Abe Lincoln's State ▪ A Governor's Adventure ▪ Nevada Events: Special Section
Las Vegas as Gass' Station ▪ Dat So La Lee and the Myth Weavers

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NATIONAL FINALS RODEO

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NEVADA

SEPT/OCT 1989

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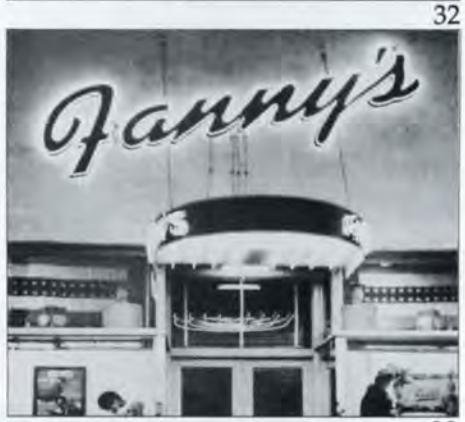
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Cover Photo: *From left, Cynthia Kennedy, Virgil Bucchianeri, Michielle Strachan-Meakin, William Meakin, and Tommy Pigott in Virginia City. Costumes courtesy of Bandera Bob's Tintype Parlor, V.C. Photo by Patrick Kennedy*

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LETTERS

Restoring Old Ideas and Buildings

Nevada Indians' New Ideas
Amidst the environmental, economic, and social dilemmas our society has created with technologies and "man-can-do-whatever-he-wants" philosophy, it's time we looked at our world with new eyes, minds, and hearts. We can learn from Nevada Indians.

"Indian Country" (July/August '89) showed how Nevada Indians are striving to better themselves economically without harming the environment. Through hard work and ingenuity, they're moving toward self-sufficiency, independence and respect, while adhering to their religion and beliefs.

Thank you so much for this beautiful article by Becky Lemon and Linda Johnson.

B.K. Parrish
Las Vegas, NV

Art Appreciation
I'm reading your July/August '89 issue. I came across the article about Becky Eagle, and I have a great love for Indian arts and crafts.

I read the magazine from cover to cover. I visited Lake Tahoe last year and fell in love with it.

Barbara Prough
Warren, MI

Pahrump Visitors Get Education
I have visited your state many times and have come to really enjoy your magazine. I enjoyed the article "The Greening of Pahrump" in the July/August issue for two special reasons.

Returning from a Death Valley trip, my friends and I passed through Pahrump. I said to them, "What possible reason is there for a town here?" To my considerable amusement, some free literature near my Las Vegas hotel suggested a certain industry for the community. I was therefore delighted to note that Pahrump does have other businesses and that alfalfa is a major crop.

Congratulations to Kate Butler for an interesting and informative article. Incidentally, let me also join those who favor the ads in your magazine. As a tourist, they help me out.

Jim Gronlund
Sanborn, MN

'A Cunning Replica'
Despite words to the contrary ("An Affair of State" by Ronald M. James, May/June '89), the State Public Works Board's "rehabilitation" of the State Capitol remains Nevada's restoration crime of the century

I watched workers tear the dome apart with hatchets and prybars and throw the pieces to the ground. I saw them hack loose the huge, hand-hewn roof joists with chain saws.

In short, the building was demolished and replaced with fiberglass and aluminum. Everything disappeared—sinks, toilets, doors, radiators, hardware, wood trim, fixtures, and window casements.

The old Capitol is gone. It's been replaced with a cunning plastic replica, and it's time people began to realize that.

The deed is done and cannot be rectified. But people must know the truth, otherwise there will be similar atrocities as the call goes out to "restore" other things in Carson City such as the U.S. Mint, Supreme Court, old Post Office, and State Printer's Building.

John S. Miller
Carson City, NV

Beatlemania Memories
The article "Las Vegas Meets the Beatles" really brought back memories

We're Moving

The *Nevada Magazine* offices are moving to Tierra Plaza in Carson City. Our new address is: 1800 East William Street, Carson City, NV 89710. Our new phone number is 702-687-5416.

to my two daughters and me. I, too, stood in line for hours to get tickets for my youngest daughter and myself. It was to be something great, to see these English boys perform right here in our city, having seen them on Ed Sullivan's TV show.

My oldest daughter, a deputy sheriff at that time, was assigned to work at the performance the night we were there. Our seats were located in the balcony, and we felt lucky just being there, regardless of where we sat. When the screaming began and the seats became empty downstairs, because the youngsters went to huddle around the stage, we went down to get better seats.

Of course, my small one went to huddle, too, while I stayed in the back with the deputy watching. What an experience, and what we mothers won't do for our offspring.

Mrs. N. E. Norris
Las Vegas, NV

Koontz Kudos

I wish to compliment you very highly on the excellent article you had on Mr. John Koontz, "A Political Giant" by Don Flamm in the July/August edition. It was perfect.



The Beatles arrive in Vegas in '64.

I have had the pleasure of knowing Mr. Koontz since the first year I practiced law in 1936-37 I was sent to Goldfield to check the title to some mining claims in Esmeralda County. I knew absolutely nothing about mining claims. John Koontz was then the Esmeralda County Recorder, and he took me under his wing and did all the work. That was the beginning of a lifelong friendship that still exists up to this day. John Koontz is one of the finest state executives that we have ever had.

William K. Woodburn
Reno, NV

More on Koontz

In reference to your article on John Koontz, I believe I was the one who got Will Rogers to perform at the Butler Theatre in Tonopah.

I was manager of the theater. When I heard Will Rogers was in town, the feature picture was already on. This was in the winter of '31 or '32. So I went to the Mizpah Hotel, where Mr. Rogers was having dinner. I introduced myself and explained to Mr. Rogers that he was the best-drawing actor in Tonopah and that he was the only one who filled this 200-seat theater during the depths of the Depression.

Mr. Rogers consented to appear on stage after the movie ended. I immediately went to all the clubs in town and invited everybody I could to come to the theater free of charge. Mr. Rogers



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Photo: Las Vegas Review-Journal

put on a terrific show saying he had some new jokes he wanted to try out.

Mr. Koontz had no connection with the Butler Theatre, although he might have been there as a customer.

Marvin Tasem
Reno, NV

Tasem, thanks for writing. It seems that two similar encounters with Rogers took place.

John Koontz recalls:

"It was probably two different occasions. I met Will Rogers there in the fall of '34. I met him when I was standing in front of the theater looking at the movie posters. He tapped me on the shoulder and asked who the manager of the theater was. I went in and got Ray Robb, the manager, and after talking to Will, Ray stopped the picture. Will got up on the stage, coiled his rope, and gave a few stories and jokes to the audience. When he was done, they started the picture again.

"Then he took me across the street to the Tonopah Club. When we got there, he put $100 on the bar and bought everyone a drink.

"The next day Will came by to say hello at the grocery store where I was working in Goldfield. He asked me about the old bums in front of the Goldfield Hotel. They were old miners. There would be 10 or 15 of them there every morning, sitting on the curb—they called it the Spit and Argue Club. So we got them and went in the hotel restaurant, and he bought breakfast for all of us.

"He said he'd been filming a few shots of a movie in Hawthorne and had been driving to Bishop where the picture was based. But he took a wrong turn at Coaldale—and that was how he ended up in Tonopah."

Entertaining Articles

Loved your one-page articles on Jim Nabors and Rich Little. We enjoy this type of show, and I'm sorry I missed the Jim Nabors show in Reno.

L. Worley
Denver, CO

Not Up to Snuff

We have examined your magazine and found that it doesn't present enough of the sort of information and photography that we want. As an artist and a writer, my husband and I subscribe to magazines that offer landscape photography as subjects for paintings and information for stories. Your magazine seems to be top-heavy with advertising of the gambling industry, which we understand is a large part of your state's economy.

We prefer informative articles and magnificent photography of such magazines as *Texas Parks and Wildlife, Texas Highways*, and *Arizona Highways*.

Mrs. Deborah A. Jordan
La Porte, TX

Web-Footed Fan

Being a native web-footed Oregonian, I take great pleasure in visiting the state of Nevada. Among the aspects of the state I enjoy are the friendly individuals that call that state home and always have a friendly smile for one from far away.

I enjoy the diverse activities that dot the landscape from community to community. I enjoy the historic preservation that has become a watchword. I enjoy the relaxing atmosphere of the lodging, gaming and eating establishments. And, of course, the climate of the state—it does my web feet wonders.

Nevada Magazine brings all the before mentioned to me the year around. And those individuals that resent the advertising in your magazine are missing out on all your fine state has to offer. Please do not change the format, except maybe on a monthly basis.

Gary J. Toll
Molalla, OR

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LAS VEGAS

Living on the Lake

Houseboating on Lake Mead can offer most of home's comforts and none of the stress. There's also seclusion: Lake Mead has hundreds of coves where boaters can anchor in privacy and relax.

In the fall, the waters near shoreline are warm enough for swimming. Inlets with clear water are good for snorkeling and diving. You can fish from your houseboat or pull an outboard for water-skiing—all the while enjoying the luxury of a microwave stove, showers, and comfortable beds.

Evenings on Lake Mead are unusually beautiful. High cliffs cast soft shadows on the water, mountains are silhouetted at sunset, and the dark sky becomes a vast canopy of stars. Your boat rocks gently in the soft wakes of other boaters returning to harbor. You hear muffled voices of campers in nearby anchor or the whispering of swallow wings twisting and turning in flight. Now and then a falling star crosses the canopy



Houseboating in the Napoleon's Tomb area on Lake Mead (top). Co-owners Bob Klein and Gera Kiker pose with their private railroad cars, Running Crane Lake *and* Silver Iris *(above).*

Forever Resorts rents houseboats at Callville Bay Marina, while Seven Crown Resorts has them at Echo Bay Marina. Both companies also rent houseboats on Lake Mohave, Seven Crown Resorts at Katherine's Landing, Forever Resorts at Cottonwood Cove. Prices are based on the season, boat size, and length of trip. September and October rates vary from $609 (lowest three-day weekend price) to $1,386 (highest week-use price). Forever Resorts also offers a four-day midweek rental at $795. Call Seven Crown Resorts at 800-752-9669 or Forever Re-

Photos: Kate Butler (top); J & M Haskin (bottom)

sorts at 800-255-5561 or 702-565-7340.

Red Rock Kid's Trail

The Children's Discovery Trail in Red Rock Canyon introduces youngsters to the wonders of nature. The half-mile path through Lost Creek Canyon leads to a series of natural rock gardens, scenic viewpoints, fallen rock formations, and overhangs that Indians once used as shelters.

A guide-workbook geared to elementary-school children describes the trail's nine marked sites, where the kids are asked to examine the grasses, listen to the "water music" of Lost Creek, or smell the bark of a pine. The book points out plants and describes animals that live near the trail. The guide costs $1 and is available at the Red Rock Visitor Center.

The entrance to the Children's Discovery Trail is near the Willow Spring Picnic Area on Red Rock's scenic loop. It's best to go with someone who knows the trail and its environment. Wear a hat, sunscreen, and walking shoes and carry water.

The BLM's Red Rock Visitor Center, about 15 miles west of Las Vegas on West Charleston Boulevard, is open 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily. The 13-mile scenic loop is open 8 a.m. to dusk. Write the Red Rock Canyon Recreation Lands, BLM, Box 26569, Las Vegas, NV 89126 or call 702-363-1921.

Museums and Ducks

Footworn by years of use, Lorenzi Park is still a pleasant retreat from the city that has grown up around it. Located on the west side of Las Vegas, Lorenzi has a large pond, tall shade trees, lawns, and two museums.

Many ducks and geese who live in the pond beg for bread or popcorn. The pond also has catfish, trout, and carp for easy fishing. There are picnic tables and grills near the pond, and group picnic areas by reservation.

There is plenty of grass for flying kites and tossing frisbees. Baseball and soccer fields can be reserved, as can tennis courts through the Twin Lakes Racquet Club. The park has a wheelchair sports course and a variety of play equipment for young children.

Both the Nevada State Museum and the Las Vegas Art Museum have ongoing exhibits, and the nearby Memorial Rose Garden has seasonal displays.

The main entrances to Lorenzi Park are on West Washington Street near its intersection with Rancho Drive. The park is open from 7 a.m. to 11 p.m.

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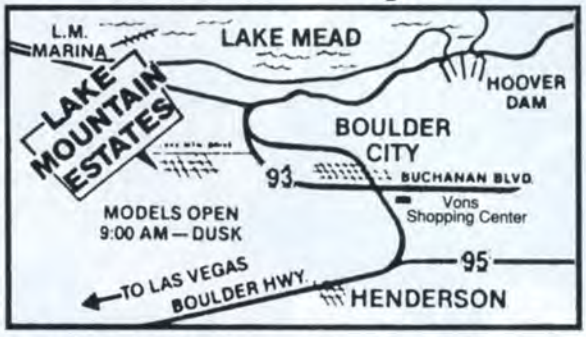
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—Kate Butler

RENO-TAHOE

New Harrah Auto Museum

The late Bill Harrah's auto collection has been displayed for many years in Sparks, but this fall it moves to new quarters at 10 South Lake Street in downtown Reno. On November 4-5 the new William F. Harrah Foundation National Automobile Museum will open to the public.

"We're trying to tell a story," says museum spokesman Stephen Kenny. "No single invention has affected mankind the way the automobile has." At the new building visitors will stroll four period streets that tell our nation's story since the 1890s via 200 displayed automobiles. Costumed docents will stand along the shop-lined "streets" and answer guests' questions. There will be interpretive signs at each auto and a radio-transmitted wand system for individual listening at given locations. At the museum's theater, a 20-minute film presents a lively look at the automobile's significance.

The William F. Harrah Automobile Museum, 10 South Lake Street in Reno, opens November 4 with a $250 per person gala dinner. Regular admission begins November 5. The cost for adults will be $9.50; adults 62 and over, $8.50; children six to 15, $2.50; and children five and under free. The museum is open daily except Christmas from 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. For information write William F. Harrah Foundation National Automobile Museum, 970 Glendale Ave., Sparks, NV 89431, or phone 702-333-9300.

Sail Away

Lake Tahoe has a way of creating new moods every day. The winds shift, the clouds change, the air may be hinting of fall. The *Woodwind* sailboat is a unique way to experience Lake Tahoe's moods. Guests aboard the *Woodwind*, a 41-foot trimaran, sail for one-and-a-half hours. Owner Steve Dunham says the tri-hulled boat is so stable "you never spill a drink." There are viewing windows, too.

The *Woodwind* sails daily from Zephyr Cove, on the southeast shore, at 1, 2:30, and 4 p.m. The sunset champagne cruise departs about 6:30 p.m.; the time may vary. For day sailing,

adults are $11, and children under 12 are $5. The sunset champagne cruise is $16 per person. Reservations are advised; call 702-588-3000 or write Box 1375, Zephyr Cove, NV 89448.

Fishy Business

Fall is the ideal time to see thousands of cutthroat trout being raised at two Pyramid Lake hatcheries. At the Numana Hatchery, almost one million cutthroat are raised to six to nine inches in length and then released. The Dunn Hatchery is smaller, but it still raises thousands of trout annually. You can walk through the interpretive area at either hatchery and take a free guided tour.

Both hatcheries are operated by Pyramid Lake Indian Tribal Enterprises and are open daily. Hours are 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. weekdays, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday and Sunday The Numana Hatchery is off I-80 between Wadsworth and Nixon on State Route 447 The Dunn Hatchery is at Pyramid Lake, just south of Sutcliffe. Pyramid Lake is 30 miles north of Reno, via State Route 445. For information on either hatchery call 702-673-6335.

—Deborah A. Mawhar

Riding the Rails in Style

Take a trip back to the golden days of railroad barons when traveling down the track was synonymous with first-class comfort and style. You can do that by leasing a private railroad car in Sparks and heading either east or west with a glass of champagne.

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—Ginger Dingus

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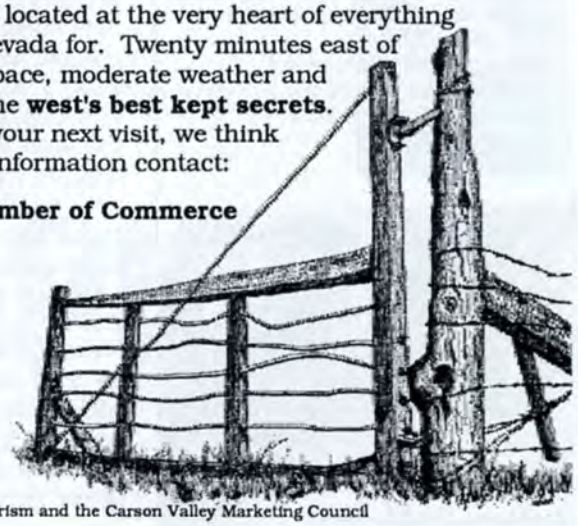
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PUBLISHER'S NOTE

The 125th Nevada Day

One special issue, two parades, and other festivities.



The official 125th anniversary logo.

With nearly 125 years tucked under its belt since October 31, 1864, Nevada is getting ready for a big birthday party There will be Nevada Day parades in both Carson City and Las Vegas, a new exhibit on the Capitol's history, a contest to see who can mix the best nonalcoholic drink for the holiday, and a special issue of *Nevada Magazine*.

Readers can look for our special issue, *Nevada: 125 Years of Travel and Recreation*, to be out in early 1990. A handsome vacation guide, the special edition will have vignettes of Nevada history and great ideas for travel and recreation, indoor and out, all around the state. It will appear on newsstands and, as a bonus seventh issue of the year, in all subscribers' mail boxes. We hope you enjoy it—and find lots of chances to use it.

As the whole state celebrates the anniversary, the theme for this year's Nevada Day is "125 Years of Vision," an idea that artists pondered while competing in a recent anniversary logo contest. Of the almost 90 entries vying for the winner's prize, an IGT video-poker machine, the judges' favorite logo was by Carson City resident Verne Horton.

"While there were many excellent designs submitted, Mr Horton's logo best told Nevada's story," said Secretary of State Frankie Sue Del Papa, executive director of the 125th Anniversary Commission.

In the coming months Horton's logo will be seen just about everywhere. Selected items and state publications will sport the design, as will Pepsi cups, milk cartons, and large banners spread across the Capitol and State Museum.

The state will also sell a new four-color license plate, which has the logo blending from a dark purple to a light ocher. A special bill had to be passed in order to make the commemorative item, since an old statute prohibited the state from printing more than two colors on its license plates.

Other projects include a radio documentary, "Moments in History," which will air in October and November, and a film on Nevada's history produced with a $50,000 donation from Nevada Bell. The film will be distributed free to schools. A series of Nevada history books also has been discussed.

One unusual program for Nevada

Day is a tree-planting program. "What we are doing throughout this celebration is trying to encourage individuals, service groups, and schools to give trees to the state as part of the Nevada Day celebration," says Del Papa, who sees the action as one way to help reverse the greenhouse effect.

To reverse another kind of trend, Harrah's Reno is sponsoring a statewide "Silver Sipper" contest to see who can concoct the best nonalcoholic beverage. With all the sipping that traditionally takes place on Nevada Day, the result will be an alternative way to quench one's thirst.

The anniversary logo will be seen on commemorative items like a new four-color Nevada license plate.

As usual Carson City will hold its Nevada Day parade on October 31, a Tuesday this year (see this issue's *Nevada Events* for a history of the celebration). The Las Vegas area's parade, previously held at Cashman Field, will take place on Saturday, October 28, to coincide with the annual North Las Vegas Fairshow. The combined Fairshow and Nevada Day parades will see almost 150 entries, including antique cars and floats that emphasize a western theme. And after the parade finishes at Clark County Community College, crowds will find 175 different booths overflowing with such items as Indian tacos and fine ceramics.

Although each parade falls on only one day, the spirit of 125 years of statehood will be felt all year long. Throughout Nevada there will be many more events before, during, and after the official October 31st holiday.

Amid the festivities, there is one question that lingers—the Latin name for the 125th anniversary. Some folks prefer classical terms for anniversaries, as in *sesquicentennial* for a 150-year celebration and *bicentennial* for 200 years. However, since this year's event could be called the *centumvigintiquinquennial* in rather tortured Latin, it might be easier just to say, "Happy 125th."—*Kirk Whisler, Publisher*

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2590 **"Christmas a-comin' Purt near broke, but while we're a-puttin' the beans to soak, we send this card instead of a letter and hope you're doin' as good—or better!"** "Merry Christmas and Best Wishes for a Happy New Year" —*artist C.R. Cheek*



2627 "To those we love and see each day and other loved ones far away, to all good friends whose friendship means so much, and those with whom we're somehow out of touch. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year" —*artist Richard Barth*



2643 **"In every home, in every heart, the lights of friendship glow, and once again it's time to greet the friends it's nice to know."** "Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year" —*artist Ted Blaylock*



2612 **"I heard the bells on Christmas Day, their old familiar carols play, and wild and sweet the words repeat of 'Peace on Earth, Good Will to Men.'"** Henry Wadsworth Longfellow "Wishing you all the peace and love of this Holy Season" —*artist Kirk Randle*



2629 **"Faith, hope and love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love."** 1 Corinthians 13:13 "May you have the Spirit of Christmas which is Peace, the Gladness of Christmas which is Hope, the Heart of Christmas which is Love" —*artist Ron Stewart*



3246 "To those we love and see each day and other loved ones far away, to all good friends whose friendship means so much, and those with whom we're somehow out of touch . . . Merry Christmas and Happy New Year" —*artist Ted Blaylock*



2619 **"'Tis the Season to be jolly!"** "Hope your Holidays are filled with good cheer that carries on throughout the New Year!" —*artist Ken Eberts*



3413 DESERT BLOSSOMS "Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year" —*artist Barbara A. Barth*



2610 "We hope your camp is safe and warm, secure away from snow and storm, and that good things will come your way to warm your heart this Christmas Day!" —*artist Kirk Randle*



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



3451 "Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year" *—artist Josephine Crumrine*



2605 **"Merry Christmas"** "May the warmth and love of the Christmas Season be with you through the Coming Year" *—artist Jodie Boren*



1812 "The grass is short, the range is dry, good prospects ain't a half inch high. The cows ain't fat, this verse ain't clever, but 'Merry Christmas' same as ever!" *—artist Charles M. Russell*



2257 "To those we love and see each day and other loved ones far away, to all good friends whose friendship means so much, and those with whom we're somehow out of touch . . . Merry Christmas from the two of us!" *—artist Jackie Wonsmos Claflin*



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



3201 "May there come to you at this holiday time an abundance of the precious things of life: Health, Happiness and Enduring Friendships" *—artist Joni Falk*



2641 **"I heard the bells on Christmas Day, their old familiar carols play; and wild and sweet the words repeat of 'Peace on Earth, Good Will to Men.'"** Henry Wadsworth Longfellow "Wishing you all the peace and love of this Holy Season" *—artist Ted Blaylock*



3426 **"They that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint."** Isaiah 40:31 "May the blessings of Christmas be with you today and always" *—artist Ted Blaylock*



2580 **"The very finest Christmas gifts are not found below the tree; they are never tied with ribbons, nor are they something one can see . . ."** "May God's peace touch your heart, surround your home and warm your Christmas celebration!" *—artist Russell Moreton*



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



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



2555 **"It wouldn't seem like Christmas if we couldn't get in touch and wish the Season's Happiness to those we like so much!"** "MERRY CHRISTMAS" *—artist Ron Crooks*



2607 "It's Christmas again! May yours be a joyful one and your New Year happy!" *—artist Hildred Goodwine*



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



1243 A HOLIDAY ERRAND "Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year" —*artist Ruth M. Lau*



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



2173 "Times change, and we with time, but not in the ways of friendship." "Let us keep Christmas, holding it close to our hearts, for its meaning never ends and its spirit is the warmth and joy of remembering friends." —*artist Jackie Wonsmos Claflin*



2310 "We've packed up and moved." "Our address may be a new one, but our wish is a tried 'n' true one. Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year" —*artist Ted Blaylock*



2135 "Whatever else changes through the years, the glory of Christmas remains to brighten all hearts with its radiant beauty, may its light shine upon your pathway and bless you with joy and happiness throughout the New Year." —*artist Buck Teeter*



1883 "When pine trees bend with heavy snow... a fire's light brings memories to mind... at Christmas we get that same warm glow, just thinking of the good times and the friends we're glad to know." "Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year" —*artist Katheryn Williams B.*



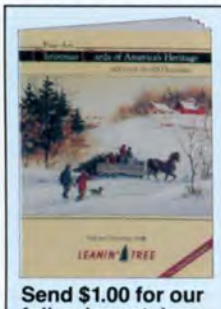
2606 "Merry Christmas and Happy New Year" —*artist Bernard P. Thomas*



1822 "Christmas Greetings" "Wishing you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year" (reproduced from Charlie Russell's personal Christmas card for the year 1915) —*artist Charles M. Russell*



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



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BLAZING A TRAIL WITH BLASDEL

In 1866 Nevada's first governor led an expedition to the state's southern region. By the time he reached Death Valley the party was lost, desperate for water, and reduced to eating lizards. It was a classic business trip, frontier-style.

By Susan James



Blasdel saw political profits in southeastern Nevada.

Nevada's first governor, Henry Goode Blasdel, liked adventure. In the spring of 1866 the governor and a group of fearless souls set out to blaze a trail to the Pahranagat Valley, about 80 miles north of Las Vegas. Besides hoping to find a quicker passage across the state than the traditional northern route through Austin, Blasdel planned to help the local settlers organize Lincoln County, which had been named after the recently martyred president.

Reports of gold and silver strikes in the Pahranagat Valley had been luring fortune seekers to the region for more than a year. By January 1866, nearly 200 men had staked their claims in the newly-created Pahranagat Mining District. News of vast mineral deposits promised to attract thousands to the area being touted as Nevada's new El Dorado.

To make sure the state shared in the bonanza, the Nevada Legislature and Blasdel moved quickly. A legislative act passed at the end of February 1866 carved Lincoln County out of a large section of southern Nye County. By mounting an expedition to the area, the governor hoped to gather the 300 signatures needed for county organization. The trip might also solve another sticky problem: No one really knew whether the potentially lucrative region was in Nevada or Utah.

Raising the chalice of boosterism for his young state, Blasdel courageously vowed to chart the "hitherto unknown region which stood on a direct line between Carson City and the rich Pahranagat Valley." On that score, however, the governor was too late. A month after the group's departure Austin's *Reese River Reveille* pointed out that "Messrs. Todd and Welton, from thorough explorations of that section, have made a map, which is now lithographed and on sale in New York."

But if Blasdel knew of the map and previous explorations, they failed to discourage him. He saw political profits in Lincoln County, and, as a veteran miner from the Comstock, he could not resist the allure of striking it rich in a new district.

Blasdel may have prepared for his departure filled with optimism and anticipation, but he was also aware of the dangers of travel through the forbidding Amargosa Desert and Death Valley. For protection the commanding officer at Fort Churchill promised a cavalry escort "provided with 40 days' rations of subsistence and storage for the expedition into the Indian country beyond Silver Peak."

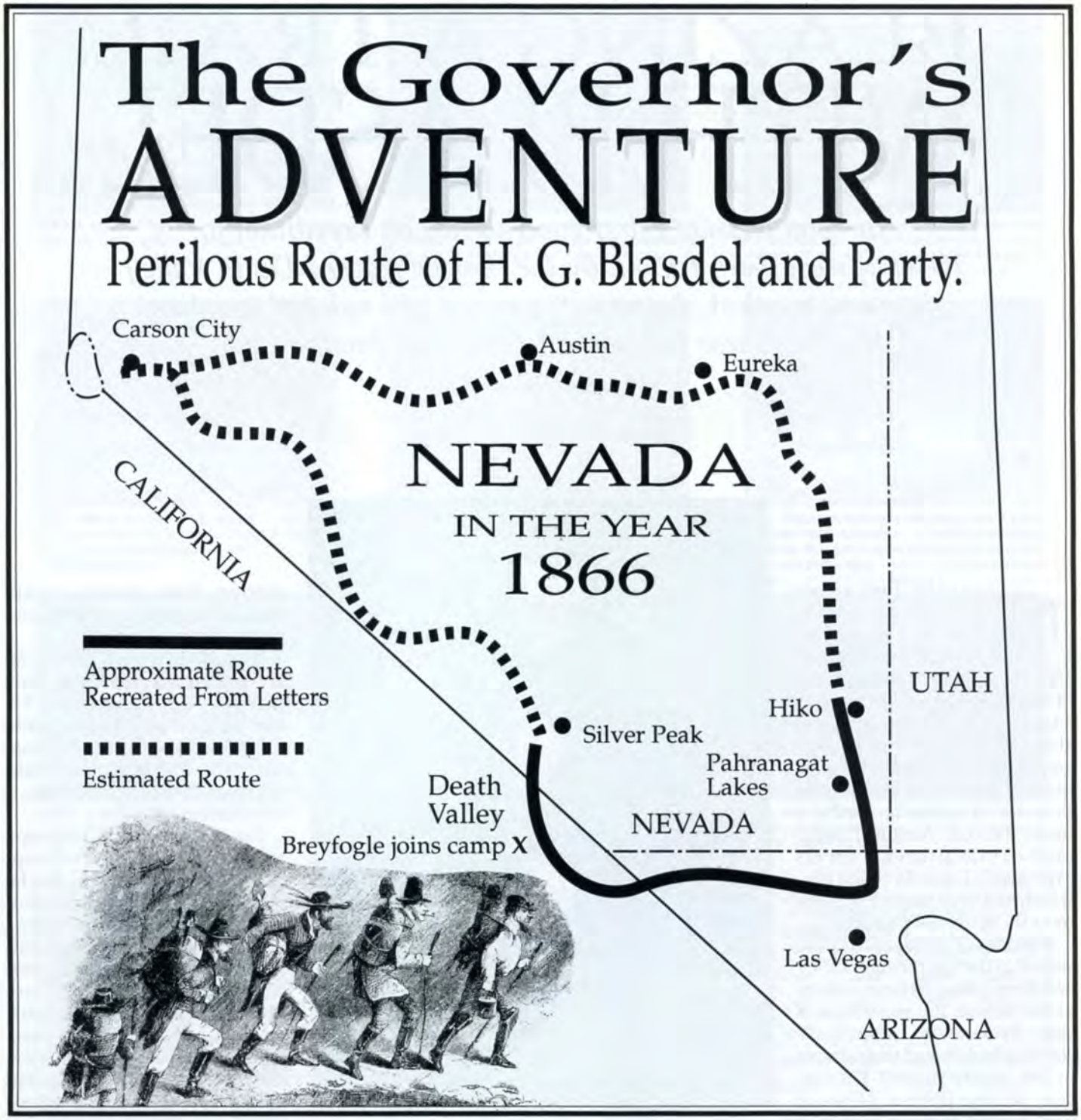
The *Gold Hill Evening News* underscored the perils of Death Valley, noting the abundance of "long-tailed lizards, horned toads, rattlesnakes, [and] grizzlies" that would threaten the explorers. The newspaper couldn't resist poking fun at the governor's reputation as a teetotaler, adding that "there is no telling what he *won't* drink when he enters the alkali region of Death Valley."

Blasdel was not one to sniff at a profit, however. He left a sizable amount of cash in the hands of Com-

Photo: Nevada Historical Society

The Governor's ADVENTURE

Perilous Route of H. G. Blasdel and Party.



stock financial czar William Sharon to invest in mining properties during his absence. The chief executive expected the trip to go well and wrote to Sharon that he hoped "to give a good account" of himself when he returned.

On the morning of March 20, Blasdel, accompanied by several state dignitaries and other bold adventurers such as state mineralogist R.H. Stretch, set off for Pahranagat. The *Carson Daily Appeal* did not echo the group's optimism, predicting that the new mining district would "draw hither hundreds of the disappointed ones who are so eagerly rushing to the land of frost and copperheads."

Others seemed to agree. In a letter to Austin's *Reveille*, prospector Joseph Todd blasted the claims that the region abounded in riches. "Since I arrived in this God-forsaken county," Todd lamented, "what I have seen leads me to believe it is a 'bilk.'" According to Todd, the Pahranagat District had too little water and wood, and too much alkali. Nor did the ore body seem promising. The prospector criticized the region's claim holders who had the nerve to call themselves miners. "They know no more of silver mining than a yellow dog," snorted Todd, adding that "the joke is the poor devils believe they're worth millions." As far as he was concerned, there wasn't a mine in the district he would "have as a gift."

Amid such flurries of criticism in the papers, Blasdel and his explorers marched into the desert. A reporter from Virginia City's *Territorial Enterprise* accompanied the expedition. Writing under the name "Viator"

Map: Brian Buckley

(Latin for "The Traveler"), he entertained readers with daily accounts of the journey According to his reports, "magnificent" weather permitted the exploration of mines along the trail, and the travelers passed the first days of the trip uneventfully.

But the scarcity of water was troublesome, forcing the group to melt snow for themselves and their animals. As the explorers approached the tiny mining community of Silver Peak, southwest of present-day Tonopah, their enthusiasm apparently diminished at the sight of the wasteland. "Nothing could exceed the desolation of the country through which our journey lay to-day," Viator wrote. Trying to lend some humor to the situation, he later observed that Silver Peak was as "barren as a boarding house table after dinner," but still it "was rich in curiosities of all sorts."



On his way home from Pahranagat, Blasdel's "embrowned features, travel-soiled apparel and battered hat" reminded the Reese River Reveille *of J. Ross Browne's earlier drawing of an Austin mayoral candidate (above).*

Ready to continue south and east for Pahranagat, the members of Blasdel's party appeared to be in "good health and spirits" despite the disturbing stories they had been hearing from others who had tried to reach the area. Unable to hire an experienced guide and facing water shortages, they were nonetheless assured that the first 100 miles would present few challenges. The road beyond remained a mystery. Sensing trouble ahead, Viator wrote, "We start with a full determination to go through, and nothing but extraordinary difficulties will induce us to take the back track."

The party left Silver Peak on April 3 without the cavalry detachment, which had turned back to Fort Churchill. For a few days the trip went according to plan. The travelers once again explored mines along the way, enjoying an abundance of food, wood, and water But their good fortune changed overnight. Correspondence from Blasdel, which appeared in the *Carson Daily Appeal*, expressed the hopelessness of the expedition if the explorers did not find water soon. In a letter to the *Enterprise*, Viator recounted the group's travels through a country "beyond description; desolate and barren as the suburbs of hell." Remembering the fate of earlier parties, he noted that the only signs of life were two crows undoubtedly waiting to feast on the bleached bones of the doomed travelers. It was the last the *Enterprise* would hear from Viator for more than a month.

> In the *Enterprise*, Viator recounted the group's travels through a country 'beyond description, desolate and barren as the suburbs of hell.'

Nevadans began to wonder about the fate of their governor. Hearing no news, the *Reveille* expressed doubt that the party could even reach Pahranagat. The *Sacramento Bee* virtually wrote the expedition off, suggesting that it was likely all its members had perished in the desert. While speculation ran rampant, Thomas Wells, secretary to the governor, sent Blasdel a letter by way of Aurora with a copy entrusted to the postal service in Salt Lake City. With luck and the help of someone heading in the direction of Pahranagat, one of the copies would await the executive's arrival there. Now part of Blasdel's official records at the Nevada State Archives, Wells' matter-of-fact correspondence relayed news of Mrs. Blasdel's cold. He continued, "Times are very dull. There is no official business urging your return. Politically, I will be glad of your presence at any time. 'Madam Rumor' is busy having much to say which it would be imprudent to report herein." With the details of the intrigue left in the shadows, Wells voiced more concern for the political consequences of the governor's absence than for the expedition's lack of water.

Finally, in late May, news reached Carson City that the expedition had arrived at Pahranagat earlier in the month. Newspapers around the state provided reports. The *Reese River Reveille* said, "It appears that the governor's party encountered great hardship and suffering on their trip through the desert."

Virginia City's *Daily Union* stated that the group had faced "great fatigue, hardship and privation." The paper credited the party's survival to its leadership, extolling Blasdel's "cool temper, excellent habits and sound judgement." But it was some time before further details of the perilous journey became known.

(Continued on page 61)

Illustration: Nevada Historical Society

THEN AND NOW
A NEVADA ALBUM

While the natural landscape has changed little during Nevada's 125 years of statehood, the human landscape has. On the occasion of this anniversary, several photographers investigated some of those visual alterations based on rare and classic photographs from the state's early days. In Reno, Alvin McLane presented the new and dramatic view of what was once known as Lake's Crossing (at right). Jay Aldrich of Minden had to negotiate his own crossing, and rescue from the sand, near the Carson River. Las Vegan Jim Decker focused on his city's oldest building. Richard Moreno captured the Belmont Courthouse during his travels, and Gary Elam, shooting a few blocks below his house, was pleased to see the foundations that gave evidence of an old Virginia City scene.

