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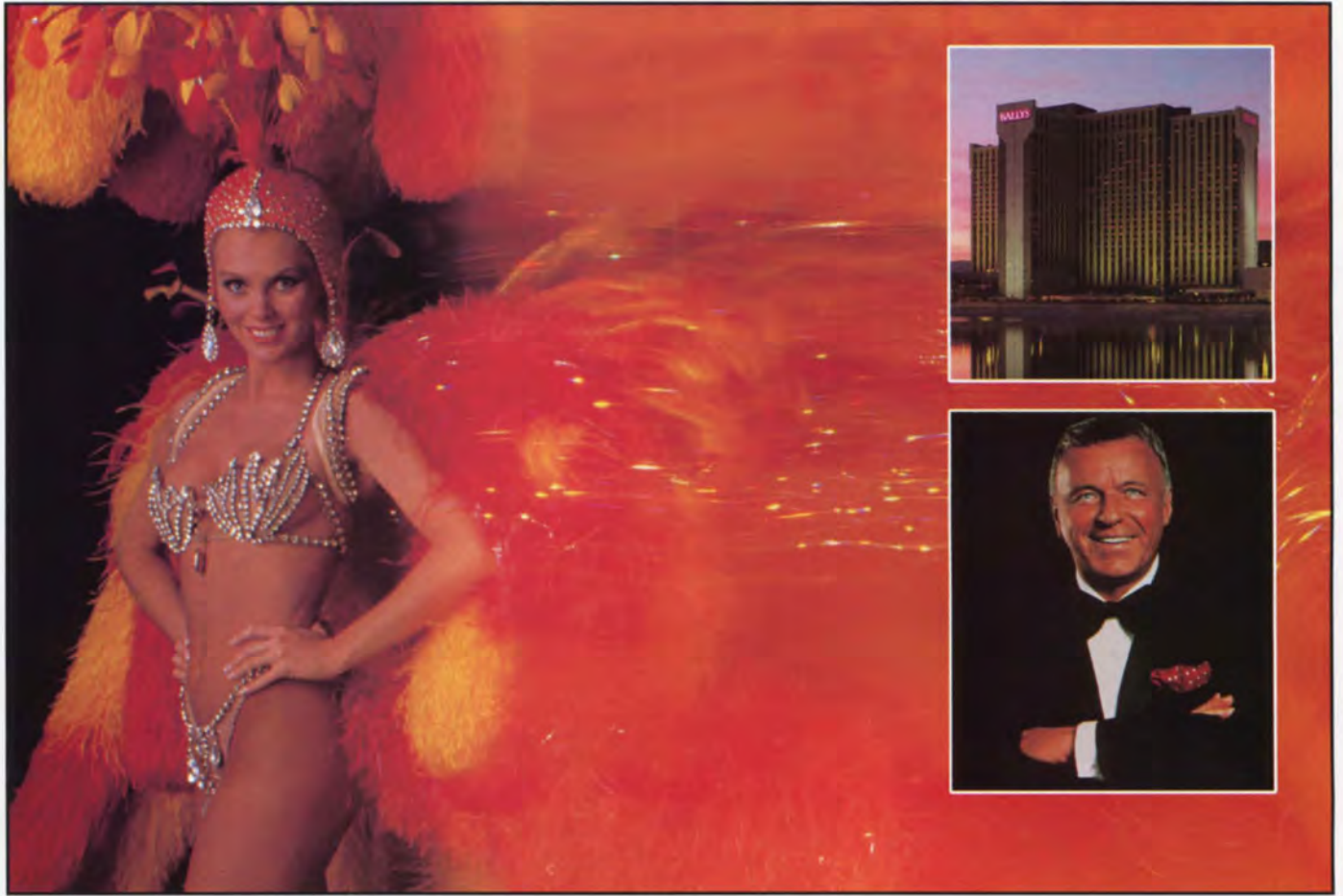
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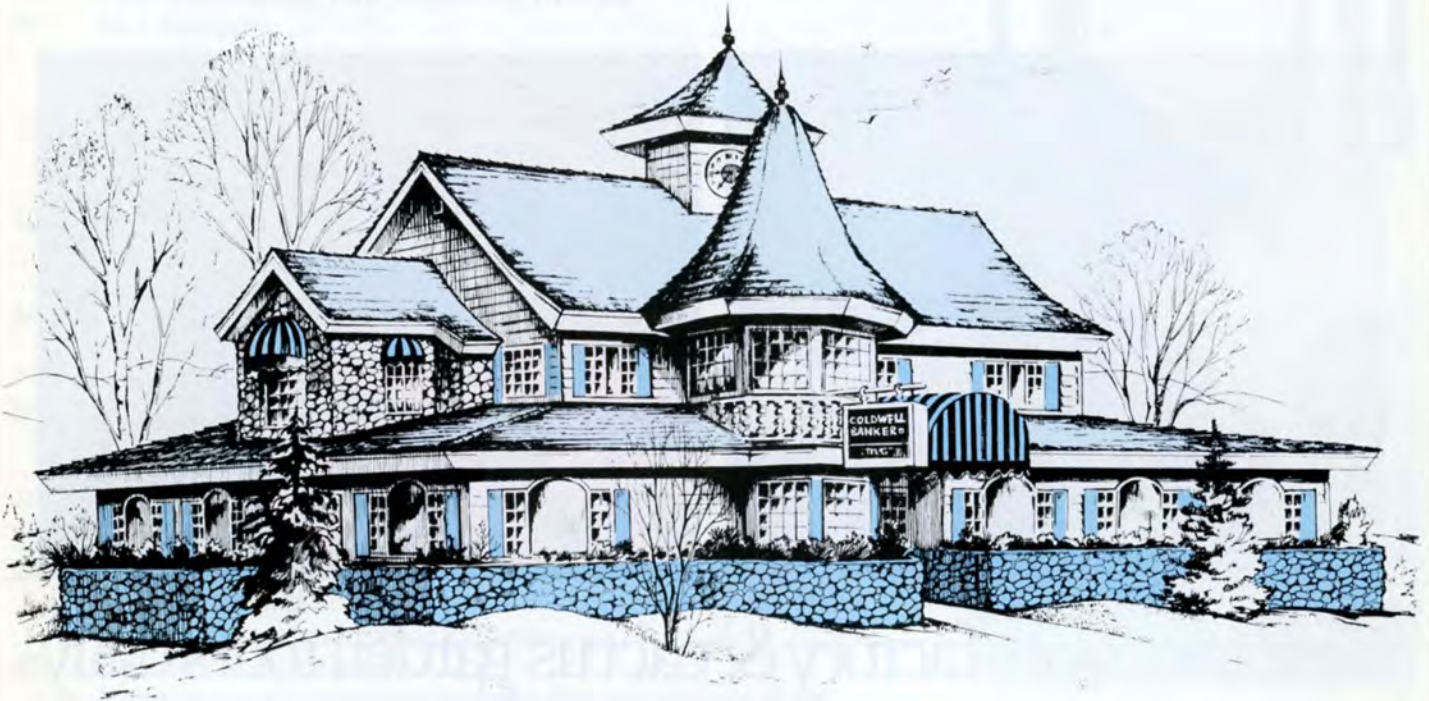
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NEVADA

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JANUARY/FEBRUARY 1989

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LETTERS

Walker, Music, and a Las Vegas Look

Spitzer on Tour

Laura Spitzer—a beautiful human being. Her articles in the Sept/Oct '88 issue are delightful.

Sharing her tremendous talent as she did in the "grand tour" demonstrates persistency and originality. Long may she play! Her picture with the children is lovely.

Pauline M. Breza
Pittsburgh, PA.

Music Behind the Stars

Bill Willard's article on the history of entertainment in Nevada (Nov/Dec '88) was one of the best pieces I've read in your magazine for a long time. The photos were great, too.

One aspect he failed to discuss was the decline in the use of orchestras to "back up" star entertainment. While audiences still pay the same or higher prices for shows, they are deprived of live musicians playing strings, winds, and horns in all but a few well-known acts.

I have witnessed far too many talented musicians leave Nevada or be forced to give up music because the casinos "couldn't afford" the payroll. The loss to Nevada's communities of these artists is a great tragedy.

Van Vinikow, Violinist
String Beings Quartet
Reno

Walker Went His Own Way

I endeavor to correct a slight mistake in your Nov/Dec '88 issue. The article on Walker Lake by Lynn Ryness states that Joseph Walker was explorer John Fremont's "scout."

My forebear, Capt. Joseph Reddelford Walker, was never John Fremont's (or anyone else's) scout. All of Walker's activities in the West were as the leader of expeditions during the 1830s and 1840s. He never scouted for anyone. Please excuse my pickiness.

Ralph Walker-Willis
Hemet, CA.

A Brit is Back

It was with interest and not a little envy that I read the letter from Judith Bergfors of Carmel, California, in your July/Aug '88 edition. Like her, I have

also been completely seduced by the sheer magnificence of Nevada's scenery and the hospitality of its people. I first visited your state in September 1986, driving up from L.A. to Reno, to visit a friend there. I was overjoyed by the friendly welcome I received from all the people I met.

Determined to prove it was not all a dream, I came back in September 1987. Starting in Las Vegas, I found myself walking on the streets of a wonderland that most Englishmen can only read of, or see on television.

Once more I'm setting off on an 8,000-mile journey which is increasingly becoming less of a vacation and more like coming "home."

Barry J. Knight
Dorset, England

Lost Direction

I'm amazed that you would publish such a wrong map of Nevada as the one on page 77 of the Sept/Oct '88 issue. U.S. 50 does not go north, or didn't you know that?

Ernest E. Sisley
Reno

Sisley, you and the other readers who noticed our goof are correct in saying that Wendover can't be on I-80 and U.S. 50 at the same time. Thanks.—Ed.

But Who Will Play Ashley?

In reference to Wayne Newton playing Meade Slaughter, Whip Holt, or Rhett Butler, I am of the belief that Mr. Newton could do anything and do it well. Where do I sign up to play Scarlett?

In reference to your magazine, I look forward each month to finding you in my mailbox. Being so far from "home," your magazine helps trim the miles. After only two visits to Nevada, my best friend and I are planning to move there in the spring of 1990. While thumbing through *Nevada Magazine* I make notes of the places I want to visit once I'm settled. Hurray for Nevada!

Esther Dudley
Waterville, ME.

This View's All Mud

Can a person be a collector of mud cracks? If so, that is a geology teacher!

Anyway, we have fallen for David Muench's picture of early spring flow-ers in the Black Rock Desert mud cracks in the May/June '87 issue.

Eudora Delo
Auburn, WA.

Las Vegas and the Old Look

Nevada Magazine published a story by Tricia Hurst in which she reminisced about Las Vegas in the early 1950s (May/June '86). Tricia recalled that *Look Magazine* published a story about Las Vegas, but she couldn't remember the date of publication.

For your reading pleasure I have photocopied the *Look* article, which was published November 4, 1952.

I collect pictures of Nevada casinos taken during the 1940s and 1950s. If you know of any sources, I would sure appreciate it.

J. Scott Fawcett
Fountain Valley, CA.

Planning Ahead

I wish that you would come out with a calendar for all of the yearly (current) events. It would be great to plan our vacations by.

Carla D. Vinyard
Seattle, WA.

Vinyard, you're in luck. A list of 1989 Nevada events can be attained by writing the Nevada Commission on Tourism, Capitol Complex, Carson City, NV 89710 or by calling 800-237-0774. Also, the magazine's 1989 Nevada Historical Calendar has current events listed.—Ed.

An Angler and a Father

What a pleasant surprise. While thumbing through the Sept/Oct '88 issue, I was shocked to see a picture of my dad. Page E-28 in *Nevada Events* shows two fishermen and their catch at Walker Lake. The gentleman on the left is my dad, Woodrow Carney. The gentleman on the right is Earl Oltman. Both of these men are from Yerington.

The picture of my dad is a wonderful tribute to a marvelous person. The family is so thankful for it. My dad passed away this February.

You people could not have found a more deserving person to place in your magazine. Dad was a native Nevadan. He was born in 1912 in Smith Valley and died in Yerington. The only time he left, except for a vacation, was to serve in the Navy during World War II. He hunted and fished Western Nevada most of his 75 years, and he made a few deer hunting trips to northern Elko County. The day he died, he had spent

the day fishing at Lake Tahoe. He was planning a trip to Walker Lake the next day when his heart stopped, and he died at home. He was a true sportsman and gentleman. We were very proud of him and we miss him very much.

The family would like to express their gratitude for the wonderful tribute to him. No one could have done it any better.

Bill Carney
Grand Junction, CO.

Stay Awhile

If the amount of advertising increases and the interest in Nevada history and unusual people, etc. decreases you can kiss this customer good-bye! The last issue was a rag.

Edwin P Upson
Reno

Happy Camper

I picked up a copy of *Nevada Magazine* at the Las Vegas airport one-and-a-half years ago. As soon as I got home I placed my first subscription. I read every issue cover to cover. I found out about new and different gambling locations such as Jackpot, and this past summer had the opportunity to visit there. I had a great time.

When other readers write in and complain about too much advertising, I say *bunk!* That's one reason I subscribe. I want to know what's going on.

W Paige Davidheiser
Reading, PA.

A Date with Destiny

Enclosed please find my check for the 1989 Historical Calendar. I couldn't run my life without the calendar or the magazine. They're great!

Mrs. Ellen Platka
East Hardwick, VT

A Lesson Learned

It was a very hot day at our cabin in Carmel Valley, California. I was walking by my pickup truck when something struck out at me from under the truck. I jumped back and looked—a rattlesnake. This snake had two tails, or was I seeing things?

I got the 410 and shot the snake. Then I found there were two snakes. They had been "entwined and caressing." I felt bad. Why didn't I remember the dancing snakes in your magazine? I'd seen it so many times.

Send me the snake poster and renew my subscription for three years.

Harry Azzopardi
Salinas, CA. ♡

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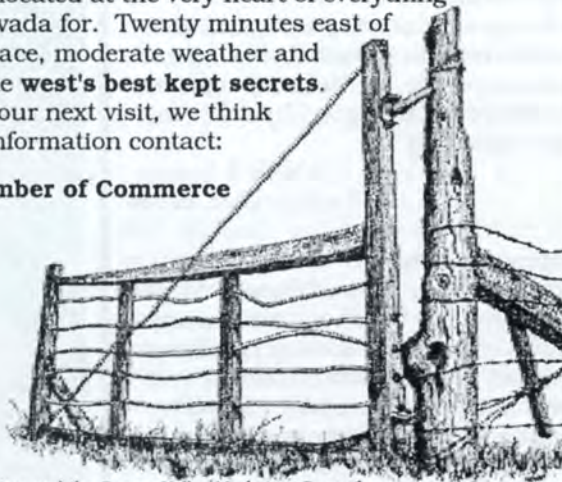
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DID YOU KNOW?

The Meadows, the Bank Club, and Gold Canyon's Switch

By Richard Moreno

The first new casino built after gambling was legalized in Nevada on March 19, 1931, was the Meadows, a nightclub that opened in May 1931 on the Boulder Highway in Las Vegas. Records indicate that several existing casinos, which had operated under local option prior to the new law, began expansions once gambling was legalized statewide, including the Bank Club on Center Street in Reno. By the mid-1930s the Bank Club boasted that it was the world's largest casino.

The first newspaper published in Nevada was the *Gold Cañon Switch*, a small handwritten sheet that appeared in 1854 in Johntown, a mining camp that sprang up between Dayton and Silver City in Gold Canyon. The paper lasted only one issue. Nevada's first printed newspaper was the *Territorial Enterprise*, which began publishing on December 18, 1858, in Genoa. A year later the paper found a new home in Carson City and in 1860 it moved on to Virginia City, where it gained a measure of fame as the state's most influential newspaper.

Based on 1988 estimates, the 10 largest incorporated cities in Nevada are: Las Vegas (population 217,360), Reno (120,770), Sparks (55,080), Henderson (54,590), North Las Vegas (51,020), Carson City (36,650), Elko (12,265), Boulder City (11,860), Winnemucca (6,010), and Fallon (5,340). Las Vegas' figure represents about one third of the residents in the metropolitan Las Vegas area, and Reno's is about one half the population of the Truckee Meadows. There are an estimated 1,053,230 residents in the state. ♡

This column was prepared with the help of Phillip I. Earl of the Nevada Historical Society and John Walker of the Nevada Office of Community Services.



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LAS VEGAS

Fillies and Fanciers

For an unusual weekend, check out Clark County's Horseman's Park. This equestrian commons, a breed apart from the more traditional city and county parks, hosts rodeos, cattle cuttings, jumping and roping events, circuses, and Mexican festivals. Except for July and August, when desert temperatures are too hot, the Old West comes to life every Saturday and Sunday in the midst of contemporary urban living. The horse-oriented grasslands are located just east of Sam's Town on the Boulder Highway

The neighboring Dog Fancier's Park, where canine cuties from Airedales to Yorkshire terriers go on parade with their people, offers additional attractions. Weekend dog training, dog shows, and even dog obstacle courses will interest any canine-pet owner. Spectator fees for rodeos are reasona-

bly priced; most activities are free. For more information and a calendar of scheduled events, call 702-455-7506, or write Horseman's and Dog Fancier's Park, 5800 East Flamingo Road, Las Vegas, NV 89122.

Mountain Meadow Muckabouts

If you're looking for a place to try out your new cross-country skis, the meadow near the end of Lee Canyon road on Mount Charleston is a good choice. There is plenty of flat space for sliding along and getting in the swing of things before facing the greater challenge of up-and-down trails.

The meadow has no prepared ski tracks—you make your own—and snow conditions can vary considerably. Fresh, deep snow is more difficult to slide through but offers cushioning for falls. Packed snow may be slippery, but it helps in developing the classic diagonal stride or newer skater style. As your skill improves, you can snow-plow or telemark on steeper inclines that ring the meadow.

For weekend skiing plan to arrive early if you want to ski close to your car. Parking is limited. Bring along sunglasses, sun shield, warm clothing, and extra socks. Hot chocolate or warm soup tastes especially good after a morning of skiing in the crisp mountain air. There are no facilities in the meadow, but restrooms and picnic tables are available in nearby Foxtail Canyon Snow Play Area. The snow play area is also the place for tubing and sledding. Call the U.S. Forest Service's 24-hour number (702-388-6254) for weather and road conditions; chains are sometimes required. For more information call the business office at 702-388-6255.

The Real Old West

Just seven miles northwest of the new Gold Strike Inn and its colorful western facade on I-15, the little town of Goodsprings is a living museum of the real Old West. Remnants of its mining history—mill foundations, rusting tin shacks, abandoned mines and tailings, broken-down machines and tools—lie silent along the streets like sad testimonials to more prosperous days. Once a thriving town boasting many stores, saloons, a hospital, school, and popular hotel, Goodsprings today has faded to a few established homes and trailers, an elementary school, community center, mobile library, small market, and saloon. Some homes are without water because the old artesian wells are now dry. Occasionally cows wander down the streets from the Coyote Ranch, one of Goodsprings' rare new buildings.

The Pioneer Saloon, said to be the oldest standing tin building in Nevada, is still serving guzzles and gab as it did 75 years ago. The wooden porch has been aged by wind, water, sun, and millions of footsteps. Inside, bartender Jeanette banter with customers as she wipes down the counter of the handsome, cherry-wood bar that was brought to the Pioneer from another once busy town, Rhyolite. A few small tables, a pool table, and a sturdy potbelly stove from the days of the U.S. cavalry also furnish the room. The stove is the Pioneer's only source of heat in winter.

The Pioneer Saloon, in downtown Goodsprings, 37 miles south of Las Vegas via I-15, is open every day from 10 a.m. until midnight, or so. Now and then—on New Year's Day, Valentine's Day, "Christmas in August," and other special times—an adjacent room is



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opened for parties. Several movies have included scenes shot in the Pioneer, and travelers come from miles around to relax in the comfortable atmosphere of its Old West heritage. For more information, call 702-874-1484.—*Kate Butler*

RENO-TAHOE

Moonlight Cross-Country Skiing

When the full moon reflects light on an open meadow, that's a special invitation to go cross-country skiing. Familiar day-use areas now take on new lunar dimensions, and first-time skiers can easily practice their kick-slide in a less crowded, less hurried atmosphere. In the Reno-Tahoe area there are several places with groomed trails to moonlight ski—all without cost. Here are two:

Tahoe Meadows between U.S. 395 south of Reno and Incline Village at Lake Tahoe can be reached via the Mount Rose Highway (State Route 431). Both weekdays and weekends find this U.S. Forest Service area packed with Nordic skiers, snowplayers, and snowmobilers. But at night, with a full moon high above, parking is easier and the crowds have thinned.

The main meadow area is multi-use, so watch for snowmobiles. The west end of the meadow is for cross-country-skiers only. There is also a marked, groomed beginners trail 1.8 miles in length. For more experienced skiers, another marked trail climbs for a spectacular view of Lake Tahoe. For a Tahoe Meadows information sheet contact the Toiyabe National Forest, Carson Ranger District, 702-882-2766.

Spooner Lake, in Lake Tahoe State Park at the junction of State Route 28 and U.S. 50, offers more groomed trails. Generally closed at 5 p.m. daily the concessionaire reopens on full-moon nights. You can use miles of groomed beginner, moderate, and advanced trails for free, and you can rent equipment, which makes it an especially easy outing. For a break from skiing, have a hot drink in the shelter, which is off a beginners trail. Call to check exact full-moon ski nights with Spooner Lake Cross Country 702-749-5349.

Shopping and Car Washing

Where's the most charming car wash in Reno? Franktown Corners, of course. In addition to the Classic Car Wash, where your car can shed its winter's grime, there is a plant-filled



A large statue of Christ stands over Cathedral Canyon, near Pahrump.

mall with a variety of shops. It's an inviting place to spend time browsing on a winter afternoon.

At the end of the tiled, many-windowed walkway are a pair of contrast-

ing restaurants: Guido and Garcia's Cafe and Bar and the Golden Egg Omelette House. In between are specialty shops worth exploring, like the Napa Sonoma Grocery Company, which features all-occasion gift baskets, a cornucopia of kitchen gadgets, and a deli.

Still hungry? Josef Vienna Konditorei and Bakery has a cozy eating area if you want to sit and sample fresh-baked rolls or pastries. Josef was recently featured on the cover of Macy's weekend advertiser with other well-known kitchen wizards.

Other shops sell cards and stationery men's clothing, Oriental rugs, lingerie, and American Indian art.

Franktown Corners is in Reno at Kietzke Lane and Grove, one block south of Plumb Lane. Hours are 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily

Mackay School of Mines Museum

About a million years ago, a giant ground sloth walked along the shore of a lake near what is now Carson City. The ico fossils, or footprints, that remain from its Pleistocene trek are preserved and on view at the Mackay School of Mines Museum at the Uni-



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versity of Nevada-Reno.

In addition to the fossils, visitors will find an impressive collection of rocks and minerals that reflect Nevada's mining past. "Many of the collections are now unique, because they are from localities and operations that no longer exist," says Dr. James Firby, the museum director. You don't need to be a geologist to appreciate the beauty and size of the two-foot-long smoky quartz crystals.

John Mackay, who made his fortune in Virginia City mining ventures in the late 1800s, returned some of his wealth

The Mines Museum has fossils, minerals, and mining memorabilia.

to Nevada through generous gifts to the university in Reno, including the School of Mines. Some of his personal mining memorabilia are among the

historical materials displayed. There are also photos and documents of a mining era in Nevada that will never be duplicated.

The Mackay School of Mines Museum is in the School of Mines building at UNR. For parking, try the lot off Center Street and East Ninth. Museum hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.—*Deborah A. Mawhar*

RURAL

Cathedral Canyon

Any time the word "Cathedral" is used to describe a place, you can be sure it's a reverential spot.

Cathedral Rock on Mount Charleston, Cathedral Peaks near Lake Mead, Cathedral Canyon in White Pine County, and Cathedral Gorge State Park all have been named because their majestic rock formations evoke otherworldly places. Cathedral Canyon near Pahrump, on the other hand, really is a cathedral.

The natural canyon that lies hidden from view in an expansive desert valley has been enlarged and remodeled with walkways, a cave, alcoves in the walls, an artificial waterfall, and a suspension bridge that spans one end. A stairway chiseled from rock leads down to the canyon floor. A large statue of Christ towers over the canyon, and other art objects from around the world decorate its walls.

As a sign at its entrance states, Cathedral Canyon is "meant to inspire the living, comfort the ailing and create lasting memories of God's Great and Beautiful Outdoors." Built by Roland Wiley, a former Las Vegas district attorney, on his Hidden Hills ranch, the canyon is open to the public at no charge (see "Cathedral Canyon," *Nevada*, No. 2, '77). Chairs are placed for daytime relaxation in the canyon's shaded corners; colored lights provide atmosphere and visibility for evening visits.

To reach Cathedral Canyon, follow State Route 160 (the road between Pahrump and I-15) to the Tecopa Hot Springs turnoff. Five miles from this junction, the Hidden Hills Ranch-Cathedral Canyon sign clearly marks the gravel road to the canyon. The canyon is two miles from this sign. Be sure to carry water in your car for emergency use. And if you visit at night, please remember to turn off the lights when you leave.—*Kate Butler* □

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A Case of Gator Aid

A creature out of water, and a big dam project.

The Homeless Gator

Jack Maughan wasn't spinning a tale when he reported seeing an alligator in the Truckee River east of Reno last fall. Although state wildlife officials were skeptical, Maughan and other Wadsworth residents were adamant that they had seen the beast. "Yeah, it's three to four feet long, but at 11 o'clock, after a few beers, that gator gets to be a 16-footer," said Tom Peterson.

As word of the sightings spread, a few local residents began promoting Wadsworth as a gator capital with T-shirts and "super-hot gator sauce."

But the campaign ended when two Reno men claimed a \$500 reward posted by a real estate agent wanting to send the alligator to Florida. When the gator was caught, however, it turned out to be a South American Camin—

illegal in both Florida and Nevada—and a new home had to be found. Today the two-and-a-half-foot gator is recovering from its ordeal with reptile specialist Ken Foose of Virginia City.

Camins are illegal because they make lousy pets and people tend to flush them down the toilet or put them outside after the initial thrill wears off. Says Foose, "You can't hold them. You can't touch them. You can't take them for a walk. They'll run away as soon as you try to approach. They see humans as great big carnivores."

"But this Camin hasn't done these things. He's content to stay just where he is." He still needs a home, though.

Big Dam Renovation

Since its completion in 1935, Hoover Dam has had more than its share of

admirers. In fact, a record 760,000 tourists saw the dam in 1987.

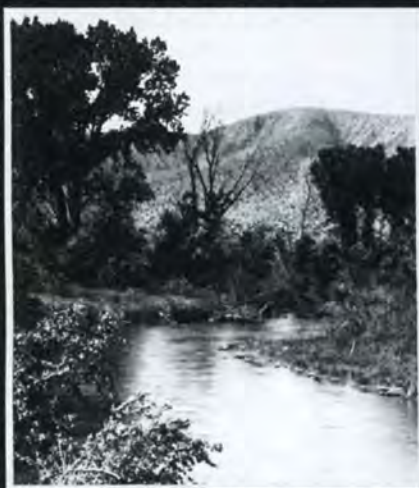
To ease the impact of visitor traffic, the Bureau of Reclamation has begun a \$40 million renovation project that includes a 535-foot-long bridge to straighten a section of U.S. 93 on the Nevada side, elevators descending 555 feet through Black Canyon into the power plant, a parking garage, and a five-story visitor center with a circular theater that will rotate like a rooftop restaurant. The project should be finished by the early 1990s.

An Unbearable Deed

Last October, when a black bear cub was found shot in the head by a large-caliber weapon south of Reno, officials at the Nevada Department of Wildlife were so outraged they posted a \$1,500 reward, the largest offered for a wildlife violation in the state. The one-and-a-half-year-old bear was found about 20 feet off a dirt road in the White's Creek area north of the Mount Rose Highway, and officials suspect that the bear was shot from a vehicle. Anyone with information about the shooting is asked to call Operation Game Thief at 800-992-3030. —Cliff Glover □

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REAL NEVADA FOOD

From catfish to cantaloupes, the food you eat may have been produced right here in the Silver State.

By Connie Emerson

Evelyn Auld didn't realize just how special her pickles were until she entered them in the 1985 Nevada State Fair. "I had been giving them to friends as gifts for years, and they told me the pickles were so good that I ought to do something about them," the Reno homemaker-entrepreneur says. "But I was so worried about the judging that I sent my husband to see how they had done."

He brought back some good news: Her cucumber sweet pickles had won a blue ribbon.

The award encouraged Evelyn to set up her crocks and pressure cooker in a warehouse and start cooking up a line of gourmet food products. Now she has two fulltime employees, lots of help from her family, and a demand that last year led her to produce 2,000 jars of sweet cucumber pickles. You can buy Mrs. Auld's Sweet and Spicy Pickles, Mrs. Auld's Brandied Cherries, and Mrs. Auld's Marmalade at Napa Sonoma Grocery Company, Unique Delicatessen, and the Cheese Board and Wine Seller in Reno. You may have seen them on the shelves at Gump's in San Francisco and other posh shops.

Auld's success in the gourmet sec-



tion points out a growing dimension of Nevada dining—that more and more often you can sit down to real Nevada food, produced right here in the Silver State.

At about the same time Evelyn Auld's friends were praising her pickles, folks in Yerington were raving about Lita Brown's raviolis. So Brown, who learned to make ravioli from her Italian grandmother, went into business with her husband, two sons, and a daughter-in-law Today, at Senti-Me Pasta, the frozen product line leads off with meat raviolis, made with chicken, beef, and pork. The family enterprise also produces cheese raviolis, meat sauce, and an Italian torte consisting of five different liquors, two liqueurs,

pine nuts, walnuts, almonds, spinach, and diced fruit.

Among the restaurants that serve Senti-Me foods are the Hey Day Inn in Wellington, Scotty's Family Restaurants in Carson City, Sharkey's in Gardnerville, the End of the Trail in Dayton, Guido and Garcia's in Reno, and the Stockman's in Fallon. You can eat the Browns' Italian creations at the Mason Valley Country Club and Dini's Lucky Club in Yerington, too.

But perhaps your craving is for sausage—Italian, Polish, bratwurst, knockwurst, or chorizo. If that's the case, the links you hunger for are made at Best Sausage in Las Vegas.

The locally-owned plant's 32 employees grind out 200,000 pounds of smokies, hotdogs, Cajun sausage, and other varieties each month. You can sample their meaty selections in Las Vegas at Ricardo's, Andre's French Restaurant, and the Cafe Santa Fe in

Dishes such as the Overland's lamb shanks and pimentos and red beans with ham are traditional Nevada Basque fare (top). Reno's Evelyn Auld ships her pickles nationwide (bottom left). At Best Sausage in Las Vegas, Jeannie Iandoli shows freshly made links (bottom right).



Photos: Jay Aldrich (top, bottom left); Kate Butler (bottom right)

the Thunderbird Hotel.

Fiesta Foods, also in Las Vegas, sees that the local gambling palaces stay in the chips—corn chips, that is. “We sell our chips to every casino in town,” says George Rush, the company’s buyer. Fiesta also makes Macayo brand tostada and taco shells, Fiesta Enchilada Sauce, and Macayo Taco Sauce. They are available in supermarkets and at the city’s five Macayo restaurants.

When at snack time you choose a Disneyland popsicle or Mickey Mouse frozen novelty, chances are that it was made at the Gold Bond Ice Cream plant in Henderson. One of Gold Bond’s six plants, the Nevada operation is responsible for producing most of the Disney brand items. At capacity, they’re able to turn out a million pieces a day, according to manager Al Bunse.

Two other Southern Nevada firms that produce sweets are Ethel M Candies and Kidd’s Marshmallow Products in Henderson. Most popular of Ethel M’s 60 flavors are the liqueur creams and macadamia nut clusters. The chocolates are sold at 20 stores throughout the state as well as at the factory, which is open daily from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., except on major holidays, for self-guided tours.

Kidd’s, whose plant was destroyed by fire following the PEPCON explosion last summer, is again in business, each month producing novelties such as marshmallow cream candy and about 1.5 million pounds of marshmallows. Primarily a private label supplier, Kidd’s provides about 50 percent of the Campfire brand marshmallows.

Another Nevada specialty is catfish. The largest producer, located south of Eureka on the Duckwater Indian Reservation, is Donrey Catfish Growers, which was acquired several years ago by Donald W Reynolds, publisher of the *Las Vegas Review-Journal* and Carson City’s *Nevada Appeal* and head of the Donrey Media Group. “Ours are the only gourmet catfish raised anywhere,” says manager Louie Gomes. “Since geothermal water is so pure, it doesn’t alter the taste.” Duckwater catfish are available in Raley’s and Scolari’s markets and served at Caesars Palace in Las Vegas, Rapsallion in Reno, and Evah’s in Ely.

