic lunches

and ice chests, with the stipulation that alcoholic beverages are not allowed. That's probably because Wet 'n Wild is conspicuously concerned about safety; the place is lousy with lifeguards.

Wet 'n Wild's attractions are as varied as its visitors. Tamest is a sunning lagoon, only a foot-and-a-half deep and surrounded by chaise lounges in the sun and tables on a shaded patio. This pool for adult relaxation was thoughtfully placed as far as possible from the noisy pool where toddlers romp in shallow water, climbing in and out of a concrete Zeppelin and fighting imaginary intergalactic battles with long-range squirt guns mounted on swivels. One of the most popular rides is the Lazy River, an endless loop which circles the park at two mph bearing lazy waterworshippers on rubber doughnuts and rafts.

There's a surf lagoon with 17,000 square feet of water surface and a depth ranging from eight feet to two inches. It alternately lies placid like a swimming pool for a few minutes, then rages with

Toddlers romp in shallow water, fighting imaginary intergalactic battles with long-range squirt guns mounted on swivels.

artificial waves up to four feet high.

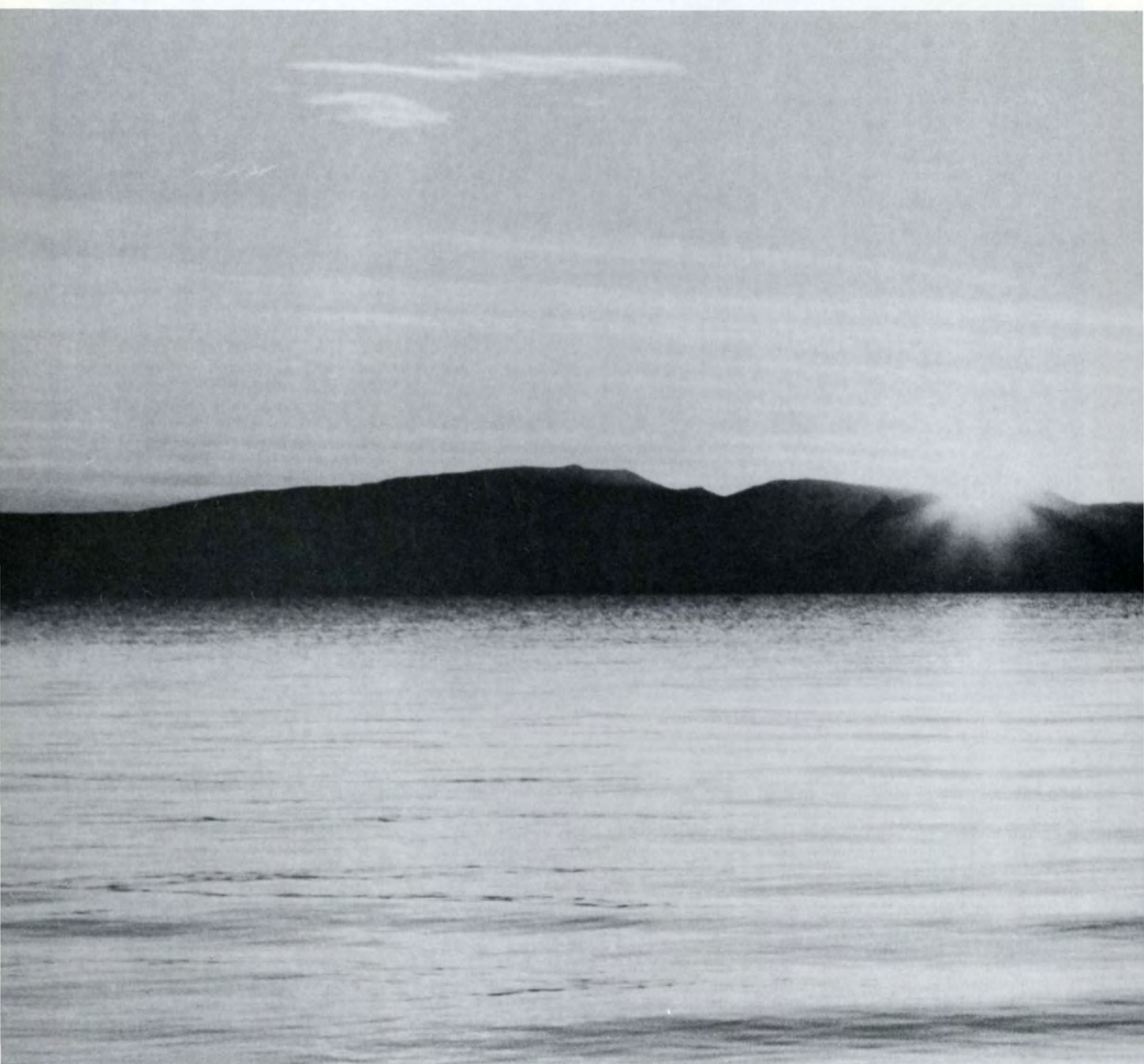
Near the high end of the pulse ratings is the Banzai Boggan, a water roller coaster in which a participant mounts a plastic sled, pushes it down a 45-degree chute, pancakes out onto the water, and skips porpoise-like across a 120-foot pool. If that seems too tame for your vacation-wild blood, you can try the Whitewater Slideways, flumes that start at the top of a 50-foot hill and twist like bobsled runs on the way down to a big pool. There's also a deeper-water version called Raging Rapids, which is run on rubber doughnuts. And there's an enclosed twisting waterslide called the Hydra-Maniac.

Going down the Hydra-Maniac is what it must feel like to be sucked into a storm sewer—wet, fast, and scary, the centrifugal force throwing the rider high onto the sides of the tube before it spits him about 12 feet out into a deep splash pool. Surprisingly, the landing is soft: Wet 'n Wild has invented a gadget which keeps the water full of bubbles, increasing the cushioning effect.

Then, of course, there's Der Stuka. To get to the top you walk up a ramp that spirals like a barber pole. Then you stiffen your legs and cross your arms on your chest—a posture uncomfortably reminiscent of a corpse laid out for burial—and launch yourself feet-first down a 75-foot slide. It's actually slanted at 70 degrees, but that is so steep that you are unconscious of any friction on your back; it feels like a free fall through empty space. By the time you dare to open your eyes the slide has leveled out into a 100-foot decelerating runway and you can see nothing at all except the water spraying off your feet as off the bow of a speedboat, which you have momentarily become. Sometimes you even skip once before you sink into the splash pool.

Besides the above, there are two other important things to remember about visiting Wet 'n Wild. Bring a shirt, because you'll probably stay longer than you intend. And tighten all bikini tops before trying Der Stuka; some of the local boys have learned to watch the loose ones. □

A.D. Hopkins is editor of the Nevadan, the Sunday magazine of the Las Vegas Review-Journal, and a freelance writer who contributes frequently to Nevada, airline magazines, and other publications. He once rode a flooded mountain stream in an eight-foot duck punt.



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*Las Vegas
Post Office
(7.5 x 18'):
The woman
and the window
are illusions.*

Robert Beckmann

The man behind the murals.

Thanks to painter Robert Beckmann, workers at the main post office in Las Vegas have a window in their cafeteria. At least it seems that way. The convincing view of Red Rock Canyon that greets diners is, in fact, an illusion, an example of a special slight of hand that Beckmann has developed in his unusual mural work.

At lunch time, postal employees used to be greeted by claustrophobic space—one wall in bright yellow others in blue, green, and terra-cotta red. "The walls just crashed in on you," the artist recalls. "The space needed to be opened up, so it seemed logical to punch out a window."

He did just that. Choosing a view of Red Rock Canyon that actually exists beyond the yellow wall, if one could see far enough, he brought the outside in. To reinforce the window image Beckmann painted a woman walking in front of the mural and looking out at the landscape. "When you paint someone into the painting, people tend to focus on that image, and accept the illusion," he says.

Since 1977 Beckmann has completed more than 150 murals in Nevada and Colorado, and he has worked with leading designers in Las Vegas, Denver, Chicago, and Los Angeles. Although he



*'When you paint
someone into a
painting, people tend
to focus on that
image and
accept the illusion.'*

also takes pride in his fine art, his murals are obviously more exposed, and many can be found in and out of doors around Las Vegas.

The murals have a variety of subjects, and they are realistic enough to fool anyone who believes that what you see is what you get. The artist has brushed neighborhood walls until they look like houses. He has painted phony windows and porches on city buildings. Recently, with a bit of inspiration from beyond, he added a moon and nebula to the ceiling of Bob Stupak's Vegas World.

He says he approaches each mural as a classicist, developing a strict plan and seeing it through. His equipment varies; at times he uses spray guns, air brushes, paint brushes, and rollers. He must coordinate his work with a lot of other people. "Boom trucks should be reserved in advance, and sometimes I must work with people who prep the walls," he says. Frequently carpenters, carpet layers, and electricians are involved. "I like working with other people. I think that is why I do murals."

An example of Beckmann's flexibility and attention to detail is the helicopter mural he painted in Randy Black's Las Vegas real estate office. Instead of using canvas, Beckmann painted on plywood panels. For contrast he did the



Moon Illusion, Bob Stupak's Vegas World (16' diameter):
The moon that Beckmann and his wife Polly, above, are painting began as a plaster ball. To insure realism he worked from a moon globe to locate craters and seas. Beckmann, who also did a large nebula behind the Big Six wheel, worked with designer Jeffrey Bissell.



Top: Villa Banfi, Hotel Administration School, UNLV (7 x 16'):

This room was sponsored by Villa Banfi, maker of Riunite wine, and the mural depicts its principal winery in Tuscany.

Bottom: Clark County Housing Authority (18 x 32'):

A wall becomes a home: When Beckmann was painting this wall, the neighborhood kids wanted him to use their initials on the door. As a kind of compromise he used "Z" and turned a power box into a sign.

background in flat acrylic and finished the aircraft with oil enamel so it would appear more metallic. The sky, air-brushed, was made to grow realistically darker toward the top.

Beckmann also considers each mural's environment. "I try to determine the kind of light that exists and duplicate and work in that light," he says. Reds, for instance, tend to burn out fast in bright conditions. In the likeness of a house he created on an empty wall for the Clark County Housing Authority, Beckmann

developed an average shadow color to compensate for the constantly changing natural light. That, he says, made the illusion believable throughout the day.

To reach high work Beckmann prefers a boom truck to staging: "It allows me more mobility." He says his wife, Polly Hahn Beckmann, has become a proficient boom-truck operator, and they have devised hand signals to use when they both must wear masks, as at Bob Stupak's Vegas World. "Seeing this tall, attractive blonde running heavy

equipment freaks people out," he says with a laugh.

Beckmann, who holds two graduate degrees in studio art from the University of Iowa, left teaching in 1972. "I requested a year's leave of absence, and when the year was past I wrote to the university and told them I wasn't coming back," he recalls. His colleagues thought he was crazy, but he says, "Teaching is about one thing, painting is about another. I decided to do art and not talk about it."



Top: Las Vegas Hilton Superbook (10.5 x 18'):
One of four panels that show horses in proper positions they would be in every 35 feet during a race. Scene is the artist's studio.

Bottom: Engineering Design Center (18 x 65'):
The former downtown library was once pale pink. Beckmann recommended that it be painted tan to match City Hall and then added railings, windows, reflections, and a self-portrait.

In 1976, after a tour with the traveling ARTRAIN and a stay in Idaho, he served as artist in residence with the Nevada State Library in Carson City. A bicentennial competition for the Lyon County Courthouse in Yerington resulted in his first mural for a public building. In 1977 he moved to Las Vegas to direct mural programs involving high school students. He later formed a company, Wallalternatives, which has since been renamed Robert Beckmann Studio. His fine art is shown at two

galleries in Las Vegas: Markus Gallery and Winged Horse Gallery.

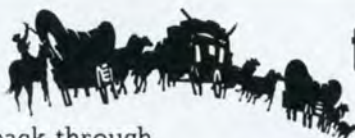
Among his recent projects are two historical murals for the Colorado Belle in Laughlin with Los Angeles designers Yates and Silverman. The murals depict old-time Colorado riverboats and their run from Yuma to Eldorado Canyon.

For the future, Beckmann has been contemplating a project he might call "Vagaries," an insider's look at Las Vegas as a gambling community. "People come here with the idea they

are going to win, to possibly change their lives. There is magic here."

He says he likes the diversity of Southern Nevada's terrain, and much of his fine art deals with landscapes of places such as Lake Mead, Red Rock Canyon, and Valley of Fire. "The landscape is our principal spiritual resource," says Beckmann, who also likes Las Vegas for something he knows a great deal about. "I enjoy the process of creating illusions. Las Vegas is very much that." —Scott Shelley

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Helldorado Hospitality

In spring, the spirit of rodeo is
in full swing in Las Vegas.

