NEVADA

THE MAGAZINE OF THE REAL WEST
JUNE 1990 ▪ $2.75

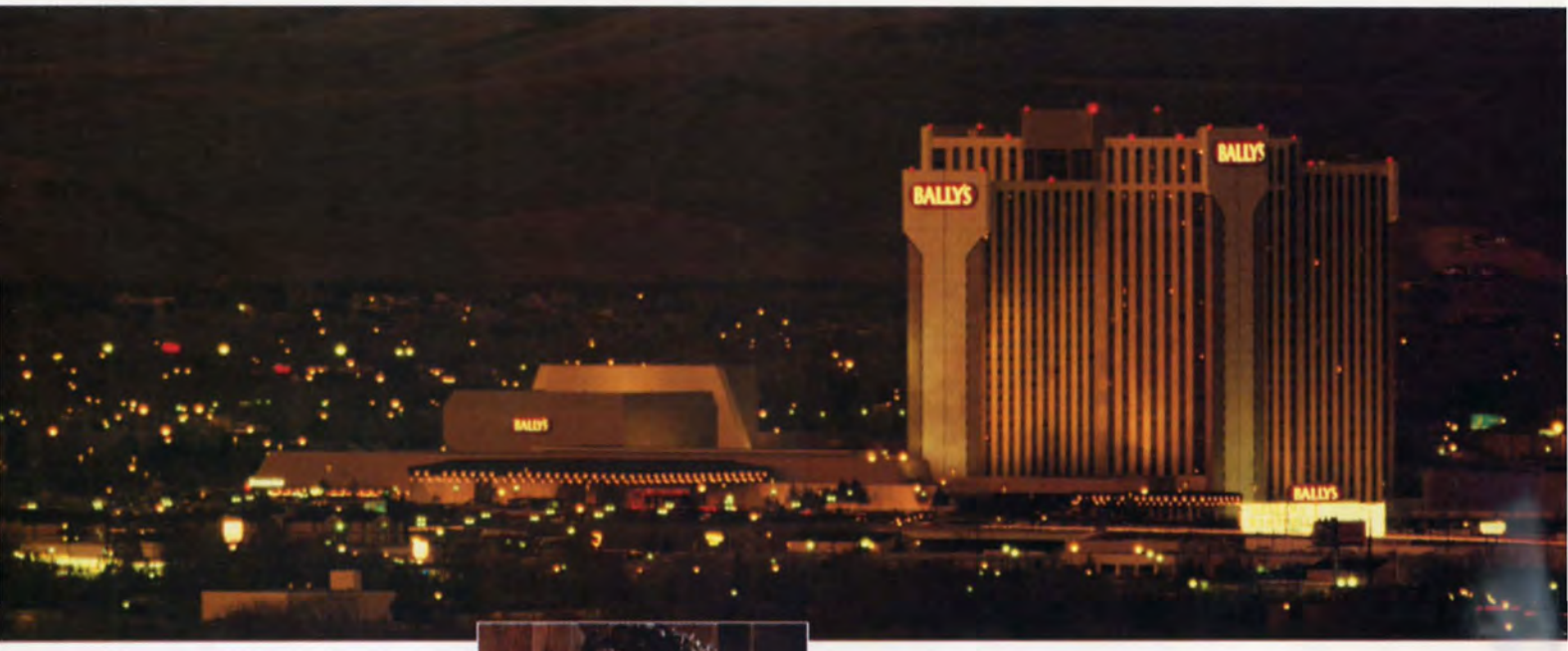


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VOLUME 50, NUMBER 3

NEVADA

MAY/JUNE 1990

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Cover Photo: License plate collector John Miller of Carson City. Photo by Jay Aldrich

LETTERS

Green Bay Fans and Reuel's Resting Place

Guide for Green Bay

The March/April issue was great, and the added *125 Years of Travel and Recreation in Nevada* was just that much of a bonus.

We love all the stories of the old West, the pictures and the information that each issue brings.

We have used the magazine on our trips back to Nevada and have sent for various tourism pamphlets. It has always been a great help to decide what to see, and what we missed the last time we visited.

Dick, Heddy, and Tanya Niedzwiecki
Green Bay, WI

Cover to Cover

My daughter and I just love your magazine. And the travel issue you sent this month as an extra is great. Even when I am busy and sit down intending to look at just the pictures I wind up reading the whole magazine.

Wilomine Olsen
Las Vegas

Marital Question

In reviewing "Reno Wedding Bells" (March/April '90), I noticed an oversight. The section of this article that interviews George Flint refers to weddings performed in the Great American Kiss-Off. It seemed to imply that Mr. Flint performed these ceremonies. However, Reverend Rick Rickard performed them.

This was a national media event and Reverend Rickard, who often performs ceremonies here at Bally's, was mentioned many times in all the publicity. I am disappointed in this oversight as I do read your magazine regularly and you are always quite accurate in your reporting.

Jeanne Ransdell
Chapel Supervisor, Bally's
Reno

Ransdell, thanks for writing. There was no intention of implying that George Flint performed the ceremony. Thanks for setting the marital record straight.—Ed.

Basking in the Holiday Glow

I'm a little slow in writing but wanted you to know how much we enjoyed seeing the "Christmas Cul-de-Sac" (Roadside Attractions, Nov/Dec '89).

When we went to Las Vegas to visit our son and daughter-in-law in December, we went to see the decorations and it was wonderful. A lot of work but enjoyed by many

We have really enjoyed the magazine, gone to see some of the places written about and plan to go to more. Have found some good places to eat that we would have missed if we hadn't read about them.

Mr. and Mrs. John M. Bunner
Fort Bragg, CA

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Sweet Surrender in Tonopah

The article "Tales of Tonopah" by Doug McMillan in the last May/June issue sure brought back a flood of memories of my Air Corps days.

On a train carrying Army Air Corps gunners, pilots, bombardiers, and navigators headed north from Lemoore, California, we got the message that Japan had surrendered. We were headed to Tonopah Army Air Field.

We spent the next day in Reno. From Sparks to Tonopah the train we rode reached speeds up to 20 miles per hour. Some ran ahead, some rode on top of very ancient cars. Coal heaters were in some.

My wife and I hope to visit Nevada again soon, and Tonopah is a must.

Milton P Minchew, Jr.
Macon, GA

Counseling Nevada

The most significant deficiency of *Nevada Magazine* is also my major complaint and can easily be corrected. Start monthly publication.

Frederick A. Partyka II
Law Offices
Amsterdam, NY



Reuel Gridley: From Austin to Stockton.

Granite Gridley

This is relative to "Lost in Austin" (Jan/Feb'90). Don't know if the folks of Austin know that Reuel Gridley, who sold and resold the famous Sanitary Fund Sack during the Civil War, is buried at the Stockton Rural Cemetery

Gridley made his way to Stockton and then to Stanislaus County where he died in 1870, but he is buried in the Stockton cemetery.

In 1887, Rawlins Post 23, Grand Army of the Republic, erected a marble statue to Gridley with his sack of flour. The statue is on a tall granite pedestal and stands on a tiny knoll overlooking the hundreds of white marble headstones over the graves of other patriots who served the flag from the Mexican War to Vietnam.

Maxine M. Slagle
Stockton, CA

Austin the Memories

I want to thank both your magazine and Jim Andersen for the article "Lost in Austin" (Jan/Feb '90). It has rekindled many fond memories. I am one of the few people ever to be born on Main Street, Austin. I was born in my grandmother's Silver State Hotel and lived in two other Main Street residences (one was Celly's Garage—now a bar I think).

There was no TV, and our radio reception was very poor. Things we did for entertainment were like sleigh riding down Virginia Hill, pine nut hunting and roasting near Stokes Castle,

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and even walking Main Street down one side and up the other, my sister, my girlfriend (still a resident of Austin), and myself singing in harmony such songs as "Moonlight Bay."

Daniela (Dani Barainca) Weddle
San Luis Obispo, CA

Nevada Mugging

My Nevada ceramic mug that I got from you just a couple months or so ago broke this morning. I'd just gotten through washing it lovingly and was drying it when the cup separated from the handle, fell on the floor, and broke. My heart broke with it.

I felt like my Nevada cup was my little part of Nevada, and it cheered me up to drink my coffee out of it.

Diane Rudesal
Harlingen, TX

Rudesal, another mug is on the way.—Ed.

Hail the Mail

Tomorrow I'll hug the mailman. *125 Years of Travel and Recreation in Nevada* is a benchmark achievement!

Loran Allen
Urbana, IL

Lahontan Dam Family

My father was employed as a machinist foreman for the U.S. Reclamation Service. In 1910 he was given a new assignment to Lahontan, Nevada, on the Truckee-Carson Project (later called the Newlands Project).

My father, mother, sisters, and I lived in a four-room "cottage" built by the U.S.R.S. on the bare desert floor, but soon Mother was raising chickens, and morning glories were blooming on our front porch.

By mid-1912 the dam was starting to take form, but in those days construction was much slower than today—they were still using "Johnson Scrapers" powered by mules.

Leisure time was spent fishing and hunting along the Carson. Twelve-inch rainbow trout were plentiful as well as quail, cottontail rabbits, and ducks. I remember tagging along with Dad once upstream, seeing several coyotes (always curious) and coming upon a small adobe hut, said to have been built by Kit Carson but soon to be covered by the lake.

There was also social life at the dam site. By 1914 it was in full swing with many band concerts, box-socials, dances, and picnics. All in all, it was a fine place to live.

Al Cooke
Formerly Lahontan Dam

NEVADA

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History in the Making

Visiting Reno's roses and the 'old days' in Virginia City and Excalibur





Rose lovers will have a bloomin' good time at Reno's Idlewild Park (top), while petroglyph seekers have the walls of Grapevine Canyon, near Laughlin, to puzzle over

Las Vegas

By Kate Butler

Hands-on History

You can get a feel for Las Vegas history, from its very early days through the 1960s, at the Clark County Heritage Museum's new display hall in Henderson. There you can grind corn on metate and mano stones, steer a steamboat up the Colorado River, discover your weight and fortune atop an old horoscope machine, or spin for luck on an early gambling wheel.