VIRGINIA STREET, RENO, AT THE TRUCKEE RIVER BRIDGE, 1868 AND 1989



Photo: Nevada Historical Society, Southern Pacific Collection

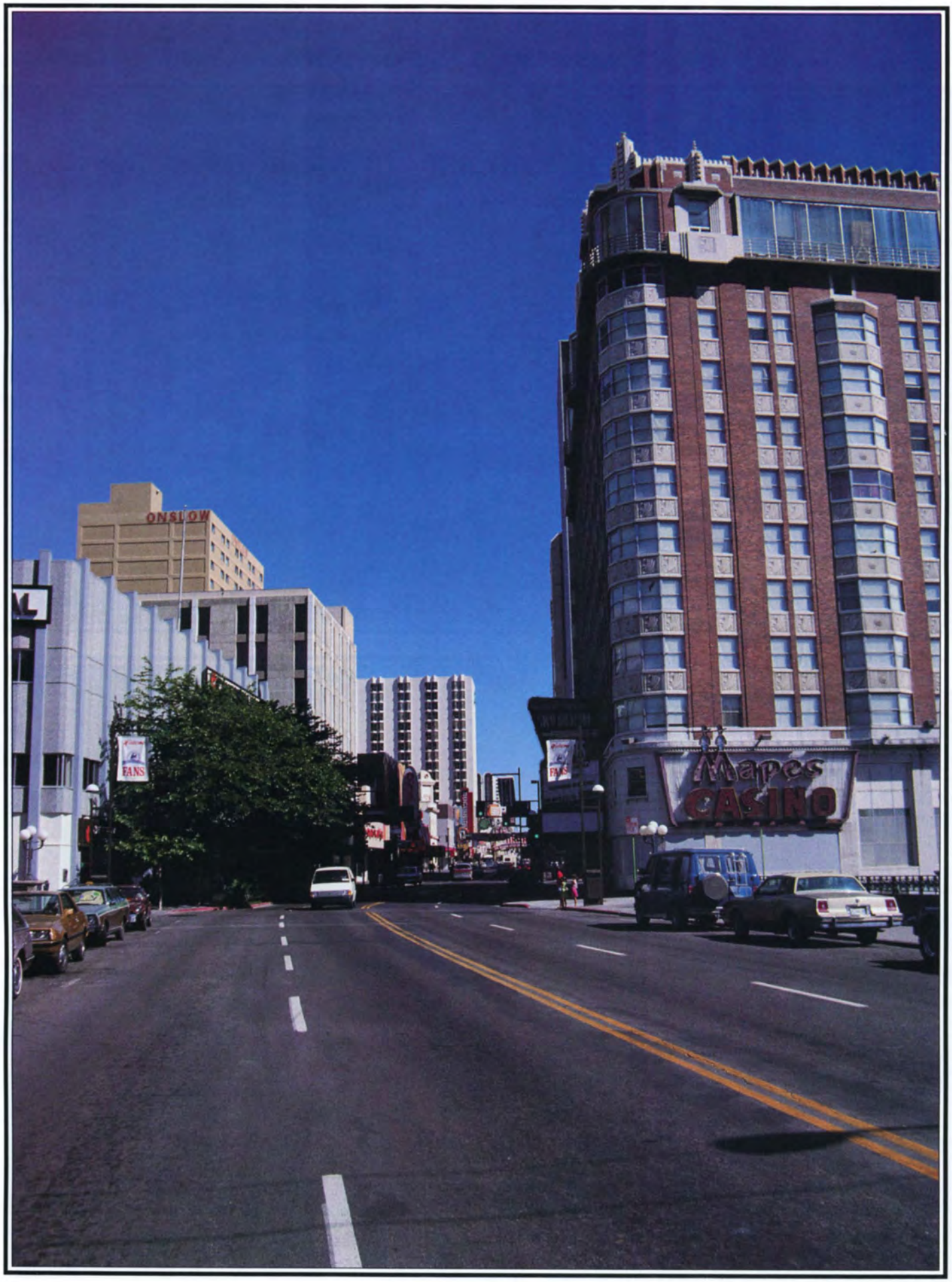
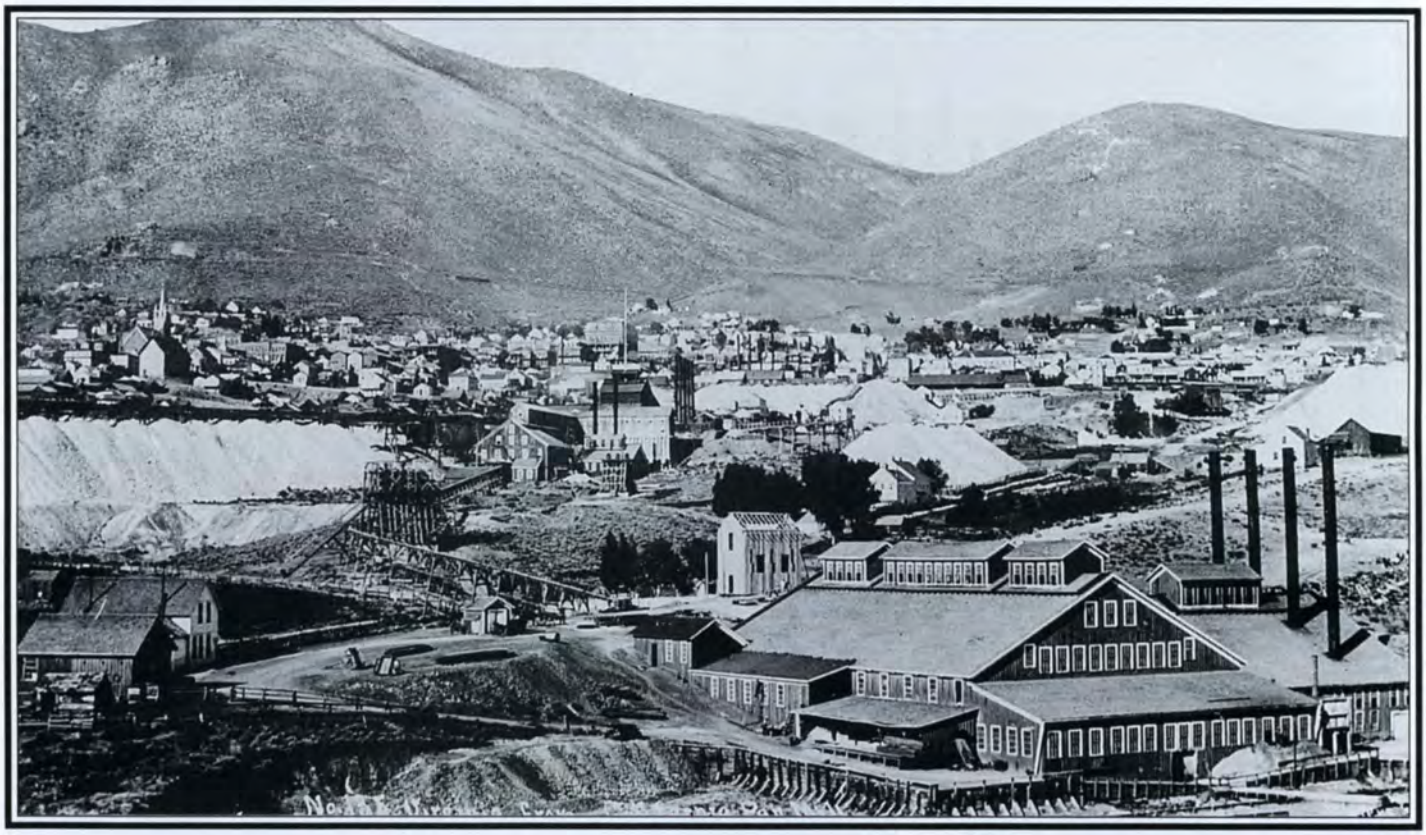


Photo: Alvin McLane

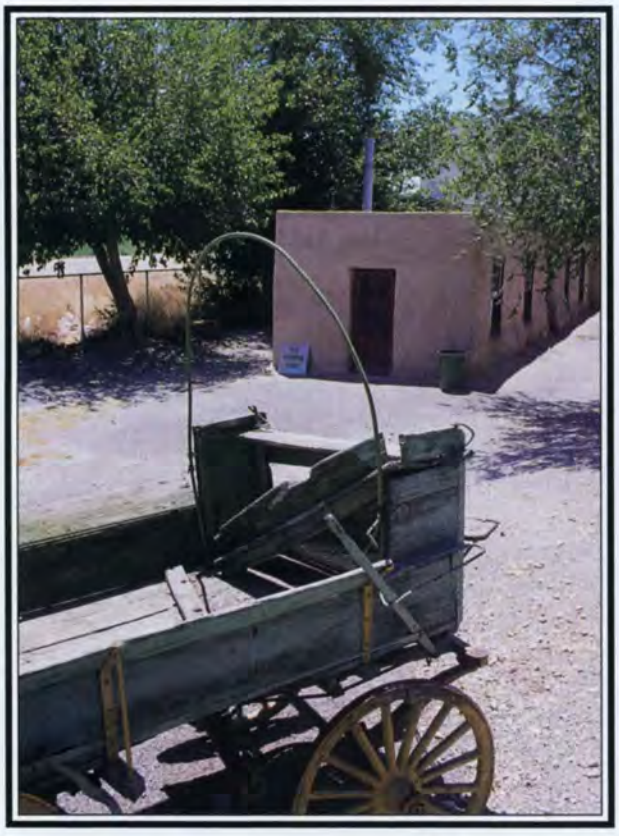
Virginia City, c. 1878 and 1989





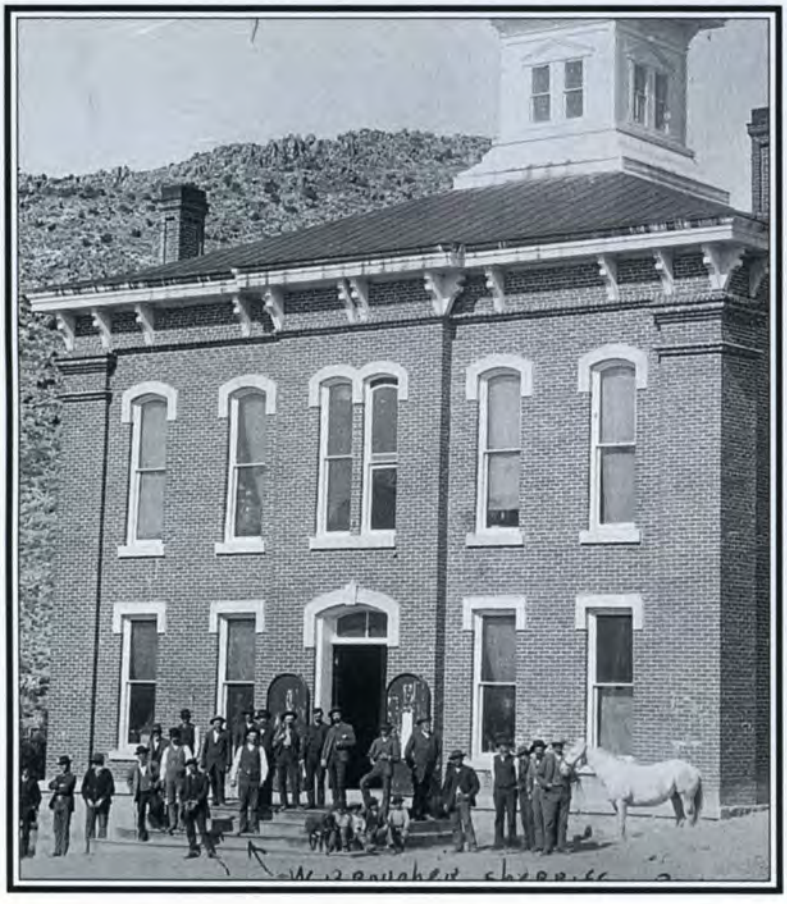
Photos: Nevada State Museum (top); Gary Elam (bottom)

Las Vegas Mormon Fort, 1989 and c. 1900





Belmont Courthouse, 1876 and 1989





Photos clockwise from upper left: Jim Decker, Nevada Magazine Collection, Richard Moreno, Nevada Historical Society

The Vivian Mill, Carson River, c. 1865 and 1989





Photos: Nevada Historical Society (top); Jay Aldrich (bottom)

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Gass' Station

With the arrival of O.D Gass, 1864 was a pivotal year for Las Vegas–even though it wasn't yet in Nevada.

By Ralph J Roske and Michael S. Green

When Nevada became a state on October 31, 1864, those few souls who lived near what would become the state's largest city really didn't care about Nevada's statehood at all.

The reason was simple: Las Vegas was not yet part of Nevada. Nor would it be until 1867—if then.

Las Vegas would be America's greatest boom town of the postwar era, if not of all time—its metropolitan population has increased from about 8,000 in 1940 to more than 600,000 today. But in 1864, Las Vegas was barely a one-horse town compared to the Comstock bonanza camps of Virginia City and Gold Hill. Yet it already had a long and intriguing history, and 1864 would be, as it was for Nevada, a pivotal year for Las Vegas.

It was in that year that O.D. Gass rode horseback from San Bernardino to the Mormon mission at St. Thomas, stopping at Las Vegas on the way Gass, a '49er and former Los Angeles irrigation master, saw enough of the region's possibilities that he would make it his home for most of the next two decades. Indeed, he could be



called the first in a long line of Las Vegas' founding fathers.

Thirty-eight years before, Jedediah Smith had become the first white man to penetrate the interior of southern Nevada when in 1826 he traveled near present-day Mesquite along the Virgin River. In 1829-30, leading a trading expedition from New Mexico to Southern California, Antonio Armijo borrowed from Smith and Spanish explorers like Father Francisco Garces to complete the Old Spanish Trail. Rafael Rivera, one of his scouts, may have been the first non-Indian to reach the Las Vegas area, and the Armijo party camped in January 1830 at the mouth of the Las Vegas Wash.

As for much of the West, the great pathmarker for Nevada was John C. Fremont. Before his arrival, Las Vegas had been a slightly-known pit stop on the Old Spanish Trail. Visiting the place on May 3, 1844, Fremont noted its warm springs, and his best-selling report on his travels brought new attention to the grassy oasis not far from the Colorado River.

> Gass, who had traveled widely in the Southwest, was a man of varied talents. He spoke Spanish and sought his fortune in gold and tin mining.

Brigham Young was among those paying attention. To make Las Vegas a part of the Mormon Corridor from Salt Lake City to San Diego, the leader of the Latter-day Saints sent 30 followers to set up a fort-mission that would grow food, serve travelers, and proselytize the Paiute Indians.

Arriving in June 1855, the Mormons built the area's first permanent building—the Mormon Fort, part of which still stands off Las Vegas Boulevard North near Cashman Field. They grew fruit and vegetables, ran water from the nearby creek, and tried to convert the Indians. But the farming foundered due to a lack of Indian participation, and, more importantly, the discovery of lead at Mount Potosi diverted energies from the mission. After hearing complaints about the harsh climate, alkaline soil, Indian crop raids, and internal squabbling, Young recalled the members of the mission in the

The tree-shaded Las Vegas Ranch, as it appeared in the early 1900s (left), was on the site of the Mormons' 1855 fort. The ranch was the home of O.D. Gass, the area's first permanent settler (right).





Photos: UNLV Library, Maurine and Fred Wilson Collection (left) and KVLX Steamboats on the Colorado Collection (right)



Gass had big plans for the river port of Callville, as did Brigham Young. Long abandoned, the site was later covered by Lake Mead.

spring of 1857, and within two years all had left.

During the Civil War the Union Army spread rumors that the fort had been garrisoned to guard against Confederate raids. While the rumors were untrue, Las Vegas was not a ghost town. Mining continued for a few years at Potosi, and there was a boom in Eldorado Canyon on the Colorado.

One of the original Mormon missionaries, Albert Knapp, decided to return to Las Vegas to take advantage of the mining activity In 1860 or 1861 he opened a store that served miners and travelers on the Mormon Trail. He then left for California, where he died in 1864.

Albert's interest in the Las Vegas property was inherited by his brother William. Looking for partners, William enlisted a friend who would play a significant role in southern Nevada history: Octavius Decatur Gass.

Gass, who had traveled widely in the Southwest, was a man of varied talents. He spoke Spanish and had acquired some knowledge of civil engineering. Before coming to Las Vegas he sought his fortune in gold and tin mining. Perhaps ranching would satisfy his thirst for success.

Gass was a leap year baby, born on February 29, 1828, and raised on an Ohio farm. He attended Oberlin College, according to his family, although the college has no records of him. Gass traveled around Cape Horn to join the California Gold Rush and later headed for Los Angeles, where he served as water steward. He also invested heavily in tin mines at Temescal in Southern California, but he became embroiled in a controversy over title to the mines. To continue his court fight, Gass needed new funds.

He had enjoyed some success mining in the '50s, so now he moved to Eldorado Canyon, 40 miles southeast of Las Vegas. Between March 16, 1863, and December 17, 1864, Gass filed 18 mining claims at Eldorado.

> In referring to the ranch, neighbors and even Gass, who knew Spanish much better, called it Los Vegas Ranch. That probably was meant to differentiate it from Las Vegas, New Mexico.

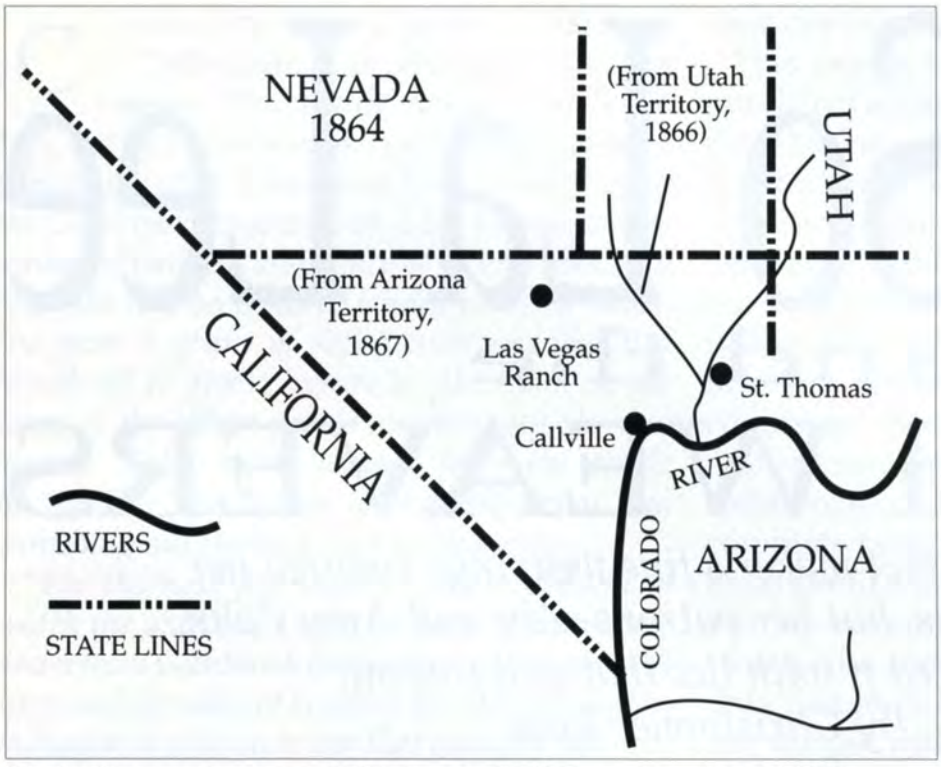
"O.D. Gass. .is the worst-struck man with the prospects here I ever saw," one local miner reported to the *Los Angeles Star* "I do not suppose he would give a man two bits to insure him a fortune in the next two years." But fortune would not be his—at least not from mining in southern Nevada.

Meanwhile, Las Vegas was changing territories—from New Mexico to Arizona. By the Compromise of 1850 following the Mexican War, California had become a state and the territories of Utah and New Mexico were created. Las Vegas was part of New Mexico Territory To add to the confusion, there already was a Las Vegas, New Mexico, so the Mormon Fort's post office was called Bringhurst in honor of the mission's president. In 1863, the Las Vegas area shifted allegiance when the government cut New Mexico Territory in half, creating Arizona Territory, which included present-day southern Nevada.

In 1864, on his trip from San Bernardino to St. Thomas, Gass stopped at Las Vegas. A few years earlier he had met a group of Mormons who informed him that agriculture could be made profitable at "The Meadows."

The desert oasis that Gass first gazed upon 125 years ago may have lacked people but not possibilities. Las Vegas Creek, three feet wide and a foot deep, flowed from the springs and coursed through the valley near the site of the old fort, located on a bluff. Northwest of the mission's adobe-brick walls one could see the remnants of the Indian farm the Mormons had set up in what is now North Las Vegas, land that was later owned by Conrad Kiel, an old friend of Gass from Ohio.

Photo: Nevada Historical Society



The Las Vegas region was part of Arizona until 1867—and maybe until 1982.

Amid the sand, grass grew near the springs and creek. The Mormons had proved that between water from the creek and lumber from Mount Charleston, a farm operation was possible.

By the end of 1865, Gass had moved to the old Las Vegas fort-mission. He and partners Nathaniel Lewis and Lewis Cole, a pair of fellow Eldorado Canyon miners, took over the ranch from William Knapp, who had let the property fall into disrepair while running his late brother's store.

In referring to the ranch, neighbors and even Gass, who knew Spanish much better, called it Los Vegas Ranch. That probably was meant to differentiate it from Las Vegas, New Mexico, or it simply may have stemmed from an indifference to the niceties of Spanish grammar.

In time Gass used two buildings that were joined by a rock-and-adobe wall. The larger one was the residence, and the other was used as a milk house. Other buildings were added later, including a livery and a blacksmith shop. Gass held the "undivided" part of the Las Vegas Ranch, which consisted of only 160 acres as late as 1872. In the mid-'70s the pioneer rancher bought out his two partners and eventually expanded his holdings to 640 acres.

Gass the rancher soon became Gass the family man. His bachelor ways ended after he met Mary Virginia Simpson, daughter of a Civil War officer who was a Missouri miner. Unusually tall for a woman of the 19th cen-

(Continued on page 69)

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Dat So La Lee and the MYTH WEAVERS

The Washoe basket maker's fine weavings ensured her legendary status, but her patrons, Abe and Amy Cohn, reinforced it with lies that still live on.

By Christopher Ross



Carson City News, October 7, 1911.

"Abe Cohn is in serious trouble once again! Mrs. Louisa Keyser [Dat So La Lee], the well known artist, gives tongue lashing to manager of the Emporium. Last evening, when the Glenbrook stage arrived, a big fat squaw was unloaded with the assistance of several men, and after she had been safely landed on terra firma, she gave a grunt of satisfaction and bundled herself off to give a lecture to Abe Cohn on the ways of the White people and the way she was abused. Cohn saved himself from the tirade by handing the buxom lady a half dollar and vanishing out the back door of his store.

"For the next few days it will be comical to watch the antics of Cohn, for Mrs. Keyser came down from Glenbrook last night, mad as a march hare, and life will not be sweet for Abe until he has managed to explain to her that only one seat in a stage can be given to any one passenger."

This jocular but racist report was typical of published accounts about the great Washoe Indian basket weaver Dat So La Lee. Most of these stories dealt with her supposed ignorance and misunderstandings with Abe Cohn, her patron. Today, the accepted history of her life is based on such articles and on information published by the Emporium, Cohn's business in Carson City, and each year such accounts are republished and discussed.

These so-called facts, which enjoy wide circulation, have one thing in common—they are complete fabrications. Although they give us clues about relations between whites and Indians in turn-of-the-century Nevada and between Abe and his wife Amy, the stories and data that have been so studied and preserved are, almost without exception, blatant lies.

The myths were the result of an unusual collaboration between the Cohns. While Abe seemed to appreciate Dat So La Lee's work, his wife Amy was truly fascinated by the weav-



Dat So La Lee's deceptively simple designs required precise weaving, with stitches that averaged 11 per centimeter (opposite page). A publicity shot of the Washoe weaver was taken by Amy Cohn at the Emporium in Carson City about 1897 (left). Abe Cohn, who hired Dat So La Lee to weave baskets exclusively for him, played the role of a wise and tolerant benefactor (below).

Photos: Christopher Ross (far left); Nevada State Museum (left); Nevada Historical Society (below)



ings at which Dat So La Lee excelled. Amy carefully recorded designs and wrote down meanings, and she documented Dat So La Lee's early history and the tribal culture before contact with whites. Her precise records of Washoe ceremonies stand in sharp contrast to the crude, derogatory anecdotes associated with her husband that have been extensively used by researchers.

Still, Amy's work is similar to her husband's in one way It is also completely false, fabricated not merely to supplement or enliven the truth, but to hide and refute historical fact in favor of an invented romantic Anglo vision of Indian life.

Only recently has the true history of Washoe basket design, Dat So La Lee, and the Cohns of Carson City come to light, through the research of Dr. Marvin Cohodas, a Canadian and professor of anthropology at the University of British Columbia.



Marvin Cohodas weaves his own work of art.

For years Cohodas has been the leading world authority on Washoe basketry, and his book *Degikup* is a standard reference. But more important, Cohodas knows basketry from an insider's point of view He taught himself to weave after watching an Indian woman in Arizona: "Just a little watching and a lot of work," he says. Although he won't evaluate his own work, others place it as equal to that of the 10 great weavers under Dat So La Lee, and his baskets are becoming collectible in their own right.

According to Cohodas, Dat So La Lee's story begins with her people, the Washoe, who were among the last Indians to encounter the whites in the mid-1800s. Inhabiting five of the richest valleys along the eastern Sierra, the Washoes enjoyed far-flung trade to the coast and the Mojave region. One of the traits that helped them survive was their ability to make a variety of baskets: burden baskets, water jugs, cradleboards, winnowing baskets, and others, in a variety of weaves, some related in technique and style to the California Miwok and others to Great Basin tribes.

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ON THE FAMOUS LAS VEGAS STRIP

Photo: Christopher Ross

The first whites in western Nevada looked down on the Washoes. Although the Washoes often tried to drive whites off their lands, or at least be paid compensation, their warfare was nothing like that of the Plains and Rocky Mountain Indians. By the time of the Potato War of 1857, when a few Washoes were killed for stealing potatoes near Honey Lake, the Washoes were considered a nuisance.

In truth, the Washoes' culture had simply been destroyed by white settlers who preempted the fish, seed-bearing plants, and piñon pines on which the Indians depended. Cohodas points out that by the time the Washoe adjusted, they had basically become a servant class to ranchers, farmers, and city dwellers.



Amy Cohn created elaborate myths for the baskets' elegant designs.

In time the Washoe abandoned most types of basketry because they found iron pots to be so superior for cooking. But ironware could not replace seed collectors, winnowers, and cradleboards, and a few Washoe women continued to weave utilitarian pieces into the 20th century Then collectors began buying Indian baskets.

"We don't know if a Washoe woman in, say, 1800, would make a lot of decoration on a basket she was planning to use in everyday life," Cohodas says in his usual cautious style. "All we know is that by 1895, at least some weavers were making baskets specially for sale, and using fancy designs. All baskets we have are after that date. There are no securely documented fancy baskets before 1895.

"People often brought baskets to Cohn's Emporium and said, 'This one is 80 years old—we've been using it for four generations.' But that seems unlikely. They probably only lasted one to two years in daily use, which is why almost everyone knew how to make them—they went through a lot of them."

Cohodas' statistical analyses of early styles also suggest that designs didn't develop much until the tourist trade.

So Washoe fancy basketry really developed only in the last 85 years of the 8,000 years of Great Basin basket making. And it did so despite an apparent gap between the prehistoric baskets and white-influenced ones. Cohodas says, "I'd like to know what a 19th-century basket looks like—I have never found or seen one."

Cohodas' statistical analyses of early styles suggest that designs didn't develop much until the tourist trade.

By 1895, things were rough for the Washoes. There were many old, destitute, blind, and maimed among them. Their old pine-nut allotments were inadequate. Their original valley home sites were all taken by ranchers. Despite efforts by the whites to designate one, the Washoes had never had a real leader. Their biggest authority was the rabbit boss, who organized rabbit-hunting drives.

Thus no one was particularly interested in their culture when Amy Cohn discovered that her washerwoman, Louisa Keyser, known in Washoe as Dat So La Lee, or "Big Hips," was a basket weaver. When she married Abe, Amy was a young widow with three daughters. She was a strong, well-educated woman with a vivid imagination, and she single-handedly resurrected Washoe weaving, in the process elevating it from a craft to an elaborate art with its own mythology.

Although the facts of the discovery of Dat So La Lee by the Cohns are hopelessly shrouded in myth, there is no doubt that in 1898 the Emporium began selling baskets shortly after moving to the center of what became known as the Emporium Block, a site across the street from today's Carson Nugget.

By 1899, Amy was making up certificates for the baskets, using her interpretations of Dat So La Lee's designs. In 1900, she began to energetically promote Dat So La Lee and her work and soon had a permanent summer outlet at Tahoe City to take advantage of the tourist trade on Lake Tahoe's north shore.

By 1909, Amy was giving lectures while presenting the baskets as symbols of primordial life among the noble savages before the whites contaminated them. With Da So La Lee sitting in the background, Amy gave her first such lecture to the local Leisure Hour Club. The local newspaper described the event, which included a reading of "Hiawatha".

"The picture in which Dat So La Lee posed was made trebly interesting because of two other figures. Mrs. Gladys Hofer, in a scarlet gown, recited an original poem by Mr. Vanderlieth in which the reasons for the designs in the basket were asked of the weaver. Her questions were answered by Mrs. Marguerite Raycraft, who represented the daintiest Indian maiden imaginable, and who is always the personification of grace. The answer is also the product of Mr. Vanderlieth's fertile brain."

Cohodas comments, "In order to fully appreciate this juxtaposition of fantasy and reality, one must remember that Louisa Keyser was heavy-set and dressed in a print dress and scarf, and she did not generally speak well in

Photo: Nevada Historical Society

public. The slender and graceful Marguerite Raycraft as the Indian princess explaining her symbolism represented the antithesis. To the audience there was no incongruity in having a white woman explain the basket's symbols, while the weaver herself remained silent. It was, after all, their fantasy."

Despite such activities, it was Abe, not Amy, who was associated with the baskets and Dat So La Lee, although in actual practice his involvement was limited to business aspects such as pricing and advertising. (In 1899, he took several cartons of baskets to San Francisco on his semi-annual clothing-buying trip. He brought along seven Washoe men, to add local color, who, unfortunately, were promptly cited for loitering.)

Both the Emporium pamphlets and newspapers of the time talked only of Abe; Amy was never mentioned. His picture appeared often, with and without Dat So La Lee, while Amy's was never published. Yet Amy, not Abe, was the basket authority and author of the Emporium articles that spotlighted Abe. Even the basket exhibits at the Nevada and California state fairs in 1900 were her projects. She was a determined woman, and obviously this role was her choice.

Cohodas suggests that her self-denial was part of a promotional package in which Abe was lauded as the generous and long-suffering patron of a brilliant but hopelessly stupid and ugly weaver, who also happened to be the tribal historian. To add to Dat So La Lee's authenticity, the Cohns invented her birth in pre-contact times and had her meet explorer John C. Fremont in Eagle Valley, a place he never visited. But the account served to authenticate Dat So La Lee's role as the keeper of Washoe culture. Abe also "discovered" that Dat So La Lee was actually a beloved and long-lost guardian that he had known at his father's store in Monitor, a small Sierra town; not surprisingly, his father never had a store in Monitor.

And so the fabrications continued. Amy invented Dat So La Lee's technique: The weaver would split her materials with her teeth and fingernails and would, in her resistance to change, use only a broken knife or glass shard to cut them. Despite her obvious lack of mobility, Amy had Dat So La Lee making long treks through the Sierra in search of materials. The prices her baskets brought were also wildly exaggerated.



As a weaver Dat So La Lee was a great innovator

While the falsehoods were partly for the benefit of tourists, Abe and Amy had more complex motives.

Dat So La Lee was, in fact, an innovator. When she created the chokemouthed design known as *degikup*, it was with new materials and techniques and foreign shapes and motifs. To incorporate this radical change into the mythology, Amy shifted *degikup* into the pre-contact past. According to Emporium propaganda, the appearance of *degikup* was due to a Paiute ban on their creation, in effect since 1860. Because Abe (of all people) had promised to protect Dat So La Lee from Paiute reprisal, she (at last) could openly weave such designs, as was her inherited right as a princess, chief's daughter, and medicine woman.

Nowhere did Amy's imagination run freer than with her interpretations of basket designs. For example, her certificate for the burden basket identified as L.K. 51 had this interpretation: "Our men camped beside the roads and rivers, then assembled around the campfires praising and extolling the shrewdness and skill of their hunters in obtaining game of earth and air." For short she called it "Extolling the hunters"—all this despite the weavers' repeated denials that their designs had special messages.

The Cohns' reasons for such inventions ran deep. While the falsehoods were partly for the tourists, Abe and Amy had more complex motives. The other great promoter-seller of Indian baskets at that time was Grace Nicholson of Pasadena. Similar to Amy in strength, background, and interests, Nicholson also patronized talented weavers. Although she didn't interpret or romanticize her baskets, her sales were even greater than the Cohns'—so Amy's inventions may not have helped their sales at all.

For Amy, another motive probably was personal satisfaction. The role that she invented for her husband, especially, was symbolic of the relations between whites and Indians at the time. The Plains Indians had been defeated and confined to reservations, and whites were busy romanticizing the Indians' former culture, using the stereotypes of bonneted warrior and buckskinned princess that survive to this day. Amy dressed this part for her lectures, although her role-playing obviously had little to do with the plight of the Plains Indians and even less with the Washoe. But it had a great deal to do with the white sense of superiority, Cohodas says, and Dat So La Lee therefore served as the scapegoat for white prejudices.

Many Cohn anecdotes were directed at this theme. One that Abe told and retold into legend is about a train trip to St. Louis in 1919, when Dat So La Lee supposedly decided to walk home from Kansas City because she was tired of rail traveling. Another told of her anger when a corset she requested did not turn her into the slim beauty promised in the ad. Her weight, said to

Photo: Nevada Magazine Collection

be about 300 pounds, was often contrasted with her skilled fingers, as in this description from a 1900 Emporium pamphlet:

"A squaw, whom nature has endowed with considerable avoirdupois, but whose delicacy of touch and artistic ability none can dispute, possessed of child-like blandness, but gifted with much shrewdness and cunning, resorting to romancing and even weeping to gain a desired object. Hand symmetrically perfect, with fingers plump and tapering, she weaves daily her beautiful artistic creations, secretly vain and chuckling at the mere mention of any squaw that can compete with her."



A Dat So La Lee basket came with the artist's handprint.

Around 1916 Amy compiled all her certificates in a ledger. They stated the dimensions of each basket, interpretations of the design, the date or origin, days in manufacture, materials, and techniques. For all its apparent objectivity, the ledger is as suspect as the rest of Amy's data and wasn't even assembled until 20 years after the first basket was made, in 1895. The ledger is a sort of codification of Amy's vision of basketry as a symbol of the romantic pre-contact past.

Her vivid lectures in Indian princess costume, her elaborate propaganda about Dat So La Lee and the baskets, and her vigorous promotion of her husband as the savior of Washoe culture still comprise the biggest source of "information" about Washoe basketry One of the two major texts on Indian baskets that appeared at the turn of the century, *Indian Basketry*, by George Wharton James, relies heavily on Amy's information. Because of the lack of critical research before Marvin Cohodas, the Cohns' myths have become history

Amy died in December 1919, and within a year Abe married Margaret Jones, who was more of a traditional housewife and was not very interested in baskets or Dat So La Lee. Later the Tahoe store was closed, and in 1925 Dat So La Lee died.

Even on her deathbed she was fair game for her exploiters, as Sacramento dentist Dr. S.L. Lee, a basket collector, "revealed" that her name, Dat So La Lee, was taken from his own, "Doc" S.L. Lee, despite its historical use in Washoe as a term meaning "Big Hips." Tootsie Dick, a weaver whom Abe had named as successor to Dat So La Lee, died three years later, and Abe decided to close the clothing business and open an Indian curio store.

> The historical record has much information about who Dat So La Lee was not, but very little about who she actually was.

After Abe died in 1934, fully three quarters of Dat So La Lee's major works were unsold since collectors had been unwilling to pay what the Cohns knew the baskets were worth.

Margaret sold the baskets off cheaply One of the three major buyers was the state of Nevada, which got about 20 major pieces for $1,500, or $75 apiece. Today some are worth a quarter of a million dollars each. They are on display at the State Museum in Carson City and the Nevada Historical Society in Reno.

By 1935 fancy Washoe basketry was in rapid decline. There are still a few Washoes who learned weaving prior to that time, Cohodas points out, but most no longer weave due to age and arthritis. A number of younger people do the simpler twining, especially for cradleboards, and some non-Indians in the Truckee-Tahoe area practice a coiling technique with pine needles. Cohodas himself weaves fine baskets, but he is adamant that they are his own style, not Washoe. Although the Washoe tribe has shown sporadic interest in a basket revival, with old weavers teaching the young, one bit of Emporium propaganda at least has proved true, long after it was written: That Dat So La Lee was unique, the "last of the great weavers," and that true art in Washoe basketry would die with her.

Thus the historical record has much information about who Dat So La Lee was not, but very little about who she actually was. We know that she was a great artist—her baskets attest to that. Her stitching technique was often incredibly precise. She was an innovator, introducing foreign shapes, designs, and materials into her baskets as she made them the basis for elaborate artistic expression.

She must also have been a very strong person, although we have no record of that. She endured humiliation as well as physical affliction. Her relationship with the Cohns, while freeing her to work solely on her baskets, was far from ideal, and her work was all done against the backdrop of the plight of the Washoes in early 20th-century Nevada. In spite of this, she became a unique artist, one of the greatest of American Indian basket weavers, and the leader of the fancy basketry movement.

And we still don't know who she really was. We have only a shadowy figure whose baskets speak silently for her, and Amy's legacy: an elaborate fantasy vision of Dat So La Lee at work with her willows.