By Don Riche

Back in 1934, when Las Vegas was a spirited but little town of 5,000 people, local leaders looked for something that would stir up some interest. They wanted some kind of predictable chaos that would bring the community together as well as boost the economy. What they wanted, and what they finally got, was an honest to goodness Helldorado, although it took a few years to understand what that was.

The origin of the name Helldorado is somewhat obscure, but it's obvious that the name fits: a bit of hell for the bull riders, and a bit of Eldorado for everyone involved.

That, of course, includes both the cowboys—the competitors' purse has grown from \$1,800 in the early days to more than \$200,000 today—and the townspeople. The event's inventors, Elks Lodge 1468, thought that local business



A participant in the 1954 beard contest gets a whisker check.

people could benefit from such a celebration and have lots of fun at the same time. In fact, Helldorado didn't even have a rodeo during its first year. It was just a frantic, three-day carnival designed to attract tourists on their way to the newly completed Hoover Dam.

But the rodeo, which started in 1935 in a downtown corral, soon became the celebration's centerpiece. By 1953 the original one-day buckaroo gathering had turned into three days of bareback riding, calf roping, team roping, steer wrestling, barrel racing, and bull riding. It was all there, not to mention four parades that pranced down Fremont Street past Glitter Gulch on the way to Cashman Field, Helldorado's first permanent headquarters.

In 1972 Helldorado et al moved to the Convention Center, which was roomy enough for a two-day swap meet as well

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as two more rodeo nights that were tacked on in 1973. The parades, meanwhile, had been cut from four to two and then consolidated into one huge mass of marching bands, baton twirlers, showgirls, beauty queens, sheriffs, posses, high-stilted clowns, silver-mounted cowboys, prairie-dressed cowgirls, gymnasts, miners, Shriners, Indians, politicians, motorcycles, vintage cars, tanks, and horses. It took everyone

*In the wild horse race,
three-man teams
try to rope and saddle
a horse that has
never been ridden before.*

about three and a half hours to march down the Strip to kick off the new 10-day celebration.

By 1982 the Elks had added yet four more rodeo days, for a grand total of nine, plus 300 commercial exhibitors, 800 professional cowboy entrants, a chili cook-off, Pony Express ride, cow-chip throwing contest, rodeo queen contest, Great Train Robbery and 250,000 visitors.

This spring, Las Vegas has been girding for one of the liveliest rodeo celebrations ever on May 2-10. Along with the usual dancing and parade, the first four nights of rodeo will feature the wild horse race finals, where three-man teams try to saddle a horse that's never been ridden and ride it to a given point. The last four nights will pit man against beast in the Wrangler bull fights—that's a one-to-one faceoff in which the clowns can't really afford to clown around.

The celebration opens with the giant parade kicking its heels through downtown Las Vegas, ending up at UNLV's Thomas and Mack Center. For the thousands of food-hungry visitors whom are expected to arrive, the Elks have put together a 13-store western village that will be the site of numerous barbecues and continuous music starting 5:30 p.m.

As usual there will be the annual Helldorado queen contest, along with a record number of whiskerinos who will concentrate on beard-grooming for their trophy. Hundreds of booths have been reserved in the exhibit hall, where wares from around the world will be on sale throughout the 10-day affair.

As local leaders hoped to do 53 years ago, Helldorado has definitely stirred up some interest.

Don Riche is a longtime Helldorado watcher. His favorite events are the bull riding and the parade.



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This Reno Rodeo parade down Center Street in the '40s shows off the headwear of both the proud riders and eager spectators.

50 Years in the Saddle

Half a century after 11 local men got the Reno Rodeo out of the chute, it's riding taller than ever

By Rose Stremel

Steeped in tradition as thick as range-camp coffee, the modern Reno Rodeo dates back to the days of the Great Depression and Model A Fords.

The year was 1933. Nevada's gaming laws were only two years old, and many entrepreneurs were enjoying a newfound prosperity shared by local dude ranchers and businessmen. The residency requirement for divorce had been reduced from six months to six weeks, and those seeking quick divorces flocked to the area.

Then, with the closing of the Wingfield banks, the small western city experienced the full impact of the national depression. The once-bustling town saw business slow to a creeping

pace. Downtown merchants were faced with empty hotel rooms and shelves stocked with unsold merchandise. So some local businessmen, horsemen, and ranchers rallied together to meet the challenge.

Under the leadership of Charlie Sadleir, the general manager of the Riverside Hotel, a group of 11 men pioneered an event that was sure to draw the crowds to Reno.

"We needed an event or something to boost the economy and build tourist traffic," says Harry Frost, longtime Reno resident and one of the rodeo's founding fathers. "Reno is a western town and we had a lot of local cowboys and horsemen, so a rodeo was a natural. The town was

small—everyone knew everyone—so putting together a rodeo was pretty easy. We knew who would be interested and who could do what for the rodeo."

The 11 men, each pledging \$100 to the event, worked two years organizing the rodeo. There had been a rodeo in Reno off and on since 1919; in fact, an early poster illustrator for the rodeo was Will James. A revival was needed.

After collecting \$60,000, the organizers set out to procure livestock, rodeo clowns, contestants, and an announcer. In 1935 the Reno Roundup, a precursor of the Reno Rodeo, was staged, and more than 30,000 spectators turned out.

"It was a big deal," says Frost. "The whole community got involved. People in



As in the 1939 rodeo (above), local cowboys often competed against the professionals in the Reno Rodeo's early years.

town would dress up in western-style clothes, and with the underwriting, local businesses played a major part."

In 1937 the Reno Rodeo Association, a nonprofit corporation, was formed, and this year the organization celebrates its 50th anniversary. Frost and Harry Drackert, another rodeo founding father and past association president, are still active on the board of directors.

In the early years, Frost recalls, local buckaroos competed alongside the professional rodeo circuit cowboys, testing skills they'd mastered in their everyday work. Special amateur competitions were set up for the area's ranchhands and later for local Indians and cowgirls.

During the 1950s and '60s, the rodeo added more events and changed its date. Due to a robust summer economy and interest in extending the tourist season, the rodeo's dates were changed from the Fourth of July to late June. The '70s brought added prosperity, and in 1971 underwriters saw a 100 percent return of their investment.

The parade in 1973 was made doubly memorable when the association's president, Jim Halley, drove a herd of

longhorn steers under the Reno arch. Although it made for great headlines, it didn't please city officials, who the year before had refused to allow the brief cattle drive. So during the parade Halley

*One time a Brahma bull
escaped and
finally was captured
at the Holiday Inn.
Since then
all the action
has stayed in the arena.*

and other association members watched with big grins and crossed fingers as the steers walked docilely through the streets.

On another occasion the livestock weren't as cooperative as Halley's group. In 1974 a Brahma bull escaped from the

arena and after stomping and huffing its way through town, was captured in the parking lot of the Holiday Inn. Since that time, the rodeo has kept the action that thrills Reno crowds inside the arena.

The Roundup of 1935 had a generous purse—about \$30,000—and thus was hailed as the "world's richest rodeo." In 1987 the "Wildest and Richest Rodeo in the West" will see more than 700 entrants competing for more than \$350,000 in prize money, which is now funded by national sponsors.

This year's event is scheduled to run June 19-28 with a variety of activities saluting the American West and the association's 50th anniversary. In keeping with tradition, a parade will be part of the celebration that includes dances, the annual buckaroo breakfast, and a carnival as well as the rodeo at the Reno Livestock/Events Center. The rodeo will run a week.

Like barbecue sauce on the ribs you can eat at the concessions, the Reno Rodeo holds fast to its dusty and proud beginnings. ☐

Rose Stremel of Incline Village is a freelance writer and rodeo fan.

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"Quiet Reflections, Ruby Marsh"
By George Carnes, Ely
Merit, color prints



"Bob's Country Diner"
By Tracy A. Mori, Tuscarora
Third, slides



Nevada 87

What's cookin' in the 13th annual show

Viewers of the Nevada 87 traveling photo show will see the Silver State strike poses that are both new and familiar as the show makes its 13th annual circuit of the state. The exposition, which includes print displays and a slide-sound show, will be seen by more than 100,000 visitors in 14 locations before returning home to the Northeastern Nevada Museum in Elko. Howard Hickson, the museum's director, began the show in 1975 and over the years has guided it to the lofty position of most-attended art exhibit in the state.

Shooting for inclusion in Nevada 87 were 188 photographers who submitted a total of 1,289 slides and prints. Top prizes were announced in color prints, black-and-white prints, and slides, and 98 photographers will have their work in the show (see page 83). Although technical merit was highly prized by the three judges—Caroline J. Hadley, Roche Bush, and Hickson—most winners presented rustic beauty in its many forms, as shown on these pages.



"A Shot in the Dark"
By Donald Peters, Las Vegas
Third, slides

"Uncle Phillip"
By Larry Angier, Ione, CA.
Merit, black and white



NEVADA 87 DATEBOOK

After spring showings in Elko and Winnemucca, Nevada 87 can be seen at 12 other locations:

Lovelock: thru May 5, County Library
Reno: May 12-June 9, County Library
Reno: June 12-25, Hist. Soc., Downtown
Carson City: July 1-Aug. 5, State Museum
Genoa: Aug. 11-24, Courthouse Museum

Fallon: Sept. 1-15, Community Center
Hawthorne: Sept. 22-Oct. 5, Arts Alliance
Tonopah: Oct. 13-Nov. 4, CN Museum
Las Vegas: Nov. 12-Dec. 16, LV Library
Valley of Fire: Dec. 22-Jan. 7
Ely: Jan. 15-28, County Library
Pioche: Feb. 2-17 Courthouse

IN THE SHOW

List includes winners of best of show (BOS), place (1st-4th), and merit (M) awards for color prints (CP), black-and-white prints (BW), and slides (S).
Battle Mountain: Carol Jackson, Jo A. Lacaillade, Toni Venturacci, Nancy Wagner (M-CP)
Boulder City: John H. Lehr
Carson City: Norma Agnew, C.J. Bailey,

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IN THE SHOW

John T Biale, Larry C. Brown, Syd Brown, Patricia L. Coyner, Thomas F. Davis, Jean Ford, Jane T. Johns, Joanna Lucas (M-S), Carol Manock, Emerson Wells

East Ely: Tom Puckett (M-CP)

Elko: Jamie Barton (M-CP), Allie Bear, Pamela Bloss, Tammi Cavender, David Gilliam, Robert E. MacMillan, Kathleen Meadows, Jack W. Peters, Chris Priaux, Les Richards, Fran Rockwell, Joan E. Ross, Carolyn B. Steninger, Sue Weber

Ely: Matthew Budak, George Carnes (2M-CP M-S), Ellen Kallery (M-CP), Steve Rick (M-S), Burns Roper, June Stone

Fallon: Paulie Alles, Pat Boden, Jennifer Manha, Bebe Ann Mills, Marguerite L. Powrie (3rd-CP)

Gardnerville: Diane Kay Griffin, Peggy Hulme, Kathy Mortimer, Joe Sprague

Genoa: Jay Aldrich (2nd-BW 4th-S)

Henderson: Carol M. Bunker

Incline Village: Casudi, Dave Kelley, Peggy Marie Morin (4th-CP)

Ione, CA.: Larry Angier (1st and 2M-BW)

Jarbridge: Betsy Williams

Jiggs: Linda Zunino

Kent, WA.: Tim Brewer

Las Vegas: Roxanne Carnevale, S. Mahlon Edwards, Herb Gilkey (1st-CP), Charlene Baumert Kell, Gary Meader, Donald Peters (1st-S), Pamela Sue Sobol (3rd-BW), Nancy Van Weezel

Minden: Shirley Yvonne Fraser, Bill Janssen

New York, NY: James Carroll (M-BW)

North Las Vegas: Bob Furtek

Pioche: Sally Wilkin

Pullman, WA.: Paul S. Morley

Reno: Peggy Lear Bowen, Richard C. Datin, Rodney C. Franzman, Chris Harris (BOS-CP), Ms. Jerry Nelson (2nd-S), Nickie Price, Harry Upson, Jr. (BOS-BW), Jean Wells, Maurine Williams

Salinas, CA.: Jeanne Neubert

San Francisco, CA.: Peter Church

Santa Clara, CA.: Norma J. Giudici (M-S)

South Lake Tahoe, CA.: Bill Serniuk

Sparks: Luverne Lightfoot

Stagecoach: John M. Kiriluk (M-CP)

Sun Valley: Rich Digiammo, Terri Digiammo, Roger J. Ferguson

Tuscarora: Tammy Mori (M-S), Tracy A. Mori (3rd-S), Chandra Rhoads, Sharon Rhoads (2nd-CP), Connie Satterthwaite

Washoe Valley: Muffy Greil Vhay

Washougal, WA.: Reinhold Schable (4th-BW)

Winnemucca: Linda Dufurrena (BOS and M-S), Lorraine Giurlani, Gwendolyn Schlottmann □



"Goldfield: Who Ghost There?"
By Larry Angier
(previous merit winner)

Important Developments

Anticipating *Nevada Magazine's*
1987 photo contest
and a chance for more prizes
if you play your cards right.

