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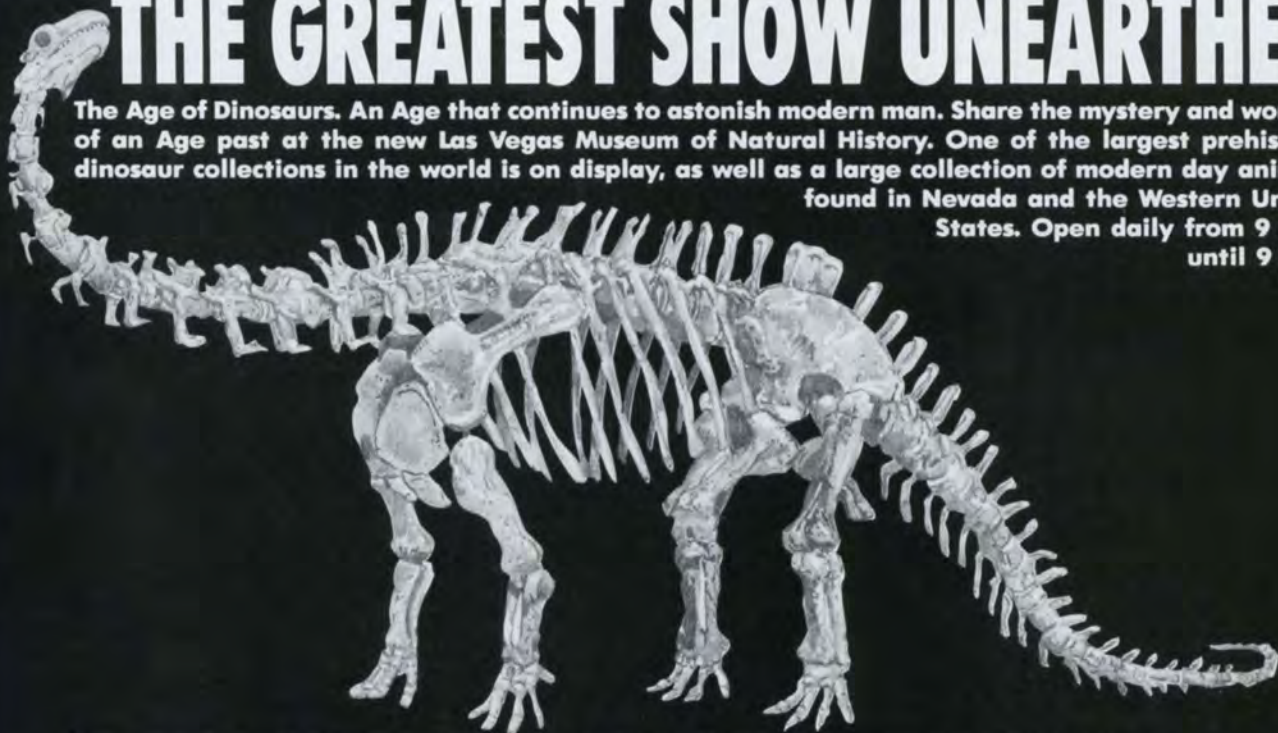
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LETTERS

Vic's Vocals and the Helper's Successor

Thinking Dixie

I must say that the May/June issue is most exceptional and a joy to read. I will be in Nevada again this month and hope to enjoy an excursion on the *M.S. Dixie* at Lake Tahoe for the first time. However, that is not the only occasion that I plan to enjoy in Nevada.

M. Ashton Boynton
Tucson, AZ.

Nevada just keeps getting better. All we need now is the same quality monthly!

D. Van Houten
Hampton, VA.

Shear Delight

Received your "sheepish" letter about renewing. I'm sure I can't be shorn, without my *Nevada Magazine*. I subscribe for friends on Christmas for your great magazine—they love it, and so do I. I tell ewe, I've been shearing my *Nevada Magazine* with udders who wool be unhappy if I don't receive it. I would feel baaaaaad about it.

Marguerite Erwin
Reno

Thanks, Marguerite. We need all the bleating hearts we can get.—Ed.

Huckster Helper

It was good to see Bill Henley's well-written and well-deserved tribute to Paul Smith ("Virginia City Huckster," July/August



Paul Smith.

Illustration: John Bardwell

'87). I can attest to the accuracy of the story and Paul's gimmicks. Being 10 years or so younger than the helper and the artist, I took over the duties of the helper in the late '40s and early '50s. One of my memories of the job was receiving a large blister on my thumb from cutting pieces of sagebrush—for Paul to sell to the tourists—with worn-out scissors. It was probably the same pair of scissors that the helper in the story used 10 years earlier.

Paul was the first, and even though some of his merchandise and stories were not totally authentic, he was an honorable person, and his Museum of Memories was more authentic than some of the tourist places you find there today.

Fred Andreasen
Carson City

The Voice of Vegas Vic

How well I remember 1956 when I first recorded "Howdy Pardner." I would re-record every week for years since continuous tape recorders were relatively new and broke or "dragged" quite often. Great days, great magazine! Thanks for remembering.

P.S.: Lee Marvin actually prompted a revision of the city ordinance.

Bud Weil
Las Vegas

We thoroughly look forward to and enjoy your magazine. We have been to Nevada and were fortunate to see Hoover Dam and Las Vegas. Through your magazine we are finding out about places and things we never knew. We enjoy your articles on Vegas and Reno, too.

Ronald Betts and Family
Palmer, IA.

The July/August '87 issue is a good example of what I want from your magazine.

Ruth Gust
Yuba City, CA.

Water!

In "Trek to Toiyabe Dome" in the last issue, you fail to include a canteen in the list of articles to take on a summer three-day hike. Or a one-day hike, for that matter. Every outdoors person knows that the thin dry air of the high country is extremely dehydrating and that rock slopes generate intense heat.

Anyone climbing between 7,000 and 11,000 feet in elevation from before 7 a.m. to mid-afternoon thunder-shower time without water would be semi-suicidal. Espe-

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cially if engaging in the more than naive exercise of "chasing deer for a better look." First, deer do not move in "bands," and in the summer bucks are not readily distinguished from does, as neither have antlers at that time of year. Second, not even a cougar in robust health will chase a bunch or herd of deer for a closer look or for any other reason. Even the cougar, master of stealth, starts his attack from very close range and relies on surprise to avoid injury. Nevada outdoors people know that without a plentiful supply of water, though it may be hard to carry up steep hills, the explorer invites death. They also know that the very nice rowboat pictured in "Gallery" in the same issue is not a canoe. A canoe does not have oarlocks and oars!

J.W. Mooney
Yerington

I do not wish to renew my subscription. The magazine is all for Reno and Vegas and people with money to visit there. I was born and raised in Nevada and know there is a great wealth of history that no one hears of nowadays. Every little town has its very interesting past history, and I think some of it should be retold.

Clare Morrow
Bonners Ferry ID.

You may be interested to know if you don't already, of a new paperback edition of *A Trace of Desert Waters, The Great Basin Story*, by my first husband, Samuel G. Houghton. This edition was published by Howe Brothers in Salt Lake City. It contains photographs by Philip Hyde which appeared originally in a series of articles on Great Basin Lakes and Rivers, which Sam wrote for your magazine in the 1960s.

Sam Houghton died shortly before the first edition appeared. He had wished to have the color photos included in it, but Arthur Clark, the original publisher, thought they would unduly raise the price of the book.

Edda K. Morrison
Reno

More on May/June

When I first subscribed to your magazine about a year ago, your articles were good and I loved your magazine. Then you changed the format and my mind was pretty well made up that I would not renew. Then along came the May/June issue! I was agreeably surprised, so have renewed. Keep the stories coming.

Lyle B. Wetherford
Santa Rosa, CA.

I grew up around Ely and Ruth and have never lost my love for Nevada, so I was pleased to find your magazine. It is very well done, and I love the whole thing.

Joan C. Brandt Burroughs
Atascadero, CA.

Questions and Answers

I was looking at the July/August '86 issue,



A 1928 Oakland two-door sedan?

page 5, at a picture submitted by Mrs. Marjorie D. Martin of San Francisco. The picture was with a letter which said, in part, "The make of the auto is unknown."

My father had a 1928 Oakland two-door sedan. I was three years old at the time, so don't know too much about it, but the car sure looks like the automobile in your picture. I'll tell you what I know. It had a stamp on it that said, "Body Made by Fisher." So I guess it was made by General Motors. There is an Oakland County in Michigan, so I assume it was built and named for that. The large radiator cap included a temperature gauge. Maybe other cars of that vintage had similar radiator caps. Also, it was sold by a distributor called Pontiac-Oakland.

William Bound
Everett, WA.

I would like to see an article on the Santa Rosa Mountains with color shots and information. This range has me curious to know it better. Thanks from a satisfied subscriber.

Nick Melocchi
Reseda, CA.

We need more coverage of windsurfing in Nevada.

James Hardie
Reno

Great timing, Hardie! See page 88.—Ed.

Another Sheep Fancier

I saw a poster in the Winnemucca Chamber of Commerce that I liked very much. I believe that Linda Dufurrena is the artist. It is a photograph of a herd of sheep. Could you please send this to me?

Ali Morris
San Francisco, CA.

Yes, the photographer was Linda Dufurrena, a regular Nevada contributor. The poster is on its way.—Ed.

Wayne Forever

I read *Nevada Magazine* this month and saw where a woman asked for a back issue on a story of Wayne Newton. I am a big fan of his and have been coming to Las Vegas for the last 10 years to see him. Would it be possible for you to get me a copy of that story? I have been collecting newspaper clippings and stories on him for the last 19 years and would be very grateful.

Cindy Roettgen
Mishawaka, IN.

The magazine is in the mail.—Ed. □

NEVADA



Publisher/Editor: Kirk Whisler
Managing Editors: David Moore, Jim Crandall
Art Director: Dale Smith
Events Editor: Melissa Cronin Loomis
Production Editor: Julie Quinn
Assistant to the Publisher: Patty Noll
Business Manager: Ann Henderson
Retail Coordinator: Isabel Espinoza
Promotions Coordinator: Cliff Glover
Subscriber Relations: Debi Frame
Support Services: Billie Shaffer
Editorial Assistants: Maria Federici, Scott Shelley
Student Assistant: Kathleen Wiles
Special Assistance: OARC
Printing: Hart Press
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Advertising Offices

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OUTINGS

Trolleys and Tours

Fall color and explorations of Las Vegas and Eureka.

LAS VEGAS

Catch the Colors

Depending on the weather, nature paints the Mount Charleston hillsides in fall colors for about three weeks in late September or early October. As the yellow, rust, and brown leaves of aspens mix with the darker tones of evergreens, this is an especially pleasant time of year for picnics, hikes, picture taking, and roadside color gazing. The Kyle Canyon Campground, about 45 miles northwest of Las Vegas, has sites close to a hillside grove of mahogany. Cathedral Rock Picnic Area, at the end of the Kyle Canyon Road, is the trailhead to an easy walk through quaking aspen. For even greater comfort, the Mount Charleston Inn offers dining with views of mountain color, and the drive up Deer Creek Road has

similar scenery. The Kyle Canyon Ranger Station, open through September and sporadically in October, has interesting exhibits and valuable information about the area. Phone 702-388-6255 weekdays or 702-388-6354 for a 24-hour taped message on mountain conditions.

Go Country at the Gold Coast

Kick up your heels western-style at the Gold Coast, Las Vegas' newest major casino-hotel. A country-western band plays in the hotel's dance hall every evening except Tuesday. Four nights a week (Sunday Monday Wednesday, and Thursday) Lynn and Jim Hinkley of the Las Vegas Wranglers western dance team give lessons in country dancing at 6:30 and 7:30 p.m. The Wranglers also perform two Sundays a month. Lessons and shows are free and there's no cover or minimum. Couples and



Fall weather makes for good fishing at Cave Lake (above). In Las Vegas, the Guardian Angel Cathedral is adorned with unusual windows.



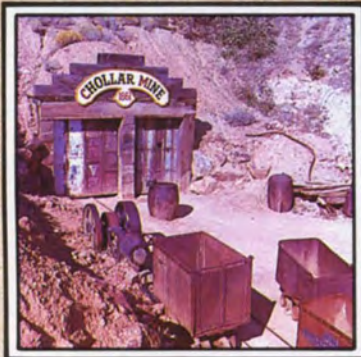
singles are welcome and the band plays until 1 or 2 a.m. Gold Coast Hotel, 4000 West Flamingo Road, Las Vegas, NV 89103. Phone 702-367-7111.

Shuttle on a Downtown Trolley

Thanks to city-center renovation you now can ride an old-fashioned trolley in downtown Las Vegas to restaurants, hotels, casinos, shops, and offices. Originating at the new Downtown Transportation Center on North Casino Center Boulevard, which also is the transfer point for Las Vegas Transit System buses, the trolleys cover a rectangular route that includes Fremont Street from the El Cortez to the Union Plaza. A second routing serves the business district. The trolleys have seating and standing space, brass handrails, oak ceilings, a public address system, and clanging brass bells. Four of the trolleys are equipped with lifts to accommodate wheelchairs. The center has a restaurant, Watering Hole No. 25, serving hot and cold sandwiches, soups, beer, and wine. The center and trolley shuttles are open from 6 a.m. to 2 a.m. A trolley ride costs 25 cents for adults, 10 cents for children 12 and under, and free to seniors, the handicapped, and people who have bus commuter cards and tokens. Contact the Downtown Transportation Center, 320 North Casino Center Blvd., Las

An advertisement for Ripley's Believe It or Not! Four Queens Hotel/Casino. The top half features the word "AMAZING!" in large, bold, yellow and red letters. Below this is a photograph of a woman with a very long, thin neck. The text below the photo reads: "It's the world's most talked-about collection of the unusual! Hundreds of one-of-a-kind treasures discovered by Robert Ripley in his travels around the world. Hair-raising artifacts of primitive cultures and mind-boggling technological breakthroughs. Stories that seem too incredible to be true, but are. There's nothing else like it!" The Ripley's logo is in blue script. Below it is the slogan "Believe It or Not!" in white. At the bottom, "Four Queens" is written in large yellow letters, with "HOTEL/CASINO Downtown Las Vegas" in smaller white text below it.

THE OLD WEST HISTORY



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

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Religious Art on the Strip

The Guardian Angel Cathedral, which has welcomed tourists and locals to its services for more than 20 years, also offers an outstanding display of mosaic, mural, and stained-glass art. The windows reach from floor to ceiling and depict the Stations of the Cross in striking, contemporary style. The south sanctuary window depicts human activity: science, agriculture, caring for the sick, teaching, and fine arts. In the lower right-hand corner of this window, several Las Vegas casinos have been included to represent recreation. The art is the work of two Los Angeles sisters, Edith and Isabel Piczek. Their work also decorates St. Anne's Church in downtown Las Vegas and the chapel at Nellis Air Force Base. Guardian Angel Cathedral, 302 East Desert Inn Road, Las Vegas, NV 89109. Phone 702-735-5241.

RENO-TAHOE

Bowers Mansion

Bowers Mansion and its adjacent park are nestled at the foot of the Sierra Nevada between Reno and Carson City. Picnic tables and manicured lawns abound, as well as a large playground.

The mansion, where docent-guides discuss the Bowers family and the era's shifting tides that made and broke the family, is open for tours through Nevada Day October 31. The mansion's entrance fee is \$2 for adults, \$1 for children under 12. On September 19, the Bowers Mansion Festival brings bluegrass and folk musicians together for a day of down-home listening fun. For festival details, call 702-849-0276. Bowers Mansion, Franktown Road off U.S. 395, 18 miles south of Reno; 702-849-0201.

Tahoe Rim Trail

Volunteers will be shoveling and sweating through October 15 (weather permitting) on several portions of the 150-mile Tahoe Rim Trail, building toward a 1991 completion date. You can join the crew, or enjoy an autumn outing. To hike, start at the Spooner Rest Area on U.S. Highway 50 between Carson City and Lake Tahoe and look for the Tahoe Rim Trail bulletin board. Hike about five miles south for a special view of Lake Tahoe. "You'll know when you get there," says director Victoria Raucci. If you want hands-on involvement, call 916-577-8783. The prerecorded message will tell you who to call, what to bring, and where to meet. Other completed and under-construction trail portions are at Tahoe City and near South Lake Tahoe. For directions, or for information about sponsoring a mile of construction, call Raucci at 916-577-0676.

Fall Color Drive

Mountain leaves experience the autumn

several weeks before Reno and Carson City's trees turn to yellow and gold. Two particularly appealing areas—with showy aspens—are Monitor Pass and Hope Valley. For a half-day driving tour, take U.S. 395 south from Carson City to Highway 89. Follow Highway 89 west over Monitor Pass. Then continue on the highway through Markleeville, Woodfords (scene of a recent fire), and finally Hope Valley. Connect with U.S. 50 and complete the loop by driving north through South Lake Tahoe and over Spooner Summit to Carson City. Because autumn weather can be capricious, call before leaving home to make sure Monitor Pass is open. 916-587-3806 or 916-577-3550.

RURAL

Remembrance of Things Past

In Eureka you can wander through the past with a self-guided tour prepared by the Eureka County Historical Society. The tour includes 24 sites that recall Eureka's glory days—the Brossemer Brewery which has also been a soda-pop factory and the post office; the Tommyknocker gift shop, which originally was the site of a bank that burned with half the town in 1879, leaving only the vault that stands in the present building; the Eureka Sentinel Museum with its old-time newspaper presses; and the courthouse—the pride of the



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town—which was built for about \$90,000 in 1879. A four-page guide to the tour is available at the courthouse. The first 12 historical sites are within walking distance of each other and the other 12 can be seen by car. The historical society notes that Eureka is not a ghost town and all of the sites listed are privately owned, so if you take the tour, please be sure not to trespass on any land or building that is not open for use. The courthouse is open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday. Contact the Eureka County Chamber of Commerce, 702-237-5484, for more information.

As The Temperature Dips

Pleasant daytime and cool nighttime temperatures during fall make for comfortable outdoor activities in Eastern Nevada. At Cave Lake, for instance, early fall visitors enjoy temperatures that reach into the mid-70s in the daytime and dip to the mid-30s at night. Cave Lake is perched at 7,300 feet in the Schell Creek Range, about 15 miles from Ely. Deer hunters use the park's campsites, but no hunting is permitted within park boundaries.

To the south, Lincoln County has four state parks. Spring Valley, 20 miles east of Pioche, includes the 65-acre Eagle Valley Reservoir. Anglers can cast for rainbow and cutthroat trout and for Alabama striped bass. Echo Canyon, nine miles west of

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In Eureka, you can wander through the past with a self-guided tour prepared by the Eureka County Historical Society

Spring Valley includes Echo Reservoir, stocked with rainbow trout and crappie. The waterfront has a boat ramp and parking area.

Cathedral Gorge, a favorite of photographers, is two miles northwest of Panaca off U.S. 93. Cathedral gets its name from the spires and columns that nature created from bentonite-like clay deposits from a prehistoric lake bed.

Beaver Dam is in rugged canyon country near the Utah border. It is reached by turning east off U.S. 93 six miles north of Caliente. From that point it is a 28-mile graded dirt road to the park. Beaver Dam includes 15-acre Shroeder Reservoir, where visitors can fish, swim, and use small boats. For more information, contact the Nevada Division of State Parks, Box 176, Panaca, NV 89042, 702-728-4467 ☐

Las Vegas Outings by Kate Butler, Reno-Tahoe by Deborah A. Mawhar and Rural by Maria Federici.

D.R. to the Rescue

The desert rat made a proposal my father didn't like, but our detour had left us little choice.

By D.A. Stansbury

In 1934, my father, a ranger for the U.S. Forest Service at Magalia in Northern California, took my mother, my aunt, my younger brother and sister, and me on a vacation to Nevada. It was a crowded one, as we all were packed in our shiny-new Oldsmobile. My father brought along his Cine-Kodak movie camera to record the trip. Our itinerary included Death Valley and Scotty's Castle, the little towns of Las Vegas and Boulder City, and finally the bowels of the Boulder Dam construction site.

After two weeks of covering and filming a lot of territory, we were tiredly on our way home, heading south from Boulder City, when we saw mile after mile of power lines stretching across the desert, lines that eventually would carry Boulder Dam's electricity to Southern California. Impressed by the sight, my mother and aunt decided they wanted one last filming session with our new car under one of those towers. Because



the power lines were some distance from the pavement, my father grumbled but finally relented to family pressure and plowed the car through the sand toward one of the towers.

The filming was quickly completed, but getting the car back to the blacktop was

another problem, and not well handled due to my father's failing patience. With the Olds sinking down and going nowhere, he was about to bite the bullet when an old desert rat happened along in a vintage touring sedan and offered his assistance for a \$10 fee.

My father, fit to be tied but desperate, at length agreed, not believing the old timer's car would be able to retrieve ours. The man had no intention of using his own vehicle, as it turned out. My father was utterly beside himself when the D.R. methodically went around our car letting most of the air out of each of the tires. Then, with our entire family watching, he got behind the wheel and slowly drove our car back to the highway—the nearly flat tires giving the traction required.

He left my incredulous father instructions to air up at the next opportunity as he drove off with the \$10 bill in his pocket. □

D.A. Stansbury now lives in Tucson.

When it comes to loans, we have two ironclad rules:

- #1. Ask for the loan
- #2. Pay it back



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OCTOBER 6 THROUGH 11 • CASHMAN FIELD CENTER

THE NEVADA CALENDAR



Las Vegas



Arnold Palmer will be among the 54 professionals at the 1987 Las Vegas Senior Classic. They will be competing for part of \$250,000 prize money during the October 22-25 tournament at the Desert Inn.

HOT LINES

- Charleston Heights Arts Center:** films, art exhibits, chamber music, 386-6383
- Fern Adair Conservatory of the Arts:** musicals, ballets, theatre, 458-7575
- Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority:** 733-2323
- Las Vegas Stars:** triple-A pro baseball, 8/29-9/1 vs. Tacoma Tigers, Cashman Field, 386-7200
- Nevada Commission on Tourism:** 885-3636 or 800-237-0774 (outside Nevada)
- Nevada Division of State Parks:** hikes, tours, stargazing, campfire programs at 21 parks around the state, District VI, Las Vegas, 385-0264
- Reed Whipple Cultural Center:** concerts, film festivals, melodramas, 386-6211

EVENTS

September

- Exhibit,** thru 9/13, on the image of Nevada in casino advertising, Nevada State Museum and Historical Society, 486-5205
- Atocha Treasure Display and Auction,** 8/31-9/26, display of gold, silver, jewels, and artifacts, valued up to \$50 million, recovered from the wreck of the *Nuestro Senora de Atocha*; auctioned on 9/26, Caesars Palace, 731-7324
- Fall Art Round-Up,** 9/1-30, judged and juried works, Las Vegas Art Museum, 451-9486
- Museum Exhibit,** 9/1-10/30, marine fossils from ancient oceans in Southern Nevada, Clark County Museum, Henderson, 455-7955
- Fossil Exhibit,** 9/1-10/30, Smithsonian Institution exhibit on biological diversity, Museum of Natural History, UNLV, 739-3381
- John Running Photo Exhibit,** 9/1-10/30, Museum of Natural History, UNLV 739-3381
- Block Party,** 9/2, Sons of Erin salute the Irish Showband with barbeque and dance, Shamrock Furniture Store parking lot, 382-6397
- Dance Concert,** 9/5, performers from Fern Adair Conservatory of the Arts, Ham Hall, UNLV 458-7575
- Dance Tribute,** 9/5, benefit featuring Fern Adair Conservatory of the Arts dancers, Ham Hall, UNLV 458-7575
- Motocross,** 9/5 and 9/12, 8pm, Sam Boyd Silver Bowl, 739-3900
- Jerry Lewis/MDA Telethon,** 9/6-7 Caesars Palace, 731-7110
- McDermott U.S. Team Open 8-Ball Tournament,** 9/9-13, western-division pool matches with the national finals on the 12th, Imperial Palace, 794-3160
- San Gennaro Feast,** 9/10-20, Italian food festival with celebrities, local entertainment, adults \$2.50, seniors \$1, children 12 and under free, Landmark Hotel, 305-472-0206
- "A Life in the Theatre,"** 9/11-12, humorous play, Clark County Community College Theatre, North Las Vegas, 644-PLAY
- Harvest Festival,** 9/11-13, arts and crafts, continuous stage entertainment, Cashman Field Center, 386-7110
- Clark County Basque Festival,** 9/12-13, on Sat. fundraiser with traditional Basque events at Silk Purse Ranch, on Sun. family picnic with traditional Basque food, exhibitions, dancing, and contests at St. Viator Community Center, Las Vegas, 361-6834 or 385-2662
- Concert,** 9/15, Latin singing stars Jose Jose and Amanda Miguel, Aladdin Hotel, 736-0111
- Las Vegas Neon,** 9/15-11/8, photographs of Las Vegas neon signs past and present, Nevada State Museum and Historical Society in



Art-in-the-Park brings out the best in fine arts and crafts during Boulder City's October 3-4 festival.



Car buffs drive their vehicles over the hill during the Imperial Palace Antique Auto Run October 23-25.



Colorful pageantry and tradition surrounds the Clark County Basque Festival September 12-13.

- Lorenzi Park, 486-5205
Desert Inn Open Tennis Tournament, 9/16-20, USTA members compete, Desert Inn Tennis Courts, 733-4577
Anita Baker Concert, 9/19, Aladdin Hotel, 736-0111
Craftworks Market, 9/19-20, arts and crafts, gourmet food booths, music, children's activities, Jaycee Park, 456-6695
Las Vegas Silver Cup Unlimited Hydroplane Races, 9/25-27 national high-point championship of America's fastest boats, \$161,000 purse; qualifying from 10am-4pm Fri.-Sat., finals start at noon Sun., Lake Mead, 731-2115
Cliff Segerblom Photo Exhibit, 9/25-10/25, Nevada State Museum and Historical Society, 486-5205
Laughlin U.S. Hare Scrambles Championship, 9/26-27 cross-country motorcycle race, on Sat. tech inspection at Riverside Resort's parking lot, on Sun. race, Laughlin, 641-6401 or 457-5775
Picnic Pops Concert, 9/27 outdoor concert performed by Las Vegas Symphony, UNLV 739-3420

October

- Sam's Town Chili Cook-Off**, 10/3, games, contests including Miss Chili Pepper and beer chugging, live country band, Sam's Town Hotel, 454-8048
Art-in-the-Park, 10/3-4, largest open-air festival in Nevada with fine arts and crafts, Boulder City, 293-2034
Las Vegas Jaycees State Fair, 10/6-11, diaper derby, big-wheel races, greased-pig chase, pie eating, tobacco spitting, nail driving, John Todman's Wonder Show, arm-wrestling championship; competitions in home arts, home science, garden, animals, photography, art, industrial arts, auto, high school bands, and cheerleaders, Cashman Field Center, 732-3247
"Alice in Wonderland," 10/10-11 and 10/17-18, takes place in different parts of Lorenzi Park, wear walking shoes, Rainbow Company Theatre, 386-6553
Bocce Championship, Italian ball game, Sands Hotel, 733-5542
Henderson Expo, 10/16-18, business and home show, arts and crafts, Henderson Convention Center, 565-8951
Great American Craft Fair, 10/16-18, arts and crafts, bluegrass music, chef demonstrations, Cashman Field Center, 322-4544
"Amadeus," 10/16-18 and 10/23-24, play, NewWest Stage Company, Charleston Heights Arts Center, 386-6382
Silver Dust 250, 10/17 last race of the Nevada Triple Crown Off-Road Championship
Railroad and Transportation Days, 10/18, demonstrations of early rail travel with horse-drawn vehicles, Pony Express, trail ride, and exhibits on antique autos, steamboats, stage-coaches, music, and food, Clark County Museum, Henderson, 455-7955
Las Vegas Senior Classic, 10/22-25, PGA Senior Tour event with \$250,000 total prize money, daily tickets \$10 in advance, \$15 at door, packages available, Desert Inn Country Club, 733-GOLF
"Giselle," 10/22-25, ballet, Nevada Dance Theatre, Judy Bayley Theatre, UNLV 739-3838
Imperial Palace Antique Auto Run, 10/23-25, autos built prior to 1937 parade along a 144-mile route from Las Vegas through the Valley of Fire State Park to Boulder Beach on Lake Mead, Imperial Palace Hotel, 731-3311
Fairshow, 10/23-25, hot-air balloon races, chili



The fastest racing boats in America compete in the Budweiser Las Vegas Silver Cup Unlimited Hydroplane Race September 25-27. The competition, held on Lake Mead, sees boats race at speeds up to 200mph, and offers a \$161,000 purse, making it the richest event of the 1987 racing series. See story on page 51 for more details.



Dazzling multi-colored hot air balloons are the centers of attention at the Fairshow in North Las Vegas October 23-25. In addition to the Nevada Championship Hot Air Balloon Race, fair-goers can enjoy a chili cook-off, antique auto parade, children's events, arts and crafts, and Mr. Macho Nevada and Ms. Chili Pepper contest.

cook-off, craft bazaar, antique auto and RV show, food fair, exhibits, and contests, North Las Vegas, 642-1944

Lucky Strike Filters Classic, 10/23-29, bowling tournament, Sam's Town Hotel, 454-8048

Halloween Tennis Classic, 10/29-11/1, members of USTA 18 and under compete, Desert Inn Tennis Courts, 733-4577

Harbor Parade of Lights, 12/12, Lake Mead, 293-2034

Nevada State Championship Chili Cook-Off, 12/19-20, Las Vegas, 734-0410

New Year's Eve Celebration, 12/31, Downtown Las Vegas, 382-6397

COMING EVENTS

Powwow of the Four Winds, 11/14-15, Henderson, 642-6674

National Finals Rodeo, 12/4-12, Las Vegas, 731-2115

Christmas Parade, 12/12, Boulder City, 293-2034

NIGHTLIFE

Wild Reappearing Act

By Pete Mikla

Illusionists Siegfried and Roy are most famous for making exotic animals disappear in their popular "Beyond Belief" stage spectacular at the Frontier Hotel in Las Vegas.

However, their proudest achievement is the



Siegfried and Roy's act focuses on grand-scale illusions and their menagerie of jungle animals.



Home of the Unlimited Hydroplane Races

Each October, Art-in-the-Park attracts thousands of visitors from across the country to Boulder City. Proceeds from the event benefit the Boulder City Hospital auxiliary.



Art-in-the-Park

Las Vegas Silver Cup

Unlimited Hydroplane Races, Lake Mead.....Sept. 25-27

"Hydro-Hop" Street Festivities, Boulder City..7pm, Sept. 26

Art-in-the-Park.....Oct. 3&4

Corvette Rally.....Oct. 9-11

Harbor Parade of Lights, Lake Mead.....Dec. 11

Boulder City

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fact that they've been able to keep a few animals from disappearing permanently.

When they're not on stage making elephants disappear or shooting a jaguar out of a cannon, Siegfried and Roy spend much of their time at their jungle palace Las Vegas home with the breed of animal they have named the white tiger of Nevada. "That is the legacy we'd like to leave the world," Siegfried says. "Our main goal is to rebuild the white tiger breed and spread them throughout the world."

The magical pair own two adult white tigers and one adult snow-white tiger. A white tiger's coloring is white with black stripes rather than

Despite their reputations as animal lovers, they don't like the label 'animal trainers.'

the conventional orange and black. The snow-white tiger has a pure white coat with no stripes. All have ice blue eyes and pink paws.

Three cubs were born earlier this year which increased the white-tiger population. That means a new phase of the breeding program has begun.

"We've had inquiries from governments and animal preservation societies from all over the world. The cubs are literally million-dollar babies, and we want to make sure they receive excellent homes," Roy explains. "Our philosophy is that you can't take it with you, but you can leave something of value to future generations."

Despite their reputations as animal lovers, they don't like the label "animal trainers." "We don't train our animals," Siegfried points out. "We study them and try to learn their personalities. If they are part of an illusion, then it's because the illusion was built around a particular animal's personality and it feels comfortable in the surroundings."

In June Siegfried and Roy traveled to Europe to talk to prospective white-tiger owners. Last year they toured Europe and even dropped in on Pope John Paul II at the Vatican. In every country they visited, they were recognized not only as entertainers but also as Nevadans.

"Whenever we go somewhere, people ask us about Las Vegas. It's really nice to be identified with a city," Siegfried says. "When they ask me

to describe Las Vegas, I just tell them it's a magical city that can't compare to anyplace else. I tell them they just have to come here and see it for themselves."

Earlier this year there were rumors that Siegfried and Roy would be leaving Las Vegas soon. The illusionists were happy to deny the rumors. They will remain at the Frontier Hotel with "Beyond Belief" at least until December and possibly into 1988. There is talk of a world tour, but no plans have been announced yet. In May, Golden Nugget owner Steve Wynn announced he will build a half-billion dollar resort on the Strip. It is scheduled to open in 1989. When it does, the headliners in the showroom will be Siegfried and Roy.

With a new breed of tigers growing and a new hotel under construction, both say confidently, "This is only the beginning."

Siegfried and Roy appear at the Frontier Hotel Tuesday through Sunday at 7 and 11 p.m.

SHOWGUIDE

- Aladdin**, 736-0240: "Oba Oba," stage extravaganza, indf., dark Tues.
- Bally's**, 739-4567: *Celebrity Room*: Tom Jones, 9/3-9 and 10/1-14; Sammy Davis, Jr., 10/17-30; Dean Martin, 10/15-21
- Bourbon Street**, 737-7200: "Bourbon Street Follies," starring Melinda, The First Lady of Magic, indf.
- Caesars Palace**, 731-7110: Kool and the Gang, 9/2-7; Temptations/Emmanuel, 9/9-14; Joan Rivers/Nell Carter, 9/16-22; David Copperfield, 9/24-9/28 and 9/30-10/6; Beach Boys, 10/7-12; Pointer Sisters, 10/14-19; Judds/Jay Leno, 10/21-26; Willie Nelson and Family, 10/28-11/2
- California Hotel**, 385-1222: Mainstream, thru 9/13; Flashback, 9/14-27; John Amore, 9/14-27
- Circus Circus**, 734-0410: Free circus acts, 11am-midnight
- Colorado Belle**, Laughlin, 298-4000: Entertainment TBA
- Del Webb's Nevada Club**, Laughlin, 298-2512: Hoyt Henry and the Dixie Jazz Kings, indf., (dark Sat.-Sun.)
- Desert Inn**, 733-4566: Rich Little/Fifth Dimension, 9/3-23
- Dunes**, 737-4741: Comedy Store, indf.
- Edgewater**, Laughlin, 298-2453: Lounge entertainment nightly
- Flamingo Hilton**, 733-3333: "City Lites," stage spectacular; Bonnie Graham/Sonny Turner, thru 9/3 and 10/16-22; Bonnie Graham/Winchester Cathedral, 9/4-10; Treniers/Dae Han Sisters, 9/11-10/8; Bonnie Graham/Carleen Terrano, 10/9-15; Winchester Cathedral/Sonny Turner, 10/23-11/6
- Four Queens**, 385-4011: Coasters, thru 9/6; Barney Kessel, 9/7; Doug Kershaw, 9/15-20; Frank Sinatra, Jr., 9/22-10/4; Billy Eckstine, 10/6-18; Platters, 10/20-11/15
- Frontier**, 734-0240: Siegfried and Roy in "Beyond Belief," thru 11/29, dark Mon., family show (no nudity) 10/30
- Gold Coast**, 367-7111: Sliced Bread, 9/1-13; Sister Sister, 9/15-10/4; Buddy Wilde, 10/6-11/1
- Golden Nugget**, 386-8100: Paul Anka, 9/3-15; Lou Rawls, 10/1-6; Harry Belafonte, 10/8-10; Don Rickles, 10/15-27
- Hacienda**, 739-5911: "Minsky's Burlesque," indf., dark Thurs.
- Holiday**, 369-5222: "Rocky Sennes' Roaring '20s Revue," indf., starring Sue Kim and the Kim Brothers, thru 10/31

Imperial Palace, 794-3261: "Legends in Concert"/Dave Swan, indf., dark Sun.

Landmark, 733-1110: Juli Maners, thru 9/9

Las Vegas Hilton, 732-5755: Englebert Humperdinck, 9/1-6; Jeffrey Osborne, 9/8-13; Wayne Newton, 9/15-27; Donna Summer, 9/29-10/4; Dionne Warwick, 10/6-11; Bill Cosby/Sammy Davis, Jr., 10/13-18; Englebert Humperdinck, 10/20-11/1

Marina, 739-1500: "Flesh 'n Fantasy," indf., dark Wed.

Maxim, 731-4300: "Playboy's Girls of Rock and Roll," indf., dark Tues.

Mint, 387-6468: Entertainment TBA

Palace Station, 367-2411: Good Vibration, thru 9/13; Lenny Lopez, thru 9/27

Peppermill Resort, Mesquite: 346-5232: Stan Parnes, thru 9/6; Lelands, 8/31-9/13; Cameron, 9/1-27; St. Romain, 9/7-20; Lucy

Lucille, 9/21-27; Tommy Bell, 9/14-10/4; Cheryl Cotten, 9/28-10/17; Wrays, 10/5-18; Dare, 9/28-10/11; Stan Parnes, 10/19-25; Briefcase Blues Band, 10/26-31; Network, 10/26-31

Regency, Laughlin, 298-2439: Piano bar

Riverside Resort, Laughlin, 298-2535: Tammy Wynette, 9/4-6; Moe Bandy, 9/18-19; Karate Tournament, 9/26; Paul Revere and the Raiders, 10/2-3; Merle Haggard, 10/9-10; Gary Morris, 10/16-17; Mel Tillis, 10/30-31

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.; "The Latin Quarter," revue, indf.

Royal Casino, 733-4000: Nightly entertainment
Sahara, 737-2424: "Ain't Misbehavin'" starring Hinton Battle, indf., dark Mon.