Other types of food that appear on Nevada tables might have been produced just down the road, but they sometimes take a roundabout route that obscures their origins.

For instance, cattle raising is the state’s leading agricultural activity, but



Lita Brown of Yerington carefully readies her raviolis for shipping (top). Beef gets primed at John Ascuaga’s ranch (middle) while Ethel M candies are Henderson products (bottom).

since Nevada has no large slaughterhouses, livestock is shipped to Utah or California. So even though you may be eating Nevada beef, it’s not often possible to identify it as such.

There are a few exceptions. In Fallon, several restaurant owners buy their beef at Mori’s Wholesale Meats and Lahontan Valley Meats, two livestock-raising businesses that sell beef, pork, and lamb directly to the public. And at John Ascuaga’s Nugget in Sparks, a substantial portion of the steaks, ribs, and burgers come from cows that have been fattened up at Ascuaga’s feed lot in Smith Valley.

Potatoes, too, often take the back road to your platter. In 1987, 5,000 of Nevada’s 8,000 acres planted in potatoes were owned by Winnemucca Farms in Humboldt County. At Winnemucca Farms, the potatoes are separated into two groups. Most of those graded number-one are sold fresh to food brokers, although some Winnemucca restaurateurs buy directly from the farm’s packing shed.

The remaining potatoes are processed under the Catie Food brand into a variety of products and then distributed by brokers in other parts of the country. When they reappear in Nevada markets and restaurants, they’re in a number of guises—baked goods (commercial bakeries mix potato flour with grain flour to hold the moisture in their products), French fries, hash browns, and diced potatoes. Since Catie is one of the largest suppliers of dehydrated potato flakes to Proctor and Gamble, chances are those Pringle potato chips served with your sandwich had their origins in Nevada, too.

And then there are onions. About 54,000 55-gallon drums of them in dehydrated form are produced each year by Geothermal Food Processors, Inc., at Brady Hot Springs east of Fernley. Among the company’s principal customers, according to plant manager Al Hansen, are Campbell’s, Lipton, MacDonald’s, and McCormick. So the onions in your soup or flavoring your rack of lamb may well have been nourished by Nevada soil.

Other commercially grown produce, although usually sold on-site to individuals, occasionally makes its way to restaurant kitchens. In Fallon, sweet corn and Heart-of-Gold cantaloupes appear on the menu at the Bonanza and the Nugget. In the Moapa and Pahrump valleys, apricots, crenshaw melons, cantaloupes, pumpkins, and watermelons are purchased by local

restaurants from time to time.

In various parts of the state you'll find beekeepers, who sell their honey in the comb as well as in jars. There are raspberry growers, poultry farms, and dairies. On a ranch near Yerington, David Fulstone grows and braids garlic. In Orchard, east of Reno, the crop is pears. A publication called *Farm Trails*, available through the Farm Bureau, lists Northwestern Nevada farms and ranches with produce for sale. In other areas, word of mouth is the only source of information.

Although livestock and vegetables have been grown in Nevada for decades, the production of other foods has

Local apricots, melons,
and pumpkins are
purchased by restaurants
in the Moapa and
Pahrump valleys.

begun only recently. The marshmallow and ravioli plants opened in 1986. Evelyn Auld began selling her pickles the same year. Eduardo's Mexican Salsa recently has found a growing market from its base in Carson Valley. Sumi Teriyaki Sauce, made in a little room behind Mike's Food Center on the road to Virginia City, debuted at the 1988 Nevada State Fair.

As time goes by, we probably will be able to dine on even more Silver State delicacies. This year Fred Boyd of Reno's Napa Sonoma plans to augment the "made in Nevada" food items he sells by packaging the Grand Marnier Dip for Fruit and Italian Dressing, which were previously available only in deli cartons.

Pistachios and pomegranates are being grown experimentally in the Pahrump and Moapa valleys. And there's talk of a proposed lobster and frog farm in Carson City.

Who said that Nevada's a desert?

In a state that for all appearances seems incapable of growing anything other than sagebrush and creosote, Nevada does an exceptionable job of providing some mouth-watering delicacies for your dining table.

Take, for example, pickles. ♡

Connie Emerson is a Reno writer and food critic.

OUT-OF-THE-WAY EATERIES

Dining out—in some cases way out—
at restaurants off the beaten path.



Showing the alfresco entry is LaQuitta Merrill, sister-in-law of owner Becky Merrill.

MEXICAN HIDEAWAY

*El Burrito's secret is
not the food
but how to get there.*

A 25-old-year hideaway—that's the El Burrito Cafe. The way it's tucked into a commercial stretch of the Boulder Highway about two miles east of downtown Las Vegas, you might never

find the place unless someone pointed it out. Recently the building's drab exterior was repainted, so now you can look for white walls, a green door, and painted scenes of Mexico and a fellow taking a siesta under a cactus.

Anyway, it's what you find inside that makes this tiny, nine-booth restaurant stand out.

When you open the front door, the kitchen is to your left, exposed for all the world to see, with cooks working the stoves and the lone waitress weaving in and out, balancing plates. On busy days, when a seat is not immediately available, it's fun to watch the cooks at work. Since there isn't a bar and the entry is easily overcrowded, patrons waiting for seats usually pass



THE RAVIOLI KING

*Bruno Selmi is Gerlach's
one-of-a-kind
gourmet.*

There's only one word to describe Bruno Selmi: raviolis. Bruno makes them big, which is good for those times you end up in Gerlach, 100 miles north of Reno, looking for something to satisfy your hunger.

Why does Bruno make such terrific raviolis? Tradition. Bruno is one of those hard-working Italian immigrants who didn't wait for a pot of gold to fall on his lap. When Willie Nelson sings, "Don't cross him, don't boss him," he could easily be describing Bruno—although this short, burly restaurateur mixes in some cheerfulness along with the gruffness. Perhaps it's this rough-and-gentle blend that has made him a success. Many of his best friends and customers wander up to Gerlach just to be pampered by Bruno, his family and staff. No one is a stranger with this cockeyed optimist.

Bruno's Country Club is bright and almost sterile inside except for the many pictures that line the walls. In the dining area local photographer Tony Diebold shows off his portraits of chukar, rabbit, and deer. In another room, where drinks are served on a long bar, there are photos of *Thrust II* and Richard Nobel, the Englishman who set the world's land-speed record of 633.468 mph on October 4, 1984, on the nearby Black Rock Desert. Above the bar are family photos that show Bruno's obvious love for his grandchildren and hunting.

In the evening you can eat a plate of truly homemade raviolis while Bruno lectures in his classic Italian accent on world affairs, politics, and hunting. But it is the raviolis that bring a sparkle to the eye of the affi-



Grandson Willy and daughter Skeeky help Bruno at ravioli-making time.

cionado, and most big eaters can demolish only five or six of them.

He both cooks and supervises the two-day affair of making Bruno-brand raviolis. Here's how he does it:

A day in advance Bruno and his staff cook up a beef and vegetable base. Chicken is also ground into a textured pile resembling hamburger. We're talking tens of pounds—a huge restaurant roasting-pan full.

On ravioli day the clan gathers. Bruno's wife Frances, daughter Skeeky, grandsons Willy and Cecil, Jr., and employees Mary Minnette and Bob Mohran arrive at the meticulously clean kitchen. Willy has just come from school waving his spelling paper emblazoned with "100." Mary and I admire his neat work, but he needs Grandpa's approval before all is well.

Bruno expects good behavior from all the children. He's been known to teach a visiting three-year-old how to shake hands and look the other person straight in the eye. "Is good manners," he says.

Bruno believes that kids need to learn responsibility through work. Even two-year-old Cecil, Jr. is handed a table knife to dice up a loaf of sourdough French for the ravioli filling. Willy, more experienced, gets a paring knife. The loaves are large ones, nearly as big as the boys, who are standing on turned-over buckets at the big stainless-steel work table.

Once the bread is cubed, the parsley washed and trimmed, the onions and garlic cut up, and the broth sim-

mered, the gang is ready to prepare the ravioli filling.

The broth is poured over the diced bread to soak. The parsley, onions, and garlic are simmered in olive oil, which is then mixed in with the meat. The soaked bread is added, followed by the spices—salt, pepper, cinnamon, and nutmeg—and cooled slightly so Skeeky and her dad can

Born 65 years ago
north of Pisa,
Bruno was 'given
the deep blue sea'—
passage to America to
make a fortune—as
a gift for
his 17th birthday.

mix the filling with their bare hands. They work it like bread-kneaders working dough.

Meanwhile, Mary cracks eggs for this yummy-smelling concoction, which starts to have a jello consistency. Then, when all is ready, a patty of the mixture is scooped up, fried, and given the old taste test. Everyone approves except Bruno, who thinks the filling needs more salt.

At the other end of the huge work area Bob has been rolling out the ravioli in huge sheets, for we will be

making about 1,000 raviolis.

Now the assembly line is ready to go. Willy and I are given scoopers to make small balls of filling. Each ball is spaced about one-and-a-half inches apart on the dough, while a lip of dough is laid over the balls.

What happens next is what makes Bruno's raviolis a work of love. A wine glass is used to cut out each ravioli—Bruno and Skeezy are masters at it. With a fork Mary hand-presses the edges of each ravioli in order to seal in the filling. Each morsel is then placed on a tray before being frozen or put aside for today's meals. A thousand raviolis usually last from two to three weeks at Bruno's.

The first samples are gently boiled—no stirring for about 25 minutes. Al denta? you ask. Just wait. Add Bruno's meat sauce and his home-cured imported Italian cheese that is grated over the top, and you have a meal fit for a ravioli connoisseur.

Meanwhile, Skeezy has joshed her dad about the salt, put Cecil, Jr. down for a nap, and offered some background on Bruno.

Born 65 years ago about 10 miles north of Pisa, Bruno was "given the deep blue sea"—passage to America to make a fortune—as a gift for his 17th birthday. After arriving in Nevada, he took a job as a ranch cook in Dayton and later filled sacks of cement for Portland Cement (now U.S. Gypsum at Empire). Then in 1952 he and Frances bought the old Long Horn Bar in Gerlach, which they re-named Bruno's. They also bought an old hotel in Empire.

Says Skeezy of her dad, "No one ever gave him a thing. He's done it all himself. And he's never refused a meal to a hungry person."

Bruno's generosity was partially repaid when a fire destroyed the old bar in August 1982. All sorts of people from Reno, Gerlach, and California showed up to remove the charred ruins and start rebuilding the place. It is the social center of northern Washoe County and hardly anyone—hunters, geologists, government workers, ranchers, and lost souls—drives through Gerlach without inadvertently dealing with Bruno.

And if they're lucky with his raviolis.—Susan Lynn



Eusebio and Elvira Cenoz bring out the Basque in you in Gardnerville.

the time outside, a custom that sometimes results in convivial gatherings on the sidewalk.

El Burrito's menu offers many over-the-border delights such as a guacamole tostada or a large bowl of red or green chili with beans, both a la carte. House specialties include huevos rancheros, a Spanish omelet, and chorizo con huevo served with rice, beans, and tortillas. They also have menudo.

Many folks order the combination dinners that include enchiladas, tamales, tacos, burritos, chili rellenos, and other standards. You also can try the steak or the Mexican pizza, which is an open-face tortilla with melted cheese, guacamole, and diced tomatoes. Dinner items range from \$1.60 to \$3 a la carte and \$4.35 to \$7.75 for a full dinner. Lunches are \$2.95 to \$4.

Once you've made a selection, take a look at the restaurant's decor. Over the years it hasn't changed much—still the cockeyed booths, black-felt paintings, Mexican hats, and beer signs on the walls. You have to appreciate the business that Mary Grace Ramirez and her daughter, Becky Merrill, have built up over a quarter of a century. Friendliness and good food have triumphed.

El Burrito Cafe, 1919 East Fremont Street in Las Vegas, is open daily from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. (to 11 p.m. on Friday and Saturday), with luncheon specials served Monday through Saturday from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Credit cards are not accepted. Call 702-387-9246. There's also an El Burrito West at 633 North Decatur Boulevard; phone 870-1969.—Jackie Brett



BASKING IN THE BASQUE TRADITION

The portions are generous at the Overland, and so is the hospitality.

Few restaurants give testimony to Basque heritage like the Overland Hotel in Gardnerville. Spicy, authentic cuisine evolved from generations of Spanish recipes can be sampled in the rustic brick building on Main Street.

Dusty cowboys, polished yuppies, and tuckered ranch hands sit side-by-side at the blonde-wood bar shipped from St. Louis at the turn of the century. Mammoth mirrors reflect the rows of liquors, wines, and brew. Ceiling fans cool the place, which is decorated with momentos of the Old World.

Eusebio Cenoz, owner and gracious bartender, has presided over the Overland for the past 21 years. His father and grandfather were sheepherders in Spain, and after he came over in 1934, he worked as a sheepherder in Smith Valley about 30 miles east of Gardnerville. Later he bought the Overland from John "Pop" Etchemendy, who, (Continued on page 60)





SKI NEVADA

*We came, we saw,
we kind of conquered.*

By David Fenimore

One man's wilderness, as an old miner once told me, is another man's backyard. He was right. I've seen visitors to our state, not 500 yards from a fashionable Lake Tahoe casino district, pacing warily along a paved nature trail, convinced a hungry coyote was about to pounce on their poodle.

Wilderness is more a state of mind than an act of Congress, even if your idea of getting away from it all is trading the interstate for a two-lane highway.

To those raised within roping distance of a city limits sign, some parts of Nevada seem like no-man's land. Yet this same howling wilderness hosts a surprising number of people in the summer, and if you're used to spending a lot of time in the backcountry, the few RVers and backpackers you en-

Gerald Rockwell finds perfect skiing on 10,700-foot Mount Hamilton (left) while Doug Read, the author and Tod Lloyd wait for more snow to fall (above).

counter might add up to an unseemly crowd.

But take heart: These popular destinations regain most of their old-time remoteness in the winter, when most city folks are cuddled up in their condominiums or detoxifying themselves with exotic fruit drinks.

In fact, compared to a Sierra ski resort in high season, just about anywhere in Nevada would be classified as wilderness by almost anybody. And if you're an unemployed ski-mountaineering enthusiast, like the members of the Ski Nevada team, there's nothing more inviting than a remote stretch of Nevada's winter wilderness, as long as you're not more than 100 miles from a friendly saloon.

There's some skiing to be had out there, boys!" A couple of us were standing around Doug Read's front yard on a sunny midwinter afternoon, listening as Read, a wild grin cracking his sunburned face, unloaded an armful of

skis from his pickup, three-pin bindings twined with strands of sagebrush. My footloose neighbor had just returned from a winter conquest of Wheeler Peak, and during the return trip he'd been casting lascivious looks at those snowy ridges intersecting U.S. 50 and ogling their wide-open slopes.

A few days later he'd gone down to the Mackay School of Mines in Reno and bought a room-sized map of the Silver State. Over the next three seasons he gradually sketched in the details of an ambitious five-week mid-winter ski tour of Northern and Central Nevada's highest ranges.

Read and his tattered rolls of documents developed into a dependable routine at Tahoe social gatherings, where he would invariably find a table, spread out the maps, and solicit reservations from onlookers. But "Ski Nevada" was envisioned as no mere weekend jaunt. This time Read was extracting the best that civilization had to offer—he would rent a motor home complete with kitchen, shower, stereo, and dining room, thereby taking the chill off the desert's two-bag nights while staying within a grocery-store beer budget.

Finally he convinced a bunch of us that the trip would be fun, so we signed on for various phases. The mapped route traced an eastward trajectory across Northern Nevada to Wild Horse Reservoir and the Independence Range, then down through Elko to the Rubies, south to the White Pines, west to the Monitor, Toiyabe, and Toiyabe ranges, then on to the Clan Alpines, the Sweetwaters, and home. A southerly segment of the tour was scrapped when we discovered that much of the skiable terrain was situated within the Nevada Nuclear Test Site.

Late that January I found myself driving east on I-80, heading for a rendezvous with Ski Nevada at Elko's annual Cowboy Poetry Gathering. It wasn't hard to spot Read among the sea of leather and denim, striding out of a crowd of buckaroos in his fluorescent-orange GoreTex jumpsuit and cowboy hat.

"Boy, am I glad to see you," Doug began, relating how everyone else on the Wild Horse segment had sat inside the Winnebago with the flu, drinking blackberry brandy and reading old

The gang takes a cool dip at a hot spring (top). Lone tracks across Wild Horse Reservoir (below) are the only clues to Ski Nevada's whereabouts.



magazines while he had spent the time skiing across the snow-covered reservoir and hitching 60-mph rides behind local ranchers' snowmobiles. Meanwhile, 20-below nights had frozen the Winnebago's water lines, and the generator wouldn't start. Our mates had abandoned ship, leaving Doug eager for some new company.

Inside the auditorium, poet Waddie Mitchell was rhyming away when I saw a friend, Steve "Whitey" Nelson, and one of his young sons, listening intently. Deckerd out simply yet elegantly in white shirt and neckcloth, Nelson, then the cow boss at the Cross Ranch, looked nothing like the excellent skier he is. (As a ski mountaineer he wrote "Up the Down Mountain" for *Nevada Magazine*, Winter 1979). That night his brother Jeremiah, our Tahoe neighbor, stood us to a hearty meal and drinks at a local Basque hotel, and then we followed Whitey home to Deeth, parking our rig in his muddy yard among the cow chips and fence posts.

Two days later, fueled by an enormous breakfast, Doug, Whitey, and I drove south across the valley toward the towering wall that doubles as the northern stretch of the Ruby Mountains. We were looking for a route up jagged Hole-in-the-Mountain Peak, but a thick white sky had settled over the range.

The twisting dirt road passed a small homestead, where we stopped to ask directions and permission to cross the land. Resident Mike Gerber came to the door, wary at first, then more cheerful as he saw that we were less than harmless and more than worthy of directions. Gerber grinned over the heads of his wide-eyed kids and expressed a desire to accompany us, pointing to a set of long metal-edged mountaineering skis leaning against the cabin wall. But he had the mail contract for the area, and business interfered. So we proceeded without him a bit farther, disembarked, and continued on foot another few miles up the frozen road before stepping into our skis and skating across a white meadow lined with quaking aspens.

Past a rustic hunter's cabin, the slope abruptly steepened. We rummaged in our packs for adhesive-backed climbing skins, which would allow us to move upward without sliding back down the hill. Our equipment consisted of light fiberglass touring skis, stiffened with metal edges. The skis were held to our feet with three-pin toe clips—a heavy-duty version of the

standard cross-country binding—that left our heels free to rise and fall in the rhythmic motions of skiing and climbing. Boots were beefy black-leather lace-up models, and our metal poles telescoped to any desired length—

'Remember,' he yelled
over the roar
of his two-stroke engine,
'nobody has more
fun than us!'

long for skiing across the flats and climbing, short for quick maneuvering on descents.

The windpacked snow was solid, and we quickly rose above the pinyon pine and juniper to bare slopes that angled up into the clouds. We stopped beneath a rock overhang to eat lunch and don "full armor," as Doug put it, against the increasing wind. Below, across the infinite expanse of the Humboldt Basin, sunlit storm cells wheeled over patches of yellow and brown, streaked with the grays and pearly whites of winter.

"Whoo-pah!" Whitey's cry of ecstasy echoed against the rock battlements of Herder Creek as he tested a silky slope below the sharp ridge we were ascending. Climbing back to where we waited, he gasped, "Guy could get three or four good turns in there before he'd have to do something fast!" We looked down at the solid wall of quakies blocking the bottom of the draw. He shrugged, and surrendering again to the temptation of gravity, he carved a perfect, graceful "S" down the flank of the powder-filled bowl, vanishing into the maze of white trunks.

Read and I followed him into the aspens, finding the snow soft and forgiving, relying on our instincts to dodge the trees as they closed in. We descended deeper into the remote canyon. It was one tight fit. "You know," Whitey paused at one viewpoint to say, "you can be pretty sure nobody's ever skied through here before."

A day later the snow squalls lifted, and Read and I rolled our mobile headquarters out of the ranch's frozen yard and headed east on the interstate toward Wells.

It was sunny and cold when we

parked west of Wells and skied up the snow-covered road toward Angel Lake. At first we were scrambling to stay off the asphalt, but gradually the cover thickened and soon we were on good dry snow. Then we noticed a tiny speck far across the valley speeding in our direction. Soon the muffled clanging of a snowmobile became audible, and we saw that the fellow on it, dressed in a camouflage snowsuit and holding a pair of skis across the seat, was Mike Gerber.

"Hey, why didn't you guys tell me you were coming up here?" he said. "I have a couple extra machines." He threw out his tow rope and a few sweaters to augment our light touring garb, and in moments we were racing like water skiers across the snow. "Remember," he yelled what would become his continuing refrain over the snarl of his two-stroke engine, "nobody has more fun than us!"

As the valley unfolded below us, the snow began to bank across the road until Gerber couldn't drive any farther. So we skied the remaining few miles up to the lake, where a good snow squall was in progress.

After such an unexpected good time it was the civilized thing to invite Gerber over to the camper for a beer. We headed back down the slopes, then along the road, and finally back to where we had parked our monster. It was gone, with our wallets, dry clothes, ski gear, and everything else we owned. I suddenly noticed how wet and cold I was.

Luckily we had Mike Gerber on our side. Striding into the Nevada Highway Patrol office in Wells, he discovered he knew the trooper on duty, and a few phone calls determined that the Wells City Police had impounded our rented motor home, not solely because its South Carolina plates were expired, nor just because they were registered to a GMC tractor, but mainly because when Wells' chief of police entered it to check for evidence of foul play, he discovered that Read had violated a well-known local ordinance: "He hadn't made an entry in his journal in three days," reported the chief.

After a few calls to the rental office in Reno, we were again in possession of our motorized home and soon headed down dark, deserted U.S. 93 toward Ely.

West of Ely, on Little Antelope Summit, sat our friend Gerald Rockwell patiently waiting in his pickup.

(Continued on page 72)



Carson Valley rancher Ben Palmer with resident Mary Hawkins.

The First Black Rancher

*Ben Palmer and a group of black pioneers
made their marks in the 1800s.*

By Ed Johnson and Elmer R. Rusco

In 1891 the *Genoa Weekly Courier* reported an incident that involved a prominent Carson Valley rancher: "As Ben Palmer was driving. Tuesday with a span of light-footed Bonners, the nut dropped off the front wheel in Jacks Valley and the wheel running off, the driver was thrown to the ground with a man on top of him. The team went like a flash, but Ben with his born grit, clung to the ribbons and soon hauled them up and was himself but slightly bruised. Ben is a stayer."

Clearly, Ben Palmer was a skilled and determined man who knew horses. Also, as the newspaper's readers would know, Palmer was black. In fact, he was one of a small group of black ranchers who were important residents of the valley in the 19th century and, most likely, the first black settlers in Nevada.

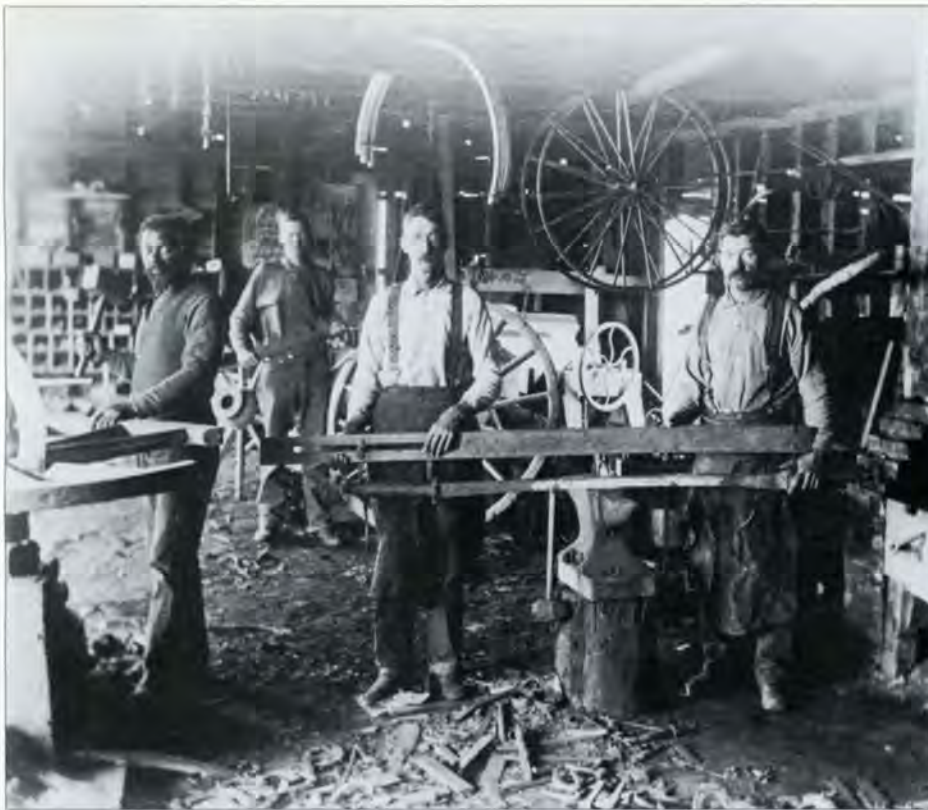
Palmer, who claimed 320 acres of

Ben Palmer was described in 1867 as 'one of the heaviest taxpayers in Douglas County.'

fine grassland south of Genoa in 1853, was among the area's earliest non-Indian settlers. The black drover came to what was then western Utah Territory with his sister Charlotte and her family. Charlotte was married to a white man, David (or D. H.) Barber, and the family settled next door to Palmer on 400 acres of land in the same year. Benjamin, one of the Barbers'

seven children, was the first non-Indian born in Carson Valley. According to the 1900 census, Benjamin Barber was born in Nevada in 1853. The first white child born in the valley, Louisa Beatrice Mott, was born December 10, 1854.

Ben Palmer became one of the most successful ranchers in the valley and "left one of the finest farms. . . as a monument," the *Gardnerville Record-Courier* observed in 1908. Palmer, whose last name was sometimes misspelled Parmer, was described by *Virginia City's Territorial Enterprise* in 1867 as "one of the heaviest taxpayers in Douglas County," and the tax records show that was true. In 1857 he was not only on the list of the 47 largest taxpayers—those with assessed valuations of \$5,000 or more—but also ranked 10th in the value of his property. His holdings in the Sheridan area were worth more than those of many



A number of blacks were working and living in the Carson Valley 100 years ago. Here a group of men at the Sheridan blacksmith shop pose for the camera.

prominent white residents such as John S. Childs, Fred Dressler, and Henry and P W Van Sickle.

A busy cattleman, Palmer drove 1,500 head from Seattle to Carson Valley in 1857 to replenish his herd, and the next year a newspaper reported, "Ben Parmer's cattle—450 head—passed through Genoa last Tuesday on their way to Goose Lake, Oregon." It was said that he introduced Bonner horses, a breed that is seldom heard of today, to the area.

Charlotte's husband David died in 1873, and their son Benjamin ran the Barbers' ranch for 30 years. While their ranch was not as profitable as Palmer's, it was a successful operation, assessed at levels ranging from \$2,000 to \$5,245 between 1883 and 1914.

By 1860 a third black family, consisting of Winfield and Sophia Miller and their children, had a ranch adjacent to Palmer and the Barbers. Although Winfield died in the 1860s, Sophia maintained the ranch for many years. Current, longtime local rancher Fred Dressler said in his 1984 oral history that "everybody admired Winfield because he could really ride a horse. They used to say he could put two 50-cent pieces on the bottom of his stirrup and never lose those 50-cents pieces under his toes and ride the bucking

horse to the finish."

The black ranchers employed black, Indian, and white ranch hands, and there were other black people living in Carson Valley in the 1800s.

Early Nevada law discriminated against all non-whites. For example, only whites could vote until 1870. But there is evidence that these black ranchers were highly respected. After 1870 Ben Palmer and Benjamin Barber were regularly registered to vote. In at least 1876 and 1878 Palmer was a member of the Douglas County Grand Jury, and in the latter year he was named to the panel of trial jurors.

Palmer and the Barbers were known and remembered for their hospitality. An article reporting Charlotte's death in 1887 noted that her funeral procession "was one of the largest ever witnessed in Douglas County" and went on to say of "this excellent woman" that "she was very charitable," and "at her house no one was ever denied a meal or a night's lodging."

The black ranchers also were respected simply because they were good citizens. In 1877 Palmer played a role in apprehending a murder suspect. When a man named Peter Wilson was stabbed to death in Dutch Valley, just across the state line in California, the chief suspect rode away on his

horse but turned his mount loose at the Miller ranch and tried to hide in a hay mow. The horse was found at Palmer's ranch, and Palmer and another man were able to follow the horse's tracks back to the hay mow. There, Palmer talked the suspect into surrendering to the justice of the peace.

One of the Barbers' sons, Lyman, became a successful rancher just south of Carson Valley in California. Like his Uncle Ben, Lyman had a knack for posse work. In 1879 he helped a fellow named C.H. Kilgore chase and capture a young man who had robbed Kilgore at gunpoint on the road from Bodie.

Palmer died in 1908 at the age of 82. After his nephew Benjamin died in 1925, only one of Charlotte's children, Clarissa Church, was still alive. In 1928 Clarissa was visited by Abe Nathan, a leading merchant in the valley for many years who had moved to the state of Washington. During his visit, the *Gardnerville Record-Courier* reported, Nathan "spent a day renewing acquaintanceships, including Miss Clarissa Church and others. One of Mr. Nathan's fond remembrances is when he rode horseback with the late Ben Parmer and he visited the old ranch near Sheridan where his happy boyhood days were spent."

Today, two monuments remind us of these early black pioneers. In the northeast corner of the Mottsville cemetery, which sits six miles south of Genoa in the shadow of Job's Peak, there is a neat plot with a central monument and a number of tombstones surrounded by a low concrete wall. Here lie Ben Palmer, Charlotte and David Barber, and their seven children.

Two miles south of the cemetery Ben Palmer's sturdy barn still stands, bearing witness to the presence of black settlers in this beautiful valley, the first stopping place of the people who built modern Nevada. ▽

Ed Johnson of Carson City is the director of the Stewart Indian Museum and author of Walker River Paiutes: A Tribal History. Elmer R. Rusco is professor emeritus of political science at UNR and author of Good Time Coming?: Black Nevadans in the 19th Century. Both writers have chapters in the Smithsonian's Handbook of North American Indians. Johnson and Rusco credit State Senator Joe Neal of North Las Vegas with encouraging them to do this story when, upon seeing a reference in Rusco's book, Neal pointed out that there might be more to learn about Ben Palmer

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"C.O.D. Garage (Detail)," Best of Show, black and white in NEVADA 88, by Jay Aldrich of Minden

contemporary communities and potpourri. Past entries have come from 28 states, Germany and Switzerland.

Send for entry forms and rules no later than January 10, 1989. Deadline for receipt of photographs and color slides is February 10, 1989. Show opens March 30, 1989.

Write: Northeastern Nevada Museum, Attention: NEVADA 89, Box 2550, Elko, NV 89801. Phone 702-738-3418.



*It was late afternoon in a cowtown saloon
At the end of a big rodeo,
And the boys from the shoots in their
Levis and boots
Were wandering in to hash over the show.
—Anonymous,
“Murph and McClop”*

SAGEBRUSH SONNETS

*Sights and sounds of
Elko's Cowboy
Poetry Gathering.*

*Photos by
Scott Hinrichs*

Photographer Scott Hinrichs had a few surprises when he attended last year's Cowboy Poetry Gathering in Elko. First, the San Jose resident had never before lingered while traveling in the state. "Usually my visits to Nevada were only at gas stops," he confesses. Second, he expected a more primitive scene. "We got it in our brains that this was going to be cowboys and campfires. But Elko's got this beautiful facility, and all the cowboys were in elaborate costumes," he says of the event, which takes place this year on January 25-28 (see *Nevada Events* for details). "And the music—there were a lot of improv sessions."

Hinrichs remembers only one discouraging word: When he tried to pose one of the organizers outdoors with some cattle, the gentleman refused because he thought the mild-mannered photographer might roll him for his wallet. "After that I decided to compromise with the drab walls and the Hello My Name Is badges," Hinrichs says. His photographs, captioned here with poetry excerpts from the gathering, show that he and his subjects had an uncompromisingly good time.