It's time again to get ready for the Great Nevada Picture Hunt. The rules, judges, and prizes will be announced in the next issue, July/August '87 so be sure to watch for it for details.

There is some contest news that can be revealed in advance. As befitting the 10th annual contest, the 1987 GNPH will have most of the time-tested elements of past years: terrific prizes, easy-to-follow rules, wise and impartial judges, and the care and attention of a magazine staff that appreciates good photography.

The contest will have some new angles, too. The most prominent will be the list of special categories you can enter. Prizes will be awarded for the best photos portraying such topics as people, events, outdoor recreation, hotel-casinos, wildlife, and desert scenery.

Furthermore, the deadline has been moved to late summer. That means you'll have more time to snap entries in the warm months, and we'll have more time to allow plenty of space to feature the winners' work.

As always, the winning photos are likely to have certain key ingredients. Those include interesting subject matter, good colors or black-and-white contrast,

sharp focus, good composition, and, most importantly, a total quality that somehow says "Nevada."

The rules will be much the same as last year's. You will be able to submit slides and larger transparencies, color prints, and black-and-white prints. The photos will have to be well-labeled. A self-addressed, stamped envelope must be provided for return. You'll have to fill out the entry blank. All rules will have to be followed; regretfully, erring entries will be bounced.

But those are just details. It's better to focus on the pleasure of picture-taking and the challenge of the Hunt.

So be sure to watch for the rules, prizes, entry blank, and other important items in the next issue, July/August '87. Then get your entries in and take your place in the 10th annual Great Nevada Picture Hunt.

Special note: The Friends of Red Rock Canyon are holding a photo contest and show featuring photos of the Red Rock area near Las Vegas. Entries will be accepted (hand delivered) from May 23 to June 2. For information call BLM's Red Rock Visitor Center, 702-363-1921. □

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Putting Down Routes

Roads get new names and limits, a bridge is contemplated, and Lincoln County gets ready for The Big Picture.

By David Lowe

Heavy Feet on Interstates

After Congress allowed states to raise the speed limit on rural interstate highways to 65 mph this spring, motorists in Nevada began limbering up their right feet in anticipation of a return to the rural raceways of yesteryear.

The 55 mph limit was eliminated from only two roads, and the law did not allow the complete absence of speed limits that Nevada highways used to be famous for. But naturally many drivers are happy about the increase. On Interstate 15, which spans 124 miles between California and Arizona, the limit has been raised on all but the 16 miles passing through Las Vegas. Hard chargers will find a longer 65-mph run on Interstate 80, which has 390 miles of brisk motoring from Reno to the Utah border.

Traffic Over the Dam

Anyone who has visited Hoover Dam on a summer weekend will attest to the dam's popularity—and the long line of cars snaking along U.S. 93. However, according to the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, as many as 42 percent of the 6,000 cars that pass over the dam each day are not there for a tour but simply to get across the Colorado River. And if traffic is slow there's little anyone can do; the nearest alternate crossing is 90 miles south near Laughlin at Davis Dam.

Relief may come in the form of the Black Canyon Bridge. The bridge, which would cost about \$70 million, was authorized by Congress in 1984, but no construction funds were allocated. John D. Brown, assistant regional director for the Bureau of Reclamation, has said he hopes to get lobbying help from Nevada and Arizona and that he will ask Congress for the funding. Until then everything is up in the air, except the bridge.

Not Only the Lonely

Occasionally there is a road that deserves more than a plain numerical designation. For instance, California has the Pacific Coast Highway, Alaska the Alcan Highway and Pennsylvania its venerable Turnpike.

Now what was once merely called U.S. 93 in Eastern Nevada has become, by decree of the State Department of Transportation, the Great Basin Highway.

The naming of U.S. 93—which links Jackpot, Wells, Ely, Pioche, Caliente, and Alamo—was intended to help publicize the new Great Basin National Park.

For about 30 miles, the Great Basin Highway merges with another road with a name, U.S. 50. That route through Central Nevada has been officially designated the Loneliest Road in America by the Nevada Legislature after the sobriquet was given to it by *Life*.

Lincoln Getting The Big Picture

Rural Nevadans have always had to stick close together, and the residents of Lincoln County will be doing just that when they gather for a giant group portrait during the Pioche Labor Day Celebration.

The ambitious project, called The Big Picture, calls for 4,000 current and former county residents to stand together in the shape of Nevada.

Coordinator Erik Lauritzen says he and other local organizers are encouraging Lincolnites to show up for the photo session on Sunday September 6, at the high school baseball diamond in Panaca. A festival with food and games will run from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. At high noon the crowd will form the shape of the state of Nevada, and Lauritzen will photograph the scene from the gym roof or perhaps from a hot-air balloon.

"We're inviting everyone who lives here, was born here, or has ever lived in Lincoln County," says Lauritzen, who lives in Pioche and is artist in residence at the school. "It's like a big homecoming, so people can bring their families to be in the picture."

He says this kind of group portrait—called a "human photograph"—was popular from about 1910 to 1925 but rarely has been done since. Limited-edition, black-and-white prints will be made from the Panaca photo and sold to raise funds for the Lincoln County Center for the Arts, a Pioche-based organization. Lauritzen says he can be reached for more information at 702-962-5408.

He adds that the arts group is counting on a big turnout of former residents for The Big Picture. Only about 4,000 people live in Lincoln County. □

David Lowe of Carson City is a UNR student and a freelance writer.

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Sandhill cranes wing gracefully against the dawn. Declining in numbers, these dancing birds breed primarily in Northeastern Nevada.

*The canvasback spends warm months
on the marsh. When winter hits,
the duck flies south at speeds
up to 60 mph.*



The Birds

Selections from the portfolio of
photographer Craig Stevenson.

By Cliff Glover

*I*f there is a sport that challenges man's ingenuity, it is snapping a bird's portrait. For some reason birds have an uncanny knack for twitching, flicking, or fluttering at exactly the same moment your index finger touches the shutter button. It's the same at 300 yards as it is at 30. And it's the same no matter what kind of equipment you have, or what season it is. The birds simply enjoy teasing you. They like hearing you use George Eastman's name in vain.

In Nevada one might think bird photography would be an easy sport. There aren't many trees to get in the way. There are few skylines to give away your location. But Nevada has a sizable population of birds that are adept at hiding. You could overrun Chicago with all the magpies, sparrows, finches, grouse, doves, jays, quails, chukars, and burrowing owls that live in and around the sagebrush. As for wetlands, Nevada's are the same as New Guinea's, filled with plenty of blood-sucking mosquitoes and lots of tules for the ducks to duck behind once you've got your focus right.

Some photographers think they can outsmart their feathered friends by hiding behind a canvas blind until the birds forget who put the blind up. The photographers will sit and sweat for three hours or more, wasting one roll of film after another until they finally get a good shot—usually by luck. Others might walk softly toward, say, an American avocet, hoping that the bird won't notice them while it is bent over, looking for tiny crustaceans. But birds

A common name for the eared grebe is "hell diver," although its dives are just a few feet deep to suck up dragonfly larvae or pull weeds for a floating nest.



The loggerhead shrike (left) holds mice and bugs by impaling them on thornbushes or barbed-wire fences.

The loggerhead's nickname is "butcherbird."

The belted kingfisher (right) is usually found perched above calm waters where it can scan for fish. Its plunge-diving technique is good for gathering breakfast while avoiding the hungry advances of larger raptors.

always do. As you walk forward, they strut backwards. As you walk backwards, they return to go. It's like doing the cha-cha-cha. The birds think it's great fun.

Yet you have to admire the people who try this sport, spending thousands of dollars on equipment before they can even get started. Their faith must be enormous. Cameras. Lenses. Filters. Strobes. Tripods. Attachments like auto-advance. Bulk film for the penny-wise. A set of field books for the pound-foolish. Why, it even goes beyond faith. Lugging all that gadgetry out to chase after a roadrunner until you die from heat exhaustion is akin to going after the Holy Grail.

That's why a bird photographer should be admired when he brings back a good mug shot. It's just not that easy.

Craig Stevenson, whose pictures are featured here, really did sweat behind a three-foot-by-three-foot canvas blind for hours at a time. He really did use a lot of film. But his beaks are not blurred and his feathers are not merged with the background. You don't have to squint to distinguish a shrike from a shrimp.

Stevenson, who lives near Lund in Eastern Nevada, started focusing on birds after he received his degree in wildlife science from Utah State in 1978. With his graduation present, a Canon AE-1, in hand, Stevenson was determined to photograph more than two in the bush. Since then he has photographed about 200 species ranging between Nevada and Florida, where he grew up. He says he might have captured more except that his 15-month-old son, Danny, "does a mean coyote yell and likes to chase things that move," which makes it real hard for Dad to take pictures.

When Stevenson isn't packing his camera, or entertaining Danny with his wife, Lynda, he's off driving tractors, bulldozers, one tons, three tons, jeeps—anything that can carry debris or move dirt around the Kirch Wildlife Management Area, which lies about 60 miles south of Ely. There are 35 miles of roads to grade, and they're all his. He also has bird counts to analyze and lots of reports to write, which leaves only the weekends for picture taking. But Stevenson uses his time carefully, and often has a plan. "I'll take out old fence posts and put them up in a nearby field," he says after much prodding. "Then after I see which ones the birds like, I set up my blind. You have to be pretty patient. You have to experiment a lot."

Sometimes he'll set up a covered blind near the water. He'll cover a wire skeleton with tules—the result looks like a beaver's house—and then sit for hours until he gets his shot. Or he'll load up 30 pounds of camera equipment and cast off toward some ducks in a canvas-covered innertube known as a fisherman's float tube. Stevenson has

rigged a blind around the tube's perimeter, so he just sits on his chair as he floats up on the elusive waterfowl. "It's a pretty good challenge," he says. "To get a duck in full frame you have to be about 20 to 25 feet away. Most of the pictures that are on eye level are taken that way."

When Stevenson goes out in the field, he's always rewarded with something—even if his photo session is not productive. One morning he might watch a pair of long-legged blue herons in courting ritual, erecting their plumes, shaking heads, grasping each other's mandibles and seesawing back and forth. Another time he might hear a symphonic array of chirps, warbles, whistles, and throaty grumbings rivaling the Boston Philharmonic. With all that action, Stevenson doesn't mind spending hours under a pile of cattails. "It's like having a collection, but you don't have to have anything in your hand," he explains. "You collect them just by seeing them."

Still, there is the challenge. Imagine taking a picture of an owl—a creature that can spot a lizard or a horned toad at 300 yards in the dark—without disturbing him. Imagine capturing the frenzied flight of a nervous hummingbird, which can fly off your frame as easily as it can appear on it.

Consider the meticulous preparations required to be ready for the thousands of ducks and shorebirds that fly into Stevenson's backyard at Kirch each spring. You set up the tripod, watch, and wait. At first the birds look like tiny white dots floating above the Egan Range, but as the dots descend, their familiar forms take shape. American wigeons, with their green face patches and white crowns. Buffleheads shining with luminescent purple foreheads. Flocks of honking Canadian geese and whistling swans. Green-winged teals. Cinnamon teals. Ring-necked ducks. Avocets. Stilts. Shrikes. Larks. Marsh wrens. Coots. Blackbirds. Ravens and meadowlarks. The sight is wonderful, indeed majestic, and you want it all on film.

You bring your camera up; a belted kingfisher flies down. You've been wanting a kingfisher for years, and now one is perched on a nearby branch. It sits as still as a stalking cat. You put your finger gently on the shutter button. You hold your breath. Then, when you have the picture that you've always dreamed about, when you know the exposure is perfect and the timing's just right, you start pumping out frames like Arnold Schwarzenegger pumps iron.

"Sometimes you have to take 30 pictures to get one," Stevenson says, and you know he's right. □

Cliff Glover is Nevada Magazine's promotions editor Macintosh wizard, and a frustrated bird photographer



Bawdy Bird Watcher

Winging it in Fallon.

By Renee Thompson

When you're married to the biologist of the Stillwater Wildlife Management Area in Fallon, people expect you to know more about nature than they do. It isn't fair.

Some folks assume that my husband's knowledge of raptors, waterfowl, seabirds, songbirds, and small mammals will rub off simply by osmosis. Be reasonable, guys. After all, my major in college was German, einen unbelievably far cry from der ornithology. If I'm unable to identify a Wilson's warbler as such, at least give me credit for the ability to whistle a happy tune in a foreign language.