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Western Art Roundup
Sept. 4,5&6
Tri County Fair Sept. 5,6,&7

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Horse Races Sept. 12&13
World Championship Mule
Show
& Parimutuel Races
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Sam Boyd's Fremont, 385-3232: Gene Sironen, thru 9/6; Smith Brothers/Far East, thru 9/13; Steve Long, 9/7-13
Sam's Town, 456-7777: Nightly entertainment
Sam's Town Gold River, Laughlin, 298-2242
Sands, 733-5000: "Star Shop," revue, indf., dark Mon.
Silver Slipper, "Boylesque," revue, indf., dark Thurs.
Stardust, 732-6325: "Lido de Paris," indf., dark Tues.
Sundance, 382-6111: Kathy Dahl/Richard Yusco
Tropicana, 739-2411: "Folies Bergere," indf., dark Thurs.
Union Plaza, 386-2444: Always a Broadway hit comedy or musical
Whiskey Pete's, on I-15 at the California-Nevada border, 382-4388: Live entertainment

MUSEUMS

Henderson

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

Discovery, The Children's Museum, 10-6 Mon.-Wed. and Fri., 10-8 Thurs., 10-5 Sat., 1-5 Sun., 2744 N. Green Valley Pkwy., 382-3445

Las Vegas

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

Imperial Palace Auto Collection, 9:30am-11:30pm daily, Las Vegas, 794-3174

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

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

Liberace Museum, 10-5 Mon.-Sat., 1-5 Sun., 1775 E. Tropicana, 798-5595

Nevada State Museum and Historical Society, 11:30-4:30 Mon.-Tues., 8:30-4:30 Wed.-Sat., Lorenzi Park, 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, 385-4011

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

Overton

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

ART GALLERIES

The following Las Vegas area galleries offer original works. If you're calling from out of state, Nevada's area code is 702.

Boulder City

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

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

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

Burk Gal'ry: 1229 Arizona, 10-5 Mon.-Fri., 10-4 Sat., western themes and polage, 293-3958

Henderson

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

Las Vegas

- AA Gallery:** 1812 Las Vegas Blvd. S., 10-6 Mon.-Fri., Sat.-Sun. by appointment, commissioned portraits, 386-2787
- Alled 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:** UNLV 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 Lover's Gallery:** 953 E. Sahara Ave., 10-6 Tues.-Fri., 10-5 Sat., posters, prints, and limited-edition lithographs, 734-2822
- 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
- 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



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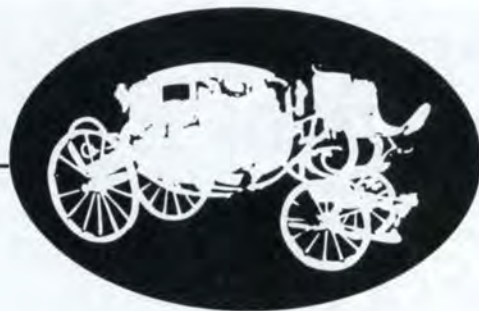
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4808

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Ave., 10-5 Mon.-Fri., 10-4 Sat., local artists,
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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. Tropi-
cana 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 art, serigraphs, 731-1315

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



Caesars pres Dan Reichartz, Cleopatra, and Caesar
joined Yoshiaki Tomura's jackpot celebration.

Far East. Inside are clay-tile roofs, wood beams,
and silk flowers. The second-floor Teahouse is
open 24 hours a day.

•Circus Circus Enterprises, Inc.'s newest
property, the **Colorado Belle** in Laughlin,
opened last summer on the banks of the Colo-
rado River. The \$80 million theme resort is high-
lighted by a 608-foot-long replica of a 19th-cen-
tury three-deck Mississippi paddlewheeler. The
complex has 1,238 deluxe rooms and suites, a
60,000-square-foot casino, five restaurants, a
lounge, bars, gift shops, two swimming pools,
and an outdoor spa.

•Former Tokyo police sergeant and karate
instructor Yoshiaki Tomura livened up his
Fourth of July Weekend with a \$1,077,777 slot
jackpot at **Caesars Palace**. Tomura, a frequent

visitor to Las Vegas, moved to Van Nuys, Cali-
fornia, last January with his wife and son. Born
July 4, 1950, Tomura thinks the jackpot made a
wonderful birthday present.

TOURNAMENTS

September

Poker, 8/31-10/30, every weekday, Landmark,
733-1110

Slots, 9/1, California Hotel, 385-1222

Pan, 9/1-2, Union Plaza, 386-2110

Poker, 9/2-10/28, every Wed., Sahara, 737-2715

Pan, 9/6-10/25, every Sun., Sahara, 737-2715

Baccarat, 9/9-10, Las Vegas Hilton, 732-5515

Slots, 9/11-13, Riviera, 734-5424

**Football Playoffs Sports Betting Cham-
pionships,** 9/12-14, Sahara, 737-2713

Craps, 9/13-15, Flamingo Hilton, 733-3117

Slots, 9/13-16, Hacienda, 739-8911

Slots, 9/20-23, Frontier, 734-0385

Slots, 9/21-24, Sands, 733-5000

Blackjack, 9/25-27 Imperial Palace, 794-3160

Slots, 9/27-10/1, Union Plaza, 386-2110

October

Baccarat, 10/9-12, Aladdin, 736-0219

Slots, 10/18-20, Flamingo Hilton, 733-3117

Blackjack, 10/18-21, Frontier, 734-0385

Slots, 10/22-25, Sands, 733-5000

A Reminder: To confirm dates and times, use the
phone number 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.

CASINO NOTES

•There's a new place to play in Las Vegas this
September. The **Park Hotel and Casino** features
a 50,000-square-foot casino with 700 slot ma-
chines, craps, blackjack, roulette, poker, and
keno. The highrise hotel has 435 decorated
rooms and suites plus a free-form swimming
pool. The Park, located at 300 North Main Street
near downtown, also boasts three bars, enterta-
inment lounge, snack bar, buffet, and a 24-
hour dining room.

•East meets West at the new Teahouse in the
Imperial Palace Hotel. In keeping with the
hotel's Oriental theme, the restaurant's entrance
has two hand-carved statues imported from the

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THE NEVADA CALENDAR

HOT LINES

Lake Tahoe Visitors Authority: 916-544-5057 or 800-822-5922 in U.S.

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

Nevada Division of State Parks: hikes, tours, stargazing, campfire programs at 21 parks around the state, District II, Carson City, 885-4379

Palomino Valley Gun Club: 323-3950

Piper's Opera House: daily musical melodrama (except Fri.) "Tom Foolery," thru 9/13; daily tours (except Fri.) throughout Fall, weather permitting, 11am-5pm, Virginia City, 847-0433

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

UNR Football, 9/19 vs. UC Davis; 10/10 vs. Montana State; 10/24 vs. Stephen F. Austin (Homecoming); 10/31 vs. Idaho State; Mackay Stadium, 348-PACK



EVENTS

September

Carson Valley Photography Show, 9/1-30, Courthouse Museum, Genoa, 265-2850

Pacific Coast Quarter Horse Show, 9/2-6, Reno Livestock Events Center, 323-3073

Numaga Indian Days, 9/4-6, powwow featuring competitive and social Indian dancing, Native American food, arts and crafts, games and gambling, free, Reno-Sparks Indian Colony, 329-2936

Appaloosa Sale, 9/5, Reno Livestock Events Center, 323-3073

Splendor of the Sierra Fine Arts Show, 9/5-6, live jazz, wine tasting, Northstar, North Lake Tahoe, 916-562-1010

Railroad Steam-Up, 9/5-6, restored Virginia and Truckee Railroad Engine No. 25 will haul two open-air excursion cars on the mile-long track, Nevada State Railroad Museum, Carson City, 885-5168

Living History, 9/5-6, Civil War Volunteers encampment with staged battles, 1860s fashion show, living history demonstrations, talks on Civil War soldiers and equipment, Rancho San Rafael, 747-3366

North Lake Tahoe Symphony Assn. Music Festival, 9/6, The Chateau, Incline Village, 831-4622

Western Classic Appaloosa Show, 9/6-7 Reno Livestock Events Center, 323-3073

Labor Day Picnic, 9/7 11am, West End Beach, Donner Lake, 916-587-2757

Roy Orbison Concert, 9/10, \$15, 7pm and 9:30pm, Peppermill, 826-2121

"Noises Off," 9/11-12, 9/18-20, and 9/24-26, English farce, Reno Little Theater, 329-0661

Great Reno Balloon Race, 9/11-13, competition for \$10,000 in prize money and a four-wheel-drive pickup, begins at 5:45am with lift-off of the Dawn Patrol followed by mass ascension of 110 balloons at 7am to live music, Rancho San Rafael Park, 786-1131

National Team Penning Finals, 9/11-13, hosted by Peppermill, Reno Livestock Events Center, 826-2121

Camel Race Challenge, 9/11-13, Ormsby House, host hotel for Virginia City Camel Races (9/11-13), presents a weekend of Camel Race challenges, musical guests, and food, Carson City, 882-1890

Western Jamboree Weekend, 9/11-13, invita-



Figuring out the recipe is part of the fun when making taste tests at the High Sierra Regional Championship Chili Cook-Off, September 19-20. Some contestants will do anything to improve the flavor.



Early risers are rewarded with a breathtaking sight at the Great Reno Balloon Race, September 11-13. The event, which attracts 110 of the nation's top balloonists, begins each day at 5:45 a.m.



Carson City celebrates another anniversary of Nevada's statehood on October 31 with marching bands, the World Championship Single Jack Rock Drilling Contest, and Nevada State Championship Bed Races.

tional art show, quick-draw art competition, reception, Western shindig dinner and dancing, Ms. High Altitude Chili Pepper and Mr. Hot Buns crowning, Tahoe Biltmore, Crystal Bay, 831-4440

Virginia City Camel Races, 9/11-13, on Fri. qualifying races and 1880s Ball, on Sat. 11am parade followed by races, on Sun. races, Virginia City, 847-0311

Virginia City 100-Mile Endurance Horse Race, 9/12, 20th anniversary race starts at 4am at the Bucket of Blood Saloon and follows original trail through Virginia City, Sparks, Reno, and Washoe Valley. Last leg of the NASTR Triple Crown, Virginia City, 267-2499

North Shore Triathlon, 9/12, 10am, Commons Beach, Tahoe City, 916-583-5544

Truck Pull, 9/12, Reno Livestock Events Center, 323-3073

Living History Exhibit, 9/12-13, recreation of the opulent life at the Pope Estate on the shore of Lake Tahoe, antique collection, authentic 1914-20 costumes, refreshments, free, Tallac Site, South Lake Tahoe, 916-541-5458

Hunter Sight-In Days, 9/12-13, free, Palomino Valley Gun Club, 323-3950

Northstar Open Tennis Tournament, 9/12-14, for all abilities and ages, Northstar, North Lake Tahoe, 916-562-1010

Chili Cook-Off and Armadillo Races, 9/13, includes Miss Armadillo Pageant, Ponderosa



Doc Holiday (above) shows his winning form at a recent Virginia City Camel Race. This year's races in September will find the Comstock jockeys trying to recapture the Camel Cup from the Australians.

Aussies Come to Nevada for a Camel

This year's Virginia City Camel Races will have a lot of pride riding on the humped beasts. During three days of competition, September 11-13, the team of camel jockeys representing Virginia City also will be riding for the United States in a new battle of the hemispheres—the International Camel Cup.

The races will feature a rematch between teams from Virginia City and Alice Springs, Australia. They met for the first time in May, with the Aussies winning the three-foot-high brass Camel Cup trophy, based loosely on the better-known America's Cup.

Racing the ships of the desert Down Under offered a few lessons for the Comstock crew, who had brought the coveted prize all the way from Virginia City, where camel race supporters had paid for it.

"The Australians were very experienced at camel racing," said Faye Conner, a member of the delegation, which was led by First Lady Bonnie Bryan. "Plus, we were totally unfamiliar with their style of racing." Conner, who raises horses in Virginia City Highlands, explained that the Australians race camels much as Americans race horses—around a mile track. In Virginia City the style traditionally has been to hang on however possible in a 100-yard straight-ahead sprint.

Virginia City Camel Race chairman Joe DiLonardo said that another difference is that

the Aussies use traditional saddles and start the races with the camels in a sitting position. "The camels seemed a little more docile than ours. The camels are quieter and well-trained."

Despite the unfamiliar turf, the Nevada camel racers—Brandi Lee, Doc Holiday, Doctor Peacock, Gary Jackson, Gino Oliver, and Bob Rodgers—managed to capture fourth place in the championship race on May 16. "We didn't lose face totally," added Conner.

Virginia City Chamber of Commerce President Ken Foose said the race course in Virginia City will be lengthened from about 100 to 200 yards. In addition, the races will be held at the town's new Amphitheatre. Foose said that the mayor of Alice Springs and the Australian ambassador to the U.S. plan to attend.

Alice Springs residents have been racing camels since 1970, about 10 years after it became an annual event in Virginia City. According to Conner, camels are used for safaris as well as racing. "The people in Alice Springs go out and round them up," said Conner. "The camels are roaming wild something like our wild horses."

The delegates and jockeys enjoyed their week-long stay Down Under, she said. "But, of course, our plans are to keep the Camel Cup trophy here once the Australians bring it up in September."—Gary Elam

- Ranch, Incline Village, 831-4440
- Seventh Annual Kirkwood 10-km Run**, 9/13, Timber Creek Lodge, Kirkwood Ski Resort, 209-258-6000
- Autocross**, 9/13, Reno Livestock Events Center, 323-6156
- Mexican Dance**, 9/13 and 9/28, Reno Livestock Events Center, 329-3658
- NAWIC Exposition**, 9/16-19, exhibits of construction-related products and services, Ntl. Assn. of Women in Construction, Bally's Reno, 323-3610
- National Championship Air Races**, 9/17-20, 24th annual, racing format includes four aircraft classes: Unlimiteds, AT-6's, Biplanes, and Formula Ones, qualifying trials are 9/14-16, Stead Airport, 10 miles north of Reno, 348-7403 or 415-392-7469
- UNR Foundation Annual Banquet**, 9/18, features Major League Baseball Commissioner Peter Ueberroth as keynote speaker, cocktails, dinner, Harrah's Reno, 784-6622

Air Race Alert

The 24th annual National Championship Air Races, September 17-20, will feature aerobic acts and four classes of racing aircraft. The event takes place at Stead Airfield, 10 miles north of Reno. See page 48 in this issue for story and photos.



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Bill Cosby are on hand in the showrooms, and the cabaret shows feature dazzling revues and up-and-coming stars. And there's entertainment for children as well with magicians, jugglers and circus acts.

Reno/Tahoe's a paradise for the outdoor enthusiast as well. Rand McNally recently rated the area

first in the nation for "Fun in the Great Outdoors." Both Reno and Lake Tahoe offer a wide variety of activities, from skiing at 19 major resorts to sailing, fishing, hiking and horseback riding. And with more than 300 days of sunshine a year, you can play tennis or golf just about any time.

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Bowers Mansion Festival, 9/19, bluegrass, folk, and traditional acoustical music, International Nevada Spoon-Off, Washoe Valley, 849-0276

Carson Valley Inn Golf Tournament, 9/19, Carson Valley Golf Course, Gardnerville, 265-2465

High Sierra Regional Championship Chili Cook-Off, 9/19-20, two days of cooking, tasting, and live entertainment, Del Webb's High Sierra, 588-6211

Snaffle Bit Futurity, 9/19-27 Reno Livestock Events Center, 323-3073

Dave Brubeck Concert, 9/20, jazz, no-host cocktail reception 6pm, performance at 8pm, Pioneer Theater, 784-4444

"Dear Liar," 9/20, benefit play with Efrem Zimbalist, Jr. and Carol Piper Marshall, 2pm, Piper's Opera House, Virginia City, 847-0433

Lynyrd Skynyrd Concert, 9/24, Lawlor Events Center, UNR, 784-4444

"Cloud Nine," 9/25-26 and 10/2-4, Nevada Repertory Company, Nell J. Redfield Proscenium Theatre, Church Fine Arts Complex, UNR, 784-6505

National Country Western Dance Festival, 9/25-27 largest country western dance festival in U.S., competitions, classes, workshops, social dancing, western art and clothing exhibits, Reno-Sparks Convention Center, 322-3355

Ormsby House and KPTL Radio '50s Celebration, 9/26, '50s rock 'n roll record revue and dancing, Ormsby House, Carson City, 882-1890

Rigatoni and "Rigoletto," 9/26, preview to Nevada Opera Assn.'s season with dinner and singing from Verdi's opera, 4-10pm, Nevada Opera Assn., Leonardo's restaurant, 786-4046

Genoa Candy Dance, 9/26-27 87th annual, 6pm buffet and 9pm dance Sat., arts and crafts show and candy sale Sat.-Sun., dinner and dance, Town Hall, Genoa, 782-2518 or 782-2421

Ferrari Hill Climb, 9/26-27 Ferraris race up State Route 341 to Virginia City, 847-0311

Fat Tire Samuri, 9/26-27 mountain bike event, Donner Ski Ranch, Norden, CA., 916-265-3339

Masterpieces of the American West Exhibit, 9/26-11/8, paintings from the Anschutz Collection in Denver, CO. that includes works by pioneer painters, naturalists, illustrators, and Taos/Sante Fe artists, Sierra Nevada Museum of Art, 329-3333

Team Roping, 9/29-30, Reno Livestock Events Center, 323-3073

International Chamber Ensemble, 9/30, 8pm, Church of the Little Flower, 784-4444

October

Oktoberfest, 10/3, 7pm, high school gym, Virginia City, 847-0389

Railroad Steam-Up, 10/3-4, restored Virginia and Truckee Railroad Engine No. 25 will haul two open-air excursion cars on the mile-long track, Nevada State Railroad Museum, Carson City, 885-5168

Autumn Jubilee, 10/3-24, events every weekend including barbecues, parade, chocolate tasting, Oktoberfest dinner and dance, roller ski races, various locations in North Lake Tahoe and Truckee, 916-583-3494

Free-esta, 10/3-11/14, free food and entertainment, Caesars Tahoe, 588-3515

Reno Philharmonic Concert, 10/6, Pioneer Theater, 329-8866

Fall Barbershop Convention and Contests, 10/9-11, \$15 covers three contests and hours of

Numaga Days: A Powwow With Spirit

The sound of traffic from heavily traveled Glendale Avenue in Reno can be heard prominently. Bally's Hotel rises in that direction, and the Truckee River cascades on the other side. People are heading toward a building on the Reno/Sparks Indian Colony, where a faint boom can be heard.

The boom grows louder, now forming a pattern of beats. Costumed children run about, their jet-black hair swirling in the breeze. People are pouring into the yard as the beating becomes louder, and more colorful costumes can be seen.

Vendors, sitting in their own bright clothing, wait at booths, selling jewelry, clothing, and artifacts of their cultures. They fan themselves, listening to the beat of the drums and the swelling of the musicians' chants.

The music stops. This is the signal for the spectators to surround a central field. Everyone waits. Numaga Days are about to begin.

Everyone bows their heads as a grey-haired, costumed Native American reads an opening prayer in his native tongue.

The main part of the celebration, the dance contests, are next. Lasting several days, the contests are divided into age groups and into two types of dancing, fancy and traditional.

On this day the traditional male dancers begin, moving slowly and rhythmically about the field. Here the dress is one bustle of predominantly eagle feathers on the back and beige-to-brown leather clothing. The men use more body language than the women, who dance at a somewhat slower pace, following their own individual shuffling beats.

The fancy dancers, men and women, explode onto the field in dazzling color. Their energy is infectious, and they dance vigorously.

"They are depicting their spirit animals, giving back to them what they took," explains Sam Johnson, chairman of the Red Star Powwow Committee. Johnson explains one such animal depiction—the sneak-up song. The dancer attacks three times, and with his costume flying around him, he overtakes the enemy.

The powwow is arranged much like a ro-



Dancers of all sizes will be at La Ka Le'l Ba Powwow (above) October 30-November 11 in Carson City and Numaga Days September 4-6 in Reno.

deo. That is, it is part of a circuit. Native Americans from many tribes gather in a festive atmosphere to party, dance, and sell their wares. One such booth participant is Ida Ryan, a Chippewa who has spent 10 years on the powwow circuit. She calls the event simply "a gathering of the Indian people, a fun time."

One advantage of this powwow is that it lies right in the middle of the Reno/Sparks area. Numaga Days runs September 4-6 and is located at the community center building on Reservation Road in Reno. Whether you're tourist or resident, the powwow will be a unique way to spend a weekend. Don't forget to bring extra money for the booths—you'll enjoy browsing them for turquoise and crafts at moderate prices.—Julie Quinn

musical entertainment, Far Western District of SPEBSQSA, Lawlor Events Center, UNR, 358-3349

Fall Reno Antiques Show and Sale, 10/9-11, Reno-Sparks Convention Center, 415-771-3492

Carson City Alternate Energy Tour, 10/11, tour includes homes in Carson City area that feature solar and other energy sources, League of Women Voters of Carson City, 882-2256

Italian Festival, 10/11, pasta and sauce tasting, spaghetti-eating contest, grape-stomping contest, bocce ball tournament, Italian feast, celebrity guests, Eldorado Hotel, 786-5700

Opera in the Mall, 10/11, Nevada Opera Assn. singers, Meadowood Mall, 786-4946

Brown Bag Opera, 10/14, noon-1pm, free, Pioneer Theater, 786-4046

"Aunt Dan and Lemon," 10/16-17 and 10/23-25, experimental theater, Nevada Repertory Company, Nell J. Redfield Studio Theatre, Church Fine Arts Complex, UNR, 784-6658

"Rigoletto," 10/23-24, Verdi's opera, 8pm, Nevada Opera Assn., Pioneer Theater, 786-

4046

"A Doll House," 10/23-24, 10/30-31, 11/1, and 11/5-7 Henri Ibsen's play, Reno Little Theater, 329-0661

Fat Tire Samuri, 10/24-25, mountain bike event, Donner Ski Ranch, Norden, CA., 916-265-3339

Carson City Chamber Orchestra Concert, 10/25, free, Ormsby House, Carson City, 883-4154

Nevada Day Art Exhibit, 10/26-11/6, Nevada Artists Gallery in Brewery Arts Center, Carson City, 882-2552

Jah Children Concert and Dance Show, 10/30, reggae band from Jamaica, West Indies, 8pm, \$10 advance tickets, \$12 at door, Reno-Sparks Convention Center, 348-7403

La Ka Le'l Ba Powwow, 10/30-11/1, authentic traditional and fancy competitive and ceremonial Indian dancing, hand-game tournament, horseshoe pitching, Native American arts and crafts and food, Carson Indian Colony, 2900 S. Curry St., Carson City, 885-9759

Railroad Steam-Up, 10/30-11/1, restored Vir-

ginia and Truckee Railroad Engines No. 22 and 25 will haul two open-air excursion cars on the mile-long track, Nevada State Railroad Museum, Carson City, 885-5168

Nevada Day, 10/31, celebration of Nevada's 123rd anniversary of statehood with parade, Nevada State Championship Bed Races, beard contests, 13th annual World Championship Single Jack Rock Drilling Contest, fire department water fights, quilt display, art show, music, food; on 30th 1864 costume ball, Carson City, 882-2600 or 882-1565

COMING EVENTS

Super Stars of Poker, 1/9-20, Caesars Tahoe, 588-3515
Winter Carnival, 1/26-29, Sierra Ski Ranch, 916-659-7453
Nugget Hereford Celebrity Sale, 2/10, Sparks, 356-3000
Snowfest, 3/4-13, North Lake Tahoe-Truckee, 916-583-3494
Crazy Craft Sled Races, 3/19, Incline Village, 831-4440

NIGHTLIFE

Marona's Miracles

By Guy Richardson

Danny Marona's never been on the Carson show. "I'll be happy if I never work it," says Marona. "If I have to die tomorrow—other than

the fact that I don't want to die—I'll die happy."

Johnny Carson's producers looked at a video of Marona's show and asked for a five-minute spot. "I said, 'You can't see what I do in five minutes.'" Which is true.

So Carson passed. "I didn't get the tape back, either," Marona says. All right, no Carson shot. Marona, who does comedy and impressions and pianistics and probably gymnastics if some guy in the audience sends up a request on the back of a napkin, contents himself with a reputation as a rising lounge giant.

In Nevada, we are supposed to be witnessing the twilight of the lounge star, based on the theory that the giants died when Louis Prima became eligible for a New Orleans funeral.

Nevertheless, Marona makes more money than Nevada Governor Richard Bryan, working in lounges at places like Bally's and High Sierra. "I've become the sage of lounge performers. Young acts come to me and say, 'Tell us what's wrong. We want to learn. How do you look at a guy and tell him his wife shouldn't be singing lead for the group?'"

Marona's sense of humor shares a border with cynicism but never crosses into viciousness. He still has an ex-choirboy's innocent faith that an audience will like him. Marona is a heap of intriguing contradictions. In fact, he is an ex-choirboy. When his voice changed at 15, he started working bars.

His father was a minister; Marona's mother admonished him about sex by saying she knew a boy who wound up in a mental institution. Young Danny had no idea what she was talking about. A few years later, his first comedy routine was about masturbation.

In the eighth grade he finished second in the California state spelling bee. In the ninth grade



Danny Marona lights up Northern Nevada stages with his observations on day-to-day life including politics, sex, commercials, and divorce.

he dropped out of school to tour with a band. Still, there is a consistency. "Second didn't count," Marona says. "I never did put that ribbon on the wall." What counts is making it in what may be the world's toughest showbiz ring—Nevada lounges. His wall still lacks a second-place ribbon, but it is festooned with rave reviews. "When I was a kid, I wanted to be like Louis Prima," Marona says. "Kids now want to play guitar and get a record contract."

Marona still wants to be like Prima. "I've played three main rooms, and nothing came out of it," he says. "I've had a weird career—I'm a celebrity in California and Nevada and nobody else has ever heard of me."

So he's not a national name, and he's never gone through the gut-wrenching few seconds when a comic finishes a routine and then waits to see if Carson will wave him over to a seat. A seat means "You made it."

To Marona, his last show means he made it. "I'm precocious and stupid enough that I think everyone is interested in what I have to say. I always think I have a bunch of friends out there. I wish I had a dollar for everyone who's said, 'I usually hate comedians, but tonight you made me laugh.'

"One of the things I take the most pride in is the mail we get. I have letters saying, 'My husband died a year ago, and I hadn't laughed until I saw you, or, 'Our marriage was falling apart, then my wife and I saw you and went home and talked about it and decided splitting up was stupid.

"I told my wife that nobody ever writes and says you are a good comedian, or good singer. Sometimes I feel I should have some kind of church where I bless people."

Naw. Not until religion gets a lounge circuit. Danny Marona performs at Del Webb's High Sierra at Lake Tahoe September 22-October 4 and at Bally's Reno October 7-November 3.

SHOWGUIDE

Bally's, 789-2285: *Ziegfeld Theatre*: "Hello Hollywood, Hello!" thru 10/20, starring Jim Nabors; *Lion's Den*: Right Touch/Gary Rafanelli and Sandy Selby, thru 9/8; Association/Dode Stevens, 9/9-22; Rob Hanna/Valentino, 9/23-10/6; Danny Marona/Zip-pers, 10/7-11/3

Caesars Tahoe, 588-3515: *Cascade Showroom*:

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FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 11
GRUDGE RACES 10:00 A.M. till ?
New Zealand vs. Australia (Plus many more)

ANNUAL COSTUME BALL
and Press Party 7:00 P.M. at the V&T Depot on "D" Street

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 12
ANNUAL PARADE (races follow)

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13
FINAL RACES 10:00 A.M. till ?
Virginia City vs. Alice Springs (Australia)

For Information call:
(702) 847-0311 or
(702) 883-7223

Admission price :
\$5.00 per person
(For all three days)

Ostrich races and many other great surprises

Joan Rivers/Mary Wilson, thru 9/6; Classic Super Fest with Turtles, Grass Roots, Herman's Hermits, Byrds, and Mark Lindsay, 9/11-12; Tom Jones, 10/16-17; Glenn Frey, 10/23-24; *Crystal Cabaret*: Ritz Fashion Auction, indf.; Laff Trax featuring Andy Bumbatai/Mary Schickling-Young, 9/14-27

Carson City Nugget, 883-3854: Four Tunes, 9/15-10/4; Jaguars, 10/6-11/1

Carson Valley Inn, Minden, 782-9711: Perfect Circle, 9/1-12; Motifs, 9/14-10/3; Yours Truly, 10/5-17; Network, 10/19-24; Garfin Gathering, 9/26-10/14

Circus Circus, Reno, 329-0711: Free circus acts, 11am-midnight

Crystal Bay Club, North Tahoe, 831-0512: Impulse, thru 9/1

Del Webb's High Sierra, Tahoe, 588-6211: *High Sierra Theater*: Wayne Newton, 9/8-13; *Pine Cone Lounge*: Bottoms Up '87 revue, indf.; Wayland and Madame, 9/1-20; Danny Marona, 9/22-10/4; Ronnie Schell, 10/6-18; Frankie Fanelli, 10/20-11/1

Eldorado, Reno, 786-5700: Sam Butera, 9/1-6; Wright Brothers, 9/1-20; Pat Collins, the Hip Hypnotist, 9/8-20; Hitz, 9/22-10/11; Entertainment Committee, 10/5-18; Gary Raffanelli and Sandy Selby, 10/13-11/1; Indian River Boys, 10/19-11/1

Harolds Club, Reno, 329-0881: Entertainment TBA

Harrah's Reno, 329-4422: *Headliner Room*: Marilyn McCoo/John Byner, 9/3-9; David Copperfield, 9/10-23; Andy Williams, 9/24-30; Rich Little, 10/1-14; Loretta Lynn, 10/15-21; Crystal Gayle, 10/22-28; Hal Linden, 10/29-11/4; *Casino Cabaret*: Frenz, indf.; Rain: A Tribute to the Beatles, thru 9/6; Zasu Pitts Memorial Orchestra, thru 9/6; Platters, 9/8-20; Band on the Run, 9/23-10/5

Harrah's Tahoe, 588-6606: *South Shore Room*: Sammy Davis, Jr., thru 9/3; Donna Summer, 9/4-6 and 9/8-10; Robin Williams, 9/5-6; Everly Brothers, 9/11-17; Roy Clark/Mel Tillis, 9/18-20 and 9/22-24; Monkees, 9/25-10/1; Diahann Carroll/Vic Damone, 10/2-4 and 10/6-8; *Stateline Cabaret*: Frederic Apcar's "Fast Company," revue, indf.; Platters, thru 9/6; Cool Jerks, 9/7-9; Etta James, 9/10-16

Harvey's, South Lake Tahoe, 588-2411: Ron Rose Sound, indf.; Rage, revue, indf.; SinSational, revue, indf.; Wizz Kidz, thru 9/6; Franco and Mary Jane/Vince Cardell, thru 9/6; Louie Fontaine, 9/7-13; Sonny Turner, 9/7-20; Elements, 9/7-27; Winchester Cathedral, 9/14-10/18; Zella Lehr, 9/21-10/18; Pefect Circle, 9/28-10/18; Tommy Bell, 10/19-11/1; Starfire, 10/19-11/8

Hyatt Lake Tahoe, 831-1111: Garfin Gathering, 9/15-27; Frenz, 9/29-10/18; Valentino, 10/20-11/1; Jonah, 11/3-15

John Ascuaga's Nugget, Sparks, 356-3304: *Celebrity Showroom*: Legends in Concert II, thru 10/14; Donna Fargo/David Strassman, 10/15-28; Sha Na Na, 10/29-11/11; *Casino Lounge*: Eddie and the Edsels/Sergio Alberti, thru 9/13; Rainbow/Command Performance, 9/15-10/4; Heartbeats/Motifs, 10/6-25; Maurice Moore Four/Vince Cardell, 10/27-11/15

Ormsby House, Carson City, 882-1890: Big Tiny Little, 9/7-20; Jermaine and Terra, 9/7-27; Sundance, 9/22-10/4

Peppermill, Reno, 826-2121: Stan Parnes, thru 9/6; Lelands, thru 9/13; Cameron, thru 9/27; St. Romain, 9/7-20; Tommy Bell, 9/28-10/4; Dare, 9/28-10/11; Cheryl Cotten, 9/28-10/18; Wrays, 10/5-18; Launi Kristopher, 10/12-25; Stan Parnes, 10/19-25; Metro, 10/19-11/8; Briefcase Blues Band/Network, 10/26-11/1

Reno Hilton, 322-1111: Chad and Jeremy, thru



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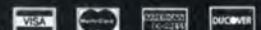
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9/13; Paul Revere and the Raiders, 9/4-6; Pat Collins, 9/22-10/4; Supremes featuring Mary Wilson, 10/5-18; Doug Kershaw, 10/19-11/1
Reno Ramada, 788-2000: TBA
Sharkey's Nugget, Gardnerville, 782-3133
Tahoe Biltmore, North Tahoe, 831-0660: Entertainment and dancing nightly, 10pm-4am
Topaz Lodge, Topaz Lake, 266-3339
Western Village, Sparks, 331-1069: Proof, 9/14-20; Wrays, 9/14-10/4; Gary Wade and the Bump, 9/21-10/4; David Proud and the Baby Boomers, 10/5-18; Lelands, 10/19-11/1

St., 885-5210
Nevada State Museum, 8:30-4:30 daily, 600 N. Carson St., 885-4810
Nevada State Railroad Museum, 8:30-4:30 Fri.-Sun. and holidays from Memorial Day thru Nov. 1, S. Carson St. at Fairview Dr., 885-5168
Roberts House Museum, 9/5 last day open in 1987 and yard sale, 1207 N. Carson St., 882-4726
Warren Engine Co. No. 1 Museum, 1-5 Mon.-Fri., 111 N. Curry St., 887-2200

Genoa

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

Reno

Harolds Club Gun Collection and Museum, 10-10 daily, 329-0881
Mackay School of Mines Minerals Museum, 8-

5 Mon.-Fri., UNR, 784-6988
Nevada Historical Society, 10-5 Wed.-Sun., 1650 N. Virginia St., 789-0190
Sierra Nevada Museum of Art, 10-4 Tues. and Thurs.-Fri., 10-8 Wed., 12-4 Sat.-Sun., 549 Court St., 329-3333
UNR Anthropology Dept. Research Museum, 9-1 Mon.-Fri. Sept.-May, open all year by appt., UNR, 784-4686
Wilbur D. May Museum, 10-5 Wed.-Sun., 1502 Washington (Rancho San Rafael Park), 785-5961

Sparks

William F. Harrah Automobile Museum, 9:30-5:30 daily, 970 Glendale Ave., 355-3500

Virginia City

Comstock Firemen's Museum, 10-4 daily, May-Oct., 847-0717
Julia C. Bulette Red Light Museum, 7:30-9 daily, 847-9991
Museum of Memories, 9:30-5 daily, 847-0454
The Way It Was Museum, 9:30-5 daily, 847-0766
Wild West Museum, 9-5 daily, 847-0400

MUSEUMS

Carson City

Nevada State Archives, 8-5 Mon.-Fri., 101 S. Fall

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ART GALLERIES

Carson City

Abell House: 1114 Curry St., 10-5:30 Mon.-Fri., 10-4 Sat., monthly shows by local artists, 883-5300
Austin Arts: 1505 N. Carson St., 9-5:30 Mon.-Fri., 9-1 Sat., visiting and local artists, 883-5531
Donna's Gallery: 1307 S. Carson St., 11-5:30 Tues.-Sat., handcrafted gifts by local artists, 883-9132
Great Basin Gallery and Frame: 110 S. Curry St., 9-6 Mon.-Sat., early Nevada hand-colored photos, oils, watercolors, bronze, ceramics, 882-8505
Nevada Artists Association Gallery: 449 W. King St., 10-4 Mon.-Sat., primarily Nevada themes, 882-6411
XS Gallery: Western Nevada Community College, 2201 W. Nye Ln., 8-10 Mon.-Thurs., 8-5 Fri., contemporary fine art, 887-3000

Lake Tahoe

DeCurtis Art Gallery: Round Hill Mall, Zephyr Cove, 10-5 Mon.-Sat., Sun. by appointment, oils, watercolors, 588-7310
High Sierra Gallery: Del Webb's High Sierra, Stateline, 9-5 Mon.-Fri., 9-9 Sat.-Sun., oils and photos, Tahoe themes, 588-6707
Lake Gallery: Boatworks Mall, Tahoe City, 10-10 Sun.-Sat., contemporary sculpture, prints, and limited editions, 916-583-1002
Potlatch: 324 Ski Way, Incline Village, 10-5:30 Sun.-Sat., Anthony Sinclair western oils, 831-2485
Royal Art Gallery: Round Hill Mall, Zephyr Cove, 10-8 daily, limited-edition prints, oils, and sculptures, 588-2461
Sierra Galleries: Caesars Tahoe, Stateline, 8:30-9:30 Sun.-Thurs., 8:30-11 Fri.-Sat., western and Tahoe paintings, 588-8500
Timberline Crafts Gallery: 590 Lakeshore Dr., Incline Village, 10-5:30 daily, pottery studio, over 100 regional artists' works, 831-2460

Minden

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

Reno

Addi Galleries: Bally's Reno, 9-11 Sun.-Sat, Red Skelton clown paintings, 323-1920
Artemisia Gallery Ltd.: 606 W. Plumb Ln. Suite 7 10-5 Mon.-Sat., regional artists' painting

and pottery, 825-2744

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

Barnwood Is Beautiful: 135 N. Sierra, 12-5 Mon.-Sat., antique Nevada photos lacquered on 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

Earth Window: American Indian Art 2001 E. Second St., 10-5:30 Sun.-Sat., American Indian art in oil, acrylic, sandpainting, and beadwork, 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

Hagar's Gallery: 4056 Kietzke Ln., 9:30-5:30 Tues.-Sat., Philippe 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

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

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

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

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

Sheppard Art Gallery: UNR, 9-4 Mon.-Fri., contemporary western art, 784-6658

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

Virginia City

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

CASINO NOTES

•The showroom at **Del Webb's High Sierra** opened in May 1966 with Phyllis Diller and the Osmond Brothers. It closed in February 1984, shortly after the hotel changed from the Sahara Tahoe to the High Sierra, but Wayne Newton came to Tahoe to reopen the room last July and will return September 8-13. The showroom will be used primarily for special events.

•Lulabelle is the automatic star of the **Comstock Hotel's** new entertainment attraction. She

sings, she flirts, and she flashes her big blues. She looks real, but actually she's a full-sized audio-animated character. Lulabelle and her piano-playing sidekick, Slim, play in the main casino continuously every day.

•The **Tahoe Biltmore** celebrated its grand opening in July. Most recently called the Nevada Lodge, the club was known as the Tahoe Biltmore when it was built in 1946. The multi-million-dollar renovation project includes a new 200-seat restaurant.

•**Harrah's Tahoe** held a grand opening for its new Race/Sportsbook and Poker Room in August. The racebook has 11 screens. There are also a few 15-minute parking spaces directly behind the hotel. Harrah's says this instant parking was created for the convenience of customers who wish to place bets but are unable to stay to watch the races or games.