Christopher Ross is a writer-photographer and ranch caretaker who lives north of Reno. He says he has an abiding interest in the interaction of man and nature in the desert.

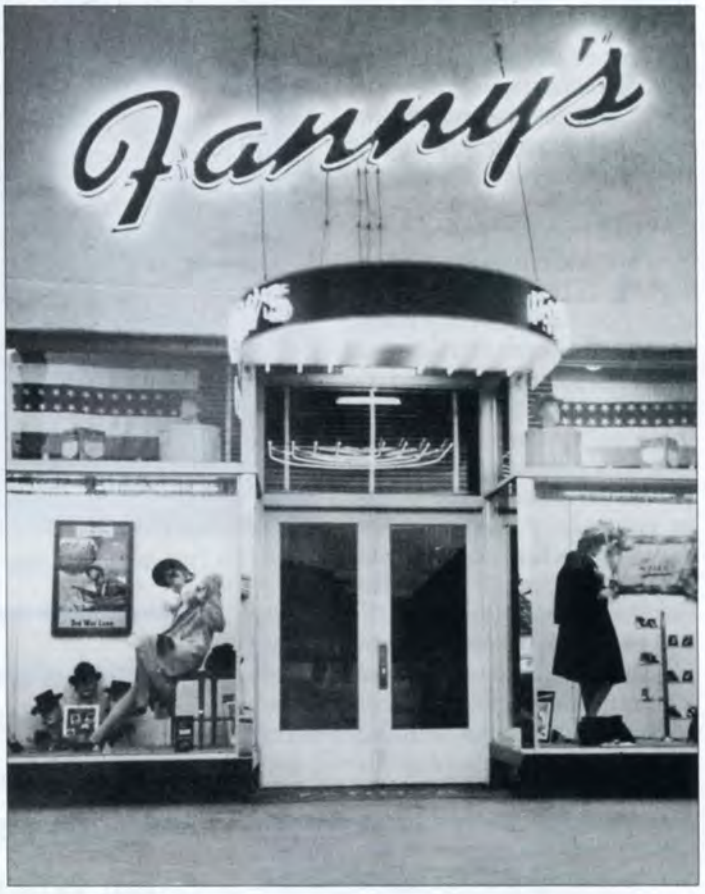
Photo: Nevada State Museum

LAS VEGAS' MATERIAL GIRL

Dress-shop doyenne Fanny Soss, now 105, taught southern Nevadans about style.

By Dennis McBride





I never dreamed I'd be this old," says Fanny Soss. At 105 Fanny is certainly the oldest person in Las Vegas, probably the oldest in Nevada. She's direct and articulate—an instant friend. If you spend an afternoon with Fanny, she treats you not only to 7-up and Eskimo pies but also to hair-raising, off-the-record anecdotes about Las Vegas' *haute monde*, who weren't so *haute* when she knew them.

Fanny was born in London on April 10, 1884. "My father was a lady's tailor," she says. "That was some profession then. But he brought us to America when I was nine months old. He knew a man who said, 'If you ever come to America, go to Lincoln, Nebraska.' I don't know why, except that the place was booming. My father opened a men's shop in the Lincoln Hotel. But we didn't stay there a long time, because my father



During early Helldorado festivities Fanny Soss (far upper left) poses with other representatives of her shop, which is shown above in 1942. Today she's still active at 105 (left).

Photos: UNLV Library, Fanny's Dress Shop Collection (top); Jim Decker (bottom)

followed all the boom towns."

Fanny spent her childhood moving around Nebraska, Idaho, Montana, Utah, and Wyoming, winding up in Oakland in 1906 right after the San Francisco earthquake.

When she was grown, Fanny assumed her father's trade, and by 1931 she was running a small clothing concession in Los Angeles.

"I sold ladies' cotton wash dresses for 75 cents, but I couldn't compete with stores like Bullock's and Broadway," she recalls. "I heard that Las Vegas was going to have Boulder Dam, and I said, 'That's virgin territory.' I only had a little capital, and it was during the Depression, but we came to Las Vegas. I thought I was going to set the world on fire."

She didn't at first. When Fanny opened her first shop on Vegas' west side in 1931, she couldn't sell enough 75-cent wash dresses to cover the $15-a-month rent.

"That west side wasn't doing anything," she says, "so I moved over on the other side of Main Street to a place on Fifth and Bonneville. I wanted a place on Fremont Street, but it was full up."

Fanny had seen Fremont Street on a payday night when it was a curb-to-curb swarm of dam workers with fistfuls of money, and she knew that that's where she wanted to be. It wasn't till the Fourth of July in 1933 that she was able to open a new ladies' shop on Fremont Street in what had once been a greasy-spoon cafe next to a butcher shop.

"After that," Fanny says, "I had no difficulties at all. People were eager for what I had to sell, and I put everyone else out of business because I offered quality merchandise, selection, good taste, and I had the location."

Fanny's customers in those early days included not only the wives of the mayor, the police chief, and the president of Vegas' only bank, but also the hookers from Block 16. "They told me they wanted something to work in, and I didn't know what they were talking about," she remembers.

Eventually, as southern Nevada boomed in the 1940s and '50s, Fanny Soss set the mode for Las Vegas. Her store, Fanny's, was the first Vegas clothing shop to buy merchandise in New York, to sell designer clothes, to import from Europe. And Fanny's was the first retail shop to rent space in a Strip hotel. In 1947, she opened a store in Bugsy Siegel's new Flamingo Hotel, and it was there that Virginia Hill did her shopping when she came to town.

Fanny once operated four shops in Vegas, the last of which she closed in 1979. She wasn't sorry or nostalgic about it.

"Listen," she says, "I was never a slave to my business. I had a house in Los Angeles and I traveled. Now I'm 105 years old—I sit with feet up."

Fanny isn't all that content to sit around, though. She's busy with her friends, with social work, and every spring she celebrates her birthday at the annual meeting of Boulder City's 31ers Club. She's getting a little tired of all the publicity, however, and vows that this is her last interview.

"I don't worry about anything," she says. "I believe in the Golden Rule and the Ten Commandments. I have lots of friends. I don't take any medication, but the Almighty can take me any time. I'm ready to go."

Dennis McBride is a Las Vegas writer and author of In the Beginning: A History of Boulder City, Nevada.

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Autumn Reflections

Sunshine dances on golden leaves and the shimmering water of Lake Tahoe at Sand Harbor. Autumn has arrived, and the crowds have departed, leaving the state park's long, sandy beach open for quiet walks. William Carr, of nearby Incline Village, photographed this scene of a young couple who perhaps have interrupted their stroll to reflect on summer's end or simply to admire a pebble they found in the sand.

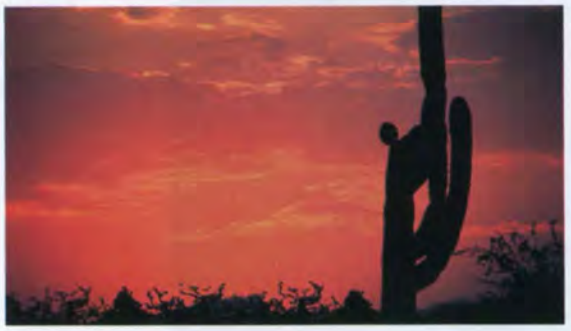


Deer on Alert

This mule deer could be in search of one of his favorite foods—bitterbrush. If so, he's in the right area. Photographers Erwin and Peggy Bauer of Teton Village, Wyoming, captured this male on film east of Ely at the Great Basin National Park, where bitterbrush is abundant. The mule deer is the most common big-game animal in Nevada; the current statewide population is 210,000. During the fall hunting season males have to be especially alert—photographers aren't the only ones trying to shoot them. The Bauers, by the way, have a new book out called *Photographing the North American West*, which is available at most national parks.

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Because Abe Lincoln liked Nevada's politics in 1864, the Silver State was truly

UNION MADE



THE FATHER OF OUR STATE

By Jerome E. Edwards

Nevada's admission to the Union in 1864 was a peculiar event. It was obvious even in far-off Washington, D.C. that the territory was short on people. At least four other territories—Utah, New Mexico, Nebraska, and Colorado—had greater populations than Nevada did at the time, yet they were not deemed ready for statehood.

In fact, no state before or after 1864 would be admitted with fewer inhabitants than Nevada, which had only about 40,000 residents. Furthermore, Nevada's industrial promise seemed to lay in scattered mining towns, and desert travel was a risky proposition. So why did this young, unruly territory deserve statehood in 1864?

The state of Nevada was created because of one great, all-consuming event—the Civil War. If there had been no Civil War, there would have been no state of Nevada 125 years ago. One of the state's several mottoes is "Battle Born," and it is an appropriate one.

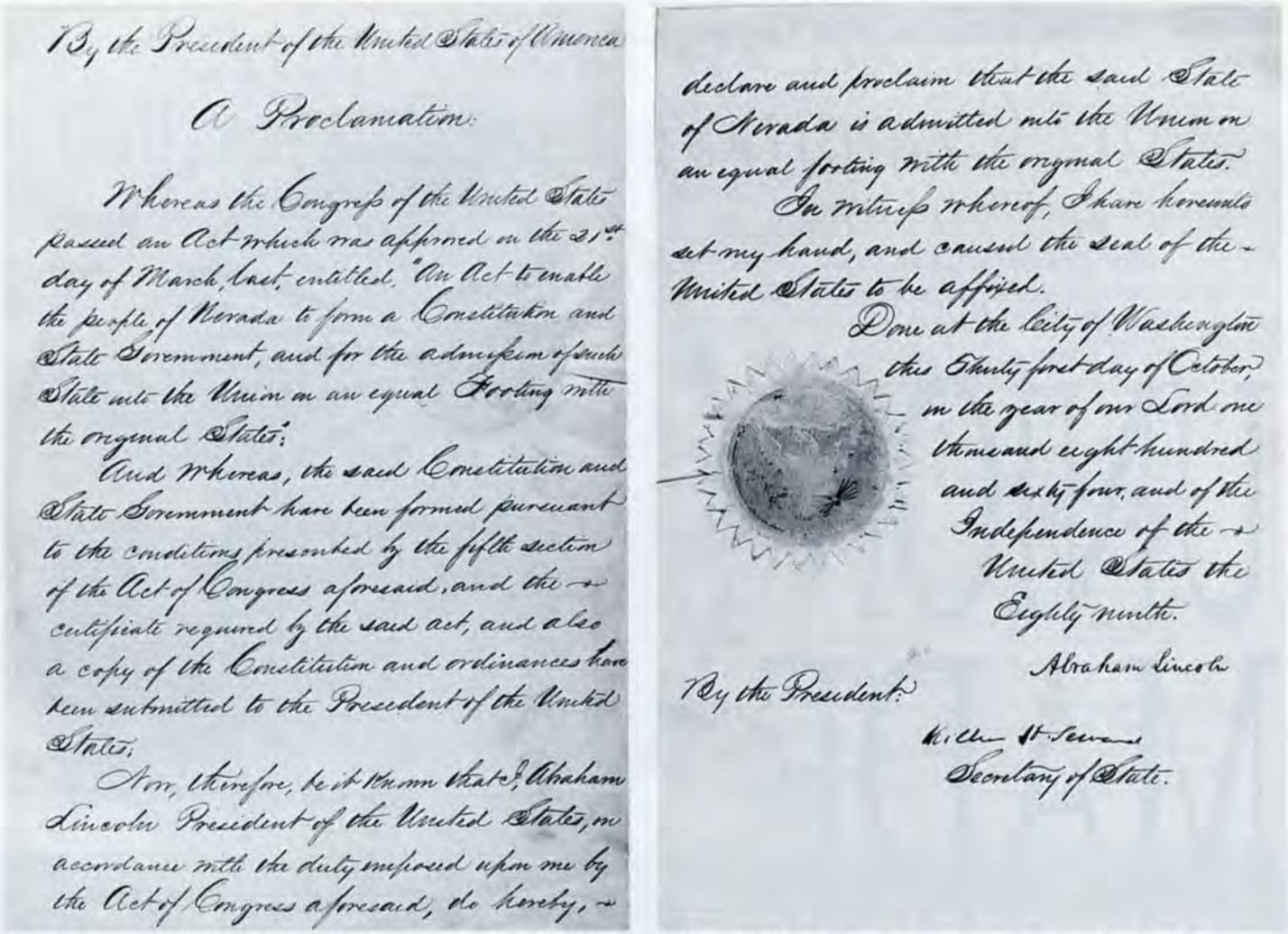
Nevada first gained official status when it was carved out of Utah as a separate territory on March 2, 1861, only two days before Abraham Lincoln's inauguration as president and soon after seven southern states had seceded from the Union. As the nation entered its bloodiest war, Nevada moved toward statehood, nudged along by interested politicos in both Washington, D.C. and Nevada.

The momentum was not due to the Comstock's gold and silver bonanzas, although one still hears the old (and discredited) argument that Nevada achieved statehood to insure that its precious metals remained in Northern hands, and that in turn those metals helped win the war for the Union. From the beginning Nevada Territory was firmly under the control of pro-Northern groups. The federal army was in control, and there never was the slightest danger of Southern invasion. Whether or not Nevada remained a territory, its gold and silver would go to the North. Mineral wealth brought in the original influx of people to Nevada; it did not create a state.

The real reasons for statehood were purely political. President Lincoln and other key leaders in Washington perceived that Nevada Territory was safely Unionist and, rather more to the point, safely Republican in partisan outlook. It was the strength of the Republican Party in the territory that suited Lincoln's purposes and determined its statehood.

To be a Republican rather than a Democrat in 1864 meant more than just being in favor of the Union war effort, which most Northern Democrats also supported. Being a Republican carried additional intellectual baggage. Members of the Republican Party, which had been established a decade earlier to fight for the abolition of slavery, shared a belief in the preeminence of

Photo: Nevada Historical Society



By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation.

Whereas the Congress of the United States passed an Act which was approved on the 21st day of March, last, entitled, "An Act to enable the people of Nevada to form a Constitution and State Government, and for the admission of such State into the Union on an equal Footing with the original States:

And Whereas, the said Constitution and State Government have been formed pursuant to the conditions prescribed by the fifth section of the Act of Congress aforesaid, and the certificate required by the said act, and also a copy of the Constitution and ordinances have been submitted to the President of the United States;

Now, therefore, be it known that I, Abraham Lincoln President of the United States, in accordance with the duty imposed upon me by the Act of Congress aforesaid, do hereby, declare and proclaim that the said State of Nevada is admitted into the Union on an equal footing with the original States.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand, and caused the seal of the United States to be affixed.

Done at the City of Washington this Thirty first day of October, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty four, and of the Independence of the United States the Eighty ninth.

Abraham Lincoln

By the President:

William H. Seward
Secretary of State.

Lincoln's proclamation of Nevada's statehood on October 31, 1864, (above) followed his receipt of the state constitution by way of the longest telegram ever sent up to that time. The telegraph bill reflected the constitution's 18,000-word length.

the U.S. Constitution. They advocated strong, interventionist economic policies on the part of the federal government, and they agreed that secession by a state was illegal and should be put down by force. In short, Republicans believed that ultimate power resided with the federal government rather than with the states. After the Emancipation Proclamation of January 1, 1863, they generally agreed that federal power should be used to eradicate slavery; hence their support of the 13th Amendment, which was intended to abolish slavery throughout the country

Of all the territories, Nevada was the most Republican and therefore considered the most reliable. Republicans dominated the legislature and had carried all the elections. Territorial Governor James Nye was a Republican—he had been appointed by Lincoln—and the party controlled the machinery of government. As Alf Doten, future owner of the *Gold Hill Daily News* and a proud Republican wrote, "We are a right loyal people."

Of all the territories during the Civil War, Nevada was the most Republican and therefore considered the most reliable.

Republicans also dominated the constitutional conventions of 1863 and 1864 that were called to write a state constitution, and they made sure that their support of a strong federal government was written into that document. The final language of the Nevada Constitution, as written in 1864, contained a stunning and, up to that time, unprecedented affirmation of federal power. It stated that "the paramount allegiance of every citizen is due to the federal government, in the exercise of all its constitutional powers." Building on that premise, it declared that "no power exists in the people of this or any other state of the federal union to dissolve their connection therewith, or perform any act tending to impair, subvert, or resist the supreme authority of the government of the United States." Not only was secession illegal, but also if it did occur, the federal government could "by warrant of the constitution, employ armed force in compelling obedience to its authority."

The Nevada Constitution outlawed slavery and attempted to prevent Rebel sympathizers from voting. It also required an oath of allegiance to the U.S. and Nevada constitutions to be taken by all office holders and teachers in the public schools and univer-

Document: National Archives

sity, an oath that is still required today.

Seeing that Nevada had all the proper Unionist and Republican credentials for admission, Lincoln was motivated by several political issues to push hard for statehood. Probably his chief concern was the abolition of slavery and the passage of the 13th Amendment. The Emancipation Proclamation had insured that most slaves remaining in the Confederacy would be freed upon liberation by the Union armies, but it did not free slaves in areas such as the border states that had remained in the Union or in Confederate areas previously liberated. The proposed 13th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution would end slavery everywhere.

Lincoln believed that Nevada's admission was necessary for the ratification of the anti-slavery 13th Amendment and to boost Northern morale.

However, the amendment's chances of passage did not seem promising in 1864 since it was vigorously opposed by the Democratic Party. To Lincoln, tying the war effort to the abolition of slavery was absolutely essential for Northern morale. Yet where was he going to get the necessary two-thirds support in each house of Congress and the three-fourths backing from the state legislatures to pass it? The votes were not quite in place.

As Assistant Secretary of War Charles Dana later said in his memoirs, Lincoln believed that the admission of Nevada was necessary for ratification. In Lincoln's words, the boost to Northern morale, and the putting of the war effort on a better moral footing, would be "worth at least a million men."

Dana wrote:

"In order thus to amend the Constitution, it was necessary first to have the proposed amendment approved by three fourths of the States. When that question came to be considered, the issue was seen to be so close that one State more was necessary. The

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state of Nevada was organized and admitted into the Union to answer that purpose. I have sometimes heard people complain of Nevada as superfluous and petty, not big enough to be a State; but when I hear that complaint, I always hear Abraham Lincoln saying, 'It is easier to admit Nevada than to raise another million of soldiers.'"

Dana described several sordid patronage deals that had to be made to ensure that certain congressmen would vote the right way—that is, for the Nevada Enabling Act. But Lincoln said, "It makes no difference what they want. Here is the alternative: that we carry this vote, or be compelled to raise another million, and I don't know how many more, men, and fight no one knows how long. It is a question of three votes or new armies."

Dana remembered Lincoln saying, 'It is easier to admit Nevada than to raise another million of soldiers.'

The other reason for the inordinate haste to admit Nevada as a state was because Lincoln feared for his chances of reelection in 1864. Until the fall of that year the war news had been dismal, and there was the complicating factor that the president was opposed not only by the Democrats but also by the third-party candidacy of John C. Fremont. In Lincoln's view, no matter how small its population or insignificant its internal affairs, Nevada would still have a minimum of three electoral votes, presumably safe for the Republican Party.

More important in the president's calculations, however, was the knowledge that if Fremont continued his candidacy and nobody received a majority of electoral votes, the election would be thrown into the House of Representatives. If that were to occur, under the Constitution each state would have one vote, no matter how big or small it was. Given those hypothetical circumstances, the sole congressman from Nevada would have an enormous impact on the outcome.

This issue was raised by Francis M. Proctor, a representative to the state constitutional convention from Ione, who stated on July 19, 1864, that "there is a remote possibility that the election of the president of the United States, soon to take place, may not be decided by the people, but may be thrown into the House of Representatives, and we are cognizant of the fact that in such an event Nevada, if admitted as a state, would have just as many votes for the next president of the United States as the state of New York." As it turned out, the likelihood of the election being thrown into the House was remote, and Fremont withdrew his candidacy six weeks before the November election. But Lincoln was taking no chances.

The Congressional Enabling Act of March 2, 1864, stated that Nevada would become a state if it came up with a satisfactory constitution, and, if that constitution was accepted by the people of the territory, a copy of it should be sent to the president, who would then have the "duty" to proclaim Nevada a state "without any further action whatever on the part of Congress." No other state has ever been admitted under such an unusual arrangement. In effect, Congress was

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admitting Nevada in advance as long as certain procedures were carried out. This demonstrated the speed with which everyone had to act. Congress realized it would probably not be meeting in the fall of 1864, so the president was given the sole power to complete the process. Even the territorial vote was set by Congress, and plenty of time was given so Nevada could be admitted before the presidential election.

When the second constitutional convention in Carson City adjourned on July 27, 1864, events began to unfold rapidly. Congress moved the vote up from October to September 7, and Nevadans supported the state constitution—and statehood—by a vote of 10,375 to 1,284.

With the presidential election approaching, state officials decided to telegraph the text of the state constitution back to Washington, D.C. The telegram, sent on October 17 with a length of about 18,000 words, was reportedly the longest ever dispatched up to that time—at a cost of $3,416.77 to the impoverished territory. Upon receiving the telegram, Lincoln proclaimed Nevada a state on October 31, one week and one day before the November 8th presidential election.

Nevada's leaders had already prepared a full slate of presidential electors and candidates for federal office. As Alf Doten noted in his diary on September 23, 1864, "We hope to be admitted into the Union under that Constitution as soon as the circumstances of the case will conveniently allow the thing to be done, and in time to cast our vote for Lincoln and Johnson, which I tell you we will do."

Upon news of statehood, the *Gold Hill Daily News* of October 31 declared, "The pain is over, the child is born. Let us see that Nevada is not only *in* the Union, but *for* the Union."

Torchlight parades and virulent partisan bickering marked the election. On the day before voting, Doten noted from Virginia City, "Politics ran higher than ever today—several fights on B Street—hell to pay tomorrow I expect." On election night he wrote, "Election day today little or no fighting till near evening, when several scrimmages took place—after the voting was over, at 6 PM, everybody got drunk—."

Nevada voted solidly for Lincoln, giving him 9,826 ballots to 6,594 for the Democratic candidate, General George McClellan. Although Nevada's admission to the Union turned out to be unnecessary for either the passage of the 13th Amendment or the abolition of slavery, or for Lincoln's reelection, the state truly had been "battle born."

> 'Election day today,' Doten wrote. 'Little or no fighting till near evening. .after the voting was over everybody got drunk.'

Civil War issues and politics had given Nevada its premature but coveted statehood. Congress and the president had both gone out of their way to Nevada's benefit.

Jerome E. Edwards of Reno has taught history at the University of Nevada-Reno since 1965 and is the author of Pat McCarran, Political Boss of Nevada *(University of Nevada Press, 1982).*

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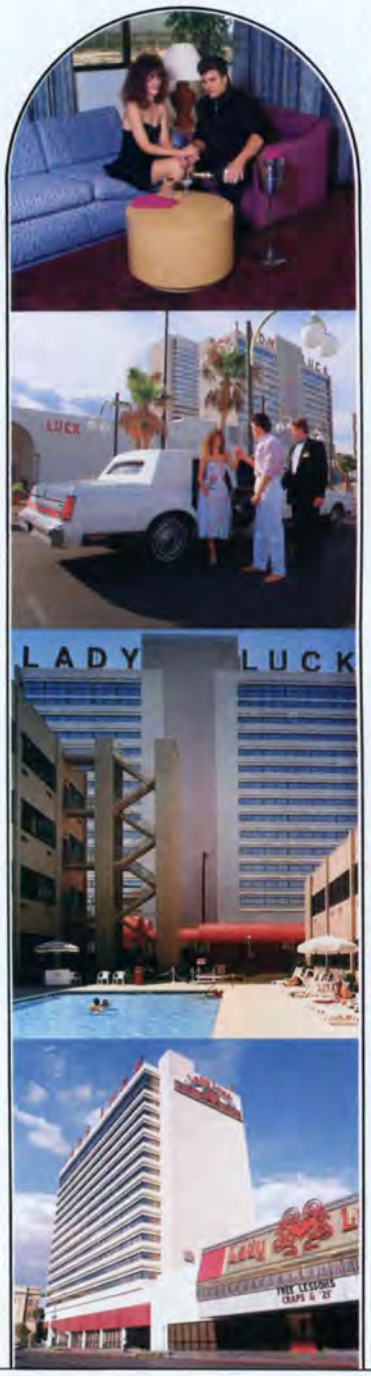
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PELICAN'S ISLAND

Pyramid Lake has the West's largest colony of American white pelicans, who often fly 60 miles for supper.

By Renee Thompson



For generations the pelican has been characterized in cartoons as a comical hayseed, a pot-bellied vertebrate short on brains, long on appetite, and devoid of sensibility—animal or otherwise.

In fact, nothing could be further from the truth. This part-time Nevada resident should be classified as fragile and determined—especially when one considers the hostile environment the bird uses for a rookery. Except for a smattering of rabbitbrush and bud sage, Anaho Island National Wildlife Refuge—which sits near the east shore of Pyramid Lake—is as barren as an eggshell.

Yet the American white pelican does survive on the 600-foot-high island that has been its breeding ground for centuries. In fact, the island hosts the largest colony of the pelicans in western North America, which is one reason why birdwatchers travel hundreds of miles each spring to catch a glimpse of the pelicans' arrival from Southern California and western Mexico.

Another reason is that the birds are just plain majestic. With creamy white feathers, black-tipped wings, and huge orange bills, the birds are distinct from their brown-pelican cousins, which are often seen diving off ocean piers. The American white doesn't dive under water to feed. Instead, it wades in shallow ponds and scoops up fish with its massive bill—the same appendage celebrated in the Dixon Lanier Merritt limerick that begins: "A wonderful bird is a pelican/His bill will hold more than his belican."

After arriving on Anaho Island, the birds pair off to build the flimsy nests that will be their living quarters for the next 90 days. Their sometimes humorous excuse for housing consists of a hollowed-out depression in the sand and gravel. To the human eye, each nest is indistinguishable from the 7,000 others on the island, but, remarkably, the pelicans always manage to find their way home.

The female usually lays two chalky white eggs and incubates them with





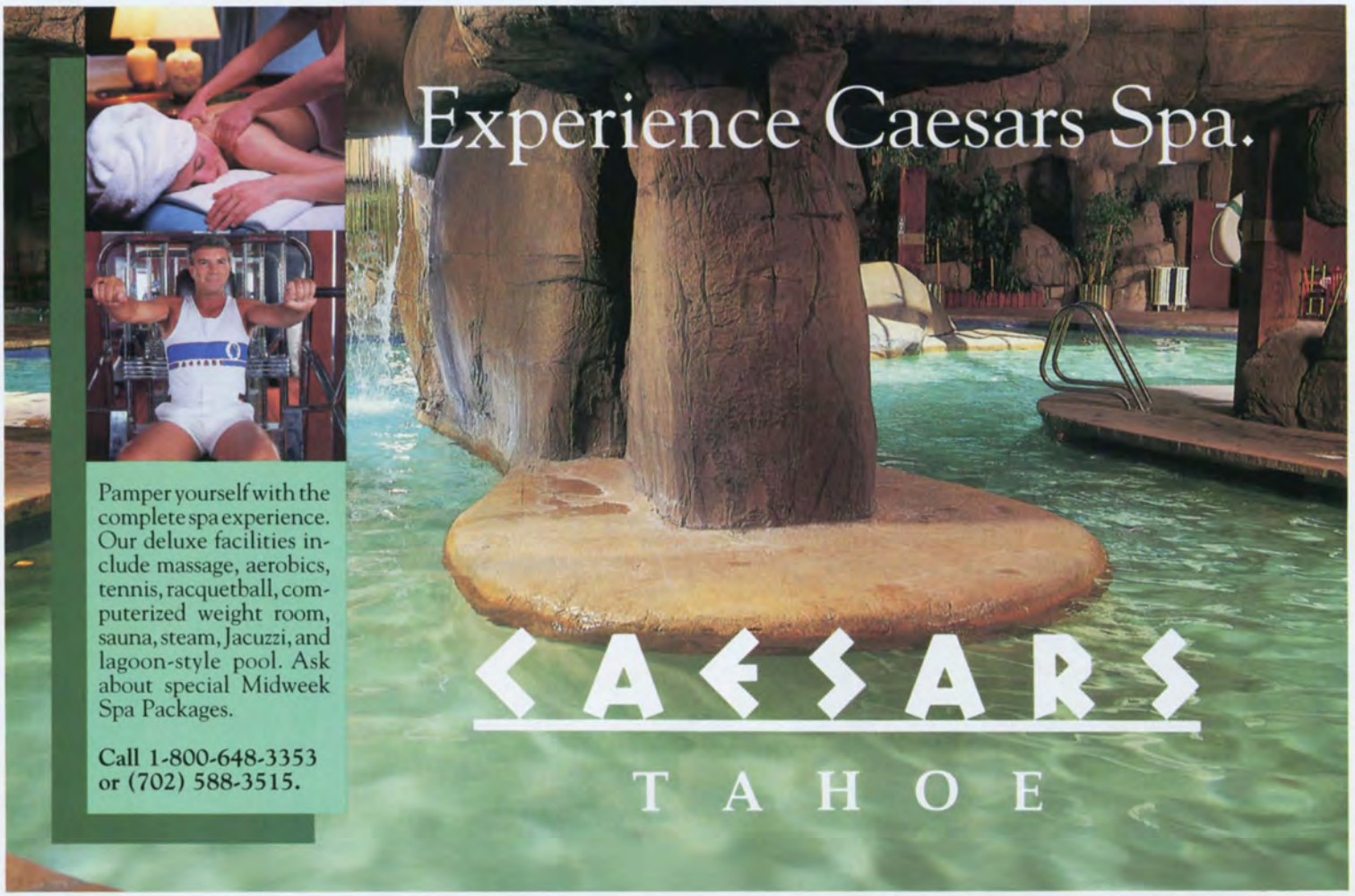
Their 10-foot wingspans help the pelicans float gracefully upwards on warm thermals on their way to Stillwater's feeding grounds (left). The Anaho Island rookery is mostly barren but the birds flock back each year (top right). Just hatched, a pelican is featherless, which requires special attention from Mom and Dad (below right).

Photos: Craig Sailor/Reno Gazette-Journal (left and bottom right); Jeffrey Dow (top right)



A wildlife warden inspects a pelican's massive bill, one of the reasons behind the bird's wonderful fishing capabilities.

the webs of her feet for about 29 days. At this time the adults initiate a changing of the guard that ensures one parent is always at home while the other flies off to feed at Stillwater Marsh. The guard defends the nest from gulls, who love to feast on pelican eggs. Also, when the eggs have finally hatched, one parent will stand over the featherless young to protect them from the harsh sun that could broil them in half an hour.



At feeding time, the off-duty parent joins other pelicans to make the 120-mile round trip to Stillwater. In a remarkable display, thousands of birds ride an invisible thermal that spirals them upwards, almost out of sight. Just as remarkable is the sight of their return to Anaho when they first appear on the horizon like confetti, then descend to a few feet above Pyramid's azure waters, stuffed to the hilt with tui chub and carp.

Back at the nest, the parent regurgitates its partially digested food and allows the young birds to feed directly from its mouth. Then the guard changes and the other adult flies to Stillwater. The routine lasts about two months, by which time the young pelicans gain 15 to 20 pounds, reaching the weight of a mature pelican, and have wingspans of nearly 10 feet.

On occasion, pelicans will also regurgitate in order to lighten their body weight before taking flight. Even the young, as a physiological prelude, will regurgitate their food, although they can't yet fly For this reason, some young birds have been known to die of starvation if they've been frightened by island intruders. Even slight disturbances are enough to frighten adult birds from their nest, leaving eggs or young birds to die from overexposure to the hot sun or being eaten by gulls. Because of the birds' sensitivity, the refuge is closed to the public.

In years past, Anaho Island served as a rookery for up to 11,000 pairs of birds while providing protection against coyotes and, to some extent, humans.

But conservationists are concerned that Anaho—as an island and a breeding place—might eventually be lost if drought persists. They recall that Pyramid Lake dropped so low in the late 1960s that it nearly exposed a land bridge to the island that would have allowed predators to ravage the birds and their eggs.

Another concern is that the pelicans' fishing grounds at Stillwater Marsh are also shrinking. Last year's lack of fresh water reduced the fish population to the extent that approximately 95 percent of nests at Anaho were abandoned, with estimates that only 50 young matured from a modest 350 nesting pairs of birds.

Still, pelican watchers hope the birds will bounce back. By the end of this June, biologists estimate that 300 young will mature—still low considering that about 2,500 nests were built, but much higher than last year. Apparently the pelicans are feeding in other areas, such as Honey Lake and Lahontan Reservoir, to fill their "belicans." Add a little luck to the plucky bird's determination and not only will it flourish, but also other limericks may one day be written to sing the praises of a pot-bellied but enduring bird.

Conservationists are concerned that Anaho—as an island and a breeding place—might eventually be lost if drought persists.

Renee Thompson is a free-lance writer who moved recently from Fallon to Texas, where her husband Steve now manages the Laguna Atascosa National Wildlife Refuge. Her articles have also appeared in Reader's Digest *and* Woman's World.

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Fossils of the Sea

Some of Elko County's oldest residents are scientific mysteries.

by Don Mathias



Unusual trilobite from the Elk Mountains.

The Elk Mountains constitute a tiny group of verdant peaks located in the northern part of Elko County midway between Jackpot and Jarbidge. Because it can be reached only by dirt roads, this little range is never seen by travelers and seldom visited even by local residents. That is a shame, because sunrise in Lime Creek Basin is something to behold.

In the early part of the century, the Elk Mountains yielded a little gold but not enough to cause a stampede. Mining activities were renewed in the '50s when some apple growers from Yakima found tungsten on White Elephant Butte and built a mill on O'Neill Creek. Their dreams of riches evaporated when the price of tungsten went through the floor in 1956.

My introduction to the Elk Mountains came in 1958 when, as a graduate student in geology at the University of Oregon, I went there to undertake the original, detailed geological work in the area. I arrived in early June and was impressed by the stillness and pristine beauty of the place. Sagebrush, aspen, mountain mahogany, and subalpine fir clothed the mountains right to their tops. Chirping sparrows and larks flitted among the penstemon and Indian paintbrush, while chipmunks scampered over rocks and fallen trees. As I listened to the quiet lowing of cattle near a water trough on North Creek, I thought, "What a lovely place in which to spend eternity." But I couldn't stay that long. I had work to do.

On my second day out from camp, I was picking my way along the talus of the sliderock slope on the north bank of Lime Creek. I was, of course, especially interested in the rocks and was looking carefully at the flat pieces of limestone that had fallen from the steep cliffs above. On one of those gray plates of rock I saw a black spot. At first it appeared to be a dead insect. Examining the spot more closely, I found myself staring in utter amazement at a fossil trilobite. The form and features of the fossil indicated that it was a relic from the Cambrian period, a time in geologic history that began about 600 million years ago.

Trilobites were among the earliest forms of life in the ancient seas that for eons covered most of what is now dry land in many parts of the world. These animals were quite complex—they had compound eyes similar to those of

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Photo: Don Mathias

a modern fly; three body segments called the cephalon (head), the thorax, and the pygidium (tail); and numerous walking appendages that they used to creep about the sea floor in search of food. Trilobites came in a variety of shapes and sizes, ranging in length from a quarter of an inch to 24 inches. They had tough outer coverings and sharp spines, which, when the animals curled up like pillbugs, offered protection from predators. They lived in the warm, shallow seas for about 350 million years. Their modern descendants include the horseshoe crab.

I was astonished to find trilobites in the Elk Mountains. The nearest Cambrian rocks previously described in the Basin and Range Province were found at Cherry Creek, nearly 150 miles to the south. I continued my search with renewed enthusiasm and recovered dozens of trilobite specimens. They were found exclusively on the mountains known as Quartzite Butte (although there is no quartzite there) and Wrangle Mountain. Both peaks are shown on U.S. Geological Survey maps of the area.

Some of the fossils were incomplete and poorly preserved, but others were whole and in excellent condition. I took them with me back to the U of O so that I could identify them as to genera and species, thus determining their exact age. But an exhaustive search of every available reference yielded no identification for my prize trilobites.