Recent University of Nevada-Reno graduates who double as nature know-it-alls are the worst. They can't understand why my knowledge of endangered species is so limited. They have no patience with me, and further, they're baffled because I've chosen not to live my life vicariously through the birding escapades of my husband—someone they idolize and have dubbed "Big Dad."

But even Big Dad is occasionally put upon to acknowledge that I do know a little about birds. I know for example, that a varied thrush is capable of scratching up enough dirt to fill the Anaconda copper pit at Yerington, and that Oregon juncos also populate Washington, California, and Nevada. I know that red-tailed hawks prefer their mice marinated (although it's tough to get them to admit this—they're so macho) and that ring-billed gulls like the crust cut off their bread *before* it's thrown into the air. I think it's also safe to assume that bushtits are embarrassed by their name. I know I would be.

In spite of the fact that I've yet to set the world afire with my wildlife observations, Big Dad strives to achieve the impossible. It's his goal to teach our children and I everything he knows about the displays and behavior of every

Tom, Dickey, and Harry within a 2,000-mile radius.

You can imagine Big Dad's frustration when our five-year-old daughter recently informed him there was a "big blue bird with a punk-rock hairdo" monopolizing the suet feeder at our favorite campground.

"The Steller's jay prefers a primarily coniferous and mixed coniferous-deciduous forest, sweetheart," he explained.

"Maybe so, Daddy" she countered, "but he's picking out all the sunflower seeds and leaving the crummy stuff for the nuthatches."

At least she's catching on. Her older sister and I are still arguing about whether or not the tufted titmouse should be banned from *Peterson's Field Guide*. It's my contention that the bird wanders irregularly and interbreeds freely while my daughter maintains that it's a free country—even for the likes of a songbird who chooses to migrate extensively.

I think it's scandalous that this bird is allowed to set such an outrageous example for this country's future crop of naturalists. But, as the Reno grads are so quick to remind me, what do I know?

They don't call me birdbrain for nothing I suppose, so the next time you find yourself wondering about the peculiarities of the Pyramid pelicans, ask the guy in the U.S. Fish and Wildlife uniform, will you? He'll be glad to take two hours of your time explaining it, and you might even learn something useful.

Who knows when you'll be called upon to recite man's relationship to nature as reflected in such issues as hummingbird hangups and flycatcher fantasies? □

Renee Thompson, Big Dad, and the kids live in Fallon. She's been published in Reader's Digest and Woman's World, and she writes a regular column for Fallon's Lahontan Valley News.

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Life on Planet X (Continued from page 59)

day," Bogard explains. That's enough to run everything but the refrigerator, which is propane. The solar system runs their water pumps, hot-water heaters, stereo, and their satellite dish, so they can charge batteries all day and take hot showers and listen to music or watch old movies at night.

Even though Planet X is some distance off the beaten track, even for Nevada, the Bogards have a successful business. "We sell everything we make," he says. "It took awhile for people to start finding us, but we have more and more visitors all the time. I wouldn't live anywhere else."

Despite the isolation, Bogard tries to keep track of fashion trends. "I even watch *Style with Elsa Klensch* on CNN so I can know what the color trends in pottery are going to be in a year or two. The colors women are wearing this year you can bet will show up on their living room shelves next year. That's how I got the idea for the black-and-white stoneware collection."

The Bogards' work is on display primarily at Feats of Clay in Reno; they will have a show there June 7-20, with an opening reception on the 7th from noon to 4 p.m. The gift shop at John Ascuaga's Nugget in Sparks also has some of the Bogards' work. They attend a number of shows in Nevada each year, including Reno's Tombola Festival in July, the Genoa Candy Dance in September, possibly a Boulder City or Las Vegas show in October.

"I can see that I'm going to have to get more involved with the gallery scene, so that a new group of people will see my work. But what I'd really like to do is go into industrial ceramics, make highly temperature-resistant tiles. For the space shuttle, maybe even for space stations. Maybe paint a few desert scenes on them."

This sounds like an idea NASA could go for. After all, inhabitants of other worlds might recognize and appreciate fine art as much as the next guy. Until the shuttle starts supplying space stations, however, the Bogards will stick around their adopted town of Gerlach, honing that desert-dry sense of humor and appreciation of the absurd that makes life a daily adventure, whether they're throwing, showing, or singing rockabilly on Planet X. □

Carolyn Dufurrena, a consulting geologist based in the Winnemucca area, likes the Bogards' music and buys their pottery. She says readers who wish to know the Bogards' show schedule can be put on their mailing list by writing Planet X, Box 4, Gerlach, NV 89412. The message-recording phone is 702-557-2500.

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I MAGE OF GAMING

Since the 1930s, casinos have known how to dress (and undress) for success.

By Peter L. Bandurraga

Nevada is a vast land of deserts and mountains, sagebrush and pines, blue skies and sparkling lakes. But if you ask anyone in New York or San

Francisco or Hong Kong what Nevada is, you'll hear of dazzling lights, show-stopping entertainment, beautiful women, and, above all, gambling—the chance to win an instant fortune at the pull of a lever or turn of a card. For most of the world, Nevada is a fantasy land that promises forbidden delights without the nagging threat of penalty.

Certainly it was not always that way. The image of Nevada—the alluring but respectable mirage in the desert—is the result of hard and patient work by three generations of skillful promoters in Las Vegas and Reno. At the same time, Nevada's two major cities have promoted themselves in rather different ways, and those approaches have greatly influenced how the two communities have developed over the past six decades.

When casino gaming was made legal by the Nevada Legislature in 1931, there was little immediate effect. The owners of saloons and speakeasys merely opened the doors to the back rooms and second stories where roulette wheels and card tables had always been.

Reno in the 1930s was known as a rip-roaring town. The divorce trade already had earned it national notoriety. The six-week divorce law was another product of the 1931 Legislature, and it solidified Nevada's position on the exit side of the marriage industry. Easterners continued to flock west to, as Walter Winchell put it, get Reno-vated.

"Nothing to speak of is prohibited in Reno," reported *Fortune* magazine in 1934. "It comes closer than any other American city to delivering the liberties offered in the Constitution of the U.S., and adds a few more for good measure."

In those days the gambling clubs were grouped along Commercial Row,



Complete with Keystone Cops and slapstick stunts, a promo photo like this one would further the bawdy image of Las Vegas in newspapers worldwide.

facing the railroad tracks, and down Virginia and Center streets. The most notable club was the Wander Inn, located where Harrah's Virginia Street entrance is now. Another popular spot was the Stag Inn, on the corner where Fitzgerald's looms today. Center Street had the Dog House, the Inferno, the Ship and Bottle, the 222 Club, the Bonanza, the Northern, and the New Yorker. Each had its distinctive decoration—a blazing red entrance for

the Inferno, a ship's prow for the Ship and Bottle.

The first real casino in Reno was the Bank Club, taken over by William J. Graham and James C. McKay in the early 1920s. It was well known that hoodlums and thieves were hired as bouncers there. George "Baby Face" Nelson was reputed to be so employed, passing the time in Reno while the proceeds from his latest robbery spree were being laundered. Thus part of the

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Harold S. Smith
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Raymond I. Smith

*This 1949 Harolds Club calendar was
 a sign of the times for Reno's
 glamorous western image.*



In 1939 Las Vegas claimed it was "Still a Frontier Town," an image that caught the world's attention. Today the theme is "The Entertainment Capitol of the World," a moniker that is universally accepted.

lure of the Bank Club was the opportunity real or imagined, to catch a glimpse of a famous desperado. Another attraction came late at night, when prostitutes from the cribs were invited into the club after the evening shift.

Few tourists came to Reno in those days. An out-of-town visitor was likely as not establishing his or her residency in order to secure a quick divorce. The clubs' clientele was generally local and male. Women visited the few casinos, such as the Willows, that solicited their trade with a more refined atmosphere. Most of the casinos were dark and seedy, and they offered little in the way of advertisement beyond a girlie calendar and notices in the newspaper. In fact, most of the club owners preferred a low profile because they feared that too much attention would arouse the same reformist impulses that had outlawed gambling back in 1910.

Through World War II the downtown gambling district remained a tarnished flower. Walter Van Tilburg Clark called it "the ersatz jungle, where the human animals, uneasy in the light, dart from cave to cave under steel and neon branches, where the voice of the croupier halloos in the secret glades, and high and far, like light among the top leaves, gleam the names of lawyers and hairdressers on upstairs windows." The most memorable tourist landmark was the arch across Virginia Street that

proclaimed Reno to be "The Biggest Little City in the World."

Las Vegas followed much the same pattern as Reno. Until the Boulder Dam project was begun in 1931, the city was primarily a division point on the Union Pacific Railroad. Attempts to boost local attractions had proved fruitless. The new dam changed all that, however. The engineering marvel of its day, the enormous art-deco structure on the Colorado River symbolized recovery from the Depression and promised limitless energy. Not only did thousands of workers and their families come to join the project, stimulating the Las Vegas economy in the process, but also the very magnitude of the endeavor began attracting vacationers. With good roads and surplus income more common, vacations to the Southwest by auto became popular.

The dam was a great attraction, and local promoters worked hard to spread word of its appeal. They capitalized on Las Vegas' appearance as a frontier town, where you might see cowboys and miners bellied up to the bar or gathered at the gaming tables. One hotel owner hired a prospector with his burro to stand on the street and greet passersby. In 1934 the local Elks Club began sponsoring Hellorado, a rodeo and general celebration of the Wild West, complete with the display of the bones of the famous renegade Queho. Chamber of

Commerce promotions stressed the wide-open way of life in Nevada and the glories of nature: "Low taxes, liberal laws, a choice climate, a natural scenic beauty, and a design which blends the frontier of old—the real America—with civilization and retains the best features of each."

It was in Reno, however, that the first serious promotion of gambling came. The Smith family—Raymond I. (Pappy) and his sons Harold and Raymond A.—founded Harolds Club on February 23, 1935, Harold's birthday. Later, their national advertising campaigns, including the ubiquitous "Harolds Club or Bust" signs, benefited all the clubs of Reno. Beyond that, the Smiths understood they were selling fun. They promoted a friendly atmosphere by making their club bright and cheerful. They welcomed the working man who could wager only nickels and dimes. Women were made to feel comfortable. Harolds Club was the first air-conditioned casino, the first to stay open 24 hours, and the first to install a credit office. Harold's wife Dorothy was the first woman dealer at roulette, spelling her husband and father-in-law at the wheel long before the manpower shortages of the war made female dealers a common sight. Around 1945 the Smiths began decorating with western artifacts; a result was the club's extensive gun collection. In four years the club's average daily attendance went from 5,000 to 20,000,

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Las Vegas' modern image is suggested by this 1968 Holiday magazine cover—the oasis in the high desert, where lines between fantasy and reality are blurred, where fun, entertainment, and excitement are available at every turn.

with an equivalent increase in profits. The Smiths understood that they were inviting the world to come and have a good time in Reno, and they made a fortune.

By the late '40s, other clubs were prospering in this newer, more enlightened mold. The Hotel Golden and the Riverside Hotel had long offered a more genteel atmosphere. William F. Harrah became another pioneer in the industry. The results of a study he had commissioned from the Stanford Research Institute led him to sponsor 24-hour gambler's-special bus tours from the Bay Area and Sacramento. As his business grew he acquired more property downtown and built increasingly elaborate and elegant facilities. At the same time his world-famous automobile collection also was drawing people to Reno. Whereas Harolds ardently pursued a western theme, Harrah's used a variety of images in its architecture, decor, and advertising. Many people in Reno still remember the club's little sultan on the flying carpet with his harem girls, suggesting a sort of opulence in the high desert. For the last several years Harrah's has favored the international style of architecture and stressed sophistication. Many of the clubs in Reno now pursue similar themes, although some such as the Cal-Neva and the Comstock continue to prosper with western atmospheres.

In Las Vegas, the owners of the Sal Sagev and the other clubs on Fremont Street had seen little need for innovative advertising, but the advent of World War II changed the situation for southern gaming. A new focal point was being created south of town on the Los Angeles Highway with the building of El Rancho Vegas in 1940 and the Last Frontier in 1942. These were motor resorts, destinations designed to lure the tourist for a prolonged stay. Both were built in the western image that had long been popular. The war also brought thousands of new residents to the gunnery range at Nellis and the Basic Magnesium plant at Henderson. Those wartime paychecks helped the Las Vegas economy no end.

The Flamingo, built by Benjamin "Bugsy" Siegel in 1946 on what is now called the Strip, led away from the Old West look toward a more sophisticated, international style. The story goes that in looking for a name to symbolize the hotel he was building Siegel thought of the afternoons he had spent with his hoodlum friends at the Hialeah race track in Florida, and especially the birds that flocked in the infield. The Flamingo opened the day after Christmas, 1946, with all the glitter and glamour of a Hollywood premiere. After Siegel was gunned down in his Beverly Hills home the next year, and it became common gossip that mob interests had Las Vegas

connections, there was a strange thrill that brought some tourists to the desert hoping to catch a glimpse of a sinister presence. (The great majority of mobster-watchers were disappointed.)