TOURNAMENTS

September

Keno, 9/1 and 10/6, Peppermill, 826-2121
Slots, 9/3-5 and 10/1-3, Eldorado, 786-5700
Slots, 9/11-13, Peppermill, 826-2121
Slots, 9/18 and 10/23, Reno Ramada, 788-2000
Keno, 9/19, Caesars Tahoe, 588-3515
Blackjack, 9/25-27 Peppermill, 826-2121
Slots, 9/27-30, Caesars Tahoe, 588-3515

October

October Classic, 10/9-12, Peppermill, 826-2121
Craps and Blackjack, 10/16, Ramada, 788-2000
Blackjack, 10/29-30, Eldorado, 786-5700
Halloween Tournament and Costume Party, 10/30-11/1, Peppermill, 826-2121



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 - Flamingo Hilton, Strip
 - Union Plaza Hotel
 - Park Place, Maryland Pkwy.
 - Valley Bank, 4th & Bridger
 - Meadows Mall
- RENO**
- 25 W. 2nd Street
 - 111 N. Virginia St.
 - Park Lane Mall

- Meadowood Mall
- TAHOE**
- Hwy. 50, Stateline
 - Tahoe City
 - Incline Village
- CALIFORNIA**
- Citicorp Plaza, L.A.
 - Palm Springs
 - Palm Desert
 - LaJolla
 - San Diego
 - Santa Barbara
 - Long Beach
 - Northridge
 - Thousand Oaks

- Rolling Hills Estates
 - Sacramento
 - San Francisco
 - San Mateo
 - Palo Alto
 - Richmond
 - Santa Rosa
 - Fairfield
 - Pleasanton
 - Mill Valley
 - Concord
 - Tiburon
- ARIZONA**
- Phoenix, 6 Locations
 - Tucson, 4 Locations

THE NEVADA CALENDAR



Rural Areas

RURAL HOT LINES

Nevada Commission on Tourism: 885-3636 or 800-237-0774 outside Nevada
Nevada Division of State Parks: District III office in Fallon: 867-3001; District IV office in Elko County: Northfork 6493; District V office in Panaca: 728-4467
Winnemucca Gun Club: 623-4117

EVENTS

COVERED WAGON TERRITORY

September

4-H Fashion Show, 9/1, Convention Center, Elko, 738-4091
Labor Day Rodeo and Tri-County Fair, 9/4-6, fair Fri.-Sun., parade Sat., PRCA rodeo Sat.-

Sun., includes 4-H livestock show, auction, crafts, home arts, barbecue, street dance, fairgrounds, Winnemucca, 623-6304
Western Art Round-Up, 9/4-6, on Fri. banquet, on Sat.-Sun. show featuring more than 200 pieces of original works, wine tasting, and quick draw, Convention Center, Winnemucca, 623-5071
Elko County Fair and Livestock Show, 9/4-7, horse-racing parimutuels, exhibits, and stock contests, fairgrounds, Elko, 738-3616
Demolition Derby, 9/7 stock cars, fairgrounds, Elko, 738-8477
KELK Radio Cooking School, 9/9, Convention Center, Elko, 738-7118
Festival of Planes, 9/12, fly-overs, egg-dropping contest, remote-control planes, aerobatic performances, Elko Airport, 738-3346
Winnemucca Parimutuel Horse Races, 9/12-13, fairgrounds, Winnemucca, 623-5071
Horseshoe Tournament, 9/12-13, Cactus Pete's Casino, Jackpot, 755-2321
Northeastern Nevada Health Fair, 9/13, Convention Center, Elko, 738-5151
World Championship Mule Show and Parimutuel Races, 9/17-20, fairgrounds, Winnemucca, 623-5071
Western State Rodeo Finals, 9/17-20, rodeo grounds, Wendover, 664-4000
State Wild Game Cook-Off, 9/19, Convention Center, Elko, 738-4091
Man-Mule Race, 9/19, 20-mile race for horses, mules, bicycles, and humans from Elko to Lamoille, followed by barbecue at Lamoille Grove, 738-8570

Pahrump Harvest Festival

The Harvest Festival and PRCA Rodeo has roots going back 23 years to a time when Pahrump farmers celebrated getting all the hay in. This year's event, September 18-20, carries on the tradition with a parade, rodeo, fair, gymkhana, games, arts and crafts booths, dances, deep-pit barbecue, midway, and stock car races.



Labor Day is celebrated throughout Nevada and is especially enjoyed in the rural towns. Pioche's holiday celebration always includes special events for children including the hay scramble (right) and hot dog eating contest. Check the Calendar for other Labor Day events in Elko, Winnemucca, Fallon, Austin, Lone, and Ely.





Neither rain nor snow will keep some people away from Elko's Man-Mule Race on September 19. The 20-mile benefit race ends in Lamoille.

Jim Sinclair Memorial Golf Tournament, 9/26, Cactus Pete's, Jackpot, 755-2321
Nevada Dirt Track Championships, 9/26-27 \$10,000 total purse, Lovelock, 273-2949

October

Oktoberfest, 10/3, German beer garden, German food, free admission, Convention Center, Elko, 738-5181
Geothermal Connection, 10/8-10, forum on geothermal with exhibits, demonstrations, seminars, free to public, Convention Center, Elko, 738-4091
Pool Tournament, 10/9-11, Nevada Crossing, Wendover, 664-4000
Blackjack Tournament, 10/11-12, State Line Hotel, Wendover, 664-2221
Nevada Special Olympics and State Equestrian Tournament, 10/24, Spring Creek Horse Palace, 11 miles from Elko, 738-6071
Jackpot Antique Show, 10/31-11/1, Convention Center, Jackpot, 755-2321

PONY EXPRESS TERRITORY

September

Steam-Up, 9/5-7, rides on historic 1910 passenger train on Nevada Northern Railway between East Ely and Copper Flat via Ruth, East

Photo: Dean Owen

Ely, 289-2085
Hearts of Gold Cantaloupe Festival 87, 9/5-7 parade, rodeo, farmer's market, pancake breakfast, mud bog, stock car races, barbecue, softball tournament, Community Center, Fallon, 423-2544
Lion's Club Rodeo and Parade, 9/5-7 junior rodeo, parade, adult and teen dances, fairgrounds, Fallon, 423-2171
Labor Day Lasso, 9/6-7 team roping, rodeo grounds, Austin, 964-2622
Hidden Cave Tours, 9/12 and 26, meet at 9:30am, County Museum, Fallon, 882-1631 or 423-3677
81st Anniversary of Nevada Northern Railway, 9/26-27 last chance to ride aboard an authentic 1910 passenger train on the historic Nevada Northern Railway all the way to Copper Flat from East Ely (afterward the route will be shorter), East Ely, 289-2085

October

Oktoberfest, 10/3, German food, silly symphony, Ely Senior Citizens Center, Ely, 289-2742
Holiday Faire, 10/9-10, handcrafted gift items, food, craft demonstrations, entertainment, pumpkin bake-off, free, Community Center, Fallon, 867-3576
Hidden Cave Tours, 10/10 and 24, meet at 9:30am, County Museum, Fallon, 882-1631 or 423-3677
Harvest Auction and Sale, 10/18, 10am doors open, noon auction, Smith Valley Community Hall, Wellington, 465-2304

Nevada Day and Halloween Parade, 10/31, Austin, 964-2440

PIONEER TERRITORY

September

Nevada 87, 9/1-15, traveling photo show, Walker-Wassuk Arts Alliance, Hawthorne, 945-3030
Ione Days, 9/5-6, hand drilling, women's mud wrestling, horseshoe tournament, tobacco-spitting contest, children's games, including greased pig chases and pinatas, turkey shoot, free Texas stew, bluegrass and country-western bands, 786-7429
Pioche Labor Day Celebration, 9/5-7 parade, mining events, horse race, horseshoe tournament, kid's games, dinner, bike race, 10-km run, car derby, breakfasts, Pioche, 962-5544
The Big Picture, 9/6, photograph of past and present residents of Lincoln County posing to form the shape of the state of Nevada, fundraiser for Lincoln County Center for the Arts, festival from 10am-4pm, shooting at noon, Lincoln County High School, Panaca, 726-3209
Pahrump Harvest Festival and PRCA Rodeo, 9/18-20, parade, gymkhana, games, arts and crafts booths, dances, deep-pit barbecue, midway, stock car races, at Community Park,

Peppermill Country



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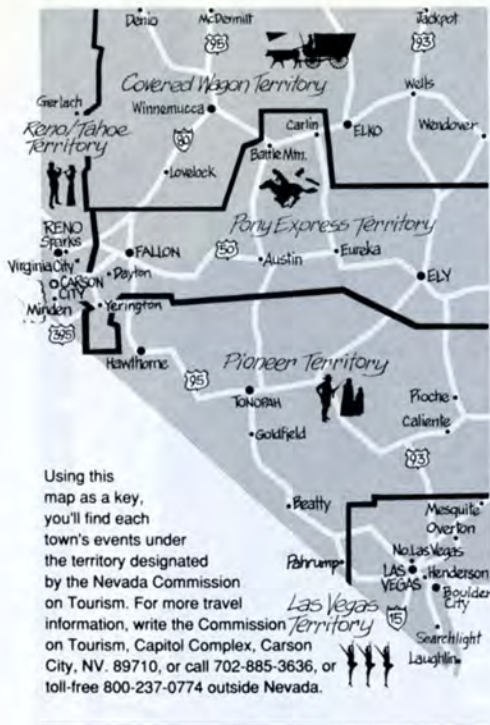
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rodeo arena, and Bob Ruud Memorial Speedway, Pahrump, 727-5800
Meadow Valley Days, 9/18-21, Caliente, 962-5207
Pinenut Festival, 9/19-20, celebration of the Walker River Reservation to bless and give away pinenuts, includes handgames and barbecue, Walker River Paiute Tribe, Schurz, 773-2306

October

Nevada 87, 10/13-11/4, traveling photo show, Central Nevada Museum, Tonopah, 482-9676
Concert, 10/18, Jimmy and the Wazoo Peach Pitters, plus bluegrass, high school, Panaca, 726-3742

SHOWGUIDE

Covered Wagon Territory

Elko: Commercial Hotel, 738-3181; Red Lion, 738-2111; Stockmen's Hotel, 738-5141
Jackpot: Cactus Pete's, 755-2321; Jay Ramsey, thru 9/13; Gresham, 9/14-20; Jonas, 9/21-27; Doug Kershaw, 9/28-30 and 10/2-4; Ricky Skaggs, 10/1; Horseshu Casino, 755-2331
Wendover: Nevada Crossing, 664-4000; Scouts, 7/7-26; Big Tiny Little, 7/28-8/9; Pandora, 8/11-30; Peppermill, 664-2255; Red Garter, 664-2111; Country-western music Tues.-Sun.; Silver Smith, 664-2231; Live entertainment nightly; 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; Stampede, 9/1-13; Country Thunder, 9/15-29; Hole in Wall, 10/1-11; Me and You, 10/13-25

MUSEUMS

Covered Wagon Territory Elko

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

Lovelock

Marzen House Museum, 8-4 Mon.-Fri., 1:30-4 Sat.-Sun., 273-2053

Winnemucca

Humboldt Museum, 10-4 Mon.-Fri., 1-4 Sat., 623-2912

Pony Express Territory Ely

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

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

Eureka

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

Fallon

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

Yerington

Lyon County Museum, 10-4 Sat., 1-4 Sun.

Pioneer Territory

Hawthorne

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

Pioche

Lincoln County Museum, 9-5 Mon.-Sat., 10-5 Sun. (closed 12:30-1:30 for lunch), 962-5207

Tonopah

Central Nevada Museum, 12-5 Tues.-Sat., May-Sept., 482-9676

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, oils on Nevada themes, 738-3418

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 Gerlach, hours vary, call ahead; original pottery, 557-2500

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Frank and Carol Bleuss at their Eureka bed and breakfast. Next door is their home—the old Methodist church.

BOOM CAMP SURVIVORS

The great gold and silver strikes are mostly memories now, but residents of Nevada's old mining towns still are rich in many ways.

By Richard Menzies

B

ack in the winter of 1957 when I was a boy scout, my troop undertook an expedition from Price, Utah, to Reno via U.S. 50, the erstwhile overland stage route that winds through the heartland of Nevada. Our destination was Stead Air Force Base, where fledgling airmen were being trained in the craft of wilderness survival. In a sort of joint

paramilitary venture, the Boy Scouts of America had been invited to participate, no doubt to determine whether there were any promising recruits among us.

As I recall, we did not have the right stuff. Our thin kapok sleeping bags offered little protection against the biting Sierra winds, and the rabbit we stewed at Donner Pass couldn't have been less appetizing had it been one of my chums in the pot. And to this day I cannot remember the proper procedure for "milking" a rattlesnake.

What did stick in my mind was the arduous drive across Nevada. Due to numerous mechanical ailments, our drafty surplus school bus made frequent unscheduled stops along the way thus affording us ample opportunity to contemplate the landscape. I'd never seen so much open country before, and the infrequent settlements appeared like yellowing illustrations torn from the pages of a dime Western. I vowed that should ever I have a driver's license and wheels of my own, I'd be back for a closer look.

Thirty years later I'm pleased to report my adolescent vision of the Old West remains intact. Oh, I suppose some of the 19th-century

architecture has collapsed and many of the old-timers have passed on, but on the whole this part of the country has proved remarkably immune to progress as we've come to know it. The two-lane blacktop still stretches to infinity across sage-speckled valleys so sparsely populated that even a 90-pound weakling could rip the local phone book in half. And the towns—well, the towns still look like yellowing pages torn from a Western novel.

The scale is distinctly pedestrian. There are no traffic lights, no freeway interchanges, no towering electric signs. Oddly enough, there is not one franchised motel or fast-food establishment to be

seen anywhere between Salt Lake City and Fallon. No 7-Elevens, no Wendy's, no Burger Kings, no golden arches. Indeed, according to my McDonald's placemat map, U.S. 50 doesn't even exist.

Myself, I've taken Nevada's less-traveled roads many times, and I've concluded that tourists like me are mere dilettantes when it comes to survival skills. If anyone deserves a medal, it's the people who live out there.

Take Louis Gibellini, for example. This spring Louis celebrated his 80th year, all of them spent in Eureka. Prospector, miner, and proprietor of Louie's Tavern, Gibellini is famous throughout Nevada as one of the best and certainly one of the most durable hard-rock drillers of all time. He still competes in single-jack competitions and in fact was working out on a block of granite in his backyard when I happened along.

"At my age," he confided, laying down his hammer, "people are saying I should be under the stone, not over it."

Thanks to a rich vanadium deposit he staked out in 1952, Louis is able to get by without worrying too much about the ups and downs of the local economy which depends upon the vagaries of gold mining, ranching, and alfalfa farming. At present the town's progress chart is on the upswing, although it's nothing compared to the glory days of the 1870s when Eureka boasted of 50 lead-silver mines, 16 smelters, and an air-pollution index rivaling turn-of-the-century Pittsburg. Reminders of the prosperous past include the restored Jackson House and the county courthouse, some old slag heaps and headframes, and



Eureka's Jackson House, an example of rural renewal.

a vacant theater that cries out for help. Lying unseen beneath the town is a network of tunnels that once served as a subway and, it's rumored, opium dens for Chinese funseekers. Portions of the catacombs that haven't caved in are used today as storage cellars and a civil-defense shelter.

"Everything's changed, modernized," opined Gibellini, although it's difficult for this outsider to discern just where all the urban renewal is taking place. Half the storefronts are boarded up, and those that aren't have hand-lettered signs advising that the proprietor is out. My favorite was an establishment where the

'The bus comes through Mondays and Fridays. So if you want to run away from home, you have to do it the day the bus is goin' the way you want to go.'

business hours ran "from about 1 to around 5, most afternoons."

One businessman who was at home was Frank Bleuss, whom I discovered sitting in his doorway smoking a cigarette. A cabinet-maker by trade, Bleuss has been busy transforming the old Methodist church on Spring Street into a combination residence and woodworking shop. Frank and his wife Carol are relative newcomers. For the past several years they've been backtracking the course of westward expansion, beginning on the West Coast, thence to Carson City and now Eureka.

"I like the people here. The community's a good thing, except it's getting too crowded," Bleuss declared. Aiming to capitalize on the boom, Bleuss also has fixed up the house next door, turning it into a bed-and-breakfast inn he modestly describes as having the finest accommodations between San Francisco and Salt Lake. The Parsonage House looked indeed elegant, owing much to the builder's workmanship and perhaps in part to the fact that no one had stayed there yet.

Except for used bricks and railroad ties, Bleuss finds he must drive hundreds of miles to obtain building materials. Like most everyone in this part of the state, he is a long-distance commuter.

Thelma Hardesty for example, says she adores Eureka's homey

atmosphere but laments the fact that there is no hairdresser in town.

"So to get a haircut, you either go to Elko or Reno. And maybe gamble a little bit while you're waiting. It usually costs about \$200."

Eureka does have a doctor and medical clinic but no drugstore, which means prescriptions have to be phoned in to Ely she continued.

"Phone it in and you'll get it in the morning unless the post office is closed. The bus comes through Mondays and Fridays. So if you have an argument and want to run away from home, you want to make sure you argue the day the bus is goin' the same way you want to go."

If the buses are running on schedule, Eureka gets a local newspaper, but even it is not published locally. The old *Sentinel* office has been turned into a museum, and

nowadays the weekly paper is printed in Tonopah.



Reminders of Austin's bonanza days.

Seventy miles down the road, the citizens of Austin endure the same inconveniences, only more of them. The *Reese River Reveille*, billed as the oldest newspaper in Nevada, is also put out these days by Central Nevada Newspapers of Tonopah. Like Eureka, Austinites depend a lot



Louis Gibellini of Eureka still competes in rock-drilling contests.



Bert Zwonechek likes the slow but good life in Austin.



Natural Beauty Abounds.

Moonlight on the mountains, or maybe a certain view of a certain bay at a certain time of day. It seems everyone has their opinion of Lake Tahoe's greatest charm. But a growing number of Lake Tahoe's aficionados, many of whom consider themselves experts in the field, say without hesitation that the single most beautiful sight ever encountered in these parts has to be the girls at Harrah's Cabaret.

They are a vision. But how do they compare with a royal flush at Harrah's Casino, dinner at Harrah's Summit, a night in a Harrah's hotel suite, or a perfect ski run in perfect powder? Oh well. The debate rages on.

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3319 "Whatever else changes... the glory of Christmas remains to brighten all hearts... May its light shine upon your pathway and bless you with joy and happiness throughout the New Year." —artist Gene Dieckhoner



2483 "Suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, 'Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.'" — Luke 2:13-14 "Wishing you all the Peace and Love of this Holy Season" —artist Beverly Carrick-Snow



2421 "We've loaded up everything and moved..." "Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from our new digs!" —artist Ted Blaylock



1140 THE WONDER OF CHRISTMAS FILLS THE NIGHT "May Christmas bring Friends to your Fireside, Peace to your Pathway and Good Health throughout the New Year" —artist Bill Shaddix



2117 "His name shall be called the Prince of Peace." Isaiah 9:6 "May the Great Spirit surround you with Love and Peace this Christmas" —Pawnee Indian artist Brummett EchoHawk



3372 "May your Holiday Season be merry and bright!" —artist Lucille Martin



2130 "When the tips of the pines, touch the heavenly skies, ... may your blessings be more, than you've ever hoped for, and your Christmas a warmth to remember." (6-line poem) "Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year" —artist Bill Shaddix



3253 TAKE TIME TO SEE "It seems so hard to understand, as I look out across the land, that all I view belongs to me. I ought to take more time to see!..." (24-line inspirational poem inside) "Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year" —artist Ted Blaylock



2144 WHEN GOOD FRIENDS GATHER "May you and yours this Christmas Day and every day this coming year be blessed with health and happiness" —artist Russ Vickers



2417 "May Christmas bring Friends to your Fireside, Peace to your Pathway, and Good Health throughout the New Year" —artist Ted Blaylock



2467 "The very finest Christmas gifts are not found below the tree...nor are they something one can see...it's the sense of love and peace that shines in people's hearts..." (12-line poem inside) "Merry Christmas and Happy New Year" —artist Richard Barth



1261 "When man begins to understand, he will learn to love as a child loves, and when his love is understood there will be everlasting peace." "May the Peace and Joy of Christmas be with you through all the Year" —artist Vel Miller



2146 JACK ROBERTS' SOURDOUGH FLAPJACKS (with recipe inside) "Roof's still leakin' Vittles skeerce. Wolf at the door a-growlin' fierce. Ol' cow gone dry. Both horses lame, but Merry Christmas just the same!" —artist Jack Roberts



2269 "In every home, in every heart, the lights of friendship glow and once again it's time to greet the friends its nice to know." "Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year" —artist Ken Eberts



1423 "It's Christmas again! May yours be a joyful one and your New Year happy!" —artist Lucille Martin



2126 "Times change, and we with time, but not in the ways of friendship." "Let us keep Christmas holding it close to our hearts for its meaning never ends and its spirit is the warmth and joy of Remembering Friends" —artist Melvin C. Warren



3379 "'Tis the Season to be jolly!" "Hope your Holidays are filled with good cheer that carries on throughout the New Year!" —artist Richard Barth



1304 LEGENDARY IRISH GREETING "May the trail rise up to meet you, may the wind be always at your back, .. and until we meet again... may God hold you in the hollow of His hand." "Merry Christmas and Best Wishes for a Happy New Year" —artist Gordon Snidow



2140 "May your moccasins make happy tracks in many snows and the rainbow always touch your shoulder." "Merry Christmas and Happy New Year" —artist Lisa Danielle Lorimer



3234 "To those we love and see each day and other loved ones far away, to all good friends whose friendship means so much, and those with whom we're somehow out of touch Merry Christmas and Happy New Year" —artist Richard Amundsen



3261 "May Christmas bring to you the music of laughter the warmth of friendship and the spirit of love" —artist Richard Barth



2135 "Whatever else changes... the glory of Christmas remains... may its light shine upon your pathway and bless you with joy and happiness throughout the New Year." —artist Buck Teeter



2455 "May Christmas bring Friends to your Fireside, Peace to your Pathway, and Good Health throughout the New Year" —artist Robert Duncan



2346 "GREETINGS from our outfit to yours" "May there come to you at this holiday time an abundance of the precious things of life: Health, Happiness, and Enduring Friendships" —artist Ron Crooks



2480 "Lord, give us eyes that look for Your everlasting light, and grant us hearts that are willing to give as well as to receive Your love." May your Christmas be filled with His Love." —artist *Ted Blaylock*



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



2118 "...and, lo, the star, which they saw in the east, went before them, till it came and stood over where the young child was." Matt. 2:9 "May you have the Spirit of Christmas... the Gladness of Christmas. the Heart of Christmas." —artist *Clafin*



3375 ROADRUNNERS' CHRISTMAS "Merry Christmas and Happy New Year" —artist *Ruth M. Lau*



1745 "Christmas trees and candle glow, remembered friends, crisp winter snow... It's friendship's warm and cheery touch that makes this season mean so much." "Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year" —artist *Lee K. Parkinson*



1264 "May your moccasins make happy tracks in many snows and the rainbow always touch your shoulder" "Merry Christmas and Happy New Year" —artist *Gerda Christoffersen*



2398 "May Christmas bring Friends to your Fireside, Peace to your Pathway, and Good Health throughout the New Year" —artist *Robert Wagoner*

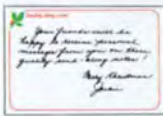


2409 "From the two of us at Christmas" "To you and all whom you hold dear, a Joyous Christmas and Happy New Year" —artist *Robert H. Blair*



2413 THE LEGEND OF THE CHRISTMAS TREE (inside) "Merry Christmas and Happy New Year" —artist *Jack Roberts*

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Living in Austin means learning to get along without a lot of modern amenities, such as television, because unless you own a dish, reception is iffy

upon community bulletin boards and word-of-mouth for news. Or more typically they ignore current affairs altogether.

"The longer I live here, I find the less it matters," declared Bert Zwonechek, bearded proprietor of the Star Pine Gallery. "Really. I don't care what you say, the news does not affect me out here."

A former high school art teacher and refugee from California's Bay Area, Zwonechek pulled up stakes after Proposition 13 eliminated his elective classes and burglars emptied his home. After eight years in Austin he still describes himself as a newcomer.

"When I first got here I was bumbling around like a cheerful puppy dog—and you don't do that in this country. Because in this country, people get confused if you offer to shake their hands. But it's a good place once you get used to it. Nobody bothers you unless, of course, you bother them."

Before arriving at a state he calls volunteer burnout, Zwonechek labored in the public health arena, among other things as an ambulance driver. Because there is no doctor and the nearest hospital is 90 miles away in Battle Mountain, a medical emergency in Austin is a serious matter. Bert remembers a couple of hair-raising adventures—the snowy night a baby girl was born on the way to Fallon, and the time an auto accident victim experienced double jeopardy when a rear wheel fell off the ambulance.

"I was really leery when I first moved to Austin," confessed

Jeanette Jones, a waitress at Carol's Country Kitchen. "Because of the fact there was no doctor, and then you look at that two-hour drive to get to one. I guess you'd say I was really paranoid worrying about the kids. It took me a year, I guess, to get over it."

Living in Austin means learning to get along without a lot of modern amenities, such as television. Unless you own a satellite downlink, reception is iffy, and distant radio signals are mostly static. So you rent a video or spend your leisure hours reading, or you sit around on the porch waiting for a runaway truck to come careening down Pony Canyon—a not infrequent and always exciting diversion. You can take up drinking, or you can drop in for a snack at Mel's Pizza Deli, which features six different flavors of ice cream.

Austinites have grown accustomed to a certain amount of diminishment in their way of life, but they're still smarting from losing the Lander County seat to more populous Battle Mountain a few years back. Then last year, despite vigorous protest, the town's only bank packed up and left town. Residents have been obliged to move their accounts elsewhere, the result being there is no such thing as a local check.

What Austin does have going for it are a number of historic buildings and a bonafide rough-and-tumble frontier ambiance. Landscaped with rusting ore carts and vintage mining memora-



Belmont's courthouse remains a landmark.



Former Las Vegas Dick Ashton serves the thirsty in Belmont.



Rick Motis likes what he sees in his tiny town.

There's only one telephone in Belmont—a solar-powered wireless that whoops like a diving submarine whenever a call comes in.

bilias, the ancient storefronts evoke the boom days of the 1860s, when silver ruled supreme and Austin enjoyed a homicide rate second to none. Walking the creaking boardwalks at night, hearing raucous laughter from the doorways of dimly lit saloons, one can't help but swagger a bit. With a little aggressive marketing, Austin could easily be turned into a heck of a tourist trap, complete with hourly staged gunfights.

"Oh heavens, no," responded a lifelong resident when she heard my plan for economic revitalization. "I don't like it. Now don't go putting any article in any paper. That's one thing we don't go for. Nothing, no. Go someplace else."

Where else? I wondered. Not one to run from a challenge, I decided to wander off the beaten track. After all, as any true Nevadan will tell you, you'll never see anything until you get off the pavement and on the dirt roads.

Turning south on State Route 376 into Big Smoky Valley thence east and north, I headed for the third corner of what might be called the Bermuda Triangle of the Great Basin. There, nestled in a canyon practically at the geographical center of



Holly Richardson's homemade vehicle, poised for action.

the Silver State, lies Belmont, a town that according to all available economic indicators has no reason to exist. Unlike Eureka and Austin it has seen no mining renaissance, nor is it on the road to

LONG WAY TO NEW YORK



Gunar Berlings, roving artist.

Nevada's back roads seem to attract the rugged individual, and Gunar Berlings of Freedom, California, fits the mold. When we first met, he was kneeling in ankle-deep muck in the middle of a scenic shortcut, attempting to fasten chains to the rear wheels of his Volkswagen bug. When I inquired where he was headed, he announced he was on his way to New York City.

An artist by trade, Berlings was impressed with the primeval vistas of rural Nevada and the flamboyant color schemes in the bars, which he found reminiscent of Gauguin's Marquesan period.

He was equally impressed with the people. "The fact that out here, you come into a restaurant,

people are happy to see you, they're happy to wait on you. It isn't crowded, no lines."

Gunar said he finds the interstates boring, and in spite of having spent half the day stuck in mud, he wasn't complaining.

"I came out here looking for an adventure and I found it. Not the one I was looking for, but it's all right. I found an adventure." —RM

A SKETCH IN TIME



Holly Richardson, shy subject.

During my visit to Belmont, I desperately wanted to photograph Holly Richardson. Besides being recognized as a veteran of the town, he's one of the characters in Owen Ulph's books (see *Nevada Magazine*, Nov/Dec '86).

When I asked to take his picture, Holly backed off. I persisted, but he resisted, and I make it a point not to be too pushy in Nevada. Heartbroken, I drove off on the dirt road to Eureka, only to get stuck in some mud. It took me an hour to extricate myself and get turned around. That's when I met

Gunar Berlings, who was in the same fix. When we finally got back on solid ground, I introduced Gunar to Holly. "Since you wouldn't let me take your picture, Holly," I explained, "I've taken the liberty of securing the services of Gunar Berlings, the famous Latvian artist. Is it OK if Gunar sketches you?"

No sweat. The erstwhile shy Holly even sat for his portrait in a bar full of curious onlookers. After seeing the finished sketch, he asked Gunar if he did oil paintings. "Sure," answered Gunar. "Just wait here 'til I get my paints out of the trunk."

I'm sending Holly a copy of the sketch, hoping to get on his good side, but he may be too busy modeling to answer my letter. By now there is probably some marble statue of Holly in the middle of Belmont—and I still don't have a photo of him. —RM

Quiet it is, except for summer holidays, when banjo and fiddle bands materialize at Dirty Dick's like desert toads at a waterhole.

anywhere. Although at one time the political capital of Nye County, Belmont lost that distinction to Tonopah way back in 1905. Since then the old county courthouse has sat abandoned like a grounded ark at the southeast base of the Toquima Range.

About 17 families call Belmont home, although if you show up on a weekday, the only resident you are likely to encounter is Holly Richardson, the town's official caretaker and guardian. A veteran buckaroo whose weathered features bespeak a lifetime on the trail, today Richardson rides herd over sightseers in a homemade vehicle that appears to bear out the theoretical possibility that a tornado passing through a junkyard might accidentally whip together a car.

As it happened, I showed up on a Friday night just as the residents were gearing up for a restful weekend. At Dirty Dick's Saloon, the only business establishment in town, owner Dick Ashton and resident Rick Motis were warming themselves beside a potbellied stove, discussing the perennial problem of fire protection. At present there is none, but that's normal. There's also no school, no store, no gas station, no restaurant, no hotel, no post office, no church, no chamber of commerce, and no utility company. For electricity, citizens rely on windmill generators and storage batteries. There's only one telephone in town—a solar-powered wireless that whoops like a diving submarine whenever a call comes in. Whoever is around has to fetch his key, run to the booth, and answer the call.

"People who call in aren't used to sittin' there waitin' to let it ring," said Ashton. "You might have to let it ring for at least five minutes until somebody gets there."

"I'd just as soon they never did," added Motis. "No offense

meant, but I just don't like people. I never could handle it. No, I went to the cities a couple times when I was young. Tried it and didn't like it. I like it quiet."

Quiet it is, except for summer holidays when the population "gains a thousand percent easy." Memorial and Labor days are the biggies, when banjo and fiddle bands and hordes of merrymakers materialize at Dirty Dick's like desert toads at a waterhole.

In winter the town is often inaccessible, and that's the best time of all, according to Motis. Snowbound residents turn the main street into a tobaggan run, keep warm with campfires and potluck suppers, and indulge in that rarest form of social intercourse, conversation.

"You know, there's not too many places left where you've got the peace and solitude that you have out here," declared Motis. "Any given night you take a ride, you go over the mountain and look at elk, sage hens. Oh, I love it out here."

I liked it, too, but my hosts were quick to point out that my chances of acquiring property in town were slim to none. So I settled for a level camping spot next to the bar and a complimentary supper. I had to agree with Dirty Dick that rural Nevadans are indeed "the salt of the earth, absolutely so different from city people."

In the morning I left as I had come, still a tourist and looking forward to my next visit to Eureka, Austin, and Belmont. Great places to visit, although I still doubt I have what it takes to live there. □

Richard Menzies, a frequent Nevada contributor lives and writes in the urban confines of Salt Lake City.



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SOARING.

BY MICHAEL COLIN

For 358 days out of the year, Stead, the former Air Force town 10 miles north of Reno, is a sleepy appendage of the Biggest Little City in the World, its airfield functioning as a modest base for general aviation. But for one week of each September for the past 23 years, Stead has awakened itself—and every other living thing within a 10-mile radius—to host the Reno National Championship Air Races. Like other air-race devotees, I consider this event to be the showcase of an esoteric sport that, if the record crowds of 1986 are any indication, is gaining even greater popularity.

It's about time. Air racing's first recognized event was held at Reims, France, in 1909, when a handful of aviation pioneers met to test the mettle of themselves and their machines—and to have some fun in the process. Widespread popularity was predicted. Who wouldn't have thrilled to the sight of an airplane doing a blinding 47 miles per hour around the 6.2-mile course, setting a new altitude record of 508 feet?

Seventy-eight years later, with planes flying a little faster and higher, there is Reno. This year is the 24th year of the National Championship Air Races, the longest continuously running event of its kind.

FRIDAY, Last Year: Early, before the crowds arrive, a Navy F-18 goes through its routine of spine-tingling maneuvers. It's an appetizer to remind earlybirds that the Reno event isn't just air races—it's also an air show extraordinaire.

A short while later, the opening ceremony brings all activity to a halt as the hushed crowd rises for the national anthem, the end of which is punctuated by a flight of four Nevada Air National Guard F-4 Phantoms that roar above the cheering crowd. During the anthem some folks are

saluting while others put hats over hearts as the day officially begins.

Military participation in the air show is heavy, and each day includes a fly-by and demonstrations by paratroopers. There is also an all-women civilian parachuting team known as the Stardusters, who put on an impressive display. The fans are energized, and the day has just started.

Then six gleaming red, white, and blue F-16s make a thunderous entrance from behind the grandstands. The U.S. Air Force Thunderbirds have arrived. A man next to me watches their riveting, precise, graceful routine and says to himself: "Something like that I don't mind paying taxes for." Roughly 90,000 eyes are glued to the sky in awed agreement.

Reno's is the only air-race event that offers four classes of racing aircraft. The most popular class—the Unlimited—is dominated by planes of World War II vintage. The Unlimited field, which competes around a 9.2-mile course, is comprised of the 27 fastest aircraft selected during the three days of qualifying that precede the main event. Most Unlimited racers are P-51 Mustangs, Hawker Sea Furies, F-4U Corsairs, and other such noble fighters, but the criteria—that it use a piston engine and be propeller-driven—has allowed aircraft as large as bombers to compete. And while many people may find air racing exciting in general, there's nothing like an Unlimited bird going for all it's worth 50 feet above the deck to leave one's mouth agape. Unlimited planes don't fly—they *fly!*

The second most powerful class are the AT-6s. The North American AT-6 (or SNJ) was the primary flight trainer for World War II pilots in several countries. The 18 fastest AT-6 qualifiers will race around a five-mile course.

The last two classes, International For-

mula One (IF1) and Biplane, use a 3.1-mile course. The 24 fastest make the IF1 field, while only the 16 fastest biplanes qualify to race. Flying these smaller planes can be tricky and when the wind kicks up, which it often does at Stead in September, just seeing the takeoffs and landings is worth the price of admission.

No matter what classes they compete in, all racers have their eyes on a common goal: Gold Sunday when the best and the fastest compete for their share of the purse, which, at more than \$400,000 in 1986, was the largest ever offered. Anywhere.

SATURDAY: It's like a circus in the pit area. Crews work at fever pitch to get their planes ready for the next race. A police car with flashing lights chases a guy putt-putting around on a micro-mini-motorcycle. A woman wears a button on her hat that reads, "If you don't like the way women land, stay off the taxiway."

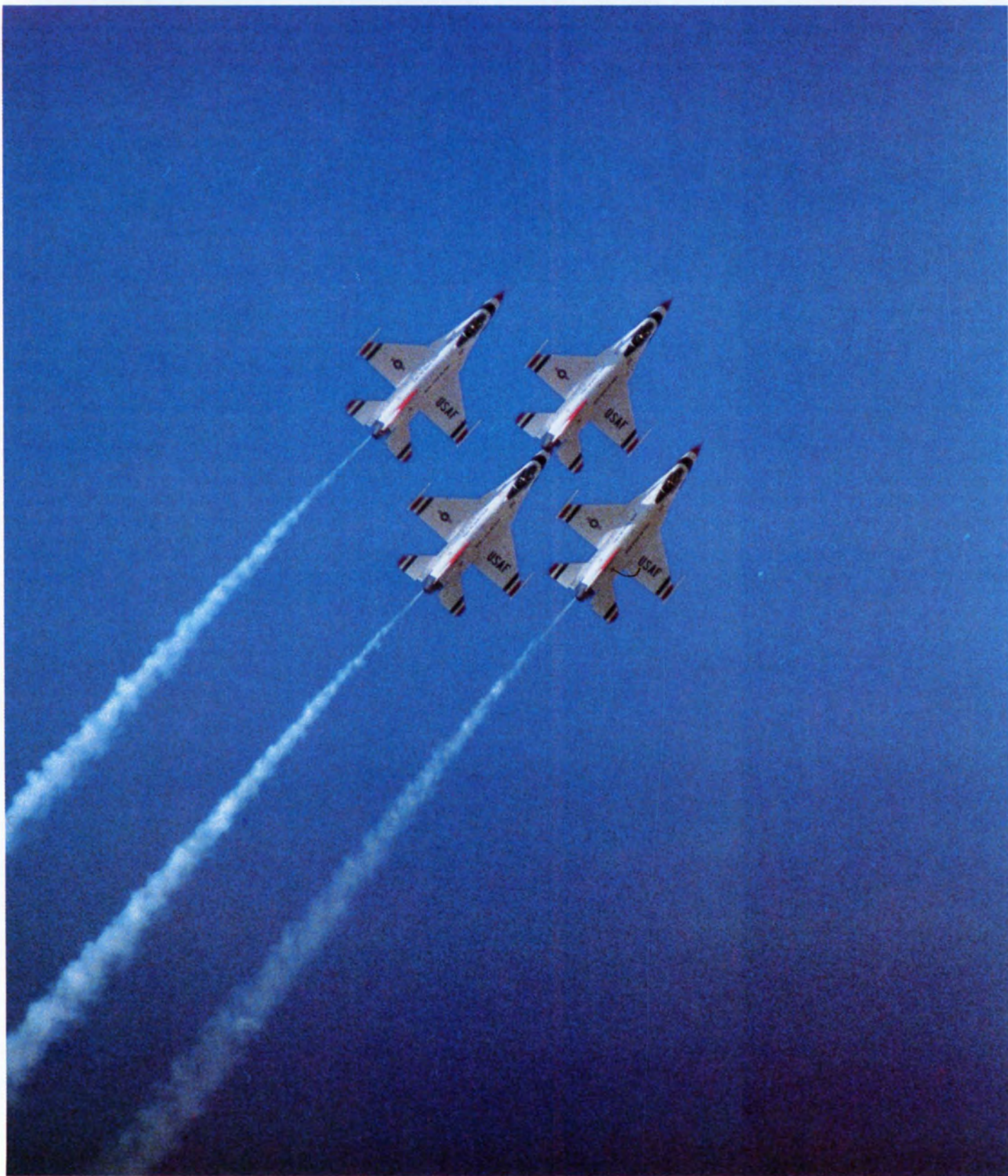
No one is on the taxiway when R.A. "Bob" Hoover, a test pilot and aviation legend, rolls in from a demonstration. Hoover, who in his yellow Mustang has paced the Unlimited races since they began, performs in four different aircraft. He has just completed a harrowing routine in the twin-engine Shrike Commander in which he does aerobatic maneuvers with and without engines. (This is a business plane, for crying out loud!) His last engine-off stunt is a loop, followed by a 16-point roll to a landing on the taxiway. The man is a brilliant maniac.