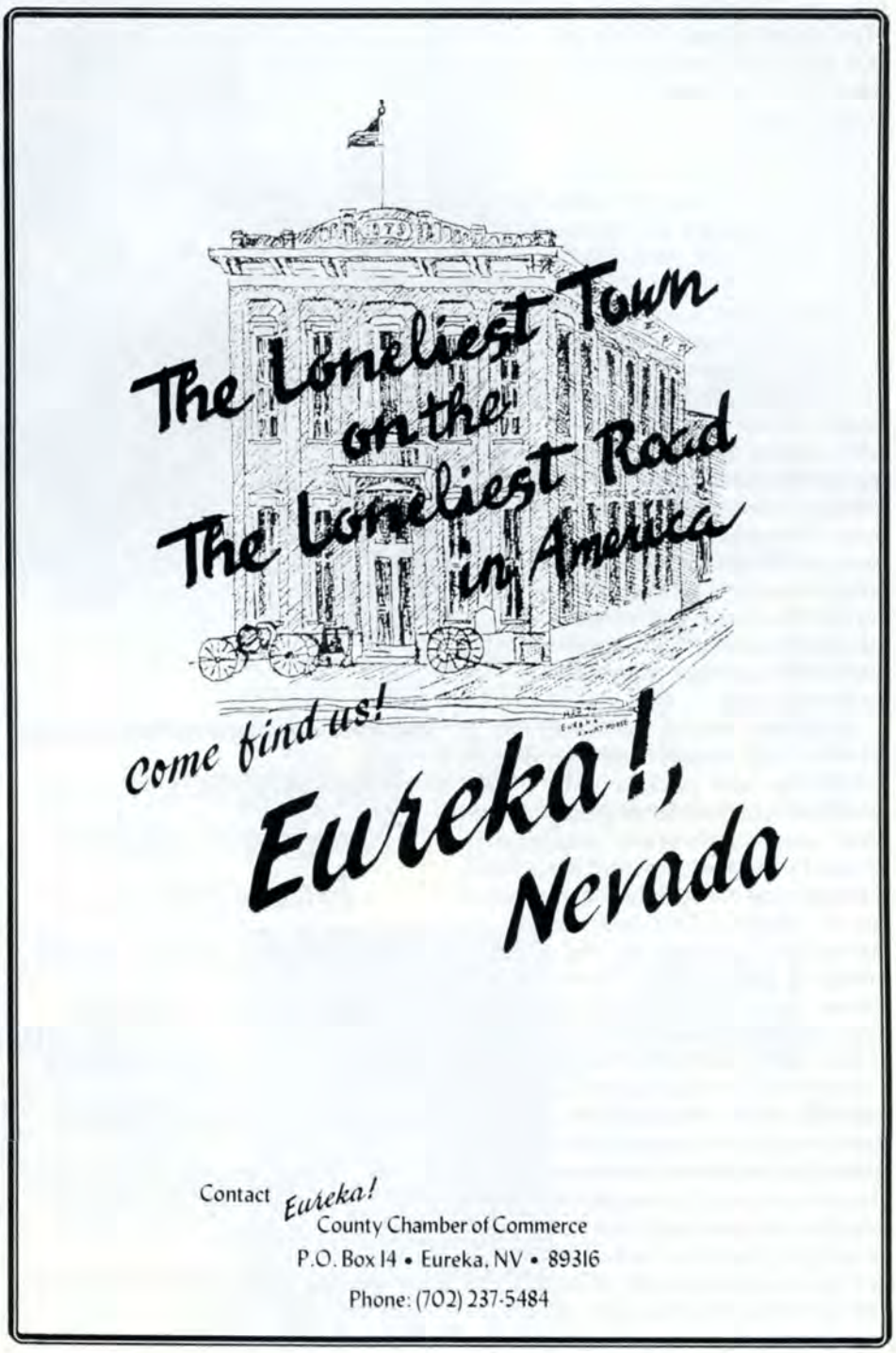
In desperation, I sent the best of the collection to three different trilobite experts. One after another, they sent back the same reply—the trilobites were of types previously unknown to the scientific community; they had never been seen before. For this reason, they were kept in the National Museum of Natural History in Washington, D.C., where they remain to this day

To the best of my knowledge, no further work has been done on the Elk Mountain trilobites; they lie neglected in some dusty drawer in Washington. More of them—hundreds more—still sleep in the limestone rocks of the range. I have returned there many times over the years and always have found several of Elko County's oldest residents waiting there to greet me. Perhaps some day an enterprising doctoral candidate from another university will collect some of these ancient and mysterious Nevadans and describe them for posterity.

In the meantime, anyone who wants to make the acquaintance of some real "old-timers" can do so by driving east from Pole Creek Ranger Station on a good gravel and dirt road to the Elk Mountains. A pickup truck or four-wheel-drive vehicle can easily make the trip. And don't forget to take a camera—the scenery is spectacular.

In desperation I sent the best of the collection to three experts, and they all sent back the same reply· these trilobites had never been seen before.

Don Mathias, a summer resident of Jarbridge, teaches high school science in Southern California. He has written about fishing the Jarbridge River for Nevada and is the author of the visitor's guide I'd Rather Be in Jarbridge.



A Frontier Hotel



Early tent hotels satisfied their customer's basic needs.

As was the case in the California Gold Rush, many of the fortunes made on Nevada's Comstock Lode did not come out of the mines. Merchants, saloonmen, prostitutes, musicians, artisans, and hotel keepers joined the miners in the rush across the Sierra Nevada in the spring of 1860 to set up operations in Virginia City, Gold Hill, and Silver City

Among the earliest and most enterprising merchants was John L. Moore of San Francisco. Like other entrepreneurs, Moore started business with almost nothing, rounding up the essentials to start a lodging house in the new territory His makeshift establishment, although short on down comforters and satin sheets, served his rough-hewn clientele well, and everyone appreciated the fact that there was any hotel at all.

Originally bound for Placerville in March 1860, Moore and his wagon, which he had packed with $1,600 worth of whiskey, found the pass into that small mountain community closed by the deep snows of late winter. Considering his options, he decided to go to Virginia City instead. He returned to Sacramento and hired a string of pack mules. Then he purchased more rum, brandy, gin, blankets, tin plates, flour, nails, and cigars.

Soon after, he trailed his pack train over the Sierra, and 25 days later Moore and his gaunt, starving mules staggered out of the snowdrifts into Virginia City. As the pack train moved up the main street, dozens of half-frozen prospectors cheered and fired their revolvers. Moore unloaded his mules, set up a large tent, and rolled out the first carpet in Virginia City. After raising a flag on the ridgepole, he put up a sign reading "Board and Lodging" and went into business.

The forerunners of Nevada's modern hotels offered whiskey, food, and maybe a straw bed – if the mules didn't eat it first.

By Phillip I. Earl

Inside the makeshift structure a canvas partition divided the tent into a hotel and a saloon. A battered wagon sideboard was set on two whiskey barrels for a bar, and lanterns were placed around the interior. Moore arranged his stock of liquor on the backbar and threw back the tent flaps. With a loud hurrah, a mob of thirsty men rushed in and began to order drinks. Moore had meanwhile hired a cook and rounded up a supply of bacon, potatoes, beans, and coffee. So he began to serve meals.

Some rough tables were brought in, and the tent was soon one gulping mass of men shoveling in the food and calling for more. It was early evening when Moore opened up, but before dark he had already done $200 worth of business.

The hotel had 36 guests that first night, each paying a dollar for two blankets and a spot on the ground. A few men who could afford more luxurious accommodations slept on straw ticks. Bed stuffing went for 50 cents a pound that night, but the mules got in the next morning and ate it all. Wood shavings from a nearby construction site served just as well, however, and did not appeal to the mules, so the hotel was back in business the next day.

Unlike many others who squandered their new wealth on hard drink, women, and stock-market speculation, Moore plowed his profits back into his business. Hiring more pack trains, he was soon selling flour and nails at a dollar a pound, shovels at nine dollars each, and other goods at equally high prices. He became one of his adopted community's leading citizens. ▢

Phillip I. Earl of Reno is curator of history at the Nevada Historical Society and writer of the popular "This Was Nevada" series.

Illustration: Early western lithograph, Nevada Historical Society

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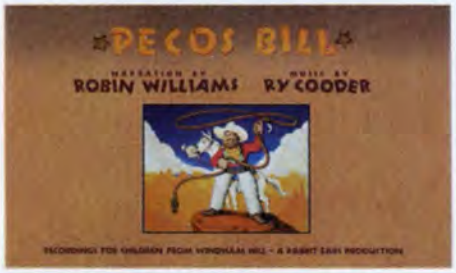


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In this now famous wall poster, photographer Gordon Wiltsie discovers two rattlesnakes that seem to be saying what we all feel:
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These award-winning duotone posters show Nevada as it really was. The posters are large (24" x 28") in size, with appropriate quotations. They fondly recall these scenes: Lonely prospector, #6POST $5.25; Boozy burros go bar hopping in Las Vegas, #7POST $5.25; Girls basketball team, #8POST $5.25; Cowboys at home on the range, #9POST $5.25; Set of four historic posters, #10POST $16.00







The grass-lined reservoir above Spring Mountain Ranch can be seen by tour (top). Lake Harriet is fed by Sandstone Spring, the original source of water for the ranch-turned-state park, which is part of the Red Rock Canyon Recreation Lands. A big day for kids is Woodsy Owl Day (left). The blacksmith shop, which dates back to the 1860s, is built of sandstone blocks (right).

Photos: Kate Butler

RED ROCK OASIS

Once a haven for horse thieves, Spring Mountain Ranch is still a good escape for those who seek history and nature.

By Roberta Sabbath

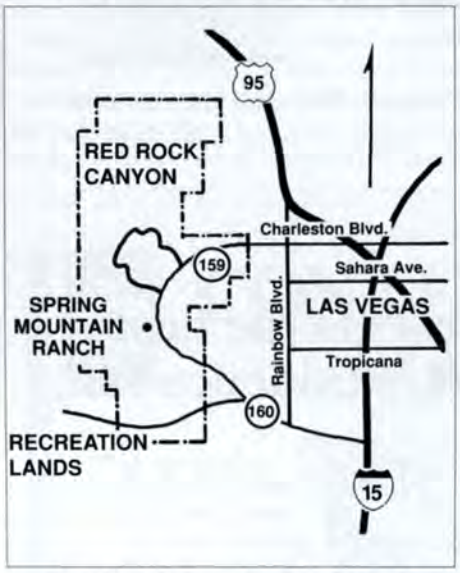
Water skimmers glide across the reservoir called Lake Harriet, which is surrounded by tall marsh grass and trees filled with chattering blackbirds. This is the tranquil scene I enjoy most at Spring Mountain Ranch State Park. The ranch is an oasis 15 miles west of Las Vegas that through the centuries has been a welcome resting place for Paiutes, pioneers, and tourists.

Many park visitors come to admire its long green lawns and its big ranch house. Others like the historical walking tour of the ranch. For me, the natural setting—the Wilson Cliffs above, green trees surrounded by red and brown desert—is the main attraction.

With a picnic lunch and a couple of kids in the car, I head through Red Rock Canyon, my favorite Las Vegas-area drive, on the way to hear a talk on desert survival at the ranch. We stop at the canyon's BLM Visitor Center while taking the 13-mile scenic loop past an incredible landscape of smooth red rocks piled on top of one another in mysterious, breath-taking patterns.

The Wilson Cliffs stand to the west, a great wall of red sandstone that rises 3,500 feet above the desert. Soon we see cottonwood trees along the arroyo that points like a two-way arrow—one way to the ranch, the other to the cliffs. We turn into the park and pass a parking lot and walkway to the permanent stage built by donations to the all-volunteer State Parks Cultural Arts Board. Each year the board works with local organizations like the Allied Arts Council and Actor's Repertory Theatre Group to present family-oriented events. For Super Summer '89, up to 30,000 people are expected to attend its three musicals, jazz concert, benefits, and Woodsy Owl Day of child-centered entertainment.

In June we saw *The Sound of Music*, a production that seemed to have been made for Spring Mountain Ranch. Before the show, couples lingered over their wine and elegant dinners. Moms and dads relaxed while children explored the lawns. The mood was wonderful, the air refreshingly cool. When the players sang "Climb Every Mountain" and "The Hills Are Alive," everyone got goosebumps. That night it was a thrill to see the stars and watch the full moon rise over Black Mountain as we drove home past the small town of Blue Diamond.



As much as I like outdoor theater, what makes Spring Mountain Ranch especially attractive is its ecology. The ranch marks the convergence of three climate zones and boasts a year-round supply of water. It is a perfect setting for the state park system's classes and hikes on such subjects as birding, wildflowers, snakes and lizards, and desert survival.

The place also is alive with history For centuries Paiute Indians made their home in the area. By the early 1800s explorers and traders were establishing the Old Spanish Trail through nearby valleys, and by 1830 the area became a link between Santa Fe and Santa Barbara.

Today's traveler might come here to learn something about the Las Vegas region's history. The blacksmith shop and original ranch house were built in the mid-1800s when "Old Bill" Williams brought hundreds of stolen horses to Red Rock. The mountain man, guide, and trapper-turned-desperado frequented the spot, and it became known as the Bill Williams Ranch. The blacksmith shop of that era has been reconstructed, and its old bellows, tools, and cabinets are in good shape.

Jim Wilson, a former army sergeant, enlarged the original stone farmhouse after he homesteaded the ranch in 1876. Until 1905, when the railroad came to Las Vegas, he ran a successful farm, selling fresh produce and meat to miners, settlers, and travelers.

Today cattle still graze around the ranch. The drop in altitude from the reservoir to the ranch provides the natural pressure needed for the sprinklers to water the pastures. The impeccably maintained New England-style ranch house, built and decorated by radio star Chet Lauck (Lum of the "Lum and Abner" show) and his wife, Harriet, dominate the view. The ranch

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was later owned by Vera Krupp, of the German munitions family, and by Howard Hughes before becoming a state park.

Here, history always seems within reach. I touch the fig tree next to the blacksmith's house, a tree that may have been planted in the 1860s, when my grandmother's grandmother was born—and when Nevada became a state.

On this Saturday morning my children enjoy learning about the blacksmith's building, and they are fascinated by ranger Larry Clinesmith's program on desert survival. Afterwards we walk with the group up the arroyo toward the cliffs and are rewarded with more sounds, smells, and sights of desert life. Western tanagers and ruby-red kinglets fly overhead. Mesquite, piñon pine, yucca, and cholla cactus surround red Indian paintbrush, purple indigo, and white datura. Three bighorn sheep—a startling sight—wander close by. Then Larry whips out a frozen rattlesnake from under a sagebrush, and the kids get to shake the rattle.

The day is complete. I have taken the children to zoos and museums, but the great outdoors is where they learn to care about their environment and their Las Vegas history.

Roberta Sabbath is a student at the University of Nevada-Las Vegas.

SPRING TO IT

Spring Mountain Ranch is 15 miles west of Las Vegas on West Charleston Boulevard (State Route 159). Tours are given on Friday, Saturday, Sunday, and holidays at noon and 1, 2 (if possible), and 3 p.m. Admission is $1 per car in winter, $3 in other seasons. For information write the state park at Box 124, Blue Diamond, NV 89004 or call 702-875-4141.

For information on the nearby Red Rock Canyon Recreation Lands, including hiking and rock climbing, write the BLM Visitor Center, Box 26569, Las Vegas, NV 89126 or call 702-363-1921.

Old Nevada, an Old West theme town, has regular melodramas, hangings, shoot-outs, and the Bonnie Springs Restaurant, with great potato skins inside and a petting zoo outside. It's one mile south of the ranch on State Route 159. —*RS*

BLAZING BLASDEL

(Continued from page 21)

More information emerged in an 1867 report to the legislature by mineralogist Stretch, who had kept a diary. For several weeks the party had traveled south toward the heart of Death Valley. On April 17, at a place Stretch called "Lost Wagons," they found the remains of earlier emigrant parties, testimony to the grim desolation of the region, a land "entirely destitute of every trace of vegetation." The water was alkaline and undrinkable. Three days later the explorers reached Furnace Creek. "When we first arrived there," Stretch wrote, "the weather was intensely hot, the thermometer probably standing at 110 degrees Fahrenheit." The naked mountains reflected the sun's heat, "making the name of the locality perfectly appropriate—for it was a furnace."

Viator's letters, published after the safe return of the expedition, provided details of the journey's darkest days. Lacking a clear trail eastward to Pahranagat, the group made camp and sent small parties to find a passage over the Funeral Range. As Blasdel waited for news of success, a group of prospectors led by the well-known Jacob Breyfogle came across their camp. The encounter was well-timed—one of the search parties was overdue. Blasdel purchased water from Breyfogle and secured the assistance of two of his experienced men to lead the governor and a few others to Pahranagat. Most of Blasdel's companions stayed at Furnace Creek, waiting for their leader to send back supplies. Anxiously, they also watched for the return of the missing search party.

The first two days of the governor's absence passed uneventfully as the men sought shelter from the searing heat and dined on the few doves and lizards that wandered into camp. The cooked lizards, Viator observed, were "equal to any frogs that were ever roasted." While they waited, a member of the lost search party straggled into camp, reporting that the others were scattered along the trail in desperate need of help. All were rescued except a man named Gillis, who remained missing and was later found dead.

About two weeks after the governor's departure, some members of his advance group returned to lead their comrades out of the land of reptilian cuisine. By the second week of May the weary travelers arrived at Pahranagat, "many of them having developed a capacity for walking astonishing to themselves as well as to everyone else," according to Stretch. It had been two months since their departure from Carson City.



Sarah Jane Blasdel, like her husband, was said to be a strict Methodist.

They found about 150 hardy souls living in the mining camps scattered throughout the Pahranagat Valley. The area seemed to have too little water, or too much located in the wrong places, such as Pahranagat Lakes. "Provisions of all kinds except flour are scarce and high," Viator told his readers. Stretch agreed in his accounts, which also appeared in the *Enterprise*. "Bacon," he wrote, "was not to be had for love or money." The closest thing to a store in the camp of Logan was a wagon loaded with supplies. The grocer at Silver Canyon sold a little whiskey in the absence of a saloon. As far as Stretch was concerned, Crystal Springs had one redeeming feature: "It was the only place where it was possible to get a shirt decently fixed up." Hiko, one of the most important settlements and a future county seat, received little mention in the travelers' records.

Disputed mining claims and poor development of mineral deposits left Blasdel and his companions unexcited about Pahranagat's prospects. After several days spent exploring the region, the company returned to Carson City by the traditional route through Austin. The *Reveille* took the opportu-

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CENTRAL PARK LOUNGE
Where the Locals Meet

Photo: Nevada Historical Society

THE TALL MAN JURY

Before he was governor Henry Blasdel was a successful mining man in Virginia City. There he took part in an intriguing footnote to Nevada legal history—the Long Jury, or the Tall Man Jury. Thompson and West's History of Nevada, 1881 *described the novel juries gathered by Storey County Sheriff Howard in the early 1860s:*

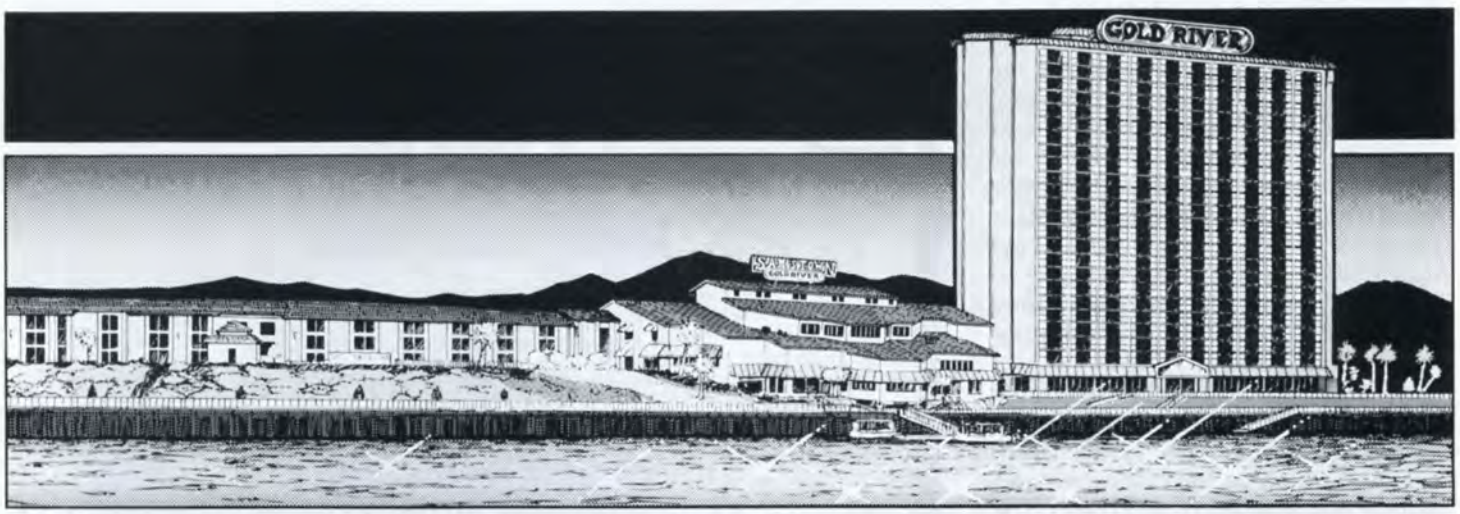
He once summoned a jury of squint-eyed men, and the lawyers were nearly crazed in trying to get the attention of the jurors. The next time he summoned the fattest men in the county, and the jury-box was running over with oleaginous matter for the whole week. The next the thinnest men were in the jury-box that could be found. It is said the Sheriff had also planned to summons the ugliest men for another session; also the handsomest, which raised such curiosity that the court had to interfere, as the crowds coming to see the show would seriously interrupt business. Sheriff Howard summoned the following tall men:

Name	Height Feet	Inches
H. G. Blaisdel [sic]	6	5
O. P McCalmont	6	4 7/8
J. B. Chin	6	4 1/2
John N. Crans	6	2 3/4
L. Rawings	6	2 1/2
Samuel Doake	6	1 7/8
Samuel A. Chapin	6	1 5/8
J. M. Merill	6	1 1/3
D. Bailey	6	1
Joe Clark	6	1/2
Thomas Taylor	6	1/8
William McCoy	5	11 3/4
S. B. Bloomfield	5	11 3/4
William Welch	5	11 1/2
Cornelius Finley	5	11
H. M. Vessey	5	10

Those who ascribe greatness of soul to those who have large bodies will find an argument in the liberal character of this jury, for they donated the scrip to which they were entitled to the Ladies' Relief Society of Gold Hill and Virginia City. The first of the list was afterwards Governor of Nevada, and many of the others achieved distinction. The long jury is still remembered by many of the citizens of Storey County.



Blasdel in his younger days.



GOLD RIVER IS RISING!

We'll be standing on higher ground when we've completed our new 25-story tower and multi-million dollar expansion project. So drift on by. where the excitement's building and Gold River's rising!

SAM'S TOWN
GOLD RIVER
Hotel & Gambling Hall • Laughlin, Nevada

Photo: Nevada Historical Society

nity to get a few of the governor's impressions of the journey. Evidently keeping the morbid curiosity of its readers in mind, the paper devoted as much space to the events surrounding Gillis' death as it did to Blasdel's opinion of the Pahranagat Mining District.

Blasdel's appearance in Austin seemed to confirm Stretch's observation that the district suffered from, among other things, inadequate laundry facilities. The governor appeared to be in good health, the *Reveille* observed, "but the wanted comeliness of the outer man [was] somewhat marred." When Blasdel later passed through Virginia City en route to the capital, Gold Hill journalist Alf Doten confided in his diary that Nevada's chief executive looked "mighty rough and dirty."

By most accounts Blasdel's trip to Pahranagat was a failure. In early April the *Reveille* had smugly noted that some members of the "silk-stockinged" expedition had already given up and returned home, perhaps disgusted that they couldn't find a decent restaurant or hotel in the desert. The newspaper confidently predicted that the rest would soon follow and pronounced the venture "a grand fizzle."

Others joked about teetotaler Blasdel's preference for water over whiskey Unionville's *Humboldt Register* suggested that had the governor "accustomed himself for years, as some have, to get along without water, he might have gone on prospecting; and never have known anything about the water, except that it would run, on a down grade."

But the failure of the expedition went deeper than that. The governor had found an unpromising mining district and not enough voters to organize a county. His attempt to find a safe, direct route to the region proved fruitless. And it remained uncertain whether the district was in Nevada or Utah.

Although Lincoln County had too few settlers to organize in 1866, a Congressional act took a full longitudinal degree from the disgruntled territories of Utah and Arizona and added it to Nevada's eastern boundary. Further development in the area led to the organization of Lincoln County in 1867 The Pahranagat Mining District, like so many other would-be El Dorados, failed to justify the earlier euphoria, but it did help set the stage for Pioche's boom in the 1870s.

Upon his return to Carson City, Blasdel immediately made plans for an eight-day trip to San Francisco. It was truly a different time, when a governor could to place his financial interests in the hands of a prominent developer, disappear into the desert for more than a month, and then return to the capital only to leave again. Henry Blasdel had failed to become Nevada's first Columbus or even another John Fremont, but he did show how harrowing a business trip could be on Nevada's uncharted frontier.

> Blasdel was in good health, the *Reveille* observed, 'but the wanted comeliness of the outer man [was] somewhat marred.'

Susan James of Carson City teaches history at the University of Nevada-Reno. She likes to travel to places that are already on a map.









Senator William Stewart's sandstone house (top) was later occupied by Territorial Governor James Nye. The porch (right) pointed toward the Capitol. Orion Clemens, brother of Mark Twain, lived in this house on Division Street (below). The E.D. Sweeney Building (below right) may have been Carson City's first brick structure.





Photos: Jay Aldrich (top and bottom left); John Tylczak (center and bottom right)



George Washington Gale Ferris, Jr., inventor of the Ferris Wheel, as a boy lived in the house his father built in 1869.

WEST SIDE STORY

Rediscovering pioneer days in Carson City's historic neighborhoods.
By George Smith

Carson City was a remote outpost in the 1860s. The winds blew hot in the summer and brought freezing snow storms in the winter. And the Donner Party had shown 20 years before that a trip over the mountains to California wasn't all that simple.

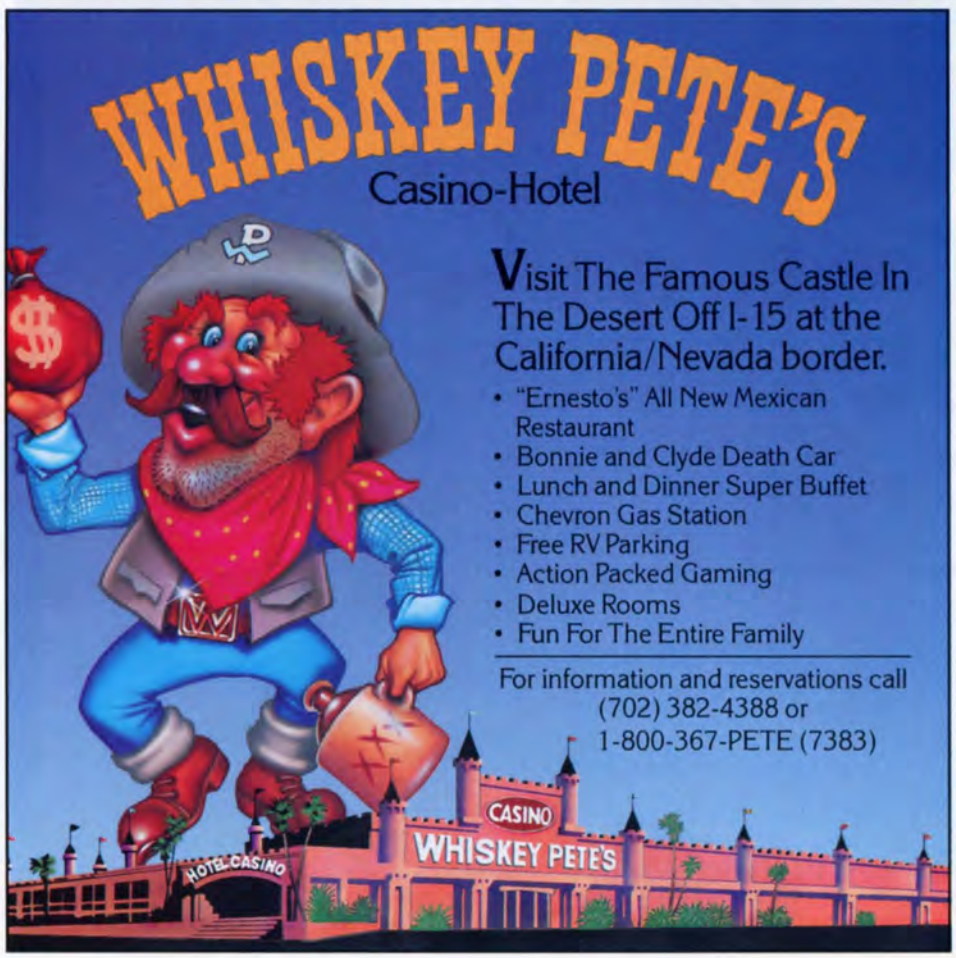
Nevertheless, as Nevada's young capital grew, it developed some handsome neighborhoods. Houses and business buildings were built in popular styles and of sturdy materials—wood, brick, and frequently prison sandstone, the favorite material of town founder Abe Curry, who owned the quarry near the state prison.

'Carson's west side is the most important historic district from the 1860s and '70s in the state.'

Today you can discover early Carson City by taking a drive or walk on the west side, the oldest and greenest part of town. There are brochures, available at the chamber of commerce, that describe walking and driving tours of the most venerable homes and public buildings. On Sunday, October 1, the local Nevada Landmark Society

Photo: Jay Aldrich





conducts its annual tour of historic homes—a kind of roving party for historic architecture buffs.

"Carson's west side is the most important historic district from the 1860s and '70s in the state," says Ana B. Koval, a preservation consultant and Washoe Valley resident. Koval, an advisor to the National Trust for Historic Preservation, points out that much of Virginia City's early architecture was destroyed by the Fire of 1875. "Carson has the best collection from that period overall, and there's more Greek Revival in Carson than anywhere else."

> Orion Clemens' home, built in 1863 or '64, was visited at times by brother Sam, a Virginia City reporter who took the name Mark Twain.

The homes are the result of fortunes won in the mines of the Comstock, in railroads and Tahoe lumber mills. They also are the homes of early statesmen, doctors, lawyers, and merchants.

Most of these whispers of the past can be found on the tree-lined streets west of the Capitol, itself built in 1870-71. On Division Street one can walk past the 1863 home of H.M. Yerington, head of the Virginia and Truckee Railroad. The home of Orion Clemens, secretary of Nevada Territory, was built in 1863 or 1864. Orion's brother Sam visited there after becoming a Virginia City reporter and taking the name Mark Twain. A few blocks away, Margaret Ormsby, whose husband was killed during the Pyramid Lake War, fashioned a handsome Gothic Revival house in the early 1860s.

One of the earliest homes, built of sandstone in 1860, is that of William Stewart, one of Nevada's first U.S. senators. The house was also the domicile of James Nye, the territorial governor and later a U.S. senator, and of Nevada Supreme Court Justice George Talbot. Recently restored, it survives as the rectory and office of St. Teresa of Avila Catholic Church.

Why the historic district occupies the west side of town is a matter of some conjecture, but the reasons seem to begin with Abe Curry

Curry, Carson City's founder and tireless booster, planned a plaza for the center of town that would one day house the Capitol and other government buildings. Thus, as Nevada became a territory and then a state, a natural downtown district formed nearby on the main street. These commercial buildings were simple brick structures of one to three stories designed to be practical places of business. Homes were erected off the main thoroughfare, many of them to the west.

Carson's slow growth before 1960 — when its population was only about 5,000 — may have helped preserve the area's historic character.

Following the trend begun by Curry, homes on the east side apparently were often torn down to make way for commercial and government development over the years. Meanwhile, Carson's slow growth before 1960—its population was only about 5,000 then, as opposed to more than 36,000 today—may have helped preserve the west side's historic character.

The search for shade also may have favored building on the west side, in that streams from the mountains may have brought more water to that side for trees.

Carson now has a wide range of architectural styles dating from the 1860s to the 1930s, including Greek Revival, Gothic Revival, Italianate, and Second Empire. Carsonites are working to preserve this heritage through the Historic Architecture Review Committee, which sets guidelines for home building and design in historic neighborhoods.

An exploration of the old-time capital is easy with a couple of guides. One is an illustrated walking tour that spotlights 30 sites, including residences and churches. It can be obtained from the Carson City Chamber of Commerce at its new quarters next to the Nevada State Railroad Museum at 1900 South Carson Street (call 702-882-1565). This fall new tour guides for walkers, drivers, and mountain-bike riders will be available, too. An additional source of information is the Historic Architecture Review Committee; for guidelines write the city's Department of Community Development, 2621 Northgate Lane, Suite 65, Carson City, NV 89706, or call 887-2180.

For details on the Nevada Landmark Society's annual tour of historic Carson homes on October 1, call 882-6736 evenings. Usually half a dozen homes are featured.

And if you have a chance to explore one of those houses, to walk up the steps of an old and gracious staircase and admire the craftsmanship and sense of design of a bygone era, you can sense the pride, and the hard work, that Carson's pioneers put into their desert homes.

George Smith is a Civil War buff and former Carson resident.



The Capitol, since expanded and renovated, was built in 1870-71 on Curry's plaza.

Photo: Jay Aldrich

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BEGINNING ON PAGE 55

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(Continued from page 31)

tury, she stood five feet, eight inches in height, and had brunette hair. She was about 30, and unmarried, when she took a railroad trip west with her sister, Ann Jennings. They were met by Ann's husband Isaac in Ogden and then traveled the Mormon Trail. Unable to cross the Colorado River at Eldorado Canyon, they took refuge at Las Vegas Ranch, where Gass had time to make Mary Virginia's acquaintance.

Perhaps at Gass' urging, the Jennings bought land from a Moapa Valley Mormon who was returning to Utah. With Mary Virginia ensconced on a farm near St. Thomas, Gass courted her, regularly making the 120-mile round trip. Finally, Mary Virginia married O.D. at Pioche, the county seat, on February 24, 1872.

At the ranch Gass built an irrigation system and normally grew two crops each year. The first was of small grains such as wheat, oats, and barley. Local Paiutes, for wages in kind, harvested the grains. After the first harvest they planted the fields in cabbages, onions, potatoes, beets, melons, corn, and pink Mexican beans. About 60 Paiutes harvested these crops in the fall. Gass made wine for himself and for sale to travelers. His orchards grew figs, apricots, apples, and peaches.

To live as the Gasses did in the Las Vegas Valley was to live in sometimes uncomfortable isolation. Indeed, Gass tried to sell his ranch in the late 1870s. Besides trying to pay for his tin-mine litigation, he also recognized that his growing family—the Gasses would have seven children—was rather isolated in the desert he was trying to make bloom.

They were far from schools and stores, visiting only with the few nearby ranchers and with travelers from the trail. They were forced to cope with the scorching heat of summer. They also had to deal with Indians who usually were friendly and served as ranch hands. But in 1878 rumors of Indian displeasure prompted Gass to load his children and pregnant wife into a covered wagon and flee to the mining town of Ivanpah, 40 miles west. When he returned, all was well and the ranch was under the control of his employees, but the situation reminded the Gasses of their tenuous position. The sale of small grains, fruits and vegetables, and his horses and cattle helped financially, but they led neither to

It was so desolate at Callville that three horse thieves were able to steal wooden doors and use them to build a raft and elude their pursuers by sailing down the Colorado.

safety nor to the creation of a town.

At the ranch, Mary Virginia was helped by Paiute women with the cleaning and washing. The cooking was done by a Bavarian farmhand or a Chinese cook who was the first Oriental to live in the Las Vegas area. Despite all the help Mary Virginia found much to do. She sewed a great deal, left-handedly; she was ambidextrous in

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Not until 1982 was the Nevada Constitution amended so that Las Vegas was officially a part of Nevada.

most things. She kept a shotgun handy and would gun down hawks preying on her chickens.

Gass had other interests in the area, particularly in the Mormon seaport of Callville on the Colorado River. The year 1864 marked the beginning of Callville's short-lived development.

The Church had decided to extend its missionizing activities into what is now southern Nevada, renewing interest in the Muddy and Virgin rivers. The Mormons wanted to raise cotton, which Southern secession had left in short supply, and to counter non-Mormon miners in the vicinity. They hoped that a port would serve as a gateway to and from southern Utah. Brigham Young wanted to bring goods and converts to Utah from Europe by way of the Isthmus of Panama and the Gulf of California and then up the Colorado.

Young dispatched a bishop, Anson W Call, who chose a spot that is now beneath the waters of Lake Mead at Callville Bay. The Mormons built a stone warehouse and waited and hoped, but to no avail. Callville was too far up the Colorado—steamboats couldn't navigate the sandbars—and mining had slowed somewhat in Eldorado Canyon. Only a few steamships made the trip.

In 1867 Gass became postmaster there and held the job until the post office and Mormon interests in Callville were discontinued in 1869.

In the meantime, though, Gass apparently invested money in the Callville project. Starting a long line of boosterism that has continued in the Las Vegas area, he wrote to the *Arizona Miner* in Prescott, "Since it has been fully demonstrated that the Colorado is navigable to Callville the rapid accumulation of steamers for this trade will astonish the most sanguine." Of course, steamers did not rapidly accumulate, but Gass kept promoting Callville, and Arizona newspapers of the time listed him as a Callville resident although he resided at the Las Vegas Ranch.

By 1867, Callville had lost its status as the seat of Pah-Ute County, Arizona. By 1869, the port had been abandoned, and it was so desolate that three horse thieves were able to steal the heavy wooden doors from the stone warehouse and use them to build a raft and elude their pursuers by sailing down the Colorado.

While promoting the virtues of Callville, Gass also served in Arizona's territorial legislature. He helped set up Pah-Ute County in what is now southern Nevada and represented it successively in both houses, even serving as presiding officer.

Arizona editors and politicians generally liked and respected Gass, but he soon found he was in the wrong legislature. On May 5, 1866, Congress switched Pah-Ute County from Arizona to Nevada, making it the southern tip of Lincoln County, which also was expanded to the east with lands from Utah Territory.

Gass and his Arizona friends were distraught. They asked Nevada's legislators to create Las Vegas County out of southern Lincoln County, but their pleas were ignored. Then Lincoln County officials demanded that Gass pay them back taxes, which he owed from a period when he tried to keep his holdings a part of the Arizona territory The Mormon settlers along the Muddy and Virgin rivers had returned to Utah when they found that they were part of Nevada, depriving Gass of some of his customers. He remained burdened by the tin-mine litigation and his growing ranch, and the only political office he was able to obtain was justice of the peace.