In the decade after the Flamingo opened, the Strip developed into a world-famous extravaganza. The Thunderbird, the Desert Inn, the Sahara, the Sands, the Stardust, the Riviera, the Dunes, and many others along the Strip created an environment that was uniquely Las Vegas and has been imitated countless times since. The architecture stressed the exuberance and creativity that infused America in the 1950s. Some of the young architects who were transforming the urban scene in Southern California took commissions in Las Vegas. Wayne McAllister designed the Flamingo and also did the Sands. Others such as Douglas Honnold and Martin Stern, Jr. were involved. Influenced by the radical ideas of Frank Lloyd Wright, they were creating architectural environments that integrated form and function, one of the functions being to advertise the commercial enterprise. At the same time they celebrated the new technological age—the age of rocket ships and atomic bombs and huge tail fins on cars. It was an architecture of action, movement, and direction.

In many cases the monumental signs were even more important than the buildings. The important element was the message, and a new vernacular was being created to express it. The parabolic, free-form shape that appears everywhere from swimming pools to coffee shop counters typified the age. Writer Tom Wolfe in *The Kandy-Kolored Tangerine Flake Streamline Baby* (1965) exulted in the new forms that ignored the dictates of high art and spoke directly to the people:

"Yet long after Las Vegas' influence as a gambling heaven has gone, Las Vegas' forms and symbols will be influencing American Life....That fantastic

skyline! Las Vegas' neon sculpture, its fantastic 15-story-high display signs, parabolas, boomerangs, rhomboids, trapezoids and all the rest of it, are already the staple design of the American landscape outside of the oldest parts of the oldest cities. They are all over every suburb, every subdivision, every highway...every hamlet, as it were, the new crossroads spiraling Servicenter signs. They are the new landmarks of America, the new guideposts, the new way Americans get their bearings," wrote Wolfe.

Just as the Strip has become the subject of study by serious architects, it also has become the typical urban environment, replacing the old downtowns. From coast to coast, the style of the Strip has triumphed.

Although at first reluctant to change, the clubs of downtown Las Vegas were not to be left behind. New construction began after World War II with the Golden Nugget in 1946, followed by the El Dorado, the Westerner, Binion's Horseshoe, and the Lucky Strike. In 1956 the 15-story Fremont Hotel opened and led the way for other downtown hotels, such as the Mint, Four Queens, and the Union Plaza. Again the new architecture and glorious neon signs predominated.

With physical growth came a new sense of community of a need to act together to publicize the city. While promotion in Reno has until recently been primarily an individual endeavor, Las Vegas business people came together at the end of the war to ward off the expected slump and promote their city. When local and national surveys predicted a post-war tourist boom, the Chamber of Commerce was convinced Southern Nevada could prosper with it. Chamber president Maxwell Kelch led a group of young members who decided that they had to market their city the same way a business markets a new product. They pulled together a Live Wire Fund, primarily with contributions from casinos, hired a succession of



When the Stardust opened in 1958 it exemplified the ethereal image of Las Vegas.

advertising agencies, and set out to put Las Vegas on the map. Following the advice of John Van Zandt of the J. Walter Thompson Company, they stressed all of the area's attractions—the scenic wonders, the last frontier image, the extravagant playground for grown-ups. With increased publicity came writers from other cities who sent back stories of the delights and amusements in the desert. Glitter Gulch and the gold to be won there became Las Vegas' trademark, as did Vegas Vic shouting "Howdy Partner." "Fun in the Sun" summed it up, and the city prospered.

In the early '50s, the cooperative campaigns in Las Vegas gave way to promotion by the individual clubs and hotels as they became larger and more competitive. But those early efforts, such as the founding of the Las Vegas News Bureau, have borne incredible fruit. The little ranch by the desert springs has become a true mirage beckoning in the hot sun.

Although not on the scale of Las Vegas, Reno in recent years has followed in the path of glitter and excitement. The 1970s especially saw several new casino-hotels constructed. The old regulations confining casinos to the downtown area were eliminated, and Virginia Street has rapidly developed into a strip environment. Anyone who doubts that Reno has not understood the idea that the architecture proclaims the message need only drive down from Donner Pass on I-80 some evening and observe how the signs and the buildings sparkling in the twilight beckon and entice. The best example is perhaps Bally's (nee MGM Grand), splendid in its massive isolation on the east side of town.

The fact that gaming continues to be the major industry of Reno and Las Vegas, and continues to prosper in spite of recessions and rivals, shows that the image makers have done their job superbly. There is another Nevada, but the one everybody knows best glitters and shimmers in the desert. □

Peter L. Bandurraga lives in Reno and is the director of the Nevada Historical Society.

The Desert Mirage Show

This summer the Nevada Historical Society presents its show "Desert Mirage: Casino Gaming and the Image of Nevada" in Las Vegas at the Nevada State Museum and Historical Society from June 15 to August 31. The show which appeared last year in Reno, includes elements such as advertising, architecture, signs, interior design, and entertainment. For more information contact the Historical Society in Las Vegas at 702-385-0115 or the Reno office at 789-0190. □

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Alkali Dick and the Old Woman

After raising that hog from a runt to a
plump porker, Dick Watson
wasn't going to let her get away
By R.E. "Colonel" Priest

Old Alkali Dick Watson pushed through the swinging doors of Rosco's speak-easy and stepped onto the board sidewalk of C Street in Virginia City. Dark clouds were spilling over the crest of Sun Peak, and it was cold, much colder than when he had gone inside. He turned up the collar of his sheepskin coat and pulled down the earflaps of his leather cap. Unless he hurried home and got the hog indoors, it might freeze.

Since spring Dick had raised that hog from a tiny, squealing, unwanted runt at his place in Silver City. The old mother sow hadn't had enough dinner plates for her litter, and a rancher had persuaded Dick to take the little pig and raise it.

When it became obvious the pig would starve to death unless it was nursed by hand, Dick bought a rubber nipple from the local druggist. Needless to say the townsfolk got a lot of mileage out of that one, teasing him about the virtues of fatherhood and the vices of his former bachelor ways. Then he explained why he was buying such unusual merchandise and asked the druggist if he knew of any better way to feed a little pig. The druggist admitted that he didn't and gave Dick a long and detailed lesson in the duties of foster motherhood.

Dick followed the druggist's instructions. Day or night for the first few weeks, whenever the pig was hungry, it squealed with the screeching noise of a rusty hinge. Each time Dick rolled wearily out of bed, heated some milk, squirted some on his wrist, and fed the pig.

Under his care the pig thrived and soon outgrew its box beneath the kitchen range, so Dick moved his packsaddle, pick, shovel, and gold pan to another corner of the lean-to and sawed a hole through the wall into the corral. His burro, Bonanza, watched with big, wary eyes at all the commotion, but in a few days the two animals became friends.

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cleared the mountains when all the inhabitants of Silver City were rudely awakened by the two animals' salute to the new day. The pig squealed in an off-key soprano, and the burro honked in a deep bass.

One morning after the pig had finished eating, Dick noticed for the first time that it had two small white spots just below its eyes. They looked like glasses that had slipped down on the nose of a little old woman. Dick laughed at the pig's solemn expression and also at the silly idea of naming a pig, but this was a natural. Then and there he named the third member of his family "Old Woman."

Within a few weeks Alkali Dick Lawton and his Old Woman became well known all over the Comstock. They didn't know that Dick's Old Woman was a hog, though. They knew only that Dick seemed a bit depraved because he was going up to the boardinghouses and asking everyone for their leftovers. Dick was known to be a proud man, so they didn't ask any questions. Each day they gave him all the potato peelings he wanted, and each day Dick saw an increase in Old Woman's girth.

That spring at the State Prison in Carson City, only 12 miles away, two young lifers killed a guard and shot their way to freedom. It took some doing, but the two outwitted the combined efforts of the prison guards, a sheriff's posse, the state police, and vigilantes. A group of concerned citizens decided a \$5,000 reward for the killers—dead or alive—might help. Posters were scattered throughout the countryside.

Two months later, two tanned and bearded miners moved into a small two-room shack on the edge of Virginia City. They wore scuffed field boots and faded levis. They had picks and shovels and said they were prospectors from Alaska. Prospectors are a close-mouthed and migratory breed, and no one questioned their statements.

The pair soon got acquainted with the other prospectors, miners, and mill men who drank, loafed, or played cards at Rosco's saloon. They also found work with two snipers named Boss Head Brown and Hard Rock Hansen, who were working a lease at the old Ophir Mine.

The four spent many evenings at Rosco's place, and they talked more with Rosco than with anybody else. That was peculiar because they never did drink Rosco's moonshine, and Bronco always disliked having loafers and bar flies in his place.

Before long the seasons changed and a thick mantle of snow covered the mountains. The cottonwood leaves turned yellow, and the wild geese flew south. The days grew shorter and shorter.

Old Woman by now was getting

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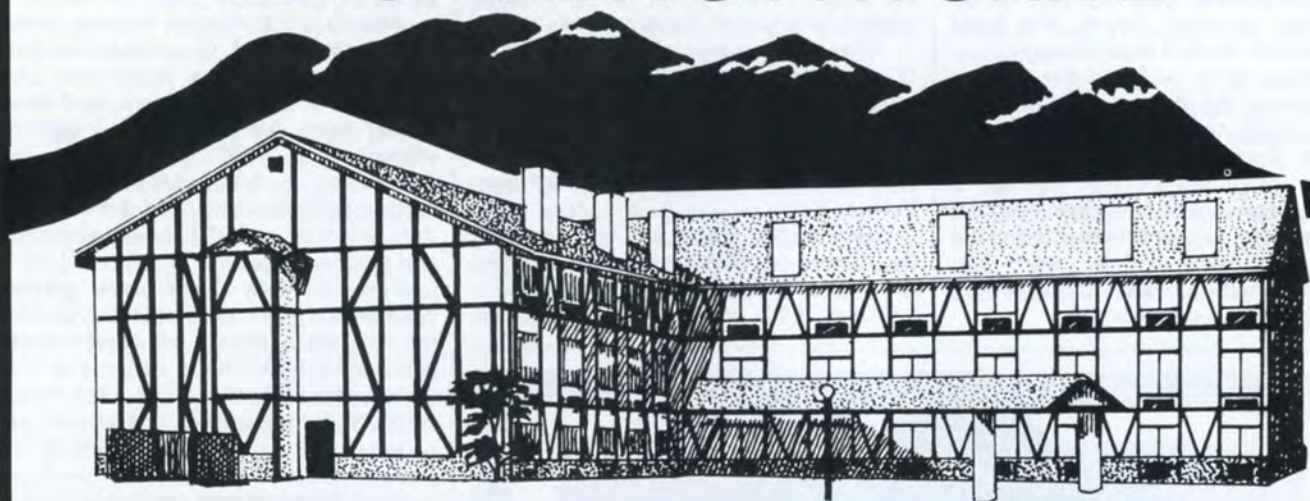
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plump and tender, and Dick contemplated her lovely form with one eye while squinting at the weather with the other. Soon the day would come when he'd have to convert Old Woman into hams, spareribs, bacon, and good old-fashioned smoked sage sausage.

But, doggone it, he hated the thought of butchering Old Woman. The more he thought about that inevitable task, the more he dreaded it. He wished that somehow he might be able to take a more impersonal and detached attitude. He was getting too sentimental in his old age. After all, why had he raised her, anyway? Wasn't it obvious the pig would be slaughtered sooner or later?

It was far better to remember all the fun he had with Old Woman. Together they were a couple, and people joked with him about the health and welfare of his Old Woman. Now he sometimes wished he'd named her something else.

After offering mental apologies to Old Woman, he made arrangements with a butcher in Virginia City. Dick borrowed a pickup truck and got her aboard. Then he loaded and buckled on his six-shooter; ranchers always shot their hogs in those days.

Snow began falling as Dick drove up the canyon to Virginia City, and flurries continued for the rest of the afternoon.

After Old Woman's demise, the

butcher asked Dick if he wanted the hog cut and trimmed, but Dick said no; he'd do that tomorrow. So they wrapped Old Woman in a canvas and loaded her inside the pickup.

Rosco's place was on the way home, and Dick decided to quench his thirst and soothe his guilty conscience. Dick didn't particularly like Rosco, and Rosco cared even less for Dick, but the saloonkeeper did sell the best moonshine in town. Dick parked the truck across the street, and it was almost dark when he parted the swinging doors and stepped inside.

Rosco's beady black eyes glittered with malice when he saw Dick. No smile of welcome crossed his knife-scarred face as he took Dick's order and then served him without a word. Dick was in no mood for talk, either, not tonight, and certainly not with Rosco. He took his drink and looked around.