Rockhounds will enjoy the mineral displays, designers can ogle early dress styles, and gamblers can inspect the antique gaming machines. A beautiful moving "pollage" of desert dwellers by Austine Wood greets visitors at the entrance.

The museum, located at 1830 Boulder Highway in Henderson, also has a street of historic buildings, a ghost town gathered from around Nevada, and an old railroad depot and trains. The museum is open daily from 9 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. The cost is $1 for adults, 50 cents for children and seniors. Call 702-455-7955 for more information.

Gold Coast's Silver Screens

You won't need to drive to Hollywood for the latest movie releases. Just go to the Gold Coast Hotel, where the movies are new and the prices are right. Afternoon movies are just $3; evening shows are $6 for adults and $3 for children and seniors. For popcorn you only have to pop 50 cents or $1.

The Gold Coast has two comfortable red-draped theaters. Each has a wide screen and seats about 200. If you decide to follow the movie with dinner and a lounge show, it's all nearby under the same roof.

Excalibur Daze and Knights

After almost two years of anticipation, Las Vegans and visitors will soon be able to cross the drawbridge into the Excalibur's magical kingdom of King Arthur and his Round Table. When it opens in June, the castle-like resort hotel will be the largest in the world with 4,032 rooms, 500,000 square feet of entertainment space, and seven restaurants.

The Excalibur will combine aspects of theater, festival, and casino. Knights will joust in the 850-seat dinner theater Entertainers will perform in the Renaissance Faire, an area of arcades, theaters, and other attractions. Everyone from doormen to Merlin the Magician

Photos: Jim Quimby (top), Kate Butler (bottom)

will dress in period costumes.

Of special note are the resort's two 48-seat movie theaters called Merlin's Magical Motion Machines. Theatergoers will experience the thrill of bobsled rides and car chases as their seats move with the on-screen action.

The massive Excalibur, a creation of Circus Circus, looms on the Strip across from the Tropicana Hotel. It's sure to be busy, so plan on delays and a little shoulder jousting during the merriment of its opening months. For reservations and further information, call 800-937-7777 or 702-597-7700.

RENO-TAHOE

BY DEBORAH A. MAWHAR

Virginia City Mine Tours

In the 1800s, miners dug many miles of tunnels under Virginia City Today you'll find two opportunities to see what a working mine looked like during the Comstock's bonanza days.

At the Chollar Mine visitors walk into an authentic mine tunnel. Owners Chris and Penny Kiechler operate the tours, which last about 30 minutes, and share their considerable knowledge of mining history. They show the square-set timbers, mining equipment, and types of rock that once produced a rich silver ore. Water drips from the surrounding walls as you walk into the coolness of the tunnel, leaving summer's heat behind.

Tours at the Chollar Mine on South F Street are $3.50 for adults, $1 for children four to 14 years old, free for under four. Tours run daily except Friday from 1 to 4 p.m. until mid-June, weather permitting; mid-June through mid-September, tours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily. Call 702-847-0155.

Up on C Street, with an entrance inside the Ponderosa Saloon, the Best and Belcher Mine tour replicates a Comstock-era operation. Miners tunneled beneath the city in conditions resembling what you see on this tour, extracting ore for wages as high as $4 per day, a considerable income in those days. The guide will fill you in on more Virginia City history during the 25-minute tour.

Tours are given year-round 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Adults are $3, children under 12 $1.50, family $7.50. Enter through the Ponderosa Saloon downtown at C and Taylor streets. Call 702-847-0757

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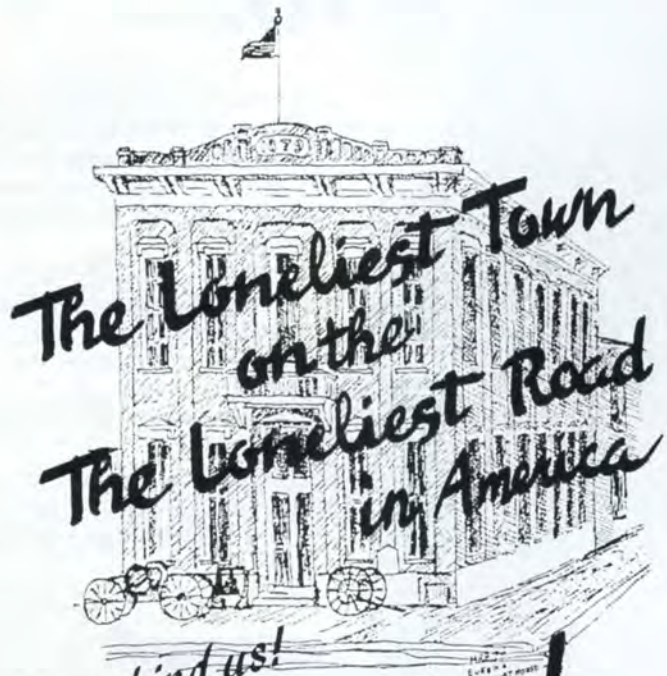
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The Excalibur opens this summer

Smell the Roses

The Reno Municipal Rose Garden attracts visitors year-round for several reasons, but beginning in the middle of June most people come just to smell the roses. Serious gardeners can see what varieties do well in this climate, and visitors can relax with a picnic lunch. The 1990 Rose of the Year, "Pleasure," is displayed, as is the fragrant "Perfume Delight."

More than 550 varieties bloom in the one-acre garden. If one especially tickles your senses, ask a gardener to clip a blossom for you. The Reno Municipal Rose Garden is in Idlewild Park, off Idlewild Drive near Booth Street, a mile west of downtown on the Truckee River.

History at Tahoe

In a tranquil setting on Lake Tahoe's south shore, several turn-of-the-century estates are open to the public at Tallac Historic Site. At the Baldwin Cabin, the Tahoe Tallac Association opens its museum from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. daily from Memorial Day through mid-September. Several new exhibits on utilitarian art will open there this season.

As you wander Tallac's grounds, you can see artists at work at various cabins and buy locally crafted items at the cultural arts store at the Valhalla Estate's twin cabins. Half-hour walking tours depart several times during the day for a look at the Pope House, which is otherwise closed to the public. A three-hour walking tour takes in the

entire Tallac site.

You can buy tickets at the Forest Service Visitors Center, within walking distance just to the west. Tallac also offers beach access and picnicking. Tallac Historic Site is on Highway 89 north of South Lake Tahoe, between Kiva Beach and Camp Richardson. For information call 916-541-5227 or 916-573-2600.

RURAL

BY KATE BUTLER

Grapevine Canyon

There's a sense of arrested time as you follow the sandy wash leading into Grapevine Canyon near Laughlin. With blue skies and the peaks of the Newberry Mountains above you, the peaceful sounds of birds and soft winds, and views of distant mountains, you can almost feel the presence of the people who walked in this canyon hundreds of years ago.

After less than a half mile of easy walking from the canyon's designated parking area, you will find a profusion of Indian petroglyphs carved into the desert varnish of the canyon walls.

You can go further into the narrow canyon, scrambling over rocks and slicing through reeds fed by a flowing spring, and find narrow caves and rock overhangs. Because of the spring, the canyon was a good source of game, and even today bighorn sheep, ringtail cats, foxes, and badgers are sometimes spotted in the area.

There are attractive but primitive campsites nearby Campers must bring all necessary supplies, including fuel and water. Carry water, sunscreen, and a hat for daytime exploring. Be sure to avoid the mid-day heat, as temperatures then are usually 90 to 100 degrees during May and June—and really sizzling in July and August.

Grapevine Canyon is on the Christmas Tree Pass Road in the Lake Mead National Recreation Area, about seven miles west of Laughlin and one mile north of State Route 163.

The Christmas Tree Pass Road, which connects U.S. 95 and State Route 163, is graded dirt with areas of washboard and can be difficult to drive after a rainstorm. For more information on the canyon and road conditions, call the National Park Service at 702-293-8906 or 602-754-3272.

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27

GREAT NEVADA COLLECTIONS

Bill Wright: The Ultimate Nevada Collector

Bill Wright, the 73-year-old king of Nevada collectors, looks up from the orange blaze in his fireplace and grins as he extolls Nevada's historical accessibility

"I can go to an old ghost town," he says, "and relive the time when there were 35,000 people living there and know from research what they did for recreation, where they came from, and what they did for a living."

Wright, who was general manager of the *Las Vegas Review-Journal* from 1966 until 1981, moved to Las Vegas to accept a job as an advertising salesman with the paper in 1941. About 10 years later he started exploring Nevada's wilderness areas and ghost towns while on hunting trips. Then he stumbled across some purple bottles near Ely

"The sun had caused the manganese in these bottles to turn purple, and they're extremely unusual and very striking," Wright recalls. "So I brought my first purple bottle home, and everyone liked the looks of it, and so I was hooked. I started looking for 'em and started scouring Nevada's ghost towns. I immediately fell in love with the state. When I found the first bottles, it gave me an excuse to visit all these places in the state."

His fascination with bottles grew into a passion for other Silver State memorabilia such as gaming collectibles, trade tokens, and newspapers. He has collected about 3,000 Nevada newspapers, including one from the old ghost town of Unionville. He has assembled collections of railroad passes from 1914, commemorative plates, and silver spoons honoring Nevada towns between 1895 and 1915.

But Wright doesn't like to flaunt his collections. He admits, "I'm not into the display aspect." The only obvious evidence of his souvenir-mania is an inconspicuous display case with revolving trays. One shelf holds a series of glass swizzle sticks used to swirl saloon moonshine in the 1920s.