Meanwhile, taking off in a pretty little red plane is seven-time national aerobatic champion Leo Loudenslager, who does a routine that only a maniac or world champ—which he was in 1980—would do.

It makes one sweat.

Between races pilots prowl around the

'Military participation in the air show
is heavy, with frequent fly-bys
and paratrooper demonstrations.'





This big bomber complete with bombshell, was a highlight of last year's crowd-pleasing sidelights. Below, the USAF Thunderbirds take a break from their precision aerobatics.

pits, quietly eyeing the competition. When asked about their skills and daring, most air race pilots respond with cavalier shrugs and some "ain't no big thang" answer.

Take Alan Preston, who in 1986 made air race history as the first pilot to enter and fly aircraft in all four classes. Commenting on an earlier Unlimited heat race that he won in the P-51 Dago Red he says he was a little worried by two things: the rupture of an oil line and the plane that was in front of him. "I picked up some oil on the windshield," Preston said, "but through a little hole I saw a Bearcat." Shortly after the race, Preston could be seen wandering around the pits shooting people with a squirt gun in the shape of an airplane.

Or Lefty Gardner, a fixture at Reno with his P-51 Thunderbird, which won the Unlimited Gold in 1976, and beautiful P-38, *White Lightning*. Gardner, also up against a Bearcat in a heat, was in the lead when something happened. "I had a malfunction," he says. "The right fuel tank got filled with air." Which is his way of saying he forgot to switch tanks and ran out of gas.

SUNDAY: There are three kinds of fans:

- 1) Novice: sits wide-eyed with jaw slackened and often mutters "gee whiz."
- 2) Seasoned: even after graduating from the ranks of the novice, still shakes his or her head frequently in controlled awe.
- 3) Addict: there with the sunrise, last to leave. Responds to even the most thrilling thing with a knowing smile.

Dawn on Gold Sunday brings with it a nasty, chilly wind. Many novices, and even a few seasoned fans, ponder the wisdom of staying and catching certain pneumonia. The addicts shiver just a little.

Gold Sunday fairly rings with anticipa-



tion. It's a day filled with the same activities as the previous three days but Sunday's final race will be the Unlimited Gold.

And the air show. Even after watching for three days a diehard fan senses renewed vigor in the performers' routines, as if Gold Sunday demands a little more. The Thunderbirds, Bob Hoover, Leo Loudenslager—all seem to respond to the unspoken mandate that today's show must be golden.

Lefty Gardner takes off to entertain in his P-38 while the IF1s set up to race. The IF1s in particular have a rough time in the kind of wind that's buffeting Stead Field this morning, and you wonder if they'll cancel the race. But the howl of the P-38's twin engines scatter such thoughts as Gardner dive bombs the field, then pulls straight up.

An older man shakes his head, his eyes following the P-38's every move. "I'll tell you," he says dreamily to his companion, "that was a sweet plane to fly."

And the IF1s are rolling in a treacherous crosswind, first-rate flying skills getting them off the ground without mishap. The eight midget aircraft sound like a swarm of angry hornets as they climb and claw for speed. Eight laps later John Sharp, a 35-

year-old Lockheed test engineer from Texas, wins the gold as he takes the checked flag at 229.614 mph.

Expectation grows with greater force than the wind. The AT-6 gold is won by Eddie Van Fossen, 45, a crop duster from Bakersfield. And if Alan Preston is upset that he didn't win gold in either the IF1 or AT-6 races, his winning the Biplane Gold race (and setting a new class record for a qualifying speed of 198.616 mph) should be of some consolation. And, after all, there's still the Unlimited Gold.

The day's final air routine is just spectacular enough to distract the crowd from the nine Unlimited machines making ready. Joann Osterud Nottke, a petite flier for United Airlines and a regular performer at Reno, decides she wants a race. It just so happens there's a jet dragster—*Smoke and Thunder*—that has been streaking across the ramp at 260 mph, validating its name with a vengeance. Joann flies a little plane that does about 200 mph when pushed, but she wants to take on *Smoke and Thunder* anyway. The dragster sets up at the end of the ramp, and Joann lines up on it, flying at about 50 feet. But just as she's about there she decides to do something a little different—and flips upside down. As she passes over *Smoke and Thunder* the dragster belches, flames shoot from its tailpipe, and it streaks. Joann is almost at the end of the ramp when the dragster shoots under her, and it looks like a tie.

As one, the crowd decides it can breathe again. But there's little time for recovery because the Unlimiteds are being towed to the stands, where they will sit before the spectators like gleaming chariots while their gladiators receive the traditional briefing from Bob Hoover.

After the briefing, nine powerful aircraft from another era start engines, roaring their intentions to a crowd already sitting on seat's edge. The racers taxi single-file, and take off.

The announcer, between jokes about Stealth racers, plugs the P.A. into the controller's radio frequency so the crowd can hear Bob Hoover's every word. Cool and authoritative, he sets the pace in his yellow Mustang and lines up his pilots. Heads turn every which way, trying to catch a glimpse of the mighty Unlimiteds forming up, but there's nothing to see. They've disappeared behind the stands.

A little static over the P.A., then Hoover's legendary words are uttered with characteristic ease: "Gentlemen, you have a race."

The nine aircraft dive onto the course pushing 400 mph, and the field quickly narrows. A much-heralded home-built Unlimited, *Tsunami*, piloted by 1985 Gold Winner Steve Hinton, pulls out with the same problems that have plagued it all week. Hinton's no stranger to a mayday call; he walked away from the fiery crash in 1984 of the two-time Unlimited Champion aircraft *Red Baron*. After the first lap it becomes clear this is a two-plane race. Test pilot Skip Holm, the 1984 Unlimited cham-



Launching the massive hydroplanes requires a crane (above). Once up to speed, the hydros only need room to roar (inset).

LAKE MEAD'S MIGHTY THUNDERBOATS

When hydroplanes test their mettle, they produce a tidal wave of thrills.

By Charles E. McManis

Thunder usually means trouble to Lake Mead boaters, but on September 25-27 thunder means unlimited excitement on the lake. That's when thunderboats, the pet name for unlimited hydroplanes, will blast across the surface of Mead in the sport's season finale in the Budweiser Las Vegas Silver Cup. Last year's race determined the national champion, so the daredevil pilots will be pushing their monster speed machines past all thresholds of sanity.

Anyone who has ever seen thunderboats compete can't forget the primordial roar of the engines when the big boats cross the starting line. In a sense, unlimited hydros are throwbacks to an era when the quest for greater speeds on land, in the air, and on water were the pastimes of the idle rich. In fact, Guy Lombardo, who played the Tropicana's Blue Room in the '60s, won the national championship in 1946 with his boat, *Tempo VI*.

Whereas progress made in race cars and test planes usually translates into better designs for everyday vehicles, unlimited hydroplanes have always had just one function: to be the fastest machines on water.

In recent years, computer designs have helped refine the hulls for smoother rides at speeds well over 100 mph. But the big hydros still have a love-hate relationship with the water. While the water helps stabilize the immense boats, too much contact produces drag. That's why racing hydros spend about half their time in the air, skimming over the water like rocket-powered skipping rocks. The engines, which just a few years ago were almost exclusively turbo-charged versions of the Allison and Rolls-Royce engines that powered WWII fighter planes, are now being replaced by jet-powered turbines that can generate more than 2,500 horsepower. The current qualifying high-speed record is 153.061 mph, and as boat speeds creep higher and higher, the quest for lighter and stronger hulls continues. Driver protection also is a high priority with the concept of driver capsules being adopted from aircraft technology.

Two variables that cannot be controlled are weather and water. And on Lake Mead conditions can change quickly from an ideal calm to a choppy surface with gusty winds. The 1986 finals had to be postponed for a day when weather conditions went

from exciting to highly risky. While racers push their hydros to ever greater speeds, they're all aware of how easy it is to become a grim feature on the evening news.

Of course, for hydro-jockeys and spectators alike, the danger adds to the adrenalin-powered thrill of it all. Part of the thrill for spectators is the fact that there isn't a bad seat in the house, and the price is right. In fact, there is no admission to Boulder Beach, and one of the 1,000 grandstand seats costs only \$3. Get there early because last year more than 211,000 people attended at least one of the three days of trials, qualifications, and racing days—a record for a Nevada sporting event.

Remember to take sun lotion because it's still hot at Lake Mead in September. If you plan to take pictures, bring a telephoto lens. Take binoculars for closeups of the big boats as they skip around the corners of the two-mile oval course off Boulder Beach. And then just enjoy the thrill of watching a man-made thunderstorm unleash its power. □

Charles E. McManis of Las Vegas contributes stories and photos to national boating magazines.

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.



THE LOWDOWN ON CHOLESTEROL.

True fact: beef has only 76 milligrams of cholesterol in a 3-ounce serving. That's only average. Wonderfully average.

GOOD NEWS FOR PEOPLE WHO COOK.

No sauces, no fussing, no frou-frou. Beef doesn't need much help in the kitchen. To cut time, just cut big things in pieces. With stir-fries, sautees, kabobs and marinades, there's never a dull moment. Or a roasted one.

THIS IS YOUR BITE.

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 (¾" cube) and 6 green onions (2" pieces) in 1 Tbs. oil 3 min.; remove. Stir-fry beef (½ 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. **BEEF**

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Beef.
Real Food For Real People.

		
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

		
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

Source: U.S.D.A. Handbook No. 8-13

pion who flies the highly modified P-51 *Stiletto*, holds a healthy lead over Rick Brickert, who flies the 1983 Unlimited champion Sea Fury called *Dreadnought*.

Stiletto and *Dreadnought* exchange the lead several times, but Holm pushes a little more, screaming by the home pylon at 430, 435, 440 mph, a mist of vapor from his cooling system streaming behind, Brickert nipping at his heels, closer and closer.

And then the white stream in *Stiletto's* wake turns from water to smoke. With only a couple of laps left, Holm's engine has had all it can take. As the crowd recognizes the smoke, the air of intense competition clears. The race is over. Holm, no doubt cursing the frailty of his powerful engine, pulls out to get some altitude for an emergency landing, and Brickert maintains his unbeatable lead to take the checkered flag.

Gold is won and lost just that quickly.

AFTERMATH: The late afternoon sky slowly yields to evening. But even as the last of the crowd disappears, the addicts remain, sitting easily in the stands or wandering around the pits in spite of the chill wind, hoping for just one more thrill. And as a street sweeper chugs along, cleaning where thousands just recently sat with eyes craned skyward, there is only the single roar of an Unlimited plane firing up for the

Holm screams by the
home pylon at
430, 435, 440 mph,
a mist of vapor streaming
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nipping at his heels.

trip home to slake the thirst of hangers-on.

But it's enough for this addict, who sits with that knowing smile while a cleaning crew works around him. The lone engine provides a fitting closure to the ritual he'll repeat next year, an event underscored by words once uttered by a zealous novice as the Unlimited Gold combatants took to the sky to do battle:

"This is it," the novice had said. "This is what we came for." □

Michael Colin is a writer from Goleta, California. He has worked on an air race screenplay and is a self-described air race junkie.

Reno's Own Flyboys

Fliers come from all over to compete in the National Championship Air Races. But there are pilots from all classes who live right in Reno.

John Penny, a 39-year-old pilot for United Airlines, lives in Sparks. Penny suffered something of a disappointment while trying to qualify for the Unlimited races: the engine in his 1952 Grumman F-8F Bearcat, *Rare Bear*, blew at 408 mph. But the remarkable work of his crew got Penny back in the air a day later with a powerful new 3,700-horsepower engine. In his second year racing at Reno, Penny and *Rare Bear* won a crucial heat and got bumped up to race on Gold Sunday but, alas, he did not get the gold.

Another contender was Bruce Redding of Reno. A 40-year-old businessman, Redding owns two AT-6s, both of which are flown in the races. Redding qualified his plane *After You*, at 218 mph and, like Penny, won a crucial heat that advanced him to Gold Sunday's AT-6 run. *After You* placed fourth in the spirited race.

As one of the original race organizers, Reno attorney Stan Brown, 62, served on the event's board of directors until he decided to resign so he could compete; last year was his 14th race. Brown, who has raced in Mexico, Ohio, and Mojave, flew a Pitts Special biplane, *Washoe Zephyr*. He built it and named it for the winds immortalized by Mark Twain. He admits he chose the name because the winds made



Reno's Bruce Redding (top) owns two AT-6s. John Penny of Sparks flies his 1952 Grumman F-8F Bearcat in the Unlimited class.

painting the plane a chore. Although Brown qualified at 154 mph and raced well, he didn't get to Gold Sunday.

Bill Skliar, 60, is a retired Air Force colonel from Reno who flew his Cassutt Mace in the International Formula One Class. Skliar qualified at 205 mph and managed to place second to original Mercury astronaut Deke Slayton in a heat. The only gold Skliar saw at Reno '86 was in the name of his plane, *Goldust*.

But there's always next year.—MC

Plane Facts

The 1987 Reno National Championship Air Races are expecting to attract 150,000 spectators to the Stead Airport on September 17-20, Thursday through Sunday. Here are a few ideas to help you enjoy the show and beat the traffic.

Consider going on the qualifying days, September 14-16, when admission is free. There is less air-show activity then, but there are fewer crowds, too. The atmosphere is informal, and it's possible to talk to pilots and crew members if you don't get in the way.

On the four race days, events begin at 10:30 a.m. and end about 3:30 p.m. Arrive early and you might get a parking space near the entrance, although some people prefer to park farther away so they can beat the crowd at day's end.

Tickets to the races include general, reserved seating, and pit passes. General seating is first-come, first-serve; reserved guarantees a place in the stands. General and reserved tickets are \$6 and \$10 on Thursday \$10 and \$15 on Friday and \$20 and \$25 on Saturday and Sunday. Season tickets for four days are \$35 general and \$65 reserved and are available from the Reno Air Races, Box 1429, Reno, NV 89505 (call 702-826-7500). Tickets also are available through Ticketron, and general seating is available through the Bass Ticket Center (800-225-BASS). Tickets are available at the gate, but the reserved areas usually sell out on Saturday and Sunday.

Pit passes are well worth the additional cost if you want to get a close look at the planes, pilots, and pit crews. Thursday and Friday pit passes are \$10 and \$15 respectively. Saturday and Sunday passes are \$20.

To avoid the traffic jams near Stead during peak hours you can try a bus shuttle like the one offered by Gray Line (702-329-1147). Service begins at 8 a.m. with pickups at Reno Cannon Airport, Bally's, John Ascuaga's Nugget, and Harolds Club. Return trips begin at 1:30 p.m. Prices include \$4.50 for one way and \$29 for all four days.

Be prepared for both hot and cold weather. Sunglasses, suntan lotion, and a hat are essential, but sunny days at Stead have been known to turn to snow.

Bring a camera and field glasses. Good photos can be taken in the pits with a wide-angle lens, and when the Unlimiteds line up for the final race Sunday, you can capture the Bearcats, Sea Furies, and Mustangs in all their glory.

Sit next to the P.A. speakers to follow the action. Also, a portable radio capable of receiving VHF signals can pick up pilot and controller talk, which will add to your understanding of the exciting aerial action.—Scott Shelley



Where There's Smoke, There's Ire

More and more casinos are clearing the air
for nonsmoking customers—no butts about it.

By Paul Bosarge

How many times have you held a cigarette between your index and middle fingers, watched the flame explore the tobacco, inhaled that first astringent drag, and settled in for a smoke?

If the answer is never, or no longer, then stand over with Carry Nation. She was known to snatch cigars from the mouths of smokers and declare, "I want all hellions to quit puffing that hell flame in God's clean air."

If you're a nonsmoker, you might agree that the lady had nerve but her approach was a bit severe. You'd probably agree, too, with more and more of Nevada casinos' approach to smoking. They're not bashing smokers, but they are turning their attention to the needs of customers who would rather be smoke-free.

It's not that casinos have to give special treatment. The state's 1975 nonsmoking law, as it was changed effective last summer, makes it illegal to smoke in designated no-smoking areas of a hotel, motel, or casino, but it's up to the owner to designate them.

Still, many hotels and casinos recently have expanded their nonsmoking offerings. Consider:

At Circus Circus in Las Vegas, half of its 2,800 hotel rooms are for nonsmokers.

Harrah's Tahoe has an entire gaming pit and slot area where the only puffs are from hyperventilating crap shooters.

And John Ascuaga's Nugget in Sparks has gone to nonsmoking in its showroom. Period.

The Nugget's landmark no-smoking policy originated two years ago when a nonsmoking section was arranged near the stage, especially for performers who sang. Smoking was snuffed out completely last February when Ray Price found he could not tolerate the smoke drifting toward him from the back of the room. Price asked members of the audience not to smoke, and they complied. Now smoking is not allowed during the Celebrity Showroom's two one-hour cocktail shows. Seating be-

gins 30 minutes prior, and smokers either drift outside to fire up or wait it out.

"For every complaint about the outlawed smokes we receive at least four or five compliments," maitre d' Mike Suarez says. "Besides, people are more interested in the show than smoking." Once in a while, after a drink or two, people may try to sneak a puff, but Suarez or a member of his staff politely will ask them to put it out.

Ironically, although customers don't smoke there, a lot of Nugget showroom employees do. Of the 16 waitresses who now spend five or six hours in the smoke-

Don Rickles is adept
at nailing smokers
with such quips as,
'What are you smoking,
a rope?' Or, as he gazes
at the hanging cloud,
'What is this, a cookout?'

free environment, 13 smoke. As one put it, "It's like a chimney backstage."

Actually, a smoking ban in Northern Nevada casinos is not new. Harrah's Tahoe provided smoke-free gaming tables as far back as 1973, according to press relations manager John Packer. Harrah's today has an entire floor of rooms for nonsmokers and plans to add another floor this fall. Although there are no roped-off sections for nonsmokers in the showroom, Harrah's maitre d' Bob Trent holds approximately 100 seats per night for nonsmokers and then adjusts to meet the demand.

Caesars Tahoe, which has a nonsmoking gaming area and free cessation clinics for employees, was the first casino at the lake to offer nonsmoking hotel rooms. It started

with 13 smoke-free hotel rooms in 1984 and now has plans for more.

At Harrah's Reno, Maitre d' John Maniscalco uses a computer printout that lists smoking preferences of hotel guests attending the show. "For guests or anyone who wants to be in nonsmoking, a simple request prior to being seated is all it takes," he says. "The only problems we have are moving customers once they've been seated, or when a couple approaches and one smokes and the other doesn't. They want to sit together and it's impossible to cater to both."

The Four Queens in Las Vegas plans to increase the number of rooms available for nonsmoking guests because more customers are asking for them, says Don Maedgen, assistant to the vice president. The Four Queens converted 40 of its 721 hotel rooms to nonsmoking because of feedback on guest comment cards. The hotel plans to convert an additional two floors.

The Las Vegas Hilton converted two floors of guest rooms to nonsmoking eight months ago. According to Denyce Tuller, assistant publicity director, the work took about two months and included sterilizing, re-wallpapering, and re-carpeting the rooms. Tuller said guests are informed of the policy beforehand, and it is enforced. "The maids are not even allowed to smoke on the two nonsmoking floors," she says.

To accommodate nonsmokers, Bally's Reno sets aside special tables for "Hello Hollywood, Hello" in its 2,000-seat Ziegfeld Theatre. Maitre d' Randall Payne says customer response cards indicate an increasing demand for nonsmoking areas. He says customers also appreciate the fact that smoke could damage irreplaceable costumes made of exotic bird feathers.

Bally's Las Vegas does not have designated nonsmoking areas, according to spokesman Stephen Allen, but he says if several nonsmokers request it, they will be given a separate booth.

Much of the effort to provide smoke-free areas is part of a nationwide trend, but many casino spokesmen are quick to point

out they do not want to offend the smoker. Caesars Tahoe's Jim Parsons explains, "Gaming is a recreational activity, and we certainly do not want to inhibit smoking customers from partaking. We certainly will not tell them, point-blank, not to smoke. We don't have no-smoking signs on the front door. All our customers should feel comfortable, without restricting the smoker."

The needs of smokers and nonsmokers is not the only concern casinos face. They also are weighing the needs of entertainers. Prior to opening nights, Harrah's maitre d' Trent collects a list of an entertainer's likes

and dislikes, from meals to mineral water to smoking or not. "I think we're more over-protective than most on checking out not only what the audiences request, but also what the stars may request."

In requesting audiences not smoke, one star who was ahead of her time was Vicki Carr. When she performed at the Nugget in the early 1980s, maitre d' Suarez recalls, no one in the audience was allowed to smoke.

Today more and more entertainers are politely asking that audiences not smoke during the show. Some are allergic to smoke. Others, like George Burns, Alan King, and Bill Cosby now use their trade-

mark cigars only as props.

Most entertainers are tolerant of smoking but, like country singer Mel Tillis, don't allow it backstage or in their dressing rooms. "You should see it from the stage," Tillis says. "On some nights it becomes irritating, particularly when a haze appears and starts creeping toward the front of the stage."

A few entertainers, like comedian Don Rickles, are less than shy about it. He is adept at nailing smokers with such quips as, "What are you smoking, a rope?" Or, as he gazes at the hanging smoke cloud, "What is this, a cookout?"

For the ultimate response by an entertainer—in any category—the top-gun award goes to Buddy Wright. The long-time Nevada lounge guitar player was working a gig at the Sahara Hotel (now Reno Hilton) on Easter Weekend in 1980.

Non-Smoking Sections

The following Nevada hotels and casinos offer special accommodations for non-smoking guests, according to a recent Nevada survey:

Las Vegas

- Bally's:** Showroom seating by request.
- Circus Circus:** 1,400 hotel rooms, restaurant sections, and some gaming tables.
- Flamingo Hilton:** 132 hotel rooms, restaurant sections.
- Hacienda:** Restaurant sections.
- Four Queens:** 40 hotel rooms.
- Holiday:** About 50 hotel rooms, restaurant sections, and some gaming tables.
- Las Vegas Hilton:** 112 hotel rooms, restaurant sections.
- Palace Station:** 14 hotel rooms, a seating section in the bingo room.
- Sahara:** Restaurant sections.
- Silver Slipper:** Restaurant sections.
- Stardust:** Restaurant sections.
- Tropicana:** 60 hotel rooms and mini-suites, restaurant sections, and three blackjack tables.
- Union Plaza:** 28 hotel rooms.
- Vegas World:** Restaurant sections.

Laughlin

- Colorado Belle:** 105 hotel rooms, restaurant sections, and gaming areas.
- Edgewater:** 28 hotel rooms, restaurant sections, and gaming areas.
- Riverside Resort:** 28 hotel rooms; restaurant sections; gaming area with slots, video poker, keno, and tables; 124-seat area in showroom that can be expanded; and nonsmoking showroom performances on occasion.

I-15 at California Border

- Whiskey Pete's:** 10 hotel rooms, restaurant sections.

Mesquite

- Peppermill:** 12 hotel rooms.

Lake Tahoe

- Caesars Tahoe:** 13 hotel rooms, restaurant sections, 11 blackjack tables, one roulette table, showroom seating sections.
- Harrah's Tahoe:** 41 hotel rooms with 41 more due in October (all rooms are treated to rid them of smoke odors before check-in), restaurant sections, gaming area near hotel lobby with 29 tables and 200-plus

slot machines, and seating section in showroom. Employees can smoke only in break areas.

Harvey's: 12 gaming tables, no-smoking policy for employees.

Lakeside Inn: Restaurant sections.

Reno Area

Bally's: Restaurant sections, some gaming tables, showroom sections.

Carson Valley Inn, Gardnerville: Restaurant sections, special process to rid rooms of smoke odors, smoking by employees in break areas only, no smoking in company vans or buses.

Circus Circus: 200 hotel rooms, restaurant sections, some gaming tables.

Club Cal Neva: Restaurant sections, some gaming tables. Employees are not allowed to smoke on the job.

Eldorado: 50 hotel rooms, restaurant sections, two blackjack tables, nonsmoking employee lounge, and sections in employee cafeteria.

Harolds Club: Restaurant sections by request, designated areas for special events such as tournaments, and section in employee cafeteria.

Harrah's Reno: 18 guest rooms with more available, restaurant sections, 20 blackjack tables, showroom sections by request (some performers request that show guests not smoke), and no public smoking by on-duty employees.

John Ascuaga's Nugget, Sparks: 90 hotel rooms, restaurant sections; entire showroom is nonsmoking.

Ormsby House, Carson City: Restaurant sections.

Peppermill: 52 hotel rooms, restaurant sections, some gaming tables, and showroom seating sections.

Reno Hilton: 36 hotel rooms, restaurant sections.

Wendover

Silver Smith: Five hotel rooms.

Hotels and casinos that responded to the survey and currently don't have non-smoking policies are the Aladdin, Golden Nugget, and Imperial Palace in Las Vegas; the State Line in Wendover; and the Station House in Tonopah.—*Maria Federici*

Entertainer Buddy

Wright thought of a trick

to wake up

a bothersome smoker

He reached for

a nearby fire

extinguisher and

pulled the pin.

Late one night, backing the Rawhide Review, Wright thought of a trick to wake up a bothersome smoker. He reached for a nearby fire extinguisher.

Wright thought the extinguisher was the kind usually filled with a harmless gas that fumes like auto exhaust. It wasn't. Wright pulled the pin, and a thick dusty powder—like baking soda—first hung and then settled throughout the room. The substance, designed to combat electrical fires, blanketed everyone and everything—including what was left of the audience, the entertainers, the band, and the \$10,000 curtains. All were chalky white. Wright himself turned ghost-like. As nine policemen came toward him, he disappeared, exiting stage right.

Summoned before the judge, Wright pleaded in dead seriousness, "I didn't do it on purpose." His sentence? "Restitution. Anyway you can."

Wright was banned from the casino forever, and T-shirts sprouted overnight, saying, "I survived the Easter Day Massacre." Now Wright admits, "It's the best reason I know not to smoke in casinos." □

Paul Bosarge of Reno is a former editor of Reno Magazine and a widely published freelance writer. He smokes Camels.

RUBIES

OF A DIFFERENT COLOR

HAND-TINTED PHOTOS BY JEFF MULLINS



RUBY MOUNTAIN TWILIGHT

"This was taken at Spring Creek, with a little storm blowing up."



THOMAS TRIPTYCH

"I found this scene after an hour's hike up Thomas Canyon above Lamoille. The colors are those of dawn. I like the balance of the triptych, which evolved from ancient hinged writing tablets. The style was popular during the Renaissance."



THOMAS CANYON

"I hiked up the canyon on a really sunny afternoon. The water in the creek picked up bright reflections. This scene was near the triptych."



TUSCARORA

"I found that old building in downtown Tuscarora.
The wood is what attracted me."

A CENTURY AGO, soldiers stationed in the foothills at Fort Halleck found bright red stones they believed were rubies. The stones were actually garnets, but the original name—Ruby Mountains—stayed with the range as a reminder that things aren't always as they seem.

That elusiveness is a frequent subject of artist Jeff Mullins of Elko, whose hand-tinted photographs show the Rubies in a different light.

"Colors are determined by the amount and type of light striking an object," Mullins says. "But feelings, like those invoked by scenes in Lamoille Canyon, also add color to the images in our minds."

Mullins, a graphic artist and photographer for the *Elko Daily Free Press*, has been taking pictures in the Rubies for seven years. He also has worked extensively with hand-tinting, which originally was used by photographers as an inexpensive way to produce color portraits.

"I don't like the way color film interprets what it sees," he says. "Film is made up of tiny dots of color, much like a television screen, but on a much smaller scale."

Mullins prints black-and-white photographs on heavy, fiber-based paper and colors them with transparent oils made exclusively for photos. The paint only tints the original image.

Combined with other special effects, such as double exposure or reversing, the resulting pictures become fantasies based in reality

"When painting a black-and-white photo, sometimes I start with colors that I saw when I took the picture," Mullins says. "Then I add colors I think I saw, colors I felt at the time I was there."

"In a way, the process of hand-tinting is like traveling through time. The pictures show how the mountains may have looked in some ancient epoch, or how they may look sometime in the future. The mountains are truly timeless."

Mullins' work is shown in Elko at the Galleria in the Northeastern Nevada Museum and at Interior Wood Products. □



Jeff Mullins



Dressed in furs and fine jewelry, Liberace was never shy about showmanship (above). At right, a younger Liberace poses with his custom Cadillac and local Las Vegas lovelies in 1954.



A VEGASTAR REMEMBERED

Liberace's generous spirit was as much a trademark as his candelabras.

By Forrest Duke

On February 4, the day Liberace died, I got a phone call from CBS in New York. It wanted a reaction to a friend's death and a one-word summary of his personality.

The suggested word: "Generous."

Since meeting Lee in 1955 at the Riviera Hotel where he was its first big draw—being paid \$50,000 a week, which was a record salary for a Vegastar—I found him to be overly generous. He was always buying presents for friends, members of his orchestra, and their families. Birthdays, anniversaries, any excuse.

And he didn't just buy "off the rack." He insisted on personalizing gifts. The clothing had to be the correct size and color. The furniture had to fit the recipient's personality. He gave his Las Vegas housekeeper of 36 years, Gladys Luckie, a three-bedroom, two-bath home, and it came completely furnished to "fit Gladys" as he directed. She also got one of his cars that she loved, a 1982 Cadillac Opera Coupe.

One day in 1968, Lee went to the office of

Jamie James, his public-relations man and borrowed the house keys "so he could leave a few things there while he shopped." Before he returned the keys, Lee gave James' Los Angeles abode a new look, complete with all new furniture and rugs.

Once he was driving on a fashionable street in Beverly Hills when he saw a special couch in a furniture store window. He parked, went inside and told the salesman, "This will go perfectly in my manager's living room." He had it sent to Seymour Heller.

One Christmas Heller and his wife were invited to join Lee and members of his family for an old-fashioned Yuletide in balmy Palm Springs. The Hellers shopped tirelessly, and finally came up with what they considered "the perfect gift for Lee," an expensive tea cart with beautiful silverware. Lee *did* think it was the perfect gift—he had bought the identical gift for the Hellers.

Fellow Las Vegan Robert Goulet was a longtime friend. "Lee was generous to a

fault," he told me. "About the only thing he was reluctant to share was his keyboard. Back in the '50s we were doing a television show together, and I volunteered to take over at the piano. After a few bars, Lee banished me with a smile: 'You should stick to your singing.'"

Goulet stuck to his singing, and Lee kept on giving. One day in 1979, near his home in Las Vegas, Lee was at a supermarket, buying food for his small army of canines. He was disguised in jeans and black turtleneck sweater, but a customer who worked at a nearby Winchell's doughnut shop recognized his voice. They began talking, and she mentioned her place of employment. Lee's eyes lit up, because his favorite snack was an Apple Fritter. She told him to follow her: "The dough is rising." In the kitchen, he nibbled some fritters and showed extreme interest in the baking process while she kidded him about making his own. He had a great time, and within hours he sent her an expensive bouquet of flowers.

Stars were not immune to his impulses.



Liberace was a celebrity both on stage and as a resident in Las Vegas for many years. Top left, he stirs up some publicity for the Riviera in 1955. At center he poses with his brother George Liberace, and the author (standing). At right, he opened the Sahara in 1967. But, of course, he will most be remembered in his triumphant moments at the piano, entertaining thousands of fans and reveling in their admiration (left).

When Lee introduced Barbra Streisand to Las Vegas at the Riviera, not only did he send her flowers on opening night, he also sent more the next night in honor of her "working in Nevada's tallest building."

His generosity has not ended with his death, either. The nonprofit Liberace Foundation for the Performing and Creative Arts will live on, supported by admission fees at the Liberace Museum—the third most popular tourist attraction, behind gaming and Hoover Dam, in the Las Vegas area. The bulk of Liberace's estate is earmarked for the foundation, which supplies cash grants for music scholarships to 22 universities and colleges. In the same plaza as the museum on East Tropicana Avenue is the Liberace Tivoli Gardens restaurant.

Ironically, Lee's estate was divvied up once before, nearly 24 years ago. On November 22, 1963, the day John F. Kennedy was shot, Lee nearly died, too. That day, he had noticed a few of his things seemed slightly soiled around the collars and cuffs. When he found out the hotel valet would

not be able to get the work done in time for the show that evening, he went out and bought a gallon of dry-cleaning fluid.

"I suppose I should have had the window open in the room but it was awfully cold in Pittsburg that day," he wrote in his autobiography. "In fact, there was a raging blizzard."

That night Lee became seriously ill on stage and was rushed to the hospital. It was uremic poisoning caused by breathing carbon tetrachloride. The doctor told Lee to "put his house in order," and a priest administered the Last Rites.

So Lee arranged to spread about \$750,000 among friends and relatives. He opened charge accounts for them at Cartier's, Tiffany's, and Saks Fifth Avenue. He bought his sister a house, his mother a mink and jewelry, and his 28-member staff a boat. The ladies on the staff got diamonds and furs, the men cars, motorcycles, and gold watches.

Then he recovered, happily.

I had a local television talk show for 16

years, and during that period Lee was a guest quite a few times. Each time he was on I would get him to repeat a true story he had told the first time he was my guest. Ten years before he made history with his salary at the Riviera, Lee was booked for his Las Vegas debut by Maxine Lewis, entertainment director at the Last Frontier. He was nervous about his first night, so he was on the stage that afternoon fussing with the piano, candelabra, and lights. Something was wrong with one of the lights, so he asked a casually-dressed man backstage if he would help. The man said he didn't mind. He got a ladder and was aiming a light at the piano when Miss Lewis came in. She said to Lee, "I didn't know you knew Howard Hughes."

Another time I asked Lee why he headquartered in Las Vegas, and he said, "There's no other place in the world—and that includes Hollywood—where on any given night I can go out and visit friends who may be working here or who are here to see the shows. They always come back-



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stage, or I invite them to my home."

Not long ago Lee told me "Las Vegas is where I park my candelabra."

In his 1973 autobiography Lee said, "I've had people ask me 'Why should I go to Vegas? I don't gamble. ...And what's wrong with just lying around in the sun during the day and seeing the shows at night? A lot of people who go to Vegas don't gamble. I'm one of them. No matter how often I go back, I'm always sure of a new audience."

He wrote that his favorite Nevada engagement was at John Ascuaga's Nugget in Sparks. "When they give you a standing ovation, it is spontaneous and sincere. If I ever had to hire an audience, I would hire them any night of the week."

Abel Green, editor of *Variety*, gave Lee his first review in the show business bible. It was 1945, and the eager young pianist was still braving the New York supper-club scene. "Liberace looks like a cross between Cary Grant and Robert Alda," Green wrote. "He has attractive hands which he spotlights properly and withal rings the bell in a dramatically lighted, well-presented, showmanly routine."

Liberace's final Las Vegas stage was cut from cream-colored marble. On it stood the Reverend John McVeigh. "Last week Liberace had his final performance," he said. "There were no bright lights, and there were no critics; he was naked before God." Each word moved the audience closer to the priest's allegory of Liberace's life on Earth.

At the Mass February 12 in Las Vegas' St. Anne's Catholic Church, more than 800 fans and friends—many well-known—were there giving loving affirmative thoughts, ignoring the put-downs from the supermarket gossip sheets.

During the years that I knew Lee, I was invited to his home several times, always with small parties of people. The gay subject rarely came up. Those were the days when gays stayed in the closet. Those of us who knew him didn't even think about it; we loved him simply because he was a warm, friendly, fun human being. If the subject ever did come up, Lee would wink, smile, and say, "Just call me mysterious." We hoped his wish for privacy would endure in the end. He almost made it until the AIDS exposure came as an official afterthought.