Boss Head Brown and Hard Rock Hansen were playing a mild game of poker with two bearded strangers Dick had never seen before. Crack 'Em Down Mike was risking a few two-bit pieces at Two Toed Pete's blackjack game. Old Ike Priff and Prukey Hicks were sitting near the glowing pot-bellied stove practicing marksmanship on a big brass spittoon 10 feet away and loudly recalling their boyhood days in the Ozarks. The room reeked of tobacco, whiskey and sweaty unwashed bodies.

Dick picked up his second drink and walked over to the blackjack game. Pete shuffled the cards and smiled slyly at his new target. "Well, if it isn't my old friend Alkali Dick. Glad to see you, Dick. Pull up a stool and tell me how you've been doing lately."

"Not so good tonight, Pete. Dog tired. Just dropped in to see if a drink or two wouldn't make me feel a mite better."

Crack 'Em Down Mike held 14 and took a long time trying to decide whether or not he should take a hit. There were several empty glasses beside him. He yelled at Rosco for another drink.

"Well, what did you do today Dick, to get yourself all wore out?" Pete asked.

"Had to bring my old hog up to get her butchered—it was time. Got her out in my truck." Rosco served Mike's drink, waited while he fumbled for change, then walked away.

Mike finally decided he wanted a hit, and Pete broke him with the jack of spades. Mike cursed, threw down his cards, and stomped away.

"Say, Pete," Dick said as he leaned over the table, "who's them two fellers playing poker with Boss Head and Hard Rock? Seems like I've seen one of them before, but I can't remember where. They been around here long?"

"About three months, I think," Pete said. "Red Beard there's named Frank, and the other one's Joe. Don't know their last names. They're working with Boss

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Head and Hard Rock at the Ophir. Why did you want to know?"

"Oh, no special reason. Just curious," Dick replied.

Across the room, Rosco had pulled up a chair at Boss Head's table. He sat next to Red Beard and whispered to him. Then Red Beard and his partner pulled on their gloves and left.

"That's about all I know about them," Pete said. "They come down here nearly every night to loaf and play cards. Never stay very late, and I've never seen either one of them take a drink."

Dick pulled off his cap and scratched his gray head. "Seems like I've seen that red-bearded feller, but I can't remember where. Maybe they're revenuers."

Pete laughed, "No, I don't think so. They could have had the goods on Rosco long before now if they were revenuers. No, I think they're just a couple of sourdoughs from Alaska. Say Dick, I just noticed, what are you packin' the gun for?"

"I told you, I butchered my hog today."

"You're telling me you shot it with that cannon?"

"Yeah, why?"

Pete stood up, rested his diamond-studded fingers on his hips, and laughed.

"Are you meanin' to tell me you shot your Old Woman with a .44?"

"It ain't funny Pete."

"I think it's funny and I'm the one that's doin' the laughin' Hey Rosco, Dick here shot his Old Woman with a .44." He was still laughing when Dick walked out.

Dick was fuming when he reached the pickup, but he was even more angry when he saw that his pork was stolen. He took a flashlight from the glove compartment and walked around the truck. There were two pairs of man-made tracks in the new snow. One pair had been made by snowpacs. The other pair were from new overshoes. The snow was trampled behind the tailgate of the truck, and the trail led up the hill.

Dick loosened his gun in the holster and followed the tracks up a half mile until there was only one house left on the steep slope.

A feeble yellow light glowed through the front window's gridwork. A piece of dirty lace poked through the shards of a broken windowpane.

Dick stepped carefully onto the warped and rotted porch and knocked on the front door. People and things started to move inside. Something was being dragged across the floor. A door closed.

Then a tall man with a flaming red beard and icy blue eyes like those of a rattlesnake cracked open the front door about six inches.

"Yeah, what do you want?" he demanded.

Dick smiled. "I heard you folks were

new around here. Just came to sort of get acquainted and set a spell. Ain't you going to ask me in?"

"Naw, it's too late tonight. Come back some other time." He tried to close the door, but Dick already had his foot in the opening and his gun drawn.

"Well, I'm coming in anyway."

Red Beard jumped back and clawed at his hip pocket.

"Hold it, Red!" Dick laughed. "I just want to talk to you. You don't act a bit sociable, Red. Why are you so jumpy?"

"What do you mean, Mister, coming and busting into a man's home like this? Who are you and what do you want anyway?"

"Where's your partner?" Dick asked calmly.

"He's sick." Red's shifty eyes flickered for just a second toward a door in the opposite wall. "He's sick, and he went to bed. What do you want to see him about?"

"Now you listen, Red, real careful. You walk over there real slow and easy and open that door. I'm going to look in on your sick partner."

By the dim light of a smoking kerosene lamp Dick saw Red's partner in bed. Dirty, rumpled blankets were pulled up close to his chin. Dick herded Red into the room and approached the

(Continued on page 122)



UPCOMING EVENTS

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Good News For People Who Eat.

If your taste buds are not altogether excited about a future of organic fiber flakes, the beef industry would like a few words with you. Even a few from the U.S.D.A. Because the lowdown on beef is probably less than you think—lower in calories, leaner on fat, lighter on cholesterol than you would ever imagine. It's even faster to fix than your mother knows. So read on. And hang on to your forks.



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3 oz. of lean beef is under 200 calories. But for that fraction of a total day's calories, you get: • 46% of the adult man's RDA for protein • 59% of the adult woman's RDA for protein • 15% of the adult woman's RDA for iron • 40% of the adult RDA for zinc • 76% of the adult RDA for vitamin B-12.



THE UNSATURATION POINT

Over half the fat in beef is actually mono- or poly-unsaturated. That's why 3 ounces of tenderloin have only 3.1 grams of saturated fat out of 7.9 grams total. May your body and your taste buds make peace.



TERIYAKI BEEF STIR-FRY

Preparation: 15 min.

Cooking time: 10 min.

Cut 1 lb. top round steak in thin strips. Marinate in 3 Tbs. teriyaki sauce, 1 Tbs. oil and 2 tsp. cornstarch 30 min. Stir-fry 2 bell peppers (3/4" cube) and 6 green onions (2" pieces) in 1 Tbs. oil 3 min.; remove. Stir-fry beef (1/2 at a time) 2-3 min. Return all ingredients. Cook until hot. 4 servings. Calories: 247 per serving; 162 from beef.

Figures are for 3-ounce servings, cooked and trimmed.



© 1987 Beef Industry Council and Beef Board



ROUND TIP
6.4 gms total fat*
(2.3 gms sat. fat)
162 calories



TOP LOIN
7.6 gms total fat*
(3.0 gms sat. fat)
172 calories



TOP ROUND
5.3 gms total fat*
(1.8 gms sat. fat)
162 calories

Beef.

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Source: U.S.D.A. Handbook No. 8-13



EYE OF ROUND
5.5 gms total fat*
(2.1 gms sat. fat)
155 calories



TENDERLOIN
7.9 gms total fat*
(3.1 gms sat. fat)
174 calories



SIRLOIN
7.4 gms total fat*
(3.0 gms sat. fat)
177 calories

Pine Dining

What better place to enjoy a formal dinner with friends than the Jarbidge Wilderness?

By Mary Rose Loney

My plan to dine out—way out—began to take shape on a vacation several years ago. Looking for relief from the hustle and bustle of Southern Nevada, two of us had driven beyond Elko and into Idaho, where we stopped at Murphy's Hot Springs. Another 15 miles south, on the winding dirt road that climbed back into Nevada through aspen and pine, we discovered Jarbidge.

The town seemed to have been somewhat revitalized while reflecting its early-1900s origins. The old jail still stood, although grass and scrub had cropped its sides. Main Street was unmistakably dirt, and yet there were several immaculate log houses with green lawns. There was a post office; we learned the mail saw its way in and out only three days per week. Two saloons, a cafe, gas and ranger stations, and a trailer marked "Jarbidge Hunter's Hotel" made up the business district.

On that first trip, at our campsite in the woods outside the little town, I cooked a dinner that turned out extraordinarily well, more likely attributable to the magic of the scene than my culinary expertise. But the meal sparked the idea of hosting a feast in this wondrous wilderness so that Jarbidge could be experienced by more of my friends.

So it was that two years later I found myself organizing an expedition of fine diners into the Jarbidge Wilderness. The idea had evolved into a formal dinner set in the woods, complete with printed invitations, a dress code, and months of menu planning. The only requirement, beyond dress, was that guests bring their own lawn chairs.

The guest list included 12 adventuresome eaters from various backgrounds and geographical areas. Michele Kettenring, a bartender from Naples, Florida, traveled the farthest. John and Susan Christenson, owners of a T-shirt shop, traveled down the Potato State from Sun Valley. J.J. Balk, Henderson resident and public relations director at McCarran International Airport, was my co-host. The rest of the party came from Las Vegas and included R.T. Thompson, a nuclear physicist; Ray Kamo, bell captain at the Golden Nugget; his friend Erin; Linnea



The gourmets in the woods: J.J. Balk, Barbara Mason, Jerry Coombs, Linnea and Dirk Van Gorp, Erin, Ray Kamo, Mary Rose, Richard "R.T." Thompson, Michele Kettenring, John and Susan Christenson, Gene, and Saffron.

and Dirk Van Gorp; Barbara Mason; and Jerry Coombs.

Given the directional variances of the guests, we had set Murphy's as the spot to meet on June 29. Gathering there at noon, we relaxed in the hot spring and ate homemade burgers in the cafe. Then we all headed for the campsite near Jarbidge.

Along the way Michele and I stopped to collect wild roses, Queen Anne's lace, and Indian paintbrush to adorn our table. Arriving in Jarbidge, we stopped at the Outdoor Inn to try to buy some champagne, and on the way in we were greeted by a voice from overhead: "That's probably not a real good place to park since I'm not the best 'a painters and there's a wind kicking up." We looked up to see a red-bearded cowboy perched on a ladder, painting a store front. After we moved the car, he told us that painting wasn't his true vocation, but it covered his bar tab.

He introduced himself simply as Gene and said he'd found his way there while escorting a string of horses and mules from Oregon to Montana. Somehow a month or so had passed and

he was still there. In addition to painting and cowboying, he played guitar at the Red Dog Saloon.

Promising Gene that we'd try to catch his show we resumed our search for champagne. Alas, there was no bubbly in town, so we headed to our gourmet rendezvous in the woods.

At the campsite, we began setting the table, firing up the Coleman stoves and charcoal grills while sipping on vintage wines that J.J. was graciously uncorking and pouring into crystal stemware for everyone.

As the sun turned toward the west and the china and glassware began to cast glimmers across the creek, the owners of the Red Dog Saloon wandered into our epicurean picnic to investigate. J.J. greeted them with an invitation for whiskey or wine. They reciprocated with an offer to serve us drinks following dinner. We also were visited by the local forest ranger, who wanted to be sure we knew wilderness etiquette. The next visitor was Gene, the mule skinner dba house painter aka guitar player, who rode into camp on his horse, Saffron.

At sundown the women retired to a

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wooded grotto to dress for dinner. We emerged decked out in hats, furs, rhinestones, and gloves, anxiously anticipating the admiration of the men. But they were equally well dressed for the occasion in velvet-collared tuxedo jackets and other finery reserved for events of this magnitude.

Dinner began with an aperitif expertly poured by Michele in crystal tulip glasses adorned with fresh raspberries. Gene was permitted to join the table despite the fact that his tuxedo must have been at the cleaners. Saffron turned up her nose and wandered off into the woods.

Orchestrating each dish, I selected dinner guests to assist me with the courses. The Von Corps graciously served the antipasto vinaigrette tableside to each guest. J.J. made sure the promise of the printed menu cards, placed at each setting, was kept by offering wines from the vineyards of California and France. By the time we finished the fourth course, a crisp spinach salad, there already was talk of a "second annual" Jarbidge dinner. The sixth course, scampi, was prepared on a Coleman stove with fresh garlic, parsley, and lemon.

Although the sun had sunk below the horizon, the table was nicely lit by the candelabras, the rising moon, and animated conversations. Ray Kamo was enlisted to prepare the filet mignon, which had marinated in red wine and garlic, on the charcoal grill. This course was served with a bearnaise sauce that had been prepared ahead of time.

The dinner closed with carrot cake and liqueurs presented in edible chocolate cups, but the evening was far from over. Despite the urge to recline, we began the trek to town to make the last call at the Red Dog. It was midnight, and the nearly full moon illuminated the dirt road.

We were greeted at the saloon door by the owners, and, as promised, Gene provided live entertainment, sitting on the edge of the pool table and playing guitar. The Red Dog stayed open until 4:30 a.m., and it seemed we met everybody in town that night.