Some of his favorite finds include a matchbox holder from the Crescent Hotel in Rhyolite, a clothes brush from The Dude clothing store on Fremont Street ("Phone # 327"), and a Goldfield moustache comb made in the form of a saw in 1910.

Wright emphasizes that the chase is more important than the find.

"I have a toothpick holder from the early 1900s that Tex Rickard distributed," says Wright with a smile. "To me it's a challenge to go to Goldfield and see where he had his house, which is still standing.

"To get people to gamble in his gambling joint, Rickard promoted the famous Gans-Nelson fight, which was held in Goldfield in 1904. Now that's the same thing that's being done today by our hotels in Las Vegas. They bring all these prizefights in so people will lose all this money when they come to town. So we haven't really gone anywhere in the last 90 years. It's just a big circle."

Wright predicts that gas credit cards, phone directories, hotel keys, and coffee percolators will be the relics of the future. In the meantime he'll continue searching for an illusive trade token or stock certificate that recalls Nevada's eccentric past.—*Mitch Fox*

Bob Stoldal: Nevada Postcards

As news director of KLAS-TV, the CBS affiliate in Las Vegas, Bob Stoldal leads an exciting life. He's on a first-name basis with politicians, Strip celebrities, and the town's movers and shakers.

But when Stoldal comes home, he loosens his tie, unbuttons his suit vest, slips into his office, and closes the door behind him. It is there, totally isolated from deadlines and live remotes, that he'll engage in his greatest passion: postcard collecting.

Stoldal doesn't collect just any old postcard. It has to be a postcard about Nevada, preferably made in Nevada. He's not sure how many thousands he's stuffed into protective sleeves and binders, but he does need a computer to catalogue the age, photo, and message of each postcard.

These collectors are cheerfully, but seriously, obsessed with relics of Nevada's past.

By Mitch Fox and Connie Emerson





One of Bob Stoldal's favorites is this atomic Las Vegas postcard from the '50s (top).

The collection is awesome in size and variety. He has leather postcards, hand-tinted postcards, linen postcards from the '30s, and "real photo cards," in which actual photographs were printed on photographic paper and mass-distributed.

He began his hobby while writing a book about Las Vegas in the early '20s. "I did all the statistical research, population, streets, buildings, but I didn't have any human elements in the story," says Stoldal, who went to high school in Las Vegas.

"Someone suggested I should start looking for old letters and maybe old postcards. Possibly I could get a feeling for what the town was like then. When I started reading the backs of these postcards, I knew I'd hit a gold mine."

Stoldal says itinerant photographers in the early 1900s would travel from city to city and stop in such towns as Palisade, Wonder, Fay, and Rawhide. "Because of the work of these turn-of-the-century photographers, who would shoot the boom towns and sell their prints as postcards, nearly every city in Nevada has a living, visual history," he says.

Like a private detective Stoldal taps a variety of sources during his searches. "Dealers are a great source," he says. "And, of course, collectors, and shows of which there are two every week in this country. You write letters, you bug your grandmother, your next-door neighbor.

"My barber's father used to work for the Union Pacific and now lives in Utah with a box full of postcards, and every time I get a haircut I tell him to get me that box. A lot of people will give you their cards because they know you will take care of them and they know you will preserve them. This is archival material. I'm preserving these just like a library would. And hopefully I'm preserving a bit of Nevada's past that ordinarily might be lost."—*MF*

Bob Erickson: Nevada Documents

A stock certificate with a drawing of a naked woman isn't an ordinary piece of Silver State memorabilia, but aside from its eye-catching design, do you know why this relic is considered a classic?

The naked woman is audacious actress Adah Isaacs Menken, strapped to the back of a horse, as she was carried up a man-made mountain to the ceiling of Virginia City's opera house. The incident was preserved by a drawing on a 1863 stock certificate from the Mazeppa Gold and Silver Mining Company.

Las Vegas collector Bob Erickson was aware of the certificate's history, so he quickly snatched it up after spotting it in a northern Nevada pawn shop.

Erickson, a security officer by night and Nevada document collector-

Photo: Mitch Fox

dealer by day, has been scavenging pawn shops, coin shows, swap meets, and antique stores for nearly 15 years.

His fascination with historical certificates—known in collectors' circles as "paper"—followed a lifelong interest in collectibles. "Collectors are born, not made," he says. "I started with stamps as a little kid and eventually went into coins. I stumbled across an ad in a coin magazine advertising Nevada paper from the Comstock days. I bought one and was hooked."

Hooked indeed. Erickson has more than a thousand documents and 200 books on Nevada history to help him with research.

Among his prized possessions are a stock certificate with Jim Butler's endorsement and a 1929 deed signed by J.T McWilliams, founder of the original Las Vegas townsite. Erickson has the first check issued during Nevada's three-year territorial period. The check is signed by Mark Twain's brother, Orion Clemens, Nevada's first territorial secretary

He's procured much of his paper from old bank vaults, brokerage houses, and coin shows, spending impressive sums of money along the way "Certificates you could buy five years ago for $10, now you're got to spend $60 or $70," bemoans Erickson. "I once paid $300 for a Virginia & Truckee bond. Now it's only worth $150 because I found out there was quite a few of them around. That's why it's so important to know what you're doing and to find out about the scarcity of an item."

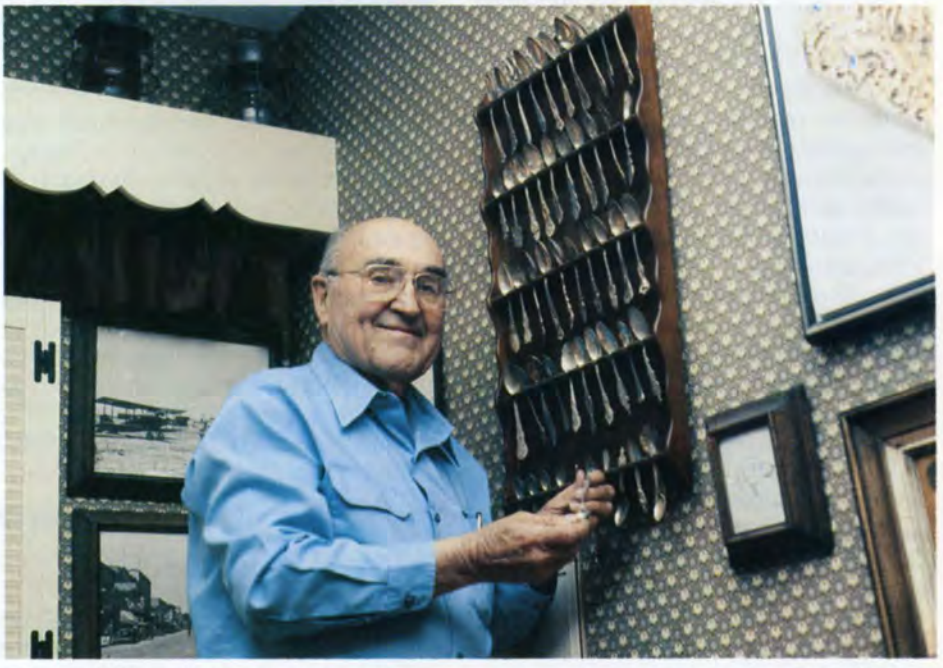
Erickson's speciality is signatures. "I won't be attracted to a piece of paper unless there's a signature attached to it. It brings a human element to it. It's not just a piece of paper.

"For example, I have Emanuel Penrod's signature from 1859. He was Comstock's partner. You can run your finger over his signature and realize that this was the man who was here at the very beginning of the state. It's kind of a thrilling thing to me."—*MF*

Doug Walling: Miner's Lunch Pails

Ever since the late 1800s when the Pacific Coast Pioneers gathered together everything they could find—including newspaperman Alf Doten's stuffed dog, Kaiser—for their museum in Virginia City, Nevadans have col-





Doug Walling of Virginia City collects miners' lunch pails (top). Las Vegan Bill Wright's Nevada collectibles run from spoons to trade tokens to swizzle sticks.

Photos: Gary Elam (top), Mitch Fox (bottom)





Old Nevada license plates fill one wall of John Miller's Carson City home (top), while Fred Holabird of Reno enjoys the look of rare bottles.

Photos: Jay Aldrich (top), Don Dondero (bottom)

lected all manner of objects. Casino matchbook covers and ashtrays. Key rings. Revenue stamps. Indian artifacts. Gaming chips. Even Nevada credit cards. The list is as long as a collector's imagination.

Take Doug Walling, for example. Although they really aren't much to look at, he collects miners' lunch pails.

"They're a very personal thing," says Walling, who has an antique store in the Silver Dollar Hotel in Virginia City "Whereas the picks, lanterns, and other equipment belonged to the mining companies, the lunch pails were the miners' own possessions."

The lunch pails, which were called dinner pails by miners who worked the last shift, were made of tin until about 1915, when aluminum began to be used commercially Most had two or three compartments. One would hold a main course such as a meat pastie. Another would contain a tart, pastry, or other dessert while the third would hold the beverage, usually coffee. Some pails even had a cup incorporated into their design.

The lunch pails were referred to by their owners as "growlers," according to Walling, in reference to the stomach growling when hungry A miner's pail also served as his identification for a free after-shift drink at one of the saloons.