In 1876, Gass mortgaged the ranch to his old friend and neighbor William Knapp and ended up selling some of his California holdings to pay the debt. In 1879, he arranged a loan from wealthy Pioche rancher and businessman Archibald Stewart, and they later renegotiated the agreement.

However, when the notes came due on May 2, 1881, Gass was unable to settle, and he and his family left Las

Vegas the following month.

The Gasses moved to California, where O.D. farmed and mined without much success almost until his death on December 10, 1924, an event that passed unnoticed in the Los Angeles newspapers and which the *Las Vegas Age* mentioned only briefly in an inaccurate obituary.

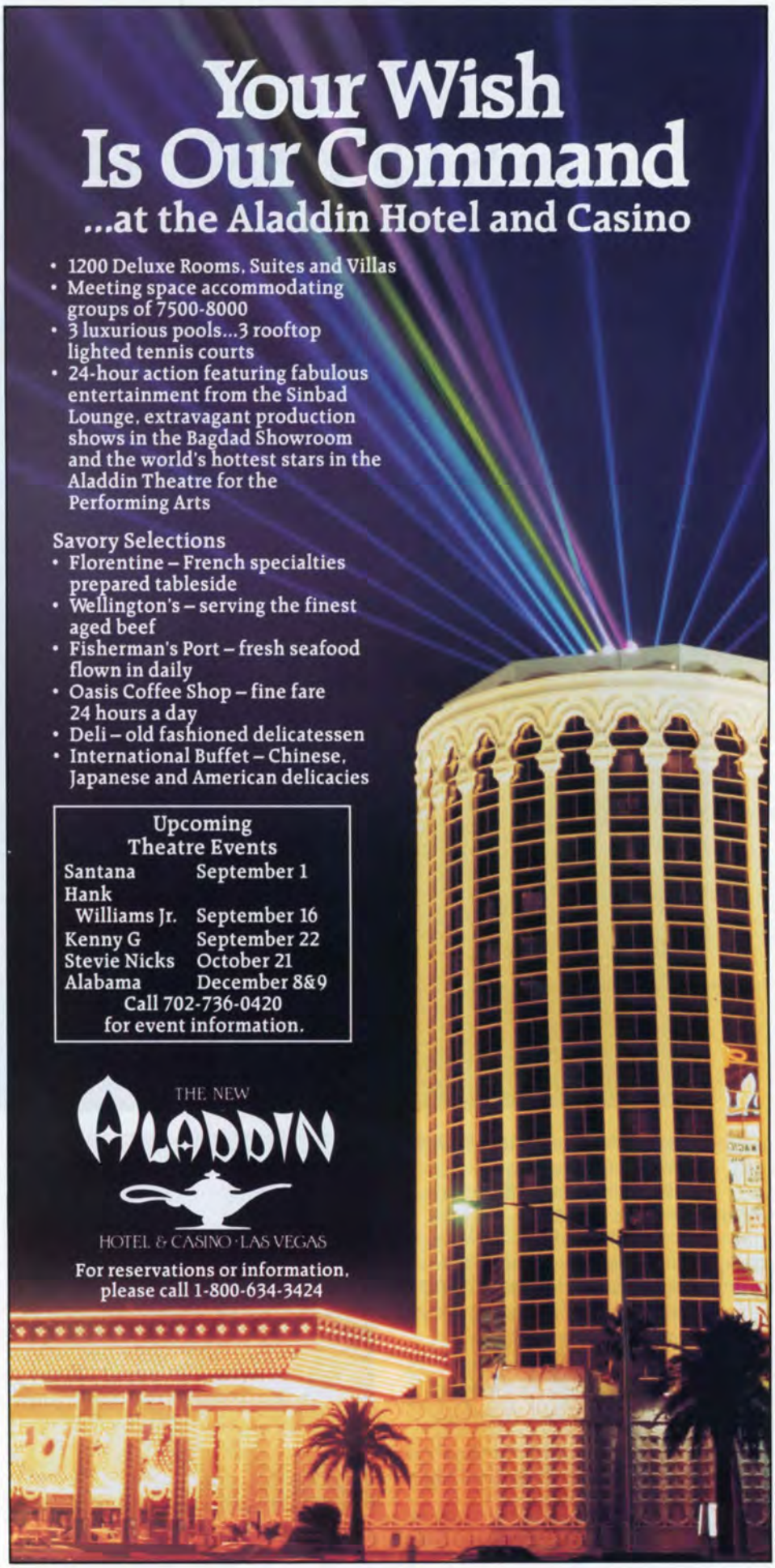
Through many of his years at Las Vegas, Gass was a reluctant Nevadan. And yet it might be said that he remained an Arizonan without knowing it. The Nevada Legislature was happy to accept the addition of southern Nevada, and it did so unanimously in 1867 But the Nevada Constitution was left unchanged. Not until 1982 was it amended so that Las Vegas was officially a part of Nevada.

It may seem that the 1860s, so dynamic in western Nevada, were insignificant in southern Nevada. After all, the area remained largely unsettled, and for the bulk of the decade—or, to be painfully precise about it, for more than a century, although for good reason nobody argues the legal point—it wasn't even a part of the state.

But several important seeds had been sown. Octavius Decatur Gass proved to be the first permanent settler at Las Vegas, and after him Archibald Stewart, his survivors, and their friends and employees would remain at the ranch until the building of the San Pedro, Los Angeles, and Salt Lake Railroad would lead to the auction that established Las Vegas on May 15, 1905. And Gass began a long tradition of boosterism and promotion in Las Vegas that would bear rich fruit in the decades after his death.

Today, Las Vegas is Nevada's largest city, a tourist mecca of world renown. In 1864, when Nevada achieved statehood, Las Vegas was a one-horse town—and, in fact, wasn't even part of the state. O.D. Gass would be proud.

Ralph J. Roske is an emeritus professor of history at the University of Nevada-Las Vegas. He is the author of four books and several articles and book chapters. Michael S. Green is a former reporter and news editor for the now-defunct Valley Times *and a UNLV graduate now pursuing doctoral studies in history at Columbia University. This article is based on Roske's book,* Las Vegas: A Desert Paradise, *published in 1986, and their recent article in the* Journal of Arizona History, *"Octavius Decatur Gass: Pah-Ute County Pioneer"*



STEVEN SAYLOR

'There is no substitute for character.'



"Last of the Constables," 1979

GLAZED WATERCOLOR ON PANEL, 10"x12"

"I had wanted to paint Rocky Adamson as the constable, and what always fascinated me is that he rolled his own cigarettes. He could do it in one hand, and he always had that old-time Bull Durham sack with the little gold medallion on the end. It was just classic stuff."



Artist Steven Saylor of Dayton.

The noise level can get pretty intense at Steven Saylor's place in Dayton. With 14 howling peacocks, a rooster that crows 'way past dawn, and a parrot named Radar that squawks in your ear, any conversation is bound to be interrupted. "I can't compete with Radar," Saylor says. "He feels he has to talk the whole time I'm talking."

Animals are a big reason why Saylor lives in this small town east of Carson City. "I moved out to Dayton in '73 because I wanted to have some animals," explains Saylor, who grew up in Ohio but was always enamored of the



"Liberty Rider," 1980

GLAZED WATERCOLOR ON PANEL, 14"x14"

"The gal's name is Mette Ellerman, and I happened to catch this little routine at the end of the rodeo. Just as people were starting to leave, Mette's mother handed her the flag, and everyone was taken by surprise. It was real impressive."

West. "I wanted to have a horse."

Saylor's first steed came from the Rolling A Ranch, where he often went to sketch scenes of cowboy life. Watching him draw, the ranch's managers invited Saylor to work on the spread so he could "really get to know it."

While working there, Saylor began experimenting with a glazed watercolor technique. The process, which he gleaned from artists like Maxfield Parrish, involves spraying a layer of lacquer after each color is applied, sometimes building up to 600 layers. Now he spends as much as eight months, six hours a day, on a single painting.

As he works on one picture, Saylor prepares for the next by taking elaborate photographs, compete with props and costumes. Most times he uses friends, relatives, and neighbors as models, spending a lot of time getting them to relax. He recalls, "For one picture, 'Red Eye Express,' I ran up a $487 bar bill in two hours." But, he adds, "the process of bringing people together is very satisfying."

When a model is used as a stand-in, Saylor eventually tracks down the real character In his "Heavyweights" painting, which was commissioned to raise funds for a Carson City railroad project, Saylor flew to Washington, D.C. to photograph Senator Paul Laxalt reading a newspaper.

Saylor's newest interest lies in the East—the Far East. What excites him are the different colors and atmosphere of the Orient. He plans to paint more pictures that reflect Asian culture.

But wherever he paints, there is much preparation. "I learned from Norman Rockwell that as an illustrator you've got to do your homework," Saylor says. "There is no substitute for trying to have the proper props and the right kind of character for a scene."

—Cliff Glover





10 GREAT HISTORICAL EVENTS

(Continued from page 78)



The Corbett-Fitzsimmons fight was the first of a series of major bouts in Nevada. Above, Jack Johnson (right) faces a sparring partner in Reno in 1910.

Pacific Northwest to end in Seattle were serious contenders.

4 The Comstock's Decline

During the late 1870s, the decline of the Comstock caused the state's population to hemorrhage and brought Nevadans face to face with an uncomfortable truth: Nevada is naturally resource-poor. Until then, there had been no reason to consider resources other than minerals. The overpowering Comstock boom had protected Nevadans from having to think about what came *after*

Suddenly, with the Virginia City mines shutting down and laying off, *after* was *now*. If mining was not the state's permanent mainstay, and if there was nothing to replace it, then what justified Nevada at all? It was a thought that quickly entered the mind of the nation that had made Nevada a state a few years before. National opinion leaders began wondering whether Nevada's statehood should be revoked. The economic hard times following the Comstock decline would last a quarter century.

5 Prizefighting Paves the Way

In 1897, as one response to the depression unleashed by the Comstock decline, Nevada began an experiment of creating industries through legislation. A heavyweight championship bout, the Corbett-Fitzsimmons fight,

Photo: Nevada Historical Society

was looking for a site, and was not welcome in most jurisdictions (boxing was an unspeakable activity in mainstream society at the time). Nevada quickly passed legislation legalizing prizefighting in hopes of attracting people to the economically-depressed state, and the bout between heavyweight champion James Corbett and middleweight champion Robert Fitzsimmons took place in Carson City on St. Patrick's Day.

Abuse began to land on the Silver State for hosting and encouraging this disreputable "sport." Nevada had, since the decline of the Comstock, been thought of by many around the nation as sort of useless; now it was considered offensive as well. This was the start of Nevada's reputation as a renegade state—a reputation later enhanced when the state legislated more industries that offended the nation's sensibilities (gambling, divorce, quickie marriage, prostitution, laetrile, gerovital).

6 New Mining Booms

By the turn of the century, Nevada's population had fallen to 42,000, and the talk of revoking statehood continued. The 20th-century mining booms around Ely and in Tonopah and Goldfield revived Nevada as a respectable entity and put an end to most of the statehood revocation talk. The precious metals mined in Tonopah and Goldfield and elsewhere in central Nevada generated the glory and glamour of the boom and created in Goldfield a city that for a time was the state's largest community and political center.

The mining of less dazzling metals like copper in White Pine County would transform eastern Nevada and



Governor Sparks made an appearance at Ely's Railroad Day in 1906.



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While legalized gambling fueled growth in Reno (left), Hoover Dam switched the state's power to Las Vegas in the south.

would have a staying power that gold and silver did not.

7 Divorce and Gambling

During these years, Reno was growing steadily into a larger and more influential community Goldfield rose and fell, but Reno kept accumulating power. It eventually came to dominate the state so completely that Walter Van Tilburg Clark would call it the "state-city." But to the World Outside, the name "Reno" meant two things: divorce and gambling. Nevada had first gotten into the business of easy divorce in the early 1900s when other states adopted stricter divorce laws.

In 1931, the state finally undercut all other competition for the nation's divorce trade by shortening the residency period to six weeks and legalizing gambling to boot, both responses to economic hard times. Their legalization cast in iron the "outlaw state" image Nevada had been building. Divorce in particular shaped Reno's

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Photos: Nevada Magazine Collection

image. "She's going to Reno" meant only one thing, the end of a marriage. It was an image advanced in books, motion pictures, magazines, newsreels, and radio plays. Celebrity divorces and films like *Six Weeks in Reno* and *The Women* gave the whole thing a glamour that it rarely had in reality.

8 The Boulder Canyon Project

Reno's dominance of the state, however, was about to decline as inexorably as the walls of Hoover (Boulder) Dam rose. The Boulder Canyon Project would permanently change Nevada as no mining boom or railroad ever did. People started coming to southern Nevada seeking jobs when the dam was still just a Congressional proposal. By 1931, economic hard times had fueled that immigration. It would shift Nevada's population center and made Las Vegas more than a crossroad.

The tightly controlled Boulder City community had been designed by the federal government as a combination company town and military reservation in a deliberate effort to shield workers from Nevada's famed vices. Las Vegas suffered from no such handicap and was—as a railroad stop—more in the mainstream of commerce.

9 Atomic Testing

By the 1950s, southern Nevada had already claimed the majority of the state's population when another federal project with powerful implications for the state's future entered the scene. The opening of the Nevada Atomic Test Site was welcomed by most of the state's politicians. But a steady stream of concerned correspondence between citizens (particularly those living near and downwind of the Test Site) and the state's congressional members attested to the questions that residents had about the health and safety issues surrounding the program. In the 1970s and '80s political leaders raised more questions about the testing program and other federal activities in the state. Moreover, the establishment of the Test Site helped create a mindset in the nation's capital of Nevada as a good place to deposit projects that would be unwelcome in other states.

10 Corporate Gambling

Meanwhile, during these same years, Nevada's best known industry was undergoing a basic change. In 1967, the passage by the state legislature of the corporate gambling bill began the conversion of the state's leading industry from a single-owner or family-run orientation to the more detached, efficiency-oriented world of big business. It changed the physical face of the industry, too, particularly in Las Vegas. The investment capital that came with publicly traded corporations made possible the construction of the massive monoliths that line the Las Vegas Strip. Once big business came to Nevada, the casino industry was never the same.

It's still possible, in Las Vegas, Reno, and especially the rural counties to find casinos with local or family ownership. They're dwindling in number, but they're a part of Nevada and its history as well.

Guy Louis Rocha, Nevada's state archivist, is coauthor of The Earps' Last Frontier, *with Jeff Kintop, and* The Ignoble Conspiracy, *with Sally Springmeyer Zanjani. Dennis Myers, former deputy secretary of state of Nevada, is now senior correspondent and chief documentary producer with KTVN News in Reno.*



10 GREAT

HISTORIC EVENTS

These developments helped shape the Nevada we know today.

By Dennis Myers and Guy Louis Rocha

Over the course of the history of the Silver State, countless people and events have shaped the Nevada that we know today. Following are 10 such events. This is not an attempt to select the 10 *most* historic events in the state's history—only to highlight less familiar aspects of some very familiar stories.

1 Discovery of the Comstock

Think of it this way: If there had been no Comstock, Nevada would in all likelihood now be a part of Utah or California. Until 1861, much of the area we think of as Nevada was a part of Carson County, Utah Territory In 1859, settlers in the Washoe country, fed up with inadequate government services such as law enforcement, and frustrated by the geographical remoteness of the Salt Lake territorial government, seceded from Utah. They elected a governor, legislature, and congressional delegate and petitioned Washington for separate territorial status.

So the process of creating an identity for the Washoe area separate from Utah was already underway, but there was no guarantee that it would end with an independent territory Even within western Utah, many supported annexation to California. The Comstock discovery gave the Washoe country a powerful distinct national identity and made statehood possible.

2 Paramount Allegiance

Nevada approached statehood during a time—the end of the Civil War—when federal officials were determined that new states would have to prove what was known as their "paramount allegiance" to federal authority over state rights as a condition for entry into the Union. As a result, the drafting of the Nevada Constitution was an exercise in subservience to federal power.

The document, drafted in 1864 as a Reconstruction document, contains (unknown to most Nevadans today) language that thrusts state authority forcefully into the hands of the federal government—a development that would have enormous legal impact when Washington came looking for land in the 1950s, '60s, and '70s.

The best known clause of this type today is one that forswore any state claim to most of the land in the state. The Sagebrush Rebellion of the 1970s would fail to remedy what was lost in this clause.







Virginia City in the 1860s (top), territorial secessionist Isaac Roop (center), and Tonopah miners (bottom).

3 Rails Across Nevada

Mining gave Nevada its first reason for existence and its immediate ongoing image, but the construction of the Central Pacific Railroad in the late 1860s did more to carve out the state's enduring configuration. It is hard to imagine what a map of Nevada would look like without the northern tier of communities—Wells, Elko, Carlin, Battle Mountain, Winnemucca, Lovelock, Wadsworth, Sparks, Reno—that owe their existence to the railroad rather than to mining. Wadsworth, for instance, literally rose and fell with the railroad.

That transcontinental rail route, which crosses Nevada to end in San Francisco, seems perfectly logical, even inevitable, today. But prior to the final selection, routes that crossed Arizona Territory to end in Los Angeles and the

(Continued on page 74)

Photos: Nevada State Museum (top); Nevada Historical Society (center); Central Nevada Historical Society (bottom)

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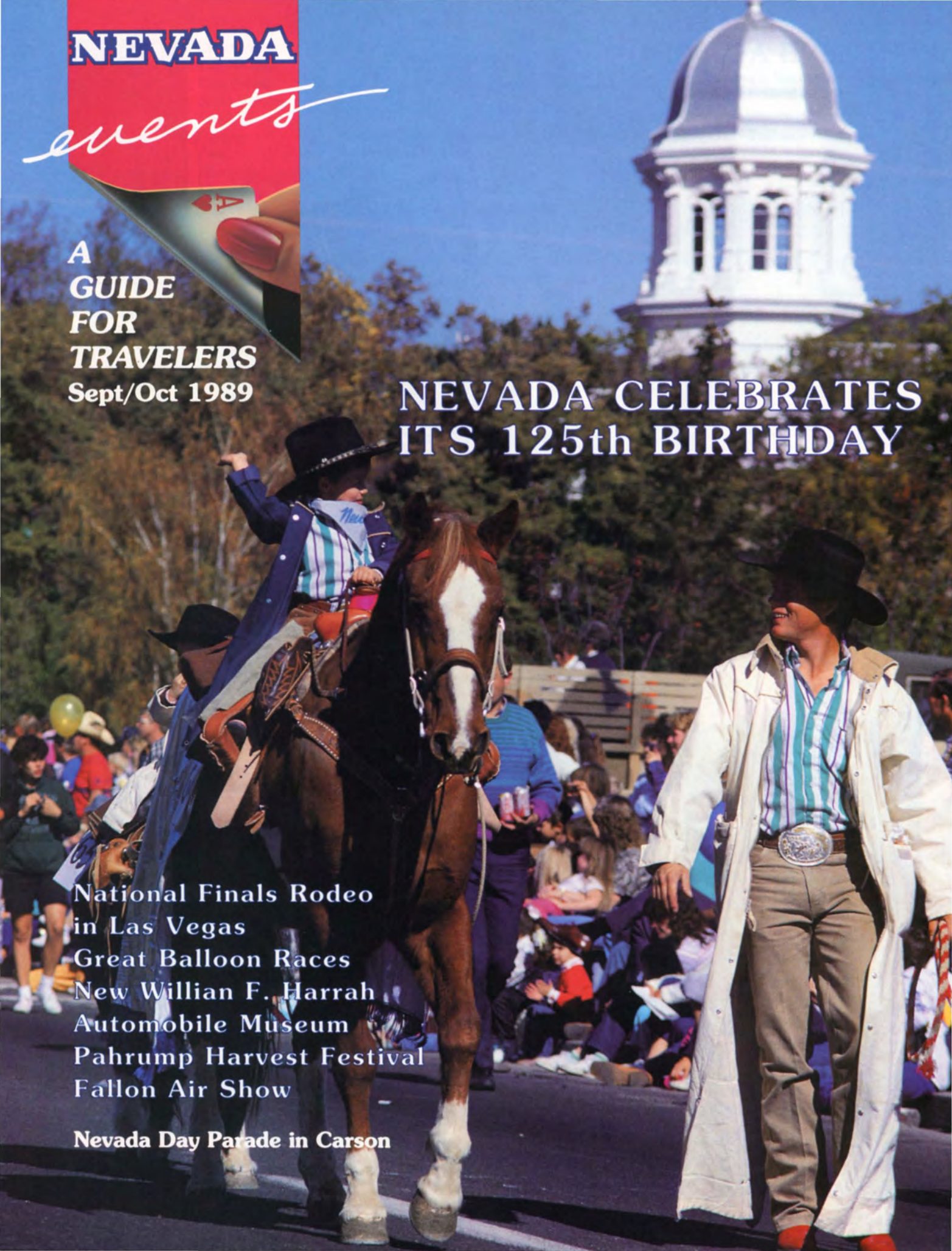
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NEVADA events

A GUIDE FOR TRAVELERS

Sept/Oct 1989

NEVADA CELEBRATES ITS 125th BIRTHDAY



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Cover Photo: The Nevada Day Parade down Carson Street in Carson City. Photo by Mary E. Messenger

NEVADA EVENTS

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September/October 1989

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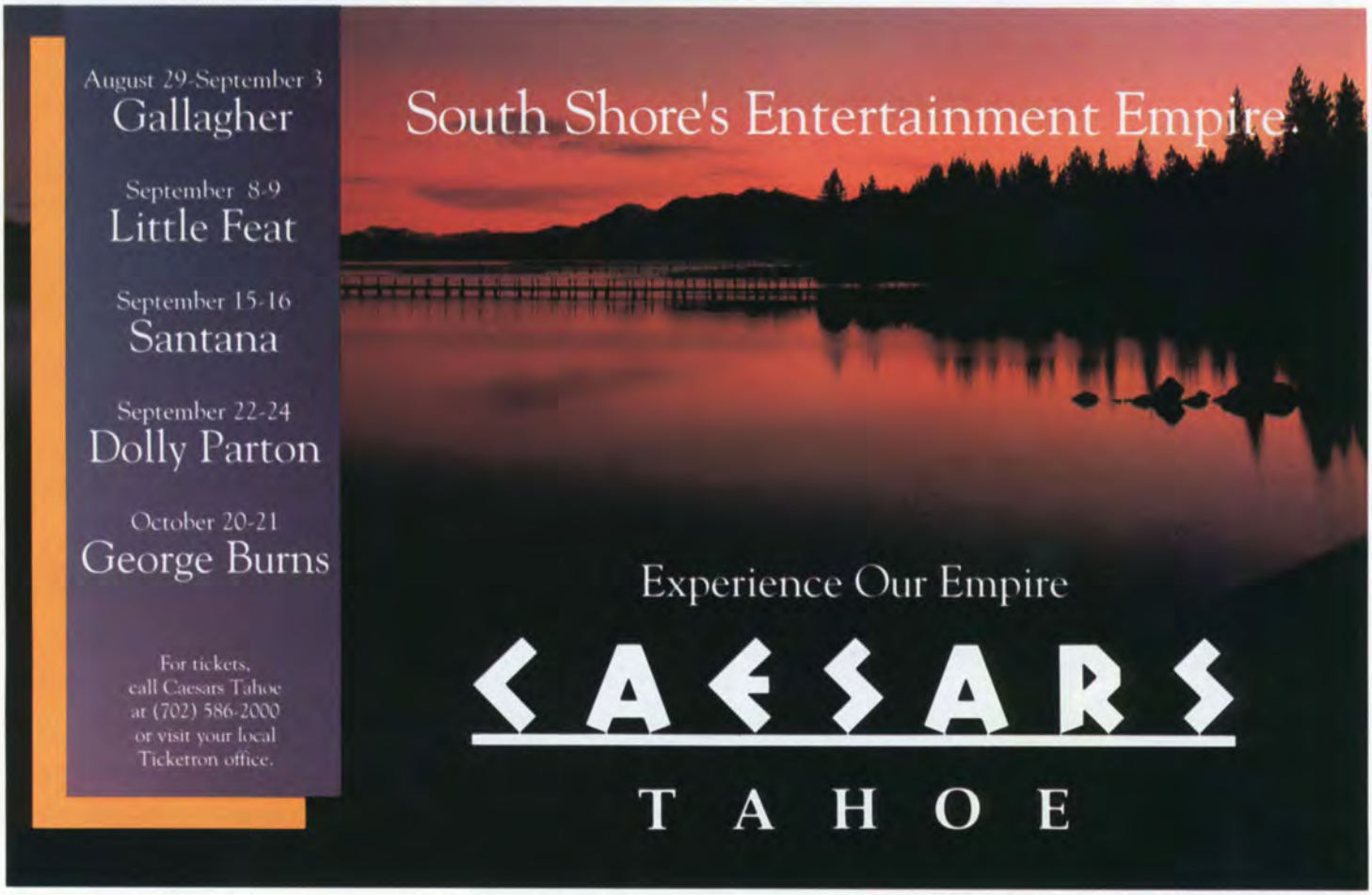
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TRAVEL PLANNER

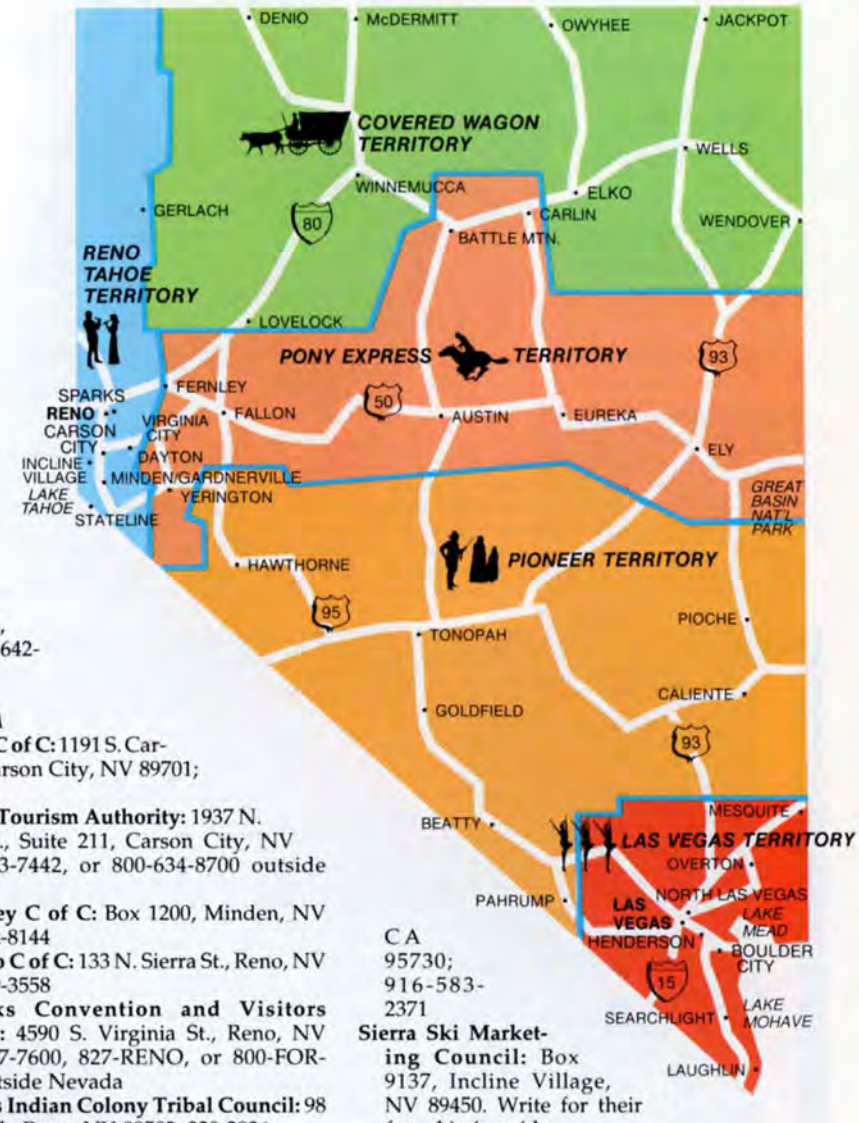
GETAWAY HOT LINES

Here's where to call or write for vacation tips.

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; 687-3636 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 Convention and Visitors Bureau: 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.

LAS VEGAS AREA

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 Blvd., 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

Incline Village/Crystal Bay Convention and Visitors Bureau: Drawer CS, Incline Village, NV 89450; 832-1606 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 their 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

Beatty C of C: Box 946, Beatty, NV 89003; 553-2339

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

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

Dayton C of C: Box 408, Dayton, NV 89403; 246-0525
Elko C of C: 1601 Idaho St., Elko, NV 89801; 738-7135
Elko Convention and Visitors Authority: 700 Moren Way, Elko, NV 89801; 738-4091, or 1-800-248-ELKO outside Nevada
Ely's Bristlecone Convention Center: Box 958, Ely, NV 89301; 289-3720
Eureka County C of C: Box 14, Eureka, NV 89316; 237-5484
Fernley C of C: Box 1606, Fernley, NV 89408; 575-4459
Gabbs, City of: Box 86, Gabbs, NV 89409; 285-2671
Goldfield C of C: Box 225, Goldfield, NV 89013; 485-9957
Great Basin C of C: Baker, NV 89311; 234-7302
Jackpot Visitors Information: Box 508, Jackpot, NV 89825; 755-2321, 800-821-3935 in Nevada, 800-821-1103 outside Nevada
Lincoln County C of C: Box 553, Caliente, NV 89008; 726-3129
Lovelock C of C: Box 821, Lovelock, NV 89419; 273-7213
McDermitt Information: Box 278, McDermitt, NV 89421
Mason Valley C of C: Box 327 Yerington, NV 89447; 463-3721
Mineral County C of C: Box 1635, Hawthorne, NV 89415; 945-5896
Pahrump Valley C of C: Box 42, Pahrump, NV 89041; 727-5800
Pioche C of C: Box 51, Pioche, NV 89043; 962-5544 (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

MORE CAMPING AND HIKING

Bureau of Land Management: Box 12000, Reno, NV 89520, 784-5496; Box 26569, Las Vegas, NV 89126, 388-6403; 1523 Hot Springs Rd., Suite 300, Carson City, NV 89701, 882-1631; Box 831, Elko, NV 89801, 738-4071
Humboldt National Forest: 976 Mountain City Hwy., Elko, NV 89801, 738-4071
Toiyabe National Forest: 1200 Franklin Way, Sparks, NV 89431, 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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THE NEVADA CALENDAR







While cowboys take a rougher ride during the National Finals Rodeo (top), hot-air balloonists take an evening cruise during the Fairshow in North Las Vegas (bottom).

HOT LINES

Charleston Heights Arts Center: films, art exhibits, chamber music, 386-6383
Fern Adair Conservatory of the Arts: ballet, musicals, theater, 458-7575
Nevada Division of State Parks: hikes, tours, stargazing, campfire programs at 21 parks around the state, District VI, Las Vegas, 486-5126
Reed Whipple Cultural Center: concerts, film festivals, melodramas, 386-6211
UNLV Football: 9/2 v. Houston; 9/9 v. Weber State; 9/23 v. New Mexico State, 10/7 v. Pacific (homecoming); 11/4 v. Long Beach State; 11/18 v. Utah State, Sam Boyd's Silver Bowl, 739-FANS
UNLV Concerts: music and dance, 739-3101
For chamber of commerce and convention center phones, see page E-4

EVENTS

September

Photo Exhibit, thru 9/6, images by Karen Hillier, Charleston Heights Arts Center Gallery, 386-6383
Through Coyote's Eyes, thru 9/17 contemporary paintings, prints, and collages by Native American artists Harry Fonseca, Jean LaMarr, and Arthur Amiotte, Nevada State Museum and Historical Society, 486-5205
22nd Southwest Invitational, thru 9/20, selected pieces from the Yuma Art Center's annual juried competition, contemporary regional art, Reed Whipple Cultural Center Art Gallery, 386-6211
Fossil Exhibit, thru 9/30, marine fossils, including examples of fossils found in Las Vegas area, Clark County Heritage Museum, Henderson, 455-7955
Glamour and Allure: The Hollywood Photographs of George Hurrell, thru 10/22, images of screen idols by one of Hollywood's foremost studio portrait photographers, Nevada State Museum and Historical Society, 486-5205
Feast of San Gennaro, 8/31-9/10, Italian food festival with live entertainment, beauty contest, outdoors at the Frontier Hotel, 735-1776
Art Exhibit, 9/1-30, paintings by Jane Olive, Lost City Museum, 397-2193
Valley of Fire Art Show, 9/1-31, at Valley of Fire, Boulder City Art Guild, 294-2138
Bally's Banner Boxing, 9/2, tickets $20 and $12, Goldwyn Ballroom, Bally's, 739-4111
Desert Invitational Swim Meet, 9/2, Boulder City Pool, 293-9256
Collector Car Auction, 9/9-10, Cashman Field, 386-7100
Marathon Water Ski Races, 9/9-10, Lake Mead, 293-2592
Ballet Folklorico de Mexico, 9/12, with vibrant music and colorful costumes, song, and dance, Ballet Folklorico portrays the cultures of almost-vanished peoples; benefit for Nevada Dance Theatre, 8pm, Ham Hall, UNLV 739-3838
Las Vegas Cutting Horse Futurity, 9/12-16, Thomas and Mack Center, UNLV 731-2115
Leontyne Price Recital, 9/15, soprano opera singer, 8pm, Ham Hall, UNLV 739-3801
"Harry," 9/15, Modern Dance Company, Charleston Heights Arts Center, 386-6383
Family Portraits: Cacti of the Americas, Prints, and Drawings, 9/15-10/15, works of important botanical artists over the past 375 years,

Photo: Richard Roschke (top)

PREVIEW

National Finals Rodeo

Going for the gold in glitter city.

By Willard H. Porter



Man meets bull at the National Finals Rodeo in Las Vegas. The biggest event in pro rodeo brings the country's top riders, ropers, and country-western stars to Las Vegas in December

The National Finals Rodeo spoils you for all other rodeos. Even the celebrated ones at Cheyenne or Salinas fade in comparison. This ultimate boots-and-buckles show—the World Series of rodeo—is by invitation only and determines the 1989 world champions and runners-up. Only the top 15 contestants compete in each event—calf roping, steer wrestling, team roping, saddle-bronc riding, bareback-bronc riding, bull riding, and cloverleaf barrel racing.

The NFR's 10-go-round format will mark the 31st annual, the fifth consecutive in Las Vegas. Early on, it was held at Dallas and Los Angeles, moving to Oklahoma City in 1962, to Las Vegas in 1985.

Nevada's largest city is a splendid place for such a presentation. We don't have to be reminded that Las Vegas is a base camp for money, and in rodeo today money is the name of the game.

Long ago, Ike Rude, an Okie steer roper now gone to his reward, was asked if he was going to Cheyenne, the richest rodeo in the world.

"Hell, yes!" he said. "I'd go to Cheyenne to hear the band play."

Rodeo has changed. The sweetest music to the ears of contemporary cowboys is the jingle-jangle of coins and the swish-swoosh of the long green. To the tune of $1,790,000, they played the horse-and-cowboy game in 1985. This year, the purse will be $2.1 million.

A recent agreement between the Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association that sponsors the event and Las Vegas Events, NFR's co-sponsor, establishes a six-year contract (1989-94) for the Finals, at the end of which prize money is expected to reach the $2.6 million mark.

The total purse at the first NFR three decades ago was $50,000. It's no secret that a long-term ambition of the PRCA is to increase the financial security of its seasonal winners, the 15 NFR competitors. With continued raises ahead, that ambition is well and healthy.

Last year, John W Jones, Jr., whose father, John, Sr., won the same title in 1970, was World Champion Steer Wrestler, winning $82,814 for the year, $40,621 of which was taken at the NFR. Ted Nuce, a bull rider, won $44,064 at the NFR last year.

But the amazing part of the 1988 rodeo season was when an 18-year-old girl, Charmayne Rodman, wiped out all the boys. Running barrels, she won $130,540 on the circuit, $44,742 at Las Vegas. For total money won, her nearest rival was the '88 All-Around Champion, Dave Appleton, who took $121,546 in a pair of events. (Chauvinist cowboys are devastated and shy away from further explanation.)

Eagle-eye sports fans will notice that these figures still bare little resemblance to what superstars in other sports are making. Yet it's getting better all the time, thanks to the solid support of Las Vegas and her citizens. One citizen, for instance, Benny Binion, owner of Binion's Horseshoe Hotel and Casino, pays the entry fees—a pretty penny—of each NFR qualifier. Binion loves his rodeo cowboys; to him, each and every one is a star.

With larger and larger purses now being offered by the NFR, participants who make a living in rodeo understand that to keep onlookers happy they have to be their best, have to do their best, have to charge hell with a bucket of water if necessary.

And so something has evolved that I call "power rodeo." Plainly, it's rodeo action of the 1980s—a combination of strength, speed, acrobatics, science, talent, and heart. Power rodeo is new and sensational.

It's what you can look forward to seeing at the University of Nevada-Las Vegas' Thomas and Mack Center, December 2-10.

Willard H. Porter is a veteran rodeo writer from Stuart, Florida.