The next morning the dinner parties arose reluctantly from their sleeping bags to the task of restoring our dining room to its original pristine condition. We filled garbage bags, packed dishes, and finally loaded the cars to leave. As we drove away I looked back and remembered the elegant table and aromas of fine foods. I also saw a quiet, special place in the woods that I'll never forget. □

Mary Rose Loney, a displaced Nevadan now working as assistant director of San Jose International Airport, is getting ready for her third annual gourmet soiree in the pines.

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Yodels and Strudels

Where diners sing and many love the wurst.

By Kate Butler

On the outside, the Alpine Village Inn is dwarfed by neighboring hotels. But inside, from the moment you are *wilkommen* by the valet at the front door to the time you depart, your stomach full and comfortable, you feel worlds away from the neon nightlife.

The decor is Swiss gingerbread chalet, with waiters in lederhosen, waitresses in checkered dirndls, scenic mountain murals, and miniature gondolas moving across the ceiling. Accordion music plays in the background, and the aromas of schnitzel, wurst, Swiss rosti potatoes, and apple strudel waft in the air.

If you love eating your heart out, the upstairs dining room is the place to be. The evening menu has about 20 entrees. You might try the wurst plate, or perhaps the combination platter of sauerbraten (beef roast), schweinebraten (pork roast), and kohlrouladen (cabbage roll). There's regenbogenforelle, a boned rainbow



From left: Mary Johnson, Dwayne Lefler, Jerry Schlosser and Greta Freedman.

trout, baked in a special alpine seasoning. All entrees are accompanied by chicken supreme soup, a delicious Bavarian roux that has been served daily in pewter kettles since the restaurant opened in 1950.

Most dinner prices fall between \$10 and \$14. Two guests with light appetites can share one entree and purchase an extra service plate for \$6.50.

The Alpine's bar has a wide assortment of European and American beers and wines. It also offers such traditional bar bangers as Steinhager gin with a beer chaser.

For light meals, check out the downstairs Rathskeller, which is modeled after the old German

government cellar where workers gathered to eat, drink, and sing. Here, Rathskeller dining includes the hilarity of singalongs, balloon-blowing contests, and the constant tossing of peanut shells on the floor.

The Alpine Village Inn is located at 3003 South Paradise Road across from the Las Vegas Hilton. The upstairs dining room is open daily from 5 p.m. to midnight; reservations are recommended (call 734-6880). The Rathskeller starts serving lunch at 11:30 a.m. and stays open until midnight. There's a gift shop, too. □

Kate Butler is a Las Vegas writer-photographer and regular Nevada contributor

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DINING GUIDE

The following directory includes restaurants that responded to a recent survey and also advertisers. Each listing gives sample dishes; whether breakfast, lunch, or dinner (B, L, D) are served; accepted credit cards; and if reservations are required or recommended. Price ranges refer to typical entree price per person: up to \$10 (\$), \$11 to \$20 (\$\$), \$21 to \$30 (\$\$\$), and more than \$30 (\$\$\$\$). To phone, the area code is 702 throughout the state.

LAS VEGAS

AMERICAN

- Circus Circus/Skyrise**—734-0410. Prime rib, steak and shrimp. B, L, D. \$, major.
- Flamingo/Lindy's Deli**—733-3111. Grilled 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/Food 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, bouillabaisse. D. \$\$\$, major, res.

FRENCH/CONTINENTAL

- Alexis Park/Pegasus**—375 E. Harmon, 796-3300. Roast duckling, escargot. D. \$\$\$\$, AE, MC, V, 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. Double-rib spring lamb chops with mint jelly, imported Dover sole, chateaubriand for two. D. \$\$\$, major.
- Caesars Palace/Bacchanal**—731-7110. Seven-course 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. Coquille St. Jacques provencale, tournedos Rossini. D. \$\$, major, 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 a la Maison, chateaubriand. D. \$\$\$, major.
- Riviera/Delmonico's**—734-5110. Moules Dijonaise, bouillabaisse. D. \$\$\$\$, major, res.
- Sahara/House of Lords**—737-2111. Steak Diane, roast rack of lamb flourier, Long Island duckling lingonberry. D. \$\$\$, major.
- Sands/Regency Room**—733-5000. Scampi provencale, beef Wellington, quails poele a la dodine. D. \$\$\$-\$\$\$\$, major.
- Tropicana/Rhapsody**—739-2222. Dover sole, clams casino. D. \$\$\$\$, major, res.

GERMAN

- Alpine Village Inn**—3003 Paradise Rd., 734-6888. Roast chicken, St. Moritz schnitzel, sing-a-longs nightly. D. \$\$, major, res.
- Bavarian Chalet**—3430 E. Tropicana, 451-7501. Jagerschnitzel, apple strudel. L, D (closed Sun.) \$\$\$, major except DC, res.
- Waldemar's**—2202 W. Charleston, 386-1995. Veal rouladen, chicken la mar. L, D. \$-\$\$, major.

ITALIAN

- Bally's/Caruso's**—739-4444. Saltimbocca alla

- Romana, Novello alla Vesuvio. D. \$\$\$, major.
- The Bootlegger**—5025 S. Eastern, 736-4939. Veal Lorraine, veal in cream and wine sauce, seafood diablo with linguine, angel hair pasta. L, D (closed Mon.). \$-\$\$, major.
- Fortunato's**—3430 E. Tropicana Ave., 458-3333. Shrimp Italiano, chicken Angelo. L, D. \$, major.
- Golden Nugget/Stefano's**—385-7111. Cioppino, unique pastas. L (except Sun.), D. \$\$\$\$, major, res.
- Manfredi's Limelight**—2340 E. Tropicana, 739-1410. Veal marsala, linguini tutto mare, scampi diavolo. D. \$\$, major, res.
- Palace Station/Pasta Palace**—Off I-15, 367-2411. Spaghetti, linguine. D. \$, MC, V.
- Tropicana/Rhapsody**—739-2222. Scampi and smoked salmon, northern Italian cuisine, sauteed veal, French cuisine also. D. \$\$\$\$, major, res.
- Two Guys from Italy**—1280 S. Decatur, 870-5192. Cioppino, fettuccine specialties, eastern milkfed veal. L, D. \$\$, major.
- MEXICAN**
- Hacienda Hotel/La Cocina**—739-8911. Taco salad, seafood stir-fry. B, L, D. \$, major.

- Sam's Town/Willie 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.

ORIENTAL

- Bally's/Tracy's**—739-4444. Kung pao gai, mongonow. D. \$\$\$, major.
- 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. Special-

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- izing in Polynesian dishes. Shrimp Hong Kong, bahala na combo. D. \$\$, AE, MC, V.
- Tokyo Japanese**—735-7070. Sushi hibachi tempura. L (except weekends), D. \$\$, major.
- Tropicana/Mizuno's Teppan Dining**—739-2222. Tempura, hibachi. D. \$\$\$, major, res.
- SURF AND TURF**
- Bally's/Barrymore's**—739-4444. Roast rack of lamb, prime rib, assorted seafoods on ice. D. \$\$\$, major.
- Bourbon Street/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.
- 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, filet mignon, shrimp. L, D. \$, major.
- Golden Steer**—308 W. Sahara, 384-4470. Pepper 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. Steaks and seafood, open kitchen, piano bar nearby, excellent wine list. D. \$\$, major, res.
- 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. 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.
- The Tillerman**—2245 E. Flamingo Rd., 731-4036. Sole, bay scallops in cream sauce, Cajun swordfish. D. \$\$, major.

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-CARSON AREA

AMERICAN

- Bailywick's**—124 Wonder St., 786-7154. Gourmet hamburgers, sundeck. L, D. \$, major.
- Boomtown**—I-80 at Verdi, 345-6000. Changing buffet, regular menu. 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**—200 W. 2nd St., 329-1880. One-pound New York steak dinner. 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.
- Eggception**—Gardnerville, 782-8690. Quiche, Tarragon snapper, lemon garlic chicken. B, L. \$, no CC.
- 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

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RENO

LAKE TAHOE

with menu that includes rack of lamb and scampi, Sunday brunch. L, D. \$-\$\$, major.

Harolds Club/Nickelodeon—329-0881. Chinese, 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, Sunday brunch. B, L, D. \$\$, major.

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

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

Peppermill/Coffee Shop—2701 S. Virginia St., 826-2121. Fruit salads, vegetarian lasagna, gourmet omelets. B, L, D. \$\$, major.

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, chicken Chardonnay. L, D. \$\$, AM, MC, V.

BASQUE

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—Gardnerville, 782-2074. Top sirloin steak, oxtail, tongue stew, chicken and rice. L, D (closed Sun.). \$\$, no CC.

Louis' Basque Corner—301 E. 4th St., Reno, 323-7203. Sweetbreads, tripe, paella, other seafood dishes. L, D. \$\$, major, res.

Overland Hotel—Gardnerville, 782-2138. Lamb chops, steak, chicken, homemade French fries. L, D (closed Mon.). \$\$, MC, V.

Santa Fe Hotel—235 Lake St., Reno, 323-1891. Chops, chicken, stew, Basque card games. L, D. \$\$, no CC.

FRENCH/CONTINENTAL

Adele's—1112 N. Carson St., Carson City, 882-3353. Continental San Francisco style, 75 dinner entrees, fresh seafood, announced specials, 400 wines. L, D. \$\$\$-\$\$\$. MC, V, res.

Bally's/Cafe Gigi—789-2000. French, cracked crab, snails, lobster bisque, chateaubriand, veal Oscar. D. \$\$\$\$, major, res.

Eldorado/The Vintage—786-5700. Fresh Sonoma duckling, chateaubriand, prawns amaretto. D (closed Mon.-Tues.). \$\$, 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, Mobil 4-star restaurant. D (closed Sun.-Mon.). \$\$\$, major, res.

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.

ITALIAN

Bally's/Caruso's—789-2000. Fresh oysters, cannelloni, calamari. D. \$\$\$, major, res.

Eldorado/La Strada—786-5700. Saltimbocca, gnocchi al pesto, ravioli verdi con spinaci. D (closed Wed.-Thurs.). \$\$, major res.

Leonardo's—2450 S. Virginia St., 827-6200. Northern Italian, veal, steak, seafood, pasta. 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.

MEXICAN

El Charro Avitia—4389 S. Carson St., Carson City, 883-6261. Flauta, chimichanga, combinations, margaritas. L (Mon.-Fri.), D. \$\$, AE, MC, V.

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.

ORIENTAL

Bally's/China Seas—789-2000. Mandarin shrimp,

Mongolian beef, cashew chicken. D (closed Mon.-Tues.). \$\$, major, res.

John Ascuaga's Nugget/Trader Dick's—Sparks, 356-3300. Cashew chicken, Szechwan specialties, flaming dagger brochette. L, D. \$\$, major.

Mandarin—5089 S. McCarran Blvd., 827-0222. Seafood sizzling plate, strawberry chicken. L, D. \$\$, major.

Miramar House—202 Fairview Dr., Carson City, 882-0262. Pu pu platter, Thai. 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.

SURF AND TURF

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—882-1626. Steaks and seafood. D. \$\$, major.

Cattlemen's—555 Hwy. 395 S. 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.

Harolds Club/The Presidential Car—329-0881. Steak, lobster, shrimp, veal Oscar. D. \$\$, AE, MC, V, res.

Harrah's/Seafare—786-3232. Fresh fish specials, calamari, lobster tail, veal parmigiana, eggplant Romano. L, D. \$\$\$, major, res.

Heiss'—107 E. Telegraph St., Carson City, 882-9012. Petite filet, Alaskan king crab. L, D. \$\$, major.

Inn Cognito—Genoa, 782-8898. Calamari, scallops Suzanne. D (closed Tues.). \$\$, major.

John Ascuaga's Nugget/John's Oyster Bar—Sparks, 356-3300. Lazyman's cioppino, seafood stews. L, D. \$\$, major.

John Ascuaga's Nugget/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, famous spinach salad. L, D. \$\$, major.

MacKay's—336 Mill St., 348-6222. Marinated lamb chops, fresh seafood, sandwiches, crepes, scotch

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bar. L (Mon.-Fri.), D. \$\$, AE, MC, V, res.
Western Village/Steakhouse—Off I-80, Sparks, 331-1069. Prime rib, Australian lobster, veal scallopini, steak Diane. D. \$, major.

LAKE TAHOE

AMERICAN

Caesars Tahoe/Cafe Roma—Stateline, 588-3515. Lamb chops, prime rib. 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, steaks. 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.

FRENCH/CONTINENTAL

Christy Hill Inn—Olympic Valley, CA., 916-583-8551. B, L, D. \$\$\$, 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.
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. D. \$\$\$, major.

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

ITALIAN

Caesars Tahoe/Primavera—Stateline, 588-3515. Seafood frittata, Primavera extravaganza pizza, Italian crepe. B, L, D. \$\$, major, res.