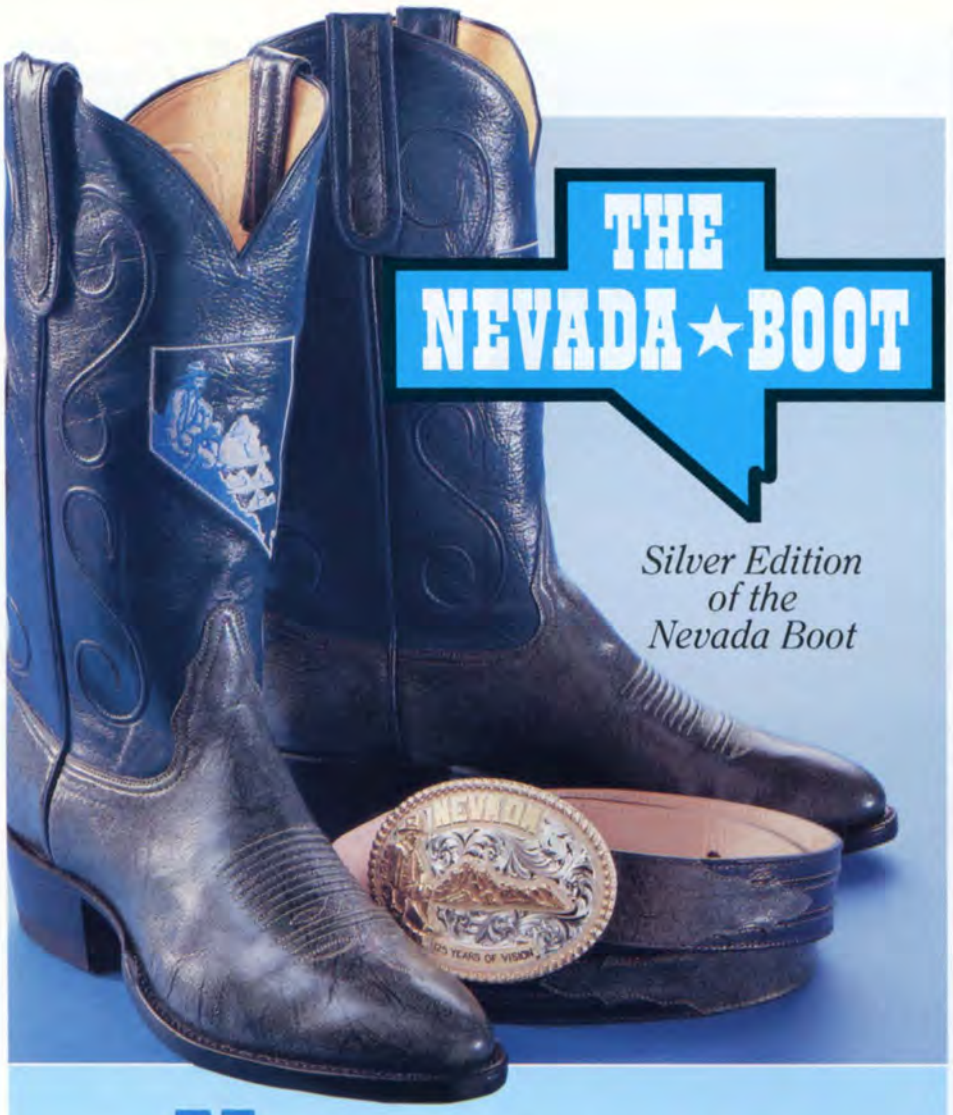
The pails were smeared with lard (called "greasing the growler") and used to transport beer to the miner's lodging place. The lard prevented excessive foaming.

A few months ago Walling had seven pails in his collection, although he had owned others that he traded for pails in better condition. Now he has only two.

"It's a challenge to increase the size of your collection," Walling says, "but it's also an opportunity to make a profit when buyers come along and want what you have." If you searched California's Mother Lode, you would find only two pails for sale, he says, so pails that are available bring good money About $80 is the average price.

Like every collector, Walling has a want list. And that, he says, is why he sold all but one of the commercially made pails he had collected.

"Now I'm planning to specialize in homemade, as opposed to factory-made, lunch pails," he says. "Miners often made them out of lard pails, and a man from Tonopah told me they were so poor that their lunch pails were made from the big tomato cans." Then



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WESTERN BOOT 'N' WEAR



Miller's dashboard discs (1913-1915). Auto owners provided the plates.

he adds, "What I'd really like to find is a dinner pail full of 20 pounds of high-grade gold."—*Connie Emerson*

Loren Love: Vintage Beer Cans

Loren D. Love's letterhead says, "LOVE THOSE BEER CANS...BUY, TRADE & SELL, EMPTY-EM & DIG-EM." You see, Love, who is park supervisor at Dayton State Park, is crazy about all kinds of breweriana—matchbooks, openers, calendars, signs, ashtrays, bottles, and cans.

Love's beer can collection is specialized. "I only collect Northern California and Nevada pre-pull tab cans," he says. Those Nevada cans once held beer brewed by the Reno Brewing Company, which produced Royal and Sierra beers, and the Carson Brewing Company, makers of Tahoe Beer. Carson Brewing went out of business in 1947, Reno Brewing in the mid-1950s.

Beer cans, which first appeared in the late 1930s, are of two types: the "flat top," which was opened with a beer-can opener, and the "cone top," which was shaped like a brake fluid can with a cap on the crown.

"Though I find some of the cans in garbage dumps, cans weren't designed to be saved," Love says, "so the bulk of mine are 'indoor cans' found in attics, basements, and walls of buildings." Many of those cans are well worth finding. Royal Beer cans, for example, bring up to $100 apiece.

Trading is one of the best ways for beer can fanciers to upgrade their col-

Photo: Jay Aldrich



Loren Love's passion is for beer cans made before the pull-tab era. Sierra Beer was brewed in Reno, Tahoe Beer in Carson City.

lections, according to Love. For that purpose, each year he holds a Beer Can Collectors Swap Meet at Dayton State Park.

Love's favorite is a 1937 Tahoe Beer can. He says, "The lithography on some of those early cans is a work of art."—*CE*

John Miller: Nevada License Plates

Newspaperman John Miller thinks his collectibles—license plates—are works of art, too. In fact, one wall in the family room of the Millers' Carson City home is decorated with them. About 200 of the plates in his collection are from Nevada and date back to 1916, the first year that license plates were issued by the state.

Miller got started collecting as a youngster when he found a few plates in a shed on the family ranch in Fallon and promptly nailed them to the barn wall. Through the years, he found more plates, was given them by friends and relatives, traded, bought. Now he has several hundred.

Miller says that an added bonus of license-plate collecting is that, unlike many collectibles, the plates have a date and point of origin stamped right on them. "With a little research, I can find out what town the license plate came from, who owned it, and what kind of a vehicle it was on."

Of all the Nevada plates in his collection, the toughest to obtain was one from 1917 Miller finally found it in a Genoa antique store. The prettiest, he maintains, is from 1958. Its background is powder blue and the letters are silver.—*CE*

Fred Holabird: A Million Pieces of the Past

From the time he arrived in Nevada in the early 1870s, the state's foremost early-day collector, Dr. Simeon Lemuel Lee of Carson City, collected everything from coins and ceramics to minerals and Indian baskets.

Lee's present-day northern counterpart is mining executive-geologist Fred Holabird of Reno, who has between 10,000 and 20,000 items in his private collection and "about a million pieces of Nevadiana" in the inventory of his company, Columbus Industries, which has grown as an offshoot of his passion for collecting.

"Many of my collections are related to work activities," Holabird says. "A mining project in the Bullfrog District, for example, will get me started collecting artifacts from that area. One in Pioche, and I'm collecting artifacts from there.

"What I look for are articles that seem neat to me—like the mining stock certificate from the Fly by Night Mining Company or the 1904 presentation pin from the Tonopah Railroad or the ticket for a foot race in Virginia City on December 24, 1904."

Although he has large collections of mining memorabilia, between 150 and 200 ghost-town trade tokens, and thousands of documents and other items, Holabird says his "most serious collection" is of Nevada merchant name bottles.

These embossed bottles, which have raised lettering and designs, contained liquor, medicine, or soda pop. Some bear the names of ghost-town merchants; others advertise early businesses in Virginia City, Eureka, Tonopah, and Reno. Holabird's bottle collection, which has been described as the finest in the state, is only two bottles short of being complete.

While Nevada bottles can range in value from 10 cents to more than $2,000, and other rare Nevadiana

Photo: Jay Aldrich

brings many thousands of dollars, Holabird maintains that most collectors aren't primarily involved in collecting for financial gain.

"There is no doubt whatsoever that most people collect for the love of it," he says. "But investment does provide a strong secondary market."

Whether or not they make a lot of money by gathering pieces of the past, most Nevada collectors would agree that their hobbies have given them pleasure that money can't buy.—*CE*

Mitch Fox of Las Vegas is a writer, photographer and television journalist. Connie Emerson of Reno is a widely published freelance writer



Bob Erickson shows a political poster of longtime Senator Key Pittman. The Las Vegas "paper" collector has signatures from historical figures like Goldfield founder Harry Stimler and John Day, the surveyor who laid out Dayton.

COLLECTING NEVADIANA

Surprisingly, Nevada memorabilia is even more popular with out-of-state collectors than Nevadans, according to Reno's Fred Holabird. The best Western memorabilia has made its way to Europe, he says, since Americans often can't afford the high prices the items command.

Dealers say that during the last two or three years Nevada gaming chips and trade tokens have come into their own as collectibles. Three reasons chip collecting has become popular, according to George R. Squires, owner of Reno Coin Company, is that chips are "colorful, historical, and fun."

Then, too, collecting chips and tokens is affordable. Whereas a trade token can sell for hundreds or in a few cases thousands of dollars, most of them are in the $5 to $100 range. Gaming chips are less expensive, with the majority costing between $3 and $20.

Nevada postcards are also affordable collectors' items. The cards' rarity and condition affect their value, of course. Cards made by the J.A. Mitchell Company (one of the big pre-World War I postcard manufacturers) sell for $3 to $9 but can go higher. A postcard of Wonder, Nevada, brought a dealer $25.

Other Nevada mementos spotted in antique stores around the state include tickets from railroads that no longer exist, such as the Nevada Central and Eureka Palisade; Virginia City newspapers from the 1880s (the going price is about $10); county fair ribbons, key rings with Nevada business logos; and metal drink trays advertising beverages made in the Silver State. Prices are generally negotiable, so don't be afraid to haggle if you decide to start collecting pieces of Nevada's past.—*CE*

MEMORABLE MEMORABILIA

While most Nevada collections are kept in private homes around the state, others are on public display. Following is a statewide sampling of public Nevadiana, from south to north. For further information, see the museum listings in *Nevada Events*.