*We started for the ranch next day,
Brown talked to me most all the way,
He said cowpunching was only fun,
It was no work at all;
That all I had to do was ride,
It was just like drifting with the tide,
Geemany crimany, how he lied;
He surely had his gall.*

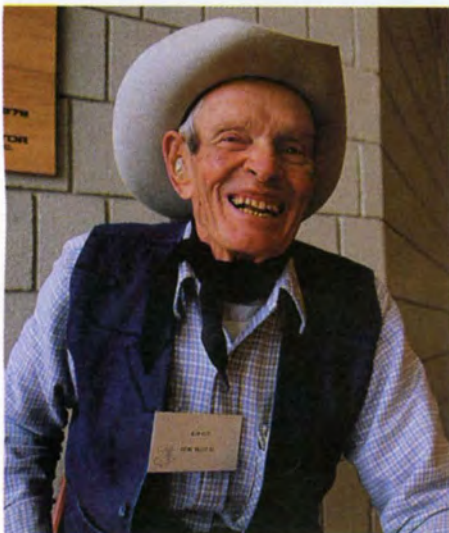
—D. J. O'Malley,
"D-2 Horse Wrangler"

*I was telling of my troubles, some
Bad mistakes I'd made,
That my dreams of being a top cowgirl
Were startin' to fade.
This cowboy looked at me and said
With a sort of smile,
"A sorry hand is
In the way all the time,
A good one just once in a while."*

—Georgie Sicking,
"To Be a Top Hand"



Now this gold wedding band that
I have on my hand
Was a gift from a man I adore,
Who solemnly said on the day
We were wed
That he'd ride
Buckin' horses no more.
—Anonymous,
"Murph and McClop"



This ain't my first line-camp job,
But I remember how it felt
The first time that I just had beans
'Stead'a turkey 'neath my belt.
—Waddie Mitchell,
"Stub"

Poetry excerpts from *Cowboy Poetry: A Gathering*, edited by Hal Cannon,
G.M. Smith, publisher, 1985. ▢



AIRBOAT ARCHAEOLOGY

Scientists propel themselves into prehistoric Nevada.

*By Donald R. Tuohy
and
Anan Raymond*

The sheer quantities
of human bones
and debris
from ancient campfires
and houses
gave suspect to a huge
archaeological site.

The roar of a 250-horsepower engine driving an airplane propeller just inches behind our heads had us wondering. Skimming across the water in an airboat to archaeological sites is believable in the Everglades, but in Nevada?

Indeed, only an airboat can rip over the pondweed and sneak through the maze of tules that compose Stillwater Marsh National Wildlife Refuge. Other boats would draft too deeply in the muddy water.

Led by airboat driver Eugene "Duff" Duffney, master mechanic Ernie Lanto, and jack of all trades Delvan Lee—all part of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, which maintains these unusual wetlands northeast of Fallon—we rounded an island and burst upon a block of mudhens. The birds frantically dove and screeched.

But following this explosion of life a spectral scene awaited us on the shore of an island. The skeleton of an ancient Indian issued from the mud. He lay on his side, curled up like a baby. Three feet from the body a skull rolled in the wave fetch. A nervous smile spread across Duff's face. "Burials everywhere," he said. We pondered, "What happened?"

Three years of abnormally high pre-

Scientists explore Stillwater with Duff at the controls (top). Amy Dansie and Michelle "Mickey" Haldeman (bottom left) were deep into the study, which they wrote with Don Tuohy. Cormorant nests overlook the marsh (bottom right).

cipitation had transformed Stillwater Marsh into a vast lake. By the time the water began to recede in the summer of 1985, the landscape had changed. The cattail and bulrush, once thick and green, were gone. Alkali weed lay wilted in mud puddles, a casualty of too much water. The formidable greasewood showed only stumps and rootballs on the barren ground.

When Duffney and his gang first patrolled this new landscape, they initially saw a human skull washed upon the shore. But on closer inspection it was evident they were onto something more than anyone could have imagined. The sheer quantities of human bones and debris from scores of ancient campfires, roasting pits, houses, and storage pits gave suspect to a huge archaeological site. Prompted by Charlie Gomes, an amateur archaeologist from Fallon who had been exploring the area on his own and was concerned about vandalism, refuge officials asked the Nevada State Museum to help formulate a plan.

What emerged was a cooperative effort involving the museum, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Fallon Paiute Shoshone Tribe. It was decided that human burials more than 50 percent exposed would be excavated, while burials less than 50 percent exposed would be covered and left in the ground. The museum would coordinate mapping, salvage collection, and excavation in the fall of 1985.

Our first analysis showed that the Stillwater Marsh sites were, indeed, matchless in the Great Basin. The number of prehistoric individuals recovered at the marsh was greater than all the remains previously found in Nevada. The project also added significantly to our understanding of how these ancient people lived in Western Nevada. Previous studies suggested that early Indians spent much of their time moving with the seasons, gathering plants and hunting animals when they were particularly abundant. But the archaeology of Stillwater paints a much less mobile lifestyle. These people may have spent much of their time living in the marsh, reaping its bounty.

We had to act quickly. The number of artifacts and bones revealed by the flood was immense. The combination of alkali, sun, open air, and shallow water caused chemical reactions that turned many bones into powder. Vandals looted sites and desecrated burials. (Along with artifact collecting, such activity without a permit is a felony and punishable by fines and im-

prisonment.) Duck hunting season was fast approaching, and soon hundreds of people would slog through sensitive archaeological sites littered with human bones.

At speeds that cooled the summer heat to a crisp autumn breeze, airboats whisked the scientists and volunteers out to the sites. On one of our first rides to a site, we got a lesson in airboat handling—and how deep we'd get involved in our work. On the approach Duff revved the engine and leaned hard on the steering stick. The boat launched into a sideways drift,

Exhilarated, we
clamored on shore.
Some of us sank
to our knees.
Others were trapped
to their thighs
in the mud.

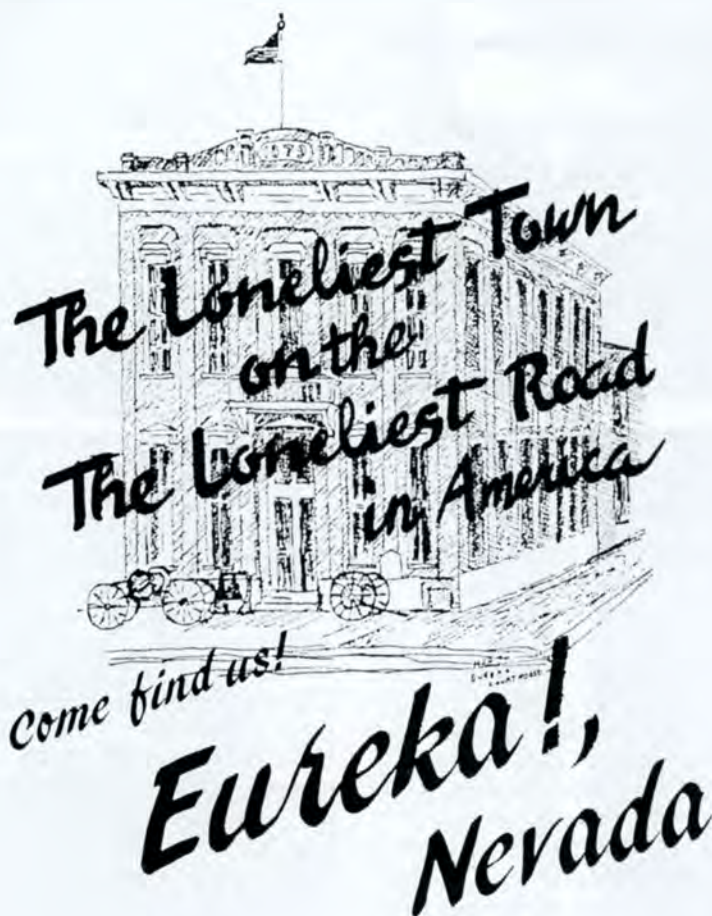
abruptly whipped around, and backed smoothly into the island's muddy shore. Exhilarated, we clamored out with transits, trowels, and paperwork in hand. But it only took three steps for the mud to suck up our excitement. Some of us sank to our knees. Others were trapped to their thighs. Writhing and mumbling defilements, we watched as Duff and the airboat glided effortlessly away.

We discovered 45 waterlogged sites, mapped them, and collected the human burials. Others logged artifacts and animal remains into a catalog. Although wet today the sites were probably dry when the Indians lived there. Many sites had large midden (trash) deposits, which showed a dark organic color compared to the surrounding silt and clay deposits.

We also found features like house pits and storage pits within the middens and around the perimeters of sites. Such features often appeared as rings, or circles, and ranged in diameter from 10 centimeters (about four inches) to five meters (about 15 feet). A few sites had more than 100 features, while others had only a few. Some of the features contained human burials, but the contents of most are unknown. Our best guess is that they served as post holes, cache pits, burial pits, trash pits, and house floors. If that is correct, the archaeology of Stillwater Marsh takes on greater importance. Until now evidence for food storage among Nevada's hunter-gatherers has been extremely rare. But we will have to excavate the pits to discover their true function.

The size of the salvaged human population—133 individuals—makes the Stillwater skeletal series extremely important. It is the largest single group of prehistoric Indians to come to light in the Great Basin. We recovered more than 51 males, 48 females, and 44 persons with undetermined gender, including 18 children and 17 teenagers. The oldest people died of natural causes while in their 50s. However, many people died in their late 20s and early 30s, perhaps reflecting the rigors of childbearing and hunting.

The burials, especially male, contained animal remains, stone tools, bone awls, and occasionally stone beads—humble offerings probably used in day to day activity, not the opulent splendor buried with some-



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The skull examined by Amy Dansie and Don Tuohy (bottom) was among the marsh's many remains (top right). The 133 individuals discovered in the area represent the largest ancient group ever found in the Great Basin.



one like King Tut. The offerings might have been the owner's favorite personal possessions since four of the burials included dog and coyote remains. Many burials were found with bird bones put together in a careful order, suggesting a special kinship with the marsh wildlife. We found the wing bones of a tundra swan directly beneath the skull of a few people, as if the feathered wing was placed like a pillow under the head of the deceased.

Back in the Nevada State Museum lab, more clues about the health and lifestyle of the ancient Stillwater people were being uncovered by physical anthropologists, who studied the human bones in minute detail. Their preliminary results revealed that the Indians were essentially healthy but suffered from peculiar maladies. For instance, the scientists discovered that an arthritic condition had produced boney spikes around the margins of the vertebrae on nine people.

Sheilagh Brooks, a physical anthropologist from the University of Nevada-Las Vegas, made a remarkable discovery. Five males and two females suffered from a degenerative joint disease, causing "eburnation." With a scientist's matter-of-fact demeanor, Brooks explained that eburnation results when bone rubs raw bone without the benefit of cartilage, turning it as hard and dense as ivory. Wincing slightly, Brooks commented, "It must have been extremely painful."

Eburnation was found on the primary weight-bearing joints of the hip, knee, and lower back as well as the elbow and wrist. We can only guess the cause of this painful disease. But after spending weeks slugging through the



cold and damp Stillwater mud the archaeologists could imagine what the rigors of a lifetime in the marsh might do.

The human bones provided another interesting discovery. Nine males and two females had broken noses! Close examination revealed that the noses had been broken and then healed years before the natural death of the individual. Perhaps the injury represents a long-lost puberty ritual carried out by a shaman or medicine man.

Further studies of the bones, sponsored by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, are underway. Clark Larsen, who has studied the human burials from nearby Hidden Cave, is pursuing clues that the bones can provide on the nutritional status, life expectancy, and responses to environmental stress of the prehistoric Indians. Out of respect for the deceased and in consultation

with leaders of the Fallon Paiute Shoshone Tribe, the remains have already been reinterred in a specially designed grave.

While we initially concentrated on recovering human bones, we also collected important artifacts such as arrowheads and spearpoints. The shape of an arrowhead can indicate the time it was manufactured. For example, arrowheads with a triangular shape may have been produced five centuries ago; a leaf-shaped arrowhead may be 3,000 years old. With the help of such artifacts we have estimated that some sites in the marsh may be 5,000 years old and that others were occupied only 500 years ago.

Projectile points help dating in other ways. Archaeologists can determine whether a projectile was used to tip a spear, which was propelled with a spearthrower (atlatl) by ancient hunters, or with a bow and arrow, which came into use about 800 A.D. There are

other means to date sites, such as the expensive radiocarbon method, but we have yet to obtain a suitable sample from the muddy deposits in the marsh.

Although the most spectacular discoveries in Stillwater Marsh were the human bones, animal bones comprised the bulk of the archaeological material.

Amy Dansie, a zooarchaeologist at the Nevada State Museum, identified 36 taxa including waterfowl, mountain sheep, deer, pronghorn, rodents, canines, mustelids, rabbits, snakes, amphibians, fish, and fresh-water mollusks. As expected, the vast majority of the animals were marsh creatures. The few sheep, deer, and rabbits must have been killed in the Stillwater Mountains and brought back home for cooking.

The number of fish bones was staggering. Tui chub, a minnow that can reach eight inches in length, comprised the majority of fish remains and may have been a dietary staple. We know from historic accounts that the Stillwater Paiutes netted and dried scores of these fish in late spring. And the potential for fish in Stillwater Marsh is impressive. At the end of the flood in 1986 an estimated seven million tui chub swam the waters of nearby Carson Sink.

After fish, waterfowl represented the most numerous animal remains. Ducks, geese, pelicans, and swans must have been served at many meals. Mudhens (or coots) are particularly abundant at the archaeological sites. Being poor flyers, mudhens make fairly easy prey. Historically, Paiute hunters would wade or float on a raft through the marsh, driving a mudhen flock into a narrow channel. There, hiding in the tules, more hunters would surprise the flock with nets and clubs and often reap a harvest big enough to feed several families. It seems that the people wasted nothing. The bones were broken, ground, and probably boiled for stew



Numerous fish bones offered more clues about the Indians' marsh cuisine.

Mink and otter,
whose bones were
discovered
during the dig,
stand out because
they are now extinct
at Stillwater.

Dansie discovered some unexpected animals that provide tantalizing hints about the area's prehistoric environment. Mink and otter stand out among the mustelids she found because today they are extinct at Stillwater. At one time Indians probably used those animals' skins—along with those of weasel, muskrat, and badger—to make warm winter clothes, but today the mink and otter can't survive the marsh's turgid, saline waters. Unforeseen 80 years ago when the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation began the Newlands Project to change the desert around Fallon into rich cropland, today's upstream use of the Carson and Truckee rivers is so extensive that Stillwater Marsh is perhaps only one-third to one-sixth the size of its former self, with

most of its water having previously flowed over cropland.

Most Great Basin sites yield few if any canine bones, but they were abundant at Stillwater. The dogs included a small narrow-nosed terrier type, a medium-sized heavy-jawed Indian dog, and a larger wolf-like dog, perhaps a hybrid. The animals may have been pets, predators, or hunting dogs.

The archaeological work at Stillwater Marsh is just beginning. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has recently begun an archaeological pro-

gram in the area, and future studies should refine the preliminary results discussed here.

The rewards of this work have excited us and left us open for a new look at Stillwater Marsh. In the beginning there was just that ancient skeleton laying on its side, without a history or place. Now, heading home after a long and muddy day's work, it was up to us to give meaning to the clues the marsh people left behind.

Delvan cut the airboat motor and we watched a long string of white pelicans—massive birds—angle toward us. They were flying five feet above the water, playing follow-the-leader, rising and dipping like a long whip in super slow motion. Each bird in turn would dodge the same unseen molecule of air. Delvan turned and whispered one word: "Niiiiice."

Then we heard the strange "deeeep-deeeep-deeeep" call of the American avocet, and our minds were lulled back to a time when the marsh was alive with human activity. Stillwater's early people are gone, but their history remains, buried under storage pits, unmarked graves, and the sites of their ancient homes. □

Donald R. Tuohy is curator of anthropology at the Nevada State Museum. Anan Raymond is the archaeologist for Stillwater Marsh National Wildlife Refuge near Fallon.



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Aspens in Lamoille

Aspens show off their silvery limbs in Lamoille Canyon while 11,349-foot Ruby Dome stands sentinel to the east. Photographer George Wuerthner of Livingston, Montana, was vacationing in the Ruby Mountains near Elko in early November and took this shot about halfway up the main road of the picturesque canyon. The 36-year-old Wuerthner journeys to Nevada two or three times a year. He says appreciatively, "Driving through the state, all you see is one mountain range after another." He thinks the Rubies are among the most beautiful. ▽



Bighorn by the Lake

A desert bighorn sheep pauses above Lake Mead. Lately, with overpopulation problems in that area, the animals have been captured and transplanted to other areas in the West, including Northern Nevada, where the bighorn was wiped out by overhunting and domestic sheep disease in the late 1800s.

Kate Butler of Las Vegas took this shot in the evening near Mead's Boulder Basin, about 25 miles west of Las Vegas. She says that this animal was one of the few bighorns who avoided eating the government's fermented apple mash, a substance which would have tranquilized him—and landed him in a new neighborhood somewhere in the West. ▽

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Above: The Warm Springs Hotel, site of today's state prison, was home to the 1861 session.



Left: Legislators A.J. Simmons of Unionville and Billy Clagett of Virginia City flank Mark Twain.

FRONTIER LAWMAKERS

*When the legislature first met in Carson City in the 1860s,
the bar was always open, but there was nary a chair*

By Russell W. McDonald

*"To retain respect for sausages and laws,
one must not watch them in the making."
—Prince Otto von Bismark-Schönhausen*

Mark Twain, who once described Nevada's territorial legislature as an "asylum," had some strong opinions about the legislative gatherings that he covered as a reporter in the early 1860s. "That was a fine collection of sovereigns, that first Nevada legislature," said Twain. "They levied taxes to the amount of thirty or forty thousand dollars and ordered expenditures to

A Historic Occasion

This year the Silver State reaches a noteworthy milestone—its 125th birthday. Nevada traded its territorial status for statehood on October 31, 1864, and that fortunate event will be celebrated in *Nevada Magazine* with special historical features throughout 1989. This is the first article in that series.

the extent of about a million. Yet they had their little periodical explosions of economy like all other bodies of the kind. A member proposed to save three dollars a day to the nation by dispensing with the chaplain. And yet that shortsighted man needed the chaplain more than any other member, perhaps, for he generally sat with his feet on his desk, eating raw turnips, during the morning prayer."

The gathering of lawmakers in Carson City has been a biennial tradition since Nevada gained statehood in 1864, and it continues this January

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when the legislature holds its 65th regular meeting. Today the lawmakers meet in a modern, well-heated building and discuss issues such as education and gaming law. In the 1860s they held their sessions in drafty hotels and

But for Abe Curry, Twain asserted, 'the legislature would have been obliged to sit in the desert.'

tackled such matters as firewood and toll-road franchises. But despite the primitive conditions of Carson City in those days, not to mention the eager sniping of reporters and critics, the first legislatures set high standards for resourcefulness and deal-making.

Those who gathered for the earliest sessions noticed that Nevada's capital did not offer the comforts of New York or San Francisco. Sent to Carson by the *Sacramento Union* to cover the first territorial legislature in 1861, Andrew Jackson Marsh arrived at the "little seven by nine settlement" to find it already so filled up with legislators and candidates for office that he had difficulty in obtaining a hotel room. In his first dispatch he also remarked on traveling conditions: "I am here, and without any broken bones, but how my bones happen to be whole after the fearful ride up and down the Sierra Nevada mountains, I haven't the remotest idea."

When Mark Twain's elder brother, Orion Clemens, who was Secretary of the Territory, found it impossible to locate a legislative hall, one of Carson City's founders came forward and "shouldered the Ship of State over the bar and got her afloat again," as Twain put it. Abraham V.Z. Curry offered the upper story of his Warm Springs Hotel, a lonely stone building nearly two miles east of town, as a meeting place and provided free transportation by means of an uncomfortable horse railroad. "But for him," asserted Twain, "the legislature would have been obliged to sit in the desert." The enterprising Curry kept a well-stocked bar on the ground floor of the legislative hall where he dispensed liquor to the

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legislators at two bits a drink.

With limited funds to organize the session, Orion Clemens was hard pressed to comply with his instructions from Washington. Curry's building was spartan, unfurnished and un-

The legislature caused great consternation by enacting a law that made it illegal to buy a drink for a friend.

heated. Orion managed to borrow some stoves from Utah for the chambers, and when the stoves were installed, the legislature hired firemen to keep them going.

There were other obstacles. "Plain pine desks have been made for the honorables," reported the *Union's* Marsh, "that but one man in Carson had chairs for sale, and he was unwilling to trust the Secretary of the Territory for them until remittances could be received from Washington. There are no locks to the drawers in members' desks for a similar reason, namely, that the required number of locks and keys could not be found in the Territory."

When some of his accounts were disallowed by the comptroller of the treasury in Washington, Orion explained, "It was not my design to furnish . . . the legislative halls in an extravagant or unusual manner; but I never held an office before except that I once had the honor to be clerk of an election, was never in Washington, never saw a Legislature in session, and never saw any office at the Capital of any State or Territory. My instructions did not and could not cover every thing. I fancy perhaps carelessly, that my extreme economy, as manifested in my first reports, was not favorably considered at Washington."

After Abe Curry covered the floors with sawdust to accommodate the expectorations of tobacco-chewing members, Orion managed to round up 18 chairs. He reported that the representatives "sat on borrowed pine benches until two ladies of this place bought and presented them with chairs, which they instructed them to take home with them." The two donors



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were Margaret A. Ormsby, widow of William M. Ormsby, who was killed at the first battle of Pyramid Lake, and Miss Hannah Kaziah Clapp, who had founded the Sierra Seminary, a private school in Carson City.

Orion further noted the legislators' displeasure with the long but cramped desks he provided: "The members of the first session complained of my strained economy. They said they were put up to long desks like so many school boys."

But if its furniture was sparse, the first legislature's accomplishments were by no means small. That body organized the territory and divided it into counties, established the capital, and provided for the election of local officers. It created a common school system and passed the necessary civil and criminal codes.

One popular piece of legislation was a bill allowing mining companies to incorporate in Nevada, rather than in California as previously required. Dr. Charles Lewis Anderson, who lived in the White House Hotel, where the legislature stands today, wrote his wife on that occasion in 1862. "All the sporting population got gloriously drunk," he told her. "Last night I remained up

until after midnight to see the Legislature adjourn. The band was out to discourse music, and after adjourning they serenaded Governor Nye. He was

Because of his
Southern sympathies,
Clayton was
hauled off to Fort
Churchill and made to
saw wood and
pack sand.

foolishly drunk. . . and sang 'Dixie' to the crowd."

Some of the bills had a less general benefit. For instance, the lawmakers in 1862 and 1864 spent much time debating and granting private franchises for the construction of railroads, toll roads, and bridges. Many of those franchises went to friends, to relatives, and even to the legislators themselves. The franchises were extremely valuable, and a grantee usually could assign his fran-

chise to someone else for a healthy profit.

This boondoggling did not escape Mark Twain, who wrote, "The legislature sat sixty days, and passed private toll road franchises all the time. When they adjourned it was estimated that every citizen owned about three franchises; and it was believed that unless Congress gave the territory another degree of longitude there would not be room enough to accommodate the toll roads. The ends of them were hanging over the boundary line everywhere like a fringe."

Of course, there were matters in which lawmakers had no common bond. During the 1875 session, feisty Thomas Wren, later a congressman from Nevada, was an assemblyman from Eureka and chairman of the Judiciary Committee. A bill had been introduced to prohibit gambling. Wren opposed the bill, causing Assemblyman J. F. McDonnell of Virginia City to accuse Wren of taking a \$1,500 payoff from the gambling lobby. Hot remarks followed, and the battle adjourned to the steps of the Capitol, where both Wren and McDonnell pulled their guns. Bloodshed was averted only by the intervention of bystanders.

Wren, who prided himself on being a self-educated and self-made man, did not forget the working man. That same year he introduced a resolution to pay a legislative employee \$90 for extra services—for keeping the legislative privies in order during the session.

Ten years later the legislature created great consternation by enacting the so-called anti-treating law, which made it a misdemeanor to buy a drink for a friend. The bill was introduced by Robert P. Hamill from Wells. He, it is alleged, was the only person ever arrested for violating the law. Apparently a group of friends innocently suggested to Hamill, who enjoyed a drink, that their party adjourn to a local saloon. There, Hamill put his money on the bar and ordered drinks for the crowd, whereupon he was arrested by a private citizen.

Another means of escape from the pressures of lawmaking was the Third House, a satirical and strictly Nevada institution that probably had its genesis in 1862. Originally held in the streets of Carson City, the show—produced by members of the press, lobbyists, and eventually some legislators—was a burlesque upon the proceedings of the legislative houses. In 1862 the main player appears to have been Patrick

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Henry Clayton, a brilliant lawyer and superior poker player. Because of his unpopular Southern sympathies, Clayton was hauled off to Fort Churchill and for a time made to saw wood and pack sand. His arrest in the summer of 1863 apparently did not lead to his being ostracized, for he presided over the buffoonery of the Third House the following December.

From the outset the scripts of this mocking entertainment have mercilessly ridiculed legislators, staff, politics, and the legislature in general. The Third House also has served as a vent for the severe pressures that build up among all the participants during a session. In time the farce found its way into the legislature itself and today is held there near the end of each session.

Since those first territorial gatherings in the 1860s, and despite the criticisms of the press and the public, the legislature has met most of Nevada's challenges with distinction. There have been many fine statesmen on the Senate and Assembly rosters who have done their best for the legislative process and the citizens of this fast-growing state.

But after 128 years of legislative action, perhaps the people of Nevada



The Virginia City delegation in 1864.

have adopted the thinking of Herbert Spencer, who wrote, "Let men learn that a legislature is not our God upon earth, though by the authority they ascribe to it, and the things they expect from it, they would seem to think it is."

Perhaps the public should remember the saying, "There are two enemies to every bill proposed in the legislature—the fools who favor it and the lunatics who oppose it." We also can recall what Edmund Francis Dunne

said at the 1864 constitutional convention in Carson City. During the debates Dunne, a lawyer and delegate from Unionville, declared, "The people wait with fear and trembling when the legislature is in session, and thank God when they go home," a view that for many rings true 125 years later. ▽

Russell W. McDonald of Reno is a lawyer historian, and former director of the Legislative Counsel Bureau in Carson City.

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The fast lane may have passed by Beatty, but U.S. 95 brings a steady stream of traffic past the venerable Exchange Club.

Turning the Corner

Beatty, known for its proximity to Death Valley and the Test Site, has outlasted bigger, fancier towns. Like its citizens, Beatty is a survivor

By Claire Keefner

When one first sees Beatty—home of a thousand desert dwellers, a two-hour drive northwest of Las Vegas—one might wonder how, 80 years ago, this town could call itself the Chicago of the West. Indeed, even though Beatty was a busy crossroads in those days, it was overshadowed by its more spectacular neighbors, Rhyolite and Bullfrog, where gold fever had lured thousands of prospectors and merchants.

But while those two boom camps soon became ghost towns, Beatty lived

‘My grandfather
built a livery stable,
bar, and restaurant.

He opened
Beatty’s first cafe
—in a tent.’

on. Its survival has been due to things more valuable than gold—its abundance of water, its location on a main highway, and its tough community spirit.

The town’s beginnings can be traced to a dusty, thirsty prospector named Montillus Murray Beatty, better known as Jim, who wandered into a Paiute campsite in the late 1890s. The Paiutes let him stay for a while, and Mahanagos, the chief’s daughter, took care of him. However, when Beatty made no move to leave, the Paiutes had second thoughts about their guest and

held a late night conference.

As the story goes, Mahanagos pleaded for Beatty's life, whereupon the tribal leaders granted her wish—if she would marry him. She did, and Beatty gave up prospecting to settle down on an old ranch abandoned some years before by a man named Landers. The ranch soon became a rest stop for weary travelers, and when the Rhyolite and Bullfrog gold rush started in the early 1900s, Beatty's settlement grew.

In 1904, Bob Montgomery, a Rhyolite mine owner and developer, staked out the Beatty townsite. A year later he opened his \$25,000 Montgomery Hotel and invited guests and townfolk to celebrate in grand style with flags, a lavish banquet, gambling, band music, and dancing.

Other businesses opened, including the Exchange Club in 1906. The Exchange, which still is Beatty's main downtown landmark, became the primary meeting place for residents, serving as the town hall and the site of the fire alarm.

Jim Beatty operated the first post office after it opened in 1905, even though he couldn't read or write. He'd point to the baskets and let people sort their correspondence themselves. He soon gave up postal work, however, and in 1906 he sold the ranch and moved his family into a fine house in Beatty. Finally, in 1908, the man who gave Beatty its name fell off a wagon, hit his head, and died, leaving behind Mahanagos and three children.

Meanwhile, developers like F.M. "Borax" Smith and U.S. Senator William Clark of Montana saw that the time was ripe to move into the mining areas of Nevada. Clark, reputedly the richest man in America, was the first to reach Beatty with his Tonopah and Tidewater Railroad on October 18, 1906. Soon afterwards the Bullfrog and Goldfield Railroad began service, and Beatty began calling itself the Chicago of the West.

Amid so much activity, Ralph Jacubus Fairbanks, known later as "Dad" Fairbanks, shrewdly deduced that freighting supplies by wagon could be more profitable than railroading or prospecting. He and his four sons came from Utah, working on the construction of several railroads.

Fairbanks' grandson, Ralph Lisle, who moved to Beatty in 1938 during yet another mining boom, recalls, "My grandfather distributed goods by wagon from the railroad stops into Rhyolite, Beatty, and as far north as

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Goldfield and Tonopah. He built a livery stable, bar, and restaurant wherever he delivered freight. He opened Beatty's first cafe—in a tent."

Fairbanks made a fortune and eventually had a string of railroad boardinghouses at Beatty, Johnnie's Siding, Death Valley Junction, and Fairbanks Springs. "Whenever one of the mining towns went kablooey," Lisle explains, "Granddad converted his freight wagons to haul the buildings out and on to the next thriving town."

Beatty boasted a population of about 1,000 at the height of the Rhyolite gold

boom. By 1910 both Rhyolite and Bullfrog were almost deserted, but Beatty lived on as a supply post. Mines of less glamorous minerals such as fluorspar, tungsten, and talc were developed.

Fluorspar, a mineral used in manufacturing steel, was as good as gold for J. Irving Crowell in the early 1900s. Crowell was not your typical dust-covered prospector riding a burro. He arrived in Beatty from Los Angeles in style on the Tonopah and Tidewater Railroad.

J. Irving's grandson, Jack Crowell, has lived all of his life in Beatty except

for the times when school or the U.S. Navy kept him away. Today, he's semi-retired and operates 10 claims in the Crowell Mine area. Jack and his wife, Maud-Kathrin, a long-time secretary at the Beatty School, became involved in the community while their four children were growing up.

"We get together and do a lot of things ourselves, like building the swimming pool, putting in ball fields, fences—just about everything," Jack says. "Beatty is really special in that there is pioneering and togetherness and, as a result, people take better care of things. If they see someone messing up something, they get on them." He notes the area's recent upsurge of mining activity. The town, he says, "is still small enough so that we don't have to lock our doors at night, but with Beatty growing like it is, I think we'll lose some of the pioneering spirit and trust."

Other longtime Beattyites are Sallye Bradley and Florence Phinney, who have been friends for more than 50 years. "There were only about 150 people living in Beatty when we moved there in 1926," Sallye says. "My father moved us there on a mining venture that turned out to be a hoax, so we farmed instead, first on the Amargosa Ranch and later on the Post Ranch, which had belonged to Jim Beatty."

As for Florence, her family limped into Beatty on a flat tire on July 8, 1928. "We were heading for Carrara, about eight miles south of Beatty," Florence says. "My father was a carpenter and a millwright, and he had a job tearing

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Jim Beatty (background) with his wife Mahanagos and their three children.

down the old Carrara marble mill."

Florence was accustomed to schools with as many as 40 students in one class. However, when she walked into the one-room Beatty schoolhouse on the first day, there were only three students. "I thought that was terrible," she says. "But the other children told me that the Indians were out picking pine nuts and the Bradleys would be back soon, too."

When the Bradleys did return, Florence and Sallye began their life-long friendship. Their playground was all of the desert area that they could cover on foot.

"Rhyolite was deserted by then," Sallye recalls. "Flo and I would load up our wagon with dress-up clothes and makeup, and pack water in a gallon canteen. We would walk from the Post Ranch five miles across the flats to Rhyolite. There you could choose to live in a hotel, or a schoolhouse, or the depot that never did have a train running through it—we had them all. We even played in the jailhouse."

In those days gambling halls flourished in Beatty, and although Prohibition was in effect, there were plenty of local bootleggers and clubs. In addition to the Exchange Club, revelers could visit the Last Chance, the Hot Springs, the Gold Ace, and Glen St. Peters, named after an owner, not the keeper of the Pearly Gates.