Photo: Richard Roschke



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Julius LaRosa Is Back

By Jackie Brett

In 1951, Julius LaRosa's star was on the rise. Just out of the Navy, he began singing on Arthur Godfrey's popular daily radio show. Then, six months later, LaRosa's star climbed another notch when he was asked to join Godfrey on the latter's weekly TV show one of America's most-watched programs—*Arthur Godfrey and his Friends.*

And LaRosa was popular, too. The good-looking Italian singer, born and bred in Brooklyn, had a voice that pleased audiences. Fan letters poured in at the rate of six to seven thousand a week. Everything was a dream come true—until the fall of 1953.

LaRosa's big mistake was hiring himself an agent, which was strictly against the Godfrey house rules, and forming a recording company with Godfrey's musical director, Archie Bleyer. Doomsday was October 4, 1953.

"I had been waiting an hour and 15 minutes to do my song on the television show—it was 'Manhattan'—and after I did it Godfrey said, 'That was Julius' swan song with us.'"

As "the man Arthur Godfrey fired," LaRosa became a household word overnight. People who didn't watch Godfrey's show read about it in the papers. Years later, when the *New York Times* ran Godfrey's obituary in 1983, the paper recounted the episode, adding, "Godfrey's cool response to outraged audience reaction was to dismiss Mr. Bleyer too."

But LaRosa holds no grudge against Godfrey. "I was an amateur in a profession," he says. "I was 23 years old and the boy who was fired by Arthur Godfrey. I became an item of curiosity. The focus wasn't on my ability as a singer or an actor. I was an attraction. It was all sensationalism." Later he adds, "The growing-up process is painful when you do it anonymously."

LaRosa went on to work in musicals, theaters, clubs, and television. He recorded "E Cumpare," a Sicilian song he once sang as a kid, and the record sold more than a million copies.



Julius LaRosa sings at the Four Queens.

In 1968, LaRosa's life changed again. Just as he was about to sign on for 12 weeks in Las Vegas, he got a call from WNEW Radio in New York to be a disc jockey. The job took him out of the limelight, but on the positive side he was making $100,000 a year and could stay at home, which suited his family-man nature. He stayed at WNEW until 1977 when he hit the road again.

Somewhere between then and now, LaRosa made a couple more albums, but he laments, "I don't project on records. That's frustrating!" It's on stage that the singer is at his best.

In September, LaRosa will be at the Four Queens, which suits him fine since he can play golf at Las Vegas' many courses. He'll also have plenty of time to work on his writing.

LaRosa believes reading is essential to being a good writer. "You must have picked up the reading habit when you're three years old for it to become a part of your being," he remarks and adds, "Never having been to college, I read a lot to compensate."

He admits to going on reading binges. "I'll read for two months and be much more verbal. Right now I'm in the middle of a drought."

Home for LaRosa is a split-level house in Irvington, New York, with his wife of 33 years, Rosa. He calls his home "Hotel LaRosa" because his two adult children, son Chris, 21, and daughter Maria, 27 still live there. He says he loves the East's four seasons.

It is a good life, perhaps a better one than fame and fortune would bring. When commenting on the pressures of stardom, LaRosa's love of prose comes forth. "If you are a star, it is a dreadful responsibility. But for those who can't handle stardom, it is also a dreadful responsibility."

Julius LaRosa appears at the Four Queens on September 5-17

Nevada State Museum and Historical Society, 486-5205

Mexican Fiesta, 9/16, annual salute to Mexican Independence Day with carnival booths, piñatas, refreshments, games, and prizes, free, Hadland Park, Las Vegas, 386-6297

Concert Fantasy '89, 9/16, starring up to 500 young performers between the ages of 3 and 18, benefit for Make-A-Wish Foundation of Southern Nevada, Fern Adair Conservatory of the Arts, Cashman Theatre, 458-7575

Picnic Pops Concert I, 9/17 outdoor concert under the stars, gates open 4pm, symphony starts 6:30pm, UNLV campus, 739-3420

World Championship Snaffle Bit Futurity, 9/18-23, 20th annual National Reined Cow Horse Assn., Thomas and Mack Center, UNLV 731-2115

Men's C Slow Pitch National Championship, 9/20-24, 100 teams, Las Vegas Softball Center, 477-0183

Budweiser Las Vegas Silver Cup Unlimited Hydroplane Race, 9/21-23, national high-point championship of America's fastest boats, qualifying Thurs.-Fri., final race Sat., 11am starting time, Lake Mead, Boulder City, 731-2115

Third Annual HydroHop, 9/22, Government Park, Boulder City, 293-2034

Yokohama/SNORE 250 Off-Road Race, 9/22-24, 20th annual, oldest continuous off-road race, Las Vegas area, 452-4522

Harvest Festival, 9/22-24, handmade crafts, musicians, dancers, magicians, acrobats, comedians, food, Cashman Field, 386-7100

"Private Lives," 9/22-24 and 9/26-30, New West Stage Company, Charleston Heights Arts Center, 876-NWSC

"Bucking the Tiger," 9/23, the legend of Doc Holliday, Western Heritage Series, Reed Whipple Cultural Center, 386-6211

"Horse Tracks," 9/24, featuring Ross Knox and Steve Rafters, traditional cowboy music, Reed Whipple Cultural Center, 386-6211

KNPR's Las Vegas Arts Festival and Craftworks Market, 9/24-10/1, with performance arts presentations and exhibits throughout the city from 9/24-10/1; Craftworks Market takes place 9/29-10/1 and features arts and crafts, children's hands-on arts activities, fun booths, food, and live entertainment, Jaycee Park, 456-6695

"Jackalope," 9/30, with R. Carlos Nakai and Larry Yanez, Native American melodies and ancient rhythms with high-tech sounds, Reed Whipple Cultural Center, 386-6211

Clark County Basque Festival, 9/30-10/1, on Sat. Catholic Community Services fundraiser ($100 a plate) at Silk Purse Ranch; on Sun. Lagun Onak Las Vegas Basque Club's family picnic day at St. Viator Community Center ($2 admission for adults, children free); both feature Basque dancing, contests, food, and bota exhibition, Las Vegas, 385-2662 (Sat.) or 361-6834 (Sun.)

October

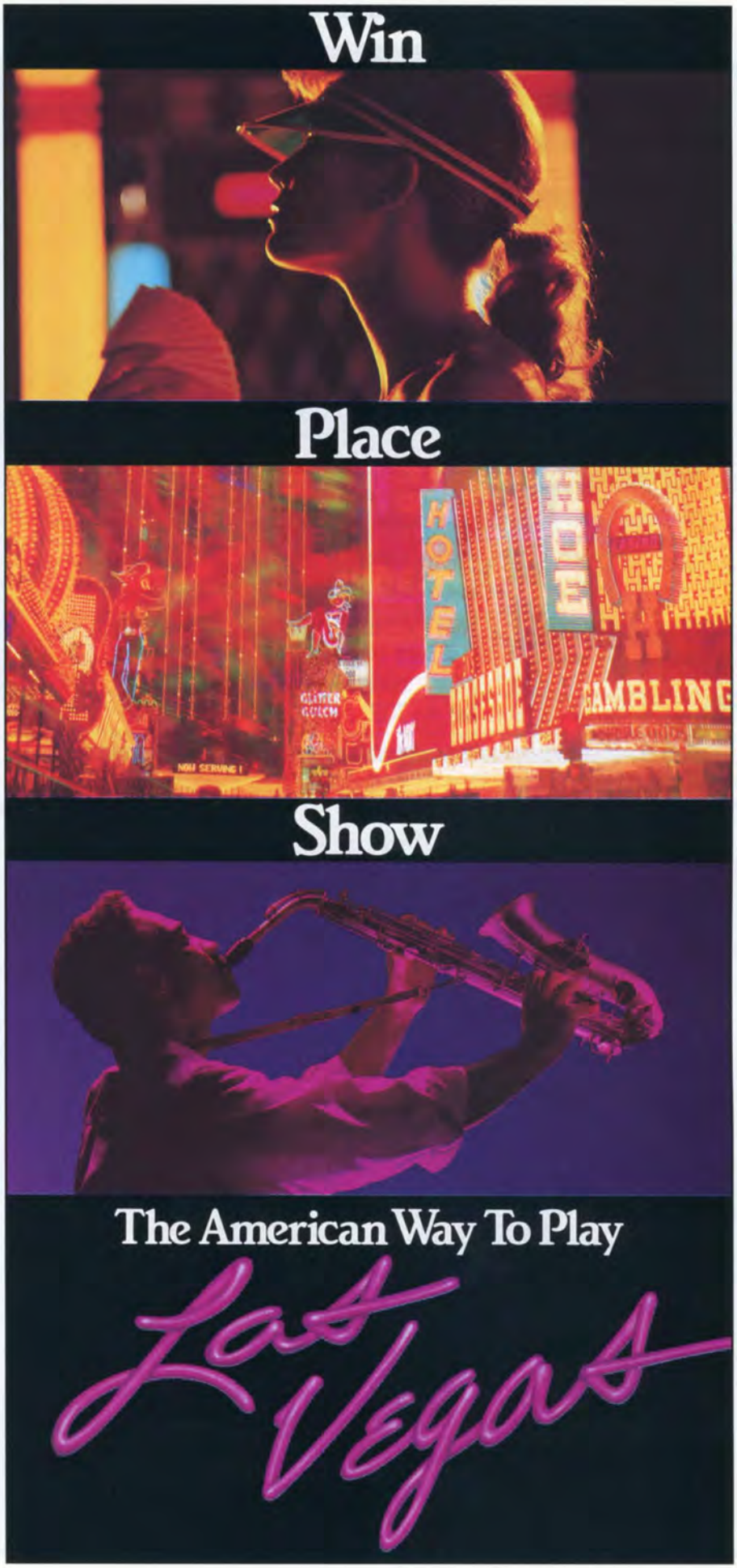
Picnic Pops Concert II, 10/1, outdoor concert under the stars, gates open 4pm, symphony starts 6:30pm, UNLV campus, 739-3420

Moapa Valley Art Guild Paintings, 10/1-31, Lost City Museum, Overton, 397-2193

Boulder City Library Art Show, 10/1-31, works by local artists in all media, Boulder City Library, 293-1281 or 293-2138

Las Vegas Jaycees State Fair, 10/3-8, carnival rides, entertainment, crafts, petting zoo, Cashman Field, 457-3247

American Dream Festival English Leather



VISIT

HISTORIC BEATTY



THE GATEWAY TO DEATH VALLEY

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Calendar Girl Pageant, 10/4-7 Western Regional Finals, Stardust Hotel, 732-6111

Queen Isabella Pageant, 10/5, winner will ride in Columbus Day parade on 10/14, Tropicana Hotel, 732-4900

Ansel Adams: A Museum of Fine Arts Portfolio, 10/6-11/26, a selection of Ansel Adams photographs from the Museum of Fine Arts, Museum of New Mexico, Nevada State Museum and Historical Society, 486-5205

Columbus Day Ball, 10/7 2nd annual, honoring Secretary of State Frankie Sue Del Papa as Italian Person of the Year, Augustus Society and Nevada Society for Italian-American Lawyers Assn., Caesars Palace, 732-4900

Great Arizona Puppet Firehouse Theater, 10/7 Hopi and Navajo legends set in the Southwest and widely-known children's stories, 10am and 2pm, North Las Vegas Library, North Las Vegas, 649-2363

Art in the Park, 10/7-8, 27th annual outdoor show and sale of fine arts, crafts, wood, sculpture, jewelry, free admission, benefit for Boulder City Hospital, Government Park, Boulder City, 293-2034

Las Vegas Civic Symphony Concert, 10/8, Reed Whipple Cultural Center, 386-6211

Ice Capades, 10/11-15, Thomas and Mack Center, UNLV, 739-3078

"Cinderella," 10/12-22 (dark 10/16-18), artistic director Vassili Sulich's original interpretation of this favorite tale is set to the music of Alexander Glazounov, Judy Bayley Theatre, UNLV 739-3838

Roller Skating Extravaganza, 10/13, Recreation Center, Boulder City, 293-9256

Boulder City Third Annual "Vette Fest," 10/13-15, Corvette festival with show and shine, dinner, dance, and awards banquet, poker run and rally, Wilbur Square, Boulder City, 293-2034

Columbus Day Parade, 10/14, noon parade with Queen Isabella and Columbus on Fremont St. in downtown Las Vegas, followed by block party from 2-8pm with Italian food, bands, beer, and wine on Fremont St., 732-4900

Scout-A-Rama, 10/14, Boy Scouts of America, Cashman Field, 736-4366

Octoberfest Art Show, 10/14-15, art show, boat show, music, and food, Lake Mead Marina and Resort, Boulder City, 293-2138

Tchaikovsky Chamber Orchestra, 10/15, 2pm, Charleston Heights Arts Center, 386-6383

Expo '89, 10/20-22, home show, arts and crafts, carnival, convention center, Henderson, 565-8951

Lucky Food Expo, 10/20-22, Cashman Field, 386-7100

Great American Craft Show, 10/20-22, Cashman Field, 322-4544

Leisurefest '89, 10/20-22, celebration of the 40-year anniversary of Leisure Services in the city of Las Vegas with sports demonstrations, cultural activities, entertainment, arts and crafts, food concessions, Jaycee Park, Freedom Park, and Lorenzi Park, 386-6297

American Cancer Society Presents Byzantine Ball, 10/21, Caesars Palace, for further information call 798-6877

Alternatives to the Silverprint, 10/20-11/26, a photographic exhibition of work by 10 contemporary artists, Nevada State Museum and Historical Society, 486-5205

Annual Haunted House, 10/26, Recreation Center, Boulder City, 293-9256

New Mexico Symphony Orchestra, 10/26, Ham Hall, UNLV 739-3801

PREVIEW

Arts, Crafts, and Imagination



Arts-and-crafts fanciers gather at the Craftsworks Market, which has expanded its arts fare.

This year KNPR Public Radio's Craftworks Market has expanded its schedule and its name. As a result, the Las Vegas Arts Festival and Craftworks Market takes place throughout the city from September 24 to October 1.

For the past seven years the public-radio station has presented the two-day Craftworks Market, a juried art and craft festival in Jaycee Park. Artists from all over the United States participate in the event, which is known for the quality of the work presented, the continuous live entertainment, the free children's "hands-on" art activities, good food, and fun booths.

This year KNPR and 14 arts organizations continue the tradition with four performance stages in Jaycee Park featuring dance, music, and the children's Imagination Celebration.

"Vincent," 10/27 starring Klas Hofstra, Reed Whipple Cultural Center, 386-6211

Fairshow and Nevada Championship Hot-Air Balloon Races, 10/27-29, balloon luminaria, Nevada Championship Hot-Air Balloon Races, chili cook-off, Parent of the Year Contest, antique auto show and parts exchange, kid's day, balloon rides, craft booths, Ms. Chili Pepper Contest, carnival, food fair, beer garden, includes Nevada Day Celebration on 10/28, Clark County Community College, North Las Vegas, 642-1944

Nevada Day Celebration, 10/28, part of Fairshow festivities, will include 2-km and 5-km run at 8am, parade at 9am, in celebration of Nevada's 125th anniversary, sponsored by University Medical Center Foundation, Clark County Community College, 383-6022

Creature Feature, 10/28, includes an enchanted castle, carnival booths, costume parade, face painting, and refreshments, free, Jaycee Park,



386-6297

Concert VII, 10/29, professional dancers of the Las Vegas Strip perform a varied repertoire of ballet, jazz, and modern dance, 2pm, Tiffany Theatre, Tropicana, 732-9646

"Fiends and Fools," 10/30, starring Jonathan Frid, Halloween Special Event for mature audiences, Reed Whipple Cultural Center, 386-6211

Clark County: Desert Frontier, 10/30, opening of permanent exhibit on history of southern Nevada, with emphasis on Native Americans, pioneers, mining, transportation, and gaming, Clark County Heritage Museum, Henderson, 455-7955

Desert Treasure: Nevada's Mining and Minerals, 10/30-11/30, Clark County Heritage Museum's new exhibit hall opens with a changing display on Nevada's mining heritage, featuring mineral samples and historic documents; co-sponsored by the Nevada Department of Minerals and Nevada Publications, Inc., Clark County Heritage Museum, Henderson, 455-7955



Hydroplanes roar on Mead in September



November

Art Exhibit, 11/1-30, color form and abstraction in contemporary Indian art, exhibit furnished by the Arizona Arts Council, Lost City Museum, Overton, 397-2193

Hanover Band Concert, 11/2, late classical period, Ham Hall, UNLV 739-3535

Photo Exhibit, 11/3-1/3/90, prints given to the Museum of Fine Arts, Museum of New Mexico by Laura Gilpin and others, Nevada State Museum and Historical Society, 486-5205

Nevada Symphonic Wind Ensemble, 11/5, peformance at Charleston Heights Arts Center, 386-6383

General Tire Las Vegas Classic Golf Tournament, 11/9-12, Senior PGA Tour stop, pro-am format for two days, then professionals play for $270,000 purse, Desert Inn Golf Club, 733-4653

"Really Rosie," 11/9-19, The Rainbow Company, children's theater, Reed Whipple Cultural Center, 386-6211

Lost City Museum Annual Indian Crafts Festival, 11/10-12, demonstrations, craft and food booths, entertainment, Lost City Museum, Overton, 397-2193

Vienna Boys Choir, 11/16, Ham Hall, UNLV 739-3801

"Chekhov—A Night of Comedy?" 11/17-19, three one-acts narrated by Dr. Herman Van Betten, 8pm, New West Stage Company, Charleston Heights Arts Center, 386-NWSC (6972)

Las Vegas Symphony Cello Concert, 11/19, Ham Hall, UNLV 739-3420

Craft Festival, 11/24-26, Cashman Field, 386-7100

Opening of Karneval (Mardi Gras), 11/25, dancing and costumes, $5, 7pm, Las Vegas Piepen KG of Nevada, Union Plaza Hotel, 451-2220

Annual Christmas Tree Lighting, 11/25, Frank Crowe Park, Boulder City, 293-2034

Sunset Symphony Concert, 11/30, Charleston Heights Arts Center, 386-6383

COMING EVENTS

Christmas Parade, 12/2, Boulder City, 293-2034

National Finals Rodeo, 12/2-10, Las Vegas, 731-2115

Parade of Lights, 12/9, Lake Mead, 293-1530

Children's Christmas Parade, 12/15, Henderson, 565-8951

Hoover Dam Square Dance Festival, 3/2-3/90, Boulder City, 293-4918

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

Aladdin, 736-0240: Santana, 9/1; Kenny G, 9/22; Stevie Nicks, 10/21; "Abracadabra," magic, comedy, and dance, indf. (dark Tues.)

Bally's, 739-4567: *Celebrity Room:* Randy Travis,

Photo: Gene Hertzog

9/1-3; Tom Jones, 9/7-13; Steve Lawrence and Eydie Gorme, 9/14-16; Barbara Mandrell, 9/21-27; Dean Martin/The Golddiggers, 9/28-10/4; Gladys Knight/Gregory Hines, 10/5-11; Sammy Davis, Jr., 10/12-18; Frank Sinatra, 10/19-23; Rodney Dangerfield, 10/26-11/1; Dean Martin and the Golddiggers, 11/2-8; Tom Jones, 11/9-15; Al Jareau, 11/16-18; *Ziegfeld Theatre:* "Jubilee!" indf. (dark Wed.); "Catch a Rising Star," comedy/variety club, indf.

Barbary Coast, 737-7111: Diamonds, 9/13-25; Irish Showband, 9/27-11/30

Bourbon Street, 737-7200: New Orleans Jazz, indf.

Caesars Palace, 731-7333: Pointer Sisters, 8/30-9/4 and 10/25-30; Willie Nelson and Family, 9/6-11; Diana Ross, 9/13-18 and 9/20-25; Ann-Margret, 9/27-10/2 and 10/4-9; David Copperfield/Ben E. King, 10/11-16 and 10/18-23; Joan Rivers, 11/1-6; Julio Iglesias, 11/8-13; The Judds/Carl Perkins, 11/26-12/1

California Hotel, 385-1222: Entertainment TBA

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

Continental, 737-5555: "Sex Over 40," indf.

Desert Inn, 733-4566: Smothers Brothers, 10/19-11/8; Ray Stevens/Louise Mandrell, 11/9-25

Dunes, 737-4741: The Comedy Store, indf., featuring five comedians weekly; Earl Turner/In the Mood, 8/29-10/23

El Rancho, 796-2222: Entertainment TBA

Fitzgeralds, 382-6111: Nightly entertainment

Flamingo Hilton, 733-3333: "City Lites," stage spectacular, indf. (dark Sun.)

Four Queens, 385-4011: Platters, thru 9/3 and 10/5-11/5; Julius LaRosa, 9/5-17; Frank Sinatra, Jr., 11/7-26; Monday Night Jazz, indf.

Gold Coast, 367-7111: Sorta Dixie Jazz Band, indf. (dark Tues.)

Golden Nugget, 386-8100: Kenny Rogers, 9/1-3; David Brenner, 9/7-11 and 9/14-18; Don Rickles, 9/21-25; Larry Gatlin and the Gatlin Brothers, 9/28-10/2 and 10/5-9 and 11/30-12/11; Jeffrey Osborne, 10/26-30; Yakov Smirnoff, 11/9-13 and 11/16-20

Gold Strike, Boulder City, 293-5000: Yester Year, 8/31-9/3, 9/7-10, and 9/14-17; Pefecto, 9/21-24 and 9/28-10/1

Gold Strike, Jean, 477-5000: Topaz, 8/29-9/24; Edge, 9/26-10/22

Hacienda, 739-8911: "Hitz," musical production, indf. (dark Mon.)

Holiday, 369-5222: Rocky Senne's "Keep Smilin' America," revue, starring Glenn Smith thru 9/2; Sue Kim and the Kim Brothers, 9/4-30, and Dick Contino, 10/2-1/6/90

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

Landmark, 733-1128: Melinda, the First Lady of Magic, and her Follies Revue, indf. (dark Sun.)

Las Vegas Hilton, 732-5755: Engelbert Humperdinck, 8/29-9/10; Wayne Newton, 9/12-10/1; Anne Murray, 10/3-8; Frankie Valli and the Four Seasons/The Four Tops, 10/10-15; Bill Cosby/Clint Holmes, 10/17-22; Engelbert Humperdinck/Dick Capri, 10/24-11/12

Marina, 739-1500: "Dan-Sin Dirdy '89," thru 9/5 (dark Wed.); Entertainment TBA

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

Palace Station, 367-2411: Entertainment TBA

Peppermill Resort, Mesquite: 346-5232: Entertainment TBA

Riviera, 794-9301: Paul Anka, 9/7-10 and 11/2-5; Liza Minnelli, 11/30-12/3; "Splash," production show, indf.; "Crazy Girls: Fastasie de Paris," revue, indf.; "An Evening at La Cage," revue, indf. (dark Tues.); "An Evening at the Improv," comedians, indf.

Sahara, 737-2424: "Boy-lesque," indf. (dark Wed.); "Bottoms Up '89," indf. (dark Wed.); Debra Lee Kristian, 7/17-10/8

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

Sam's Town, 456-7777: Nightly entertainment

Sands, 733-5453: "Beach Blanket Babylon," musical revue, thru 9/10 (dark Mon.); Checkmates, 9/19-10/9 and 10/23-29; Dae Han Sisters, 10/2-22

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

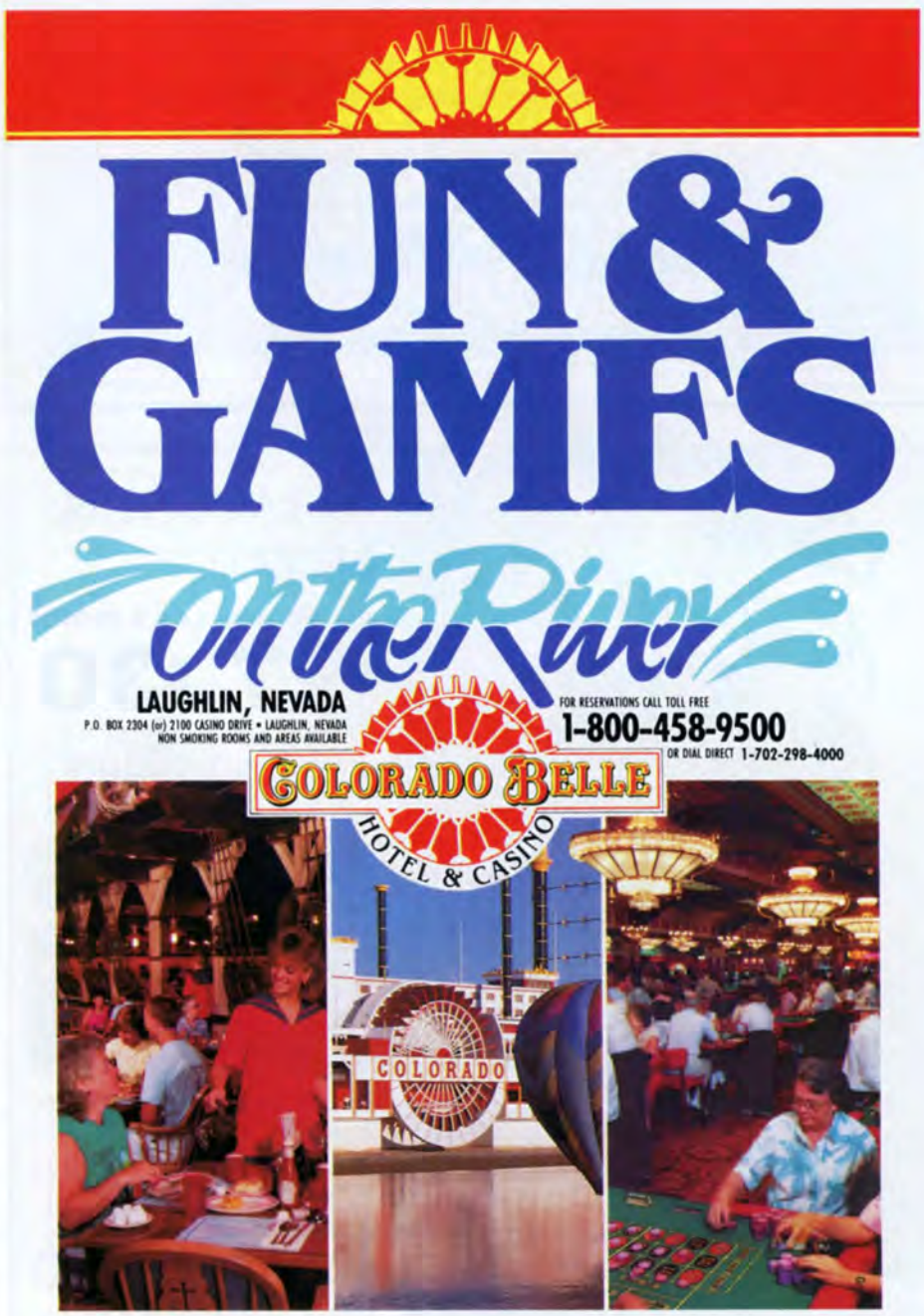
Tropicana, 739-2411: Juan Gabriel, 9/13-17; "Folies Bergere," indf. (dark Thurs.)

Union Plaza, 386-2444: "Nudes on Ice," international ice skating champions, indf. (dark Mon.)

Vegas World, 382-2000: "Hallelujah Las Vegas!" magical, musical revue starring Karen Nelson Bell, indf. (dark Thurs.); "Memories of Elvis" starring Tom Carlile, indf. (dark Thurs.); "Reflections of Sinatra" starring Duke Hazlett, indf. (dark Thurs.)

Westward Ho, 731-2900: Pat Indelicato and Wildflower, indf.

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





Scoutin' out Winnemucca!

1989 WINNEMUCCA EVENTS

May 26, 27,28 & 29 Old Timers Team Roping
June 2 4 Winnemucca Mule Show and Races
June 10 11 Winnemucca Basque Festival
June 15-18 Nevada State High School Rodeo Finals
June 16 18 Red Mountain Indian Pow Wow and Rodeo
June 30 July 2 Winnemucca Junior Rodeo
July 3 4 Twin States Stampede (McDermitt)
August 19 & 20 Nevada Open Horse Show and Futurity

LABOR DAY WEEK END EVENTS

Sept. 1 4 Western Art Round Up and Buckaroo Poetry
Sept. 1 4 Tri-County Fair and 4-H Livestock Show
Sept. 2 3 Winnemucca Rodeo Nevada's Oldest!

Sept. 9 10 Thoroughbred, Quarter Horse & Mule
Sept. 16-17 PARI-MUTUEL RACING
Sept. 28 Oct. 1 Nevada State 4-H Exposition

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Winnemucca, NV 89445
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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
Ramada Express, 298-4200: Gigolo, thru 9/3; Vinny Di John, 9/14-17; Hollywood Argyles, 9/18-10/8
Regency, 298-2439: Piano bar
Riverside Resort, 298-2535: Entertainment TBA
Sam's Town Gold River, 298-2242: Live entertainment nightly

MUSEUMS

Boulder City

Boulder City/Hoover Dam Museum: 9-5 daily, 444 Hotel Plaza, Boulder City, 294-1988

Henderson

Clark County Heritage 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
Guinness World of Records Museum: 2780 S. Las Vegas Blvd., opening in 1990, 734-0552
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. Memorial Day-Labor Day (during winter 9-6 Fri.-Sat.), 3700 Las Vegas Blvd. S., 739-7280
Liberace Museum: 10-5 Mon.-Sat., 1-5 Sun., 1775 E. Tropicana, 798-5595
Nevada State Museum and Historical Society: 11:30-4:30 Mon.-Tues., 8:30-4:30 Wed.-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

CASINO NOTES

• The planned **Hotel San Remo** at the site of the old Polynesian Hotel is scheduled to open in November after the first part of a major renovation is completed. The hotel, owned by Sukeaki

Izumi of Japan, will have a 26,000-square-foot casino that will take over the existing front parking lot. Izumi is considering, as part of a second building phase, a 780-room high-rise hotel tower to add to the 326 rooms at the old hotel. Upon completion the hotel will resemble the French-style hotels found on the Mediterranean Sea coast, says Marketing Director Angelika Friesl.

•The **Riviera** is in the midst of a $200 million expansion that officials say will make it the largest resort in the world with the world's largest casino. The hotel is expanding its casino all the way to the sidewalk of the Strip, which will add 70,000 square feet and give the growing resort 125,000 square feet of casino space. The casino expansion, to be finished in December 1989, includes a recreation deck with new restaurants, a second swimming pool, a state-of-the-art health club, and a Japanese garden.

The last phase will be the construction of a 43-story tower that will add more than 1,600 rooms and suites to the 2,200-room property. The tower, which the Riviera says will be the tallest in Nevada, is scheduled for completion in mid-1991.

•The illumination date of the **Excalibur Hotel-Casino** marquees is scheduled for December 22, just in time for holiday visitors. Two identical structures will typify the medieval-themed property. The marquees will tower to a lengthy 101 feet, one inch in height. Circus Circus Enterprises' newest property will have 4,032 deluxe rooms, more than 100,000 square feet of gaming area, and a 1,250-seat amphitheater for shows featuring jousting and stories of the King Arthur era.

•Las Vegas' newest gourmet French restaurant, La Vie en Rose, opened at the **Desert Inn**. Mial Estes Parker will be chef of the restaurant. Parker, a member of the American Culinary Federation's Western Regional Culinary Team, was a Gold Medal winner at the 1988 Culinary Olympics in Frankfurt, West Germany.

•Sahara Casino Partners Chairman Paul W. Lowden unveiled architectural drawings of the company's as yet unnamed resort complex to be built in the northwestern section of the Las Vegas Valley. Also announced were plans to add 600 new guest rooms and a six-story parking garage to the **Sahara Hotel**, and plans for a new, 400-room guest tower and major casino expansion at the **Hacienda Hotel**.

•Celebrating the first year of operation in Laughlin, the **Ramada Express Hotel and Casino** commissioned Southwestern artist Vince Hooley for an original oil painting featuring the turn-of-the-century-designed property and Ramada crew members (employees) in period dress. The painting will be made into prints that will be available at the Company Store gift shop.

TOURNAMENTS

September

Slots, 8/29-9/1, Flamingo Hilton, 733-3117
Keno, 9/1-17 Four Queens, 385-4011
Slots, 9/5-8 and 11/27-30, Holiday Casino/Holiday Inn, 369-5000
Craps, 9/8-10, Tropicana, 739-2222
Slots, 9/8-10, Riviera, 794-9424
Blackjack, 9/10-13, Stardust, 732-6111
Slots, 9/17-19, 9/24-26, 10/29-31, and 11/19-21, Flamingo Hilton, 733-3117
Slots, 9/24-27, Stardust, 732-6111
Slots, 9/24-27 Aladdin, 736-0111



David Copperfield disappears at Caesars Palace.

Slots, 9/26-29, Sands, 733-5285

October

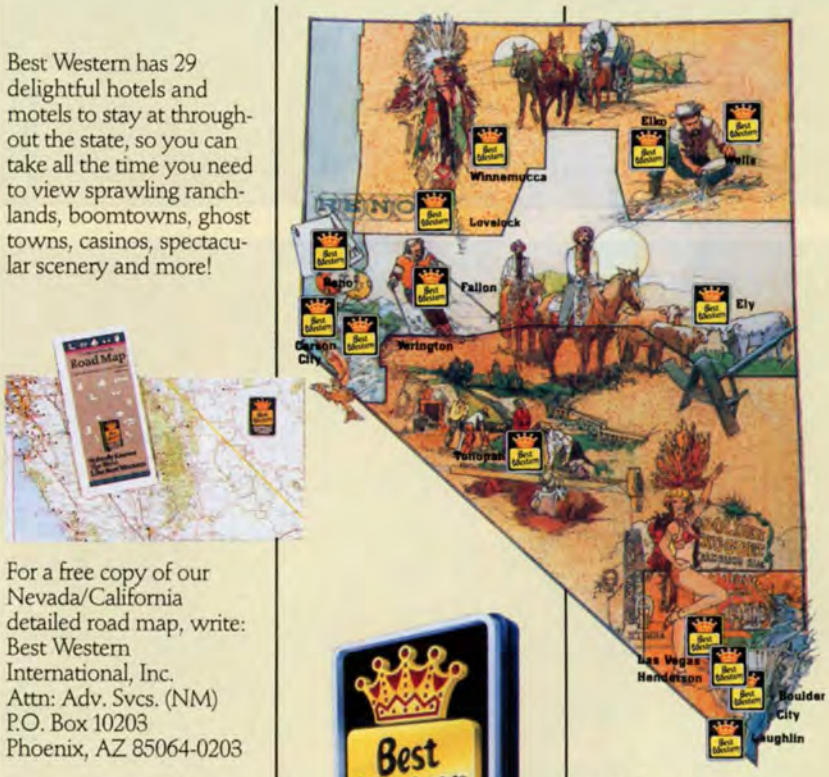
Slots, 10/8-10, 10/27-30, and 11/19-21, Tropicana, 739-2222
Slots, 10/15-18, Imperial Palace, 794-3160
Keno, 10/15-18, Caesars Palace, 731-7777
Craps, 10/18, Aladdin, 736-0111
Slots, 10/30-11/1 and 11/6-8, Binion's Horseshoe, 382-1600
Slots, 10/31-11/3, Sands, 733-5285

November

Slots, 11/5-8, Caesars Palace, 731-7777
World Cup of Thoroughbred Handicapping, 11/8-11, Caesars Palace, 731-7777

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THE NEVADA CALENDAR







Past champion Nancy Foran (top) of Yakima, Washington, will join other top whistlers puckering up at the World's 12th International Whistle-Off on October 13-15 at John Ascuaga's Nugget in Sparks. Spirits also will soar at the sight of flyers like the Canadian Snowbirds (bottom) a month earlier during Reno's National Championship Air Races.