BOULDER CITY

Boulder City/Hoover Dam Museum: Has a nice collection of photographs of the construction of Hoover Dam.

HENDERSON

Clark County Heritage Museum: Among its collections is a group of old buildings moved to the site, including houses from early Las Vegas, Boulder City, and Henderson. A new exibit building was opened recently.

LAS VEGAS

Imperial Palace Auto Collection: Two cars with Nevada connections are Death Valley Scotty's 1905 National and a 1954 Chrysler New Yorker Deluxe that belonged to Howard Hughes, who drove it when he was in town.

Liberace Museum: The clothes, pianos, and candelabra that Liberace made famous are collected in this mecca for the late entertainer's fans.

Nevada State Museum and Historical Society: Frequent exhibits on Nevada subjects.

Rio Suite Hotel: A dozen antique slot machines, some exquisitely detailed, are placed alongside a recreated marble street of Rio de Janeiro.

OVERTON

Lost City Museum: Collections of artifacts left by ancient Basketmaker and Pueblo people who lived in the Moapa Valley.

PIOCHE

Lincoln County Museum: Clothing, minerals, and bottles from the early days in Panaca, Pioche, and Caliente.

TONOPAH

Central Nevada Museum: Mining artifacts, extensive research materials and photo file, and memorabilia from the Tonopah Army Air Field (1941-45) are among the top exhibits.

HAWTHORNE

Mineral County Museum: An eclectic collection with fossils from Stewart Valley, a jail cell from Rawhide, and an anchor used by a ferry that used to

Photo: Mitch Fox



The Clark County Heritage Museum in Henderson has numerous collections of southern Nevada historical items, such as those displayed in this early Las Vegas tent camp. The museum also has a collection of notable buildings you can tour

cross Walker Lake.

FALLON

Churchill County Museum: Numerous collections include carriages and other old-time vehicles, early-day furnishings, telephones, photographs, and a remarkable display of corkscrews.

YERINGTON

Lyon County Museum: Memorabilia on local ranching history.

CARSON CITY

Nevada State Archives: Holds territorial records dating back to 1851 and state documents back to 1864; available for research.

Nevada State Museum: Collections of baskets by Washoe weaver Dat So La Lee, silver dollars and other coins made at Carson's old U.S. Mint in the 1800s, and many others.

Nevada State Railroad Museum: The Inyo and Dayton locomotives of the historic Virginia & Truckee Railroad, the old depot moved from Wabuska, and time tables, photos, and other Nevada railroad artifacts.

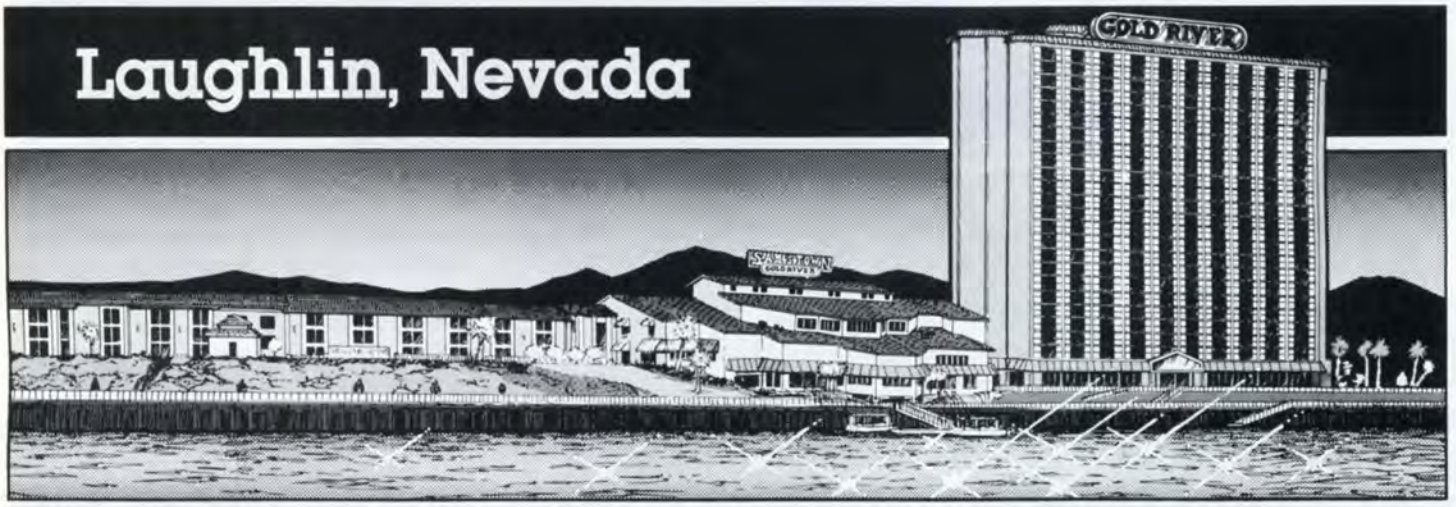
Stewart Indian Museum: Highlights include collections of basketry and artifacts of the Paiute, Washoe, and Shoshone peoples.

RENO

Harolds Club: Pure nostalgia, from Pappy Smith's 1949 Buick woody covered with tooled leather and silver dollars to the collection of Jim Beam-Harolds Club decanters in the Roaring Camp Bar.

(Continued on page 74)

Laughlin, Nevada



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GOLD RIVER
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Photo: Kate Butler

NEVADA 90

Elko's photo show keeps blooming in its latest edition.



FIRST (TIE), Black and White Prints
"Desert Bloomer"
Harry Upson, Jr., Reno
"The geometry of this plant caught my eye. I brought it into the studio to control the light and the background. I could have done it in color but what I previsualized was in black and white."

Judging photos is not an exact science, as Howard Hickson, C.J. Hadley, and Roche Bush know well. The three meet in Elko each winter to judge the annual photo contest and show sponsored by the Northeastern Nevada Museum, and it's always tough to pick the winners.

"My main heartache is that there are so many photographers who turn in beautiful work," says Hickson, the museum's director, who started the show in 1975. "When you have to pare down 1,454 entries to some 267 pictures, there are some awfully good works that go back to the photographers."

Although Hickson admits that he and his fellow jurists bring some prejudices to the show, which this year is called Nevada 90, he says the judging is as unbiased as it can be. Hadley, former *Nevada* editor-publisher, is teased because she likes automobile shots and lonely roads. But if the color or composition is wrong, it's over for that photo.

Roche, who owns Fox Foto Shop in Elko, is a nit-picker when it comes to darkroom flaws. Sometimes Hickson and Hadley look askance at Roche, and then agree with him, when he finds a blemish in an otherwise perfect picture.

Hickson admits to an impulse to drool over aspen photographs. "They always kid me about yellow aspens because every time I go up Lamoille Canyon in the fall, I'll take 50 to 60 pictures of them. I love quaking aspen in the fall." As a counterbalance, Hickson says he has an eye for strong composition, whether or not the frame is filled with shimmering aspen leaves.

The judges do seem to agree on one thing: the need for more people pictures. Although Hickson is reluctant to elaborate, for fear that Nevada 91 will be inundated with mugs, he admits that the show always needs action shots—people doing things and not just standing there, smiling at the camera.

This year Nevada 90 attracted 247 photographers from 41 Nevada communities and places as far away as New York and West Germany. There were 127 prints selected for the traveling exhibition and 140 for the sound and slide show. The slide shows, from any year (1975-1990), are available for loan at the museum. For Nevada 90's top photographers and traveling schedule, see the following pages.