In his book, *The Things I Love*, Liberace's first words are: "I would like to be remembered as a kind and gentle soul, and as someone who made the world a little better place to live in because I had lived in it." Among countless fans, music students, and Apple Fritter cooks everywhere, he'll surely be remembered that way. □

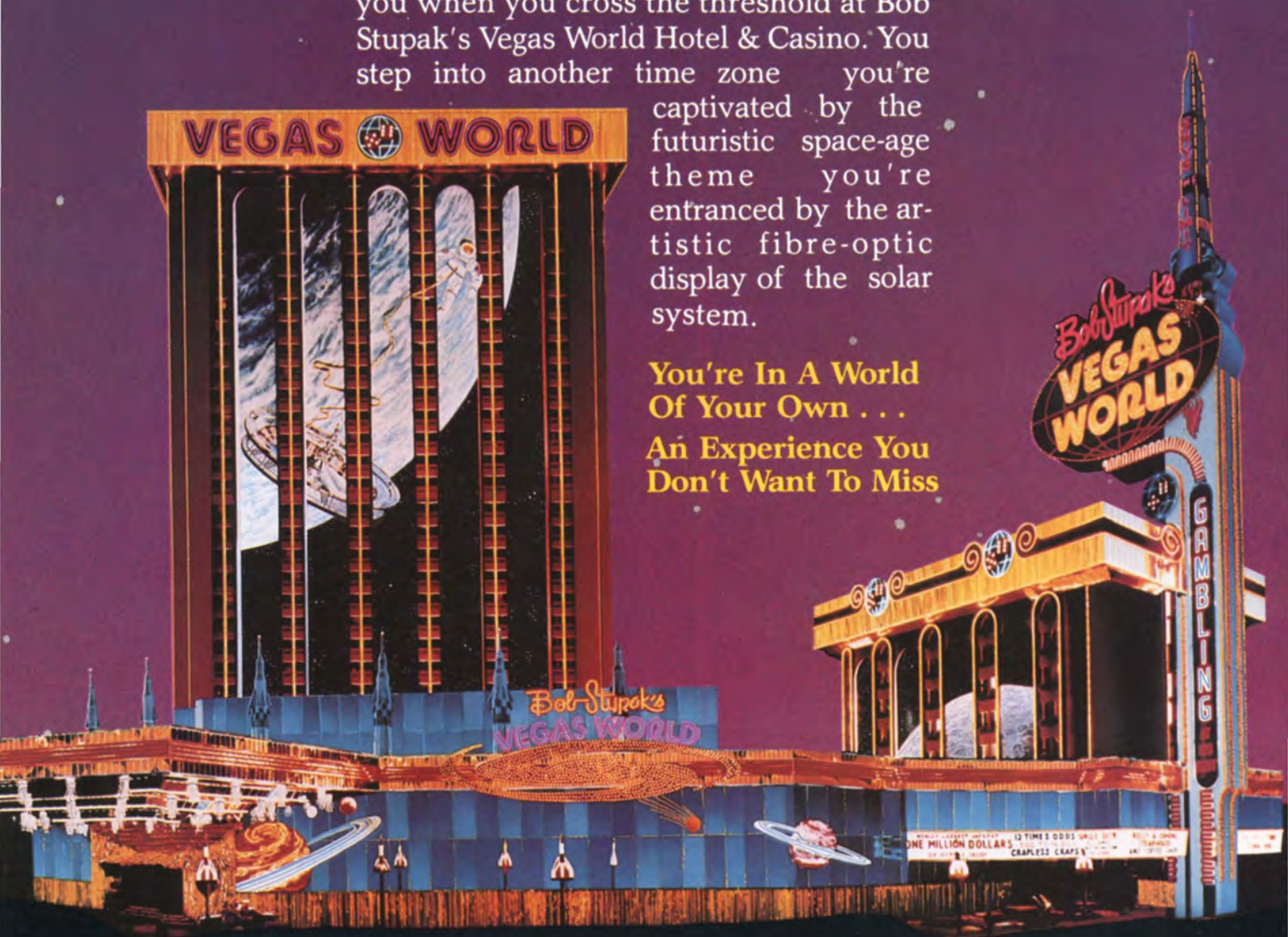
Forrest Duke moved to Las Vegas to write for the Sun in 1954 and later covered the entertainment scene for Variety and the Review-Journal, where he wrote his popular column, "The Duke of Las Vegas," until his retirement last year

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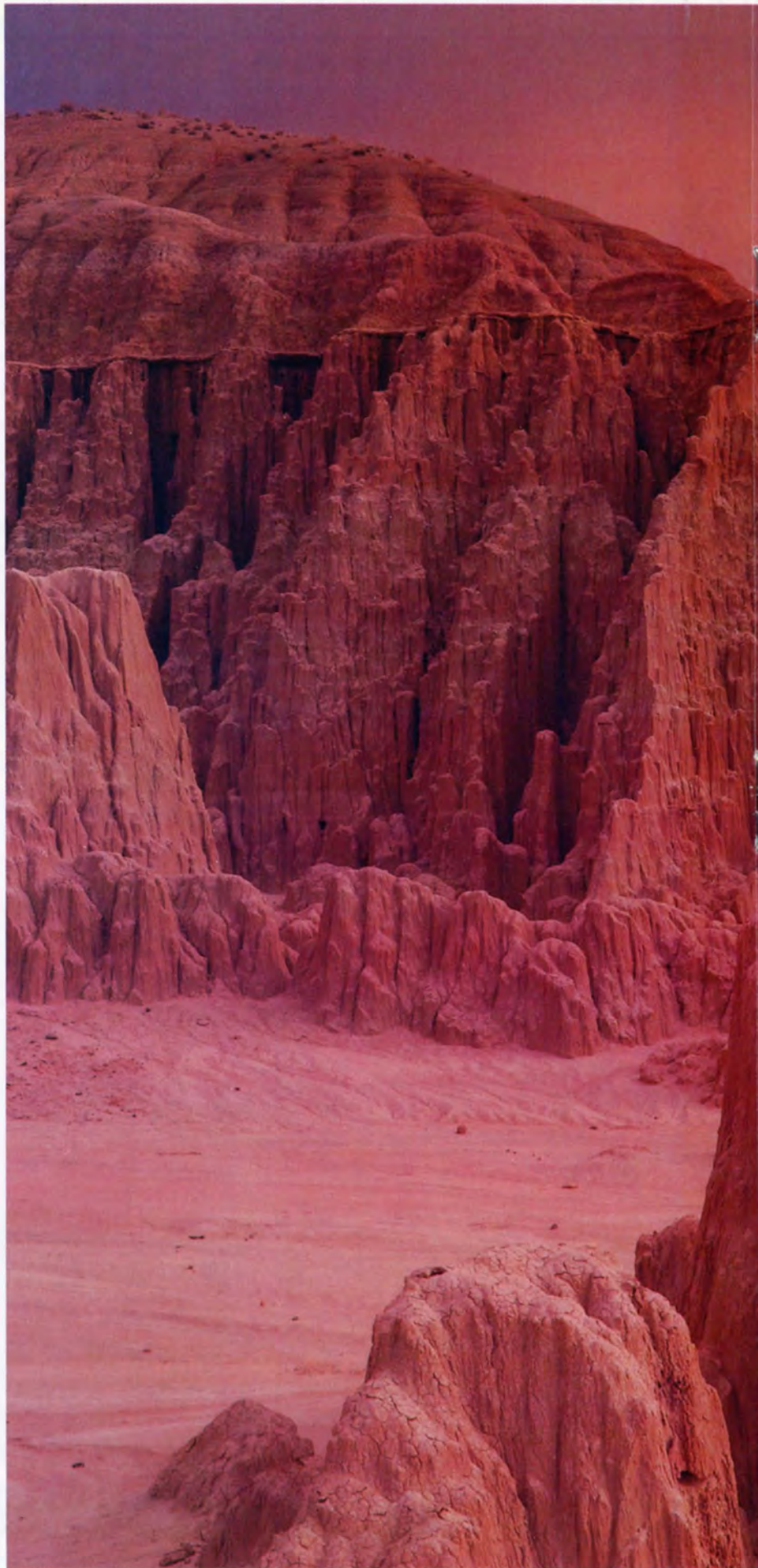
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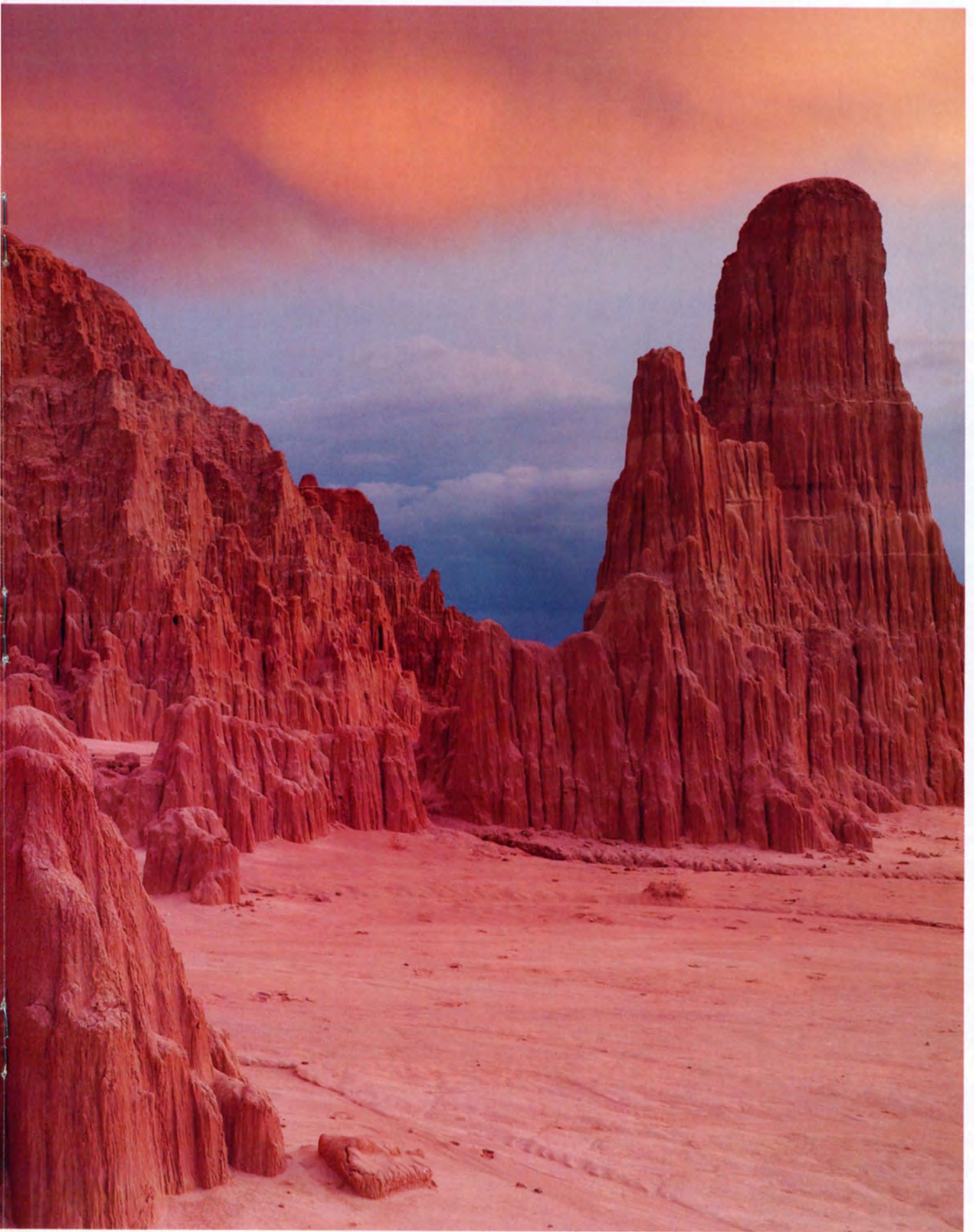
G A L L E R Y

The setting sun casts Cathedral Gorge in an ethereal glow. Erik Lauritzen of Pioche waited for this shot, knowing that he might capture such an image because light refracts differently through a cloud.

The state park is the result of the workings of uplift and erosion from an ancient sea that once covered Nevada. When confronted with the delicate beauty of these formations, it seems to take you to another world.

Lauritzen, an artist in residence for the Lincoln County School District, moved from Southern California to Pioche a year and a half ago because the tiny Nevada community, like nearby Cathedral Gorge, represented "a trip into time."





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McCarran 2000



Tonopah's letter was likely built in 1917 to honor the town's championship girls' basketball team.

If It's 'T' It Must Be Tonopah

Whitewash uncovered!
Here's the real story behind those giant letters.
By Andrea Graham

You know you're getting close to town when you see it looming on the mountainside. A hundred feet tall, gleaming in a fresh coat of whitewash, it says, "We're proud of who and where we are—and we want everyone to know it." And you do know it, as you pull into a mining town settled in a steep-walled canyon, or drive through Nevada's high desert valleys. Around Tonopah, the "T" seems to follow you wherever you go. The Virginia City "V" can be seen from the Carson River, and Lincoln County's "L" above Panaca dominates the Meadow Valley.

There are more than 30 of those giant hillside letters in Nevada, and they seem almost a part of the native landscape. They have been there as long as most people can remember, but it's difficult to find out exactly when and why they were built. Some folks will venture a guess, but for the most part the local "monogram of the gods" is taken for granted, even in towns where it is

regularly spruced up with a new coat of whitewash.

The very first hillside letter in the country was a big cement "C" fashioned on a hill

Nevada students joined
the rivalry
by building what was then
the largest letter,
an honor it retained
until 1925.

near the University of California at Berkeley in 1905 by a group of college students. Their precise motivation is unknown, but it was probably the need to

proclaim an identity—the same instinct that produces graffiti, shirt monograms, and personalized license plates.

Some answers to the puzzle have come from Dr. James Parsons, a professor of geography at Berkeley. He has researched hillside letters all over the West after becoming intrigued by them on his many travels. He says, "As a geographer I've always been interested in lines on the land, especially straight, man-made lines that remain as records of human activity."

The letters are almost a completely western phenomenon, according to Parsons. They are found in every state west of the Rockies—and almost nowhere else. "Nevada takes the cake" he says, with more letters than any other state.

Nevada's first letter was the University of Nevada's "N," installed in 1913 on Peavine Mountain in Reno. The 1914 edition of *Artemisia*, the UNR yearbook, describes the inspiration for the "N": "It did not seem right that Nevada spirit should show itself



Scout Robert Darney paints the Reno 'N'.

less plainly than either California to the West of us or Utah to the East, where college letters had already been constructed." College letters had become symbols of school pride and spirit, and Nevada joined the good-natured rivalry by building what was then the largest letter, an honor it retained until 1925. Surveyed and laid out by two students, it measured 150 feet high and 140 feet across, had legs 20 feet wide, and covered 13,000 square feet.

The *Artemisia* described the expedition of male students on the morning of April 13, 1913, up the mountain, where they moved rocks to the letter which had been laid out with string. "The fellows were enthusiastic over the work and thousands of rocks of all sizes were brought from within easy carrying distance. At the close of their work that day the letter had taken shape and could plainly be seen from the campus, over a mile distant." A few weeks later "the fellows were again seen headed for Peavine, this time armed with whitewash sprinklers and all necessary material." A human chain was formed from the foot of the slope to pass buckets of water and lime, and the whitewashing was completed just as darkness fell. The "huge 'N', white as snow, glistening against the dark background of the mountains" that greeted local residents the next morning is still a Reno landmark, and is whitewashed annually by the students during homecoming.

After giant letters became the fashion on college campuses, they were picked up by high schools. The first Nevada high school letter was the Elko "E," built, as far as can be determined, in 1916. According to Howard Hickson of the Northeastern Nevada Museum, the "E" was constructed in honor of a high school teacher named Raymond Thomas, who died in October 1916 during a surprise snowstorm while on a hiking trip in the Ruby Mountains.

The next Nevada letter seems to have been the Tonopah "T," built in 1917 to honor Tonopah High School's state cham-



The 'N' above UNR is the state's oldest hillside letter. It was built in 1913.

pion girls' basketball team. The following year, on April 28, there was a newspaper account entitled "Initial Clothed in Raiment of White" that described upperclassmen gathering up the freshmen and making them climb the hill to paint the big "T." The "monster initial" was described as "looking rather shabby after exposure to the wintry elements and vandal hands," but the students soon had it "as pure and white as the driven snow."

Another early high school letter was the Carson City "C." There were no newspaper accounts of the letter's original construction, but in the spring of 1925 the high school news column in the *Nevada Appeal*

By tradition, Moapa
holds an 'M' Day
every spring.
Back when the letter
was built in about 1930,
the whole school
would hike up the butte
to whitewash the 'M.'

made several calls for a showing of school pride, describing the "C" as "in sad need of a coat of whitewash" and "beginning to fade." The enthusiastic writer went on, "The letter is representative and may be taken as an accurate index of the devotion and spirit placed in the school by the students, and this joint effort to make a superior demonstration of spirit should be considered individually not as a duty, but as a requisite." The writer concluded with the inducement of a lunch to be served by the girls and the challenge that if a fellow didn't participate "then he is not the kind that we want in school."

The Sparks "S" and the Battle Mountain "BM" in 1925, the Virginia City "V" in 1926, and the Lincoln County "L" at Panaca in 1927 were built during the fad's boom years. All received front-page treatment in



Elko's 'E' is one of three in the state.

their respective local newspapers, emphasizing the school spirit and pride of the students doing the work and the distinction the initial lent to the town. In most cases, the boys did the work of hauling rocks and whitewashing while the girls prepared lunch and sometimes brought it up to the workers. The newspaper coverage of the Sparks initial, however, emphasized that "the girls showed just as splendid a spirit" as the boys and "assisted in the work of carrying the whitewash up the hill side, and some of them wielded the huge boulders that were used in constructing the big letter."

The Lincoln County example illustrates the frequent association of a letter with an organization of student athletes, particularly letter winners. In Lincoln County both the athletic club and the letter itself were called the Block L. The *Lincoln County Record* of May 2, 1929, reported the plans for Block L Day, including the whitewashing of the "L" by the freshmen, a dance, the presentation of athletic letter awards, and the illumination of the "L" by bonfires in the evening.

Older residents of Carson City recall Block C Day, when student athletes supervised the annual whitewashing by freshmen and sophomores and the entire school had a picnic on the mountain. Winnemucca likewise had a Block W organization, and Fernley a Block F. Virgin Valley High School in Mesquite holds a "V" Day about April 1 every year, following a tradition established when the letter was built on that date in 1929. The senior class whitewashes the "V" annually and performs a more substantial fix-up of the rocks every few years.

Moapa High School in Overton has a long-standing tradition of holding a festive "M" Day every spring. When the letter was first built in about 1930, the whole school would hike up the butte to whitewash the "M," although now just the senior class participates. They then have lunch, spon-

sored by the student council, and an evening program to celebrate. The festivities include humorous skits, performances by the school's musical groups, and the crowning of an "M" Queen. The program also includes the singing of school songs outdoors next to the lighted "M."

Elsewhere in the state, hillside letters continued to be built throughout the 1940s and 1950s. The 1941 yearbook of White Pine High School in Ely describes the students "putting forth their best effort" in building a big "WP" west of town, but apparently they had a spell of bad weather and couldn't finish. They did complete it the next year. Some residents say that there was another "WP" built about 1932 on another hill, but it can't be confirmed and no evidence of the letter remains. Locals recall that the "WP" used to be lit by bonfires at homecoming, and the letters are still re-whitewashed every few years.

Ronny Gandolfo, the postmaster of Austin, recalls helping to build the town's big "A" in the early 1950s when he was in high school. He says that the town had never had a letter and the students just decided they wanted one. Another late letter is the Beatty "B," constructed in 1971. It has cement to hold the rocks in place and is painted rather than whitewashed so it requires less frequent maintenance.

The town of Gabbs received its current name in 1943, but the previous name of Toiyabe remained with the high school and a "T" was built on the hill east of town in 1954. When the school was changed to Gabbs High in 1956, a "G" was erected, and it continues to be maintained by students. The "T" is still visible, though.

Some Nevada letters don't follow the usual method of constructing a hillside initial, which is to pile rocks in the shape of the desired letter and then use brooms, mops, or rags to coat them with whitewash, lime, or bluing for maximum visibility. The "C" at Carlin is made of railroad ties, which is fitting in a railroad town whose high school team is called the Railroaders.

Another variant is to paint the initial rather than whitewashing it, which makes for easier upkeep. The "SV" in Smith Valley was refurbished in June, and the paint was applied with a sprayer powered by a portable generator. An article in the *Mason Valley News* made much of this break with tradition but stressed that the monogram's appearance was what counted in the end: "Things change, but how the Block SV looks is a sign of our valley's pride."

Keeping up the school letters has become a problem for some towns in recent years because of insurance regulations. Carson City, Winnemucca, and Lovelock schools all have had to stop whitewashing their letters for this reason. In Lovelock the Lions Club has taken on the maintenance of the "L," freshening it up every two years. Last time it took all day and required hauling 400 gallons of water up a steep mountain



All Those Hillside Letters

Giant letters to be seen around the state:

Alamo (Pahranagat Valley)	P	Owyhee	O
Austin	A	Overton (Moapa Valley)	M
Battle Mountain	BM	Panaca (Lincoln County)	L
Beatty	B	Reno (University of Nevada)	N
Boulder City	BC	Round Mountain	RM
Carlin	C	Smith Valley	SV
Carson City	C	Sparks	S
Dayton	D	Tonopah	T
Elko	E	Virginia City	V
Ely (White Pine)	WP	Wells	W
Eureka	E	Winnemucca	W
Fallon	F	Yerington	Y
Fernley	F		
Fernley High School	FHS	Old and fading:	
Gabbs (formerly Toiyabe)	G & T	Reno (Reno High)	R
Hazen	H	Wadsworth	W
Henderson (Basic High)	B		
Indian Springs	IS		
Las Vegas (Eldorado High)	E		
Lovelock	L		
Mesquite (Virgin Valley)	V		
Minden (Douglas County)	D		

Give Me An 'E'

The Las Vegas letter: protests and spirit.

It wasn't the sagebrush, sand, or slope of Sunrise Mountain that confounded Eldorado High School students' plan to paint an "E" on the mountain's west slope in the late 1970s. It was concern that the letter would scar the Las Vegas Valley environment.

Eldorado's student council came up with the letter idea in the spring of 1975. The students assumed that the site, about two miles from the school, was Bureau of Land Management property so they asked the BLM for permission to whitewash an "E" there. They were told to prepare an environmental-impact statement and solicit public opinion.

The students met with opposition immediately. Environmentally concerned residents complained to the school, the BLM, and the newspapers. The "E" was even denounced in a *Las Vegas Review-Journal* editorial, which stated, "If Eldorado High School is permitted to place an 'E' on the mountain, what is to keep all the other high schools from making the same request? Then Sunrise Mountain would become a bowl of alphabet soup."

A bit surprised by the opposition, the class of '75 turned its attention to graduation, and the "E" was forgotten. Until November 1, 1976.

"The kids went up on Halloween night," recalls Nils Bayles, who was Eldorado's principal at the time. "They just spray-painted the 'E' on the rocks, and it didn't sit well with the people in the neighborhood."

Minuit Bowen, who lived about three blocks from the mountain until 1979, was one of the upset residents. Bowen says, "There is a right way and a wrong way to do something, and they did the wrong thing for the wrong reason. The hill belongs to all of us. We can't all have our name or number on the hill—so let's just leave it."

The "E" also raised the ire of *King Kong* star Fay Wray who played Ann Darrow



The Las Vegas 'E' aroused great controversy.

the woman captured by the ape in the 1933 movie. Wray and her husband Dr. Sanford Rothenberg—not the BLM—owned the land.

Bowen and other residents organized a cleanup. "The 'E' was just painted on the ground, and we covered it up with dirt," Bowen says. "It is still a sore spot with me. I was upset with how the kids behaved

King Kong star Fay Wray and her husband owned the land—not BLM.

and how it was handled. No one was even reprimanded."

Bayles, now school superintendent in Kanab, Utah, says he never had proof of who did it. "The kids were willing to cooperate in fixing it," he says. "It was not done as vandalism, but in school spirit."

The "E" was gone, but not for long. In April 1978, Eldorado students painted a second illegal "E" on the mountain. This time they had permission from the property owner but not from Clark County.

"We had to apply to the county commission because it was seen as a sign, and we had to get a sign permit to put it up," Bayles says. "We made an application for a permit, hired a lawyer, and presented our case."

"The man who had property right below objected. The upshot of it was he complained it was a safety hazard. He said people would be driving down the street, be distracted, and run into something. Our point was that it would be whitewashed, and easily removable, and if at any point it became a problem, we would remove it."

The commissioners gave their permission, and about 200 Eldorado students climbed the hill with buckets, mops, and whitewash and painted a 55-by-100-foot "E" on Sunrise Mountain.

Periodically the letter takes on different configurations—in recent years it has been turned into a "V" and a "C"—and the students trudge up the well-worn path to reaffirm their school pride. The "E" is proudly whitewashed twice a year and illuminated at homecoming.

Jean Perry's children graduated from Eldorado, and she says she is glad there is an "E" on the mountain. "I'm originally from Ohio, and the only place I'd seen anything like it was in Tuscon, where they had an 'A,'" she says. "I think it looks pretty neat."—*Maria Federici*

face. Last summer the Carson City High School classes of 1937 and 1957 repainted the "C." The Winnemucca "W" is painted occasionally by local service organizations, and its last touch-up was a coat of green, provided by persons unknown who painted more than the town in the dark of night on St. Patrick's Day 1986.

Although some of the big letters around the state have been neglected, most are still maintained. The Pahranaagat Valley High School "P" at Alamo was whitewashed last spring after a hiatus of several years had left it looking pale. And the "D" at Dayton, where there had been no school for years until a new one opened in 1982, and which had faded almost to nothingness, was rejuvenated with new rocks and paint last year by high school student demonstrating that school spirit is not dead in the 1980s. The new Fernley High School, built in 1981, sports a big "FHS" on a hill behind the football field. It replaces an "F" west of town that represented the old school and is now slowly fading, even as the Block F organization keeps the new letters glowing.

Boulder City has had a "B" on a hill south of town known as B Hill since the 1940s, but recent real-estate development obliterated it. For a few years the high school students persuaded the city council to paint a large "BC" on a water tank, but that just wasn't the same, so in 1987 they built a new "BC" of whitewashed rocks across town. Local residents remember when the old letter used to be lit at halftime by firepots outlining it. Stories are also told of students from Basic High in Henderson sneaking over and snuffing out strategic lights to change the "B" to an "H."

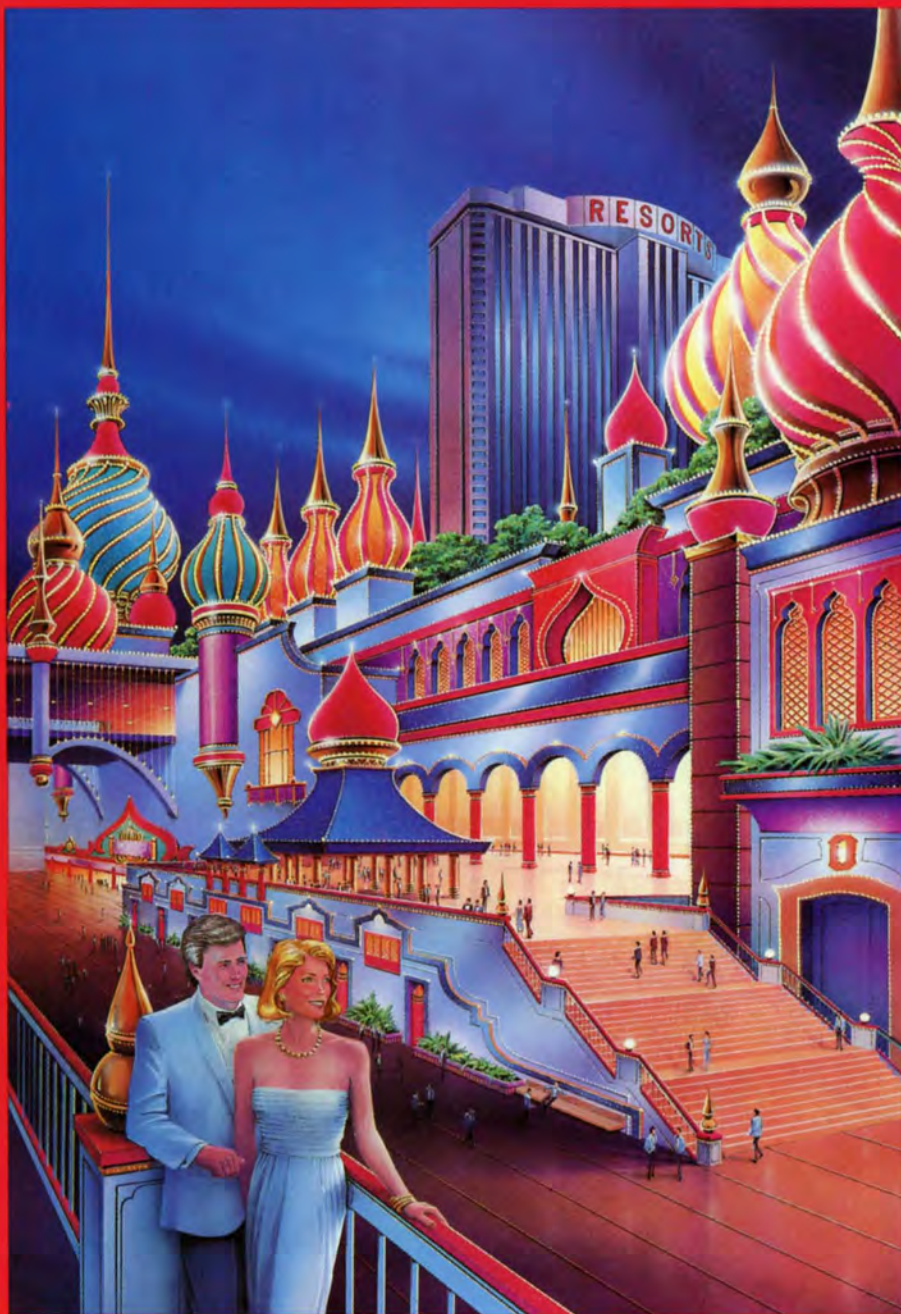
On the other side of the mountains Henderson's Basic High School has its "B." The current letter was built when the new Basic High opened in 1972, to replace one near the original school that dated from 1953. Another recent initial is an "E" for Las Vegas' Eldorado High School. Las Vegas schools never had letters because they were too far from a suitable mountainside, but Eldorado is near Sunrise Mountain and a letter seemed appropriate when the school was built 12 years ago (see story at left).

For every letter that disappears back into the mountain that gave it birth, like the fading "D" on the edge of the Sierra above Douglas County High in Minden, or the almost invisible "RM" at Round Mountain, which no longer has a high school, there are a dozen that thrive on regular attention.

Many of the hillside letters are distinct enough that they are indicated on aeronautical charts to serve as landmarks for pilots. The letters shine with fresh whitewash, speak wordlessly of hard-working and high-spirited students, and personalize the towns of Nevada, this most western of the western states. □

Andrea Graham, a folklorist and freelance writer lives in Virginia City and can see the "V" from her living-room window.

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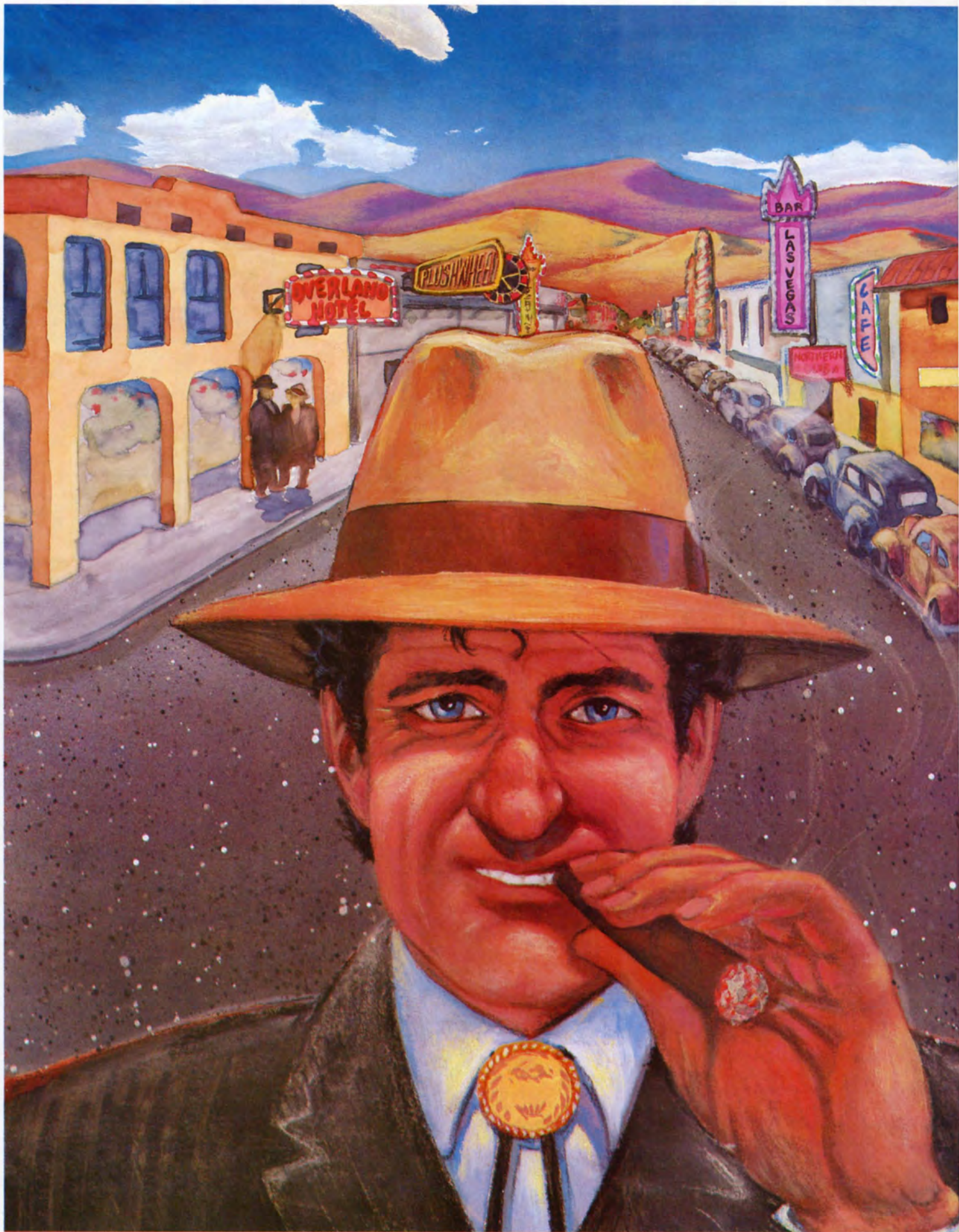
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NEVADA

THE NOVEL

Las Vegas in the '30s enters a new era in this excerpt from Clint McCullough's best-seller

Clint McCullough's first novel, Nevada, has been a success as a hard-back and a paperback and may have a future as a TV series. The book's rise to fame is not unlike the story of its main character, Meade Slaughter, who as a young carnival barker in the 1930s finds opportunity with his uncle, Charlie Brent, in Reno and then in Las Vegas. As he rises to prominence as a tough but honest casino boss, he rubs elbows with real characters like John Cahlan and Jim Cashman and fictional types like Frank "Smitty" Smith and Senator Bob Terhune, who are based on real people.

The following excerpt picks up after Meade avenges the killing of his fiancée, Sandra Farley. Two years before, rival casino owner Carlo Giuliano had ordered three thugs to attack Meade as he left his casino, the Plush Wheel. The fight left Meade paralyzed and Sandra dead. After a long, slow, painful recovery in San Francisco, Meade returned secretly to Reno and surprised Giuliano and one of the attackers in a downtown alley. That act put him on the road to a tiny town he'd had his eye on for some time: Las Vegas.

Meade lay low at the ranch while Smitty kept up his normal routine, dropping into town every few days. They had slipped out of Reno quickly everything going according to plan.

Meade had leaped over Giuliano's body and hopped into the Ford sedan as Smitty braked alongside the LaSalle. As the Ford crossed the tracks, Meade tore off his coat and hat, throwing them in the backseat along with the shotgun. He stuffed the gloves in his pocket.

Parking on 5th Street, they walked to North Arlington and got into the pickup. Smitty lit a cigarette as the lights of Reno faded behind them. "You got 'em both," he said matter-of-factly. "Now you can stop lookin' back."

Meade didn't take offense. Smitty was right. He should look forward now. He laid his head back and closed his eyes.

The Ford sedan was found that night. Like the guns, it was untraceable. "Town's in an uproar," Smitty said when he arrived back at the ranch the day after the killing. "Tony Giuliano has turned the bulls loose

on the street. They're comin' down on everybody they think might know somethin' Tony's put up a \$10,000 reward for whoever finds his old man's killer."

"I heard," Meade said, pointing at the radio.

"They've brought in the FBI. The police think the hit was professional, imported talent."

Meade raised an eyebrow. "That I didn't hear."

"Got it from the chief. Lou and me had coffee just before I left."

The investigation came to a dead end. After two weeks, Meade and Smitty figured it was safe to leave.

They drove to Sacramento where they caught a train headed south. Two days later, they arrived in Las Vegas.

Sure we ain't in hell?" Smitty said, standing in the shade of the Apache Hotel and squinting at the heat waves rising from the pavement.

Meade shrugged. "Feels good after the fog in San Francisco." He was dressed once more as he had been at the Plush Wheel—dark western suit, white shirt and black string tie, black boots. The coat was tossed over his shoulder.

Las Vegas had changed little since their visit three years ago. If anything, business had slowed. With the completion of Boulder Dam, thousands of workers had left the area.

'Los Angeles is growin' like a weed,' Smitty said.

'Someday, it'll be twice as big as the

San Francisco Bay Area. When the L.A.

people want to gamble, they'll come to Vegas. It's

a hell of a lot closer than Reno.'

Last night, Meade and Smitty had made the rounds, renewing acquaintances and meeting new arrivals to the gambling community. There were surprised looks over Meade's recovery but no direct questions. Meade's injury had been well publicized in the state.

Meade started down the street, a big broad-shouldered man with a massive chest and heavily muscled arms. From under the thick wavy black hair that fell on his forehead and partially covered the jagged scar, pale blue eyes mirrored the pain of experiences unsuited to his years. There was a hardness to his face, but it was softened by a hint of humor on his lips. A good face, reflecting a balance of strength and compassion.

They stopped in front of a shuttered single-story building, standing between an

office equipment company and a barber shop. Smitty unlocked the door.

Eyes adjusting to the darkness, Meade scanned the cloth-covered tables and the bar in a far corner. Walking slowly around the room, he looked under sheets, pulled on slot machines handles and ran his fingers through the dust on the bar. He looked at Smitty, who stood in the doorway. "Better than I expected," Meade said.

Smitty flicked his cigarette into the street. "Needs fixin' up. A good operator can make it pay. Nothin' wrong with the location or layout. The guy was workin' on too short a bankroll."

Meade took a last look around. "Let's see the lot," he said. Smitty handed him the key. Meade locked the door and followed Smitty to a corner lot two blocks away.

Meade walked to the center of the lot,

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boots kicking up puffs of dust. Hands on hips, he looked up and down Fremont. People were drifting in and out of the stores and clubs. Not many women. Las Vegas was a man's town in the summer, many of the women going to the California beaches to get away from the heat.

Meade walked to the sidewalk and stamped the dust from his boots. "Maybe I should have stayed in bed and let you do the work," he said to Smitty. "You did pretty good without me."

In February Smitty had purchased the lot for Meade. The club had been picked up by paying the past-due rent, satisfying creditors and giving the former owner \$1,000 in cash. All negotiations had been done through a lawyer; Smitty and Meade hadn't been involved.

At the lawyer's office, Meade signed the papers that put the lot in his name. The club's lease and equipment also. Back outside, Meade looked down at Smitty. "Thanks. I owe you."