"Beatty had boardwalks then, and usually people would be up late drinking on Saturday night," Sallye says, "Almost every Sunday morning you could find some poor old man laying across the boardwalk sleeping it off."

"I was 17 when my folks left Beatty in 1931," Sallye says. "I worked for Grandma Noyes dishwashing and then waitressing for \$1.50 a day and room and board." She married Dick Stevens, and they left town in 1937, later moving to Henderson in 1963.

Florence also worked for Grandma Noyes, staying in Beatty with her husband, Jack Palsgrove, and their children until they moved to Henderson in 1947. "I'm a Beatty alumni," Florence says. "It was the most wonderful part of my life. At first there was no electricity except for people who had their



Beatty students pose in 1938 (top). Chloe Lisle, Ted "Bombo" Cottonwood, Dolores Gillette, and Jack Crowell, pictured from left in 1988, were in that 1938 school photo and still live in Beatty (middle). Ralph Lisle and Sam Colvin (left) inspect Beatty's old fire truck (bottom).

own generators, and there were no telephones or other conveniences, but I loved living there just the way it was. I wasn't really that happy when we got electricity."

It was the Revert family who brought electricity to Beatty. Albert Revert and his son, Art, arrived in Beatty on January 1, 1930, just a few months after the Wall Street crash of 1929.

"We did a little bit of mining at Chloride Cliff, but we never did make it work too well," Art says. "There were a lot of prospectors going through Beatty on their way to a big gold strike, so my father, two brothers, and I bought the old store, the Amargosa Land and Cattle Company.

"Then we bought the water company, such as it was. The water came from the old Beatty Ranch, which we also bought. The original lines ran along the railroad track, but they were just a streak of rust running through town.

"We charged only \$4 a month for all of the water that customers wanted, so we really didn't have any money for improvements, but we had to put a new water line in right down Main Street." The project, Art explains,



Art Revert visits the only remaining structure at Jim Beatty's original ranch.



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almost turned sour. The pipe was old gas pipe from Goldfield, and the Reverts had it all hooked up when they learned that cooking gas, if left in the lines, could be deadly. "We were frantic, but to our relief we found that the gas had never been turned on, so the lines were like new."

Art and his brother Norm were too busy for marriage until they met Opal and Ev Carr. "We were with our parents on a bus on our way to the Yellow Gold Mine," Opal says. "We made a rest stop at Beatty—a two-hole outdoor toilet. I said to my sister, 'My God! Wouldn't you hate to live in a place like this?' Then the first time that we went out with Art and Norm, I said, 'Wouldn't it be funny if we fell in love and married these old boys?' And I'll be darned if we didn't do that very thing. I married Art, and Ev married Norm."

"Ev was cooking on a coal stove, and all of us had swamp coolers to keep butter and things like that from spoiling," Opal says. "Ev got the first electric icebox that the Revert Brothers' store sold"—Art says it was gas—"and someone in Rhyolite bought the second one."

"We had our own generator in the pumphouse out in back, but it didn't do the job," Art explains. Soon they bought a small light plant from Jim Mardis.

"When we first got married and the Mardis plant was in operation, we just had power for a couple of hours in the daytime and again in the evening," Opal recalls. "We weren't supposed to use the electric iron, but we did anyway—sort of bootleg ironing. We didn't have real telephones, either, just some old crank phones that we used to call other families in Beatty. It was real hard because there were some people in town who didn't want anything new."

The Reverts sold the electric company in the early 1960s. Beatty is now served by the Valley Electric Association headquartered in Pahrump.

Beatty was in the throes of another mining boom in 1938 when Ralph Lisle arrived. However, he was lured by oil, not gold, because he came to operate his uncle's Standard Oil distributorship. He was destined to meet Chloe Colvin, a local girl who had just returned to teach in the Beatty School.

Chloe and Ralph married in 1939. "We wanted to build a home, but you couldn't even buy a nail in Beatty," Ralph says. "We drove to Las Vegas for



Beatty has survived in part because it's on a crossroads.

WHAT TO DO IN (AND OUT OF) TOWN

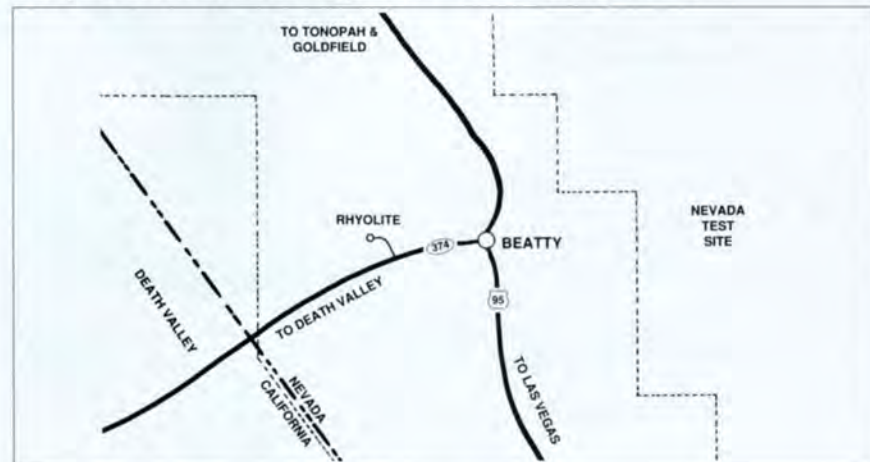
Beatty, located at the junction of U.S. 95 and State Route 374, is 110 miles northwest of Las Vegas and 92 miles south of Tonopah. The town sits at 3,300 feet with the Sawtooth Mountains to the northwest, Bare Mountain to the southeast, and Amargosa Valley to the south.

Four miles west is Rhyolite, a ghost town from the gold mining rushes of the early 1900s. Entrances to Death Valley National Monument at Scotty's Junction and Lathrop Wells

are to the north and south on U.S. 95.

Visitors will find six motels and three RV parks in Beatty. Bailey's Hot Springs is north on U.S. 95. The town has several restaurants, including eateries in local casinos, and several fast-food places. The Exchange Club is a good example of an old-time Nevada casino.

The Beatty Chamber of Commerce doesn't have an official office, but maps and visitor information are available at the Burro Inn. Ask for Elaine Parker of Zoe Cathcart or call 702-553-2225.—CK





The railroad depot still stands in Rhyolite, the once booming big sister to Beatty that is now a ghost town.

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supplies, and although it was just a little more than a hundred miles away, it was a two- or three-day trip and usually a couple of flat tires. When we came back, people started buying material right off the truck. That's why we decided to open a hardware store." They now own a large store with hardware, auto parts, and other supplies.

Beatty's school system began modestly in an 18-by-20-foot adobe building located on the ledge where Beatty began. Kels Hall, one of the first students, recalls, "I was the only male when I started in 1909, but of course there were only three other students, my sister and Connie Hill and her sister. There were other children old enough to go, but their parents kept them out of school because they were feuding with the teacher."

Later, a second adobe school was built behind the Exchange Club. It had a lean-to on the main building and outhouses for restrooms. In the mid-'30s the third school was built on the present school site. It was constructed in part with salvaged materials from the Rhyolite School, such as the Spanish tile roof, doors, windows, and the school bell. That building was used for the city library until a new library—

perhaps the only geodesic-dome library in the state—was built with a Fleischmann Foundation grant. Today's fourth Beatty School sprawls over several acres behind the library, houses both the grade school and high school, and serves part of the third largest county in the United States.

Looking at the school from the outside, one might imagine discussions of a national issue, nuclear power, which also is a local matter. The Nevada Test Site is about 10 miles east of Beatty, and the US Ecology low-level nuclear dumpsite is about 10 miles south of town. Generally, Beatty residents are complacent about both. When the first above-ground atomic bomb tests were conducted in the early 1950s, residents went to high ground or got on top of the Exchange Club to watch the explosion.

"We're not afraid of the Test Site or the proposed nuclear dump in Nevada," Chloe Lisle says. "I don't think that it bothers too many people or they wouldn't be moving in here like they are now."

Today Beatty is in the midst of another gold rush. An Australian company, Bond Gold International, bought the mineral rights from St. Joe Mineral and has begun building a \$100-million cyanide mill to extract some 1.8 million ounces of gold from Ladd Mountain, an area two miles west of Beatty near Rhyolite. For the next year the company estimates that it will employ about 400 construction workers before scaling down to an operational force of about 220.

This activity has had an big impact on Beatty. Helaine Lowes, editor and publisher of the *Death Valley Gateway Gazette*, says, "The whole town is practically out of housing. Families in the Amargosa Valley are renting trailers and rooms." Near the airport, a man-camp has been built to provide room and board to 294 workers at \$20 a day.

Predictions are that Beatty's population could more than double by 1992. A study by a Denver consulting firm reports that Beatty's 1987 population of 1,000 could increase to 1,600 by early 1990 and peak at 2,800 between 1992 and 1995. Then, allowing for departing construction workers, the population could drop back to about 1,400 after the year 2000.

So Beatty lives on, often the subject of state and national news when protestors are arrested at the Nevada Test Site and brought before Nye County Justice of the Peace Bill Sullivan. The small courtroom and jail is a far cry

When the first atomic bomb tests were conducted, residents went to high ground or got on top of the Exchange Club to watch.

from the first Beatty jail—a wagon wheel to which two men were chained until the local officials could rustle up a jury.


But Beattyites, tucked as they are in the middle of nowhere, have always had a special way of doing things—that's what keeps them going. Perhaps if that itinerant prospector, Jim Beatty, were to come back today, he would see that the spirit of his old stomping grounds is as strong as ever. ▽

Claire Keefner is a Las Vegas writer and regular Beatty visitor

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Hot Time on the Road

On this trip we found ourselves in real hot water

By Scott T Smith

Armed with a truck full of camping gear, the bulletin *Thermal Waters of Nevada*, and an antique treadle-powered sewing machine, we drove through the winter night, down the long grade to a circle on the map called Warm Springs. My wife, Mary, and I were on U.S. Highway 6, which like U.S. Highway 50 has been called one of America's all-time loneliest roads. Signs flashed by, marking dirt roads leading to Lunar Crater, Black Dragon Lava Flow, Easy Chair Crater. Names to feed the imagination. Nothing was visible outside the twin cones of the headlights except a few stars.

We were transporting the sewing machine from storage in Utah to its

owner, Mary's great aunt, in Long Beach, California. I had suggested tempering the pain of visiting the nerve-jangling Los Angeles Basin (I am a devout urbiaphobe and sometime misanthrope) by spending some time crossing "lonely" Nevada en route. *Thermal Waters* was on loan from a friend who has a passion for finding and sitting in naturally hot water. "There'll probably be some along your way," he advised. So we embarked with visions of stalking the wild hot spring.

A warm spring along Hot Creek provides relaxation in Central Nevada.

A light appeared ahead. The red dot at Warm Springs on our map designated a spring with water greater than 100 degrees Fahrenheit, and a technical description made cryptic reference to a swimming pool. The single street light illuminated a deserted building, defunct gas pumps out front. Steam was rising from a ditch crossing under the road. Near the door was a faded sign titled "Swimming Pool Rules."

"Think it's still useable?" I mused as we walked in the cold air and dim mercury-vapor light toward what looked like a fenced enclosure. Behind the fence was a concrete pool, flanked by wooden dressing rooms. The pool stood full to the top with steaming water.

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"Wait. Let's ask if it's OK first," cautioned Mary

Several minutes of banging on the door of a trailer across the highway the only habitation visible in the dark, brought no response. "Let's get in that

Stepping
off the last step, I
found myself knee-deep
in gray muck.

hot water," I chattered, hoping absence implied consent.

Ten minutes later we were warm. Almost too warm. The pool was so hot that we had to alternate sitting neck deep in the water and climbing out to stand in the steam and sub-freezing breeze. A half hour of hot-cold treatment found us thoroughly invigorated and relaxed. Our skin was a boiled lobster red. Quickly dressing, we made a late tailgate dinner before heading back to Railroad Valley. There we parked at the foot of Easy Chair Crater. After some tugging and cussing, the sewing machine was in the sagebrush and we were in the truck, tucked in our sleeping bags.

"It got cold last night," I said to Mary as the sun came up. I brushed a half-inch of frost off the top of the sewing machine's wooden cabinet. "A half-incher by our antique instrument here." Hot tea and sunrise soon eased the chill as we gazed across the broad valley marked with lava flows, craters, and cinder cones. I looked through binoculars. Mary read about geology

"Easy Chair and Lunar Craters were formed when steam and other gases within cinder cones expanded explosively," she reported. "According to geologists, volcanic activity ceased about three million years ago."

Red dots on our map showed that the earth's molten forces were still active in the valley and not far below the surface. However, our goal this morning was Hot Creek, to the north. With a name like that, we had to investigate.

Passing the Hot Creek Ranch, we entered a narrow canyon. We noted two places where water was steaming but not forming pools. Further on we skirted pools of cold water. Finally Mary exclaimed, "There's one with stairs!"



Mary Smith checks the temperature of potential soaking waters (top). Out where there's just you and a warm pool nature sometimes takes over (below).

Rickety stairs did indeed lead into a calm pool with barely perceptible steam. The water was warm, but not hot. I volunteered to try it. Stepping off the last step, I found myself knee-deep in gray muck. Returning to the steps, I sat and thought, "Not bad." But what was that strange tickling? Inch-long fish were biting me on the legs and flanks. Mary laughed as I beat a hasty retreat to the towels and got dressed.

Later we stopped again at Warm Springs, this time climbing a large travertine dome on the hillside. Nearly boiling water emerged and flowed into a ditch that ran to the swimming pool.

We needed to cover some miles before stopping for the night. I had in mind a spot in the shadow of Boundary

Peak, where our trusty map showed a thermal well. To get there we would have to turn onto a smaller and even lonelier state highway and then find the right dirt road.

The sun went down and the temperature with it. A man on the radio spoke of "single-digit temperatures." We turned south towards the tiny town of Dyer. Then, at a likely junction, we turned off the pavement. After 30 minutes of bouncing, a large pond appeared, vapor hovering above its surface. There was a concrete box eight feet square with water bubbling from a pipe in the center. I stuck a hand in—not too hot, not too cold; just right for a frosty night. The truck was quickly unloaded, gear and sewing machine

arrayed at poolside. Parkas, hats, and long underwear were doffed and the soak began.

Two hours later, once again clad in full winter gear, we slurped hot soup and lounged at the edge of the pool.

The next morning we enjoyed the luxury of slipping from warm sleeping bags into hot water.

Headlights appeared. A vehicle approached, slowed, stopped. A voice from the window said, "Howdy Uh, you folks gonna camp here?"

"We thought we would."

Pause.

"Mind if we share the hot water?"

Translation: "Could you move yourself and your stuff out of the way and let my girlfriend and I use the pool for a while?"

"Sure. Give us a minute to move our sewing machine."

"Your what?"

"Sewing machine. Comes in handy for emergency repairs."

Talking later with the man, a local, revealed that shortly after the hot-water well was drilled, a valve broke off the pipe that capped it, filling the box and overflowing into the pond. No repair was made, and the spot had become a popular secret. He asked how we found the well. I showed him the description in our technical publication.

"Not many people will read that book, will they?" he asked hopefully.

At dawn the next morning we enjoyed a luxury not often experienced when camping—we slipped from warm sleeping bags into hot water. Through curls of steam, we watched the rosy first light of sunrise color the snow on Boundary Peak.

Not a person stood between us and the mountains shining in the morning sun miles across the valley. Soon we'd load the truck, drive over the border into California, and head toward teeming Los Angeles. Besides the sewing machine, we would be carrying warm memories. □

Scott T. Smith of Logan, Utah, is a writer, photographer and western traveler.

THERMAL THRILLS

Soaking in springs around Nevada.

Hot springs are abundant in Nevada, which has more than 900 thermal areas. However, not all are good for soaking. Some are on private land, others are used for commercial purposes, and many of them are so hot they're dangerous. Of those fit to dip in, some favorites are listed below.

SOUTHERN NEVADA

Bailey's Hot Springs. With two bath houses, one family pool, and a yard full of peacocks, your \$2 per hour goes a long way. Bailey's is on U.S. 95 three miles north of Beatty; phone 702-553-2395.

Caliente Hot Springs Motel. A dip in one of the three family pools comes with the room, and is also available to non-guests. The town of Caliente was named for the hot water, which is \$3 per hour single, \$5 double. Call 702-726-3777.

Hunt's Ash Springs. A tree-lined creek leads to 92-94° pools. The rates are \$4 per day but will change in April to members-only (with special rates to out-of-staters). It's seven miles north of Alamo on U.S. 93; call 702-725-3382.

Rogers Warm Spring. As part of the Lake Mead National Recreation Area, Rogers Warm Spring can get crowded on weekends. This day area is 12 miles south of Overton.

Warm Springs Resort. Palm trees, pools, and waterways make this a real desert oasis, located 48 miles northeast of Las Vegas, via I-15, Glendale, and State Route 168. It's \$5 per person; call 702-865-2790.

NORTHERN NEVADA

Blossom Hot Pot. This large, circular pond is said to be deep, but its shallow edges let you ease into the

98° waters. Take I-80 to the little town of Valmy, halfway between Winnemucca and Elko, and turn off at the Valmy power plant. The spring is one mile northwest.

Bog Hot Springs. For a good hot soak, try the spring that feeds the pool. Drive nine miles west of Denio Junction on State Route 140, then northwest another 3.5 miles on a gravel road.

Carson Hot Springs. This large swimming pool with eight private baths is located on Hot Springs Road in northeast Carson City with RV parking (no hookups), restaurant, and bar. Pool is \$6 general public, \$3.50 for seniors and children under 12. Private baths are \$8, \$5 seniors. Open 8 a.m. to 11 p.m. daily; 702-882-9863.

Spencer Hot Springs. This hard-to-find pool has nice views. East of Austin, you drive south on State Route 376 for about a quarter mile, turn left on a gravel road for about 5.5 miles (look for a Toquima Cave Historic Marker sign), then another left onto a dirt road.

Walley's Hot Spring Resort. Here is hot-spring luxury: six soaking pools, a swimming pool, sauna, steam bath, fitness room, and restaurant 1.5 miles south of Genoa. Baths are \$9 daily; no children under 12. Open 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. during the winter; 702-782-8155.

THEY WROTE THE BOOK

For more on Nevada's hot springs, order *Bulletin 91, Thermal Waters of Nevada*, from the Nevada Bureau of Mines and Geology, Publications Office, UNR, Reno, NV 89557; 702-784-6691. The 163-page bulletin costs \$6 at the office, \$6.60 by mail, and includes a map.

—Deborah A. Mawhar, Cliff Glover

SIDNE TESKE

*Once the world was all black and white for this artist.
Now it's pure pastel.*



"Blue Shadows in Crum Canyon"

PASTEL
14x18"

"The road through Crum Canyon leads to an old town called Hilltop, which was where everyone lived before Battle Mountain. I was stopped by the magnificent display of colors, the fresh snow, the blue sky."



*"Looking Up to the Sky:
Valley of Fire State Park"*

PASTEL
22x28"

"Judith Miller and I woke up at five in the morning to paint in the Valley of Fire. This picture was done between 6 and 9 a.m., until the heat made drawing unbearable."

Sidne Teske lives in a world of color—rich, bright color—but that wasn't always so. During her first 11 years as an artist, Teske sketched birds and other wildlife in pen and ink rather than risk a smudge of blue, or a line of green.

"Color inspires fear," says the Battle Mountain resident. "Black and white simplifies that. When you start to work in color, you say, 'My Gosh. There are 5,000 different shades of green—which color do I choose?'"

Teske, who has no formal art education, changed directions about 10 years ago when her brother gave her a set of pastels for her birthday. "It's a wonderful medium," she says. "You can paint



Sidne Teske of Battle Mountain.

and draw at the same time. When you put the color down, it doesn't change. With watercolors, the pigments alter as they dry, so you don't know exactly what you're going to end up with. With oils, the colors change after time. With pastels, what I put down now will last forever—or just about forever."

Teske, 36, works four days a week as an art aide at Mary S. Black Elementary School; her husband Larry works for Nevada's department of wildlife. This

leaves her only about a day each week to explore nearby canyons, sometimes with her daughter Casey and son Chet, who help carry the art supplies. The box of pastels alone holds about 500 sticks, so Teske needs all the help she can get.

Like other Nevadans who enjoy the rustic beauty that lies beyond the interstates, Teske is grateful about the remoteness of her haunts.

"I've always blessed the engineers who built the highways because they always choose the plainest routes through the state," Teske says. "When you get off the roads, there's water in every canyon, trees and shrubs—everything's very lush." Definitely not black and white. —Cliff Glover

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OUT-OF-THE-WAY- EATERIES (Continued from page 21)

Eusebio points out, raised five kids at the hotel and is now 102.

At the bar Eusebio gets many orders for picon punch, a traditional American Basque concoction of grenadine, picon liqueur, brandy, and soda with a lemon twist. His wife, Elvira, thick with Spanish accent, tells patrons of the Old Country Basque tradition.

No menus are provided. Instead Elvira will come over and ask if you prefer the tender garlic lamb (chuletas de cordero con ajo) or perhaps the thick, beefy steak. Waitresses bring ladles and soup bowls filled with pasta porridge to each table. Generous portions of salad, bread, fries, and burgundy wine are brought until you can eat no more. There's also a bean and pork dish (alubia rojas) with chorizo, carrots (zanahorias), onions (cebolla), and parsley.

Spumoni and vanilla ice cream are

'Everyone has a grandmother or relative from the Old World, and they love to talk about it.

It's a connection to a more basic time.'

scooped from an antique freezer in the dining room, which seats 70. The banquet room, with its long Formica tables surrounded by scarlet drapes, is used for conventions, wedding receptions, and christenings. Elvira will make flan and spaghetti on those special occasions.

Many regulars appear for lunch or dinner several times a week. Some have done so for years, as is the case at Gardnerville's two other Basque restaurants, the J&T and the Carson Valley Country Club.

Matthew Greta, Eusebio's nephew and part-time bartender, says diners are attracted by the Overland's family atmosphere as well as the sumptuous fare.

"Everyone walks by the kitchen and says hello to the chef," he says. "Every-

one has a grandmother or relative from the Old World, and they love to talk about it. It's a connection to a more basic time. It's a real personal thing."

The Overland Hotel, 691 Main Street in Gardnerville, serves dinner (\$12) and lunch (\$9) every day but Monday. Visa and MasterCard are accepted. Call 702-782-2138. —*Lisa Wixon*



OTHER BASQUE RESTAURANTS

*Clusters of conviviality
around the state.*

Those with a yearning for Basque cooking and conviviality will find several clusters of Old Country restaurants in the state.

Besides the Overland, Gardnerville has two other popular Basque eateries, the J&T and the Carson Valley Country Club.

In Reno there's Louis' Basque Corner and the Santa Fe Hotel. A new Basque restaurant is the Pyrenees Bar and Grill.

Winnemucca has three fine Basque spots: the Martin Hotel, Ormachea's Dinner House, and the Winnemucca Hotel.

Elko also has three: Biltoki ("The



Louis and Lorraine Erreguible keep the soup on at Louis' Basque Corner



At Nick's Supper Club, the menu is not just Greek, as John and Laurie Pittman (left) and proprietor Lasca Lathouris will testify.

Gathering Place" in Basque), the Nevada Dinner House, and the Star Hotel.

Ely has a distinguished Basque outpost, the Ely Hotel. —*George Moon*



ACROPOLIS NOW

*Nick's is a Henderson
landmark
with a local touch.*

As the story goes, Howard Ness was riding his golf cart home from the Black Mountain Country Club when his playing partners persuaded him to join them at Nick's Supper Club for a little 19th-hole relaxation. The weather was warm and there wasn't much traffic, so Ness drove the golf cart down Henderson's main street to the restaurant, about two-and-a-half miles away. Unfortunately, when he got to Nick's, the accelerator stuck, and he rode right through the glass front door and into the cigarette machine near the bar.

Luckily, Ness escaped serious injury from his unexpectedly dramatic arrival, but he will probably not outlive the tale, which still circulates more than 20 years later. In fact, the entryway was

named "Ness' Nook" to commemorate the event.

Arrival by golf cart is, of course, not recommended and probably no longer possible since proprietor Nick Lathouris and his wife Lasca remodeled their establishment a few years ago. But in terms of attire, customers are welcome to arrive in everything from Bermuda shorts to tuxedos; only shoes and shirts are required.

Nick's is located on the northern edge of old downtown Henderson on Lake Mead Drive, a couple of blocks west of the Boulder Highway and just east of the new extension to the Oran Gragson Highway. While known to a few tourists, Nick's is primarily a locals' place with a hometown flavor more typically found in rural Nevada than in metropolitan Las Vegas. Many of the guests are regulars, and Lasca often stops at tables to chat. Even the VanGees, the country band that plays on weekends in the lounge, knows the regulars' favorite songs.

Most people learn about Nick's from friends. The restaurant's simple stucco exterior—a neon sign overhead, a hand-painted lobster on the wall—betrays both the excellent food and the interior decor, which Lasca designed. There are comfortable booths and tables, red carpet and tablecloths, hanging lanterns, and photographs and paintings.

The dinner menu has 47 entrees as well as daily specials. These include beef, Italian, and seafood selections. Two of the most popular entrees are

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prime rib at \$12.95 and \$14.95 (the size of a small roast) and crab legs, at \$20.95 the most expensive dinner choice. Nick also serves Greek dishes of lamb, chicken, and shrimp.

Luncheon specials, priced at \$5, are served 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. weekdays.

Laurie and John Pittman, regulars with Nick since he first started cooking at the Henderson Bowling Lanes about 25 years ago, like the club's Greek salad. "Nick marinates the salad in his deliciously-seasoned dressing before serving it," Laurie says. "It's the best Greek salad anywhere."

On weekends the VanGees play easy country music from 8:30 p.m. to 2 a.m., and during football season Nick's lounge is a popular spot on Monday nights.

Nick and Lasca throw big parties at New Year's and on Nick's birthday in July. The birthday party got so popular that it's now held at the Henderson Convention Center. New Year's Eve is still at the Supper Club and is sure to have wall-to-wall people.

Most of Nick's guests are repeat customers, like Howard Ness and his wife Letti. They now live in Grants Pass, Oregon, but visit the restaurant whenever they're in town to see their Henderson friends and take back some of Nick's barbecue sauce and French dressing. It's been awhile, though, since Howard tried to arrive in a golf cart at Ness' Nook.

Nick's Supper Club is located at 15 Lake Mead Drive in Henderson. Din-

ner is served from 5 p.m. until midnight. For reservations, which are suggested, call 702-565-0122. —Kate Butler



GOLDFIELD GRUB STRIKE

*Lunch-minded Goldfielders
know the way to the Santa Fe.*

The historic town of Goldfield sits peacefully between the red-lava Malpai Mesa and bare Columbia Mountain, once the scene of great mining activity. Things are quieter now, but a luncheon visit to the Santa Fe Saloon may help you imagine the time when Goldfield was said to have 20,000 residents—about 19,500 more than it has today.

You'll find the Santa Fe Saloon five blocks off the main drag. If you're coming from Tonopah, turn left at Mrs. Murphy's Miniatures and head straight east.

Inside the Santa Fe you can admire the majestic bar, a fixture since the saloon first served customers in 1905. There's a life-sized mannequin of Wyatt Earp, whose brother Virgil lived

in the area. On the walls hang old photos, maps, and other remembrances of the boom era of 1905-1910.

Owners Al and Rosemary Cali offer quiet lunches and less sedate evening celebrations. Rosemary often throws pot-luck parties, and if you are lucky enough to show up for Valentine's Day, Easter, Halloween, or another holiday, you are in for a feast. Same for the monthly birthday celebrations, when everyone who has a birthday that month is honored with a party.

At lunch you can sit at the bar or in the dining area in the back. Popular items include Rosemary's homemade meatloaf sandwich with all the trimmings (\$3.95) and a bowl of Yankee bean soup (\$1.75). Daily specials such as beef barbecue with potato salad, fries, or coleslaw, and the grilled pork chop with home fries, vegetable, and cheese bread (both \$3.95) are favorites of the employees of the Esmeralda County Courthouse and Red Rock Mining Company who gather there for lunch. Most agree with the sign, worked by local craftsman Bill McGuire, that hangs over the kitchen door. It reads, "Rosemary's Kitchen Is Miners' Choice." The chef herself says, "I just do what comes naturally, and I guess I get my reward when people say, 'Ro, that was delicious.'"

While eating or drinking you can listen to the Andrews Sisters or Patsy Cline on the juke box or the ragtime of the old player piano. Evening visitors may find a hearty singalong in full swing with Lynne Beighley at the keys.

The Santa Fe Saloon in Goldfield serves lunch Tuesday through Friday and is open daily except Monday.

—Maire Hayes



PINING OUT

At this rustic Lamoille eatery, steak and seafood are on the menu and trophies are on the walls.

A visit to the Pine Lodge Dinner House in the sleepy little ranching town of Lamoille, 20 scenic miles south of Elko, brings one closer to nature and rolls back the years. If you arrive before nightfall, you'll see the rugged Ruby

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Range as you top Lamoille Summit. The drive then takes you through Spring Creek, a burgeoning community dotted with cattle and horses, to Lamoille, which still has an old-fashioned country charm.

The Pine Lodge is located on the main street. It's not unusual to see a dog snoozing in the road or nosing around the neighborhood. You might spot the pet doe and three fawns that residents feed and pamper.

Inside the lodge, the first room is dominated by a large bar and a stone fireplace. The bar was built, burned down, and rebuilt in 1947. The place remained primarily a saloon until 1975, when it was purchased by Ron and Pam Druck.

The Drucks later added the restaurant, where the furnishings blend with the bar's knotty-pine decor. Along the walls are game mounts, including what Ron calls the largest deer-head collection in Northern Nevada.

A beaver is prominent among the taxidermy displays. Ron says it is a rare spotted beaver from Lamoille Creek, which flows a few yards from the lodge. A commercial beaver farm operated near the center of town in the 1960s, and beavers still are found in the

Some local teachers diet during the week so they can pig out at the lodge on Saturday night.

many streams that flow out of the Rubies.

A prized seating area is the windowed balcony, which offers a fine view of the changing seasons in the valley and the mountains above.

The food is considered among the best in the area, and servings are generous. The lodge is a favorite spot for birthdays and special occasions, and some local school teachers diet during the week so they can pig out at the lodge on Friday or Saturday night.

The menu will please lovers of meat and seafood. For an appetizer one can have a dozen steamed clams or oysters on the half shell (\$9.50). Dinner choices range from a giant cheeseburger with the works (\$5.95) to filet mignon

(\$19.95) and an elegant one-pound lobster (\$29.95). In between are entrees like sweetbreads (\$10.95), New York steak (\$12.95), and steamed or deep-fried shrimp (\$14.95). A popular house combination is beef cubes and lobster (\$14.95), and there are numerous other surf-and-turf combinations. Desserts include ice-cream mint pie and homemade cheesecake.

Next door Ron has a four-room building with modern hotel rooms. His sign informs visitors: "There is a Lamoille Hotel."

The Pine Lodge Dinner House in Lamoille is open 5 to 10 p.m. daily. Call 702-753-6363. —Terry Hickson



WELL BREAD IN ELY

*Evah's reputation
is still on the rise.*

Every restaurant has some kind of specialty, and at Evah's in Ely it's the bread. We're not talking about the bland white stuff you find in supermarkets. This is real bread, baked to just the right shade of golden-brown.

Originally the bread was baked for diners only, but word spread faster than melting butter, so the restaurant now sells it on the side for \$1.01 a loaf along with kaiser rolls, French rolls, and hamburger buns. Restaurant manager Kevin Robison says some folks from Las Vegas, nearly 300 miles away, regularly stop to pick up five or six loaves.

But Evah's doesn't live by bread alone. The best items on the menu are the beef dishes (remember, this is cattle country) and particularly the prime-rib dinner. For \$13.25 you get a massive slab of prime rib, a shrimp cocktail, choice of soup or salad, and either a baked potato, steak fries, or rice.

Likewise, the portions are big with the T-bone (\$13.45), rib-eye (\$12.95), and top sirloin (\$9.95) steak dinners. Non-beef dishes include deep-fried prawns (you get a giant platter of the finger-size crustaceans) and lobster.

Inside, Evah's spacious dining room has a wood-accented decor and special booths for large groups. There's an

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Originally the bread was baked for diners only, but word spread faster than melting butter.

attached lounge, too.