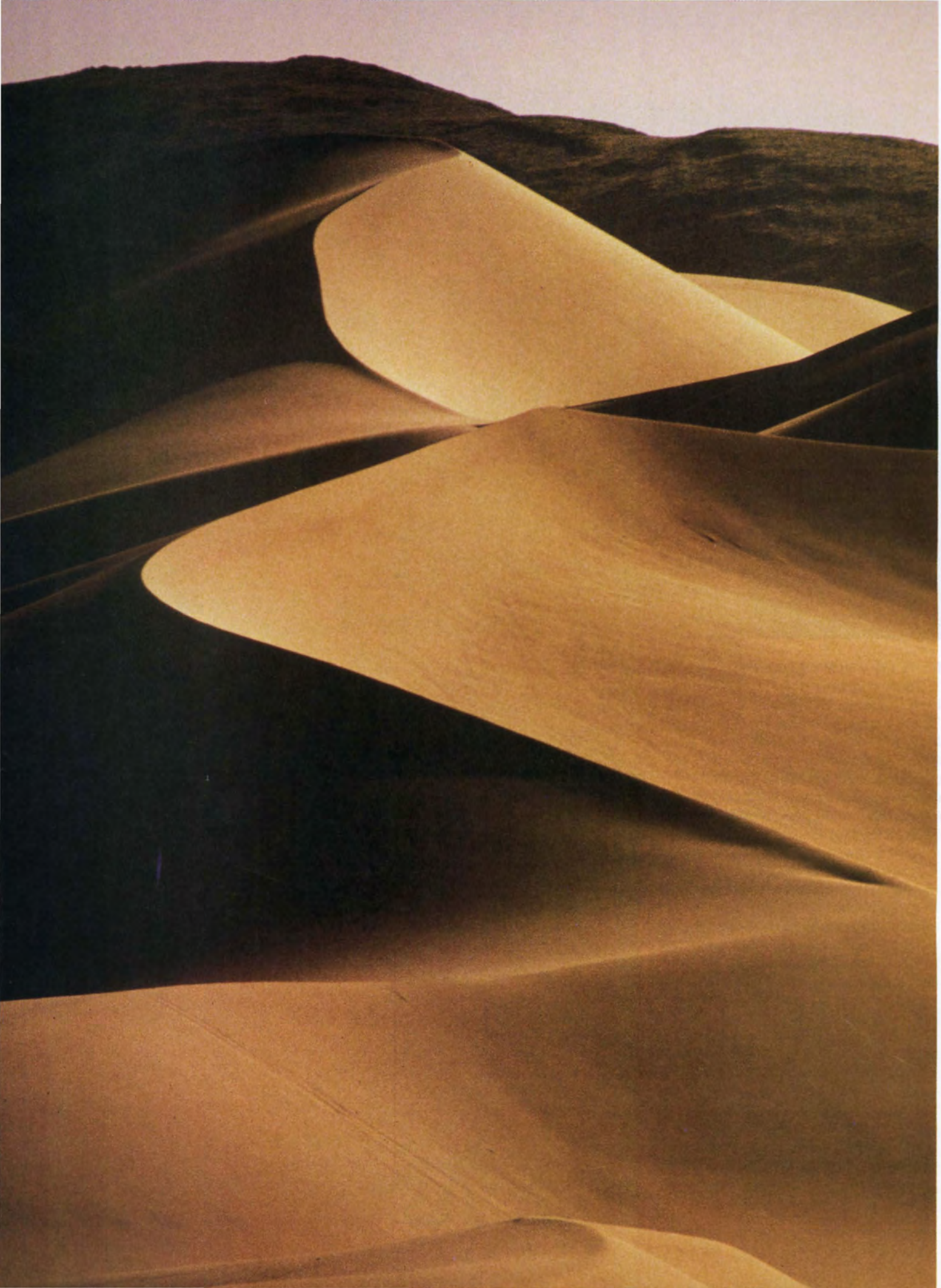
—Cliff Glover



BEST OF SHOW, Color Slides
"Summer Dream"
Elna Johnson, McDermitt
"I took the picture in the Santa Rosas in May, late morning. I just started playing around with double exposures. I took one at F-16 and focused real sharp, then one at F-4 completely out of focus. I think it's a weed called white top."



MERIT, Color Prints
"Roadrunner Close-up"
Irene Brennan, Boulder City
"This roadrunner was in my back yard. I have a bunch of roadrunners that come, and I feed them ground beef. Some of them take it from my hand now. They're very skittish and nervous, but they're friendly. I was about six feet from the bird when I took the picture."



BEST OF SHOW, Color Prints
"Quiet Morning at Sand Mountain"
Larry Angier, Ione, California
"I'd say it's a rare shot for Sand Mountain because every other time I've been there it's been covered with tracks. This was shot in the early morning with a fairly long lens—either a 300 or 330 with extender—and I used Fugi film with an 81A filter to warm it up."



MERIT, Color Slides
"Going No Place"
Stina Patnoude, Cold Springs Station
"I took the slide last summer on the big dry lake in the middle of Edwards Creek Valley between Fallon and Austin. I climbed up on the bed of the pickup to get the right angle."

SECOND, Color Slides
"Truck Lights"
Russ White, Round Mountain
"The picture was taken from the edge of the Round Mountain pit in the summer of '86. What they are doing is hauling rock to a crusher which is the little square building with the blue lights. The exposure was probably about 10 minutes."







THIRD (TIE), Color Slides
"Talkin' Fishin'"
Lorraine Giurlani, Winnemucca
"It was in the fall of '88, and the Humboldt River was running extremely low through Winnemucca. There were these huge catfish that you could see sucking around the edges of the water so I took my kids and another boy down fishing. It was late in the afternoon, so there was nice warm light."



BEST OF SHOW,
Black and White Prints
"Snow Bush"
Joseph Charles Paris,
San Diego, California
"It was taken in my mother's back yard in Wellington. The negative is real ugly. It took awhile in the darkroom, but a 33-second exposure came out just right. At 34 seconds it would turn gray and flat. It was one of a set of pictures I did for Christmas, and my friends liked it so much that I had to do a lot of reprints."

FOURTH , Black and White Prints
"Stormy Highway at Pony Spring"
Reinhold Schable, Washington
"I set my tripod on the platform built over my pickup bed. The day was not very nice. Rain mixed with snow, and the road's surface was quite dark. You could see the horizon reflecting on the asphalt, which looked kind of nice, but when I saw the car coming down the road with its headlights on, there was suddenly a reason to take the picture."



THIRD (TIE), Color Slides
"Ice Over First Creek"
Stewart Freshwater, Las Vegas
"First Creek is up in the Red Rock area, just west of Las Vegas. I go up there quite a lot to take pictures and do some drawing. That particular picture was taken in the winter after a rainfall. The weather turned real cold, the creek dried up, and only the ice remained."

MERIT, Black and White Prints
"Water Canyon"
Eveyln Noren, Winnemucca
"I took this with a Hasselblad and an 80-millimeter lens. The camera takes 120 film, so that's a problem because it's hard to find anyone who processes it. The picture was taken in August about four miles east of Winnemucca, in the Sonoma Mountains."

WHERE TO SEE THE SHOW

Nevada 90 will be shown at Elko's Northeastern Nevada Museum through April 30. Then the show will visit the following places:

Winnemucca: May 2-16, Humboldt County Library

Lovelock: May 22-June 5, Pershing County Library

Reno: June 13-July 12, Washoe County Library

Reno: July 16-August 6, Nevada Historical Society

Carson City: August 9-September 12, Nevada State Museum

Genoa: September 19-October 3, Genoa Courthouse Museum

Fallon: October 10-24, Fallon Community Center

Hawthorne: October 30-November 13, Walker-Wassuk Arts Alliance

Tonopah: November 21-December 5, Central Nevada Museum

Henderson: December 12-January



3, Clark County Heritage Museum
Boulder City: January 9-23, 1991, City Hall
Valley of Fire: January 29-February 12, 1991, Visitors Center
Ely: February 20-March 7, 1991, White Pine County Library
Pioche: March 11-25, 1991, Lincoln County Courthouse

NEVADA 90 WINNERS

COLOR PRINTS

Best of Show: Larry Angier, Ione, California
First: M. Joyce McClelland, Fallon
Second (Tie): Charlene Baumert Kell, Las Vegas; Larry Angier, Ione, California
Third (Tie): Mike D. Knopp, Battle Mountain; Stephen Johns, Carson City
Fourth (Tie): Irene Brennan, Boulder City; Jamie Barton, Elko
Merit Awards: Irene Brennan, Boulder City; Robin Paine, Yerington; Lorraine Giurlani, Winnemucca; Pamela Sue Sobol, Las Vegas; Irv Weed, Jr., Las Vegas

BLACK AND WHITE PRINTS

Best of Show: Joseph Charles Paris, San Diego, California
First (Tie): Harry Upson, Jr., Reno; William Payne, Las Vegas
Second (Tie); Harry Upson, Jr., Reno; Ken Mirell, South Lake Tahoe, California
Third: Dan Heidel, Boise, Idaho
Fourth: Reinhold Schable, Washougal, Washington
Merit Awards: Harry Upson, Jr., Reno; William Payne, Las Vegas; Evelyn Noren, Winnemucca; Carolyn Fox, Jackson, California

COLOR SLIDES

Best of Show: Elna Johnson, McDermitt
First: Lorraine Giurlani, Winnemucca
Second: Russ White, Round Mountain
Third (Tie): Lorraine Giurlani, Winnemucca; Stewart Freshwater, Las Vegas
Fourth (Tie): Alan L. Bittler, Reno; Karen Coffelt, Fallon
Merit Awards: John T Biale, Carson City; Bob Cline, Minden; David Montrose, Elko; Kathy Burks, Winnemucca; Robin Paine, Yerington; Pamela Sue Sobol, Las Vegas; Syd Brown, Carson City; Dave Kelley, Incline Village; Stina Patnoude, Cold Springs Station



Scoutin' out Winnemucca!

1990 WINNEMUCCA EVENTS

May 5 6, Winnemucca High School Rodeo
May 12 13, Winnemucca Barrel Futurity
May 25 28, Old Timers Team Roping
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How I Became King of the Slots

When we matched players with machines, we really hit the jackpot.

By Si Redd as told to Don Lynch

Si Redd, an important gaming-industry figure since his arrival in Reno in 1968, is often called the Slot Machine King. He first headed Bally of Nevada and then founded International Game Technology. He was one of the leaders in the development of dollar slot machines, bar-top slots, and video poker The popularity of those machines has accounted for much of the success of Nevada's gaming activity during the past 15 years. Here, Si Redd recalls that era when slots really hit the jackpot.

When I first came out to Reno, I was headed for John Ascuaga's Nugget in Sparks. Dick Graves had sold the Nugget to John, but Dick still owned a little company that was selling Bally slot machines. I wanted to see about buying that company and becoming the Bally distributor.

I checked in at the Nugget's little motel, had a nice meal, and right away got into a crap game. I started shooting craps like they was goin' to close up the place. I must have shot dice until two or three in the morning and lost all the money I had on me, but what the hell. It was a lot of fun, and I learned a lesson, that in Nevada you don't have to keep doin' that. You don't do it if you live here because there won't be any time to do anything else.

The next evening I'm wandering down North Virginia Street in Reno. It is a beautiful late summer evening on the Truckee Meadows when the air has that soft, mellow quality that you only find on mountain meadows at the end of a warm summer day

I am enjoying the evening, thinking that if I buy Dick Graves' slot machine business I am going to get some Big Berthas to operate. These are slot machines about the size of an upright piano.

The traffic is going by me when all of a sudden this lady in a white uniform hits the jackpot on a Big Bertha across the street. She starts hollering and screaming, and I think, Gee, what's wrong with that woman? So I duck across the street, and everybody else does, too. She's won a hundred dollars, and she is so happy that she starts putting those dollars right back into the machine.