"Hell," Smitty said, "I'm just goin' along for the ride. Might be interestin' Come on, want to show you somethin' "

Smitty drove south on the Los Angeles highway, still unpaved and a mess of pot-holes. Dust and sand swirled across the road and obscured their vision. There was little to see—rocks, creosote bushes, dried weeds. Three miles from the city limits, they passed the Ambassador Club, once the Pair-O-Dice. As usual, it was closed for the summer.

Smitty slowed and pulled off to the right. "Got 75 acres here," he said, pointing. "Got it dirt cheap."

Meade peered through the blowing dust. "Dirt seems to be the right word."

Smitty shot him a pained look. "If you're smart, you'll buy the hundred acres next to mine—won't make a dent in your bank-roll."

A long freight train rolled by a half-mile to the west, trailing smoke. Meade shifted his gaze to the bare stretch of land. A car passed, headed toward California, a tumbleweed stuck under the front bumper.

Meade considered Smitty's words. He didn't know what the little man was worth, but it must be considerable. His advice shouldn't be taken lightly.

Wrapping his arms around the steering wheel, Smitty stared down the lonely highway. "Los Angeles is growin' like a weed," he said. "Someday, it'll be twice as big as the San Francisco Bay Area, maybe bigger. When the L.A. people want to gamble, they'll come to Vegas. It's a hell of a lot closer than Reno."

"When the war comes—I don't give a damn what Roosevelt says, it'll come—this country will come out of the Depression like a scalded cat. Someday, there'll be forty fifty thousand people livin' here." Smitty nodded at Meade's incredulous look. "Don't laugh; it'll happen." He waved at his land. "I bought this 'cause people will come through here before they get to Vegas. A club out here will catch a lot of business

'Got a guy named Bill Harrah. He opened a bingo parlor on Center Street last year—went bust after two months. Came back this July'

that will otherwise end up downtown."

Meade threw up his hands. "You've sold me. Let's go buy some real estate."

As they headed back into town, Meade twisted around for a last look. A small dust-devil was dancing its way across the barren landscape. He would have to trust Smitty's

judgment. Right now, it didn't look like much of a buy.

The Las Vegas Plush Wheel opened on November 8th. "Just like old times," Charlie said, puffing on a big cigar and watch-

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ing the crowd.

"You look pretty good in that suit," Meade said. "Glad to be back?"

"Didn't know I missed it so much."

Smitty weaved his way across the room, followed by Jim Cashman. "Real nice, Meade," Cashman said. "Keep this up and you'll have to buy a new car to fit the image."

"Well, I'll know who to go to for one, won't I?" Meade grinned.

"How's Reno?" Charlie asked Smitty. Meade knew Charlie missed the town.

"Movin' along," Smitty said. "They come and they go. Got a guy named Bill Harrah who ain't doin' bad. He opened a bingo parlor on Center Street last year—

The El Rancho was a sprawling complex.

From the main lobby and casino, 63 bungalows branched off to the back and sides.

went bust after two months. Came back this July and started up on Commercial Row. Bought the Tango Club on Virginia last week. Looks like he'll do okay. He's a long drink of water, thin as a rail." He looked at Charlie. "Thought you might know him." "Me? How come?"

"He used to run a bingo game for his dad in Venice, near L.A. Thought you might have bumped into him in your travels."

"Nope."

Smitty glanced at Cashman. "He was smart to come to the big city instead of this little ol' town."

"Ha!" snorted Cashman. "We've got 8,000 people here. You may have us beat in size but not in ambition. Give us time, we'll choke you in our dust!"

Smitty peered at Cashman, faded blue eyes twinkling. "One thing you'll never be, and that's spelled s-o-p-h-i-s-t-i-c-a-t-e-d."

"Surprised he knows how to spell it," muttered Cashman, determined to get in the last word.

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In October 1940, Meade started construction on the corner lot down the street. Tom Bailey was the prime contractor.

Fremont Street was becoming a beehive of activity and the gambling clubs might have stretched on there forever if the powers of booze and friendly persuasion hadn't been used on Thomas E. Hull by two zealous town boosters.

When Jim Cashman and Robert B. Griffith, Secretary of the Las Vegas Chamber of Commerce, heard that Tom Hull, a hotel man out of Palm Springs, was in an inebriated state in Bakersfield, California, they rushed over to that little farming community and whisked Hull across the border and into the Apache Hotel.

Sometime during that long night, Griffith went home, but Cashman continued to match Hull drink for drink, determined to at last persuade the hotel man to build in Las Vegas, something Hull had been considering for two years. Lightning flashed over Mt. Charleston in the distance as the two men sat in easy chairs on the Fremont Street sidewalk, talking, arguing, regularly refilling their glasses from the bottle resting between them on the pavement. At 4 a.m., they rose unsteadily to their feet and shook hands. Hull had agreed to build a hotel on Highway 91 just south of the city limits. He would pattern it after his El Rancho hotels in Fresno and Sacramento; it would be called the El Rancho Vegas.

He purchased 35 partially wooded acres for \$5,000 and arranged a loan through the First National Bank of Las Vegas. His motor hotel and casino would be elaborate and expensive; \$300,000 was a lot of money in 1940.

On February 21, 1941, Meade opened the new Plush Wheel on Fremont Street. Bob Terhune officially launched the club by

spinning the huge roulette wheel that stood near the entrance; it had been designed as an exact replica of the early Reno Plush Wheel sign.

Slot machines ringed the room with table games in the center. A long bar ran along the back wall, dark mahogany with stools covered in rich brown leather.

Upstairs, a bingo parlor—seating 100—took up three-quarters of the space, offices the rest.

Less than two months later, on April 3rd, the El Rancho Vegas opened to a huge splash of publicity.

A special preview opening was held on April 1st, with 590 invited guests attending, many from towns along Highway 91—from Barstow California, to St. George, Utah. Hull arrived in western clothing at the height of the party to welcome the crowd, and the evening wound up with a community sing.

The El Rancho was a sprawling complex with stone and stucco exteriors and cedar shake roofs. From the main lobby and casino, 63 bungalows branched off to the back and sides. A windmill rose above the administration building; when everything was completed in six weeks to two months, the windmill would have whirling neon-lighted blades.

Seven acres of trees and shrubs were still in the process of being planted, and a large swimming pool sparkled in the sun. Luckily, the El Rancho sat atop a huge underground artesian lake; it consumed 10 million gallons of water a month.

"Come as you are," was Hull's advertising theme, and the people came, dropping cash on the El Rancho's tables that would have otherwise ended up downtown.

Bugsy's at the Apache," Milton said. "Marty saw him go in about an hour ago."
"Wonder if he'll come here," said Charlie.

"No way," said Milton. "I knew Siegel back east. He's a tough son of a bitch—I'll give him that—but when he moves, he wants the odds in his favor. When he looks at us, the numbers don't come up right."

"It's all this growth that's attracting bastards like Siegel," said Meade. "They say Carson City's going to set up a commission to supervise gambling. As far as I'm concerned, the sooner the better."

The 1931 legislature had legalized gambling in Nevada and established county fees based on the number of games operated in each club. The revenues were allocated to the state, counties and towns. Though legal, licensed and taxed, the gambling industry was not regulated by enforcement at the state level.

Charlie said to Milton, "I'm curious. What's Siegel like?"

Milton scratched his chin. "He's no dummy. A real snappy dresser. Good looking, too. The way he laughs, you'd think he's the sweetest guy alive. Don't believe it. He's got a real short fuse—a temper that

'Vegas is a nice little town,' Meade said to Siegel. 'I've made it my home. I'd hate to see it messed up.'

goes off like a bomb."

"He didn't get where he is selling Bibles," commented Meade.

"He ran with Lucky Luciano," said Milton. "Had connections with Dutch Schultz and Capone. He's been around."

That Saturday night, Meade, along with

Milton and Thompson, was making his habitual rounds of the clubs to check the action. As he entered the El Rancho lounge, Milton nudged him toward the left. "Don't look now, boss," he said quietly, "but Siegel's here."

After they had ordered drinks, Meade lit



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a cigar and looked around. In a far corner sat a group of men. Meade recognized Sedway and a downtown club owner. Sedway was talking excitedly to a strikingly handsome man. Smiling and waving away Sedway's obvious objections, the man stood and walked toward Meade's table.

Siegel was slim with dark hair and moved with the effortless grace of a natural athlete. He was wearing an expensively tailored pin-striped gabardine suit and alligator shoes.

Siegel looked down at Meade. "Mr.

Slaughter," he said politely, "can we talk a few minutes?" He glanced at the two bodyguards. "Alone?"

Meade nodded at Thompson and Milton. They picked up their drinks and moved to a table out of earshot.

Sitting down, Siegel thrust a hand across the table. "My name's Benjamin Siegel, Mr. Slaughter. My friends call me Ben."

Meade shook his hand. "Meade Slaughter," he said.

Siegel lit a cigarette. "Nice little town you've got here. I like it. Might live here

someday." His voice was soft, but there was a challenge in his eyes.

A cocktail waitress approached the table. "Buy you a drink, Mr. Siegel?" Meade said.

"Ben," Siegel corrected. He looked up at the girl. "Honey, bring my glass from the table over there." As she hurried off, he smiled at Meade. "I'm still workin' on a full one, but I'll let you buy me a drink the next round."

Meade picked up the thread of the earlier conversation. "Vegas is a nice little town," he said. "I've made it my home. I'd hate to

THE MAN BEHIND THE BOOK

A former missionary and preacher turns story-teller

By Barbara Land

Everybody wants to know who Meade Slaughter really was," says Clint McCullough.

When the author of *Nevada* toured the West recently to herald the paperback publication of his big, glittery novel, interviewers in every city asked the same question: Is the tough, independent casino tycoon of his story based on a real person? Is Mead Slaughter—a carnival barker who becomes a successful casino owner—really "Pappy" Smith? Or Bill Harrah? An early-day Steve Wynn?

"Obviously," McCullough says, "Meade

Mario Lanza are sprinkled through the story but the main character, Meade Slaughter, is the author's own creation.

McCullough says he started thinking about the book at least 10 years ago. Before that, when he came here to gamble in the '50s and '60s, he spent enough time in Reno and Las Vegas to become fascinated by the gaming business and its background.

"I read a lot of books about Nevada history," he says, "but most of them dealt with mining and pioneers—the old days. I couldn't find much about the '30s, the years when gaming was getting started in the state. Some of the stuff I read simply wasn't true. The authors hadn't taken the trouble to get their facts straight."

Determined to make his own book historically accurate, McCullough spent nearly four years on research. At the University of Nevada-Reno he found historian Mary Ellen Glass ready to introduce him to the library's oral history collection. As he sifted through newspaper files and studied microfilm records, the plot for his novel began to take shape.

"I'm a storyteller first," says McCullough, "but when I set my story in a real place at a particular time in history I make sure my facts are right."

His attention to accuracy made an impression on the Southern Nevada Historical Society. Soon after *Nevada* was published in hardcover last year, McCullough was invited to speak at the society's annual banquet in Las Vegas.

His attention to authenticity has paid off in other ways. A reviewer in *Daily Variety* commented that *Nevada* would make "one helluva TV miniseries."

Indeed, Robert Evans, producer of *The Godfather* and *Love Story*, optioned dramatic rights to the book soon after its publication. There was talk about a full-scale continuing series based on McCullough's novel, with the hope that it might run as long as *Gun-smoke*.

"When I was in Hollywood during my summer tour this year, I met with the Evans people at Paramount. They've renewed the option, so I guess it's still in the works," McCullough says.

The author, who grew up in California, was born Clifton Dale McCullough 55 years ago in Kansas City. He served as a missionary among the Navajo Indians and worked from time to time as a preacher. He also became an accomplished river-runner.

These days he's living comfortably in Kentucky enjoying the success of *Nevada* and working on *Derby*, a story set in Blue Grass country. The new novel is already



Author and river-runner Clint McCullough.

Slaughter's carnival days were copied after Harold Smith's, but the character isn't Harold Smith, Sr., and he isn't Bill Harrah. I suppose he's a combination of several real characters in Nevada history—mixed with my own imagination. He certainly isn't Clint McCullough."

In addition to Smith and Harrah, other real people move in and out of the story. When mobster Bugsy Siegel opens the Flamingo in 1946, McCullough's fictional characters mingle with guests such as George Raft and Jimmy Durante. Names like Howard Hughes, Frank Sinatra, and

'The Slaughter family will open casinos in the Bahamas and Australia,' McCullough promises.

under contract to St. Martin's Press.

"I want to show Derby Week the way it was when it first started," says the author, who says the Derby has become a commercial festival. "In the early days, it was a horse race."

As soon as he finishes the Kentucky book, McCullough plans to start work on a sequel to *Nevada*, a story already taking shape in his mind.

"The Slaughter family will open casinos in the Bahamas and Australia," he promises. "I'll be doing some traveling to gather research."

Stay tuned.

Barbara Land of Reno is a freelance writer and a part-time contributor to the Reno Gazette-Journal.

see it messed up."

Siegel surprised Meade with his candor. "By someone like me?" he said, smiling widely.

Meade couldn't help but laugh. "Maybe, Mr. Siegel."

"Ben," Siegel said. "Look, I'll call you Meade; you call me Ben. Okay?"

"Can't do any harm."

Siegel leaned forward on the table. "I won't deny it," he said earnestly. "There's been talk around town about you and me knockin' heads. I say bull! We're both businessmen. You've got your way of operating; I've got mine. We both want the same thing—to make dough. Right?"

Without waiting for Meade's reply, Siegel continued: "This town's big enough for both of us. Know why? 'Cause it's goin' to get bigger!" Eyes widening with excitement, Siegel rapped his knuckles on the table. "I've been around. I've got a nose for money, and this place makes my nose twitch like a rabbit's. The war's makin' this country boom. Lots of yokels movin' to L.A. to work ain't never goin' to go back home. The whole L.A. area's goin' to bust its seams. A lot of those people are goin' to come to Vegas to try their luck. Millions of suckers will be leavin' their dough here!" When Siegel said, "millions," his eyes grew big as saucers. All they lacked were dollar signs flashing on and off.

Finishing his drink, Meade signaled for the waitress. After he ordered, he turned back to Siegel. "Vegas will grow," Meade said. "Nevada will grow. If I didn't believe that, I wouldn't be here. I'm not afraid of competition; the Constitution gives us the right to compete." Meade bounced ice around in his glass with a finger. "Matter of fact, I like competition. Adds spice to life. Gives you a chance to win and beat on your chest. Like a gorilla that beats its opponent and drags the female off into the jungle."

Siegel chuckled. "You're talkin' my kind of language, Meade." A boyish grin brightened his face. "Know somethin'? I like you!"

Meade felt the power of that winning smile; he wondered how many had been so charmed just before they were shot full of holes.

Meade chose his words carefully. "If I'm honest with myself, I have to admit I'm a selfish man; most of my thoughts are centered on my business, my future."

"I'm not really interested in what the other guy does, as long as it doesn't affect me." Meade leaned back in his chair and looked directly into Siegel's eyes. "If you want to open a club next to mine, that's your business. I believe in the survival of the fittest. Keep it clean, so will I. You do good, I'll benefit. That works both ways."

Laughing loudly, Siegel exclaimed, "Meade, we're gonna get along fine!" People stared, especially the men at Sedway's table across the room. "Son of a bitch!" Siegel slapped the table with a loud crack of his open palm. "Let's join up. We can own this whole damn state!"

Meade smiled and shook his head.

"Thanks, but no thanks. I'm a loner.

I like doing things my way'

Meade smiled and shook his head. "Thanks, but no thanks. I'm a loner. I like doing things my way."

Siegel said, eyes twinkling, "Yeah, I know."

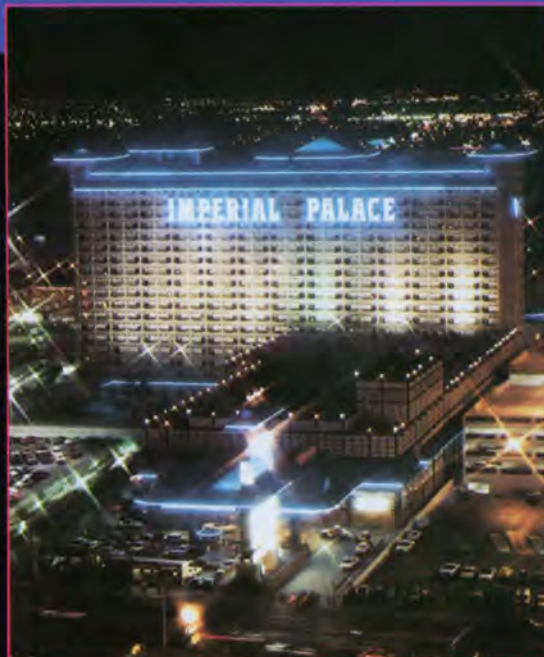
Meade looked at his watch. "I've got to get back to my club."

Siegel rose and held out his hand. "Let's

shake, Meade. Hell, we got better things to do than fight."

They shook hands and went their separate ways. □

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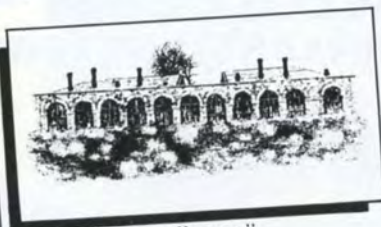


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Hurrahs For Harrah's

A photographic look at the early days as Harrah's celebrates its 50th anniversary



Harrah's bingo parlor was just another back door on Douglas Alley in Reno (top).

Above, Bill Harrah (third from left) poses with his bingo staff in 1937. At left, Harrah had the first air curtain entrance on Virginia Street. He wasn't afraid to try new ideas, a trait that paid off handsomely, both for his customers' comfort and his own fortunes.



At top, Harrah's modest Center Street facade in the 1950s. At right, the same view today Above, Red Skelton opened the South Shore Room at Tahoe in 1959.



THE WIND WORSHIPPERS



WHILE NORMAL
PEOPLE WORRY
ABOUT STAYING
SAFE AND WARM,
LAKE MEAD'S
BOARDHEADS
THINK FALL AND
WINTER ARE
PERFECT TIMES
TO CATCH A
BREEZE.
BY KATE BUTLER

any observers of the Lake Mead beach scene consider windsurfing a relatively new way to beat the desert heat in the summertime. Accordingly, the colorful sails that fill Hemenway Harbor in the warmer months thin out in September and almost completely disappear by the end of October.

There is, however, a small but growing group of boardsailors who stay with the sport all winter. Thus while snow skiers bundle up to cruise the slopes of Mount Charleston, the hardy windsurfers are flying across the empty waters of Lake Mead.

In the off-season boardsailors take advantage of winds created by low-pressure systems that hang over the Las Vegas Valley. Although generally lighter and less gusty than the thermal-driven winds of summer, the steady north breezes provide good chances for duck jibing, looping, and even jumping. Alone on the lake, or with a companion or two, the winter windsurfer enjoys a feeling of harmony with the water and an excitement in meeting its challenges.

Lake Mead winters are more moderate than those in Northern Nevada, but even in the sunny south winter adds an element of danger to sailboarding. With cold air and water temperatures, low humidity and high winds, hypothermia is always a hazard.

Sailors know that equipment failure far from shore is dangerous in the wintertime. To help protect themselves, many wear polypropylene underwear and dry suits made of neoprene and Gore-tex to keep the water out and the body heat in.

Despite the dangers, avid windsurfers find that with a little care they can reap a lot of excitement.

Paul Eckert, who can be found on the lake year-round, was Lake Mead's first windsurfer. He describes how the sport can be addictive to new recruits: "The first year, they will probably stop sailing in September or October. The next year, they sail year-round. By the third year, they quit their jobs and only sail."

Eckert received a windsurfer as a gift in 1976 and taught himself to rig and sail without ever having seen a sailboarder. "It took me a month to learn how to go 30 feet, but once I had that first ride, I was hooked," says Eckert, now a sailboard designer and

racer. He was one of two Nevadans selected for the 1984 Olympics; he placed fifth. His friend, Darin Ham, who also learned to windsurf on Lake Mead, placed second. Their success drew considerable attention to Lake Mead's potential for boardsailing.

Having traveled across the country on several professional racing tours, Eckert says, "There is no place like home. For freedom of sailing, Lake Mead is unquestionably the best. You can sail for 15 miles on a single tack without ever getting more than five miles from shore." In the summer Eckert has sailed a large board from Hemenway Harbor to Temple Bar, a distance of 40 miles.

Since Eckert first raised his sails 11 years ago, the popularity of windsurfing has spiraled in Southern Nevada. In the warmer months the sport brings out bikini-clad women, men in tropical shorts, youngsters struggling with sails four times their size, and gray-haired seniors, lean and tanned from hours on the water. When winds are calm, sails and boards form a mosaic along the Special Events Beach at Hemenway Harbor. When the wind comes up, 40 sailors often take to the water at once, their colorful sails weaving as they dart and jibe back and forth near the shoreline.

In the last two years windsurfing has become the "in" sport at the lake. But for the truly committed, the self-named "boardheads," windsurfing is not just recreation. It is a necessary part of living.

"I've given up a lot to windsurf," says Belle Scott, sailboarding instructor for the Ski Chalet. "I guess it's because I like the rush and the way it feels out on the water. It's relaxing but it gets you pumped up. I get really excited when it's windy and I make some good jibes and get a really fast ride."

Scott, who began windsurfing on a date with Eckert in 1981, tries to get out every day in the summer and whenever the big winds blow in winter. "It was the first sport I could do on my own. I'm an independent person, and I like the freedom of being able to go out and have fun by myself."

She sold her Mustang and bought a Volkswagon to rack up her boards, which she has carried around the West for racing and recreational sailing. In a recent competition at Choya Lake, Arizona, Scott placed first among women sailors and second overall.

Kenny Greig, who switched three years



Windsurfer Will Arnold pulls in the boom to catch a gust of wind that will propel him across the surface of Lake Mead at a thrilling speed.

ago from sailboats to sailboards, doesn't own the correct equipment for heavy winds. He uses a large, 12-foot board and enjoys cruising near Las Vegas Boat Harbor at Vegas Wash, where there is a lot of activity all year.

"It doesn't have to be an exciting life for me. I just need to go out and stand on the water. I enjoy trying to decipher the wind like a bird does. The longer you work with the board, the more familiar you get." The casual Greig sometimes practices his harmonica while he waits for a sailable breeze.

Or, if he's not playing music, he might be looking through his binoculars for blue herons or wood ducks "or whatever else happens along."

Greig, a Las Vegas musician in his mid-50s, became a windsurfing convert when he noticed the profound effect the sport had on his health. "I was starting to have trouble with circulation. I could never keep my feet warm even when I was sitting and watching TV" he says. "I finally got to putting my feet in a sleeping bag. It was like I was waning instead of waxing—and I wasn't

ready to wane yet.

"After I started windsurfing year-round, I began to recover. It's like winterizing yourself. The temperature of the water varies from about 85 degrees in the summer to around 54 in the winter. It goes down a degree at a time. If you have your foot in it every week, then it doesn't seem uncomfortable."

Even in winter Greig wears a bathing suit and T-shirt, and he uses a protective suit only when the wind is extremely cold and strong. He says the winds are usually

lighter in winter than in the summer; and they are steadier in the morning than in the afternoon, when gusts often develop.

Most dedicated windsurfers carry at least three boards of varying lengths and widths and from three to seven sails. The long boards, called stockers, are best for beginners because they float easily. Advanced sailors use them for light winds and free-

style sailing. Slightly shorter boards, called transition boards, are more responsive than the stockers. A tiny board—eight feet long and 19 inches wide—is a typical size—is used with a small sail for heavy winds by advanced windsurfers, who are able to use the wind to lift themselves out of the water.

Will Arnold, a landlocked surfer who turned to windsurfing seven years ago, has sailed a seven-foot board with a 2.5-meter sail in winds gusting to 65 mph. "At any one

SAILS AND GALES AT WASHOE

Anyone who has driven on U.S. 395 between Reno and Carson City in the fall knows how the wind can blow in Washoe Valley. Trailers and campers are often prohibited, cars and birds are jeopardized, and trees are strained. At Bowers Mansion towels and picnic baskets are blown about like leaves. But while picnickers and highway patrolmen are grumbling about the wind, the windsurfers on Washoe Lake are enjoying it, even when it's blowing 40 miles per hour and the temperature is in the 40s. There are other places to practice the sport in the area, such as Lake Tahoe and Lahontan, but Washoe, 16 miles south of Reno, is the favorite for serious off-season sailors.

Yale Spina, who is on the lake in every season, has been windsurfing at Washoe for 11 years. When he started, he was a lonely figure on the water trying to make the transition from board swimmer to boardsailor. Now Spina is the Nevada state champion boardsailor and owns a business—Aspen Sports in Reno and Carson City—that specializes in windsurfing. He organizes Thursday night races at Washoe and is there most evenings.

Spina likes Washoe because it is convenient, the water is warm, and the wind is consistently good. "Early in the spring it blows like crazy but it's erratic," he says. "It gets more consistent as the weather warms up. I'd say from May to August we get an average of three days a week of 15 to 30 mph winds. In late summer the winds get pretty intense. Then in the fall and winter we get the winds that come in on the fronts of storms." In winter Spina

likes to windsurf on Washoe Lake during a storm. He says, "The wind is great and it's just exciting. I used to ski and race professionally but now windsurfing is what I like to do."

Another year-rounder is Scott Seher. He's been sailboarding at Washoe for six years with his wife, Trisha, and their 18-year-old son, Chris. But they don't join Scott in November or January when the water is 40 degrees and the air is very crisp. Seher says he likes to go "at the beginning of a storm, when it's too cold and windy to go skiing. Down here it's warmer, especially when the front part of the storm hits. Usually it's warm enough to rain, al-

though I've been out with the snow blowing across the lake horizontally. I wear a dry suit over wool socks and long johns, and I wrap the dry suit booties with duct tape, so water doesn't get in on my feet. You do have to be very careful about hypothermia."

Last winter some friends of Seher's weren't too careful about hypothermia. "They went out when there was ice on the lake, and they wore wet suits instead of dry suits. They said it was the stupidest thing they'd ever done," says Seher. Did they have fun? "No."

Franz Weber, who until recently held the world's speed-skiing record of over 129 mph, says that skiing and windsurfing are quite similar. "Both are solitary sports," says Weber, a Reno resident. "You don't need a partner or an opponent or teammates. In skiing it's just you, the mountain, and the snow. In windsurfing it's you, the wind, and the water."

—Michael Greenan



Windsurfers enjoy a feeling of harmony.

second, things could happen, you're going at such a high rate of speed," he says. "That's what's neat about it—you're hanging on for dear life, on the brink of disaster."

Arnold has tried most of Lake Mead's coves that can be reached by car. He recommends selecting a windsurfing site based on wind conditions, season of the year, and

*'That's what's neat about it—
you're hanging on for dear life,
on the brink of disaster'*

sailing skill. Rick's Point, Power Line Road, Parson's Pipeline—all in the area of the Las Vegas Wash—are usually best when the winds are blowing from the north.

Stewart's Point near Overton and Temple Bar on the Arizona side are nice spots for combining sailboarding with overnight camping. However, beginners should exercise caution at Temple Bar as it often has offshore winds. Inexperienced sailors who get blown from shore there will find it difficult to get back.

Six Mile Beach near Cottonwood Cove, which also has waterside camping, is best from fall through spring when the temperatures aren't so hot.

Hemenway's Special Events Beach, Mead's only designated sailing beach, is popular because it accepts winds of all directions. With offshore winds, everybody sails close to shore because that's where the flat water and speed are. Obviously, swimmers on the beach at Hemenway some-



Sunset falls over Hemenway's Special Events Beach, Mead's designated sailing beach.

times put themselves in jeopardy.

Most experts strongly recommend that beginners take lessons. Introductory courses teach rigging, basic sailing techniques, the rules of the road, and emer-

gency procedures—all of which are important to any sailor. The experts also advise the use of the buddy system since equipment can break. Furthermore, sailboarders can be catapulted through their sails, or the

wind can die and leave you stranded.

The Southern Nevada Sailboarding Association, an informal group led by Commodore Frank Spears, organizes trips, races, and, for the windless hours, volleyball games. While members enjoy the socializing, it is clearly secondary to the sport.

"The people like myself who really want to sail will go wherever the wind is," Belle Scott says. "We don't think of it as partying or gathering every time we go to the Special Events Beach and play volleyball. Everybody shows up there because we anticipate that's where the strong winds will blow."

In the winter windsurfers like Scott and Arnold pass up the light breezes and wait for a high-wind fix. It's true that there may be fewer chances for high-tech sailing in winter because of the shorter days, lighter winds, and fewer storms.

But those who live to windsurf will do anything for a little good air.

Arnold, for instance, gets up on the weekends while it's still dark and sails Hemenway Harbor at daybreak. "It's a really nice feeling in the early morning," he says. "The place is empty and spotless. There are no people driving up and down the beach. The air's clean, the water's crystal clear, and you just sail back and forth and nobody bothers you. It's all very quiet except for the wind blowing past your ears." ▽

Kate Butler is a Las Vegas writer and photographer who spends many hours on Lake Mead.



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ACCOMMODATIONS



Pack camels carried freight to faraway Nevada mining camps.

Camels on the Comstock

When camels went to work in Nevada in the mid-1800s, horses bucked and lawmakers banned them from the streets.

By Douglas McDonald

On a moonless night in September 1861, two drunken miners stumbled out of a Virginia City saloon and headed for home. They had gone just a few yards when the silhouette of a huge animal suddenly appeared in the night's blackness and let out an eerie groan. One miner stood transfixed while the other dropped to his knees, crossed himself, and muttered, "It is the resurrection itself."

Actually it was only a camel, the newest addition to Nevada Territory's burgeoning transportation industry.

The idea of using camels to explore the West was raised in Washington, D.C., as early as 1835, but it took 20 years before Congress gave funds to experiment with the animals. By 1857 the U.S. Army had imported 74 Bactrian and Arabian camels and assigned them to a unit of dragoons.

During the next four years the hump-

backed recruits opened new roads through some of the most rugged country in the Southwest. The camels transported mail and supplies at Fort Tejon, California; carried surveyors and equipment on an expedition near Death Valley; and served as draft animals in the snows of the Sierra Nevada.

The success of the army's experiment prompted San Francisco entrepreneur Otto Esche to import camels for his private use. Thirteen Bactrians from China arrived in San Francisco in 1860 and were put in the care of Julius Bandmann while Esche returned to the Orient for more.

Believing he could turn a profit with the beasts, Bandmann drove nine camels over the Sierra in September 1861. Upon their arrival in Virginia City those first camels to reach Nevada Territory were sold to the Chevalier brothers for about \$2,200.

Louis Chevalier knew the capabilities of

camels, having served with the French army in North Africa. He put them to work hauling salt from a marsh southeast of the Comstock. Salt, which was used in the milling of silver ore, brought \$120 per ton in Virginia City. Even though the camels carried only 500 pounds each because of the rough terrain and high altitude, the pack train made about \$250 per trip.

When other salt fields were located closer to Virginia City competition from freight wagons lowered the price of salt to \$80 a ton. However, camels were still used to transport salt from areas near the present towns of Fallon and Fernley. To counteract the reduced prices, the camels' loads were increased to 800 and even 1,000 pounds.

Meanwhile, the army was more concerned with the Civil War than with camels. Confederate troops captured some of the animals in Texas, but many camels spent the war pastured in California. In 1864 the



The Spotlight's on 11 Great Entertainment



Wanderer's Digest

By the author of *Wanderer's Digest*, a collection of travel guides and travel tips for the wanderer.

Wanderer's Digest is a collection of travel guides and travel tips for the wanderer. It is a must-read for anyone who loves to travel. The book is divided into two main sections: "Travel Guides" and "Travel Tips". The "Travel Guides" section contains 11 guides to different destinations, including: 1. The Great Outdoors, 2. The Great Lakes, 3. The Great Plains, 4. The Great West, 5. The Great South, 6. The Great East, 7. The Great North, 8. The Great South, 9. The Great East, 10. The Great North, and 11. The Great West. The "Travel Tips" section contains 11 tips for the wanderer, including: 1. How to choose a destination, 2. How to plan a trip, 3. How to pack, 4. How to travel, 5. How to stay, 6. How to eat, 7. How to drink, 8. How to shop, 9. How to entertain, 10. How to relax, and 11. How to enjoy the trip.

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A Bactrian camel parades north on Carson Street in Carson City in front of the old Arlington House.

government ended the camel experiment, and the animals were sold at auction.

Samuel McLenaghan bought a number of them with the intention of hauling freight in Northern Nevada. In Sacramento on April 7 1864, he staged the West's first camel race to raise money for his business. Although the race was a fiasco, McLenaghan still managed to open his freight business. He bought a stone barn in Dayton and used his camels to haul firewood from the Carson River to Virginia City.

At the nearby Chevalier Ranch, the two brothers had been successfully breeding and raising their camel herd. As new mining regions sprang into being and the price of salt continued to decline, the Chevaliers' animals began hauling more freight.

The camels thrived on the sparse vegetation by eating, as one editor put it, "willows and greasewood and sagebrush and obsolete playing cards and old cast-off clothes." They adapted to Nevada's seasonal changes, but their soft feet had to be protected from rocks. Leather shoes were placed on their feet when they had to walk on exceptionally stony ground.

The Bactrian camel had an advantage over the Arabian because its long brown hair was sought for weaving bridles and ropes. In 1864 the *Gold Hill News* reported that some Virginia City camels had been

It is said that a large
red camel, only
visible when the moon
is full, supposedly
roams the steep slopes
above Virginia City

plucked of their winter growth. Since one Bactrian could produce 10 pounds of hair, camel owners welcomed the new source of revenue.

But the animals had their drawbacks. Camels scared the devil out of horses and mules. Virginia City passed an ordinance banning the animals from streets during daylight hours, but the occasional runaway thrown rider, and overturned wagon still created problems.

In 1868 a carriage crashed on the Carson River Road after its horses were frightened by a band of grazing camels. The uninjured

passengers were Judge A.W Baldwin and General Thomas H. Williams, and their indignation led local newspapers to begin anti-camel campaigns.

The *Carson Daily Appeal* said of the camel, "Appearing suddenly and without warning in the road, he causes the heart of horse and mule and ass to quake with supernatural and superstitious fear." To make matters worse, the camels were exceedingly friendly creating "a familiarity for men and women and buggies and horses and mules and asses and jerk-water wagons which is almost unbearable."

On January 20, 1875, the Nevada Legislature faced the camel issue. Assemblyman Hugh Carling of Lyon County where most of the camels were kept, introduced a bill to ban them from public roads. Passed by the Assembly on February 3, the measure went to the Senate. After much humorous discussion, including a suggestion to add the hippopotamus to the list of banned species, the bill became law on February 9.

Virginia City freighters, however, refused to obey the new law. During the national centennial in 1876 a camel train plodded up Sun Mountain carrying loads of firewood, and the July Fourth bonfire at the top lit up the night sky. Camels also were scheduled to prance down C Street in the town's Independence Day parade, but

common sense prevailed when it was decided not to mix camels and horses on a crowded thoroughfare.

As late as October 1876 a 20-camel train carried firewood to Virginia City, but the use of the strange beasts was doomed. It was economics more than the law that drove camels off the roads; they simply could not compete with wagons and the railroads.

McLeneghan's animals were gone; he had taken them to Arizona before the 1875 law was enacted. The Chevalier brothers drove their herd of 41 camels to Arizona in 1877 but, finding no buyers, they turned them loose in the desert. In 1899 so few camels remained in Nevada that the 1875 ban was repealed. Not all had been taken from the state, however. There were sightings of wild camels in the hills north of Tonopah as late as 1936.

Eventually, roaming herds died off, although some legends live on. A large red camel, only visible when the moon is full, supposedly roams the steep slopes above Virginia City. Another ghostly camel train is said to wander various salt flats with the skeleton of a man lashed to the leader's back.

Tall tales, a few remnants of harness, and the old stone barn in Dayton are all that remain of the time when camels were part of the West's transportation industry—and caused the passage of one of the strangest traffic laws ever enacted in Nevada. □

Douglas McDonald of Reno is author of several books, including Virginia City and the Silver Region of the Comstock Lode.

Today's Camel Races

No one had seen a camel in Virginia City for more than 80 years when Bob Richards, editor of the *Territorial Enterprise*, wrote an account of a fictitious camel race in 1959. Local readers, who were acquainted with the editor's frequent flights of fancy, did not take the item seriously. But when Richards wrote of an upcoming camel race the next year, the *San Francisco Chronicle* took up the challenge.

The *Chronicle* was joined by the *Phoenix Gazette* and the *Indio, California Chamber of Commerce*. Camels were supplied by a San Francisco zoo and trucked to Virginia City. The Virginia City Camel Races were born.

The races were held on B Street in front of Piper's Opera House. Movie director John Huston, riding for the *Chronicle*, won the 1960 races. In 1962 the race course was permanently moved to E Street near the old railroad depot. Ostrich racing was added, and the lark grew into an annual event attracting thousands of spectators.

This year the Camel Races will be held September 11-13. For details, see this issue's Calendar or call the Storey County Chamber of Commerce, 702-847-0311.—DM

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Nevada often is passed over in tributes by those who judge beauty by quantity. But Nevadans know that vivid colors are all the more precious when you haven't seen any for a while. When the color unfolds, you know the wait was worth it.

Fall is such a time. Quiet creeks become cathedrals of color as cottonwoods and willows trumpet the triumph of autumn. In meadows and canyons, quaking aspens shiver with delight, their golden leaves aflutter in evergreen seas.

Seasoned fall buffs make sojourns to the secret folds of Nevada, where the finest raiment can be seen. At left, Jay Meierdierck of Carson City ventured south of Winnemucca for this high mountain moment. On the opposite page, photographer John Weaver of Rancho Palos Verdes, California, brought home a trophy shot of aspens near Mount Charleston. Meierdierck discovered other golden bonanzas at a Paradise Valley landmark (upper right) and a pumpkin stand in the capital city

—Jim Crandall



Mount Charleston Aspens



Paradise Valley



Carson City Halloween



HIGH COUNTRY COWBOY



Art Black has a set of values, and a sense of determination,
that is not often found in the world today

By Matthew Wetzell

With a blood-stained shirt, brow dripping with sweat, and a bawling calf beneath me, I had come to the end of a long day's work. For myself and the rest of the crew it was a day of castrating, removing horns, vaccinating, and putting the Circle H brand on close to 150 Hereford calves. Exhausted, I went to release the last calf, which was stretched between a rope staked to the ground and a rope tied to the horn of a saddle. As I gazed up the 32 feet of rope, my eyes became fixed on the cowboy sitting sturdily in that saddle. This is my friend, Art Black, but he is more than just my friend. He is a page out of American history. He is a man who has lived on the range all his life and has gathered a set of values that

are not often found in the world today.