Evah's is named after the wife of Burrell Bybee, who started the business as a grocery store about 1960. The store turned into a drive-in, then a restaurant, and now Burrell Bybee, Jr. runs a large complex that includes a 64-room hotel on both sides of the road. The old drive-in is still there, on the restaurant's north side, and that is where you can buy the fresh bread. You also can order from a fast-food menu that offers fried chicken, burgers, and Snelgrove's ice cream—they make good milk shakes and sundaes.

Evah's Copper Queen is located at 701 Avenue I, also known as the Pioche Highway or U.S. 50-93-6, in Ely. Call 702-289-4884. The restaurant is open daily from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m., and major credit cards are accepted.

—Richard Moreno



COUNTRY IN THE CITY

Thanks to Reno's Junior League, this is truly a garden of eatin'

Breakfast may be the day's most important meal, but lunch can be the most delightful if you eat at the Country Gardens. Tucked inside the Arlington Gardens shopping complex, which is owned and operated by the Junior League of Reno, the restaurant is a cheerful place with country-style flounces at the windows and ivy trailing along high ceiling beams. Watercolors by local artists adorn the walls. Baskets, books, and crocks add a homey touch, and a wrought-iron bookcase holds cookbooks, which are for sale, from Junior Leagues around



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Vivian Havens' antique soda fountain still functions at her Caliente restaurant (top), while tots and tea are often part of the scene at the Country Gardens in Reno (bottom).

the United States.

Most dishes come straight out of those cookbooks. Other recipes have been adapted by the chef, Brian Roushkolb.

Each day's fare includes a different salad, two soups, a main dish, sandwiches, and quiche made with asparagus or artichokes or seafood. Among the most popular soups are cream of artichoke, clam chowder, tortilla, and Italian sausage. Standout sandwiches include hot pastrami and Swiss, beef and cheddar on a croissant, and chicken with almonds.

One of the stars of Chef Roushkolb's salad show is the Miramonte, a delect-

table combination of cheeses, bacon, romaine, cherry tomatoes, slivered almonds, and French bread croutons tossed with a lemon-garlic dressing.

Entrees are keyed to the season. In winter, the main dish might be a hearty turkey and wild rice casserole or a flaky strudel encasing a medley of vegetables. Summer specialties include cantaloupe stuffed with curried chicken salad.

And no matter how stuffed you are, don't miss dessert. My choice is the Gateau Ganache, a fantasy of meringue layers topped with chocolate mousse and whipped cream. But I wouldn't pass up the frozen lemon mousse with

blueberry sauce, Kahlua fudge cake, pecan pie, or bread pudding, either.

If you miss lunch, light refreshments—soup, salad, sandwiches, and desserts—are served from 2 to 5 p.m. With advance notice the kitchen crew will prepare tea for parties of six or more. Better not invite anyone who's keeping track of calories, though. The scones, tartlets, shortbread, and finger sandwiches deserve total abandon.

You'll be served your light refreshments or tea in the patio area, a skylighted spot with cobblestones, white garden furniture, and trellises. The patio is also a great place to people watch, since it borders an indoor walkway leading to other shops in the mall. One of these, the Ladybug, provides the garments worn at the restaurant's weekly fashion show on Wednesdays.

Lunches range from \$4.50 to \$7.50. Sandwiches and salads are \$5.50. For a bowl of soup with homemade muffin, or dessert, the cost is \$2.50. All of the waitresses are volunteers, so tips benefit such projects as the Foster Care Coalition, Kids on the Block puppet shows for school children, and the Special Olympics Committee.

The Country Gardens Restaurant is located in the Arlington Gardens complex at 606 West Plumb Lane in Southwest Reno. Seating is limited to 23 tables, so reservations are advised; call 702-825-0213. —*Connie Emerson*



STEAK IT OUT

This restaurant has Caliente's brand of approval.

My dad used to say that America would remain the greatest nation on earth as long as it knew how to make a good chicken-fried steak.

Luckily there are places like the Branding Iron in Caliente.

The Branding Iron isn't particularly fancy. There are no lace napkins on the tables, and you won't find paté on the menu (although they do make a mean liver-and-onions). They don't even accept credit cards.

No, the Branding Iron just serves old-fashioned, all-American food, in-

The atmosphere at the Branding Iron can best be described as Norman Rockwell. There are lots of plastic countertops.

cluding one of the best chicken-fried steaks you'll ever eat. Vivian Havens,

who with her husband John owns the restaurant, says the secret behind the chicken-fried steak (\$5.95) is that everything is made fresh. Each night she whips up a brand-new batter—nothing is frozen or prepared ahead of time.

Overall, prices are modest, ranging from a few dollars for pancakes at breakfast to \$10.95 for a T-bone at dinner time.

The atmosphere at the Branding Iron can best be described as Norman Rockwell. There are lots of plastic countertops and shiny chrome equipment. An 80-year-old soda fountain stretches 20

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feet along one wall. Beverages are served in Mason jars, adding to the down-home feeling.

Set on the main street of Caliente, where nearly all businesses line the railroad tracks, the Branding Iron has big storefront windows that allow passers-by to peak inside. The busiest hours are in the morning when locals and tourists drive through town on U.S. 93 and stop to scramble for table space and eggs over easy. The offerings are standard—waffles, pancakes, omelets, and hash browns—but the portions are large.

The luncheon menu includes an exceptional taco salad prepared in a giant deep-fried flour tortilla shell and a surprisingly good chef salad liberally draped with chunks of ham, turkey, and cheese.

For dinner you can try specials like the liver and onions and a hearty T bone dinner that is popular with local ranchers, farmers, and miners wanting a decent meal after a hard day's work.

And, of course, there is that great chicken-fried steak.

The Branding Iron, at 189 Clover Drive in the center of Caliente, is open daily from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m. Call 702-726-3164. —Richard Moreno



ROOM WITH A VIEW

*Dining at the 2nd Story
can be an
elevating experience.*

By normal visitors' standards in Las Vegas, the 2nd Story is in the middle of nowhere—eight miles west of the Strip, on Jones Boulevard between Flamingo Road and Tropicana Avenue, where new developments are quickly overtaking the desert.

The location seemed even more remote when Jack Nethercutt and former partner Tommy Galanos opened the restaurant in 1985, but it was what they wanted—a quiet spot with a panoramic view of the Las Vegas Valley. To take advantage of the view, they made the building two stories and put their gourmet room on the second floor.



The 2nd Story's elevator leads to a climate-controlled patio and neon-controlled view of Las Vegas.

Today, guests ride to the second floor in an outside glass elevator, which offers a vista of the glittering neon of the Strip hotels.

The best seats are on the dining room's east side, on the climate-controlled, glassed-in patio. The patio has a retractable roof, so when evenings are cool, the roof is closed and heating units turned on. On warm nights, the roof is folded back. If the temperature is too hot, the air-conditioning is activated.

More than half of the 2nd Story's customers are local, says Nethercutt, who was born in Los Angeles and amassed his fortune in the family cosmetics business. He first came to Las Vegas in the early 1950s as a race-car driver and moved here a few years ago.

Nethercutt says he came to appreciate fine wine while establishing the restaurant. He introduced Clos du Bois to Las Vegas and has a collection of Charles Krug Cabernet Sauvignon from 1968-79. The 2nd Story maintains a large selection of wines, including imported Pouilly Fuisse at \$26, Vouvray Chapin Landais at \$12, and the Chateaufeuf Du Pape Domaine Mont Redon at \$22.

The menu is imaginative, and daily specials created by Chef Christian Gueder add to the culinary excitement. For example, a special might start with zucchini flower cardinal filled with scallops, crab meat mousse, and fresh oyster in lobster sauce (\$5.50). The catch of the day might be orange grilled sauteed in sweet basil sauce,

mahi mahi sauteed in orange and strawberry sauce, or shrimps stuffed with scallop mousse in a leek sauce (all \$16.50). Meat entrees include veal marengo, with mushrooms in a tomato and white wine sauce (\$14.50).

Behind the kitchen, but in open view

The patio has a retractable roof, so when the Las Vegas evenings are cool, the roof is closed and heating units turned on.

of the room, is an enormous gas-operated rotisserie in which a whole pig or lamb, dozens of chickens, or hundreds of ribs can be prepared.

You can end the meal with bananas Foster, crepes Suzette, or a chocolate soufflé (\$5 each), an espresso (\$1.50) or cappuccino (\$3), and that memorable valley view

The 2nd Story, located at 4485 South Jones Boulevard in Las Vegas, is open 6 to 10:30 p.m. nightly. Credit cards are welcome. Call 702-368-2257 for reservations. —Elliot S. Krane

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Lake Mead (above) and other Southern Nevada sights. At first people in show business were skeptical. "What does he, another unemployed movie star, have to offer us?" wrote one Hollywood reporter. But Reagan confounded his critics and charmed his audience—so much so that hotels in other cities sought his services, too. However, the long nights and smoky rooms proved too much for Ron and Nancy, and they soon left for larger horizons and, as we know, much larger audiences. □



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SKI NEVADA

(Continued from page 25)

We celebrated that night at the Owl Club in Eureka and for the next few days did reconnaissance in the White Pine Range. On the third day we drove south toward the abandoned mining town of Belmont Mill, then parked and skied past the historic and well-preserved mill, up-canyon toward the timbered ridges and narrow chutes of 10,700-foot Mount Hamilton. This was Nevada? It skied like Colorado—fluffy, dry snow that deepened as we climbed until we were waist-deep and floundering.

Eureka was quiet that night—one truck in front of the Owl Club, a few

customers watching TV in Jim and Lorraine's. At the Owl we met Ron, who served as owner, bartender, manager, dealer, slot mechanic, and bouncer. We asked him about a route up Diamond Peak, the intimidating 10,614-foot peak north of town. Ron, who had once run a ski rental operation near South Lake Tahoe, enthusiastically drew us a map on the back of a pink telephone-message slip. "Ski up there all the time," he averred.

We began our assault on the peak at mid-morning. Skiing up a road for four miles or so, we attained one saddle after another along the ridge. After each one we thought Diamond Peak must be next. When we topped the final rise, we saw our goal, rising an-

other thousand feet and several miles beyond us—a Himalayan snow pyramid, precipitous and foreboding in the lengthening afternoon shadows.

Diamond Peak would have to wait till the next trip.

Saturday night we stopped at the Owl, where Ron attempted to give us alternate directions to Diamond Peak, and then crossed the street to a dance at Louie's Place, which opens its doors when owner Louis Gibellini feels like it. We met Louis' daughter Jenelle, who was visiting from Fremont, California, and her husband Hank, who allowed, "I just can't get used to it out here. Too quiet."

Jenelle introduced us to Louis, now 81, who is a famed rock-drilling com-

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petitor. The following afternoon we stopped by Louis' house above the bar, drank coffee with his relatives, and watched him out in the yard drilling on a block of stone. "Soon," he predicted, "this will be a lost art."

Louis recalled that one winter, when the snow lay four feet deep on the road up Windfall Canyon, where he worked at a mine, he built a pair of skis. He dug one out of the garage for us to see—a nine-foot length of dry white fir, curved at the shovel and grooved along the base, with the ankle segment of a lace-up work boot for a binding. Traces of hard wax still clung to the base. We hefted it. It was amazingly light, longer yet not much heavier than our shorter, metal-edged models.

The next team member, Tod Lloyd, found us in Eureka. He told us how: "It was probably the only RV in town with avalanche transceivers hanging from the rear-view mirror."

With Lloyd we hightailed it west to the mighty Toiyabe Range, centerpiece of Nevada, towering 6,300 feet above the Great Smoky Valley and stretching 126 miles north and south between Austin and Tonopah. High in narrow Kingston Canyon, where mining operations date back to 1863, we struck some passable snow on the north face of a great bowl opposite 11,474-foot Bunker Hill. The treeless slopes were plentifully dotted with short lengths of white PVC pipe that turned out to be claim markers, containing tiny vials with names, dates, and coordinates. We used them for slalom gates. Far below us, tiny men in coveralls drove up to the reservoir in an ancient Tucker snowcat and began to fish through the ice. To the west, Reese River Valley was checkered with green alfalfa fields.

"Oh, they just do that for fun," a local cowgirl told us over beers in the Kingston Lodge, where we found shelter after skiing down the icy road in the dark. She was referring to the claim markers. The mining company had temporarily closed its operations in the canyon, and things were kind of slow. "You'll never find anyone who loves the mountains more than a miner," she continued. She was sitting at the bar with some friends, short-term casualties of the mineral industry's boom-bust cycle. Outside, weeds and sagebrush grew through the brick skeleton of an old mill that had met the same fate decades before.

Team member John Cobourn essayed to dispel the gloom. "Boy, I'll bet you folks are excited about the new

wilderness bill before Congress," he gushed, waving his arm in an expansive gesture that seemed to include half the state. The rest of us winced, taking note of the distance and direction of the door. I made plans to push Cobourn

**'What are you anyway,
the Sierra Club?
one fellow snarled.
Cobourn drew
himself up. 'Why, as a
matter of fact.'**

toward the bar as a diversionary tactic.

"What are you anyway, the Sierra Club?" one fellow snarled. Cobourn drew himself up. "Why, as a matter of fact. "The rest of his words were lost in our general harrumphing and gar-rumphing as we hustled him out the door.

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MISCELLANEOUS

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"It already is wilderness, gold-dangit!" someone shouted from the bar. "It don't matter what you call it!"

Safe outside, we decided to hole up for the night across the valley at Spencer Hot Springs, where we relaxed in the outdoor pool with its 360-degree views of the Toiyabe and Toiyabe ranges.

Far to the west, a mass of warm Pacific air was moving in, melting the snow like an electric hair drier. The skiing was deteriorating fast. Spring was coming.

In the motor home we lumbered into a strong headwind along U.S. 50 toward Tahoe. Doug Read was at the wheel, a tired but satisfied team commander, full of plans and ideas for future trips. Since then many of us Ski Nevada participants and our friends have returned to tour the same mountains, dodging rocks and quakies, trading Tahoe's civilized ambiance for a dose of real wilderness. □

David Fenimore is a resident of North Tahoe and a student of Shakespeare.

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I certify that the statements made by me above are correct and complete.—Kirk Whisler, Publisher

Dining Tips

Eating customs that leave food for thought.

By Julie Quinn

By virtue of its gambling halls and Old West heritage, Nevada has developed some dining customs that residents and visitors frequently find curious. Following are 10 of the most notable.

1. If you're eating in a casino restaurant and suddenly notice that everyone in the room seems to be staring at you, don't think your fellow diners are trying to be rude. They're probably looking for the winning numbers on the keno board located above your table (or maybe your tie *is* in your soup). Also, the women walking around calling, "Keno? Keno?" are not looking for a lost dog by that name.

2. A big thrill in Nevada is the breakfast special, which usually costs between 99 cents and \$1.99 and is served between late night and early morning. That's why you often see counters crowded with bargain eaters at midnight and 5 a.m., scarfing up platefuls of eggs, sausage, and hash browns. It's also one reason behind a popular institution, the after-show breakfast.

3. Feeling cheap? Check out an event, especially in the rural areas, where summer barbecues are plentiful and inexpensive. Chili cookoffs sometimes have free tastings. Taken together, a 99-cent breakfast, a chili sample for a light lunch, some pine nuts in the afternoon, and a \$5 buffet for dinner will really give you something to brag about.

4. If they keep bringing you those free casino drinks, remember to drink them slowly and on a full stomach. Aside from the state's tough drunk-driving laws, the high altitudes can send even the casual drinker to heights of dizziness. A special warning: Re-



A remote rural restaurant like Bruno's in Gerlach can turn out to be a culinary oasis.

member that picon punch, a Basque specialty, is appropriately named. As Louis Erreguible of Louis' Basque Corner in Reno says, "The first two are the picon, and the third is the punch."

5. When you walk into a Basque restaurant for the first time, the long tables mean that you will be passing the salt and pepper—not to mention the salad and entree—to virtual strangers. If you want to share a cozy meal for two, a Basque restaurant may not be the place to dine. But if rubbing elbows with ranchers, miners, yuppies, and an occasional retired U.S. senator is appealing, this is the place.

6. Long stretches of Nevada highway bring out a certain sensation in many drivers: extreme hunger. So don't be put off by remote eateries and signs encouraging you to "Eat and Get Gas." You may walk into an excellent small-town restaurant such as Carol's Kountry Kitchen in Austin, Del Pueblo in Alamo, and the Branding Iron in Caliente—to name just three.

7. As Nevada Indians and old-time prospectors will tell you, the desert is its own gourmet kitchen if you know it well enough. Besides game, wanderers have been known to eat crickets, grasshoppers, and diced fruit of the prickly pear washed down with Mormon tea.

Pine nuts and berries can be delicious harvests. Starving explorers have even tried rattlesnake meat, a risky meal that they say tastes like—surprise!—chicken.

8. For a total pig-out, most casinos offer all-you-can-eat buffets. Buffets are perfect for those who like to save money, don't mind waiting in cafeteria-style lines, and are looking to set personal feeding records. So if you have teenagers, or if you're in Laughlin, truly the Buffet Capital of the World, the buffet is a top bet.

9. Showroom dining, which is offered at only a few hotels these days, can be an unforgettable experience—especially if you sit down front at a Don Rickles show.

10. Here is an almost fool-proof way to eat both well and free—be a high roller. Major casinos treat high rollers like kings and queens, not only with complimentary rooms but also with meals at the finest restaurants, on the house. Now that's real Nevada dining. Unless, of course, you can't resist those 99-cent breakfasts. ▽

Julie Quinn, Nevada's production editor enjoys pine nuts and cheapo breakfasts but hasn't worked up the nerve to try rattlesnake yet.

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Jan/Feb 1989

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Culture past and present at Carson City's Brewery Arts Center.

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Snow Fun at Tahoe

Snowfest is billed as the largest winter carnival in the West.

By Michael Greenan
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Rhyming Roundup

Elko's Cowboy Poetry Gathering.

By Jeff Mullins
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Cover Photo:
The old Carson Brewery, now an arts center in 1938. Research photos by Daun Bohall. Illustration by Brian Buckley.

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Send information to Nevada Events,
101 S. Fall St., Carson City, NV 89710.

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GETAWAY HOT LINES

Here's where to call or write for tips on Nevada travel and attractions.

When planning your Nevada trip or vacation, be sure to write or phone these one-stop sources for information on scenic attractions, hotels, motels, sports, recreation, and historic sites.

The chambers of commerce (C of C) will send you their brochures and guides to local services. If you plan to stop by a chamber office, chances are it will be open in the daytime Monday through Friday.

The area code is 702 throughout Nevada. All 800 numbers are toll-free.

STATEWIDE INFORMATION

Nevada Commission on Tourism: Capitol Complex, Carson City, NV 89710; 885-3636 or 1-800-NEVADA-8 anywhere in U.S. and Canada

TOLL-FREE HOT LINES

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

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

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

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

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

Laughlin C of C: 800-227-5245 outside Nevada

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

Tahoe North Visitors and Convention Bureau: 800-824-6348 anywhere in U.S.

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

Boulder City Events Hot Line: 293-0137

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

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

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

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

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

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

Laughlin C of C: Box 2280, Laughlin, NV 89029; 298-2214, or 800-227-5245 outside Nevada

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

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

North Las Vegas C of C: 1023 E. Lake Mead

Bldv., North Las Vegas, NV 89030; 642-9595

RENO AREA

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

Carson City Tourism Authority: 1937 N. Carson St., Suite 211, Carson City, NV 89701; 883-7442, or 800-634-8700 outside Nevada

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

LAKE TAHOE

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

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

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

Sierra Ski Marketing Council: Box 9137 Incline



Village, NV 89450. Write for free skier's guide

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

Tahoe North Visitors and Convention Bureau: Box 5578, Tahoe City, CA 95730; 916-583-3494, or 800-824-6348 anywhere in U.S.

RURAL AREAS

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

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

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Churchill County C of C: 100 Campus Way,

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Pahrump Valley C of C: Box 42, Pahrump, NV 89041; 727-5800
Pioche C of C: Box 51, Pioche, NV 89043; 962-5544 (office hours: 11am-3pm Mon.-Sat.)
Tonopah C of C: Box 869, Tonopah, NV 89049; 482-3859
Wells C of C: Box 615, Wells, NV 89835; 752-3540
Wendover USA Visitors/Convention Bureau: Box 2468, Wendover, NV 89883; 664-3414
White Pine C of C: 636 Aultman, Ely, NV. 89301; 289-8877
Winnemucca C of C: 48 W. Winnemucca Blvd., Winnemucca, NV 89445; 623-2225
Winnemucca Convention and Visitors Bureau: 50 W. Winnemucca Blvd., Winnemucca, NV 89445; 623-5071

STATE AND NATIONAL PARKS

Nevada Division of State Parks: Capitol Complex, Carson City, NV 89710; 885-4387
Death Valley National Monument: Death Valley, CA. 92328; 619-786-2331
Great Basin National Park: Baker, NV 89311; 234-7331
Lake Mead National Recreation Area: 601 Nevada Hwy., Boulder City, NV 89005; 293-8907

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Humboldt National Forest: 976 Mountain City Hwy., Elko, NV 89801, 738-4071
Toiyabe National Forest: 1200 Franklin Way, Sparks, NV 89431, 331-6444; 550 E. Charleston, Las Vegas, NV 89104, 388-6255 (for Mount Charleston area)

FISHING AND HUNTING

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

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Spring Jamboree & Street Festival <i>May</i>	Art-in-the-Park <i>October</i>
Clark County Artists Show <i>May</i>	Christmas Parade <i>December</i>
Parade of Lights, Lake Mead <i>December</i>	

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1497 Nevada Hwy., Boulder City, NV 89005 (702) 293-2034

THE NEVADA CALENDAR



HOT LINES

Charleston Heights Arts Center: films, art exhibits, chamber music, other arts events, 386-6383

Fern Adair Conservatory of the Arts: ballet, musicals, theater, 458-7575

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

UNLV Basketball: 1/5 v. New Mexico State; 1/9 v. Pacific; 1/16 v. Cal State Fullerton; 1/19 v. Utah State; 1/28 v. Oklahoma; 2/6 v. UC Santa Barbara; 2/19 v. Temple; 2/23 v. Long Beach State; 2/23 v. Fresno State, Thomas and Mack Center, UNLV 739-FANS

UNLV Concerts: music and dance, 739-3101

For chamber of commerce and convention center phones, see page E-6

EVENTS

January

Art Exhibit, thru 1/12, paintings by Farrell Walback, Spring Valley Library, 733-3621

A Heritage Street Christmas, thru 1/17 the museum's Heritage Street residences are decorated in Christmas themes from the early 1900s, Clark County Museum, Henderson, 455-7955

Art Exhibit, thru 1/4, figurative sculpture by David Phelps, Charleston Heights Arts Center, 386-6383

Art Exhibit, thru 1/11, works by Gary James of Laguna Beach, Las Vegas Art Museum, 647-4300

Photo Exhibit, thru 1/10, works by Richard Battey and Sandi Conn, Clark County Library, 733-3621

Art Exhibit, thru 1/28, paintings by Michael Almaguer, Museum of Natural History, UNLV 739-3381

Christmas Show, thru 1/8, ornaments and seasonal artifacts, Fran Haney collection, Clark County Library, 733-3621

Arizona Art Exhibit, thru 1/18, Reed Whipple Cultural Center, 386-6211

Nevada 88, thru 1/3, traveling photo show from Elko's Northeastern Nevada Museum, Valley of Fire State Park Visitors Center, Overton, 397-2088

New Year's Eve Celebrations, 12/31, Las Vegas area casinos, 382-6397

Annual New Year's Eve Bash, 12/31, Callville Bay Resort, Lake Mead, 565-8958

Art Exhibit, 1/2-31, watercolors by R. Vicki Richardson, Mary Jo Harding, and local students, Lost City Museum, 397-2193

Therapy Concert, 1/8, 3pm, jazz octet plays traditional and contemporary music featuring professional musicians from Las Vegas Strip hotels, free, Charleston Heights Arts Center, 386-6383

Art Exhibit, 1/8-2/8, "On Paper" by Nina Marshall, Charleston Heights Arts Center, 386-6383

Union Pacific Performing Artists Residency Program, 1/9-13, soprano Lisa Braden and pianist Jan Christensen will conduct a week-long residency appearing before local audiences to perform their music, discuss their lives as artists and help people better understand classical music, site TBA in Las Vegas, 386-6511

Senior Art Show, 1/10-2/3, Clark County Library, 733-3613

Photo Exhibit, 1/12-2/7 black-and-white



This winter's musical attractions include an appearance by the Prague Chamber Orchestra and pianist Jeremy Menuhin (top) at UNLV on January 23. In March hundreds of quick-footed square dancers gather at Hoover Dam (bottom) and Boulder City for their annual festival.

The Stage Is Set

Theater is making big strides in Las Vegas this winter

By Scott Dickensheets

Las Vegas theater-goers will have a busy time keeping up with this winter's offerings by a variety of companies.

Among the highlights is the Actor's Repertory Theatre production of "Glengarry Glen Ross," David Mamet's Pulitzer Prize-winning drama. The work is a scathing look at the sleazy side of the real estate business and at the uses and failures of language.

"The play is really about the failure to communicate at a basic level," says Georgia Neu, artistic director of Actor's Rep. "It's about how the central character, Richard Roma, creates with words the trust it takes to sell what is essentially swampland, and how creating that trust is the very act of betrayal." The play is shot through with coarse language, and Neu says their version will not tone it down. "Glengarry Glen Ross" will run January 20-22 and 27-29 at the Flamingo Library. Always ambitious, Actors Rep also presents "The Belle of Amherst" January 12-14. Call 647-SHOW for details.

Another good prospect is "The Elephant Man," presented by New West Stage Company. The story of 19th-century medical oddity John Merrick is already familiar to many through the film of the same name. "The play will be a lot different than the movie," says director Barbara Brennan, best known in local theater circles for her deft hand with comedies. "The film went for the more grotesque aspects. The play goes beyond that, and shows the man as a human being."

The production represents a challenge for both cast and audience. Unlike the



David Mamet's Pulitzer Prize-winning play, "Glengarry Glen Ross," will be presented by Actor's Rep.

film, the stage version uses no hideous make-up. The actor will have to use body language, movement and other skills to suggest Merrick's horrific appearance. The audience must be willing to see the Elephant Man in the unadorned actor. Brennan has spent long hours researching Merrick's genetic disorders, as well as the social climate of 1880s London, in which the play is set. It runs January 27, 28, 29, 31, and February 1. Call 876-NWSC for details.

The Las Vegas Little Theatre will present "Of Mice and Men," John Steinbeck's tragic tale of a Depression-era migrant worker and his retarded friend. Paul Harris, a member of the theater faculty at the University of Nevada-Las

Vegas, will direct the multi-set play, which won 1937's Drama Critics Award.

"The theme of the play concerns people and their dreams, their dream of belonging," Harris says. "It's the kind of play that always seems to draw people to watch it." Harris himself recalls seeing a traveling version long ago, which starred Lon Chaney, Jr., who also starred in the original film version. "Of Mice and Men" opens January 20 and runs for three weeks at the Spring Valley Library. Call 383-0021 for ticket information.

For more details on local theater, call the Allied Arts Council at 731-5419.

Scott Dickensheets is a member of the staff of the Allied Arts Council in Las Vegas.

NIGHTLIFE



Ruth, June, and Anita Pointer practice for Amarillo Slim's tournament at Caesars.

- photographs by Christopher Tsouras, Clark County Library, 733-3613
- Spirit Masks**, 1/12-2/14, created by students from Las Vegas Day School, Spring Valley Library, 733-3613
- Sunset Symphony Concert**, 1/13, featuring soprano Elisabeth Braden and pianist Jan Christiansen, free, Cashman Field Theatre, 386-6211
- New Car Show**, 1/13-15, Cashman Field Center, 733-2323
- Gala Mardi Gras**, 1/14, performances by U.S. and Canadian clubs, marching band, dancing, food and drink, 7pm, German-American Mardi Gras Assn., Union Plaza, 451-2220
- Suzuki String Recital**, 1/14, Ham Hall, UNLV 739-3502
- Serenata Chamber Orchestra Concert**, 1/14-15, on 1/14 at West Las Vegas Library, on 1/15 at Clark County Library, 733-3613
- "An Afternoon of Gilbert and Sullivan,"** 1/15, Southern Nevada Musical Arts, Judy Bayley Theatre, UNLV 451-6672
- Concert**, 1/15, 3pm, Las Vegas-Clark County Library District's Chamber Orchestra-in-Residence, Clark County Library Auditorium, 733-3620
- Top Rank Boxing**, 1/17 doors open at 5pm, tickets \$20, \$15, and \$10, Caesars Palace, 731-7865
- Art Exhibit**, 1/19-2/26, watercolors by Lucile Spire Bruner, Sunrise Library, 733-3613
- Noir et Blanc Bal**, 1/20, Black and White Ball, formal evening honoring Nevada Dance Theatre's Woman of the Year, County Commissioner Thalia Dondero. The Nevada Dance Theatre and Saks Fifth Avenue fundraiser features a Carolina Herrera fashion show and ballet performance, Aladdin Hotel, 739-3838
- "Party of One,"** 1/20-22, musical revue, Judy Bayley Theatre, UNLV 739-3801
- "Of Mice and Men,"** 1/20-2/4, drama, Las Vegas Little Theatre, at the Spring Valley Library, 383-0021
- Contemporary Indian Art Exhibit**, 1/22-2/22, Reed Whipple Cultural Center, 386-6211
- Prague Chamber Orchestra**, 1/23, with Jeremy Menuhin, pianist, Ham Hall, UNLV 739-3535
- Boat Show**, 1/26-29, Cashman Field Center, 733-2323
- Amarillo Slim's Super Bowl of Poker**, 1/26-2/9, prizes and purses exceed \$2 million, Caesars Palace, 731-7777
- Art Exhibit**, 1/26-2/28, photographs of the Orient by Ginger Bruner, paintings by Cathy Heath, Green Valley Library, Henderson, 733-3613
- "The Elephant Man,"** 1/27-29 and 1/31-2/1-4, drama, New West Stage Company, Charleston Heights Arts Center, 876-NWSC
- A Common Thread**, 1/27-3/12, Northern Nevada Fiber Guild's traveling fiber art show, includes tapestries, wall hangings, traditional and contemporary baskets, handmade paper, saddle blankets, quilts, dolls, and awnings, Nevada State Museum and Historical Society, 486-5205
- Team Ropings**, 1/28, Peppermill Arena at the Arvada Ranch, 3 miles east of Mesquite, Peppermill, 346-5232 ext. 3580
- Dance Concert**, 1/29, University Dance Theatre, Judy Bayley Theatre, UNLV 739-3827

Sizzling Siblings

By Jackie Brett

On stage in Las Vegas, the Pointer Sisters represent sheer energy. If any act can sizzle, it's these three siblings.

For all their on-stage dazzle, though, their united three-way career hasn't experienced vast peaks and valleys. Rather, it's been a steady climb up the showroom ladder and the charts.

Anita, June, and Ruth have found success in the '80s partly because their music strikes a chord with mainstream America. Earlier in their careers they sang everything from jazz scat to pop and R&B. The Pointers' first two albums were certifiable gold, and "Fairy Tale"—a country song—copped the group's first Grammy. Bonnie, a fourth Pointer, was part of the group in their early years, but has since developed a solo career.

Back in the early '80s, the Pointer Sisters were an opening act at the old MGM Grand in Las Vegas. They already had compiled such tantalizing hits as "He's So Shy," "Fire," and "Slow Hand." During this less flamboyant period the three women wore similar outfits. One might wear a dress, another pants, and the third peddle-pushers, but they'd all have a similar look, like black velvet with gold trim. The Pointers have always paid attention to their wardrobe. Back in the '70s, while playing the Troubadour in Los Angeles, they would raid thrift shops for performing clothes.

The sisters eventually found a new sound and image with "He's So Shy" and "Slow Hand," but their big break happened in 1984 with "Break Out." That triple-platinum album had six unforgettable songs: "I Need You," "Automatic," "Jump (For My Love)," "I'm So Excited," "Baby Come and Get It," and "Neutron Dance."

In March 1985, Caesars Palace signed

the Pointers as headliners. That year, they appeared at the Strip hotel three times, including New Year's Eve, and have been under contract to Caesars ever since.

The difference between their opening and headliner acts was noticeable. It appeared as if the jump to superstardom had bolstered their confidence.

"I guess you might say success has given us confidence," June said later. "It has also made us softer. At first we were uptight and nervous. We didn't know who to trust. Now we are relaxed and much more easy-going."

This year the Pointers released their 16th album, "Serious Slammin'" whose upbeat dance tune "He Turned Me Out" was featured in the movie *Action Jackson*. Their latest single, "Power of Persuasion," was used in *Caddy Shack II*. Anita released a solo album, "Love For What It Is." June also released a solo album, "June Pointer." In 1989 they'll record a new album with Motown.