I remember how all that interest and enthusiasm appealed to me. It was a typical crowd of California people enjoying themselves in Nevada. To me it was just like a big carnival—everybody comes to have fun. I've never changed my opinion that that's what it is. I still think that people don't come necessarily to win. They come to get a little happiness and fun. They spend what they've got, and when they get ready, in eight or 10 weeks, they come back again, and I think it's all right. People have to have fun.

After that excitement on North Virginia Street, the next most outstanding thing that made me love Nevada was seeing Lake Tahoe. Then somebody showed me where they made that opening scene for the TV show *Bonanza* where you can drive a car out onto that meadow and see the cross on Mount Tallac just like it was on TV It was fabulous.

Next I went up to the lake to Del Webb's, Harvey's, and Harrah's, and my ears were ringing. You couldn't hear anything because of those slots—2,000 machines—all being played at once. I decided to play one, but this woman reached over and slapped my hand and said, "Get away from that. That's my machine." She was playing three or four machines. She said, "This machine is getting ready to hit, and don't you be playing my machine."

I wander through the casino and, I can't believe it. I've read about it and heard about it and I can't believe it. So I go back to the room and call my wife in Cape Cod. I say hello and ask her, "Did you read in the papers or see it on TV where the president has closed Fort Knox and they're going to float the dollar and it won't be worth anything?"

She said, "No, I didn't hear it and you didn't hear it either. What are you talking about? Are you drinking?"

So I said, "I didn't hear it either, but all these people from California, they heard it. They're over here getting rid of their money They're putting all their money in these machines.

"This is for me. Bill O'Donnell is right. This is what you call 'Young

Si Redd at the IGT showroom in Las Vegas. His slot education began in Reno.

Photo: Kate Butler


JACKPOT
JOKERS WILD!

man, go west.'"

It had been my old friend Bill O'Donnell who talked me into coming to Nevada to look around. Well, I wasn't so young—55 years old with nearly 40 years of experience selling coin machines, including pinball machines, jukeboxes, and more kinds of games than I can remember. My jukebox business in New England was on the skids, and I had to start over somewhere.

I was about to get started in a new food-vending business when I stopped in Chicago to see Bill at the Bally Machine Company. I had bought pinball machines from Bill for years. I told him what I was doing.

He said, "Si, you don't want to do that."

"Why not?" I said. "I'm doing all right."

He said, "You want to go out to Reno and be our distributor. You'll make a million dollars."

So that was the reason I came out to Reno. I'd had all those years of experience in the coin machine business, and here was an opportunity that I never dreamed existed. I paid Dick Graves $60,000 (about all I had left after folding up in New England) for 70 percent of his slot machine company, and I was in business in Nevada.

I'd had all those years of experience in the coin machine business, and here was an opportunity that I never dreamed existed.

My very first day, even before I bought out Dick Graves, I went to the Club Cal-Neva to see Warren Nelson.

I said, "Warren, I hear you have some Bally slot machines."

Warren said, "Yeah, I've got 40. I think they're a hell of a machine."

I asked why.

"Here's my books on the Ballys," he said. "Here's my books on the rest. The Bally is twice as good as the others. I'd like more of them, but I can't get any more."

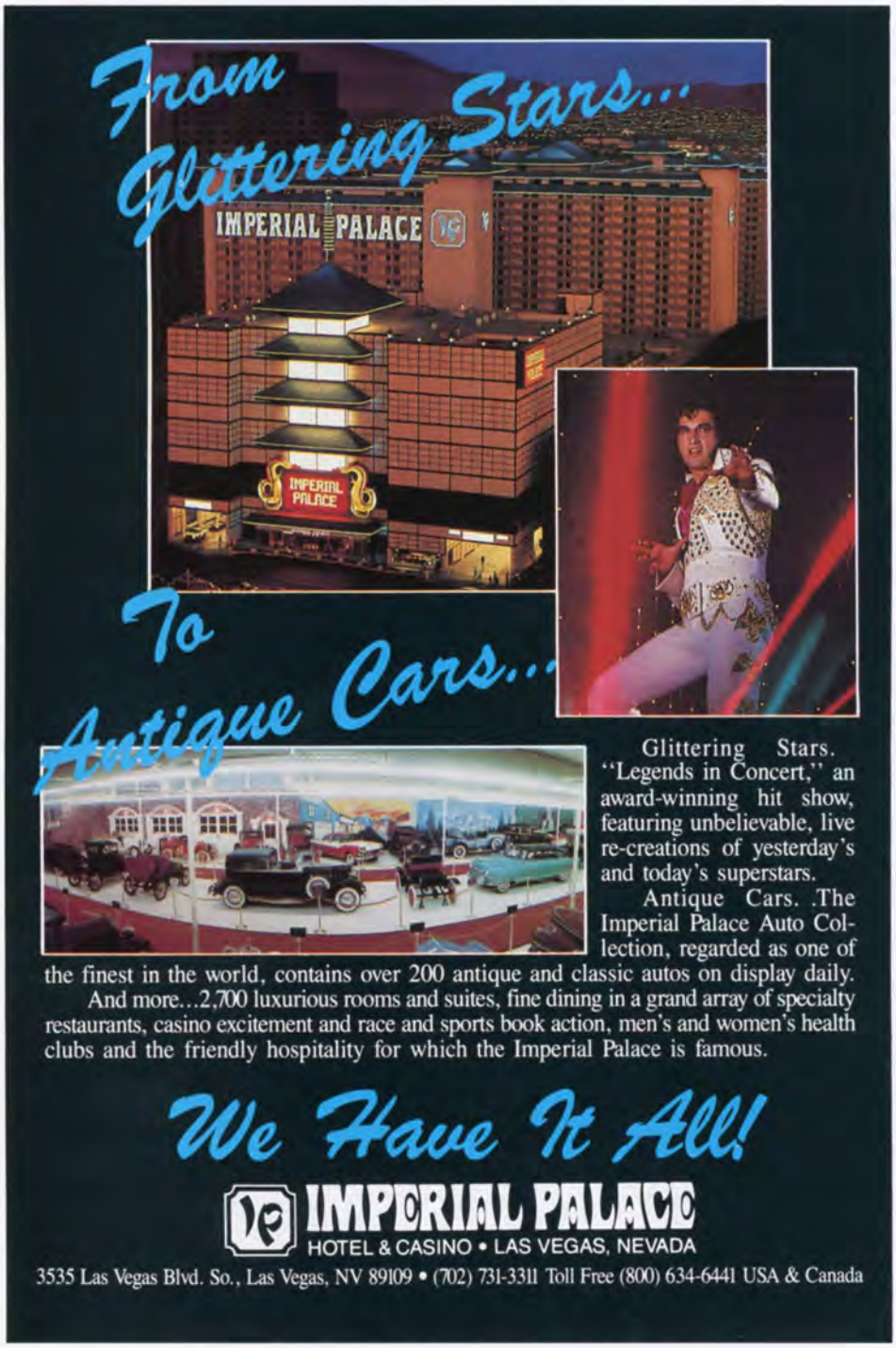
Warren let me use this information about his machines right from the start. He says he sold more Ballys for me than I sold at first. He's a wonderful, wonderful guy, and Warren, as well as about half of the people in Reno, adopted me.

I also started a warm friendship with Karl Berge, who had just acquired the Silver Club in Sparks. He bought Ballys from me for my very first sales.

I sold just three slot machines that first month in Reno, but from the first day I had Dick Graves' slot machine route with the very lucrative Bally slot machines on location and the great Big Berthas. We had a very productive route, an unlimited number of prospective buyers, and all the backing we needed to just go, go, go.

We moved to a place at 44 West Liberty Street and got so busy we didn't have time to set up a regular office. For days we had a door set on crates for a desk and used empty cartons for file storage.

Dick Graves and Bob Weiss had manufactured the first two Big Berthas just before I bought Dick out. They had put them out on a participating basis—that is, on routes. They owned the machines and split the take with the casinos.



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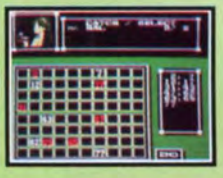
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Seeing what the Big Berthas could do, I went out and borrowed money from a banker named Jesse James and made myself more machines as fast as I could. We gave a Big Bertha to Elko and one to Wendover and another to Winnemucca, all on a participating basis. We couldn't check on them. We had to leave the keys with the casinos, and they never did take advantage of us. The machines made so much money that, even if they did take a little, it didn't make any difference. The machines were each making us about $15,000 a year. That was what they sent to us for our part. They only cost $3,000 or $4,000 to make, so they were paying for themselves four or five times a year. It was fabulous.

Then we got support that you couldn't believe from Bally. We got more and more successful. Bill O'Donnell was completely in charge in Chicago. We'd send them a recommendation for a change, and the next day their engineers would have it on the drawing board.

We had about a million dollars in sales our first full year, 1968, and we increased our annual sales to two and a half million in 1970. Then our hard work began to pay off rapidly, and sales moved up to $10 million by 1975.

One of the things that opened up great opportunities for us immediately was that nearly all of the slot machines in Nevada were obsolete.

One day I'd been looking at all those 50-year-old machines in Harrah's and the Nevada Club and Harolds Club.

I told Harold Smith he needed some new machines.

"We've got some," he said. "We bought them 15 years ago."

When I saw all that old iron, I said to Harold, "We've got to do something." And we did.

Another problem was the slow payoff on jackpots, which caused a terrible loss of customer playing time and a big waste of employee time.

So we went to automatic payouts as quick as we could get the machines replaced. I went to Harrah's, and there was an old machine you could put two nickels into. It didn't work very well, but it did double up.

I sent an SOS to Bill O'Donnell. "Goddam, this is a double up machine. You can put in two coins." And why can't you double up three or five times?

Then we thought if you play one line, why can't you play three lines? So we doubled up the multiple.



Redd's coup de grâce: video poker

There was an old guy at the Horseshoe. He kept arguing and fighting with me that the machine shouldn't double up. He says, "Three, just three."