HOT LINES

Festivals at Tahoe: information on North Shore festivals throughout the 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 Football: 9/2 v. Southern Illinois; 9/16 v. Cal Davis; 9/23 v. Idaho State, 10/7 v. Montana State; 10/21 v. Weber State; 11/4 v. Boise State; 11/11 v. UNLV Mackay Stadium, UNR, 348-PACK

UNR Music Department: concerts, recitals, 784-6145

For chamber of commerce and convention center phones, see page E-4

EVENTS

September

Carson Valley Photo Show, thru 9/1, Courthouse Museum, Genoa, 265-2850

"Best Little Whorehouse in Texas," thru 9/2, Lake Tahoe Summer Music Festival production, Cal-Neva Lodge, Crystal Bay, 916-583-7625

Discovery Room Opening, thru 9/3, a hands-on exhibit room for children in the Great Basin Adventure will be open 11am-3pm daily except Mondays, Rancho San Rafael Park, 826-2324

Valhalla Festival of Art and Music, thru 9/10, set in and around several historic mansions; performances include jazz, bluegrass, and chamber music; Artists-In-Action program, art exhibits, mansion tours, and children's workshops, Tallac Historic Site, South Lake Tahoe, 916-544-5050

Starlight Jazz Festival at Lake Tahoe, 8/26-9/10, Legends of Jazz, with more than 15 jazz bands performing nightly, city-wide, South Lake Tahoe, 916-544-5050

Pacific Coast Quarter Horse Spectacular, 8/29-9/3, Reno Livestock Events Center, 916-922-9857

Numaga Indian Days Celebration, 9/1-3, powwow, food booths with Indian tacos, arts and crafts, traditional stick games, competitive and social dancing, Reno-Sparks Indian Colony, 329-2936 or 786-8913

Antique and Collectible Sale, 9/1-3, Reno-Sparks Convention Center, 827-7662

Reno's Best in the West Nugget Rib Cook-Off, 9/1-4, 20 of the nation's top rib restaurants will vie for the title of Best in the West and a $5,000 first-place prize; continuous entertainment each day with a top-name concert each night, public can sample the ribs, hosted by John Ascuaga's Nugget, Victorian Square, Sparks, 356-3428

Desert Images, 9/1-30, paintings and drawings by Carlos Warner, Desert Light Studio, Wadsworth, 575-5516

The Elements of Design, 9/1-10/29, the influence of oriental rugs on Navajo weaving, E.L. Wiegand Museum of Art, 329-3333

Pyramid Lake Photography Exhibit, 9/1-10/31, award-winning photographs from the 1989 Friends of Pyramid Lake Photography Contest, Stewart Indian Museum, Carson City, 882-1808

American Landscape and Impressionist Painting, 9/1-11/26, Hawkins House, 329-3333

Squaw Valley Alpen Winefest, 9/2, large selection from California wineries, Squaw Valley Mall area, 916-583-6985

Splendor of the Sierra Fine Arts Show, 9/2-3,

Photos: Dan Lamont (top); Gayland Anderson

Northstar, 916-587-0280

Labor Day Steam-Ups, 9/2-4, two restored steam locomotives pull a three-car Virginia & Truckee excursion train, 10am-4pm, adults $2.50, children 12 and under $1, children 5 and under free, Nevada State Railroad Museum, Carson City, 885-4810 or 885-5168

Labor Day All-Indian Rodeo, 9/2-4, all-Indian rodeo, western dance, Indian handgames, Indian arts and crafts booths, Pyramid Lake Paiute Indian Reservation, Nixon (16 miles north of Wadsworth), 574-0140

Gerlach Annual VFW Barbecue and Dance, 9/3, Community Center, Gerlach, 557-2203

Labor Day Fireworks, 9/3, fireworks display, Incline Village Beach, 916-583-3494

Summer Music Series, 9/3 and 9/10, classical concerts with guest artists, North Lake Tahoe Symphony Assn., Chateau, Incline Village, 831-4622

Top Rank Boxing, 9/5, Harrah's Tahoe, 588-6611

Antique Show, 9/6-10, Reno-Sparks Convention Center, 827-7662

Carson Valley Inn Mixed Scramble Golf Tournament, 9/8-9, fifth annual, open, Carson Valley Inn, Minden, 782-9711

"On the Verge," 9/8-9, 9/15-17 9/23-24, travel through time with three witty female explorers starting in the Victorian era, on 9/17 signed performance for the hearing impaired, Reno Little Theater, 329-0661

Great Reno Balloon Race, 9/8-10, mass ascension of 110 hot-air balloons each morning at 6:45am; competitions; on the ground will be entertainment and concessions, Rancho San Rafael Park, 826-1181

International Camel Races and 1880s Costume Ball, 9/8-10, Virginia City v. Australia in 30th annual camel races, parade, live music at Fri. night ball, Sat. night spaghetti feed, Virginia City, 847-0311

Northstar Open Tennis Tournament, 9/8-10, open to all players, 916-562-0321

Reno International Classic Remote Control Show, 9/8-10, Reno Livestock Events Center, 323-3073

North Shore Challenge, 9/9, one-third mile swim in Lake Tahoe, 5-mile run along the west shore, 20-mile bicycle ride, Tahoe City, 916-583-5544

"The King and I," 9/9-10, 9/14, and 9/16-17 musical, 8pm Sat. and Thurs., 2pm and 7pm Sun., produced by Hadassah, Pioneer Center for the Performing Arts, 784-4444

Nevada Air Museum Chili Cook-Off, 9/10, begins at 8am with judging at 3pm at the East Hanger at Stead Airport, also a flea market and aircraft display, Stead Airport, 746-2902

Reno Chamber Orchestra, 9/10, Chateau, Incline Village, 831-4622

Tour of the Loneliest Road, 9/11-17 a series of eight bicycling races across the state along U.S. 50 starting in Carson City and ending in Ely. Approx. 120 riders compete in more than 400 miles of racing, elevation ranges from 4,000 to 10,000 feet, tour may include criteriums in Carson City and Ely, 408-425-8688

Movie Classics Week, 9/12, 9/14, 9/16-17, showing of classics such as *Rear Window* and *Rebel Without A Cause*, Assoc. Students of UNR, Jot Travis Student Union, UNR, 784-6589

Evenings for the Arts, 9/12 and 10/10, potluck picnic and Tallac galleries tour, 6pm, Tallac Historic Site, 588-6486 or 916-541-4804

Nevada 89, 9/12-25, traveling photo show from Elko's Northeastern Nevada Museum, Courthouse Museum, Genoa, 782-4325

PREVIEW

Those Beautiful Balloons

By John Christopher Fine



Hot air rises, and so will these balloons when they are filled during the Great Reno Balloon Race on September 8-10.

"Professor Muldoon—that is I," the pilot said with a laugh. A woman was scrambling aboard at the last minute after searching among 110 hot-air balloons for the one she was scheduled to ride. "We'll be off just as soon as the launch director gives us clearance." Muldoon kept the balloon primed by squeezing a trigger that sent propane gas to the burners. With a loud whoosh the fuel sent a yellow, then a blue flame upward, heating the air inside the suspended balloon.

The launch director handed Muldoon a token that authorized liftoff and said, "Go ahead!" Another whoosh, and almost imperceptibly the balloon rose from the field.

"You all have to help me to see what's coming, especially from below. Call out if you see another balloon," the professor instructed his passengers while adjusting the amount of hot air in the envelope.

The sunrise glowed golden over the field below. The balloons already aloft reflected colors as though they were illuminated by a bright orange spotlight. Soon the people and chase vehicles on the field were tiny dots. Another whoosh. The warmth from the propane burners felt good in the morning chill. Then there was silence, a perfect and absolute silence, as the big balloon floated free.

Professor Muldoon, alias Bob Schaible, was in Reno to participate in the annual Great Reno Balloon Race. The logo on his shirt and on the side of his air ship proclaimed Professor Muldoon's Hot Air Balloon Company. Schaible's moniker is better known in ballooning circles than his real name. His 144,000-cubic-foot balloon was twice as big as most of the entries in the race, and it cost $35,000, about twice as much as a smaller four-passenger balloon.

Today there were big prizes to be won in the hare and hound race. Along with the other "hounds," Schaible hoped to keep up with the "hare" that would eventually mark an "X" on the ground with a fabric cross. He would try to drop his numbered bean bag as close to the "X" as possible, then grab a set of keys off a pole—all without touching ground. The grand prize was a new car.

The principle of steering a balloon is fairly simple. Two French brothers, Joseph-Michel and Jacques-Etienne Montgolfier, made the connection in 1782 when they observed that smoke rises. On November 21, 1783, they made the first manned flight over Paris. (The French still call hot-air balloons "Montgolfiers.")

But simple as the principle is, a lighter-than-air balloon is still tricky to navigate. It requires skill to read the air currents, and this was in evidence today as competitors from all over the country bombarded the marker with bean bags.

While Professor Muldoon didn't get quite on target, there were hardly any tears. By 10:30 a.m. most of the balloonists had gassed up and were back on the field celebrating their flights with champagne.

This year's Great Reno Balloon Race will be held September 8-10 at Rancho San Rafael Park. In North Las Vegas, the Fairshow Nevada Championship Balloon Races are October 27-28 at Clark County Community College.

John Christopher Fine is a photo-journalist from Scarsdale, New York.

Photo: Inga Spence

How Nevada Day Began



By Guy Louis Rocha

Carson City's Nevada Day parade and celebration marks the 125th anniversary of statehood and is among the oldest ongoing parade activities held in the Silver State.

Regarding the inaugural parade in 1938, Carson's *Daily Appeal* claimed the event was "Nevada's largest and best Admission Day celebration in the history of the state."

Celebrating Nevada Day in Carson City has become a time-honored tradition, but the history of commemorating our statehood predates the 1938 parade by 50 years.

The first significant observances of Nevada's admission to the Union in 1864 appear to have begun initially in 1888, and then followed up in 1889 with its 25th anniversary as a state. The Pacific Coast Pioneer Society of Virginia City held a sumptuous banquet on October 31 in honor of Nevada's admission to the Union as the 36th state. There may have been other commemorative events outside the Comstock, but the state of Nevada did not officially recognize its birthday until two years later.

In March 1891 the legislature passed and Governor Roswell Colcord signed the bill making October 31 a judicial holiday. No court business was to be transacted on "Admission Day."

Both Virginia City and Reno held parades and other festivities. Other towns in the state seemingly failed to formally recognize Nevada's birthday. No tradition was in the making.

Between 1891 and 1914 few if any, communities held annual formal observances of Admission Day, perhaps because Nevada was still a young state with a highly transient population. Also, Admission Day was not an official state holiday. Only the courts closed for business on October 31.

In October 1908, the recently organized State Federation of Women's Clubs in Reno passed a resolution calling for a legislative bill to make Admission Day a legal holiday. Sadly nothing resulted from the initiative. It would take the legislature another 25 years to officially recognize Nevada's birthday as a state holiday.

In the meantime, the 50th anniversary of the state in 1914 was officially observed. Governor Tasker Oddie issued a proclamation declaring Saturday, October 31 "the semi-centennial anniversary of the admission of Nevada into the Union" and a public holiday.

Jeanne Wier, the director of the Nevada Historical Society in Reno, worked closely with the governor's office in calling for the proclamation. Reno, the state's largest city, staged events throughout the day, and the Historical Society was open to the public, with the famous Gridley sack of flour on exhibit.

Following up on Governor Oddie's proclamation, which had also called for the organization of a Society of Nevada Pioneers, a committee of Nevada's oldest residents met at the Riverside Hotel in Reno and adopted bylaws and a constitution. The Society of Nevadans, as the pioneer organization came to be known, would sponsor Nevada's Admission Day celebration in Reno until the mid-1930s.

Governor Fred Balzar issued a proclamation in 1929 declaring Admission Day a legal holiday and called on all concerned Nevadans "if possible to join in the official celebration to be held in the City of Reno." Similar proclamations were issued in 1930 and 1931 but they conspicuously did not declare Admission Day an official state holiday.

The legislature finally passed a bill in 1933, introduced by Senator Ira L. Winters of Carson City, which designated October 31 as "Nevada Day" and a state holiday. The new law "authorized and requested" the governor to issue annually a proclamation which called upon the state's citizens to display the United States flag and conduct "suitable exercises of a public nature" in observance of Nevada's admission into the Union.



Carson has hosted a Nevada Day parade (top) since 1938; now Las Vegas does, too. Nabobs Kay Duncan and Ernie Fanning (above) attend the 1864 Grand Ball.

Despite the fact that the governor's office did not issue Nevada Day proclamations in 1933 or 1934, the Society of Nevadans continued to hold its annual celebration in Reno on October 31. Pa-

Photo: Nevada State Archives (top)

rades, pageants commemorating Nevada's history, and the usual gathering of the pioneers were the order of day.

By the mid-1930s, the Society of Nevadans' membership had dwindled to a small core. Most of the early pioneers and members had since died. Conditions reached a point in 1937 that no Nevada Day parade was held in Reno, and it appeared the traditional celebration was going to fade from the scene due to a lack of support.

Instead, through the efforts of the Carson City Rotary, Lion's Club, and 20-30 Club, and led by Thomas C. Wilson, Reno advertising executive, and long-time District Judge Clark J. Guild, the Nevada Day celebration found a permanent home in Carson City in 1938.

"So well pleased were the visitors from many parts of the state," reported the *Daily Appeal*, "that demands that the annual celebration be a fixture in the state's capital city were heard from every-side and quarter."

Highlights of the festivities included Governor Richard Kirman presenting 99-year-old ex-Governor Colcord, who had signed the first Admission Day bill in 1891, a testimonial scroll honoring his many contributions to the state.

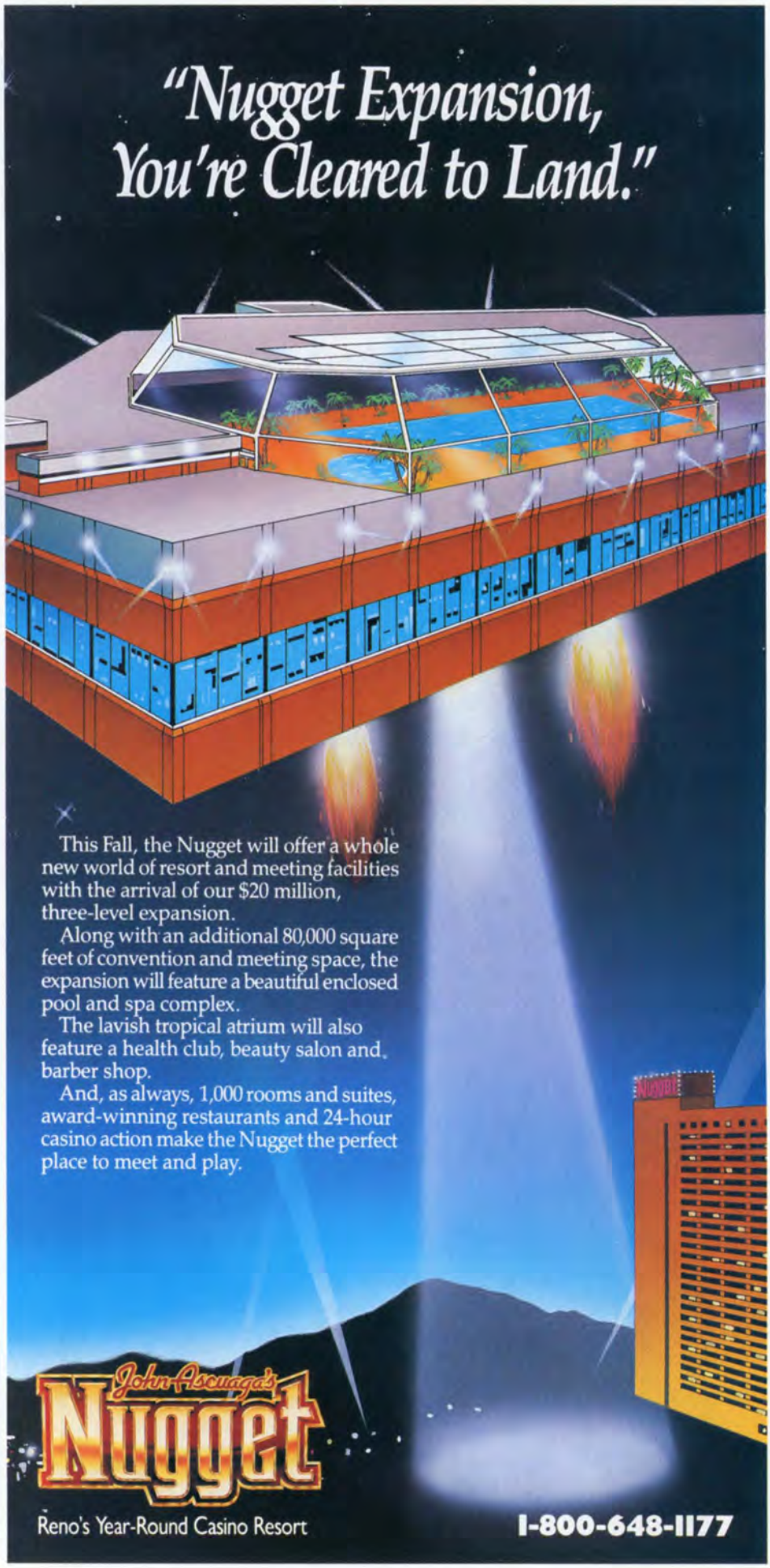
Carson City's second Nevada Day in 1939, a three-day Diamond Jubilee celebration attracting 42,000 visitors, focused on the state's 75th birthday and was a smashing success. A large contingent of Las Vegans participated in the event, as did some 3,000 Indians representing Nevada tribes.

The Nevada Day celebration in the capital city has been continuous since 1938 except for a break of three years during World War II. Following its return in 1945, when an estimated 20,000 people attended the day-long events, Nevada Day has become one of the biggest celebrations in the state.

The birthday bash in the centennial year of 1964 was far and away a record-breaker. The three-hour-long parade was followed by an awards program in front of the Capitol. Governor Grant Sawyer presided over the activities that included a ceremony honoring actors Lorne Greene and Michael Landon of the long-running television western *Bonanza* with "Acts of Adoption" declaring them to be "Sons of Nevada."

The October 31 parade has grown to be the Silver State's largest parade, and Nevada Day festivities have grown in Las Vegas over the past few years. In 1989, the 125th anniversary of Nevada's admission to the Union promises to be the biggest birthday party of them all.

Guy Louis Rocha is the State Archivist and works for the Nevada State Library and Archives. He has published numerous books and articles on Nevada history.



National Championship Air Races, 9/14-17, premier air race and show with 35 closed course pylon races in Unlimited, AT-6, Formula-One, and Biplane classes along with various aerobatic stars, U.S. Army's Golden Knights, fly-bys, and static displays, Reno-Stead Airport, 826-7500

'60s Bash, 9/15, a day of events and a '60s theme dance at night, Assoc. Students of UNR, UNR, 784-6589

Lake Tahoe Indian Market, 9/15-17 invitational display and sales of contemporary baskets, pottery, weavings, painting, jewelry, and other works by Native American artists; traditional singing and dancing by Native American groups from Nevada and California, Tahoe Keys Village, 916-541-4804

North Lake Tahoe Antique and Collector Car Show, 9/16, Commons Beach, Tahoe City, 916-583-3494

Dixieland at Tahoe, 9/16-17, music festival at various locations around North Lake Tahoe, performers include Hogin's Heroes, the Hangtown Jazz Company, the Fulton Street Jazz Band, Mike Vax and His Great American Jazz Band, Fay Golden, and Precious Craft and the Voices of Faith, 916-583-7625

Pat Parelli Equine Presentation, 9/16-17 Reno Livestock Events Center, 323-3073

Mexican Dance, 9/18, Reno Livestock Events Center, 323-3073

Octoberfest Celebration, 9/20-10/19, Harrah's Tahoe, 588-6611

Art Exhibit, 9/21-10/23, paintings by UNR Art Department faculty member Maryann Bonjorni, XS Gallery, Western Nevada Community College, Carson City, 887-3100



Camels and brave riders race down E Street in Virginia City on September 8-10.

Reno Philharmonic Concert Under Reno Arch, 9/22, free concert with complete orchestra set up in the middle of the street under the Arch, chairs provided for guests, 786-3030 or 825-5905

Wa-Pai-Shone Cultural Arts Show, 9/23, celebration of traditional and contemporary Washoe, Paiute, and Shoshone culture; food, arts, crafts, baskets, dance, theater, talent show, museum display, speakers, auction, Indian tacos, fashion show, free to public, C.C. Meneley Elementary School, Gardnerville, 265-4191, 883-1446, or 916-694-2339

Rhapsody in Blue: Toni Tennille sings Gershwin, Kern, and Berlin, 9/23, benefit concert of popular tunes by Nevada Opera chorus and Toni Tennille, an after-theater buffet dinner will follow the concert, Tennille will be on hand to greet guests, Pioneer Center for the Performing Arts, 786-4046

Northern Nevada Kart Club Racing, 9/23, Reno Livestock Events Center, 323-3073

Genoa Candy Dance, 9/23-24, 69th annual, candy sale and arts and crafts fair from 10am-5pm Sat.-Sun., buffet dinner and dance with live western music on Sat., Genoa, 782-8144

12th Annual Great High Sierra Regional Championship Chili Cook-Off, 9/23-24, district champions compete for cash prizes and qualification for the World Championship Chili Cook-Off; chili samples are available, live entertainment, other events and contests, High Sierra Hotel, Stateline, Lake Tahoe, 883-7833

Biggest Little Quilt Show in the West, 9/23-24, vendors, demonstrations, opportunity quilts, Bally's, 972-4378

"Everyone's War," 9/28, social commentary, one-man show by Stu Richel, 8pm, Brewery Arts Center, Carson City, 883-1976

Main Currents of Mankind: Re-assessing Pre-Columbian America, 9/29, R. David Edmunds, author of *The Shawnee Prophet* and *American Indian Leaders,* will give the 12th Annual Humanities Lecture, 8pm, free, Pine Auditorium, UNR, 784-6587

National Team Penning Finals, 9/29-10/1, Reno Livestock Events Center, 323-3073

Bowers Mansion Bluegrass Festival, 9/30, traditional acoustic music program featuring old-time bluegrass and folk music from America's heritage, outdoor stage, 9am-5pm, Northern Nevada Bluegrass Assn., Bowers



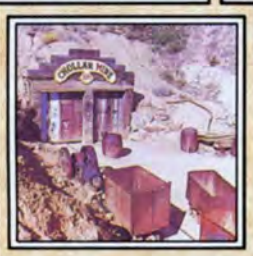
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Photo: Jinny Anderson

Mansion, Washoe Valley, 20 miles south of Reno, 883-9351

Bonanza Days, 9/30, chili cook-off and live music, Ponderosa Ranch, Incline Village, 831-0691

AKC Dog Show, 9/30, entries close on 9/13, Fuji Park, Carson City, 882-7466

Silver Cats Cat Show, 9/30-10/1, a 10-ring show; 5 rings each day with judging in championship and household pet categories, a TICA sanctioned show Kerak Shrine Temple, 329-7451

Tahoe Donner International Wheelchair Tennis Tournament, 9/30-10/1, Tahoe Donner, 916-587-9424

Autumn Jubilee, 9/30-10/29, primarily on weekends, events celebrate autumn in the High Sierra and include the Autumn Food and Wine Jubilee, sports and arts events, and Oktoberfest celebration, at various locations in North Lake Tahoe, for schedule of festival dates and details call Festivals at Tahoe, 916-583-7625

October

Annual Home Tour, 10/1, tour of historical homes in the Carson City area, 882-6736 or 882-1994 evenings

Autumn Jubilee Food and Wine Jubilee, 10/1, food and wine tasting with more than 30 of North Lake Tahoe's finest restaurants paired with a like number of California's fine wineries, Northstar, 916-583-2371

National Cutting Horse Assn. Breeders Cup, 10/2-8, Reno Livestock Events Center, 323-3073

Backgammon Tournament, 10/4-8, Caesars Tahoe, 826-1984

Bonanza Days, 10/5-8, country-western music, golf and tennis tournaments, Miner's and Logger's Costume Ball, Cartwright family look-a-like contest, Incline Village and Crystal Bay, 832-1606

National Country-Western Dance Festival, 10/6-8, largest country-western dance festival in U.S., Reno-Sparks Convention Center, 322-3355

Octoberfest, 10/6-27 activities on Fridays during October, Assoc. Students of UNR, UNR, 784-6589

Columbus Day Parade, 10/7 second annual parade at 11am; other special events include band performances, speeches by dignitaries, clowns and street entertainers, Punch and Judy puppet show, chariot races, Grand Ball, Queen Isabella and Columbus, Reno, 826-1113

Student Pottery Sale, 10/7 Brewery Arts Center, Carson City, 883-1976

Virginia City World's Fair of Ragtime, 10/7-8, marathon of ragtime pianists from the western U.S. at Virginia City saloons, free of charge, plus a grand finale by the Silver Empire Ragtime Orchestra, Virginia City, 847-0311 or 847-0322

Reno's Western Open Cutting Competition, 10/7-15, Reno Livestock Events Center, 849-1625

Great Italian Festival, 10/8, stilt walkers, spaghetti eating contest, gelato eating contest, bocce ball tournament, grape stomp and spaghetti cook-off, more than 30 booths to sample, Eldorado, 786-5700

Western Open Cutting, 10/9-15, Reno Livestock Events Center, 323-3073

Reno Philharmonic Concert, 10/10, Pioneer Center for the Performing Arts, 825-8905

Broadway Celebration, 10/11, Washoe County Community Concert Assn., Pioneer Center



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The Long Road to Stardom



Gary Raffanelli and Sandy Selby.

By Guy Richardson

Ten years ago, I wrote that Gary Raffanelli and Sandy Selby were headed straight toward the big time, stardom, fame, fortune, and all that.

Ten years ago, a Reno TV station whose name I cannot remember did the same thing. Ditto other critics.

So here we are a decade later, and Gary and Sandy are playing medium-sized Reno showrooms. Not shabby, but neither fame nor stardom.

In showbiz, them's the breaks.

They've watched other lounge acts rocket up the ol' success tree, to mangle a metaphor. Gary is diplomatic. "There are a lot of people who've made it who we think deserve it, like Larry Gatlin," he says smoothly.

Selby is blunt, and witty. I think of her as Dorothy Parker's mouth attached to Barbra Streisand's vocal cords. "I wonder why someone like Debbie Harry has made it, and Lynda Carter. We knew her back when."

Carter, who became Wonder Woman, sang with Speedy Garfin's lounge group. In my files are photos of the group with a very plump-cheeked Carter. "I sing better than she does," Selby says. "But she got all the breaks."

So why haven't they made it? "We haven't gotten cocky and arrogant enough," says Selby, and laughs.

"Making it" is relative. The two have raked in $25,000 for a one-nighter, and while they won't blurt out a yearly income, neither will they deny being in the $300,000 range.

Selby has her toys—cars and good-looking men—and Raffanelli has a young child. Once they had a romance between them, but now it is something better. "Nobody has a relationship like Sandy and I have," says Raffanelli, squeezing Selby's hand. She agrees.

"We've finally realized what we like about each other," she says. "I've even learned to like some of the dumb things he does." Selby giggles and whacks him on the arm.

They met when Raffanelli had a band in the Bay Area. "As soon as I saw Sandy, the job [of girl singer] was hers because she was so attractive," he says. "I didn't care if she could sing."

She could sing, even if she had lost her first job singing with a band when she was 14 years old. Her mother restricted her for staying out too late, and the band dropped her. It was for the best, says Selby.

"They never paid me anyway I would make five or 10 bucks to sing, and then they'd charge me for the rental of the sound system."

Selby's mom told her daughter to forget singing, go to nursing school. After two years, Selby left school and took a job singing with a comedy act at Lake Tahoe. She'd sing while they changed costumes. And this time the pay was better—$300 a week. Selby was 20.

Unfortunately that job didn't last long either.

"I bombed," she says. She crosses her sky-blue eyes, makes a face—and somehow manages to still look gorgeous. "I was too scared and my mouth dried up, and the next thing I knew, the curtain closed."

Then came Raffanelli, and together they built a reputation as one of the top groups on the lounge circuit. Still, reputation isn't stardom. Things came along, a record deal, a supposed TV series, many promises. Nothing really broke right. "You tell your parents, 'Oh wow, it's really happening,'" Selby says. "You tell them, 'I'm going to be a star. Then they ask later, 'What happened?' We've been lied to so many times."

Not lied to, says Raffanelli, the diplomat. "I take it as lessons. But you do learn that everybody has a story."

Perhaps they aren't headed straight to the top. They're happy. "We're certainly not finishing last," says Raffanelli. "If we stopped right now, I think we're on top."

Gary Raffanelli and Sandy Selby perform at the Eldorado September 8-October 1.

for the Performing Arts, 786-2149

Brewery Arts Center Open House, 10/11, 5-7pm, Carson City, 883-1976

World's 12th International Whistle-Off, 10/13-15, on 10/13 past champions show; on 10/14-15 melodic whistling competition with entrants from thoughout the U.S. and foreign countries, John Ascuaga's Nugget, Sparks, 356-3438

Oktoberfest, 10/14, annual event centered around the traditional German festival; attractions include German music, folk dancers, beer garden, arts and crafts, pumpkin pie baking contest, beer keg rolling contest, food and beverage booths, Victorian Square, Sparks, 356-2291

Carson Valley Qualifier Annual Motorcycle Event, 10/14, more than 100-mile motorcycle rally through the Pinenut Mountains, Carson Valley Inn, Minden, 831-0472

UNR Homecoming, 10/14-21, a week of events culminating with a parade and football game on Sat. 10/21, UNR v. Weber State at 1pm at Mackay Stadium, UNR, 784-6589

"Merry Widow," 10/20-22, Franz Lehar's comic opera, performed in English with a translation by Ted Puffer, Pioneer Center for the Performing Arts, 786-4046

Western States Celebration Horse Show, 10/20-22, Reno Livestock Events Center, 323-3073

"We Have Always Lived in the Castle," 10/20-29 and 11/3-4, mystery, on 10/29 signed performance for the hearing impaired, Reno Little Theater, 329-0661

The Great Bookworm Classic, 10/21, 5-km and 10-km run, and 2-mile walk; walk starts at 8:45am, run starts at 9am, starts and ends at Carson Station Hotel-Casino, Friends of the Ormsby Public Library, Carson City, 887-2244



Genoa's candy bash will be its 69th annual.

South Virginia Street Pumpkin Festival, 10/21-22, arts and crafts fair, games for children, Halloween maze, scarecrow and pumpkin decorating contest, located at corner of Virginia and Peckham, 323-4107

Kruse International Car Auction, 10/21-22, Reno/Sparks Convention Center, headquarters at the Peppermill, proceeds benefit the William F. Harrah Foundation National Automobile Museum, 689-7125

Last Thursday at the BAC, 10/26, an informal presentation of music, poetry, comedy, Brewery Arts Center, Carson City, 883-1976

Carson Indian Colony La Ka Le I Ba Powwow, 10/27-29, Indian dancing, arts and crafts, games, Carson City, 885-9759, 883-6431

Oktoberfest, 10/28, traditional celebration of the Harvest of the Hops with Om-pah-pah music, dancing, and food; entertainment by Bavarian Dance Ensemble, Alpine Meadows Ski Area Lodge, 916-583-2371

Governor's 1864 Grand Ball, 10/28, in honor of Nevada's 125th birthday, celebration will include a dance and sit down dinner; women in formal period ball gowns and men in military attire or black tie, music from period waltzes to swing will be played and a dance master will show steps from cotillions to the grand march for those interested in learning, public invited, Ormsby House, Carson City, 882-2600

Nevada State Railroad Museum Steam-Up, 10/28-29, some Virginia & Truckee restored engines will be steamed up for the museum's last steam operation of the year, train rides, 10am-4pm, adults $2.50, children 12 and under $1, children 5 and under free, Nevada State Railroad Museum, Carson City, 885-4810 or 885-5168

Jaycees Haunted House, 10/29-31, for all ages, proceeds to Carson City community charity, Mills Park, Carson City, 883-0392

Nevada Day Celebration, 10/31, celebration of 125th anniversary of Nevada statehood, includes parade, bed races open to any organization, longest beard contest, single jack rock drilling contest, art show at Brewery Arts Center, Carson City, 882-1565 or 883-0392 (bed races)

November

National Senior Pro Rodeo Finals, 11/1-5, Reno Livestock Events Center, 323-3073

Basque Club Dance, 11/4, CVIC Hall, Minden, 782-5145

Museum Grand Opening, 11/5, ribbon cutting ceremony open to public, William F. Harrah Foundation National Automobile Museum, Reno, 333-9300

Ramblin' Wheels Motorcycle Turkey Run, 11/



Photo: Jay Aldrich

5, approximate 75-mile poker run includes drawing for turkeys and hams, trophies, awards, Reno area, 355-9104

North American Indian Championship Rodeo, 11/8-12, Reno Livestock Events Center, 916-663-4255

Carson Valley Open Dart Tournament, 11/10-12, Carson Valley Inn, Minden, 782-9711

Shopper's Expo, 11/10-12, Reno-Sparks Convention Center, 786-3030

Top Rank Boxing, 11/14, Harrah's Tahoe, 588-6611

Reno Philharmonic Concert, 11/14-15, Pioneer Center for the Performing Arts, 825-5905

All-Star Bocce Classic, 11/16-18, more than 400 bocce players from across the county will compete in the classic; bocce is a game which originated in Italy and is played in teams of four who toss wooden balls to a target, Peppermill, 689-7125

Monster Truck Spectacular, 11/17-18, Reno Livestock Events Center, 323-3073

"Paganini," 11/18, Brewery Arts Center, Carson City, 883-1976

Old-Fashioned Christmas Faire, 11/18-19, craft fair, community center, Carson City, 882-2111

Truck Pull, 11/24-25, Reno Livestock Events Center, 209-575-3413

Cowboy Poets "Rhymers Rodeer," 11/25-26, cowboy poetry gathering, Ormsby House, Carson City, 882-1890

Sierra Nevada Chorale Concert, 12/1, foods, costumes, customs, and songs from countries around the world and how they celebrate Christmas, Pioneer Center for the Performing Arts, 825-5000

COMING EVENTS

National Senior Pro Rodeo Finals, 11/1-5, Reno Livestock Events Center, 323-3073

Hometown Victorian Christmas Parade and Celebration, 12/2, Sparks, 356-3300

Genoa Christmas Fair, 12/2, Genoa, 782-8144

Nugget Hereford Celebrity Sale, 12/9, John Ascuaga's Nugget, Sparks, 356-3300

Christmas on the Comstock Festival of Lights, Thanksgiving-Xmas, Virginia City, 847-0311

Festival of Trees, 12/16-23, downtown Reno, 786-3030

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: Randy Travis, 9/8-10; Frank Sinatra, 9/14-17

Caesars Tahoe, 588-3515: *Cascade Showroom:* Gallagher, 8/29-9/3; Little Feat, 9/8-9; Santana, 9/15-16; Dolly Parton, 9/22-24; George Burns/Catte Adams, 10/20-21; *Crystal Cabaret:* Playboy's Girls of Rock 'n Roll, indf.; Laff Trax, indf. (starring James Stephens III/Bruce Smirnoff, thru 9/3)

Carson City Nugget, 883-3854: Entertainment TBA

Carson Valley Inn, Minden, 782-9711: Network, 9/5-11; The Act, 9/12-23; Perfect Circle, 9/26-10/9; Ohana, 10/17-30; Tommy Bell, 10/31-11/5

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: "Lipstick" starring Tempest Storm, indf.; Danny Marona, thru 9/3 and 10/3-22; Pat Collins, 9/12-10/1 and 11/21-12/3

Eldorado, Reno, 786-5700: Dae Han Sisters, 9/3-17; Pat Collins, 9/3-10 and 11/7-19; Gary Raffanelli and Sandy Selby, 9/18-10/1; Sonny Turner, 10/3-22; The Diamonds, 10/3-22; Danny Marona, 10/24-11/5; Sons of the Pioneers, 11/21-28

Fitzgerald's, Reno, 785-3300: Tommy Bell, thru 9/10; The Act, 9/4-10; Whiskey Ridge/Ohana, 9/11-24; Reta and the Wizz Kidz/Mixed Company, 9/25-10/1

Flamingo Hilton Reno, 322-1111: TBA

Harolds Club, Reno, 329-0881: David Proud, thru 9/3; Passion, thru 9/10; Ohana, 9/4-10; Network/Crystal Palace, 9/11-17; Reta and the Wizz Kidz, 9/18-9/24; Love Affair, 9/18-10/1; Whiskey Ridge, 9/25-10/8

Harrah's Reno, 329-4422: *Headliner Room:* Jim Nabors/Patti Page, 8/31-9/6; Smothers Brothers, 9/14-20; Yakov Smirnoff, 9/21-27; Glen Campbell, 9/28-10/4; Bobby Vinton, 10/5-11; Debbie Reynolds, 10/12-18; Mickey Gilley/Mark Sweet, 10/19-25; Neil Sedaka, 10/26-11/1; The Roy Clark Show, 11/9-15; Waylon Jennings/Jessi Colter, 11/16-22; *Casino Cabaret:* Bill Medley, thru 9/6; The Buck Ram Platters, 9/7-20; Rain: A Tribute to the Beatles, 9/28-10/11; Williams and Ree, 11/2-8; Lacy J. Dalton, 11/30-12/6; Frederic Apcar's "Zing!" revue, indf.

THE GHOST TRAIN of OLD ELY



Savor the real west and step back in time as you explore the "Best Preserved" shortline in North America. Visit the Railroad Museum of the Nevada Northern Railway and experience the wonderful sight, sound, and smell of a real old time steam railroad.

Museum tours offered Tuesday thru Sunday, May 27 thru September 3rd. Exhibits include general office and depot from 1907, roundhouse, machine and blacksmith shops, and historic rolling stocks of steam, diesel and electric locomotives, passenger and freight cars, and antique work equipment.