As a headliner act, the Pointer Sisters pull out all stops with their songs and their costumes. Wearing electrifying colors—hot pink, shimmering lime green, and brilliant yellow are normal Pointer hues—these ladies present a rocking, visual show powered by their frenetic-paced music. It's not hard to remember their musical roots—singing in the choir of the Church of God in West Oakland, California, where their father was a preacher.

You walk out of a Pointer Sisters show feeling completely energized. From "Slow Hand" to "So Excited," they give you all they've got, and then some.

The Pointer Sisters perform at Caesars Palace in Las Vegas January 25-30 and at Caesars Tahoe March 3-5.

Winterwolf Indian Crafts, 2/1-28, crafts display and sale from Winterwolf Trading Co., Lost City Museum, Overton, 397-2193

Las Vegas Antique Arms Show, 2/3-5, Sahara Hotel, 733-2323

Lucky Filters Las Vegas Open Dart Tournament, 2/3-5, 3085 South Nellis, 451-9221

"The Incredible Jungle Journey of Fenda Maria," 2/3-12, children's theater, The Rainbow Company, Reed Whipple Cultural Center, 386-6553

Art Exhibit, 2/3-28, paintings and drawings by Jean Giguet and Bill Leaf, Museum of Natural History, UNLV 739-3381

Boulder City Community Prayer Breakfast, 2/4, location TBA, 293-2034

Concert, 2/4, featuring classic guitarist Scott Kritzer and mezzo soprano Alyce Rogers, Boulder City Cultural Center, 293-2034

Dollhouse and Miniatures Exhibit, 2/5-3/7 Clark County Library, 733-3613

Las Vegas Symphony Concert, 2/6, Ham Hall, UNLV 739-3420

"Oedipus the King," 2/9-12, classical Greek drama, Nevada Dance Theatre and UNLV Department of Theatre Arts intertwines dance, drama, and music, Judy Bayley Theatre, UNLV 739-3838

Cleo Parker Robinson Modern Dance Company, 2/10, Charleston Heights Arts Center, 386-6383

Backstage at the Opera, 2/11, Nevada Opera Theatre, Ham Hall stage, UNLV 451-6331

"Madama Butterfly," 2/12, Nevada Opera Theatre, Ham Hall, UNLV 451-6331

Ceramics Exhibit, 2/12-3/15, works by Neil Moss, Charleston Heights Arts Center, 386-6383

Sweetheart's Ball, 2/14, semi-formal Valentine's Day dance, Peppermill Resort, Mesquite, 346-5232

RV and Travel Show, 2/16-19, Las Vegas Convention Center, 386-7100

Art Exhibit, 2/16-3/14, drawings by Linda Strohmenger, Spring Valley Library, 733-3613

Las Vegas Bottle Club Antique and Collectible Show and Sale, 2/18-19, Sahara Hotel, 435-7687

Purgatory Plainsmen's Second Annual Rendezvous, 2/18-20, blackpowder shootin' hawkin' and knifin' competition and fun and games, primitive camp and tin camp, site is near Indian Springs, 45 miles northwest of Las Vegas on Highway 95, watch for signs or call for directions, 879-3469 or 879-3418

Serenata Chamber Orchestra Concert, 2/19, Clark County Library, 733-3613

University Musical Society Orchestra Concert, 2/19, Charleston Heights Arts Center, 386-6383

Sports Car Classic, 2/24-25, sports car display and mini-course race conducted by the Sports Car Club of America, Peppermill Resort, Mesquite, 346-5232

Wayne Newton's Las Vegas Race for the Angels, 2/25-26, stunts and races involving 60 planes, fundraiser for Angel Planes, at the new Boulder City Municipal Airport, 451-2227

Art Exhibit, 2/26-3/29, paintings by Antonio Sorcini, Reed Whipple Cultural Center, 386-6211

Misha Dichter Recital, 2/28, Ham Hall, UNLV 739-3535

Mirages and Misfits, 2/28, lectures and readings by American writers in the theme of

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landscape in contemporary literature, featured writers are Richard Shelton and Ann Zwinger, sites TBA in Las Vegas, 789-0225

Art Exhibit, 2/28-3/28, oil pastels by Moema Furtado, Sunrise Library, 733-3613

March

Potpourri, 3/1-31, paintings by Lelah and Harry Clementson of Logandale, Lost City Museum, Overton, 397-2193

"The Normal Heart," 3/2-12, Black Box Theatre, UNLV, 739-3353 or 739-3801

Art Exhibit, 3/2-4/18, paintings by Thure Johnson, Green Valley Library, Henderson, 733-3613

Bill Monroe Concert, 3/3, "the Father of Bluegrass Music," Cashman Field Theatre, 386-6211

Hoover Dam Square Dance Festival, 3/3-4, 16th annual, on Fri. square and round dancing, on Sat. dance on Hoover Dam, workshop and square and round dancing, Circle 8 Square Dance Club, Elton Garrett Junior High School and Hoover Dam, Boulder City, 293-4918

Quintessence Concerts, 3/3-4, wind quintet with a flair for humor and musical insight; workshops and recitals given at Boulder City area schools, for schedule and locations call 456-6695

Autorama, 3/3-5, Las Vegas Convention Center, 386-7100

Las Vegas Receptive Operators Association's Second Annual Poker Run, 3/4, Las Vegas, for info. call National Car Rental, 739-5391

Stuttgart Chamber Choir Concert, 3/4, from West Germany, free, Ham Hall, UNLV 451-6672

Art Exhibit, 3/4-4/8, "Rhythm and Blues: Black



Northern Nevada Fiber Guild's touring show is at the State Museum and Historical Society this winter.

American Popular Music, 1945-1955," Museum of Natural History, UNLV, 739-3381

Las Vegas Symphony Concert, 3/5, Ham Hall, UNLV 739-3420

Quintessence Concerts, 3/5-7, on 3/5 recital at Charleston Heights Arts Center, on 3/5-6 workshops at Las Vegas area schools, on 3/7 recital at Las Vegas Downtown Transportation Center, 386-6383

Photo Exhibit, 3/9-4/7 black-and-white photographs by Raisa Fastman, Clark County Library, 733-3613

Water Exposition, 3/10-12, Las Vegas Convention Center, 386-7100

"Cold Storage," 3/10-25, comedy, Las Vegas Little Theatre, at the Spring Valley Library, 383-0021

"An Afternoon in Old Vienna," 3/12, dance and listen to Johann Strauss, Jr. waltzes and polkas in the atmosphere of old Vienna, period costumes and formal dress are optional, Las Vegas Civic Symphony, Showboat Hotel, 386-6211

Constanza Orchestra of Romania, 3/14, Ham

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Hall, UNLV 739-3535

"Repertory II" 3/16-19, a mixture of ballets featuring the premiere of the '50s tribute "Dreamtime USA" and a neo-classical; also "Greek Songs" and "Annabel Lee" return, Nevada Dance Theatre, Judy Bayley Theatre, UNLV, 739-3838

Art Exhibit, 3/16-4/17 paintings by Nancy Deaner, Spring Valley Library, 733-3613

St. Patrick's Day Celebration, 3/17, 23rd annual Sons of Erin parade and block party on Fremont St. in front of Fitzgeralds, proceeds go to charity, 735-2713

St. Patrick's Day Celebrations, 3/17 area casinos

Kite Karnival, 3/18, kite flyers and builders display and fly kites in competition, Jaycee Park, 386-6297

Requiem Concert, 3/19, free, funded in part by grants from the Nevada State Council on the Arts and the Music Performance Trust Fund, Musical Arts Chorus and Orchestra, Ham Hall, 451-6672

Serenata Chamber Orchestra Concert, 3/19, Clark County Library, 733-3613

Unfinished Furniture Show, 3/19-21, Las Vegas Convention Center, 386-7100

Art Exhibit, 3/19-4/19, "Portraits from the Portfolio" by Kurt Fishback, Charleston Heights Arts Center, 386-6383

"The Dresser," 3/31-4/2 and 4/6-8, drama, Clark County Community College Theatre, North Las Vegas, 664-PLAY



Nevada Dance Theatre performs the classical Greek drama, "Oedipus the King," February 9-12.

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 numbers call 800-555-1212.

SHOWGUIDE

Aladdin, 736-0240: Jerry Lewis, 12/31

Bally's, 739-4567: *Celebrity Room:* Frank Sinatra, 12/27-1/1 and 1/26-2/1; George Carlin, 12/31; Randy Travis, 12/30-31 and 1/1; Dean Martin, 1/12-18; Rodney Dangerfield/Harry Basil, 1/19-25; Tom Jones, 2/2-15; *Ziegfeld Theatre:* "Jubilee!" indf. (dark Wed.)

Barbary Coast, 737-7200: Irish Showband, thru 2/6

Bourbon Street, 794-3490: New Orleans Jazz, indf.; Contemporary, indf.

Caesars Palace, 731-7110: Dionne Warwick/Natalie Cole, 12/27-1/1; The Judds, 1/18-23; Pointer Sisters/Rhonda Hensone, 1/25-30; Diana Ross, 2/1-6 and 2/8-13; David Copperfield/Ben E. King, 2/15-20 and 2/22-27; Reba McEntire, 3/15-20; Dionne Warwick/Burt Bacharach, 3/22-27; Ann-Margret, 3/29-4/3 and 4/5-10

California Hotel, 385-1222: Entertainment TBA
Circus Circus, 734-0410: Free circus acts, 11am-midnight

Desert Inn, 733-4566: Ray Stevens/Louise Mandrell, 12/27-1/18 and 3/23-4/12; Roy Clark/Forester Sisters, 1/26-2/8; Rich Little, 3/2-22; Smothers Brothers, 4/13-5/3

Dunes, 737-4741: Comedy Store, indf.

El Rancho, 796-2222: Entertainment TBA

Fitzgeralds, 382-6111: Nightly entertainment
Flamingo Hilton, 733-3333: "City Lites," stage spectacular, indf. (dark Sun.)

COMING EVENTS

Clark County Fair, Logandale, 4/13-16, 397-8561

Henderson Industrial Days, 4/15-23, 565-8951

Boulder City Spring Jamboree, 4/19, 293-2034

Las Vegas Invitational Golf Tournament, 4/26-30, 733-4653

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Ann-Margret takes over the stage at Caesars Palace between March 29 and April 10.

Four Queens, 385-4011: Little Anthony, 12/27-1/1; Bill Pinkney and the Original Drifters, 1/3-29; Billy Eckstine, 2/21-3/12; Doug Kershaw, 3/14-26; Platters, 3/28-4/30; Monday Night Jazz featuring: Eddie Harris, 1/2

Frontier, 734-0385: Entertainment TBA
Gold Coast, 367-7111: Sorta Dixie Jazz Band, indf. (dark Tues.); Comedy with Cork Proctor and Friends, indf.

Golden Nugget, 386-8100: Kenny Rogers, 12/29-1/1

Hacienda, 739-8911: "Hitz," musical production, indf.

Holiday, 369-5222: Glenn Smith, 1/1-3/31

Horseshoe, 387-6468: Entertainment TBA

Imperial Palace, 794-3261: "Legends in Concert," indf. (dark Sun.)

Landmark, 733-1110: Entertainment TBA

Las Vegas Hilton, 732-5755: Wayne Newton, 12/27-1/1

Marina, 739-1500: "Dan-Sin Dirty," indf.

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

Paddlewheel, 734-0711: TBA

Palace Station, 367-2411: Entertainment TBA

Peppermill Resort, Mesquite: 346-5232: Entertainment TBA

Riviera, 734-5301: Bobby Vinton/McGuire Sisters, 12/31; Paul Anka, 1/26-29 and 3/23-26; "Splash" production show, indf.; "Crazy Girls: Fastasie de Paris," revue, indf.; "An Evening at La Cage," revue, indf.; "An Evening at the Improv," comedians, indf.

Royal Casino, 733-4000: Dos Guys, indf.

Sahara, 737-2424: "Boy-lesque," indf. (dark Wed.)

Sam Boyd's Fremont, 385-3232: Nightly entertainment

Sam's Town, 456-7777: Nightly entertainment
Sands, 733-5453: "Beach Blanket Babylon," musical revue, indf.

Stardust, 732-6325: "Lido de Paris," starring Bobby Berosini and his orangutans, indf. (dark Tues.)

Tropicana, 739-2411: "Folies Bergere," indf. (dark Thurs.)

Union Plaza, 386-2446: "Nudes on Ice," with international ice skating champions, indf.

Whiskey Pete's, on I-15 near the California-

Nevada border, 382-4388: Live entertainment

Laughlin

Colorado Belle, 298-4000: Big Band Bash, with jitterbug contest every Sun.

Del Webb's Nevada Club, 298-2512: Hoyt Henry and the Dixie Jazz Kings, indf. Mon.-Fri.

Edgewater, 298-2453

Regency, 298-2439: Piano bar

Riverside Resort, 298-2535: Entertainment TBA

Sam's Town Gold River, 298-2242: Live entertainment

MUSEUMS

Henderson

Clark County Museum: 8-5 Mon.-Fri., 9-5 Sat.-Sun., 1830 S. Boulder Hwy., 455-7955

Las Vegas

American Museum of Historical Documents: 10-6 Mon.-Wed., 10-9 Thurs.-Fri., 10-6 Sat., 12-5 Sun., 3200 Las Vegas Blvd. S., privately owned, 731-0785

Discovery, The Children's Museum: For information call 382-3445

Imperial Palace Auto Collection: 9:30am-11:30pm daily, 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: includes the Wildlife World Art Museum, 9-6 Sun.-Thurs., 9-9 Fri.-Sat., 3700 Las Vegas Blvd. S., 739-7280

Librance 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.-Sun., Lorenzi Park, 486-5205

Old Las Vegas Fort: 8-2 Sat. and Mon. and noon-3 Sun., Las Vegas Blvd. N. at Washington (entrance from Cashman Field parking lot B only), 382-7198

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

North Las Vegas

The Planetarium: 2-8 Thurs.-Sat., Clark County
Community College, 644-5059

Overton

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

ART GALLERIES Boulder City

Art Exchange: 707 Canyon Road, Suite 101, 10-5
Tues.-Fri., 11-3 Sat., specializing in framing,
bronzes, original lithographs, 293-7263

Boulder City Art Guild and Gallery: 1495
Nevada Hwy., noon-4 daily, oils and
watercolors by locals artists, 294-9982

Brent Thomson Art and Framing: 1672 Nevada
Hwy., 9-5 Tues.-Fri., 10-4 Sat., contemporary
Southwest, 293-4652

Burk Gal'ry: 1229 Arizona, 10-5 Mon.-Fri., 10-4
Sat., western themes and polages, 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, com-
missioned portraits, 386-2787

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

Alta Ham Fine Arts Gallery: UNLV 4505 S.
Maryland Pkwy., 8-5 Mon.-Fri., nationally
known artists, 739-3893

American Museum of Historical Documents:



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- 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 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, 887-0761
- 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., 9:30-6 Mon.-Wed., 9:30-9 Thurs.-Fri., 9:30-6 Sat., 12-5 Sun., oils, etchings, and lithographic drawings, 737-1400
- Nevada Frames and Gallery:** 3061 Sheridan, 10-5 Mon.-Sat., floral and animal paintings, 876-6734
- Newsom's Art Gallery:** 1141 S. Maryland Pkwy., 10-5 Tues.-Sat. and by appointment, western paintings, bronzes, and woodcarving, 384-9865
- Portfolio Ink:** 2350 S. Jones Blvd., 2-7 Tues.-Fri., 11-6 Sat., limited-edition serigraphs and lithographs, 876-3587
- Raphael Galleries, Ltd.:** 3200 Las Vegas Blvd. S., 10-6 Mon.-Wed. and Sat., 10-9 Thurs.-Fri., 12-5 Sun., oils, lithographs, porcelain figurines, and plates, 732-9523
- Reed Whipple Center Gallery:** 821 Las Vegas Blvd. N., 2:30-8 Mon. and Thurs., 10-8 Tues., Wed., and Fri., 9-5 Sat., 12-5 Sun., local artists, 386-6383

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

CASINO NOTES

•The **Desert Inn Country Club** recently was named one of "America's Best 75 Resort Courses" by *Golf Digest Magazine* in its October issue. The Desert Inn is the only golf course in Nevada to earn the honor. The list came from a survey of 300 panelists who evaluated resort courses—those directly affiliated with a hotel—on the basis of shot values, playability, design balance, memorability esthetics, and conditioning. The Desert Inn's 7,000-yard course, which blankets more than 150 acres, has hosted such tournaments as the Las Vegas Invitational and the Las Vegas Senior Classic. Of

its 18 holes, the seventh, a 205-yard par 3, is considered the most difficult and is recognized by the PGA Tour as one of the top-rated par 3 holes in the country.

•Ground was broken recently for Circus Enterprises' 4,000-room castle-themed resort, **Excalibur**, on the Las Vegas Strip. The resort will be built on 70 acres of a 117-acre site across from the Tropicana at an estimated cost of \$260-290 million, with completion slated for mid-1990. Excalibur was named through a nationwide contest.

•The **Riviera Hotel** returned to a star policy in its main showroom with its presentation of singer-actress Liza Minnelli in November. The Strip resort also has four production and comedy shows running continuously. Not since country music star Dolly Parton's 1981 engagement at the Riviera has the hotel booked stars on a regular basis.

•A Los Angeles woman recently became the fourth multi-millionaire created this year by Megabucks when she lined up four "wild seven" symbols at the **Golden Nugget** in Las Vegas and won \$2,797,675.33. June W. Vavasour had played about \$10 in a Megabucks machine when she hit the super jackpot on October 1. "I saw the sevens line up, but I didn't know exactly what happened," Vavasour recalled. "A man passed by and said, 'Hey, you just won 2 million dollars. That's when I got excited.'" Megabucks is a statewide progressive slot network linking 90 casinos in 21 towns and cities. The world's current record belongs to Cammie Brewer of Reno, who hit Megabucks for \$6.8 million on February 14, 1988.

•Top executives celebrated the 36th anniversary of the **Sahara Hotel** recently, following the completion of a multi-million-

dollar renovation project. Once a modest gambling den called Club Bingo, the building was renovated and opened as the swank Sahara Hotel in October 1952 by Montanan Milton Prell. Today, under the direction of Chairman of the Board Paul Lowden, the Sahara is now a 1,500-room resort.

•On October 18, 1968, Las Vegas saw the grand opening of **Circus Circus'** midway on the Strip, the first gaming establishment offering entertainment for fun-seekers of all ages. Today, Circus Circus itself is 20 years old.

TOURNAMENTS

January

Blackjack, every Thurs., Fri., and Sat., Holiday Casino, 369-5000

Slots, 1/9-11, 1/25-27 2/14-17 and 3/13-17 Sands, 733-5285

Slots, 1/9-12, Stardust, 732-6111

Slots, 1/13-15, Marina, 736-2040

Slots, 1/15-17 1/29-31, 2/12-14, 2/26-28, 3/19-21, 3/26-28, Flamingo Hilton, 733-3117

Slots, 1/23-26, Holiday Casino, 369-5000

Amarillo Slim's Super Bowl of Poker, 1/26-2/9, Caesars Palace, 731-7777

February

Blackjack, 2/5-8, Stardust, 732-6111

Slots, 2/12-15, Caesars Palace, 731-7777

Keno, 2/17-19, Sands, 733-5327

Horse Race Handicapping Tournament, 2/28-3/5, Stardust, 732-6111

March

Craps, 3/13-16, Stardust, 732-6111

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THE NEVADA CALENDAR



The Reno International Kite Flying Festival will be held March 18-19 at Rancho San Rafael Park (top). Harrah's large collection of cars (bottom) will have a new home in downtown Reno in late 1989.

HOT LINES

Festivals at Tahoe: information on North Shore festivals throughout year, 916-583-7625

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

UNR Basketball: 1/5 v. Idaho State; 1/7 v. Weber State; 1/19 v. Montana State; 1/21 v. Montana; 1/28 v. Boise State, 2/9 v. Eastern Washington; 2/11 v. Idaho; 2/18 v. Northern Arizona, Lawlor Events Center, UNR, 348-PACK

UNR Music Department: concerts, recitals, 784-6145

For chamber of commerce and convention center phones, see page E-6

EVENTS

January

Nevada Country Christmas Exhibit, thru 1/1, model trains, antique toys, miniatures, quilts, and nostalgia, Sierra Nevada Museum of Art, 329-3333

Christmas and New Year's Festivities at Local Ski Areas, thru 1/1, torchlight parades, carolers, Santa on skis, fun races, night skiing, and guided tours at local ski areas, 916-583-2371

Festival of Lights, thru 1/6, homes and businesses decorate with lights along Country Club Drive and Lakeshore Boulevard, Incline Village, 831-1111

Northern Nevada Fiber Guild, thru 1/12, traveling fiber art show with exhibit panels, handwoven items, City Hall Galleries, 673-0823

Photography Exhibit, thru 1/20, featuring three Nevada photographers: Erik Lauritzen, Dan Adams, and Alan Platzer; XS Gallery, Western Nevada Community College, Carson City, 887-3000

Art Exhibit, thru 1/27, works by Kelsie Harder, DICE, Truckee Meadows Community College, 673-7000

Minerals Exhibit, thru 4/16, ore minerals, gem stones, fluorescent minerals, ore suites from five Nevada mining districts, Nevada State Museum, Carson City, 885-4810

Puttin' on the Ritz, 12/31, New Year's Eve formal dinner, dance, and auction, fundraiser for the Incline Village/Crystal Bay Chamber of Commerce, 831-4440

New Year's Eve Celebrations, 12/31, area casinos

USSA Far West Freestyle Meet, 12/31-1/1, Boreal Ski Area, 916-426-3666

Jeep Challenge New Year's 10-Km. Race, 1/2, cross-country ski race, open to all skiers, Royal Gorge, 916-426-3871

U.S. Pro Tour Ski Races, 1/6-8, Heavenly Valley, 916-541-1330

Super Stars of Poker, 1/6-19, Caesars Tahoe, 588-3515

Men's Pro Cup, 1/7-8, top professional ski racers compete in slalom and giant slalom, Heavenly Valley, 916-541-1330

South Shore Winter Festival of Lights, 1/7-27, torchlight parades, ski races, sleigh rides, and businesses decorated with holiday lights, South Lake Tahoe and Stateline, 916-544-5050

Kid's Cross-Country Ski Race, 1/8, noon, Tahoe Donner, 916-587-9454

Biggest Little Cutting in the World, 1/8-18,

PREVIEW

Brewing Up History

By Robert A. Nylén and
Eric N. Moody

Things are really hopping at the Brewery Arts Center in Carson City. Besides serving as a center of local theater and art activities, the center has unveiled a permanent display on the history of the Carson Brewing Company. The colorful display, which opened on Nevada Day, features photographs, brewery equipment, a neon Tahoe Beer sign, bottles, labels, advertising signs, and other breweriana from the collection of Addison Millard, the son of Arnold and Alma Millard, the last owners of the old-time brewery.

What seems to have been Nevada's first brewery was established in Carson City by John Wagner & Company in 1860 during the first rush to Virginia City. By the time Nevada achieved statehood in 1864, business was booming, and a new two-story brewery building was erected on the corner of South Division and West King streets, where it still stands. The lower floor housed the brewery and a barroom and the upper floor served as a lodge room.

The Carson Brewery specialized in steam beer, a bottom-fermenting brew produced without the constant cold temperatures that true lager requires. The pure, clear water used in the brewing process came from King's Canyon Creek west of town. Hops and barley were imported from California and other outlying areas. In January 1863, the brewery produced 90 barrels of beer, and by the end of the month all the barrels were sold. Business was very good that year, with more than 500 barrels of beer being sold at \$3 per gallon.

The brewery delivered barrels, kegs, and bottles of beer to local saloons. It also supplied Comstock taprooms and even opened its own saloon in Virginia City. One of the horses that pulled the brewery's beer wagons was said to prefer beer to water. When left standing near a beer keg, he would turn it over and sniff the stale liquid. On occasion, when he was given good beer, he lost no time in disposing of it.

Jacob Klein, one of Wagner's three partners, was a native of Alsace, France. After emigrating to America, he moved to California in 1853. He arrived in Carson City on April 18, 1860, and bought



Carson City's Brewery Arts Center was a brewery in the 1930s (above). The center is celebrating its past with an exhibit of old brewery photographs and other breweriana.

an interest in the brewery. By 1877 he had bought the interests of Wagner and Adam Gerhauser, the other partner. Klein held onto the business until his death in 1899.

In 1900 the business was sold to James Raycraft and Frank Golden, who incorporated and changed the name to Carson Brewing Company. They ran both the brewery and saloon until 1910, when the brewmaster, Fritz Hagemeyer, induced his brother-in-law Max Stenz, former owner of the Goldfield Brewery, to purchase the operation.

In 1912, Stenz converted his brewing from steam beer to lager beer and labeled his product Tahoe Beer, "Famous as the Lake." In 1915, Stenz purchased his first delivery truck and branched into bottling soft drinks and packaging artificial ice. The brewery also bottled mineral water from Carson Hot Springs.

With the coming of Prohibition, Stenz again became the sole owner of his brewery after the company's stockholders lost faith and sold him their outstanding shares. During Prohibition, the Carson Brewing Company experimented with a low-alcohol "near-beer" known as Tahoe Lager. It was an immediate hit. For a while the brewery had a virtual monopoly in the region on near-beer, but soon other breweries followed its lead.

In 1926, Arnold A. Millard, son-in-law of Max Stenz, took over management of the brewery. Sales continued to decline, and in 1930 Millard went into the coal, wood, and fuel-oil business to keep the brewery from closing. This was a life-saver, for during the last year of

Prohibition the brewery sold only 150 barrels of near-beer, with not enough profit to pay the wages of one employee.

The re-legalization of beer in 1933 brought new life to the brewery. Old and worn-out machinery was replaced, new equipment purchased, and the brewery completely remodeled. Twenty additional men were employed to increase plant production to 1,600 gallons of beer per day. Millard also had a large sign painted on the building's east wall advertising Tahoe Beer. Millard sold the wood, coal and fuel-oil business and went out of the ice business.

By the 1940s, large brewing companies were taking over the beer business throughout America. Many small breweries were being bought up and closed at this time. In 1948, Arnold Millard decided to liquidate his business. The brewery shut down. This marked the end of the oldest brewery in the state and one of Nevada's oldest businesses.

The Millard family sold the property in 1950 to publisher Donald W. Reynolds, who owns the Donrey Media Group, for use as a printing plant for the *Nevada Appeal* and *Carson Chronicle*. In 1974, the newspaper moved to a new building on Bath Street.

Through the efforts of the Carson City Centennial-Bicentennial Commission, the old brewery building was acquired from Donrey. Today, it is the site of the Brewery Arts Center, which, in addition to the brewery exhibit and other special displays, brings art shows, classes, and theater productions to Carson City. Call the center at 883-1976 for its calendar of events and classes.



Snow Fun At Tahoe

Snow castles, dude dogs, and great ski events.

By Michael Greenan

Dressed-up dogs, a professionally-built snow palace, Miss Sierra Snowfest and Mr. Lake Tahoe contests, a street dance, two parades, and ski races for everyone from grandparents to NFL players make up only parts of North Lake Tahoe and Truckee's annual snow bash. Billed as the Largest Winter Carnival in the West, Snowfest will have more than 100 skiing and non-skiing events from Friday, March 3 through Sunday, March 12.

Sixteen alpine and cross-country ski resorts in the North Lake Tahoe region will be hosting ski-related activities and ski races, the largest being The Great Ski Race, an 18-mile cross-country race from Tahoe City to Truckee on March 5. The Great Ski Race has been an annual event since 1977 when several dozen people entered. The event is now a fund-raiser

for the Tahoe Nordic Search and Rescue Team and attracts more than 600 skiers, including some world-class athletes and many intermediate cross-country skiers.

World-class canine comedians enter Snowfest's Dress Up Your Dog Contest, a popular and humorous event that has few rules and several categories, all of which change annually. Entrants need only bring a well-behaved dog who likes to dress outrageously and doesn't mind being laughed at in public. The (canine) winner receives a year's worth of free examinations and vaccinations.

For a Snowfest 1989 brochure and additional information, call Snowfest at 916-583-7625 or write Box 7590, Tahoe City CA. 95730. For lodging and airline reservations, ski packages, and other information, call the Tahoe North



Snowfest includes a beautiful snow palace at Boreal (top) and a parade in which the dragon meets a lot of little Georges (bottom).

Visitors and Convention Bureau toll free at 800-824-6348, the Truckee Donner Chamber of Commerce at 916-587-2757 or the Incline Village-Crystal Bay Chamber of Commerce at 702-831-4440.

horse competition, estimated \$350,000 purse, Reno Livestock/Events Center, 323-3073

Donner Ski Ranch Anniversary, 1/9-13, special prices for 31st anniversary, 916-426-3635

Pro Freestyle Tour, 1/10-12, Heavenly Valley, 916-541-1330

Nevada State Backgammon Championship, 1/11-15, largest backgammon tournament in U.S., Peppermill, 826-1984

"Agatha Christie Made Me Do It!" 1/13-14, 1/20-21, 1/27-28, comedy-thriller, 8pm, Carson Valley Theatre, CVIC Hall, Minden, 267-2799

International Armwrestling Championships, 1/14, Sands Hotel, 348-2200

Far West Masters Slalom Championships, 1/14-15, Diamond Peak at Ski Incline, 832-1177

Truckee Lions Club's Sierra Sweepstakes Sled Dog Races, 1/14-15 and 2/18-19 (tentative dates), Truckee-Tahoe Airport, 916-587-4914

National Brotherhood of Skiers Winter Carnival, 1/14-16, Alpine Meadows, 916-583-4232

Gail Dubinbaum Concert, 1/17 mezzo-soprano opera singer, Pioneer Center for the Performing Arts, 322-7670

Argenta Trio Concert, 1/18, Nightingale Hall, UNR, 784-6145

Miller Team Roping, 1/20-22, Reno Livestock/Events Center, 423-4811

Let's Go Skiing America, 1/20-2/17, learn to ski promotion for alpine and cross-country skiing, offered by participating ski areas, 916-583-3494

Full Moon Ski Tours, 1/21 and 2/19, Tahoe Nordic Center, 916-583-0484

"The Art of the Coloratura," 1/21, showcase of Nevada Opera professional and apprentice talent, Nightingale Hall, UNR, 826-4046

U.S. Ski Assn. Far West Ski Wars, 1/21-22, Heavenly Valley, 916-541-1330

Grand Opening of the New Homewood, 1/22, celebration of Homewood Ski Area's expansion with special events and rates, 916-525-7256

Pacific Crest Telemark Series, 1/22, Sierra Ski Ranch, 916-659-7453

Kirkwood 30-Km. Race, 1/22, citizen's (open to public) cross-country ski race, Kirkwood, 209-258-6000

Jeep/Eagle GS Ski Race, 1/22, Boreal Ski Area, 916-426-3666

Reno Philharmonic Concert, 1/24, Pioneer Center for the Performing Arts, 825-5905

Exceptional Children's Big Ski Adventure, 1/24, Sierra Ski Ranch, 916-659-7453

Tahoe Nordic Championships, 1/24, 15-km. citizen's race, Tahoe Nordic, 916-583-9858

Auction/Party, 1/25, fundraising event and party for Tahoe Rim Trail, location TBA, South Lake Tahoe, 916-577-0676

January Jazz, 1/25, Nevada and California high school jazz bands, invitational music and race competition, Sierra Ski Ranch, 916-659-7453

Art Exhibit, 1/26-2/27 works by Karen Atkinson, XS Gallery, Western Nevada Community College, 887-3000

Snow Sculpture Contest, 1/27 Tahoe Donner, 916-587-9400

Legislator's Cup Ski Race, 1/27 between Nevada and California legislators, live jazz, Sierra Ski Ranch, 916-659-7453

American Cribbage Congress Open and Tournament of Champions, 1/27-29, Sands Hotel, 348-2200

"Little Footsteps," 1/27-28, 2/3-5, and 2/9-11, comedy, Reno Little Theater, 329-0661

USRSA Plymouth All-American Ski Race,

1/28, recreational ski race for all ages and abilities, Northstar, 916-562-1010

National Handicapped Sports and Recreation Assn. Regional Championship Races, 1/28-29, Alpine Meadows, 916-583-4232

Big Valley Ski Cup, 1/29, recreational ski race for all ages and abilities, Northstar, 916-562-1010

Tahoe Nordic Championships, 1/29, 15-km. cross-country ski race, Tahoe Nordic, 916-583-0484

Union Pacific Performing Artists Residency Program, 1/30-2/3, soprano Lisa Braden and pianist Jan Christensen will conduct a week-long residency appearing before local audiences to perform their music, discuss their lives as artists, and help people better understand classical music, site TBA in Reno, 329-1324

February

Art Exhibit, 2/2-3/6, paintings by Frankie Sundsten, reception 2/2 from 5-7pm, DICE, Truckee Meadows Community College, 673-7000



Shari Belafonte-Harper heads downhill in last year's *Celebrity Classic* at Heavenly.