The ranch I speak of is surrounded by hills at an altitude of 6,800 feet deep in the heart of the Sierra Nevada. On a clear morning from my position at the barn a small cloud of dust can be seen slowly rising to the top of the hill. Just like every other morning I know this is Art on his morning commute. You see, Art lives in a small cabin over the hill to the west, and at 5:30 every morning he saddles up his Appaloosa gelding named Shadow and sets off to work. As he comes down the hill he sings a song that wakes the entire world below him. Everyone there knows the song as the beginning of a new morning, and they all come to greet Art. The workers greet him, the cattle greet him, the horses greet him, and even the

eight little Duroc pigs greet him; but, more than that, the grass greets him, the wind greets him, the rocks greet him, and the trees greet him. They are all part of him, and he is a part of them.

Into the yard he rides toward the barn looking as if he is one with his horse. They move together as smooth as a quill in the hands of Mark Twain, who for a time lived in the same valley where Art and I work today. A slight tug on the reins and the Appaloosa has stopped. I gaze into a face as weathered as the old boards that make up the side of the barn and the corrals that enclose it. The aroma of tobacco flows from an old wooden pipe clinched in his teeth. As he sits in the saddle, the chaps covering his legs blend in so well with the leather of his

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saddle that it's hard to tell where the man starts and the horse begins.

Art does most of his work on horseback. He ropes cattle; he checks cattle; he moves cattle. These are his jobs. He is a man of power in the saddle, but what about out of the saddle?

As Art slides down from Shadow's back, a change takes place. The look of power has left him, and a bent and crippled man walks forward leading his horse into the barn.

You see, Art has had polio ever since he was a young boy. At the age of 11 he threw away his crutches and vowed he would walk on his own, and that he does, but not gracefully. His right leg is permanently bent to the inside, so walking is hard for him, but he has found an alternative set of legs: his horse.

I remember the day when I was a young boy and first met Art. I was at a cookout

I never knew how much
you can tell about a
person just by a handshake.
My fingers were nearly
crushed by his strength.

with my parents. When Art came stumbling up to get dinner, I can remember feeling sorry for him. We were introduced, and I got to shake his hand. I never knew how much you can tell about a person just by a handshake. My fingers were nearly crushed by his strength. The callouses on his hands were as thick and rough as the skin on my football that sat in my bedroom back in the city. Never have I come to such a complete admiration for someone as I have for Art.

As I got to know him he taught me the old ways of cowboying. He taught me how to ride like the old California vaqueros, who were the first cowboys to ride west of the Sierra. He taught me how to rope and how to make a bow and arrow. Finally, he got me a job on the ranch. This coming summer will be the seventh summer we have worked together.

So it is that when morning comes and there is dust coming from the top of the sagebrush hill, we know that our friend Art Black is there. Even in future generations, his song will remain. The workers will still sing it, the cattle will still sing it, the horses will still sing it, and even the little pigs will still sing it; but more than that, the wind will still sing it, and so will the trees. □

Matthew Wetzell, who is studying animal science at Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo, has been going to the Circle H Ranch in Smith Valley and the Sierra since he was tall enough to get in the saddle.

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Folks on the Wild's Side

They are pioneers, at times alone and misunderstood in their causes. They have devoted much of their lives to preserving wild creatures—fish, bighorn sheep, and even tortoises. Here are a few of those conservationists, recognized not only by the environmental community but also by their fellow Nevadans who hunt, fish, or simply love the outdoors.

Wayne Kirch

The Wayne E. Kirch Wildlife Management Area, dedicated in 1962 in eastern Nye County, is a tribute to one Las Vegas's dedication to Nevada's wildlife. Wayne Kirch is confined to a wheelchair now, unable to hunt or fish, but his thoughts remain in the field.

Kirch, who served as a member and chairman of the state's Fish and Game (now Wildlife) Commission from 1951 to 1977 considers himself a lucky man. He says he got involved just when the field was growing and people with vision could make an impact. Nevada's current wildlife refuge system—which totals more than 300,000 acres—is a case in point. Most of the nine areas, such as Mason Valley Ranch, Key Pittman near Alamo, and Scripps at Washoe Lake, were acquired during his tenure.

He also knew how to cut through red tape. "There was a time on Lake Mead when no agreement existed between Arizona and Nevada, and wardens were issuing citations to anglers from the other state for fishing without a proper license," he says, recalling meetings between the two states' wildlife agencies. Finally he and Arizona Game and Fish officials banged out an agreement. "It took a case of scotch and almost a week of down-to-earth meetings in a Phoenix motel room to reach an accord on the Colorado River special-use stamps, which are still in effect today."

Bernice, his wife of 51 years, says most of their closest friends were made during Wayne's wildlife career. Hardly a week passes without a telephone inquiry about his health or a reminder of some past hunting or fishing excursion. His fondest memories include one-shot antelope hunts in Wyoming with astronaut Wally Schirra and General Joe Foss and a mountain lion hunting trip in Northern Nevada with the King of Nepal. A chef borrowed from the

Desert Inn prepared a seven-course meal in a tent among the aspens. When asked if the King bagged a mountain lion, Wayne grins and says, "Yes, but I'm not going to tell you how."

Kirch was born on June 29, 1909, in a small Kansas town where his father was sheriff. Wayne arrived broke in Las Vegas in 1936. He worked nights as a part-time bartender and bouncer at the old Tower Club in North Las Vegas and days in an auto-shop. He opened Wayne's Auto Body four years later and operated it until its sale several years ago. Kirch also served on the

'You could bag
16 deer a season by
going from county to
county and
taking advantage
of the differing
seasons,' Teglia says,
recalling Nevada's old
hunting-season rules.

board of directors and later as advisory director for First Interstate Bank.

During his time on the commission Kirch's primary concern was protecting wildlife sanctuaries. John Donaldson, DOW regional supervisor in Las Vegas, says, "There were some in the department who thought him too influential in agency affairs, but time has proven them wrong. Wildlife management in Nevada is where it is today because of Wayne and his foresight."—Charles Crunden

Roger Teglia

On a rainy day in 1915, Roger Teglia, a 12-year-old Lyon County farm boy met one of the most powerful men in the nation.

A cloudburst had washed out the tracks of the Carson and Colorado Railroad near Fort Churchill, blocking a passenger train. On that train was U.S. Senator Key Pittman of Tonopah.

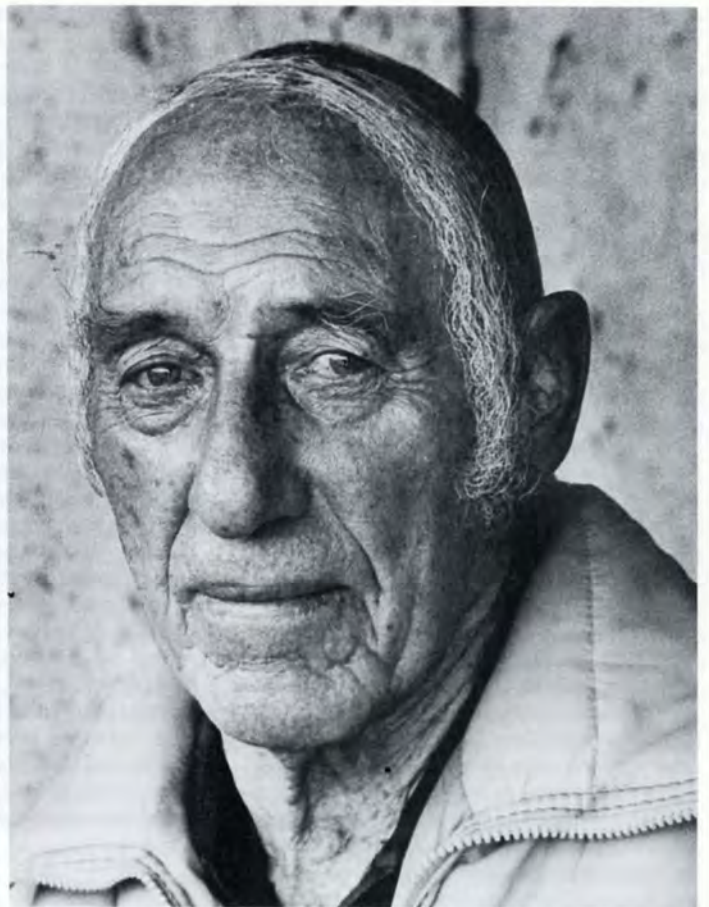
Assured that it would be only a day or two before the track would be fixed, Pittman and his companion, Nevada Governor Emmet Boyle, walked the quarter of a mile to the Teglia family's farmhouse to wait.

The two politicians enjoyed the country hospitality and Mrs. Teglia's home cooking, but after three days the tracks still were not repaired. So Teglia's father, Guilio, hitched his team of horses to an old spring wagon and hauled his two famous guests the 28 miles to the state capital in Carson City.

Twenty years later, when Pittman was still a powerful senator, Roger Teglia would talk to him about hunting. Teglia eventually persuaded the senator to push through Congress what became the bedrock of American sports hunting—the 1938 Pittman-Robertson Act. By creating a tax on hunting equipment, the act funded wildlife programs in every state.

Ironically, Nevada was the last state to participate. At Teglia's insistence, Pittman had included a requirement that to qualify for funds a state had to have a centralized fish and game commission. However, Nevada's rural counties steadfastly refused to surrender their jurisdiction over hunting. Consequently, a mishmash of conflicting rules and seasons prevailed, allowing hunters to take game year-round.

"You could bag 16 deer a season by going from county to county and taking advantage of the differing seasons," Teglia recalls



Watching out for wildlife (clockwise from top left): Wayne Kirch, Roger Teglia, Betty Burge, Buck Wheeler and Glade Koch.



of those early days.

The tireless Teglia, whose successful egg and poultry distributorship in Reno left him the time and money to pursue his sportsman's interests, personally funded two statewide referendum petitions that finally convinced the Nevada Legislature to set up a fish and game commission. It was Key Pittman's brother, Vail, then governor, who signed the bill into law in 1947.

In 1948 Teglia persuaded another powerful U.S. senator from Nevada, Pat McCarran, to set aside the state's first federal wildlife refuge at the Stillwater Marshes east of Fallon.

Teglia credits Bing Crosby with the idea. The wealthy crooner, who was also an avid Nevada hunter, asked Teglia to help him acquire the marshes as a private duck-hunting preserve. But Teglia decided that the area was too much of a national treasure to tie up for a wealthy few. He worked instead to establish the 224,000-acre Stillwater Wildlife Refuge.

"Bing was mad at me," he says. "But it would have hurt all the sportsmen in Nevada."

Teglia is the first to admit he didn't accomplish projects alone. He had the backing of hundreds of hunters and conservationists through the Nevada Protective Fish and Game Association, which he co-founded in the early 1940s. It grew to 1,800 members, a potent political force in a state that had only 110,000 residents. The group was the forerunner of the National Wildlife Federation's Nevada affiliate, formed in 1947 with Teglia as its first president.

Teglia says it was his upbringing in farm and river country that inspired his interest in wildlife. His mother began raising pheasants on their Dayton-area farm, and although Teglia and his father were avid hunters, no one was allowed to shoot his mother's pheasants.

When his father sold the spread in 1917 to buy a ranch in the middle of the Truckee Meadows, young Teglia turned his attention from fowl to fish. He planted rainbow trout in ponds he made from the springs that abounded on the new ranch. He kept enlarging the ponds until they became what they are today—Paradise Lake, a 50-acre Reno park popular with anglers of all ages.

Even though he owned the lake, Teglia created a furor when he suggested using it exclusively as a tourist attraction. For a while, it worked. Hundreds of Californians, including former song-and-dance man George Murphy, then a U.S. senator from California, came to Reno to fish for days at a time. Teglia later bowed to pressure to let the locals fish there, and eventually he sold the lake to the City of Reno for half what it was worth and threw in a 20-year interest-free mortgage to boot.

In the meantime he spread his conservation ethic across the state, planting thousands of pheasant and later chukar. Teglia became a Johnny Appleseed of game birds, getting up hours before dawn many morn-

ings to take chukar into the Nevada hinterlands and set them free. Fallon turkey farmer Minnie Blair raised birds for him, and rural residents called him "the chukar man." The bird adapted and now is one of the state's most sought-after hunting prizes, as Teglia predicted.

Today he continues to work for wildlife. When deteriorating water quality contributed to a massive kill of waterfowl and fish at Stillwater last winter, Teglia issued a call to save Western Nevada's vanishing wetlands, still a crucial resting place for birds on the Pacific Flyway.

"I can remember when the sky was black with ducks at Winnemucca Lake," he said, recalling the shallow, 60,000-acre lake east of Pyramid that evaporated in the late 1940s due to diversion of the Truckee River. It was so rich in migrating ducks that a hunter sometimes could bag a bird simply by shooting in the air at random, Teglia said.

Diminutive, silver-haired, and a little hard of hearing after years of trap-shooting without ear protection, Teglia is nonetheless dynamic at 85. He has known many powerful men, from senators to presidents, and he has never been bashful about asking them to aid his lifelong cause—wildlife conservation. —Doug McMillan

Betty Burge

They call her the "tortoise lady" some with admiration and respect, others in less affectionate tones. Betty Burge impresses people that way because when she argues on behalf of the desert tortoise, she does it with fierce determination and gives no quarter to public-land users she thinks may threaten her charges and their habitat.

Denny Selleck, past president of the Southern Nevada Off-Road Enthusiasts, remembers crossing swords with Betty at Bureau of Land Management hearings several years ago. "We were all trying to reach compromises on the use of public lands in Clark County, but every time a new area for competitive events was suggested, the tortoise got in the way. Don't get me wrong, I admire the lady even if I didn't agree with her. We ended up with concessions, and tortoises were protected."

'I have no real quarrel
with off-road vehicles
or other land uses,'
Burge says. 'It's just that there
is a proliferation of these
disturbances that erode away
the tortoise's habitat.'

Burge, however, says she doesn't feel those meetings accomplished what was necessary. "I have no real quarrel with off-road vehicles, pipelines, power plants, livestock, urbanization, or other land uses," she says. "It's just that there's a proliferation of these kind of disturbances that continues to erode away and segment the tortoise's habitat."

Burge's early background was not in wildlife but in music. She earned a degree in voice from the Eastman School of Music in Rochester, New York, but says her participation now is passive. "I'm a listener. Sometimes you get into these things because everybody says you should, and all of a sudden you wake up one day and realize you don't want to do that." She also enjoys gardening and refinishing antique furniture. She admits, however, that there is little time for other goals than her work. Even her gardening involves growing plants that are nutritious for the tortoises she keeps in her back yard.

She became interested in tortoises, which are native to Southern Nevada's portion of the Mojave Desert, while serving as curator of a native wild animal collection in California in the early 1970s. She found that very little was known about this vulnerable and slow-moving reptile and decided to devote her energies to its cause. She enrolled in the University of Nevada-Las Vegas in 1973 and, while pursuing a master's, studied tortoise behavior and movements. She's been in the field ever since, working under research contracts that have taken her to the Nevada Test Site and other desert areas with the BLM and a pipeline company.

In 1981 Burge and Norma Engberg, an English professor at UNLV, scheduled a class in tortoise natural history and care, but, she says, the Department of Wildlife put the kibosh on their plans. It was not legal to possess a desert tortoise at that time, and, as Betty phrases it, DOW said, "You can't hold a course that teaches people how to care for their ill-gotten booty."

She says it was all for the best, though, because many of the 80 people who registered for instruction formed the nucleus of the Tort Group, an organization devoted to the welfare of domesticated tortoises. Nevada's law was changed in 1983 to allow possession of tortoises in urban areas of Clark County but protecting them in the wild. Since then the Tort Group has set up an adoption service by which people can bring in unwanted tortoises, and the service adopts them out. Not just anyone, however, can walk off the street and adopt the creatures; full investigations are made as to the applicant's suitability as a tortoise owner. Burge says she believes in limiting the capture of tortoises in the wild, but with tens of thousands of the creatures already in the Las Vegas area, she feels the adoption service is important.

"Over the past few years, we've adopted out hundreds of animals. Las Vegas is a transient community, however, and for every one adopted, five have been turned

in. There are hundreds in captivity, and these have become dependent on people because there isn't enough habitat to support them anymore," she says. "We need good homes to place them."

Betty envisions a bright future for the desert tortoise. "I'm most optimistic and hope that we would have a preserve set aside, where the public can go and see the tortoise and where they will continue to exist without artificial support." —CC

Buck Wheeler

When Sessions S. "Buck" Wheeler became the first director of the Nevada Fish and Game Commission in 1944, he agreed to take the job only under certain conditions. First, since his main interest was teaching biology at Reno High School, he would work for the commission after school, on weekends, and during the summer. Second, he said the job title would be, simply, field representative. And third, the salary would be \$50 a month rather than the \$250 offered. After all, he would still be teaching.

Those negotiations say a lot about Buck Wheeler's priorities. Wheeler, who was born in Fernley in 1911, has spent his life studying, protecting, and enjoying the Nevada outdoors. For more than 60 years he has camped in the Nevada deserts, fished its lakes and rivers (he describes the Truckee as "one of the finest fishing streams

Susie deprived the reporters of a wonderful trout-interest story

around"), and studied the state's geography, biology, and history. Some of that studying was done at the University of Nevada-Reno, where he earned a master's in biology in 1935. The rest was done in the field, including a job for the U.S. Forest Service and the Government Land Office (now the BLM) in which he rode a mule a thousand miles in six months, surveying townships in places like Fish Lake Valley.

When Wheeler began his long association with the Fish and Game Commission, the state's 17 counties were responsible for wildlife management and game-law enforcement. The commission, composed of five sportsmen, managed the fish hatchery in Verdi and tried to coordinate the counties' efforts.

The 17-pronged approach wasn't working, however. Fish and wildlife populations were declining because of poaching and pressures from the state's growing population. Wheeler, as field representative, embarked on a major project: organizing a sportsmen's group in each of the 17 counties. From 1944 to 1947 Wheeler drove

around the state in his '41 Ford, spreading the gospel.

Wheeler refers to that period in his latest book, *Gentleman in the Outdoors: A Portrait of Max C. Fleischmann*: "Throughout the state, with sportsmen's organizations so eager to be of aid, the program was developing into a sort of wildlife improvement crusade." Groups donated time and materials to build holding tanks in which to keep fish before planting.

The spirit of volunteerism reached its peak when Wheeler recruited Dr. Lynn Gerow, a friend and prominent Reno physician, to perform what would have been the first caesarian section by a doctor on a cutthroat trout. The scene was the Verdi hatchery reservoir, where the nearly extinct cutthroat was getting a second chance. One of the big fish died, however, and an autopsy revealed that the previous year's eggs were still inside, blocking the passage of the new eggs.

When a cutthroat named Susie began to show signs of the same problem, Wheeler called on Dr. Gerow. News of the impending operation spread fast. Local and wire-service reporters were ready, pens and cameras in hand, to record the event. That day however, Susie demonstrated the sensitivity and intelligence of her species. She took care of things her own way and began releasing the eggs, thereby depriving the reporters of a wonderful trout-interest story but giving the hatchery 7,000 eggs.

The 1947 Legislature wrote an entirely

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Conservation-minded Nevadans (from left): Cliff Young, Fred Wright in 1954 and 1987 and Anga Rebane of Project Wild.

new fish and game code, and it was clear that a statewide director was needed. The obvious choice was Buck Wheeler. This time Wheeler accepted the appointment and took a one-year leave of absence from teaching. The one year became three before he finally returned to teaching in 1950.

To understand why Wheeler has spent a lifetime as a conservationist, some clues can be found in his books—*The Desert Lake*, *The Nevada Desert*, *The Black Rock Desert*, *Gentleman in the Outdoors*, and his historical novel *Paiute*. All of the books reflect his profound understanding and love of nature. In *Paiute*, Numaga, a young Indian leader, seems to express his (and Wheeler's) feelings when he states, "Paviootso [Paiute] never kill more than he can eat. Deer, other animals are our friends." A modern-day poacher would not want to run into Numaga. Or for that matter, Buck Wheeler.

In person, Wheeler exudes a calm confidence. A soft-spoken, thoughtful man, he is careful about everything he does—choosing words, researching books, traveling in the desert. Despite his reputation as an outdoorsman, he seldom hunts, and then

only for ducks or game birds, and he releases virtually all the fish he catches.

At 76, he still goes fly fishing at Pyramid, which means standing in cold water in the dead of winter with ice forming on the line, making long and repetitive casts in the hopes of fooling one of the descendants of the fish he helped save. This past winter he did fool one. "The biggest one I've ever hooked at Pyramid. I worked him slowly because I knew he was big enough to break my line. He finally turned around and headed straight out and took 200 yards of line before it broke." He tells the story with a fond smile, remembering a day doing one of the things he loves best, at one of the places he loves most. —Michael Greenan

Glade Koch

A protected greenbelt extending all the way from Las Vegas to Lake Mead is Glade Koch's dream. If she continues to apply the same energy that she has for the past 15 years, Las Vegas Wash will be a wetlands park some day.

Glade's first acquaintance with the wash was on a field trip with the Audubon Society in the early 1970s, a time when proposals to clean up Las Vegas' wastewater would have eliminated most, if not all, of the wash's marshland and wildlife habitat. The plan concerned Koch, who, along with Tom Harper, then with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, formed the Las Vegas Wash Development Committee with support of the county commissioners in 1973. Since then flooding has wiped out about half of the marsh area, but under Koch's leadership the committee has worked hard to get funding for its projects.

A former elementary school teacher, Koch says her wildlife interests began with a birdwatching invitation during the mid-1950s in Michigan. "Since that time I've been an ardent birder, and I pursued my avocation throughout the country wherever my late husband John's assignment with Department of Energy took us." And her pursuit will not end when her dream of a wetlands park becomes a reality. —CC

Cliff Young

Cliff Young has always been an avid hunter and angler. A justice on the Nevada Supreme Court, he also is a veteran of the equally challenging world of politics. Young, a Reno resident, ran for his first public office in 1951. "I think I filed for Washoe County Public Administrator because there wasn't any filing fee required," he jokes. In 1953-56 Young served as Nevada's lone Congressman, and although he says he enjoyed serving in Washington, he admits that he appreciated the summers when Congress was out of session and he could visit parks and wildlife areas.

Back in Nevada, Young remained an active conservationist. He served on the Washoe County Park Commission when parks at Bowers Mansion, Davis Creek, and Pyramid Lake were created. He also served



Members of the Fraternity of the Desert Bighorn work on another water project.

as president of the Nevada Wildlife Federation in the early '60s. In 1966 he was elected to the State Senate. "I felt I could do more for Nevada's resources in the Legislature," he explains. "Some of my favorite memories are from field trips with the U.S. Forest Service, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Fish and Game, the Soil Conservation Service, and the Bureau of Land Management. I also remember some pretty great deer-hunting trips."

An extraordinarily dedicated conservationist, Young was elected president of the National Wildlife Federation, the world's largest conservation organization with more than four million members. Young served that post from 1981 to 1983, using his quick wit and Nevada know-how to become one of the NWF's most popular presidents. —Paula J. Del Giudice

The Fraternity

The Fraternity of the Desert Bighorn, a 150-member group based in Las Vegas, has added President Reagan's Volunteer Action Award to its long list of citations for service to Nevada wildlife. Wilford Allen, president of the group, and his wife Penny accepted the award at the White House on June 30 of this year.

The fraternity was organized in the early 1960s by a group of Southern Nevadans that included Steve James, Dennis Walkington, Marvin Einerwold, Connie Fuller, Garry Dorn, and Jerry Hughes. The group first made its mark by developing bighorn hunting regulations that have become a model throughout the West. Believing that the younger animals contribute most to the herd, they fathered the rule that limits harvest in some areas of Nevada to rams no younger than seven years or those with horns that measure no less than 144 points.

"The majority of the people in the fraternity are hunter-conservationists who have experienced the thrill of a bighorn sheep hunt," says Ed Pribyl, a past president of the group. "They have great admiration of the bighorn sheep and see it as a symbol of the harsh desert environment."

The fraternity is known for its construction of water catches in Southern Nevada. Built with federal cooperation, the projects have opened up new areas for bighorns.

Most of the group's first collectors were concrete dams built in narrow canyons to catch rainwater. Today the tanks are engineering marvels. And the group is ever resourceful. If cement, water, reinforcing steel, pipe, and tanks can't be hauled in by truck or carried in on volunteers' backs, a helicopter is rented to do the job. —CC

Fred Wright

Eight years ago Fred Wright retired from the Department of Wildlife, but his ample portfolio keeps him flying as much as the ducks he studied in college and

oversaw for the state. Currently on the board of directors of the Nevada Wildlife Federation, Wright also serves as its legislative representative and is Nevada's delegate to the National Wildlife Federation.

Wright serves as a commissioner on the State Environmental Commission and is on the Regional Planning Commission and the Washoe-Storey Conservation District.

Wright graduated from Humboldt State in Arcata, California, in 1949 and that year began his career with Fish and Game in Fallon, where he was statewide waterfowl biologist. He moved to headquarters in Reno in 1954 to take a series of jobs culmi-

nating with chief of administration.

While some people plan a less hectic life after retirement, Wright is working harder now than ever. His wife Virginia, who knows her own way through legislative halls, puts it this way: "In our house the motto is All for Conservation." —PDG

Anga Rebane

As a homemaker, sportswoman, and volunteer, Anga Rebane has a full outdoor schedule. One of Rebane's most visible activities is Project Wild, an environ-



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mental-education program used in schools. Sponsored by DOW, the program introduces games in which children play the roles of lakes, animals, and plants to learn how they interact. "The advantage of Project Wild is the ease with which it can be incorporated into an existing curriculum," she explains. "The program is adaptable to almost any subject of study, including physical education, and also helps students understand their environment."

A former high school biology teacher in Michigan, Rebane moved to Las Vegas nine years ago with her physician-husband Toomas. She serves on the board of the Las Vegas Museum of Natural History, is pursuing a Ph.D. in environmental biology at UNLV where she teaches part-time, and works with the Friends of Red Rock. In addition to her other activities, she recently completed training in Project Learning Tree, another educational program. She'll be instructing teachers how to use that program, too. The main difference: It uses trees to impart its message. —CC

Dick Biggs

Carson City sportsman Dick Biggs is one of the longest-serving hunter-safety education coordinators in the state. Biggs began teaching youngsters about safe gun handling and hunting with the National Rifle Association in 1954, long before the state began a program. "I figure I've taught over 1,200 youngsters," Biggs says.

Biggs joined the Ormsby Sportman's Association in 1950 and has helped install guzzlers for area wildlife and recently build nesting boxes for Washoe Lake geese. He co-founded the Carson Rifle and Pistol Club in the 1950s. This year Biggs was named Conservation Educator of the Year by the Nevada Wildlife Federation.

An avid hunter, angler, and trapper, Biggs is retired from the state Department of Transportation, where he served as a materials and testing engineer. "In 1978 I had my 20 years in, and I figured, the hell with it. I'm going to spend more time outdoors. I may not bring much home, but I still give 'em a rattle!" —PDG

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Tom McMillan

Reno builder Tom McMillan is one of the state's busiest wildlife conservationists. "We Westerners are from the land, and conservation is important," he says. Well-known in national and international circles, McMillan is chairman of the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF).

Yet he receives fewer accolades than other active conservationists. McMillan prefers to keep a low profile, and when he talks of accomplishments, he talks about organizational successes. For example, he points out how the NFWF has helped raise



\$2.25 million to enhance national wildlife refuges, parks, and forests; restore endangered species; protect wetlands; and improve wildlife habitat. The foundation has arranged grants for a DOW study of Sierra black bears. Two pending grants are for water projects for Nevada bighorn sheep.

McMillan has worked in fund-raising with the Mzuri Safari Foundation, Safari Club International, and the Foundation for North American Wild Sheep. He also helped found the Save the Rhino Trust begun in 1970. During that period McMillan spent much of his time in Africa.

Although McMillan finds little time to go hunting—his favorite sport—he says his conservation work is more important. He adds, “Every once in a while you have got to put back more than you take.” —PDG

Tom Trelease

Tom Trelease’s efforts to improve fishing in the state are legendary. He began his career with Fish and Game in 1946 as a hatchery man at Verdi, where he makes his home today, and later went on to serve as chief of fisheries until he retired in 1976.

He recalls that one of his most satisfying



Bill Vincent and his trusty '61 Peugeot.



State sportsmen (from left): Tom McMillan, Dick Biggs, and Tom Trelease, cutthroat trout protector in his Fish and Game days.

victories was in restoring the cutthroat trout to Pyramid Lake. “When we began working on it,” he recalls, “there was no fishery whatsoever. Everyone assumed that the alkaline character of the lake wouldn’t support a population of trout.

“Ira LaRivers, a professor at UNR, and I lowered cages of trout into the lake. They survived just fine, so we decided to try stocking the lake.”

Although the cutthroat at Walker Lake were feared to be extinct, in 1947 Trelease and a crew caught 33 cutthroat there. The fish were used to stock Pyramid Lake and Marlette Lake for brood stock. Native cutthroats from Summit Lake were also used to restock Pyramid.

Another important project was the introduction of threadfin shad to the Colorado River system from Lake Mead on down. “After the shad became established, they provided a major food source for the fish, improving the quality of the fishing tremendously,” he says.

Although Trelease admits that he doesn’t go fishing as much as he used to, he does put in many hours plucking tunes with the Reno Banjo Club. —PDG

Bill Vincent

A coyote-poisoning program in Southern Colorado first piqued Bill Vincent’s curiosity about the environment. He was covering a cattle roundup for the *Farmer’s Union* newspaper, and at day’s end he pointed out the hundreds of gopher mounds in the meadow where they were camped. “We’ve noticed that, too,” the cowboys replied. “The gophers multiplied after the predators were poisoned. We’ve all chipped in and ordered two pair of coyotes from Texas for restocking.”

That incident guided Vincent on his long



and dedicated service to environmental quality. He went on to work for United Press International and as news director for a radio station in Fresno. He tried his hand at farming and logging in Washington. Ten years later he was broke, but the land was his. Then he moved to Las Vegas and took a job with the *Las Vegas Review-Journal*. The late Bob Brown was editor at the paper in 1962, and as Vincent explains, “He was the only newspaper editor in the country at that time who would hire an ex-farmer.”

Vincent remained with the *Review-Journal* until his retirement in 1980, spending 14 years as editor of the paper’s Sunday *Nevadan* magazine, where he gave great attention to hunting, fishing, recreation, and environmental issues. He has worked on wilderness causes such as opposition to the MX missile and nuclear dumps. Vincent’s persistence was recognized when he was named Conservation Communicator of the Year by the Nevada Wildlife Federation in 1971. He was recognized again in 1980 with the Governor’s Conservationist of the Year Award. He continues to be southern representative for Citizens Alert, a director of the Nevada Wildlife Federation, and a member of Friends of the Wilderness.

Ray Chesson, former *R-J* writer and longtime friend, says, “Bill has faith. He still drives a 1961 Peugeot. It’s tired after more than 200,000 miles but still chugging along. The tires on that car were always threadbare, but they got him where he wanted to go.

“I remember one camping trip in Monticello Valley when I suggested we wrap the tires with burlap. They were that far gone, but we did make it without any trouble. Bill is like that. He puts that much faith in people, too.” —CC ▽

Contributors: Charles Crunden of Las Vegas is former DOW public information officer Doug McMillan writes for the Reno Gazette-Journal. Michael Greenan of Reno is a freelance writer, and Paula J. Del Giudice of Reno writes for national outdoor publications.

Happy Landings at Cal-Nev-Ari

This Southern Nevada town has grown up since it was founded on a wing, a prayer, and 20 acres of barley

By Allison Newlon

On a sunny afternoon 22 years ago, Everette "Slim" Kidwell was flying back from Colorado to his aviation school in Southern California. The skies were clear and calm, the plane was on automatic pilot, and the flight was uneventful.

Until Slim dozed off in the cockpit.

When he woke up, Slim looked down and saw a triangular landing field in the middle of nowhere. He picked up the highway and followed it to the nearest town, Needles, California. Slim landed in Needles, rented a car, and drove back to the landing strip.

"It turned out it was in Nevada," remembers Nancy Kidwell, Slim's widow. "We heard later that General Patton had it put in during World War II and then practiced flying there."

Slim's aerial encounter sparked the creation of an unusual little town in the Southern Nevada desert, Cal-Nev-Ari. Named because of its location near the juncture of three states, Cal-Nev-Ari has grown from a wing, a prayer, and 20 acres of barley to a hardy community of more than 300 residents. The barley crop is gone, but the airport, originally christened Three Corners Airport and renamed Kidwell Airport seven years ago on Slim's 75th birthday remains an important focal point.

A few months after Slim's discovery in 1965, he and his new bride Nancy filed under the Pittman Land Act for the BLM property, which was located 65 miles south of Las Vegas. Under the act they could be deeded the land if they "proved it up" by planting crops on a portion of it. The 20 acres of barley they sowed bought them 640 acres, including Patton's airstrip.

For most newlyweds, starting married life doesn't mean founding a town in the process. But then, Slim and Nancy were not an average couple. When they got married, he was 62 years old. She was 28.

"I went into marriage with my eyes wide open," says Nancy. "I knew if I had 10 good years with him it would be worth it."

But she didn't want to jump into Slim's life-in-progress. So with the lease running out on his flight school, they decided to leave California and put his house and business up for sale. With the proceeds they bought a trailer, hired a well driller, and moved to the Nevada desert.

One of their first tasks was to erect a sign



Nancy Kidwell (top left) was one of the settlers of Cal-Nev-Ari with her late husband Slim (top right). Above, the town's water tank also is a beacon to homebound flyers.

that read, "Cal-Nev-Ari, population four. Watch us grow." The first four residents were Slim, Nancy, their dog, and their cat.

Cal-Nev-Ari has come a long way since then. Slim and Nancy at first used a 10-kilowatt generator for electricity and they had to haul water 24 miles from the Colorado River in 55-gallon drums for three months until their well came in. Today the town is serviced by Nevada Power Company, and water is metered by Nancy's water company Spirit Mountain Utility. Should the water company's pump break down, there is a 200,000-gallon reservoir built on higher ground for gravity feed if needed.

A sizable portion of local business derives from the Cal-Nev-Ari casino, another Kidwell enterprise. It has 24 slot machines, a 21 table, and a restaurant that specializes in home-style cooking.

"People who eat here once will come back again and again," Nancy says with pride. "We have built up quite a regular clientele from Las Vegas, Henderson, and Boulder City. They fly in for Sunday breakfast or dinner."

Nancy runs the casino without Slim now. She buried him in 1983 in Cal-Nev-Ari, although she had to form a corporation to cover the red tape. Nancy's company, Gone West Inc., enabled her to put up a neat picket fence and a rock garden around Slim's grave in the town's tiny cemetery.

Although so many things in town remind Nancy of Slim, she doesn't have time to turn Cal-Nev-Ari into a shrine for her late husband. Besides being proprietor of the casino and water company she's owner of the general store, the gas station, and the FAA-licensed airport and half-owner of the 10-room motel. She also is the postmistress and a certified Emergency Medical Technician for the volunteer fire department.

She often pulls bartending shifts at the casino, which stays open 24 hours a day. It's not that business booms in the wee hours. Nancy says she's just following Nevada tradition by keeping the casino open all night, whether business warrants it or not.

Originally she kept the casino open 24 hours because of the risk of fire. In fact, the casino was uninsurable until the townspeople got together and formed the volunteer fire department. At first, a plan to donate land for a county-run station was deemed unfeasible, so residents raised the money to build their own firehouse. Nancy gave herself a quick lesson in grantsmanship and was rewarded with enough money for a fire truck. So far, she and nine others have been certified as EMTs, and they have been able to care for residents' current needs.

But Nancy expects the town will continue to grow. Her master plan predicts an eventual population of 2,000. So far she has sold roughly one tenth of the land she owns in one-acre, half-acre, or quarter-acre parcels. She doesn't list her property with an agent, and she's in no hurry to sell it. "Most of the people who move here are friends or

'Airplane owners can
park their planes
on their property,
then taxi to the runway
when they want to fly'

relatives of people who already live here," she says. "Or they stop in as they pass through, then come back to stay. I don't want to sell to just anybody for the best price I can get. I want to meet the people first."

Without exception, Cal-Nev-Ari residents live in mobile homes. "It's hard to find a contractor who's willing to come all the way out here to build a house," says resident Shelby Aufiere. "And if you do find one, it's much more expensive when his crew and supplies have to travel out here."

The block walls, grass lawns, and ornamental trees so typical elsewhere in Southern Nevada are absent here. Townspeople use split-rail fencing or simply neat rows of rocks to mark their property lines.

Rock landscaping is common. So are vegetable and fruit gardens. The eye isn't bothered by a lack of green—there is a rugged beauty in the simplicity of the Cal-Nev-Ari landscape.

"Most of us came out here to get away from being slaves to our yards," Aufiere says. "I sold a corner lot in Southern California to move out here, so believe me, I know what yardwork can be."

The average age of Cal-Nev-Ari's residents is 50. There are three children who attend elementary school 10 miles away in Searchlight. High schoolers go to Boulder City, 50 miles north, and last spring a local collegian made a daily commute to UNLV.

Although Cal-Nev-Ari is home to many

retirees, the majority of its residents work. Some are employed at Laughlin casinos—the Colorado River town is 30 miles south-east—and others work at the Mohave generating plant.

Many residents own their own planes. "Cal-Nev-Ari appeals to airplane owners," Nancy says. "They can park their planes on their own property then just taxi over to the runway when they want to fly. It's a very cheap way to keep a plane."

The two big town events are an annual chili cookoff held on Thanksgiving Weekend and the Fourth of July parade. "We have 10 floats each year," Aufiere says. "Half the people march in the parade and the other half line up and watch them. We try to trade off every other year."

Once a week the restaurant's cook fixes a special dinner, and townspeople gather to socialize and enjoy the meal in a private banquet room behind the main casino.

On Wednesday morning, exercise class is held in the firehouse, and Thursday brings the frozen-food salesman. Life is slow and easy for some Cal-Nev-Arians.

Nancy Kidwell, however, is not one of them. She works 16 hour days and is on call 24 hours a day. She is as dedicated to and protective of her town as any mother to her child.

In Cal-Nev-Ari's early years, the town was Nancy and Slim's creation, for them to share. Since Slim's death, Nancy says, she increasingly has relied on her friends and neighbors to keep the town running. In a small, tight-knit community like this one, people don't wait until they're asked to pitch in and help. Nancy's town is growing up, and other residents are taking roles in its development.