MEXICAN

Hacienda de la Sierra—931 Tahoe Blvd., Incline, 831-8300. Fajitas, chimichangas. D. \$, AE, MC, V.

Harvey's/El Vaquero—Stateline, 588-2411. Camarones Veracruz, caritas. L, D. \$\$, major.

ORIENTAL

Caesars Tahoe/Empress Court—Stateline, 588-3515. Szechwan, Mandarin. D. \$\$, major, res.

SURF AND TURF

Caesars Tahoe/Broiler Room—Stateline, 588-3515. D. \$\$\$, major, res. for large parties.

Harrah's/Friday's Station—Stateline, 588-6611. Fresh fish, 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.

ELKO

AMERICAN

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, evening dinner house. B, L, D. \$-\$\$, major.

BASQUE

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, lamb ribs. D. \$\$, AE, MC, V.

Star Hotel—246 Silver St., 738-9925. Chicken, steaks, chops. D (except Sun.). \$, MC, V.

AROUND THE STATE

Bruno's Country Club—Gerlach, 557-2220. Home-made ravioli and sauce, rib steak, home-grown pork chops. B, L, D. \$, AE, MC, V.

Cactus Pete's/Plateau Room—Jackpot, 800-821-3935 in Nev., 800-321-1103 outside Nev. Shrimp flambe, steaks. D. \$\$, major.

Carol's Country Kitchen—Austin, 964-2493. Beef stew, fried chicken, steaks. B, L, D. \$, major.

Ely Hotel—765 Aultman St., Ely, 289-9900. Basque, steaks, lamb, pork. D (closed Sun.). \$\$, no CC.

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—Dayton, 246-3435. Green chili burrito, steak. B, L, D (closed Tues.). \$-\$\$, major.

Martin Hotel—Railroad and Melarkey, Winnemucca, 623-3197. Basque, liver and onions, hamburgers, steak, tongue. L, D. \$\$, MC, V.

Ormachea's Dinner House—U.S. 95 and Melarkey St., Winnemucca, 623-3455. Basque, steak, chicken, oxtail soup. D (closed Sun.-Mon.). \$, MC, V.

Peppermill—Mesquite, 346-5232. Specials, Sunday brunch. B, L, D. \$\$, major.

Searchlight Nugget—Searchlight, 297-1201. Specials, 10-cent coffee. 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 Hwy., Fallon, 423-2117. Steak and lobster, prime rib, hot and cold specials. B (weekends), L, D. \$-\$\$, major, res.

Whiskey Pete's/Bushwacker Steakhouse—I-15 near Nev.-Calif. border, 382-4388. Porterhouse, prime rib, trout almondine. D. \$-\$\$, major.

Winnemucca Hotel—95 Bridge St., Winnemucca, 623-2908. Basque, steak, lamb. L, D. \$, MC, V, DC.

Winners/Grandma's House—Winnemucca, 623-2511. Steak, prime rib, lobster. D. \$-\$\$, major. □

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Alkali Dick (Continued from page 105)

bed. "What's wrong with him?" he demanded.

"Oh, I'm so sick," the man groaned. "I'm powerful sick. I'm burning up. Mister, I'm awful glad you came. Will you get me a doctor?"

Dick jerked the blankets off the bed. The man was fully dressed, even to the pacs on his feet. And there beside him lay Dick's hog. The man raised half up in bed, and he had a gun in each hand. Dick shot him square between the eyes. The guy didn't have a chance.

Red Beard made another frenzied grab at his hip.

"Freeze, Red!" Dick's finger caressed the trigger. "Red, I'm going to tell you something. I'd just as soon shoot you as not. You're worth just as much dead as you are alive. So don't make me do it, 'cause I'd think no more about shooting you than I would about blasting off a rattler's head. Now walk over there and face the wall. Reach real high, and don't even breathe while I pull your fangs."

Dick found a double-barreled deringer in Red's hip pocket and laughed as he tossed it on the bed. "Now there's something I want to know," he said. "Who got the idea to steal my hog, you or your partner?"

"Aw, we was just trying to play a joke on you. Now look what you went and done. You've killed my partner. Mister, that ain't no joke."

"Whose idea was it? I'm asking you."

"Didn't neither one of us think of it. Rosco said it would be a good joke. Mister, I don't even know you."

"That's right, you don't. You sure don't, and Rosco don't know me very well, either. But I knew I'd seen you somewhere, or a picture of you, and now I remember—those wanted posters."

"So walk over to that bed and shoulder that hog. You're going to carry it down to my truck, and when my hog is back where you found it, I've got a notion the sheriff is going to be right proud and happy to see you."

Dick was right. The sheriff made Red Beard real welcome and marched him off to the deepest, darkest, strongest cell he had.

Dick collected the reward money, and Rosco gnashed his teeth in futile rage. The thought of \$5,000 slipping through his fingers was almost more than he could bear.

Dick gave the hog to the orphans' home in Carson City. He could not bear the thought of eating Old Woman or having anything more to do with her. He'd never raise a pig again—that was for sure. □

R.E. "Colonel" Priest was a writer and mining man who lived in Gold Hill and Carson City for many years. He died in 1956. This story was submitted by his daughter, Patricia Vreeland of Reno.



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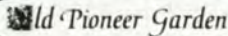


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This is the first novel by R. Guild Gray of Las Vegas. Gray, a former legislator and Clark County school superintendent (he has a school named after him), spent three years researching his book in the Elko area. The result is a first-rate western tale, informative without waxing scholarly—a very readable piece of Nevada lore.

The *Treble V* by R. Guild Gray, Vantage Press, 516 West 34th St., NY NY 10001. 668 pages, \$18.95 hardcover

Explorer for a Restless Nation

Originally published in 1977 Ferol Egan's book is a treasure of reading and research on John C. Fremont. His vivid style shows in his description of Fremont and his guide, Kit Carson, coming upon Pyramid Lake: "They could hardly believe what they saw....To have come through all the desert to top a desert mountain pass, see a lake that stretched almost beyond view and was nearly 20 miles broad in its widest place was something neither man had expected in this barren land of sagebrush and dry lake beds."

Fremont: Explorer for a Restless Nation, by Ferol Egan, University of Nevada Press, Reno, NV 89557 582 pages, 50 photos and illustrations, \$14 softcover

New State Industrial Directory

This directory, which publisher David W. Toll calls "the 1987 situation report on Nevada industry," profiles 2,933 firms in the state, including 1,169 in the Las Vegas area and 994 in and around Reno. The listings reveal company officers, products, services, year of founding, sales volume, number of employees, and square footage occupied. Importers, exporters, and federal contractors are listed. Want micro chips or chocolate chips? It's all here.

The Complete Nevada Industrial Directory, Gold Hill Publishing Co., Drawer F, Virginia City, NV 89440. 272 pages, \$45 plus \$2.50 packing and shipping and \$2.70 sales tax for Nevada addressees. □

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Fishing Holes

Our fearless forecaster tackles
a much de-baited question:
Where do the lunkers really lurk?

By Don Quilici

There are more than 650 fishable lakes, ponds, and streams in Nevada, and they represent a huge variety of species and natural settings. So I found that choosing *only* 10 great Nevada fishing holes was almost as challenging as going after a cagy lunker with the day's last worm.

My friends undoubtedly will view some of the choices with amusement, since they may remember when I slipped on some ice in sub-zero weather at Tahoe and fell into the lake, or maybe the time I failed to catch a single bass in three days at Ruby Marsh.

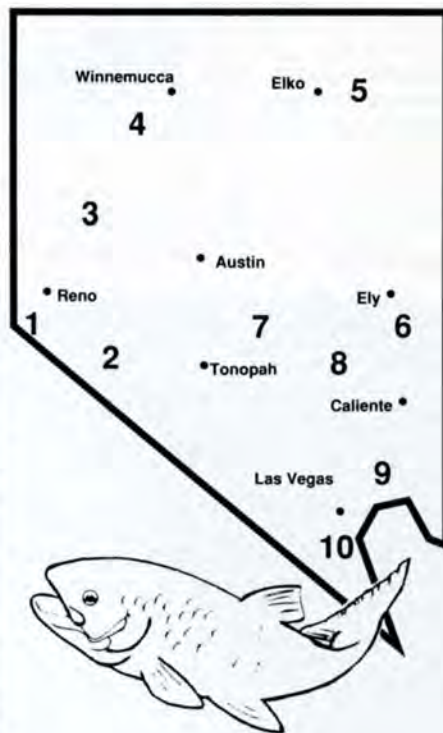
At the following 10 locations there is no guarantee of catching a fish on every cast—only the promise that you'll enjoy great fishing in beautiful country. The places are listed in a roughly clockwise sequence from Lake Tahoe to Lake Mohave and pinpoint the state's great variety of game fish, including mackinaw trout, walleye, northern pike, and striped bass. Let's take the tour:

1. Lake Tahoe is a prime location for the mackinaw, a giant-sized lake trout from the Great Lakes. You'll need a boat and the proper gear to fish in depths down to 300 feet, but the results can be spectacular. Twenty-pound macs are not uncommon, and the lake record is a monstrous 37 pounds. Using a live minnow or any large lure that isn't hollow (at 200-plus feet, hollow lures implode from the water pressure), successful deepliners troll along the edges of sharp dropoffs—and are understandably fanatical about keeping their hot spots secret.

2. Desert Creek is an excellent fishing and camping stream near Yerington. The creek originates in the mountains of California and contains brookies, rainbows, browns, and Nevada's only population of Arctic greyling. Typically, the farther you go from the fishing pressure, the better the fishing, and at Desert Creek that means heading upstream. If you do, be careful not to stray across the state line into California

and also keep a sharp eye out for the occasional rattlesnake.

3. Pyramid Lake, about 30 miles north of Reno, is the home of the giant Lahontan cutthroat trout, with the world record of 41 pounds having been caught there in 1925. Pyramid is probably the only place you'll see fishermen wade into the water with stepladders and then sit on them to cast flies or lures. Be sure to



comply with Pyramid Lake Indian Reservation requirements for fishing permits and camping fees, and if you want to camp in the shade, plan to bring your own.

4. Rye Patch Reservoir, 22 miles north of Lovelock on I-80, is truly a desert fishery. The area is hot in summer, cold in winter, and devoid of trees, but it is famous for its walleye fishing. There are two ways to catch this fish: by trolling in the reservoir or casting in the Humboldt River just below the dam.

5. Hidden Lake is tucked at 9,500 feet in the Ruby Mountains near Elko. The nine-acre lake contains golden trout and can be reached by a four-mile hike up Soldier Creek just north of Lamoille Canyon. This is a great place for a summer backpacking trip, and any golden you catch weighing more than 16 ounces will give you the new state record.

6. Comins Lake, about five miles south of Ely, is one of only two Nevada locations for northern pike, so if you want to catch something with sharp teeth and a lousy disposition, this is the place. Use steel leaders (for the sharp teeth) and any lure that looks like a small fish to these fierce eaters. The current state record of 27 pounds was caught here in 1978, and the best fishing is in late April and early May, right after the ice melts.

7. Pine Creek, between Austin and Tonopah, features rainbows and also some of the state's most ferocious mosquitos. The trout usually will go for a worm on a small hook drifted downstream, but that's hard to do while both hands are busy swatting mosquitos. Here's the solution: Climb a ridge, sit back, pour cocktails, wait for the wind to blow the pests away and then catch a few trout for dinner.

8. Kirch Wildlife Management Area, 70 miles south of Ely has gained a statewide reputation as a first-class largemouth bass fishery. Kirch, which is also good for rainbows, consists of five reservoirs and two main streams that stretch about 21 miles in all. Two years ago a survey found that more than 90 percent of Kirch anglers came from Clark, White Pine, Lincoln, and Nye counties—a real example of local pressure.

9. Lake Mead is renowned for its striped bass fishing, which has had its ups and downs in recent years, and also for its largemouth bass. The most successful anglers use depth finders to get the best possible view of their quarry. The most popular local bait? Frozen anchovies.

10. Lake Mohave offers some intriguing fishing choices, as it is rated excellent for rainbows, very good for channel catfish, and fair for largemouth bass. Below Davis Dam, and near Laughlin's shore-side casinos, the Colorado River produces mostly rainbows. If numbers impress you, more than 1 million trout were planted in these waters in 1986, and they haven't all been caught yet. □

Don Quilici of Carson City is data processing manager for the Nevada Department of Transportation and a Nevada Appeal columnist.

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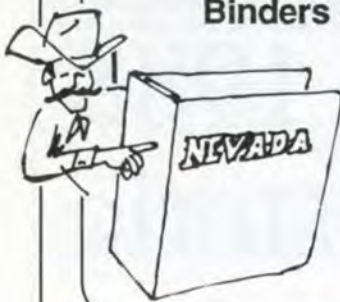


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