Grand National Motorsport Truck Pull, 2/3-4, Reno Livestock/Events Center, 323-3000

Photo Exhibit, 2/3-3/3, Sheppard Gallery, UNR, 784-6658

Ski the Californias/Jeep Recreational Ski Race, 2/4, Northstar, 916-587-0280

USSA Junior Ski Race, 2/4-5, Kirkwood, 209-258-7276

Reno Chamber Orchestra, 2/5, 8pm, Nightingale Hall, UNR, 329-1324

Telemark Ski Race and Celebration, 2/5, Northstar, 916-587-0273

Fischer/Royal Gorge Cup 15-Km. Ski Race, 2/5, Royal Gorge, 916-426-3871

Annual Mardi Gras Party, 2/7 Carson Valley Inn, Minden, 782-9711

The First Contemporary Music and Dance Festival, 2/8-9, dance and music artists from Los Angeles, New York, and Reno collaborate in works of Stravinsky, Steve Reich, and more, Nightingale Hall, UNR, 784-6145

Canine Connection, 2/10, dog sled races, Hope Valley, 916-694-2475

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NIGHTLIFE

Georgia Girls

By Guy Richardson

When the Forester Sisters signed with Warner Brothers, the record label sent them to a school on how to be interviewed.

Kim, Kathy, Christy, and June listened like the nice Georgia girls that they are. And then—like the rowdy, independent, strong Southern women that they also are—they decided to do interviews their way.

The school would video-tape mock interviews. June recalls, "One time Christy had a watch on, and the camera caught her cleaning the crystal with spit."

They all whoop.

These are small-town ladies from Point Lookout, Tennessee. "When we started, we thought if we did good and worked hard, we'd get our just rewards," says Kim, a lusty blonde. "We were so nayeEEEEve."

They learned quickly. Kathy says, "There's no rules in the music business. Everything keeps changing. If you do good and work hard, you have to fight the



The Forester Sisters (clockwise from top): Christy, Kathy, Kim, and June.

system, and the politics. You can't be naive. You've got to be smart business women."

The Warners by now must be pale and sweaty. "We expected wheelbarrows full of money right off," says Kim. Adds Kathy, "A life of luxury." Chimes in June, "Rest."

What they got was four years of grinding away on the road and seven sort-of hit

records. Like "When You're in Love." Hear it and you go, "Oh yeah, I remember that." But you can't off the top of your head name a Forester Sisters' tune.

"Our friends back home talk about how glamorous our lives must be," says Kim. "I ask 'em what they did last weekend, and it's dinner and a movie on Friday, shopping on Saturday. I say, 'My weekend was riding a bus from Rochester, New York, to Salt Lake City, Utah. Now isn't that glamorous?'"

She's giggling while saying this. The sisters chime in, laughing about waiting in line to take a shower.

Whatever else these ladies are—and whatever else the music biz is—they are full of chatter, laughter, teasing, guffaws, hoots, squeals, and good fun.

The road can be desperately lonely, but not for the Foresters. "We have a built-in security blanket—there are four of us," says Kim. "We stick together and take the disappointments as a group. Sometimes I think it must be very hard for single artists to deal with this business."

The Warners not only tried to bend the Foresters into a refined interview team but also wanted the ladies to dress alike. Good luck. "We looked like little clones—it was horrible!" Kim says. So who does their clothes? A chorus: "We do."

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dale's to Penney's," says Kim. "We can't afford a lot for clothes. Some people can pay \$5,000 for a dress, but we can't. They get so beat up, you know?"

In case you don't, June makes the point by lifting her skirt. "Look at this—Band-aids and tape hold the hem up."

More laughter.

The Warner Brothers would DIE if they could see the Foresters demonstrating this, Kim with her pants pulled up to show white sox and the others laughing.

So, what did they learn from interview school? "Oh, how to not be trapped into answers," says Kim. A typical toughie question: Do you think Dolly Parton has ruined country music by crossing over into pop? "Whah, gracious," says Kim with an exaggerated roll of her eyes. "We girls don't know Dolly, but," she twists a lock of hair around her finger, "we lahk her an awful lot."

The Warners would be proud.

At least until June fesses up that probably if someone asked her she'd blurt out her sexual history.

I didn't ask. Let the Warner Brothers have their happy illusions.

The Forester Sisters appear at the Desert Inn in Las Vegas January 26-February 8 and at John Ascuaga's Nugget in Sparks March 9-22.

- Event, 2/10-12, Squaw Valley, 916-583-6985**
Rummage Sale, 2/11, 8am-4pm, fundraiser by the Doctors' Wives of Washoe County, Reno Livestock/Events Center, 829-1303
Buddy Werner Memorial Race, 2/11, Kirkwood, 209-258-6000
Jeep/Eagle Cross-Country Challenge, 2/11, open to all levels, Kirkwood, 209-258-6000
Tokyo String Quartet Concert, 2/14, Nightingale Hall, UNR, 784-4444
Valentine's Day Dinner and Dance, 2/14, Virginia City, 847-0311
"Madame Butterfly," 2/16 and 2/18, Puccini's tragic love story, performed in Italian with simultext translation, starring Korean soprano Ok Ja Lim and tenor David Rudat, Nevada Opera, Pioneer Center for the Performing Arts, 786-4046
"The Foreigner," 2/17-18, 2/24-25, and 3/3-4, comedy, Proscenium Players, Brewery Arts Center, Carson City, 883-1976
Molson Obstacle Race, 2/18, Kirkwood, 209-258-6000
One-Act Competition, 2/18, 2/24-25, Reno Little Theater, 329-0661
Torchlight Parade, 2/19, Tahoe Donner, 916-587-9444
Valley Ski Cup, 2/19, open recreational race, Kirkwood, 209-258-6000
Senior's Race Day and Barbecue, 2/22, Sierra Ski Ranch, 916-659-7519
Youth Ski Challenge, 2/23, Sierra Ski Ranch, 916-659-7519
Annual Pheasant Hunt and Game Feed, 2/23-25, Carson Valley Inn, Minden, 782-9711
Snowfest Snow Castle Grand Opening, 2/24, Boreal, 916-426-3666
State One-Act Competition, 2/24-25, American Assn. of Community Theater, Reno Little

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Theater, 329-0661

Cabaret '89, 2/25, barbershop music and western barbecue buffet, S.P.E.B.S.Q.S.A., Sparks Recreation Center, 358-3349

Harrah's Celebrity Ski Classic at Heavenly Valley, 2/25-26, celebrities compete in ski events for fun and charity, nationally televised event, Heavenly Valley Ski Resort, for information call Harrah's Tahoe, 588-6611 ext. 2141

KIBS (Kirkwood Instruction for Blind Skiers) Ski Race, 2/26, Kirkwood, 209-258-7276

Salomon/Royal Gorge Cup 30-Km Ski Race, 2/26, Royal Gorge, 916-426-3871

Mademoiselle Magazine On the Mountain, 2/26-3/2, fun races, games, prizes, Northstar, 916-587-0280

Reno Philharmonic Concert, 2/28, Pioneer

Center for the Performing Arts, 825-5905
Nevada Winter Special Olympics, 2/28-3/3, Ski Incline, 832-1177

March

Mirages and Misfits, 3/2, lectures and readings by American writers in the theme of landscape in contemporary literature, featured writers are Richard Shelton and Ann Zwinger, sites TBA in Reno, 789-0225

Pre-Schoolers' Snow Play and Picnic Day, 3/2, Sierra Ski Ranch, 916-659-7453

Art Exhibit, 3/2-4/3, sculpture by Rita McBride, XS Gallery, Western Nevada Community College, 887-3000

"Kiss Me, Kate," 3/3-4 and 3/8-12, annual spring musical by the Nevada Repertory

Company, Redfield Proscenium Theatre, UNR, 784-4444

California State Snowboarding Championships, 3/3-5, Soda Springs, 916-426-3666
USSA/Far West Freestyle Championships, 3/3-5, aerial, ballet, and moguls competition, Donner Ski Ranch, 916-426-3635

Snowfest, 3/3-12, North Lake Tahoe and Truckee's winter carnival, kick-off includes torchlight parade at Squaw Valley followed by 10 days of ski races, dances, music, displays, food festivals, ice sculpture and dog dressing competitions, and fireworks, 916-583-7625

Dolora Zajick and Friends Concert, 3/4, Nevada Opera's (and Metropolitan Opera) star Dolora Zajick returns to sing Brahms' Alto Rhapsody with male chorus, Nightingale Hall, UNR, 786-4046

Carson City Chamber Orchestra Concert, 3/5, featuring piano soloist Ron Williams, Carson City Community Center, 883-4154

Great Ski Race, 3/5, 30-km. cross-country ski race from Tahoe to Truckee, meet at 9am at Tahoe Nordic Center, 916-583-0484

Spring Fling, 3/6-10, special low prices at Donner Ski Ranch, 916-426-3635

1989 U.S. Collegiate Ski Championships, 3/6-10, alpine events at Ski Incline (832-1177), Nordic events at Tahoe Donner (916-587-9454)

Art Exhibit, 3/9-4/13, paintings by Peter Stegall, reception 3/9, DICE, Truckee Meadows Community College, 673-7000

Kawambe Drum and Dance Ensemble, 3/10, authentically costumed and choreographed program consisting of dances and music of African tribal groups, 8pm, Carson City Community Center, 883-1976

Jimmie Heuga Express, 3/10, ski races, events, Squaw Valley, 916-583-6985

"Fool for Love," 3/10-11, 3/17-19, and 3/23-25, Reno Little Theater, 329-0661

Shrine Circus, 3/10-12, Reno Livestock/Events Center, 323-8136

"I Oughta Be in Pictures," 3/10-11, 3/17-18, and 3/24-25, comedy, 8pm, Carson Valley Theatre, CVIC Hall, Minden, 267-2799

The Classic Race, 3/11-12, area finals, corporate ski challenge, Kirkwood, 209-258-7276

Reno Chamber Orchestra, 3/12, 2pm, Nightingale Hall, UNR, 329-1324

U.S. Biathlon National Championships, 3/12-19, an Olympic sport combining cross-country skiing and rifle marksmanship, Royal Gorge, 916-426-3871

St. Patrick's Day Celebration, 3/17 dinner at Storey County School, Virginia City, 847-0311

National Reined Cowhorse Assn. Hackamore Maturity Horse Show, 3/17-18, Reno Livestock/Events Center, 916-846-4728

Sixth Annual Women's Professional Ski Race, 3/17-19 (tentative), a leading stop on the Women's Ski Racing Tour, broadcast on ESPN, Kirkwood, 209-258-7276

Gold Nuggets Kids' Ski Race, 3/18, low-key competition for ages 3-11 on cross-country obstacle course, Royal Gorge, 916-426-3871

Beefmasters Cattle Show and Sale, 3/18, Reno Livestock/Events Center, 323-3000

Reno International Kite Festival, 3/18-19, kite flying, contests, food, music, Rancho San Rafael Park, 827-7636

California Gold Rush, 3/19, 50-km. (or 25-km. half-marathon) cross-country ski marathon, finale of the Great American Ski Chase, open to all skiers, Royal Gorge, 916-426-3871

Romagnola Cattle Show and Sale, 3/19, Reno

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The International Winter Special Olympics comes to Lake Tahoe and Reno this April.

- Livestock/Events Center, 323-3000
John Raitt Concert, 3/22, Pioneer Center for the Performing Arts Center, 322-7670
Echo to Kirkwood Cross-Country Race, 3/25, 16th annual, 14-mile course climbs 1,300 feet to the crest of the Sierra then descends to Kirkwood, post-race celebration, Kirkwood and Echo Summit ski areas, 209-258-7276
Spring Break Ski Carnival, 3/25-4/9, Ski Incline, 832-1177
Easter Celebrations, 3/26, area casinos and ski resorts
Reno Philharmonic Concert, 3/28, Pioneer Center for the Performing Arts, 825-5905
Miller Team Roping, 3/31-4/2, Reno Livestock/Events Center, 423-4811

COMING EVENTS

- International Winter Special Olympics**, 4/1-8, Lake Tahoe and Reno, 322-8888
Silver State Square and Round Dance Festival, 4/28-30, Reno, 322-0027
Tastes of Tahoe, 5/14, Incline Village, 831-1547
Great Lake Tahoe Sternwheeler Race, 5/29, 916-541-3364

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.

SHOWGUIDE

- Bally's Reno**, 789-2285: *Ziegfeld Theatre: "Hello Hollywood, Hello!"* indf.
Caesars Tahoe, 588-3515: *Cascade Showroom: Barry Manilow, 12/31-1/1; Suzanne Somers, 1/20-22; Moody Blues, 1/27-28; Gallagher, 2/3-4; Kenny Rogers, 2/10-11; Kenny Loggins, 2/17-19; Pointer Sisters, 3/3-5; Ann-*

- Margret, 3/24-25; Crystal Cabaret: Playboy's Girls of Rock 'n Roll, indf.; Laff Trax, indf.*
Carson City Nugget, 883-3854: Entertainment TBA
Carson Valley Inn, Minden, 782-9711: *Wrays, thru 1/7; Motifs, 1/9-21; Perfect Circle, 1/23-2/4; Tommy Bell, 2/6-18; Ohana, 2/26-3/4; Whiskey Ridge, 3/6-18; Network, 3/20-4/1*
Circus Circus, Reno, 329-0711: Free circus acts, 11am-midnight
Crystal Bay Club, North Tahoe, 831-0512
Del Webb's High Sierra, Stateline, 588-6211: Entertainment TBA
Eldorado, Reno, 786-5700: *Danny Marona, 2/14-26; Dae Hans, 3/6-26; Diamonds, 3/21-4/9*
Fitzgerald's, Reno, 785-3300: *Joe and Terri, 1/2-3; Vermillion, 1/4-17 (dark Mon.); Laura*

- Bright, 1/18-31 (dark Mon.); Stearns and Chandler, 2/1-14 (dark Mon.); Garfin Gathering, 2/8-14 (dark Tues.); Joe and Terri, 2/15-28 (dark Mon.)*
Harolds Club, Reno, 329-0881: Entertainment TBA
Harrah's Reno, 329-4422: *Headliner Room: Tony Bennett, 12/30-1/5; Smothers Brothers, 1/6-11; Charley Pride, 1/12-18; Jay Leno, 1/19-25; Rich Little, 1/26-2/1; Sammy Davis, Jr., 2/2-15; Debbie Reynolds, 2/16-22; Dionne Warwick, 2/23-3/1; Ray Stevens, 3/9-15; Jim Nabors, 3/16-22; Mac Davis, 3/23-29; Smothers Brothers, 3/30-4/5; Casino Cabaret: Frederic Apar's "Zing," revue, 1/19-indf.; Frenz, thru 1/18; Boots Randolph, 1/19-2/1*
Harrah's Tahoe, 588-6606: *South Shore Room: Charo/Wil Shriner, 12/23-1/1; Natalie*

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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,

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Carson City

Carson City Tourism Authority

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Skiing Around The State

1988-89 Downhill Skier's Guide

Area	Phone	Top Elevation	Vertical	Lifts	Rating Bg-Int-Adv	Lift Price* Adult/Child	Rental Adult/Child
TAHOE BASIN							
Alpine Meadows	916-583-4232	8,637	1,800	13	25-40-35	\$32/\$12	\$17/\$13
Boreal	916-426-3666	7,800	600	9	30-60-10	\$22/\$12	\$15/\$11
Diamond Peak/Incline	702-832-1177	8,540	1,840	7	18-49-33	\$26/\$12	\$14/\$10
Donner Ski Ranch	916-426-3635	7,751	720	4	25-50-25	\$21/\$10	\$13/\$8
Echo Summit	916-659-7154	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Granlibakken	916-583-4242	6,480	280	2	50-50-0	\$10/\$6	\$10/\$8
Heavenly	916-541-1330	10,100	3,600	24	25-50-25	\$32/\$14*	\$15/\$9
Homewood	916-525-7256	7,880	1,650	10	15-35-50	\$25/\$8	\$15/\$11*
Kirkwood	209-258-6000	9,800	2,000	11	15-50-35	\$30/\$12	\$15/\$10
Mount Rose/Slide	702-849-0704	9,700	1,440	6	30-30-35	\$25/\$15	\$14/\$10
Northstar	916-562-1010	8,600	2,200	11	25-50-25	\$29/\$14	\$17/\$11
Sierra Ski Ranch	916-659-7475	8,852	2,212	10	20-60-20	\$24/\$12	\$14/\$10
Soda Springs	916-426-3666	7,350	650	3	30-50-20	\$17/\$9	\$15/\$11
Squaw Valley	916-583-6985	9,050	2,850	27	25-45-30	\$32/\$5	\$15/\$10
Sugar Bowl	916-426-3651	8,383	1,500	9	20-30-50	\$27/\$13	\$15/\$11
Tahoe Donner	916-587-9400	7,350	600	3	50-50-0	\$16/\$10	\$14/\$11
MOUNT CHARLESTON (LAS VEGAS)							
Lee Canyon	702-872-5462	9,320	1,030	3	15-80-5	\$20/\$14	\$14/\$14

1988-89 Cross-Country Skier's Guide

Area	Phone	Groomed Trail (km)	Trail Fee Adult/Child	Rentals Adult/Child	Lessons Adult/Child	Day Lodge
TAHOE BASIN						
Incline Nordic	702-832-1150	15	\$4/\$2	\$9/\$6	\$10	✓
Kirkwood	209-258-7248	75	\$10/\$6	\$11/\$7	\$20/\$14**	✓
Northstar	916-562-0273	40	\$9/\$4	\$12/\$8	\$17/\$10	✓
Royal Gorge	916-426-3871	305	\$13.50/\$7.50	\$11.50/\$7.50	\$22/\$19**	✓
Sorensen's	916-694-2203	40	none	\$12/\$7	\$12/\$8	✓
Spooner Lake	702-749-5349	55	\$7/\$3	\$16.50/\$13.50	\$17	✓
Squaw Valley	916-583-8951	30	\$7/\$4	\$11/\$7	\$14/\$12	✓
Sugar Pine Point	916-526-7232	2	\$3 car	no	no	
Tahoe Donner	916-587-9484	75	\$10/\$6	\$11/\$7	\$19/15**	✓
Tahoe Nordic	916-583-0484	60	\$9/\$4	\$11/\$5.50	\$17**	✓
AROUND THE STATE						
Lee Canyon	702-732-7222 702-872-5200	Randy McGhie at the Ski Chalet offers x-country suggestions Bill Ikner has info on camping and avalanche conditions				
Ruby Mountains (Elko)	702-753-6867	Ruby Mt. Heli-Skiing in Lamoille offers helicopter skiing				
Spring Valley (Eureka)	702-237-5280	Ron Carrion at the Owl Club provides ride and map free				
White Pine (Ely)	702-289-8877	Chamber has maps for skiing at three local areas				

*all prices are weekend rates and subject to change **includes trail pass

Cole/Louie Anderson, 1/13-15; K.T. Oslin, 1/20-22; Scott Hamilton in "Broadway on Ice," 1/27-3/5; Jay Leno, 3/9-12; Dionne Warwick, 3/14-19; *Stateline Cabaret*: Frederic Apar's "Fast Company," indf.; Lydia Pense and Cold Blood, thru 1/3; Little Anthony, 1/5-10; Southern Pacific, 1/12-17; Rain: A Tribute to the Beatles, 1/26-31

Harvey's, Stateline, 588-2411: Pazzaz Revue, indf.; Sonny Turner, thru 1/22; Ron Rose Sound, indf.; Stephanie Teel, thru 1/8; David Proud, thru 1/8; The Edge, thru 1/15

Hyatt Lake Tahoe, Incline, 831-1111: Entertainment TBA

John Ascuaga's Nugget, Sparks, 356-3304: *Celebrity Showroom*: The Lettermen/Larry Wilson, thru 1/11; Bellamy Brothers/Tony d'Andrea, 1/12-25; Ray Price/Sammy King, 1/26-2/8; Brenda Lee/Chas Elstner, 2/9-22; Boxcar Willie/Volantes, 2/23-3/8; Forester Sisters, 3/9-22; Moe Bandy, 3/23-4/5; *Casino Lounge*: Links/Zella Lehr, thru 1/8; Cabaret Beret/Rob Quist and Great Northern, 1/10-29; Billy Truitt and the Barnstormers, 1/30-2/19; Martha's Children, 1/31-2/19; Garfin Gathering, 2/20-3/12; Louie Fontaine and the Rockets, 2/21-3/12; Motifs, 3/13-4/2; Kenny Laursen Show, 3/14-4/2

Ormsby House, Carson City, 882-1890: Ricky and Bobby, thru 1/1; Crystal Palace, thru 1/8

Peppermill, Reno, 826-2121: Free nightly cabaret entertainment

Reno Hilton, 322-1111: Jeff Wayne, indf.; Leoni-Hecht Group, 12/26-1/1

Reno Ramada, 788-2000: Comedy Circuit, Tues.-Sat., indf.

Sharkey's Nugget, Gardnerville, 782-3133

Tahoe Biltmore, North Tahoe, 831-0660: Entertainment TBA

Topaz Lodge, Topaz Lake, 266-3339

Western Village, Sparks, 331-1069: Gary Wade and the Bump, thru 1/1; David Proud, thru 1/1

MUSEUMS

Carson City

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

Stewart Indian Museum: 9-4 every day, 5366 Snyder Ave., 882-1808

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 15-Oct. 1, 782-2518

Reno

Fleischmann Planetarium: 8-5 and 7-10 Mon.-Fri., 10:30-5 and 7-10 Sat.-Sun., UNR, call 784-4811 for schedule of shows

Harolds Club Gun Collection and Museum: 10-10 daily, 329-0881

Liberty Belle Slot Collection: 11am-11pm daily, 4250 S. Virginia St., in Liberty Belle Saloon and Restaurant, 825-1776

Mackay School of Mines Minerals Museum: 8-5 Mon.-Fri., UNR, 784-6988

Nevada Air Museum: 10-5 weekends, Reno-

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- 2 elegant dinners

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Nevada Historical Society: 10-5 Tues.-Sat., and
noon-5 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
appointment, 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
Sparks Heritage Foundation and Museum: 1-4
Mon.-Fri., 820 B St., 355-1144

Virginia City

Comstock Firemen's Museum: 10-4 daily, May-
Oct., closed during winter, 847-0717
Fourth Ward School Museum: 10-5 daily, May-
early Nov., closed during winter, 847-0975
Julia C. Bulette Red Light Museum: 7:30-9
daily, 847-9991
Mark Twain Museum: 10-6 daily, 847-0525
Museum of Memories: 9:30-5 daily, 847-0454
Nevada Gambling Museum: 10-6 daily, 847-
0789
The Way It Was Museum: 9:30-5 daily, 847-0766
Wild West Museum: 9-5 daily, 847-0400

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, 883-9132
Great Basin Art Gallery: 110 S. Curry St., 10-6
Mon.-Fri., 10-4 Sat., works by Jeff Nicholson,
Mary Chadwell, Judith Stroh Miller, Barbara
Moore, Jim Christison, Buckeye Blake,
Steven Saylor, 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

Gardnerville

East Fork Gallery: 1427 Main St. (U.S. 395), 10-
5 daily, paintings, photographs, and ceramics
by local artists, 782-2769

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 oils, 831-2485
Royal Art Gallery: Round Hill Mall, Zephyr
Cove, 10-8 daily, limited-edition prints, oils,

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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, more than 100 regional artists' works, 831-2460

Minden

Lone Tree Frame Co. and Gallery: 1592 Esmeralda, 10-5:30 Tues.-Fri., 10-2 Sat., originals by Mimi Jobe and Lady Jill Mueller, western and wildlife prints, 782-2522

Reno

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

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

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., Phillippe Noyer, Luongo, Jerry Schurr, 826-0323

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

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

New Ideas Art Gallery: Truckee Meadows Community College, 8-7 Mon.-Thurs., 8-5 Fri., contemporary fine arts in a variety of media, 673-7000

Norris-Allovio Gallery: 3430 Lakeside Dr., 10-5:30 Mon.-Sat., lithographs and 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 artist's 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.,

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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., 10-5 Tues.-Sun., Olag Wieghorst lithographs and western prints, 847-0502

CASINO NOTES

•Three video point-of-information systems developed by Advanced Touch Systems (ATS) were recently installed in **Caesars Tahoe**. Each monitor, which is recessed in a temple of stately columns, invites casino patrons to unlock the Secrets of Caesars by touching the screen. At the touch of a finger a gong sounds, and an animated key unlocks Caesars' secret box and reveals a program menu. Patrons can choose to learn about Caesars' games, preview the restaurants and hotel services, or discover which shows are playing that evening.

•The grand opening for the new addition to Carson City's **Ormsby House** is January 11-17. Events include a reception for legislators, employees' parade, and a mystery roast.

•Nevada's newest cabaret opened at **Harvey's Resort** with appearances by the Atlanta Rhythm Section, Ricky and the Redstreaks, and the Pazazz Revue. In addition to the premiere of the 250-seat Emerald Cabaret lounge in September, the Tahoe resort unveiled a wedding chapel. The chapel has an



Numerous ski areas have events celebrating St. Patrick's Day March 17

unobstructed view of the lake and the surrounding mountains through 18-foot-high windows. The non-denominational chapel will be open from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. in the winter.

•The **Carson Valley Inn** in Minden began a \$5 million expansion to its hotel, casino, and RV resort last fall. The project includes 60 new hotel rooms, 2,000 additional square feet of casino area, and a convenience store for the RV park.

•**John Ascuaga's Nugget's** current building expansion—a \$20 million endeavor—will increase the size of the lobby for the hotel tower, more than double convention facilities (to 70,000 square feet), and add a swimming pool and

health spa on the top floor. The building, designed to incorporate existing second-floor facilities with the new convention area, will be complete in August 1989.

•**Harrah's Tahoe** is remodeling. An interior redesign project, which started during the summer with the hotel lobby, will be carried throughout the casino, Sierra Restaurant, and Rendezvous Lounge and is scheduled for completion by mid-1989. The project is designed to make the casino lighter and brighter with a different color scheme and liberal use of wood, mirrors, and glass.

TOURNAMENTS

January

Keno, 1/5, Ormsby House, Carson City, 882-1890

Super Stars of Poker, 1/6-19, Caesars Tahoe, 588-3515

Slots, 1/11, Ormsby House, Carson City, 882-1890

World Championship of Horse Race Handicapping Tournament, 1/11-14, Club Cal-Neva, 323-1046

Blackjack, 1/19, Ormsby House, Carson City, 882-1890

Blackjack, 1/20-23 Reno Hilton, 322-1111

Slots, 1/27 Reno Ramada, 788-2000

February

Blackjack, 2/3-4, Reno Ramada, 788-2000

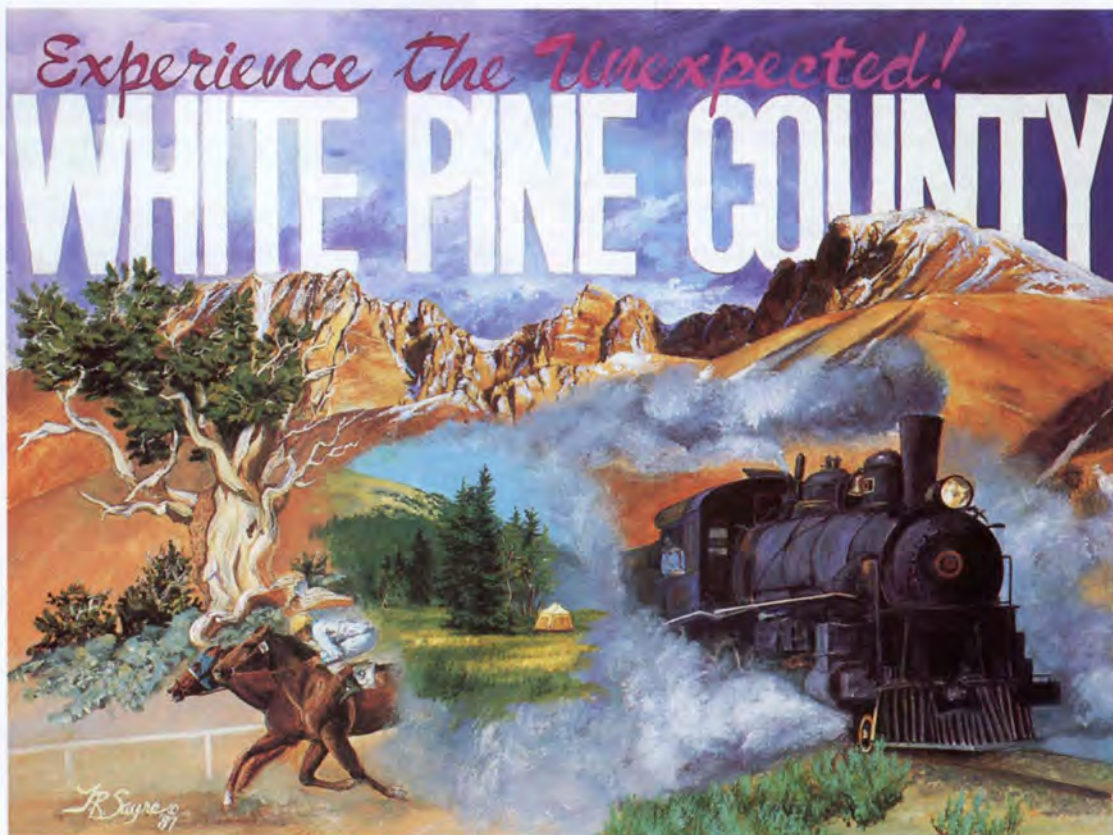
Slots, 2/3-5, Peppermill, 689-7282

Blackjack, 2/10-12, Peppermill, 689-7100

Slots, 2/24-26, Reno Ramada, 788-2000

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GREAT BASIN NATIONAL PARK, NEVADA

THE NEVADA CALENDAR



Chariot racers compete in Wells on Sundays, and Ely (top) hosts its championship March 4-5. Near Ely, Nordic skiers can compete in the Bristlecone Birkebeiner races on February 4 (bottom).

EVENTS HOT LINES

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

For chamber of commerce and convention center phones, see page E-6

RURAL EVENTS

COVERED WAGON TERRITORY

January

Art Show, thru 1/9, pen and ink, oils, watercolors, and photos by Toni Venturacci of Battle Mountain, Northeastern Nevada Museum, Elko, 738-3418

Art Show, thru 1/23, pencil portraits by Debby McDaniel, Northeastern Nevada Museum, Elko, 738-3418

Wells Chariot Races, thru mid-March, every Sunday, Wells race track, 752-3884

Art Show, 1/5-2/28, weaving by Charlene Virts and wood carvings by Dave Sime, Northeastern Nevada Museum, Elko, 738-3418

The 1989 Quilt Show and Convention, 1/21, quilts and quilted wall hangings on display,

quilt historian Julie Silber will screen the new film *Hearts and Hands*, 10am-5pm, convention center, Winnemucca, 623-6388

Cowboy Poetry Gathering, 1/25-28, cowboy poets, storytellers, and balladeers from the U.S. and Australia recite original works in event's fifth year, gear display, photography exhibit, convention center, Elko, 738-7508

February

Corporate Winter Games, 2/11-12, summer games on ice with bicycle riding, golf, tug-of-war, spectators welcome, Elko, 738-7135

Blackjack Tournament, 2/11-12, Silver Smith Casino, Wendover, 664-2231

Pool Tournament, 2/11-12, State Line Casino, Wendover, 664-2221

Shooting the West: Nevada Photography Experience, 2/23-24, featuring western photographer Kurt Markus, trade booths, panel discussion and presentations, convention center, Winnemucca, 623-6388 or 941-0357

Union Pacific Performing Artists Residency Program, 2/27-3/3, soprano Lisa Braden and pianist Jan Christensen will conduct a week-long residency appearing before local audiences to perform their music, discuss their lives as artists, and help people better understand classical music, site TBA, Elko, 738-8493

March

Slot Tournament, 3/17-18, State Line Casino, Wendover, 664-2221

PONY EXPRESS TERRITORY

January

Fallon Photo Show, thru 6/30, old and new views of Churchill County in show titled "One Day at a Time: The Desert Farm," Churchill County Museum, Fallon, 423-3677

Cross-Country Ski Tour, 1/14, Cave Lake State Park, Ely, 728-4467

Hidden Cave Tours, 1/14 and 1/28, meet at 9:30am, Churchill County Museum, Fallon, 882-1631 or 423-3677

Nevada 88, 1/11-30, traveling photo show from Elko's Northeastern Nevada Museum, White Pine County Library, Ely, 289-3737

Queen Ida and the Bon Temps Zydeco Band, 1/20, music and dancing, community center, Fallon, 423-1440

Winter Stargazing Programs, 1/28, 2/25, and 3/25, Cave Lake State Park, Ely, 728-4467

February

Raisa Fastman Touring Photographic Exhibition, 2/1-28, black-and-white photographs, Churchill County Library, Fallon, 423-1440

Bristlecone Birkebeiner, 2/4, 5-km. and 10-km. cross-country ski races, 2.5-km. race for children 9 and under, 6 miles southwest of Ely on Ward Mountain, race party and awards ceremony in Ely following race, 289-8877

Hidden Cave Tours, 2/11 and 2/25, meet at 9:30am, Churchill County Museum, Fallon, 882-1631 or 423-3677

"Betty Lou and the Country Beast", 2/17-18, local students perform with Missoula Children Theatre actors in an original musical, presented by Yerington Theatre for the Arts, Yerington High School, 463-3066

Ice Fishing Seminar, 2/18, Cave Lake State



Cowboys and cowgirls from throughout the country will ride in from the range January 25-28 to share their literary talents at Elko's fifth Cowboy Poetry Gathering.