Periodically however, Nancy gets a warm reminder of her town's roots. "You know" she muses, "every time it rains, that barley Slim and I planted 22 years ago sprouts up all over the desert."

Allison Newlon of Las Vegas is a communication specialist at Nevada Power Company and freelance writer



Nancy (second from left) and friends at her casino, where pilots like the atmosphere.

Bullfrogs and Bears

History and *Bonanza* repeat themselves.

By Maria Federici

Things Are Hoppin'

It's the kind of move that will have historians in the 21st century scratching their heads. On the 151st and final day of the longest session in the history of the Legislature, Nevada lawmakers created Bullfrog

County. The state's 18th county is carved out of 12 square miles of Southern Nevada desert, governed by a county seat 270 miles to the northwest, and unparalleled in the size of its constituency—zero.

The county was created to take advan-

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tage of potential grants from the federal government if Yucca Mountain, 110 miles northwest of Las Vegas, is chosen by the Department of Energy as the nation's first high-level nuclear dump site. Bullfrog will have a higher tax rate—\$5 per \$100 of assessed valuation—than any other county in the state.

It's also a replay of a turn-of-the-century political battle. In 1909, Bullfrog Mining District residents petitioned for their own county, but Nye County commissioners, based in Tonopah, fought off an attempt to divide their turf. Nye officials are not any happier today. They fear they will not receive their fair share of federal revenues. Governor Richard Bryan said the state does not intend to discriminate against Nye County, as it is certainly entitled to a reasonable and fair sum.

Nye County officials have talked about taking the state to court over the creation of Bullfrog County if District Attorney Phil Dunleavy figures out which court to file the papers in. The Legislature made Carson City the county seat but neglected to define a judicial district.

"What court do you file this in?" Dunleavy said. "In the district court for Bullfrog County? If so, where is it?" Probably somewhere between Denio and Laughlin.

TV Heroes Return

This season, *Crime Story*, NBC's police drama set in Las Vegas, will have company from Hollywood in Southern Nevada. NBC's *Rags to Riches* filmed its season opener in Las Vegas, and Showtime's *Brothers* was there last summer for an on-location shoot. NBC's *Matlock* also had cameras in Las Vegas during the summer.

Stars also will be out in Northern Nevada. In September *High Mountain Rangers* will begin filming in the Lake Tahoe area. The new CBS series stars Robert Conrad and his sons, Christian and Shane, as members of a mountain search-and-rescue team. The series pilot, which aired last March and will be repeated in January as the series opener, includes scenes filmed at South Shore.

The popular television series *Bonanza* may be back as a pilot movie with filming possibly at Ponderosa Ranch at Lake Tahoe. If all goes according to plan, filming should begin in September with Lorne Greene returning as Ben Cartwright, grandpa to the sons of Hoss and Little Joe.

Bear Essentials

He wasn't really bothering anybody. Just cruising the lake. Climbing trees. Rummaging in trash cans. Typical kid stuff.

Problem was, he wasn't a typical kid. He was a 200-pound, two-year-old black bear hanging out at Lake Tahoe.

State biologist Walt Mandeville caught the animal twice last summer. In June, he caught the bear near Zephyr Cove, tagged him, and released him near Verdi. A month later the bear was spotted at Incline Village.

"I'm almost on a first-name basis with

this little fellow," Mandeville said at the time. "He's kind of an unusual bear, kind of laid back. One time he growled at me, but that was it."

Mandeville trapped him and returned him to the wilds—to an undisclosed location well away from civilization with plenty of forage for a young black bear.

Mandeville said attacks on humans by a black bear are rare, and he has heard of no incidents in Nevada. "If they're cornered I think there could be some danger. These animals are very strong and can do quite a bit of damage. But a black bear would just as soon retreat from human encounters."

Mandeville speculated that the bear had only recently been on his own and was having trouble finding his way in life. "It's fairly typical for young bears to wander in the late spring and early summer. The mother will abandon them, and it's a signal for them to begin their own life. They wander, trying to establish their own territory, because they have no place to call home."

A Rock For All the Ages

Like David meeting Goliath, Carol Daniel's fifth-grade class took on the Nevada Legislature last session. Armed with a chunk of sandstone, the students from Gene Ward Elementary School in Las Vegas flew to the state capital and told lawmakers, "Nevada needs a rock."

Their trip was the culmination of lobbying efforts that began when they discovered Nevada did not have an official state rock. Told that a campaign to designate a state rock would be an opportunity to be a part of Nevada history and learn about the legislative process firsthand, the students selected potential candidates and polled other Nevada elementary school classes. The rock of choice was sandstone.

Sandstone is found throughout Nevada—from Carson City, where the capitol is built of quarried sandstone, to the Valley of Fire, where sandstone arches rise from the desert. And, as student Danny Henderson told Nevada lawmakers, "Sand is produced from sandstone and is a product of today's mining and quarry operations. Therefore, it is financially important to Nevada."

Danny and his classmates were persuasive. Senate Bill No. 441, which designates sandstone as the official rock of the state of Nevada, became effective June 1.

Bristlecones Yes, Curlies No

The 1987 session also produced a second state tree, the bristlecone pine, which was named the official companion to the single-leaf pinyon. But American Bashkir curly horse supporters were not as persuasive as the kids from Las Vegas. They were not able to convince lawmakers to name the curly the state horse. □

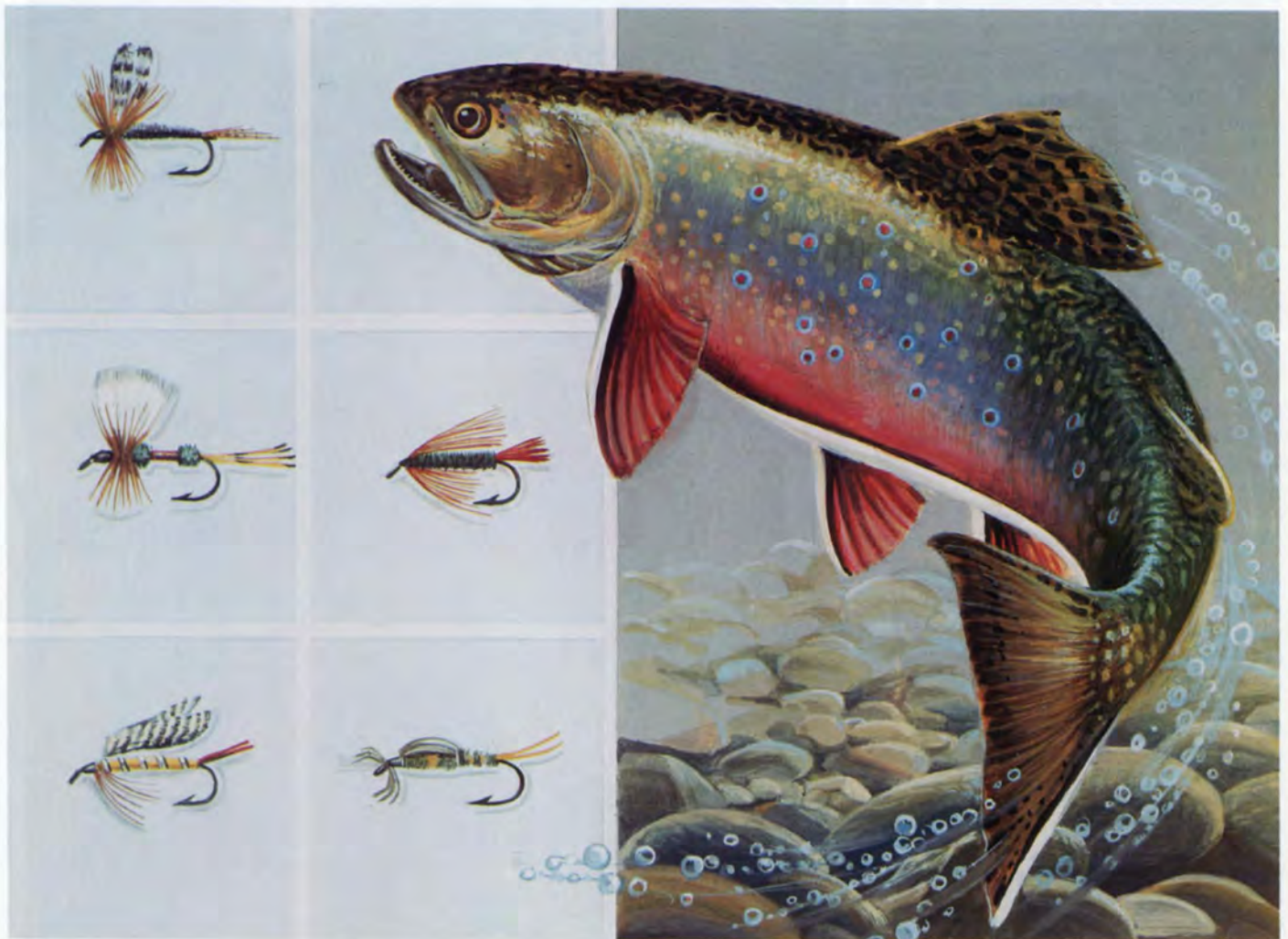
Maria Federici of Reno is a freelance writer and editor. Also contributing to Nevada Notes were Fred Hinners and Courtney Brenn.



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Brook Trout on the Fly

Fred Boyce

'I was wondering about a model for this painting. Then I remembered that I had a brook trout in my freezer. After twisting the fish into position every day, it got pretty smelly in the house.'



had been rewarded: He had taken first place in Nevada's 1987 trout-stamp competition.

His winning piece was a brook trout that appeared to be chasing an insect which materialized into five artificial flies. The judges said they liked Boyce's image for several reasons—the unusual design of the fish, his knowledge of the species, and the

detail of the flies and fish.

Boyce, 65, first entered the commercial art field at the age of 16, when he worked for a cartoonist. Since going freelance in 1952, he has done covers for magazines such as *Fur Fish and Game*, *Western Horseman*, and *Wyoming Wildlife*. Boyce, who describes his style as "realism with a flair toward impressionism," says he rejects the idea that painting has to have so much detail it looks like a photograph.

His present projects include writing and illustrating *Nevada Images*, a book in which he hopes to show the beauty and importance of Nevada wildlife through his paintings. He's also been commissioned by the Nevada Wildlife Record Book Committee to paint the original nine record-book animals of 1955.

'I worked from a taxidermal mount on this painting and got the background from a friend's photo. I love detail, and I can capture it from a photo. It's very hard to paint birds in flight, so I have to depend on a good taxidermist for authentic mounting'



Ruby Marsh Buffleheads



In the last three years, Bill Moore has finished second in six stamp contests. "That is six times a runnerup. I can't let this go on too much longer," jokes the Reno artist, who entered 14 wildlife and archery stamp contests

around the country. His second-place efforts came in far-flung states like Indiana, Idaho, and Alaska. Last year his acrylic of Ruby Marsh Buffleheads gave him the highest place of any Nevada artist in the Nevada duck-stamp contest's nine-year history—by coming in second, of course.

A longtime Nevada resident, Moore has been involved in professional art since his

graduation in 1955 from the Los Angeles Art Center College of Design. In 1978, after working in the technical and commercial art field, he decided to paint full-time.

Moore's interests lie in Nevada desert, wildlife, and waterfowl paintings. His passion for paleontology and ancient history has led to an extensive collection of fossils and his own paintings depicting ancient Nevada (see *Nevada Magazine*, No. 1, 1978). Now leaning more toward wildlife, Moore says he is "hooked on the contests" and looks forward to garnering some first places next year.

William A. Moore



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Readers' Rave Reviews

Three readers write about some unusual Nevada eateries, and three ace reviewers give us the scoop.

Golden Touch at Midas

By Steve Papinchak

In Midas 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, and many other special dishes. Hope some day you can verify this culinary artistry for yourself.

*Ted Hanson
Midas*

Down 30 miles of dirt road from the nearest paved highway past rolling sagebrush country, sprawling ranches, and weekend hunting homes with antlers hanging from them like Christmas ornaments, is the Midas Bar and Pack Station.

Inside, owner Les Matson may be packing a 20-pound prime rib with salt or blending herbs for his New Orleans sauce.

The incongruity of a quality dining spot in Midas, where the 12 year-round residents live with noisy generators because they don't have electrical service, is not happenstance, however. Matson planned it that way.

In 1984, Les and his wife, Bev were on a trip to Jackpot, where they were thinking about leasing a casino, when they took a sidetrip to Midas and saw the restaurant for sale. "We are both outdoorsy people," he says. "We kind of opted for the quality of life other than the swift pace of the dollar bill and competition.

"I want people who come out here to eat to have a special experience that they'll tell their friends about," says Matson, a former Alaska fisherman. And his plan is working. On weekends the Matsons serve about 40 dinners a night, mostly to folks who drive in from Winnemucca, 60 miles to the southwest. Growing numbers of adventurous diners are traveling from Battle Mountain, Elko, and even farther.

Matson figures that the people who take the trouble to find his place won't be pinching pennies since sitting down to a good spread is part of the experience they came for. The geologists at the pool table and the buckaroos who are loosening up at the bar



Les and Bev Matson staked their culinary claim in Midas, northeast of Winnemucca.

after a week on the range only add to the uniqueness of the scene—as do the hats and dollar bills on the bar ceiling, a deer hoof for a door knob, and a 25-pound Alaska king crab on the wall.

Given a week's notice, Matson can fix you up a live lobster. Otherwise, you can settle for a one-pound frozen lobster tail. The cost is \$25 to \$30, depending on current seafood prices. It's \$14 for scampi with New Orleans sauce, and \$10 or \$13 for prime rib, depending on the size. You can peek into the kitchen, choose between a T-bone or New York cut, and tell Matson how thick you want it. (The meat is top quality and delivered from Reno, 225 miles away, Matson says.) The cost is from \$13 to \$20, the latter cut being about two inches thick. Your steak comes with salad, sorbet, baked potato, and split pea or leek soup.

Don't forget the dessert; it's not on the menu, but it's part of the experience. For the asking, Matson will prepare bananas Foster with cooked bananas, ice cream, and liqueur sauce, or coup Gertrude Lawrence, a flaming ice cream dish made with chocolate liqueur.

Breakfast is served seven days a week

beginning at 4 a.m., which is wake-up time for geologists who like to finish their work before the sun heats up the nearby mountains. For lunch, you can order a one-pound hamburger or sandwiches of prime rib, steak, or ham and cheese.

To get to Midas you have to, well, want to get to Midas. It's not enroute to anywhere on most maps. Drive to Golconda—which is 16 miles east of Winnemucca on I-80—and then head north. There are 16 miles of paved road, then 28 miles of gravel until you hit Midas. (The road on to Tuscarora is pretty rough.) Once you get there, Les can direct you to fishing and hunting spots or to the many remnants of old mines to be found with a four-wheel-drive vehicle. Take plenty of gasoline to Midas unless you want to use Matson's hand-operated gas pump, circa 1908. The cost: \$2 a gallon.

The nearest motels are in Winnemucca, but Les and Bev have some bunks available for \$10 a night. In Midas, though, you have to bring your own sleeping bag—and a big appetite.

Steve Papinchak writes and travels the state for the Reno Gazette-Journal.

The Rainbow's Local Color

By Rob Powers

In your Dining section you have omitted the fabulous Rainbow Club in Henderson. Shame on you! The Rainbow Club is without a doubt one of the finest eateries in Southern Nevada. Having lived in Las Vegas for a year, I have tried several places, and the Rainbow stands out as one of the finest. They offer great food at a reasonable price.

*Charles R. Roddy
Highland, CA.*

The Rainbow Club is off the beaten path for most Las Vegans, but that hasn't stopped many of them from beating a path to its doors.

A Henderson fixture since 1971, the Rainbow Club, located next to the Eldorado Casino on Water Street, features not much parking and a plain one-story front. Inside are several rows of slot machines, a half-dozen blackjack tables, a long bar, and a restaurant that has found a winning recipe in large portions and small prices.

The Rainbow's dining fortunes changed when the club was acquired by Peppermill, Inc. in 1983. Oscar Portillo, who spent five years managing the Peppermill's restaurant on the Las Vegas Strip, was named manager of the Rainbow. The interior was completely renovated, and Portillo over-

A lot of chatty families eat here, and many patrons are on a first-name basis with the hostess.

saw the transformation of the old six-stool counter into a real dining room worthy of the Peppermill's well-seasoned reputation.

Although the club's menu has an eye-popping selection reminiscent of its better-dressed cousins on the Strip and in Reno, the prices at the Rainbow are geared more toward locals. The most expensive items are the New York steak and prime rib dinners at a relatively rare \$4.95 to \$5.95, depending on which day you drop in. There's also a \$3.49 steak special from midnight to 6 a.m. and a 99-cent breakfast bonanza from 6-11 a.m. "We served 500 of those the other day," Portillo says.

Marked by a neon "Restaurant" sign, the 110-seat dining room is more functional than frilly. Brown-tufted vinyl booths line the room. Partitioned tables and chairs occupy the center, and above are artificial

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Rainbow line crew (from left) Gerry Stevens, Tony Seger Les Vaughn, and Stewart Downs.

blooming cherry trees and unpretentious wooden chandeliers.

If the lighting is somewhat subdued, the clientele is not. A lot of informally dressed, chatty families eat at the Rainbow, and many patrons are on a first-name basis with the hostess and food servers. Some people barely glance at the menus before placing their orders.

Meat-and-potatoes is the bread and butter here, as evidenced by the menu: chicken pot pie, grilled liver and onions, ham steak with grilled pineapple rings and mashed potatoes, and ground-round steak. There is also a host of sandwiches, from le croissant to le French dip; all of the above are \$3.50 and under.

And let's not forget a healthy selection of omelets, at around three bucks a pop.

This evening I got seafood, just for the halibut; it turned out to be a golden, grilled halibut steak complemented by rice and prefaced by a bowl of cheese-broccoli soup. My companion ordered the enchiladas fiesta, two cheese enchiladas smothered in beans and sour cream and topped with chips. The dish rivaled anything she had eaten in the area's Mexican restaurants.

At one time it could have been said that the 24-hour Rainbow Club restaurant was one of the best-kept secrets in the valley. That's no longer quite true: Word is getting out about this place. Portillo says the restaurant serves about 11,000 meals a week, with about half the customers coming from the Henderson area. He says about 20 percent of his clientele is from Las Vegas, up from 5 percent a few years ago.

"We're getting a lot of Las Vegans out here now," Portillo says. "They're finding it's worth the drive." Limited parking, however, is a reality. We had to park in a towaway zone at the post office across the street; luckily it was after hours.

The Rainbow Club has found gastronomic success without a heavy advertising campaign. "We get more word-of-mouth than anything," Portillo says.

Word-of-mouth seems the most appropriate way to spread the news about a restaurant such as this.

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

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A Nose Is A Nose

By Julie Quinn

Deux Gros Nez on California Avenue hasn't been around very long, but after the theater or a good movie, it's the only place to go for coffee, quiche, and sweets. Try it!

Maryanna Replogle
Reno, NV

Dining at Deux Gros Nez ("Two Big Noses") for the first time can be an odd, if not bizarre, experience. Maybe that's why the menu contains several points on how to experience Deux Gros Nez. They include: "Please don't treat the flowers as if they're yours to do with as you please"; "We are now a completely non-smoking roller rink"; and "Feel free to salute whenever you hear the Duke's—John Wayne's—name."

Deux Gros Nez is not a roller rink or John Wayne museum. It's an unusual Reno cafe that co-owner Tim Healion says "is the only place you can get an espresso at three in the morning or a piece of pie from scratch."

Located above the Hermitage Gallery and the Cheese Board and Wine Seller on California Avenue, Deux Gros Nez is in the middle of Reno's Lawyer's Lane and about

The selection of dishes
and drinks is
as unusual
as the atmosphere.

The proprietors don't have
sandwiches. They serve
bread assemblies.

four blocks from downtown.

With eight tables and eight stools, the cafe can be a tight fit at busy hours. Drinks here are served in mason jars. Coke bottles serve as vases. Framed Coors Classic bike jerseys adorn the walls, and a bicycle hangs over the back entrance. A mobile decorated with papier-mache noses hangs from the ceiling. In fact, the more you look at this place, the more noses you see. Cut out from masks, they are large and small, long and pug. While you eat, music ranging from jazz to gospel or classical to country emanates from speakers high on the wall—and, like the menu says, the music is supposed to be heard.

The selection of dishes and drinks is as



Deux Gros Nez's tight fit encourages conversation about coffee, noses, and other topics.

unusual as the atmosphere. The proprietors don't have sandwiches. They serve bread assemblies, ranging from the Acme, which is rye or white bread with tomato and cheddar, to the Smear David, a croissant with coutrier and tomato. Scones are popular breakfast selections that the menu describes as a "not too sweet buttery biscuit thing with currants." Focaccia is a chewy bread with toppings—the result is similar to a really thick pizza. Quiche of the day may be made with broccoli, cheese, mushrooms, leeks, or other ingredients. The price of most dishes is \$4 and under (two of the focaccias are \$5 and \$6).

Of course, Deux Gros Nez has become famous for its coffees, including rich espresso, French roast, and some milder flavors. Desserts range from frappe, a sort of milkshake, to homemade pies and cakes. The moist apple cake has whole walnuts and fresh apples and is covered with cream.

Deux Gros Nez is owned by three partners—Healion, who prefers to be called Chief; John Jesse, who prefers Johnnie J.; and Annette Cole, who goes by Mom. The three formerly owned another popular Reno eatery Cochon Volant Cafe, and they plan to open another Reno restaurant called Mange Avec Bob ("Eat With Bob") on the corner of First and Ralston streets. True to form, all of the food servers there will have "Bob" on their nametags.

Deux Gros Nez, which is open 24 hours, was created after the trio saw a need for a place where people could get espresso and homemade food after 10 p.m. Despite its appearance and similarity to some Bay Area coffee houses, Healion says emphatically "We are not patterned after European or Berkeley cafes. We are American."

When you visit Deux Gros Nez, don't worry if someone sits down at your table. It's probably Tim or John or Annette taking your order. In fact, if they get too comfortable, other diners also may come over to your table—to give their orders. But then, what can you expect from a place where the

menu says, "Please don't feel uncomfortable or stupid if you don't know what to do."

Julie Quinn is Nevada's production editor

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 Hilton/Lindy's Deli—733-3111. Grilled Rueben, New York steak, marble cheesecake. B, L, D. \$, major.

Flamingo Hilton/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 steak, 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, Maine lobster. D. \$\$, major, res.

FRENCH/CONTINENTAL

Alexis Park/Pegasus—375 E. Harmon Ave., 796-3300. Roast duckling, escargot. D. \$\$\$\$, AE, MC, V, res.

Bally's/Gigi—739-4651. French, foie de veau saute Gigi, cote de veau nouveau Prince Orloff. D. \$\$\$\$, major, res.

Barbary Coast/Michael's—737-7111. Spring lamb chops with mint jelly, imported Dover sole, chateaubriand for two. D. \$\$\$, major.

Botany's—1700 E. Flamingo Rd., 737-6662. Shrimp with black bean sauce, Canadian sea scallops, Kentucky chip pie. D. \$-\$\$, major, res.

Caesars Palace/Bacchanal—731-7110. Seven-course Roman banquet. D (closed Tues.-Wed.). \$\$\$\$, major, **Caesars Palace/Palace Court**—731-7110. Langoustines,

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steak Diane. D. \$\$\$\$ major, res.
Four Queens/Hugo's Cellar—385-4011. Veal Dijonnaise, 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 Dijonnaise, bouillabaisse. D. \$\$\$\$ major, res.
Sahara/House of Lords—737-2111. Steak Diane, roast rack of lamb flourise, 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—739-4656. Saltimbocca alla Romana, novello alla Vesuvio. D. \$\$\$ major, res.
The Bootlegger—5025 S. Eastern, 736-4939. Veal Lorraine, veal in cream and wine sauce, seafood diavolo 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. Unique pastas, cioppino. L (except Sun.). D. \$\$\$\$ major, res.
Manfredi's Limelight—2340 E. Tropicana, 739-1410. Veal marsala, linguini tutto mare, scampi diavolo. D. \$\$ major, res.

MEXICAN

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, fettucine specialties, eastern milkfed veal. L, D. \$\$ major.

ORIENTAL

Bally's/Tracy's—739-4930. Kung pao gai, mongo ngow. D. \$\$\$ major.
Eli and Wong's—4110 S. Maryland Pkwy., 737-3400. More than 600 Italian and Chinese items. B, L, D. \$\$ major.
Flamingo Hilton/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/Benhana Village—732-5111. Four restaurants: tempura, robata, sukiyaki, hibachi; animated show. D. \$\$\$ major, res.
Riviera/Rik'shaw—734-5110. Fine Cantonese cuisine. D. \$ major, res.
Sahara/Don the Beachcomber—737-2111. Specializing in Polynesian dishes. Shrimp Hong Kong, bahala na combo. D. \$\$, AE, MC, V.
Tokyo Japanese—953 E. Sahara, 735-7070. Sushi hibachi tempura. L (Mon.-Fri.). D. \$\$ major.
Tropicana/Mizuno's Teppan Dining—739-2222. Tem-

ura, hibachi. D. \$\$\$ major, res.
SURF AND TURF
Bally's/Barrymore's—739-4661. Roast rack of lamb, prime rib, assorted seafoods on ice. D. \$\$\$ major, res.
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 Hilton/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, filet mignon, shrimp. L, D. \$ major.
Golden Steer—308 W. Sahara, 384-4470. Pepper steak, game dishes. D. \$\$\$, AE, DC, MC, V res.
Hacienda Hotel/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 Venico, Alaska 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—298-2512. Breakfasts, steak and lobster. B, L, D. \$, MC, V.
Edgewater/The Embers—298-2453. Steak, seafood, prime rib, stockyard midwestern beef. D. \$\$ major, res.
Riverside/Gourmet Room—298-2535. Chateaubriand, Cajun dishes, steak and quail, rack of lamb. D. \$\$ major, res.
Sam's Town Gold River/Sutter's Mill—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 and fries, sundeck. L, D. \$ major.
Boomtown—I-80 at Verdi, 345-6000. Changing buffet, regular menu. B, 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.
Eggeption—Gardnerville, 782-8690. Quiche, Tarragon snapper, lemon garlic chicken. B, L, D. \$, no CC.
Eldorado/Mardi Gras—786-5700. English sole, shrimp salad croissant sandwich, won ton soup. B, 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.
John Ascuaga's Nugget/General Store—Sparks, 356-3300. Prime rib, giant apple pancake, seafood Louis. B, L, D. \$ major.
John Ascuaga's Nugget/Rotisserie—356-3300. Buffet with menu that includes rack of lamb and scampi, Sunday brunch. L, D. \$-\$\$ major.

Juicy's Giant Hamburgers—3280 S. Virginia St., 825-2770, and Wells at Ryland, 322-2600, Reno; Glendale at McCarran, 883-5600, Sparks; U.S. 395 at Winnie, 883-5600, Carson City. Cheeseburgers, baked chicken, breakfast. B, L, D, \$.

Julia C. Bulette Saloon and Cafe—Virginia City, 847-9991. Variety of omelets, sandwiches, pizza from scratch. B, L, D, \$, no CC.

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 tail, chicken Chardonnay. L, D, \$, AE, MC, V, res.

BASQUE

Carson Valley Country Club—U.S. 395 two miles south of Gardnerville, 265-3715. Tongue stew, crab sandwich, cabbage soup. L (except Sun.), D, \$-\$\$.

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—789-2266. French, cracked crab, snails, lobster bisque, chateaubriand, veal Oscar. D, \$\$\$\$ major, res.

Eldorado/The Vintage—786-5700. Fresh Sonoma duckling, chateaubriand, prawns amaretto, exten-

sive wine list. D, \$, major, res.

Harrah's/Steak House—786-3232. Steak Diane, fresh fish daily, roast rack of lamb. L (Mon.-Fri.), D, \$\$, major, res.

La Table Francaise—3065 W. 4th St., 323-3200. French, 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—789-2267. Fresh oysters, cannelloni, calamari. D, \$\$, major, res.

Eldorado/La Strada—786-5700. Saltimbocca, gnocchi al pesto, ravioli verdi con spinaci. D nightly. \$, 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.

Silvana's—1301 N. Carson St., Carson City, 883-5100. Gnocchi al pesto Norma, veal and crab Daniela. \$-\$\$.

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—789-2268. 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—789-2270. 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's—107 E. Telegraph St., Carson City, 882-9012. Petite filet, Alaska 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, scotch bar. L (Mon.-Fri.), D, \$, AE, MC, V, res.

Western Village/Steakhouse—Off I-80, Sparks, 331-



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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 Tahoe/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. \$, major.
High Sierra/Sugar Pine Bistro—Stateline, 588-6211. Croissants, quiche, special coffees. B, L, D. \$, major.
High Sierra/Chicken and Rib Barn—Stateline, 588-6211. Baby back ribs, chicken, rib-eye steak. 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 redfish, filet mignon, bananas Foster. D. \$\$\$\$ major, res.
Harvey's/Sage Room—Stateline, 588-2411. Rack of lamb persille, 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, combination plates. D. \$, AE, MC, V.

Harvey's/El Vaquero—Stateline, 588-2411. Camerones Veracruz, carnitas. 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.

Fresh Ketch—Tahoe Keys Marina, South Lake Tahoe, CA. 916-541-5683. Live Maine lobster, fresh fish, rack of lamb. L, D. \$-\$\$ AE, MC, V, res.

Harrah's Tahoe/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.

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.

AROUND THE STATE

Bruno's Country Club—Gerlach, 557-2220. Homemade ravioli and sauce, rib steak. B, L, D. \$, Major.
Cactus Pete's/Plateau Room—Jackpot, 800-821-3935 in Nev., 800-821-1103 outside Nev. Shrimp flambe, steaks. D. \$, major.

Carol's Country Kitchen and Tea Room—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.

Lee's Restaurant/Old Foggy's Bar—Dayton, 246-3435. Green chili burrito, steak. B, L, D (closed Tues.). \$-\$\$.

Martin Hotel—Railroad and Melarkey, Winnemucca, 623-3197. Basque, liver and onions. L, D. \$, MC, V.

Ormachea's Dinner House—U.S. 95 and Melarkey, Winnemucca, 623-3455. Basque, steak, chicken, oxtail soup. D (closed Sun.-Mon.). \$, MC, V.

Peppermill—Mesquite, 346-5232. Specials, Sunday champagne brunch. B, L, 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, res.

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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The Endless Autumn

Did your summer go too fast, too? Here are 10 great ways to give summer a second chance this fall.

By Dale Elliott

Against the better wishes of your spouse, your kids, and your therapist, you somehow managed to fritter the whole summer away. Sure, you planned to go to the beach a few times, and maybe go camping, but the warm, lazy days of July and August slipped serenely by before you knew it.

But take heart. Fall is here, and some summer activities actually are more fun in the fall. So, for those of us who have some summer things left to do, here are 10 great ways to enjoy both seasons at once.

1. Take a tour of Tahoe. Fall is the ideal time to visit the lake. All the masses have gone back to school, leaving uncrowded roads, shops, and beaches. In September the brave can still swim, and the sun is warm enough for tanners. The autumn weather also helps bring out the rugged windblown look that many Tahoe lovers adopt just before ski season.

2. Go camping at Valley of Fire. With sandstone cliffs clustered like giant red potatoes, this state park northeast of Las Vegas looks as if it could be on Mars. In summer it's as hot as a red planet, too. But as the nights cool and the days become less furnace-like, you can take a day or a week to marvel at the exceptional landscape, see some petroglyphs, and prowl the Visitor Center. For a truly galactic experience, plan to camp out during a full moon.

3. Check out a small-town football game. Nine schools—Alamo, Carlin, Eureka, Gabbs, Jackpot, McDermitt, Pyramid Lake, Smith Valley, and Wells—play eight-man football, which can be fast, fun, and worth cheering about. Fall also is a hot season for girl's volleyball around the state.

4. Visit Laughlin on the Colorado River, where summer never ends. In summer the 120-degree highs are no problem because everybody stays inside the casinos. By October, though, the outside temperatures cool off to a nice 80 or 90 degrees in Nevada's southernmost town. Laughlin may be the wave of the future in gaming, but when it comes to fall, the town is one season behind everybody else.

5. Go up to Mount Charleston. Not only are the leaves turning in Kyle and Lee canyons (watch for other gawking motorists



The reds last year-round at Valley of Fire.

besides yourself), but also the camping is crowd-free. Some of the Forest Service campgrounds stay open until October, depending on the weather. When you climb out of your sleeping bag in the morning and try to get a fire going, you'll actually be cold,

In fall, Laughlin cools off
to a nice 80 or 90 degrees.
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behind everybody else.

which is a thrilling sensation if you've spent the last four months in the desert heat.

6. Stroll around Virginia City in the evening, when the old town grows quiet. The creaky wooden boardwalks have more room, as do C Street's 20-odd saloons. As dusk descends, the view down Six Mile Canyon seems right out of another era.

7. Take a Sunday drive in the farm country around towns like Overton, Logandale, Pahrump, Gardnerville, Yerington, and Fallon to check out the fall harvest. Fallon has roadside markets, and in most farming areas you'll find pumpkin stands before Halloween. There also are traditional events like Smith Valley's community auction and Pahrump's Harvest Festival.

8. Go swimming in Lake Mead. In early September it's probably warmer than Tahoe is in July anyway. At least you'll have something to brag about even if you just jump in, scream, and jump out. You'll also feel better, especially if you didn't go swimming at all last summer.

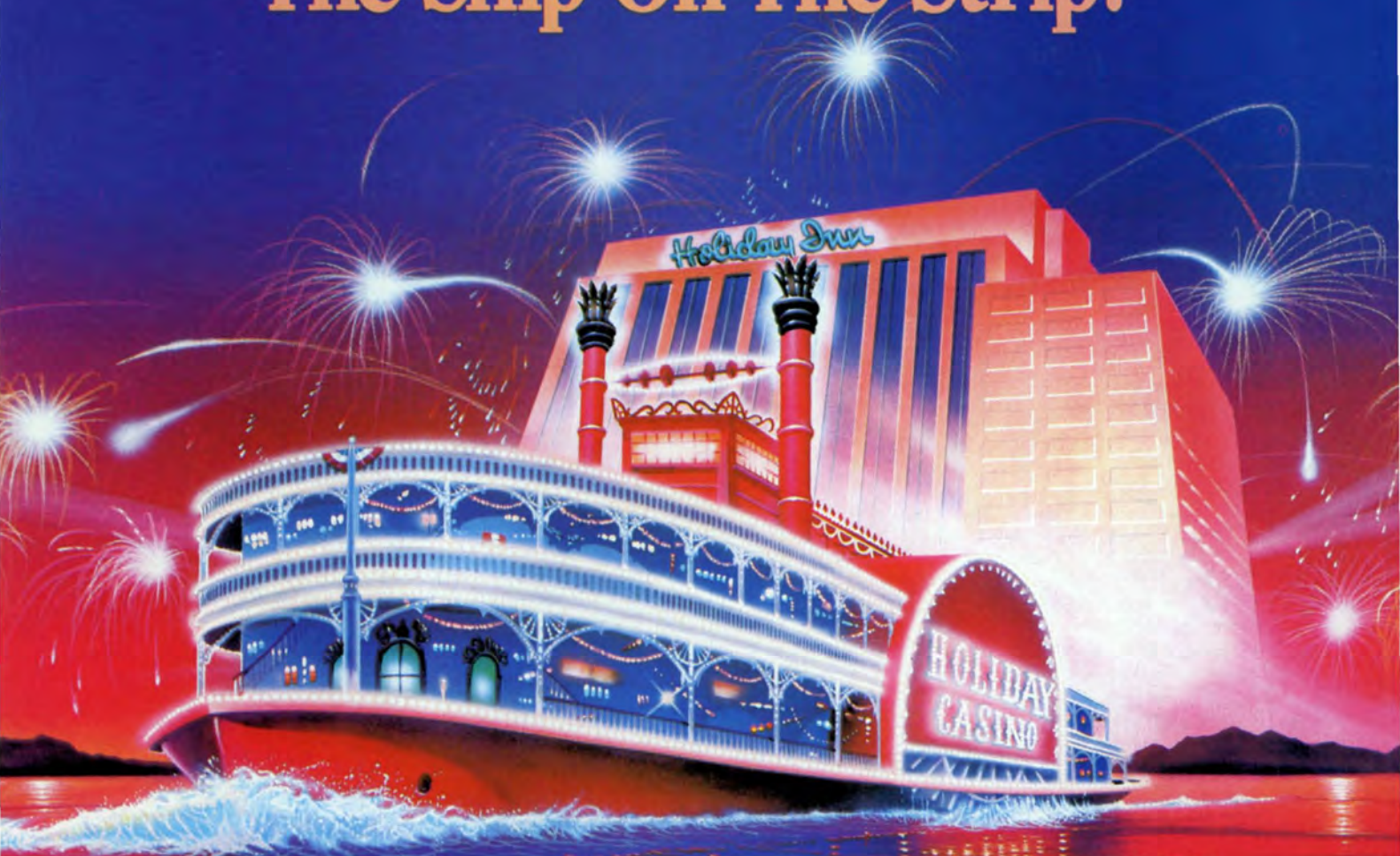
9. Learn how to pick pine nuts. After admiring pinyon pines from a distance, here's a chance to really get your hands on them. It does require some planning since the pitch can make nut collecting a sticky business. How do you pick the nuts correctly? One method is to ask an old-timer, believe half of what he or she says, and see what happens.

10. Finally, here's one you've really put off: taking an old-fashioned train ride. Fall, with its crisp, cool days, is truly the season for which trains were invented. In Virginia City, the Virginia & Truckee runs daily through September. In Carson City, the State Railroad Museum is holding three steam-ups of old V&T engines this fall. And Ely's Ghost Train—otherwise known as Old No. 40 of the Nevada Northern Railway—carries passengers on two week-ends. (See this issue's Calendar for details.) With the whistle blowing and waves of passengers getting on and off, it's almost like summer, except even better. ◻

Dale Elliott sometimes lives in North Las Vegas. He says the one time he went pine-nut hunting he had to get a gas station attendant to help pry his hands off the steering wheel.

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NEVADA

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER SPECIAL EVENTS ... INSIDE THIS ISSUE



Syd Brown

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Oct. 23-25
Balloons: see pages 19 & 26



Gary Elam

Virginia City Camel Races
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Mules In Winnemucca & Elko
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See page 34

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- 103 Lake Tahoe Vis. Auth.
- 104 Las Vegas Conv. and Vis. Auth.
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