AUTHENTIC STEAM & DIESEL RIDES
Operating each weekend
May 27th thru September 30th, 1989

NEVADA NORTHERN RAILWAY MUSEUM
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Harrah's Tahoe, 588-6606: *South Shore Room:* Carol Lawrence and Rip Taylor in "Sugar Babies," thru 9/10; Sammy Davis, Jr., 9/12-17; The Judds, 9/19-24; Tom Jones, 9/26-10/1; Engelbert Humperdinck, 10/3-8; Dionne Warwick/Burt Bacharach, 10/10-15; Steve Lawrence and Eydie Gorme, 10/17-22; Oak Ridge Boys, 10/24-29; Bill Cosby/Phylicia Rashad, 11/14-19; Roberta Flack, 11/21-26; *Stateline Cabaret:* David R. Wright and Beverly James present "Shocked!" revue, thru 9/26; Poncho Sanchez, 8/31-9/2; The Richie Cole Quartet, 9/3-5; Tim Weisberg, 9/7-10; Ernestine Anderson, 9/11-12; Little Charlie and the Nightcats, 9/14-19; The Buck Ram Platters, 9/21-10/3; Al Stewart, 10/5-10; Ozark Mountain Daredevils, 10/12-17; Mitch Ryder, 10/19-24; The Guess Who, 10/26-11/1; Zasu Pitts Memorial Orchestra, 11/2-7; Williams and Ree, 11/9-14; Rain: A Tribute to the Beatles, 11/16-28; Roomful of Blues, 11/30-12/5

Harvey's, Stateline, 588-2411: Jack Mack and Heart Attack, thru 9/3; Reta and the Wizz Kidz, thru 9/17; Sonny Turner, 9/7-10/1 (Thurs.-Sun.); Squeeze Play, 9/18-24; Network, 9/25-10/8; The Act, 10/30-11/19; Stephanie Teel, 11/20-12/10

Hyatt Lake Tahoe, Incline, 831-1111: Entertainment TBA

John Ascuaga's Nugget, Sparks, 356-3304: *Celebrity Showroom:* Lettermen/King Charles Troupe, 8/31-9/13; Earl Thomas Conley, 9/28-10/11; Ray Price, 10/12-25; The Volantes, 10/26-11/8; Sha Na Na, 11/9-22; Forester Sisters, 11/23-12/9; *Casino Cabaret:* Ricky and Bobby, 8/28-9/17; Motifs, 8/28-9/17; Zella

PREVIEW



This 1933 Cadillac V16 All-Weather Phaeton is getting a new home.

New Automobile Museum

Searchlights and fanfare will signal the long-awaited grand opening of Reno's newest international attraction on November 4.

That evening the William F. Harrah Foundation National Automobile Museum will be presented to a black-tie audience. Public opening ceremonies will take place at 11 a.m. on the following day, Sunday November 5.

The new 105,000-square-foot complex will fittingly showcase the outstanding vehicles collected by the late gaming pioneer William Fisk Harrah.



Magnificent Lake Tahoe. One of the West's most spectacular natural settings.

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Lake Tahoe

Lake Tahoe Visitors Authority, P.O. Box 16299, South Lake Tahoe, CA 95706

Lehr, 8/29-9/17; Trilly Cole/Hollywood Argyles/Ricky and Bobby, 9/19-10/8; Garfin Gathering/Rob Quist and Great Northern/Ricky and Bobby, 10/10-29; Mike Slappey/Louie Fontaine and the Rockets/Rickey and Bobby, 10/31-11/19; Kenny Laursen Show/Zella Lehr/Ricky and Bobby, 11/21-12/10

Ormsby House, Carson City, 882-1890: Perfect Circle, 8/28-9/9; Corrie Sachs, 8/29-9/10; Passion, 9/11-17; Laura Bright, 9/12-24; Big Tiny Little, 9/19-10/2; Motifs, 10/3-8; Garfin Gathering, 9/26-10/9; Ohana/Reta and the Wizz Kidz, 10/10-15; Lynn; Alexandria/Love Affair, 10/17-29; Stearns and Chandler/Garfin Gathering, 10/31-11/12; Motifs/Laura Bright, 11/14-26; Passion, 11/28-12/10

Peppermill, Reno, 826-2121: Sneak Preview, thru 9/3; Cameron, thru 9/10; Tanzania, 9/4-10; Cheryl Cotten/Lelands, 9/11-24; Seating For Seven/Summit, 9/25-10/1; John L. Ritter, 9/25-10/8

Ponderosa, 786-6820: Nightly entertainment

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: Ohana, 9/4-10; Gary Wade and Bump, 9/4-17 10/9-15, and 10/30-11/12; France, 9/11-24; Surprise Package, 9/18-24 and 11/6-19; Lelands, 9/25-10/1 and 10/9-15; Wrays, 9/25-10/8; St. Romain, 10/9-22; Tommy Bell, 10/16-29; David Proud, 10/23-11/5; Mid Life Crysis, 10/30-11/12; Southern Reign, 11/20-12/3; American Made Bank, 11/27-12/10

DISCOVER THE NEVADA PIONEER TRAILS



Pioneers settled the valleys, then precious metals in the mountains invited rough and tumble miners. Today, the quiet pioneer towns are interesting stops for food, lodging, friendly gaming and a look into history. There's a lot to discover here.

Write for a free brochure and learn about the interesting places to visit in Pioneer Territory.

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P.O. Box 1635
Hawthorne, Nevada 89415



It's pageant time for this manx at the Silver Cats Cat Show September 30-October 1.

Photo: Carl J. Widmer

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-October 15, closed during winter, 782-4325

Reno

E.L. Wiegand Museum of Art: 10-6 Tues.-Sat., noon-4 Sun., 160 W. Liberty, 329-3333

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

Hawkins House: art museum, 10-4 Tues. and Thurs.-Fri., 10-8 Wed., 12-4 Sat.-Sun., 549 Court St., 329-3333

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-Stead Airport, 10 mi. north of Reno, 853-3488

Nevada Historical Society: 10-5 Tues.-Sat., and noon-5 Sun., 1650 N. Virginia St., 789-0190

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 Foundation National Auto-

mobile Museum: 9:30-5:30 daily, 970 Glendale Ave., 333-9300 (Will be closing in September to move to new location at the corner of Mill and Lake St. in downtown Reno. Call to confirm that they are open before visiting. Museum will reopen to the public on November 5.)

Sparks Heritage Foundation and Museum: 1-4 Wed.-Sun., 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

Mackay Mansion: 10-6 daily June-Oct., 11-5 daily Nov.-May, 847-0173

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 Castle: 11-5 daily Memorial Day-Oct., closed during winter, 847-0275

The Way It Was Museum: 9:30-5 daily, 847-0766

Wild West Museum: 9-5 daily, 847-0400



Bookworms in Carson City (above) will take to the streets on October 21 for special runs and walks. The event is part of a statewide library reading program.

CASINO NOTES

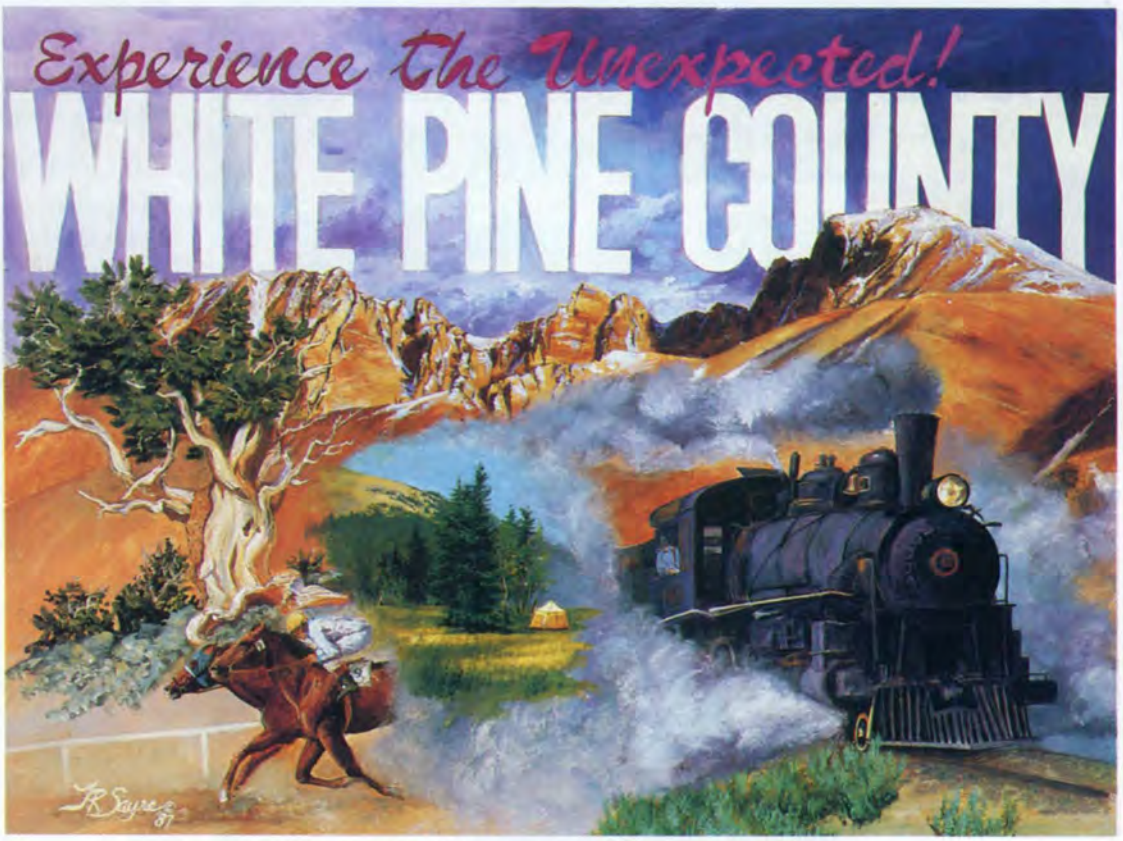
•In July the Reno Hilton underwent a $13 million renovation and is now called the **Flamingo Hilton Reno**. Included in the transformation was the creation of **Paco's**, a Southwestern-style gaming hacienda and restaurant located between Virginia and Sierra streets. Paco's has 272 slots and 13 gaming tables. A mariachi band often plays while employees, in traditional Mexican costumes, serve customers. The restaurant, accented with lots of tile, wood, and colorful fabrics, will serve a wide variety of Mexican specialties.

•**The Carson Station Hotel-Casino,** formerly the Mother Lode, celebrated its grand opening in grand style when Deborah Overcast of Laverne, Oklahoma, hit a half-million-dollar Quartermania jackpot June 15—the largest two-quarter payout in history.

Overcast lit up when she hit the huge $508,696.48 jackpot after playing only $4 in quarters at the Quartermania carrousel.

Overcast and her friend, Chris Moore, had arrived in Carson City from Oklahoma just four

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GREAT BASIN NATIONAL PARK, NEVADA

days earlier and had been seeking jobs and a place to live. Discouraged because they couldn't find a home in Carson City, they had planned to return to Oklahoma the following morning. "But we're here to stay now," says Moore happily. "We're officially Carson City residents."

Quartermania is a statewide progressive system that currently links slot carrousels in 81 casinos throughout the state to one large jackpot and one secondary, or "Mini-Mania," prize.

• The table game of roulette and the action of slot machines have been combined into the new Roulette Slots, which are debuting at **Harrah's Tahoe**. Designated the Weltron Crown Roulette, the machines offer an electronic alternative to the popular European roulette table game.

The game is similar to the table game of roulette "but with a lot fewer numbers on which to bet," says Verne Hetzel, president and general manager of Bergmann USA, which distributes the machines in Nevada. The machines will soon be available in northern Nevada, spreading to southern and central Nevada as well as Atlantic City later.

• The **Peppermill Hotel Casino** in Reno recently completed a five-month, $1 million renovation to its 101-room "A" Building located northwest of the hotel tower. All "A" Building rooms are now identical to the rooms in the Peppermill's tower. Each room is one of seven colors (blue, rose, plum, gold, peach, mint green, and coco-brown) with custom-made fabrics and furniture designed specifically for the Reno Peppermill. For long-time customers, General Manager and CEO Phil Bryan says, "It's like coming home from a vacation and having your house redesigned."

• A television spot for **Harvey's Resort** has been honored at The One Show competition in New York City as one of the best in the consumer television category, garnering the prestigious Silver Award of Excellence at the international show. The spot was one of more than 12,000 entries from around the world.

• It comes as a surprise to some visitors that **Harrah's Tahoe** has a large recreation center with the only supervised video arcade in the Stateline area. Open from 9 a.m. to midnight, the recreation center has enough video games to keep even the choosiest videophiles happy. The video arcade has a special supervised section for youngsters six to 14 years old; the cost is 50 cents per hour with a five-hour limit.



Celebrating the discovery of America in 1492, Reno's Columbus Day Parade takes place downtown on October 7. Parade-goers will see colorful floats such as the Niña, Pinta, *and* Santa Maria, *which were last year's favorites. Reno has been named Nevada's quincentenary city—the city to host the 500th anniversary of Columbus' arrival in 1992.*

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U.S. 395 Minden, NV
20 min. from Tahoe

TOURNAMENTS

September

Slots, 9/3-6, High Sierra, 588-6211
Slots, 9/10-13 and 9/17-19, John Ascuaga's Nugget, Sparks, 356-3300
Blackjack/Craps, 9/17-19, Eldorado, 786-5700
Slots, 9/22-24, Peppermill, 689-7282
Slots, 9/24-27, Caesars Tahoe, 588-3515
Keno, 9/24-27 Caesars Tahoe, 588-3515
Keno, 9/29-30, Peppermill, 689-7290
Slots, 9/29-10/1, Reno Ramada, 788-2000

October

Poker, 10/1 and 10/29, High Sierra, 588-6211
Slots, 10/8-11 and 11/12-15, High Sierra, 588-6211
Blackjack, 10/15-18 and 10/22-24, John Ascuaga's Nugget, Sparks, 356-3300
Blackjack/Craps, 10/27-29, Peppermill, 689-7100
Slots, 10/27-29, Reno Ramada, 788-2000
Slots, 10/29-31, Eldorado, 786-5700

November

Blackjack/Craps, 11/9-11, Peppermill, 689-7100
Video Poker, 11/10-12, Reno Ramada, 788-2000
Slots, 11/17-19, Reno Ramada, 788-2000
Blackjack, 11/19-21, High Sierra, 883-6211
Slots, 11/26-29, John Ascuaga's Nugget, Sparks, 356-3300

Photo: Don Dondero

RENO

TAKE OFF FOR THE RACES.

If you've never seen a camel race, a balloon race or an air race...you've never been to Reno in September.

Because in September, Reno goes to the races!! On September 8-10, the cool morning skies over Reno will play host to the beauty of the Great Reno Balloon Race. And each afternoon that same weekend, the action moves up to Virginia City for the Virginia City Camel Races.

Reno's racing September gets back off the ground September 14-17 as the Reno National Championship Air Races take off for four days of precision flying, aerobatics and thrilling wing-to-wing racing.

September in Reno — a month at the races. Don't miss it.

For room reservations, call
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For more information send for your free 54 page Reno/Tahoe Travel Planner. Reno-Sparks Convention & Visitors Authority, P.O. Box 11430, Reno, NV 89510.

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THE NEVADA CALENDAR

Rural Areas





Racers will be stirring up dust around Yerington during the 400-mile VORRA race on Labor Day weekend (top). Meanwhile, railroad buffs will be admiring Ely's Old No. 40 at Railfair '89.

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-4

RURAL EVENTS COVERED WAGON TERRITORY

September

Western Art Roundup, 9/1-3, show and sale of fine quality western art, more than 200 original works including oils, sculpture, watercolor, acrylics, pastels, pen, pencil, and mixed media; awards banquet, buckaroo poetry, artist demonstrations, wine tasting, Quick Draw, convention center, Winnemucca, 623-5071 or 529-0452 evenings

Winnemucca Rodeo and Tri-County Fair, 9/1-4, PRCA rodeo that is the oldest continuous rodeo in Nevada, parade on Sat., street fair, western barbecue, western dance, buckaroo breakfast, 4-H livestock show and auction, Winnemucca, 623-5071 or 623-6304

Elko County Fair, Livestock Show, and Race Meet, 9/1-4, 4-H livestock show, stock horse classes, home art exhibits, horse racing and pari-mutuel betting, demolition derby on 9/4, fairgrounds, Elko, 738-3616 or 758-6443

Tour of Historic Nixon Opera House, 9/2, art-deco-style 500-seat theater with its original proscenium arch and stage will be open to the public 10am-3pm, Winnemucca, 623-2912

Michael Martin Murphy Concert, 9/8, benefit for Elko General Hospital, convention center, Elko, 738-4091

Northern Nevada Community College Fall Dinner Dance, 9/9, convention center, Elko, 738-8493 ext. 237

Cactus Pete's Horseshoe Tournament, 9/9-10, Jackpot, 755-2321 ext. 116

Winnemucca Thoroughbred, Quarter Horse, and Mule Pari-Mutuel Racing, 9/9-10 and 9/16-17 12:30pm post time, eight races per day, fairgrounds, Winnemucca, 623-5071

Red Lion Second Annual Chili Cook-Off, 9/16, ICS sanctioned, Red Lion, Elko, 738-2111

Western States Finals, 9/17-18, rodeo, Wendover, 664-3414

State Line Seniors Classic, 9/20-21, golf tournament, Toana Vista Championship Golf Course, Wendover, 664-2221

Ram Sale, 9/21-23 (tentative), fairgrounds, Elko, 738-3616

Airstream Rally, 9/21-24, Cactus Pete's, Jackpot, 755-2321 ext. 116

Chimney Rock Classic Golf Tournament, 9/23-24, Wells, 752-3928

Elko County Art Clubs' Fall Festival of Art, 9/27-10/23, Northeastern Nevada Museum, Elko, 738-3418

Wildlife and Leaf Art Exhibit, 9/27-11/12, works by Walter Shull, Northeastern Nevada Museum, Elko, 738-3418

Silver Smith Invitational, 9/28-29, golf tournament, Toana Vista Championship Golf Course, Silver Smith Resort, Wendover, 664-2231

Nevada State 4-H Exposition, 9/28-10/1, 4-H youth who have won blue ribbons at their local county fairs compete for state honors, fairgrounds, Winnemucca, 784-6118

Photos: Marvin Snow (top); Shirley Burman

Harvest Time in Pahrump

By Kate Butler



The Pahrump rodeo draws pro cowboys, cowgirls, and calves that hate to be roped.

Pahrumpians—that breed of Nevadans who call Pahrump home—love community celebrations. They held rodeos in their valley when it had only a handful of ranchers and a small Indian community. They've grown up with family-oriented Saturday night socials and danced to the foot-stomping music of local musicians. Every year now they celebrate Cinco de Mayo and the Fourth of July, hold a trail ride to Las Vegas, and crown a Miss Pahrump.

The big one in Pahrump, though, is the Harvest Festival and PRCA Rodeo. This year's, on September 15-17 marks the Harvest Festival's silver anniversary.

First held as a local weekend of relaxation between alfalfa and cotton harvests in the early '60s, the festival was primarily a barbecue dinner with some family contests and gymkhana events.

Twenty-six years later (they skipped one year because of inflationary prices) the festival includes the traditional gymkhana, several barbecues, a rodeo, fair, carnival, parade, contests, helicopter rides, raffles, entertainment, music, and dancing. It draws more than 100 vendors and 24,000 visitors.

Despite its increased size, the Harvest Festival is still family-oriented and delightfully homespun. There are homemade cakes and pies, Pahrump honey, and lots of crafts among the fair booths. The parade is mainly local, and the pit-barbecued beef is as good as ever.

Except for rodeo tickets, rides, and the barbecue, everything is free to the public. There are no entrance or parking fees.

It is probably the festival's downhome quality that has endeared it to outsiders. Relatives of Pahrump families often plan their visits around festival time. Snowbirds, who are making Pahrump their winter home in rapidly increasing numbers, return in time for the festival weekend.

In fact, many current Pahrumpians are former festival visitors who enjoyed the event so much that they stayed.

Festival fever starts perking early. Vendors set up their booths, the carnival hums by Thursday evening, and Pahrump barbecuers load 6,000 pounds of beef into deep pits to roast over mesquite coals.

The official kickoff is the Friday night rodeo, barbecue, and dance. The parade down State Route 160 on Saturday morning, along with all the other festival events, keep Pahrump jumping right into late Saturday evening.

Sunday is another full day of festivities, starting with the popular backhoe and Ms. Paula Bunyan competitions and a new-this-year rock drilling contest on Sunday morning.

Pahrump's rodeo (three days this year) was added to the festival eight years ago and is sanctioned by the Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association. It draws cowboys and cowgirls from around the West to compete in bull riding, bareback, saddle bronc, calf roping, steer wrestling, team roping, and barrel racing.

Visitors are close to the action at the rodeo, which is held outdoors in the community's rodeo arena. This is the real McCoy depicted in Western movies with plenty of popcorn, pop and beer, cowboys astride fences, rodeo clowns, faded jeans, and flying dust.

Many of the same friendly Pahrumpians who put on the first Harvest Festival are still around—in fact, some of them helped organize this year's anniversary celebration. A commemorative belt buckle honors their dedication.



Pahrump, which is 60 miles west of Las Vegas on State Route 160, has a limited number of hotel and motel rooms, and most are booked for the festival weekend a year ahead. For further information, call the Pahrump Chamber of Commerce, 702-727-5800.

Kate Butler is a Las Vegas writer-photographer

Photos: Kate Butler



Walker Lake's lunker derby is in November.

Animal Relief Foundation, 9/29-30, entertainment, games, and food, convention center, Elko, 738-4091

October

Blackjack, 10/8-9, State Line Hotel, Wendover, 664-2221

State Line and Silver Smith Ladies Classic, 10/14-15, golf tournament, Wendover, 664-2221

Art Exhibit, 10/26-12/10, landscape and animal painter Phyllis Storm, Northeastern Nevada Museum, Elko, 738-3418

TOTS (Trick or Treat Street), 10/31, Elko Police Station, 738-8477

November

Veteran's Day Powwow, 11/10-12, traditional dancing, competitive dancing, Miss Sho-Pai contest, dinner honoring the veterans, arts and crafts, Crawford Gymnasium, Owyhee, 757-3211

Silver Smith Classic Slot Tournament, 11/11-12, Silver Smith Resort, 664-2231

Pre-Holiday Show, 11/18-19, retail show, convention center, Elko, 738-7135

PONY EXPRESS TERRITORY

September

Hearts of Gold Cantaloupe Festival and Lions Club Junior Rodeo, 9/1-4, parade, Churchill County Fair, dances, live entertainment, vendors, exhibits, fairgrounds, Fallon, 423-2544

White Pine Rodeo Assn. Gymkhana, 9/2, fairgrounds, Ely, 289-8513

Railfair '89, 9/2-4, steam up and operation of the "Ghost Train of Old Ely," Northern Nevada Railway Museum, East Ely, 289-2085

Ultralight Fly-In and Air Show, 9/2-4, Ely, 289-3720

Yerington/VORRA 400 Mile Desert Off-Road Race, 9/3, four laps of 100 miles each with six classes of cars, 9am start time, 2 miles southwest of Yerington, 463-3363

White Pine Silver Stampede, 9/8-10, PRCA rodeo, fairgrounds, Ely, 289-8877

Open Barrel Race, 9/9-10, $1,200 added money, ACBRA approved, rodeo grounds, Battle Mountain, 635-2235 or 635-5647

Hidden Cave Tours, 9/9 and 9/23, meet at 9:30am, Churchill County Museum, Fallon, 882-1631 or 423-3677

Nevada Reined Cow and Cutting Horse Show, 9/9-17 fairgrounds, Fallon, 423-2544

Tour of the Loneliest Road, 9/11-17, (tour comes to Ely on 9/16) a series of eight bicycling races across the state, along U.S. 50 starting in Carson City and ending in Ely. Approx. 120 riders compete in more than 400 miles of racing. Tour includes races starting in Carson City, Fallon, Austin, Eureka, and Ely, 289-8877 or 408-425-8688

Four-Man Team Championship Golf Tourney, 9/16-17 Ely, 289-6427

Dayton Valley Days, 9/23, 10am opening of crafts and fair booths with awards for homemade goods; entertainment at outdoor theater including one-act skits, local talent show, 4pm crowning of king and queen of Dayton Valley Days; 5-8pm outdoor western barbecue; 8pm-midnight adult dance; Logan Alley and Pike Street will be closed 10am-8pm for celebration in historic downtown Dayton, 246-3281 evenings, 246-0123 days

Silver State Classic, 9/24, open road auto race on State Route 318 between Lund and Hiko, includes five classes: Antique, Veteran, Vintage, Historic, and Classic, will attempt to top the 162 mph record set by Jimmy Liataud in 1988, post-race awards banquet at Showboat Hotel in Las Vegas, 385-9190

October

Eureka Horse Show Awards Banquet and Dance, 10/1 (tentative), everyone welcome,

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NEVADA

Coming up in the Nov/Dec issue:

Winter Retreats

▪

Great Nevada Picture Hunt

▪

Skiing Around the State

▪

Main Street: Incline Village

▪

Nevada Championship Chili Cook-Off, Parade of Lights, National Senior Pro Rodeo Finals

PREVIEW

Air Show Over Fallon

By Olin Briggs

High-altitude action takes off at the Greater Churchill County-NAS Fallon Air Show on October 7 Last year more than 35,000 turned out to watch the Navy's famed Blue Angels perform their precision flying maneuvers that have wowed audiences since just after World War II.

This year's event, which comes three weeks after the world-famous Reno Air Races, will feature a roll-call of sleek aircraft from the Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, and Army that promises to thrill children of all ages. The SR-71 Blackbird, of high-altitude fame, returns along with Marine Harriers, Navy A-6 Intruders, A-7 Corsairs, F-18 Hornets, UH-1N Hueys, F-14 Tomcats, E-2C Hawkeyes, S-3 sub-killers, and many more.

Captain Ray Alcorn, Navy Fallon's commanding officer, will open the gates at 7:30 a.m. with a battle of school bands and a cornucopia of static displays for the aficionados of military aviation.

Multi-colored booths, with pennants snapping in the autumn breeze, will guide the visitors to a smorgasbord of foods and the ever-present dispensers of T-shirts, airplane models, and plaques—enough to satisfy the most demanding souvenir hunters.



Visitors to the air show's open house inspect a giant Hercules C-130 transport.

Olin Briggs, the public affairs officer at the Fallon Naval Air Station, is a free-lance writer whose work has appeared in publications throughout the South and West.

DISCOVER

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Photo: Inga Spence

live music, party, prizes, Eureka, 237-5314

Holiday Craft Faire, 10/6-7, handcrafted gift items, entertainment, food and craft demonstrations, free, community center, Fallon, 867-3576

Greater Churchill County/NAS Fallon Air Show, 10/7 second annual, Naval Air Station, Fallon, 426-2716

Nevada Civil War Volunteers Encampment, 10/7 living history talks, displays representing military life and fashion show of 1860s clothing, 11am, Fort Churchill State Historic Park, Silver Springs, 577-2345

Hidden Cave Tours, 10/14 and 10/28, meet at 9:30am, Churchill County Museum, Fallon, 882-1631 or 423-3677

PIONEER TERRITORY

September

Pioche Labor Day Celebration, 9/1-4, 962-5544

We the People, 9/7 and 12/15, a community reading of the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution of the United States, and the Bill of Rights; Mineral County Museum, Hawthorne, 945-5142 or 945-3111

Pahrump Harvest Festival and PRCA Rodeo, 9/15-17 carnival, deep-pit barbecue, games, food and craft booths, 4-H fair and exhibits, parade on Sat., Community Park and McCullogh Arena, Pahrump, 727-5107 727-5791, or 727-6679

Meadow Valley Days and Apple Festival, 9/15-17 hayrides, horseshoe tournaments, poker run, ball games, roping, and dance in Caliente; the Apple Festival will be held at The End of the Rainbow Ranch, 20 miles south of Caliente, bring picnic lunch, pick apples, 726-3129

October

Battle Born Days, 10/1-31, special Nevada historical events including an art show and early-period events; a special Victorian weekend is planned 10/21-22, activities centered at Mineral County Museum, Hawthorne, 945-5142 or 945-5896

Igor's Cowboy Jazz Band, 10/20-21, western swing cowboy vocals and traditional Dixieland jazz, also Charles Dye art sketches and local artists' exhibit on Fri. at Pahranagat Valley High School in Alamo, on Sat. at Lincoln County High School in Panaca, 728-4539

November

Fifth Annual Walker Lake Fishing Derby, 11/24-26, cash prizes and merchandise giveaways for anglers lucky enough to catch native Lahontan cutthroat trout, Walker Lake, 12 miles north of Hawthorne, 945-5896

Sabella Consort, 11/29-30, Christmas program, the music is a blend of styles called Renaissance Jazz which combines original jazz compositions, Irish reels, and chamber music spanning six centuries, on Wed. at Lincoln County High School in Panaca, on Thurs. at Pahranagat Valley High School in Alamo, 728-4539 or 726-3742

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.



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RURAL COMING EVENTS

Elko All Breed Bull Sale, 11/10-11, 738-3616

Veteran's Day Powwow, 11/10-12, Owyhee, 757-3211

Christmas Tree Festival, 12/1-3, Caliente, 726-3209

Cowboy Poetry Gathering, 1/24-27/90, 738-7508

SHOWGUIDE

Covered Wagon Territory

Elko: Commercial Hotel, 738-3181: Dennis Barney and Nashville Rebels, 8/28-9/10; Texana, 9/11-24; The Matys Brothers, indf.; Red Lion, 738-2111; Stockmen's Hotel, 738-5141

Jackpot: Cactus Pete's, 755-2321: Ronnie Milsap, 9/9-10; Horseshu Casino, 755-2331

Wendover: Nevada Crossing, 664-4000; Peppermill, 664-2255; Red Garter, 664-2111; Silver Smith, 664-2231 ext. 709: Live entertainment nightly; State Line, 664-2221 ext. 698: Live 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, May 27-Oct. 1, closed during winter, East Ely, 289-2085

White Pine Public Museum, 9-5 Mon.-Fri., 10-4 Sat.-Sun., 2000 Aultman St., Ely, 289-4710

Eureka Sentinel Museum, open April 15-Oct. 13, 11-5 Mon.-Fri. and Sun., 10-3 Sat. through Labor Day weekend, hours vary the rest of the year, call 237-5484

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

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.

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.

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/Mary's Diner—5111 Boulder Hwy., 454-8073. '50s flair, blueplate specials served 24 hours. B, L, D. $, major.

Sam's Town/Smokey Joe's 24 Hour Cafe & Market—5111 Boulder Hwy., 456-7777. Barbecue specialties served 24 hours. B, L, D. $, major.

Sam's Town/Uptown Buffet—5111 Boulder Hwy., 454-8048. B, L, D. $, major.

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, medaillion 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, kassler rippchen, 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, cioppino style clams and calamari over a bed of fresh linguini, milk-fed veal piccata, homemade manicotti and lasagne, pasta diet menu from the American Heart Assn. L, D. $$, major.

Caesars Palace/Primavera—731-7110. Fettuccine Primavera, pasta specialities, 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.

Sam's Town/Willy & Jose's Mexican Cantina—5111 Boulder Hwy., 454-8044. Authentic Mexican dishes in Old Mexico setting. 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.



The Flamingo Room at the Flamingo Hilton in Las Vegas has a wide range of specialties.

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.

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.

Sam's Town/Diamond Lil's—5111 Boulder Hwy., 454-8009. Fresh fish and seafood daily. D, Sun. brunch. $-$$, major.

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.

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 in Arlington Gardens Mall—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. $-$$, 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.

Peppermill/Island Buffet—2707 S. Virginia St., 826-2121. Salad bar with fresh shrimp and crab legs and homemade pasta. Sun. brunch. 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, canneloni, calamari. D. $$$, major.

Eldorado/La Strada—786-5700. Saltimbocca, gnocchi al pesto, raviolli 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.

Rivoli—221 W. Second St., 784-9792. Veal, chicken, pasta. D. $$, MC, V.

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 specialities, 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. $,

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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.

Harrah's Tahoe/Sierra—Stateline, 588-6611. Daily specials, Chinese entrees. B, L, D. $$, major.

Harvey's/Cafe Metro—Stateline, 588-2411. European sweet shop, coffees, retail bakery. $, major.

Tahoe Queen—970 Ski Run Blvd., S. Lake Tahoe, CA., 916-541-3364. Afternoon Emerald Bay cruise with luncheon menu, evening dinner-dance cruise. L, D. $$, MC, V.

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.

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

ITALIAN

Caesars Tahoe/Primavera—Stateline, 588-3515. Linguini Carbonara, tenderloin pizzaiola, pollo allo 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

Caesars Tahoe/Broiler Room—Stateline, 588-3515. Prime rib, seafood, Cajun specialties. D. $$, major, res. for large parties.

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Red Lion Inn—738-2111. Coffee shop and gourmet restaurant. B, L, D. $-$$, major.

Stockmen's Motor Hotel—738-5141. Casino coffee shop, evening dinner house. B, L, D. $-$$, major.

AROUND THE STATE

Bruno's Country Club—300 Main St., Gerlach, 557-2220. Homemade ravioli. B, L, D. $, AE, MC, V.

Evah's Copper Queen—Ely, 289-4271. Prime rib, prawns, Mexican dishes. B, L, D. $-$$, major.

Jim and Lorraine's—10238 Main St., Eureka, 237-5264. Daily evening specials. American, Italian, and Mexican. L, D. $-$$,

Mary and Moe's Wigwam—255 W. Main St., Fernley, 575-2573. American. B, L, D. $, MC, V.

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NEVADA

REVIEW

It's the Real Zing

Covered or not, this is a high-energy revue.

By Pennye Nelson



"Zing!" has high-kicking dancers and strong speciality acts at Harrah's Reno.

When it opened this spring, Frederic Apcar's "Zing!" contained little nudity giving it an air of innocent fun. The dancers were mostly young'uns from Phoenix reluctant to dance sans tops. Then "Hello Hollywood, Hello" closed, and five of the show's dancers joined "Zing!'s" cast, including Liz Elliott, one of the leads.

And off came the tops.

But covered or topless, the show still sports high-energy dancing, gorgeous costumes, entertaining specialty acts, and the Rick Willet Orchestra to keep the show moving.

Elliott's ballet training shows in every extension, and her icy-blonde regalness looks as good inside Harrah's Reno's more intimate lounge as it did on Bally's giant stage. Her 1,000-kilowatt smile looks even better close up, although at times Elliott's precision seems at odds with choreographer Claudette Walker's hot, athletic, sweat-till-ya-glisten dancing.

Still, you won't see stuff like this at any sissy rodeo. Dancers can-can onto the stage as if shot from a cannon. High kicks whiz by ears, fannies waggle under yards of ruffles, while silken cowpokes at Wild Bill's No-Chance Saloon, do the—gasp!—splits.

The dancers look like they're having fun, which is pretty amazing considering they do this twice a night, five nights a week, and three times on Saturday. Lucky for them, there's a few minutes to rest while the three speciality acts take center stage.

The first act, juggler David Lucas, doesn't look like he's working too hard as he floats wisps of chiffon scarves through the air.

But soon, five tennis racquets arch over his head. Then, real machetes gleam in the bright stage lights as he juggles them, while balancing one in his mouth. Next it's rings and beach balls, hula hoops and ping-pong balls spinning round his various body parts.

Behind me, a man murmurs, "Oh yeah, well, it ain't a juggler without fire."

OK. For his finale, Lucas tosses three blazing torches higher and higher, which brings thunderous applause from the audience.

For the second act, Jerry and Vickie Kurland—The New Dunhills—keep it simple as they pitter-patter across the narrow stage area dressed in black tuxedos and straw hats. Their splendid rendition of "Top Hat" and the vigorous "Tap-Classic Challenge Dance" is little preparation for the comedy segment of the act.

As Vickie introduces Jerry as the "Amazing Llama-Man: half man, half llama," he changes from his usual self (he looks a little like Corporal Klinger on *M*A*S*H*) to a tongue-rolling, bug-eyed Peruvian beast of burden. Other laugh-getters are his version of an Italian mouse and an Irish mouse eating cheese—what teenagers call a "location joke." You gotta be there.

The third and final act has ventriloquist Brad Cummings switching voices with his dummy. So what? Lots of ventriloquists do a squeaky nasal voice without flapping their lips. Yes, but Cummings is one of the few who can do his normal voice with locked lips.

And he doesn't stop there. In another routine a huge egg is hatched, producing a baby dinosaur with a voice like an immature earthquake. Then the dinosaur does impressions. Your brain spins when you realize that Cummings' voice is doing the dinosaur's voice doing a star's voice.

The three acts round out the show nicely. However, what draws audiences to "Zing!" is the Nevada glitz formula of gorgeous showgirls with scanty costumes, hot dance numbers, and—let's face it—bare bosoms.

The original show was unique for its restrained nudity. The new edition has both gained and lost. It has gained the spicy look of Frederic Apcar's other revues. But it has lost a tasteful atmosphere that made it perhaps less commercial but certainly more elegant.

"Zing!"

Frederic Apcar's "Zing!" plays in the Casino Cabaret at Harrah's Reno indefinitely. Performances are 7:30 p.m., 10 p.m., and 12:30 a.m. Friday and Saturday and 7:30 and 10:45 p.m. other nights except Tuesday when the room is dark. Tickets are $6 and include two drinks on Friday and Saturday; the rest of the week tickets are $5. Reservations are recommended; call 702-329-4422.

Pennye Nelson covers Nevada entertainment for the San Francisco Chronicle *and is a frequent contributor to* Nevada.



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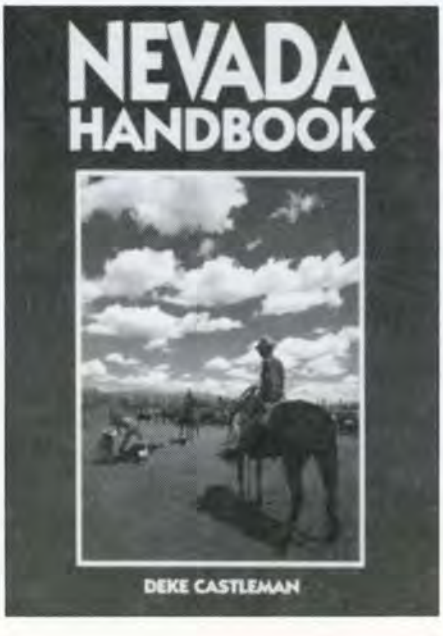
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