Humorous poems, sentimental stories, and classic cowboy songs will be presented. But this show won't have the stereotypical air of the Nashville Network. These performers are genuine, working cowboys who have as much polish in their roping techniques as they have in their iambic pentameters.

About 100 poets have been invited to recite at this year's gathering, according to organizer Tara McCarty of the Western Folklife Center in Elko. Poetry sessions will be held at the Elko Convention Center days and evenings. There will be some open sessions, in which anyone can step up to the mike, and many beginning poets are expected to attend. The children's program for poets under 17 has been another popular event.

The gathering starts Wednesday January 25, with an evening performance for Elko residents. During past years, many locals have found it hard to squeeze in with visitors and national and international media people packing the convention center.

The festival opens to everyone on January 26 with a reception and exhibit at the Northeastern Nevada Museum. This year's exhibit, "The Fifth Gathering: A Retrospective," will feature photos, sketches, and other original artwork

Rhyming Roundup

By Jeff Mullins

from the many professionals who have covered the event. The reception is one of several events that require a \$5 button that doubles as a guest pass and a souvenir.

Daytime and evening sessions are planned through Saturday, January 28. Day sessions generally are free, while the Friday and Saturday evening shows at the convention center require an \$8 ticket (reservations are recommended; call 702-738-7508). Latecomers and others may repair to the bar, where a simulcast can be watched for \$5.

The event itself has attracted so much poetic attention that there will be a special session this year featuring verses written about the Elko gathering. Among the many other side attractions, cowboy musicians will perform daily at the theater in the nearby Elko Police Station.

Although the gathering continues to grow in popularity, McCarty says, it does face some funding obstacles. The Western Folklife Center helps cover many of the

Karin Haleamau and Clyde Sproat recite some buckaroo verses at the festival.

poets' expenses as well as other costs of the event. Levi's Westernwear pulled its funding this year, so expenses were in part covered by private donors, the Nevada State Council on the Arts, the Nevada Humanities Committee, and the Nevada Commission on Tourism.

Visitors will want to make room reservations in advance. The recent mining boom in the Elko area has filled many motels with construction workers and miners. The organizers are working hard to assure enough rooms are available—and it appears a large block of rooms will be—but it's still wise to call ahead. Also, in past years some visitors have had good luck bringing RVs (especially ones with good heaters).

Meanwhile, the center continues to plan new events for the gathering. Next year an American-Australian exchange of cowboy gear and poets is planned, and a future gathering will highlight the vaqueros, McCarty says.

But the event's focus always will be the experiences of the working American cowboy, as told by a poet who steps up to the microphone, clears his throat, and in a shaky voice recites a tale that can transport an entire audience to the wide-open range.

Jeff Mullins of Elko is a photographer, artist, and writer

Park, Ely, 728-4467
Churchill Arts Council Fundraising Dinner,
2/25, community center, Fallon, 423-1440

March

Bristlecone Chariot Races, 3/4-5, chariot and futurity racing for prizes, money, and standing, White Pine County Fairgrounds, Ely, 289-8877 or 289-3720

Fallon Quintessence Workshops, 3/9, wind quintet with a flair for humor and musical insight; workshops at Fallon schools, for locations call 423-1440

Yerington Quintessence Concerts, 3/10, workshops given at Yerington schools, recital at Holy Family Catholic Center, 463-3066

Fallon Quintessence Concert, 3/11, community center, Fallon, 423-1440

Battle Mountain Quintessence Concerts, 3/13, workshops given at Battle Mountain schools, recital at Battle Mountain Civic Center, 635-2550

"Betty Lou and the Country Beast," 3/17-18, local students perform with Missoula Children Theatre actors, presented by Yerington Theatre for the Arts, Smith Valley Community Center, Wellington, 463-3066

PIONEER TERRITORY

January

Queen Ida and the Bon Temp Zydeco Band Concert, 1/24, buffet featuring Cajun food at 6:30pm, concert at 8pm, dancing, Lincoln County High School, Panaca, 728-4539 or 726-4233

February

Nevada 88, 2/3-16, traveling photo show from Elko's Northeastern Nevada Museum, Lincoln County Courthouse, Pioche, 726-3333 or 728-4582

March

Quintessence Concerts, 3/1-2, wind quintet with a flair for humor and musical insight; on 3/1 at Panaca high school, on 3/2 at Alamo High School, for schedule call 728-4539

Iowa State Picnic, 3/12, get-together for residents and former residents of Iowa, Pahrump Community Park, 727-5107

Union Pacific Performing Artists Residency Program, 3/13-17 soprano Lisa Braden and pianist Jan Christensen perform and help people better understand classical music, sites TBA in Panaca and Alamo, 728-4233

A Common Thread, 3/20-4/15, Northern Nevada Fiber Guild's traveling fiber art show includes tapestries, wall hangings, baskets, handmade paper, quilts, and dolls, Town Hall, Pioche, 962-5584

End of Winter—Spring Celebration, 3/21, burning of a snowman, Caliente, 726-3129

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.

RURAL COMING EVENTS

The Great Country Picnic II, 5/14, Wellington, 463-3066

I'm packin' up for
**Winnemucca
Nevada!**

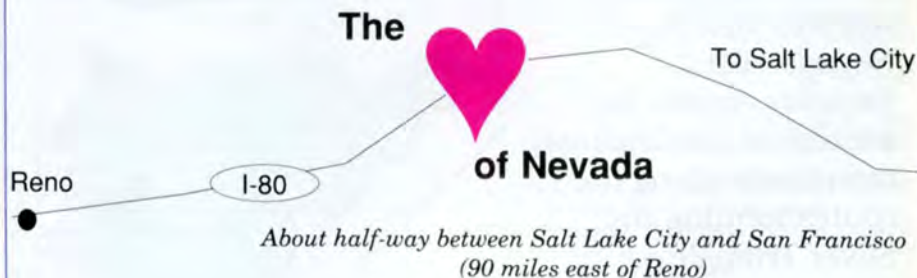


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Armed Forces Day, 5/20, Hawthorne, 945-5896
 Lincoln County Homecoming, 5/26-29,
 Caliente, 726-3129

SHOWGUIDE

Covered Wagon Territory

Elko: Commercial Hotel, 738-3181; Red Lion, 738-2111; Stockmen's Hotel, 738-5141
Jackpot: Cactus Pete's, 755-2321; Elements of Time, 1/4-15; Horseshu Casino, 755-2331
Wendover: Nevada Crossing, 664-4000; Blind Date, 1/10-23; Natale, 1/31-2/12; Alexander and Friends, 2/14-2/26; Peppermill, 664-2255; Jobob Band, 1/9-1/15; Sliced Bread, 1/9-23; Network, 1/16-29; Tanzenia, 1/24-2/5; Lelands, 1/30-2/12; Sneak Preview, 2/6-19; Freeway, 2/12-26; Chris Putrino, 2/20-3/



Queen Ida brings her Cajun spice to Pahrump.

5; France, 2/27-3/12; The Coz, 3/6-19; Gary Wade, 3/13-19; St. Romain, 3/20-4/2; Red Garter, 664-2111; Silver Smith, 664-2231; Entertainment nightly; State Line, 664-2221; Entertainment nightly

Winnemucca: Winners Hotel, 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; Entertainment weekends

Pioneer Territory

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

MUSEUMS

Covered Wagon Territory

Northeastern Nevada Museum, 9-5 Mon.-Sat., 1-5 Sun., 1515 Idaho St., Elko, 738-3418
Marzen House Museum, 9-2 Mon.-Fri., 1:30-4 Sat.-Sun., Lovelock, 273-7213
Humboldt Museum, 10-4 Mon.-Fri., 1-4 Sat., Winnemucca, 623-2912

Pony Express Territory

Nevada Northern Railway Museum, 8:30-4:30 daily, thru Oct. 1, closed during winter, East Ely, 289-2085
White Pine Public Museum, 9-4 Mon.-Fri., 10-3 Sat., 2000 Aultman St., Ely, 289-4710
Eureka Sentinel Museum, closed Nov.-Dec., after that hours and days vary, call 237-5484, Eureka
Churchill County Museum and Hidden Cave, 10-4 Mon.-Wed. and Fri.-Sat., noon-4 Sun., 1050 S. Maine St., Fallon, 423-3677 For Hidden Cave tours call Carson City BLM, 882-1631
Lyon County Museum, 10-4 Sat., 1-4 Sun., Yerington

Pioneer Territory

Mineral County Museum, 2-4:30 Mon.-Fri., Hawthorne, 945-3185
Lincoln County Museum, 9-5 Mon.-Sat., 10-5 Sun. (closes from 12:30-1:30 for lunch), Pioche, 962-5207
Central Nevada Museum, 12-5 Tues.-Sat., Tonopah, 482-9676

ART GALLERIES

Desert Images: 459 Fifth St., Hawthorne, noon-5 Mon.-Sat. or by appointment, features monthly guest artist, artwork representative of Mineral County and rural Nevada, 945-2138
Gallery: 2051 North St., Ely, 10-5 Mon.-Fri., Sat. and Sun. by appointment, pastels, watercolors, and oils by local artists, 289-4750
Northeastern Nevada Museum: 1515 Idaho St., Elko, 9-5 Mon.-Sat., 1-5 Sun., photos, pen and ink, sculpture, and oils on Nevada themes, 738-3418
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

WIN

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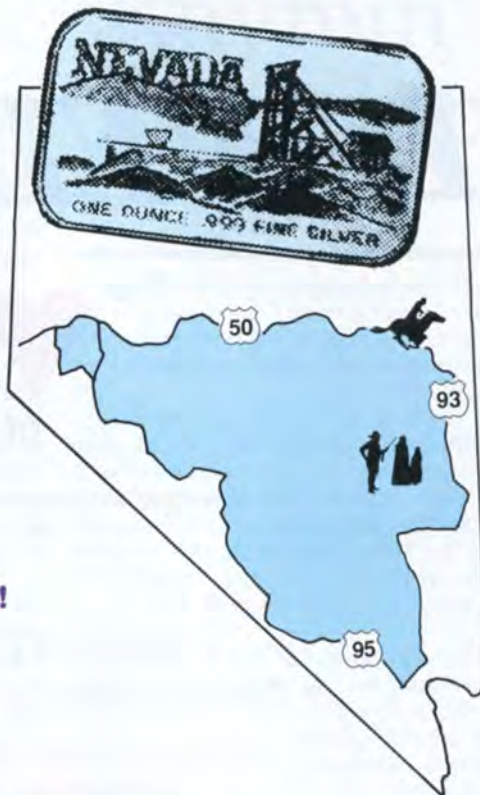
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MINE OUT THE FACTS!

For more information and entry form write:
 Pioneer Territory
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This is a joint contest sponsored by both the Pioneer Territory and the Pony Express Territory.



DINING GUIDE

The following Nevada dining directory includes current magazine advertisers and those who have paid a \$50 listing fee. Each listing gives sample dishes, whether breakfast, lunch, or dinner (B, L, D) are served, and accepted credit cards. Price ranges refer to typical entree price per person: up to \$10 (\$), \$11 to \$20 (\$\$), \$21 to \$30 (\$\$\$), and more than \$30 (\$\$\$\$). To phone from out of state, the area code is 702 throughout Nevada.

LAS VEGAS

AMERICAN

- California/Market Street Cafe**—12 E. Ogden, 385-1222. Prime rib dinner. B, L, D. \$, major.
- Circus Circus/Skyrise**—734-0410. Prime rib, steak and shrimp. B, L, D. \$, major.
- Desert Inn/Champions Deli**—3145 Las Vegas Blvd. S., 733-4513. Daily cooked brisket of beef, pastrami, corned beef. B, L, \$, major.
- Desert Inn/La Promenade**—3145 Las Vegas Blvd. S., 733-4580. Pasta sala tricolore, steak sandwich. 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.
- Flamingo Hilton/Lindy's Deli**—733-3111. Grilled Rueben, New York steak, marble cheesecake. B, L, D. \$, major.
- Imperial Palace/4th Floor Rib Room**—731-3311. Prime rib and barbecue entrees. D. \$\$, major.
- Sam's Town/Uptown Buffet**—5111 Boulder Hwy. 454-8048. B, L, D. \$, AE, MC, V, CB.
- Stardust/Tony Roma's**—732-6111. Ribs and chicken. D. \$, major.

CAJUN

- Holiday Casino/Joe's Bayou**—369-5000. Shrimp Creole, blackened catfish, Memphis-style barbecue. D. \$-\$\$, major.

FRENCH/CONTINENTAL

- Bally's/Gigi**—739-4651. Cote de veau nouveau chasseur mormard grille, beurre fondu. D (closed Mon-Tues.). \$\$\$\$ major.
- Caesars Palace/Bacchanal**—731-7110. Seven-course Roman banquet. D (closed Tues.-Wed.). \$\$\$\$ major.
- Caesars Palace/Palace Court**—731-7110. Langoustines, steak Diane. D. \$\$\$\$ major.
- Dunes/Sultan's Table**—737-4681. Breast of capon ala kiev, brochette of beef tenderloin, medaillon of veal ala sultan. D. \$-\$\$\$ major.
- Las Vegas Hilton/Le Montrachet**—732-5111. Dover sole, medallions of veal, extensive wine list. D. \$\$\$\$ major.

GERMAN

- Alpine Village Inn**—3003 Paradise Rd., 734-6888. Sauerbraten, wiener schnitzel, fleisch rouladen, sausages, combination plates, fish, steak, homebaked breads and desserts. D. \$-\$\$ major.

ITALIAN

- Bally's/Caruso's**—739-4656. Gamberoni alla griglia, pollo alla fiorentina. D (closed Wed.-Thurs.). \$\$\$\$ major.
- The Bootlegger Ristorante**—5025 S. Eastern, 736-4939. Seafood fra diavolo (hot, medium or mild), jumbo shrimp, homemade manicotti and lasagne, pasta diet menu from the American Heart Assn. L, D. \$, \$\$, major.
- Caesars Palace/Primavera**—731-7110. Fettuccine Primavera, pasta specialties, Caesars salad. B, L, D. \$-\$\$\$ major.
- Desert Inn/Portofino**—3145 Las Vegas Blvd. S., 733-4495. Saltimbocca a la romana, scampi a la provinciale, fettuccine alfredo. D. \$\$, major.
- Imperial Palace/Pappa's Pizza**—731-3311. Pizza, pasta, and salads. L, D. \$, major.
- Las Vegas Hilton/Andiamo**—732-5111. Northern Italian specialties, 25 pastas, veal, lamb, and fish entrees. L, D. \$-\$\$ major.

MEXICAN

- Casa Tequila**—1815 E. Charleston, 384-0651. Chimichangas, fajitas, crab enchiladas, burritos, tacos, tostadas, rellenos. L, D. \$, AE, MC, V.

El Sombrero Cafe—807 S. Main St., 382-9234. Albondigas soup, Mexican steak, chili Colorado. L, D. \$, MC, V.

Garcias Mexican—1030 E. Flamingo, 731-0628. Fajitas, chimichangas, seafood enchilladas, deep-fried ice cream. L, D. \$, major.

ORIENTAL

- Bally's/Tracy's**—739-4930. Kung pao gai, mongo ngow. D (closed Wed-Thurs.). \$\$, major.
- Caesars Palace/Ah So**—731-7110. Sushi and sashimi, teppan yaki-style. D. \$\$\$\$ major.
- Desert Inn/Ho Wan**—3145 Las Vegas Blvd. S., 733-4547. Sizzling oyster beef, prawns a la Szechwan, almond pressed duck. 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. Cantonese and Mandarin cuisine. D. \$\$, major.
- Las Vegas Hilton/Benihana Village**—732-5111. Four restaurants: tempura, robata, sukiyaki, hibachi; animated show. D. \$\$\$ major.



The Orleans Room in the Colorado Belle in Laughlin.

Silver Dragon—1510 E. Flamingo Rd., 737-1234. Lover's delight, lemon shrimp, lobster Szechwan, silver dragon crab legs, and lover's shrimp. L, D. \$\$, Tokyo—953 E. Sahara in Commercial Center, 735-7070. Sushi, teppan, yakiniku, tempura, teriyaki, sukiyaki. L, D. \$\$, major.

SURF AND TURF

- Bally's/Barrymore's**—739-4661. Blackened red fish, surf and turf. L (Mon.-Fri.). D. \$-\$\$\$ major.
- Caesars Palace/Spanish Steps Steak and Seafood House**—731-7110. Fresh seafood, prime dry-aged steaks, Mediterranean dishes. D. \$-\$\$\$ major.
- California/Pasta Pirate**—12 E. Ogden, 385-1222. Mesquite-broiled seafood, steaks, pasta made fresh daily, live Maine lobster. D. \$\$, major.
- California/Redwood Bar and Grill**—12 E. Ogden, 385-1222. 18 oz. porterhouse dinner. D. \$-\$\$ major.
- The Cavalier**—3850 E. Desert Inn Rd., 451-6221. Medallions of beef, chicken Cavalier. L, D. \$\$, major.
- Circus Circus/Steak House**—734-0410. Steak, prime rib, lobster, seafood appetizers flown in fresh daily. D. \$\$, major.
- Dunes/Dome of the Sea**—737-4254. Picata of lobster Dome of the Sea, shrimp Christina, scallops Bruno. D. \$-\$\$\$ major.
- Flamingo Hilton/Beef Barron**—733-3111. Prime rib special, chateaubriand, crisp roast duck. D. \$-\$\$\$ major.
- Holiday Casino/Claudine's**—369-5000. Steaks and seafood, open kitchen, piano bar nearby, excellent wine list. D. \$-\$\$\$ major.
- Imperial Palace/Kobe Steak House**—731-3311. Steak and lobster. D. \$\$, major.
- Sandpiper**—3311 E. Flamingo, 458-5555. Live Maine lobster, abalone, large selection of seafood and fresh fish. L, D. \$\$, AE, MC, V.
- Stardust/William B's**—732-6111. Broiled halibut, lamb, veal, rib eye steak. D. \$\$, major.
- Yolie's Brazilian Steakhouse**—3900 Paradise Rd., 794-0700. Meats include: turkey wrapped in bacon, sausage, brisket of beef, lamb, pork, chicken. All cooked over a mesquite charcoal fire. L, D. \$\$, major.

BOULDER CITY

Gold Strike Steak House—Between Boulder City and Hoover Dam, 293-5000. Steaks, lobster, veal, and daily specials. D. \$-\$\$, major.

Two Gals—1632 Nevada Hwy., 293-1793. Omelets, sandwiches, quiche, cheesecakes. B, L, \$, No CC.

LAUGHLIN

- Colorado Belle/Orleans Room**—298-4000. Steak, seafood, prime rib, lamb chops, linguini. D. \$\$, AE, DC, MC, V.
- Edgewater/The Embers**—298-2453. Steak, seafood, prime rib, Midwestern beef. D. \$\$, major.
- Riverside/Gourmet Room**—298-2535. Chateaubriand, Cajun dishes, steak and quail, rack of lamb, wine steward. D. \$\$, major.
- Riverside/Prime Rib Room**—298-2535. Salad, potato, vegetable, and dessert bar, prime rib. D. \$, major.
- Sam's Town Gold River/Sutter's Mill**—298-2242. Mesquite-broiled steaks. Brunch Sat.-Sun. D. \$\$, AE, MC, V.

RENO-CARSON AREA

AMERICAN

- Boomtown**—I-80 at Verdi, 345-6000. Changing buffet, regular menu. B, L, D. \$, MC, V.
- Carson Valley Inn/Fiona's**—Minden, 782-4347. Steaks, seafood, veal, soup and salad bar. L, D, Sun. brunch. \$-\$\$, 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.
- Country Garden**—606 W. Plumb Ln., 825-0213. Homemade soups and desserts, unique salads. L. \$, MC, V.
- Eldorado/Mardi Gras**—786-5700. English sole, shrimp salad croissant sandwich, won ton soup. 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**—Sparks, 356-3300. Buffet with menu that includes rack of lamb and scampi, Sunday brunch. L, D. \$-\$\$, all major.
- Liberty Belle Saloon and Restaurant**—4250 S. Virginia St., 825-1776. Prime rib, lobster tail, crab legs, seafood dishes, steak, ribs, chicken. L, D. \$-\$\$, V, MC.
- Ormsby House/Comstock**—Carson City, 882-1890. Burgers, prime rib, breakfasts. B, L, D. \$, major.
- Peppermill/Coffee Shop**—2707 S. Virginia St., 826-2121. Fruit salads, lasagna, gourmet omelets. B, L, D. \$\$, major.
- Reno Ramada/Gaming Tables**—Sixth and Lake, 788-2000. Daily specials. B, L, D. \$-\$\$, major.
- Sharkey's Nugget**—Gardnerville, 782-3133. Prime rib is house specialty. B, L, D. \$, no CC.

BASQUE

Louis' Basque Corner—301 E. 4th St., Reno, 323-7203. Sweetbreads, tripe, paella, other seafood dishes. L, D. \$\$, major.

FRENCH/CONTINENTAL

- Adele's**—1112 N. Carson St., Carson City, 882-3353. Fresh fish, lobster, lamb, beef, chicken. L, D. \$-\$\$\$\$, MC, V.
- Bally's/Cafe Gigi**—789-2266. French, cracked crab, snails, lobster bisque, chateaubriand, veal Oscar. D. \$\$\$\$ major.
- Eldorado/The Vintage**—786-5700. Fresh Sonoma duckling, chateaubriand, prawns amaretto, extensive wine list. D. \$\$, major.
- Four Seasons**—1885 S. Virginia St., 329-4833. Stuffed croissants, scallops sauteed provencale, coquille St. Jacques, frog legs provencale, linguini alla vongole. B, L, D. \$\$, AE, MC, V.
- Gold Hill Hotel/Crown Point**—1 mile south of Virginia City, 847-0111. French and Cajun cuisine.

D. \$\$, major.
Harrah's/Steak House—786-3232. Steak Diane, fresh fish daily, roast rack of lamb. L (Mon.-Fri.), D. \$\$\$, major.
Ormsby House/Woody's—Carson City, 882-1890. Rack of lamb persillade, veal Cordon Bleu. L (Tues.-Fri.), D (Tues.-Sat.). \$\$-\$\$\$ major.
Peppermill/Le Moulin—826-2121. Tournedos of beef a la Dianne, veal a la Oscar, dover sole meuniere. D. \$\$, major.
Reno Hilton/Top of the Hilton—322-1111. Salmon with three sauces, roast duck with raspberry sauce, roast prime rib of beef au jus. D. \$\$\$, major.

ITALIAN

Bally's/Caruso's—789-2267. Fresh oysters, cannelloni, calamari. D. \$\$\$, major.
Eldorado/La Strada—786-5700. Saltimbocca, gnocchi al pesto, ravioli verdi con spinaci. D nightly. \$\$, major.
Plaza Court—1981 Terminal Way in Airport Plaza Hotel, 348-6370. Lobster chardonnay, seafood delicacies, chicken saute sec, fettuccine Christina. B, L, D. \$\$, major.

MEXICAN

Cantina Los Tres Hombres—7111 S. Virginia St., 852-0202. Paella chingalinga, deep-fried ice cream, coconut flan. L, D. \$, AE, MC, V.
Hacienda Del Sol—2935 So. Virginia St., 825-7144. Fajitas (beef and turkey). L, D. \$, MC, V.
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 Sun.). \$\$, major.
John Ascuaga's Nugget/Trader Dick's—Sparks, 356-3300. Cashew chicken, Szechwan specialties, flaming dagger brochette. L, D. \$\$, major.
Miramar House—202 Fairview Dr., Carson City, 882-0262. Daily luncheon buffet. L, D. \$, major.

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. Veal scallopini, scampi in dill sauce, chicken picata, escargot. D. \$\$, major.
Cattlemen's—555 Hwy. 395 S. in Washoe Valley, 849-1500. Sirloin, filet mignon, lobster, Alaska king crab. D. \$\$, major.
Circus Circus/Hickory Pit—329-0711. One-pound prime rib, New York steak. D. \$\$, major.
Club Cal Neva/Copper Ledge—Second and Virginia, 323-1046. Steak and scampi, prime rib dinner, New York steak. B, L, D. \$,
Comstock Hotel/Dinner House—329-1880. Steak and lobster, veal picata, stuffed shrimp. D. \$\$, major.
Harrah's/Seafare—786-3232. Fresh fish specials, calamari, lobster tail, veal parmigiana, eggplant Romano. L, D. \$\$\$, major.
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John Ascuaga's Nugget/Steak House—Sparks, 356-3300. Prime rib, steak and lobster, snapper, shrimp Louis. L, D. \$\$, major.
Western Village/Steakhouse—Off I-80, Sparks, 331-1069. Prime rib, Australian lobster, veal scallopini, steak Diane. D. \$, major.

LAKE TAHOE

AMERICAN

Caesars Tahoe/Cafe Roma—Stateline, 588-3515. Lamb chops, prime rib. B, L, D. \$-\$\$\$ major.
Harrah's Tahoe/Forest—Stateline, 588-6611. Honey-dipped fried chicken, veal stew madeira, mahi mahi. B, L, D. \$\$\$, major.
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Harvey's/Cafe Metro—Stateline, 588-2411. European sweet shop, coffees, retail bakery. \$, major.
Tahoe Queen—970 Ski Run Blvd., S. Lake Tahoe, CA.,



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FRENCH/CONTINENTAL

Caesars Tahoe/Le Posh—Stateline, 588-3515. Award-winning California cuisine. D. \$\$\$, major.
Harrah's Tahoe/The Summit—Stateline, 588-6611. Saddle of veal flamed with morel mushrooms, Grand Marnier souffle. D. \$\$\$, major.
Harvey's/Sage Room—Stateline, 588-2411. Rack of lamb persille, prime dry-aged cuts of beef, beef Wellington. D. \$\$-\$\$\$ major.
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ITALIAN

Caesars Tahoe/Primavera—Stateline, 588-3515. Linguini Carbonara, tenderloin pizzaola, pollo alla spumante, D, weekend brunch, \$\$, major.

MEXICAN

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.

SURF AND TURF

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ELKO

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

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Fast Times at the Cabaret

Glitter and dance at Harrah's Tahoe.

By Penny Nelson

Frederic Apcar's "Fast Company" has zillions of sequins and gallons of glitter, but the dancers outshine the glitz. Dancers like Momma warned you about. Eight long-limbed lovelies with spicy eyes, sultry mouths, and bodies to die for. Four handsome male dancers.

The choreography is fast, fast, fast. Choreographer Redha has done a fine job of blending strong, athletic dancers with high-energy moves. Some of the state's best specialty acts keep the action flowing throughout the 75-minute show, which in March will celebrate its second birthday in the Stateline Cabaret at Harrah's Tahoe.

One of two leads, Sharon Shackleford—easily the most breathtakingly beautiful woman I have ever seen—has a strong voice, well-suited to her solo spots. She struts her stuff right from the opening number, amidst the dry-ice smoke, surrounded by legs and fannies. It looks like a reunion of hip Davy Crockett fans, with dancers done up in rhinestone-studded seatless blue jeans and furry little coonskin caps. Only I don't think ol' Dave would have quite known what to do with all those bare bosoms. But the dancers do. They dance as if performing in the nude were the most natural thing in the world.

There's nary a missed step from Shackleford's co-lead, Sandra Childears, whose icy cool blondness is the perfect foil for Shackleford's ebony beauty.

Scenes change. Shackleford sings "Boys, What Have You Done For Me Lately?"

Then comes the first of two appearances by the Bandbaz Brothers, three acrobatic contortionists you probably wouldn't want your daughter to date. Short, dark and handsome, with muscles bulging, the men are amazingly limber—try putting *your* feet behind your ears, face gazing out at the audience from behind your, er, behind.

The brothers take their act out into the audience with a handstand balancing act on two chairs, one atop the other, far above our heads. Those closest breath a sigh of relief



Sandra Childears and Sharon Shackleford are the stars of "Fast Company" at Harrah's Tahoe.

when the three men return to the stage.

Next is the requisite "tart" number, with the women in fluorescent wigs, the guys in motorcycle togs. "Come on, everybody! I want to see just how kinky you can be," shouts Shackleford from the stage. Breakdancing in her torrid-pink Tina Turner wig, she and four guys burn up the stage with "Heat It Up."

Soon it's time for Rejohn St. Julie, a young juggler with amazing skills. His fast reflexes make it seem so effortless, but as he juggles the usual clubs unusually low and catches the spinning rings around his neck, one can't help but wonder how his mother survived his adolescence. Behind every juggler must be a mother with an empty china closet.

The Egyptian number raises this question: Who are those men looking like semi-clothed Liberaces? They strut and preen in huge gold capes with towering collars and gold briefs. They must be strictly ornamental, like the mammoth Egyptian statues that flank the stage.

Shackleford plays the queen with a touch

of high-camp, wearing a long wig that insiders call her "bathmat." Childears comes on stage in a cage. Cast as an untamed cat, she claws, snarls, and dances her way through a number that has unpleasant undertones of bondage and submission.

The next number, a Ron Lewis piece taken from "Hot Streak," an earlier Apcar revue, more than compensates. The number is not only the show's oldest but also its most erotic and, ironically, most clothed. The entire cast romps through the spirited '40s swing music, and the audience responds with whoops and hollers. Childears in a thin white undershirt and slacks is stunningly sensuous, and tension builds until she and the men are wearing nothing but well-placed straw hats.

It's a hard act to follow, but the bicycle-riding Klementis give it their best shot. They come on stage, looking for all the world like two accountants and their secretary. Then they perform incredible bicycling feats that defy the laws of gravity.

The finale has a '30s art-deco look, with dancers drenched in spangles and draped in furs. It's tastefully done, but one wonders why they don't use the earlier, rousing '40s number as the finale.

The Bill Moio Orchestra clicks nicely with an augmented tape, and the sets are fresh. This show is a polished entertainment package, but it's the dancing you'll be talking about when you leave. □

Fast Dancing

"Fast Company" plays nightly except Tuesdays in the Stateline Cabaret at Harrah's Tahoe. There's a two-drink minimum (\$6.50 weekdays, \$7.50 weekends and holidays). Show times vary so call for confirmation. Reservations are not accepted.

Penny Nelson covers Nevada entertainment for the San Francisco Chronicle and is a frequent contributor to Nevada.

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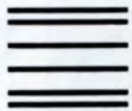


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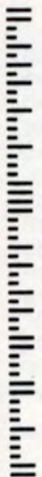
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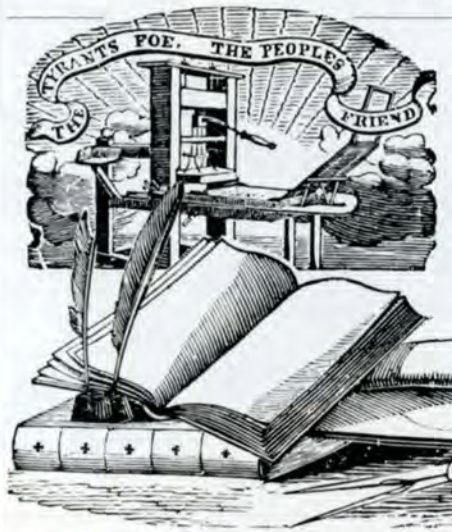
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