I says, "Why three? They will put five in just as well as three."

He says, "They will not. You go out there and try to play five quarters and let's see how big a guy you are."

Well, he was right. Five quarters is a

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Megabucks, a technical challenge, was IGT's answer to California's lottery.

dollar and a quarter and that's too much.

Three quarters is a kind of rhythm, you see. When you dance, you dance—one, two, three—step, slide, step—one, two, three. The three shows up everywhere. Newsmen say there's often three big stories in a row, or there's three births or three deaths among people you know. For gamblers, it's three wins in a row. Three is kind of a magic number.

So you put in three coins, just one, two, three, and you pull the handle. No one knows how much the three-line development boosted slot machine revenue in Nevada, because it is not computed, but the players love these machines. That's how multiple-coin and multiple-line machines got started.

Sometimes we stumbled into ideas so valuable we didn't know how big they were going to be. One was the bar machine, located in the top of a bar in the cocktail lounges.

The bar location is important because the amount of money a casino can make off slot machines is strictly limited by how much floor space it has. If a casino doesn't have any more space, you can't place any more machines. But the bar space wasn't being used for anything except the serving of drinks, so it was available.

We spent an awful lot of money developing the bar machine, but it was worth it. Then, when the poker machine came along, it was just so easy to put them into the top of the bar. We made millions and millions off that, but what was more important, it was a life saver for a great many small casinos.

> The making of the dollar play is the thing that really made Nevada what it is today.

The biggest thing of all? It's the dollar machine. The making of the dollar play is the thing that really made Nevada what it is today, the foundation for gambling's growth in the last 10 years.

It's the damndest thing in the world. The take from the dollar machines increased nearly 100 times in 14 years, from $8 million in 1970 to $700 million in 1984. The rapid takeoff started in 1976 when it jumped from $51 million to $167 million in 1977 and then jumped again to $312 million in 1978, and since then has continued to increase at approximately $60 million a year.

With the dollar slot expansion Ballys' sales naturally soared, and the company had sales of $50 million in 1978.

The incredible popularity of the dollar machines, followed by the poker machines about five years later, made slot machines more important to the gambling industry in Nevada than everything else combined. Slots provided only 33 percent of the state's gaming income in 1975, but their share rose to 53 percent—and dominated the industry—in 1983.

Here's how it happened.

When Bally made the original dollar machine, they used a hopper—the collection area inside—that wasn't made for dollars. It was made for nickels, dimes, or quarters. The dollar just wouldn't work because it was so much heavier. So when John Ascuaga or Harrah's or the Cal-Neva would order a hundred slot machines, they would order just a couple of dollar machines, mostly because they didn't work very well.

Another thing nearly killed the dollar machines. Inevitably, almost all the casinos made the dollar machines tighter than the nickel machines, *whereas in reality it should have been just the opposite.*

If you set a nickel machine to pay off 90 percent, the casino keeping 10 percent, the casino takes only a half a cent per handle pull, so it costs the customer, on the average, a half cent per handle pull. The casino will take $15 or $25 a day out of those nickel machines at that rate.

Where the dollar machine is set tight, to pay back only 75 percent, the player pays 25 cents every time he pulls the handle. It just didn't make sense. You could see why most customers wouldn't play the dollar machines.

However, there were a few casinos—Harrah's and Harolds Club in Reno and the El Capitan in Hawthorne—who figured they'd make more if the machines were set more liberal. One story tells how they found that out.

Bud Garaventa was famous around Reno, a great friend of Bill Harrah's and slot boss at Harrah's for years. This happened when he was working for Pappy Smith at Harolds Club.

Pappy Smith said to Bud, "Loosen up the dollars. Let's give 'em a break. We're making a lot of money anyhow. What do we care?"

Garaventa said, "OK, Mr. Smith. How much?"

"Set 'em at 80 percent. Let's loosen them up and see what happens."

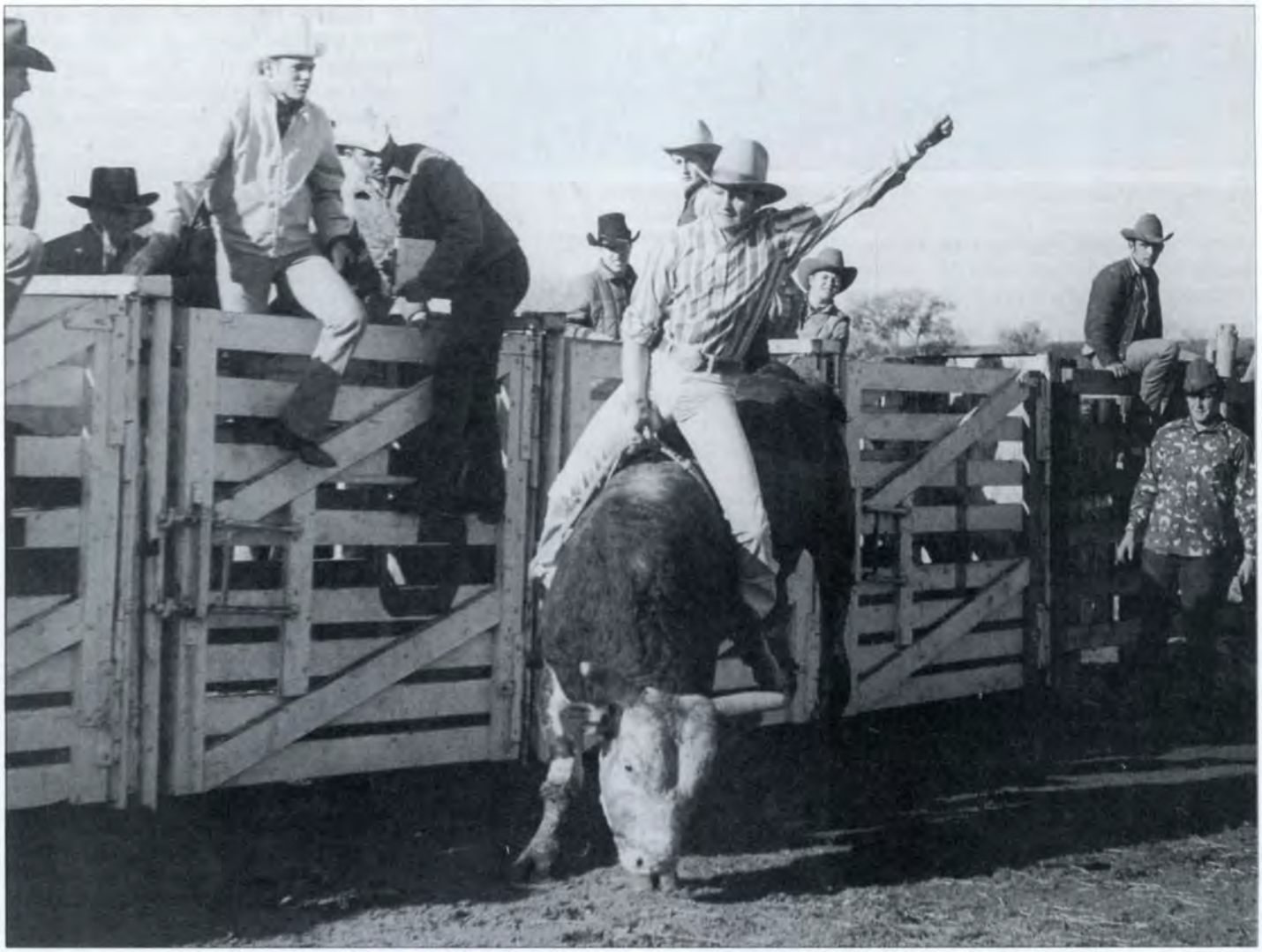
Soon Bud found he'd made a mistake. He had set them to pay out nearly 90 percent, and he was scared to death that he was going to lose his job. So he explained to Pappy how he had miscalculated.

Pappy had a little fun. He said, "Is that right, son? Did you really do that?"

Finally Pappy broke out and

(Continued on page 59)

RODEO NIGHTS



The author remembers this as one of his best rides as a teenager The bull spun tight, but Hafen held on to win.

For a young bull rider, getting out the chute is half the battle.

By Lyman Hafen

When we drove into the Caliente rodeo grounds that evening, I was nervous. Rodeo has never been an undertaking for the weak at heart, but even the most macho rider doesn't approach the task of riding a bull lightly. Being nervous is just part of the deal.

Usually I didn't get nervous about the bull riding until after I roped. Roping is an executive sport. There's no need to get nervous about roping. As an old looper once told writer Thomas McGuane, "Remember one thing when you back into the box. There are 900 million Chinese who don't care whether you catch the steer or not."

I missed my steer that night. But I scored on my bull. That doesn't mean I didn't pay for it, though. You don't get anything out of rodeo without paying

for it several times over.

We had driven to Caliente from St. George in my good friend Lance Hunting's dilapidated white Chevy with black wheels and no hubcaps. We were high school juniors, a shade too young for Vietnam and just old enough to appreciate it. That very night Richard Nixon was probably saying something into a tape recorder that he would later regret.

Terrill Hunt was the other guy with us. Terrill was a star player on the high school basketball team, but deep down he loved rodeo more than any of those artificial sports. He and Lance were both tall and dark and slim. They both had a way of covering up their nervousness, even though they were boiling inside.

"We gonna rodeo or chase women?" Lance would say

"I believe in a well-balanced life," Terrill would reply

Terrill and I entered the team roping. We borrowed heading and heeling horses from Jake Nelson of Alamo. Jake and Norma Nelson not only had some of the finest rope horses in southern Nevada, they also had the two cutest daughters in the whole territory. The Nelson daughters were part of Lance and Terrill's balanced life.

At any rodeo you'll ever go to, the bull riding is always last. It's the same reason why the one-legged kick boxer comes on at end of a newscast. They figure the anticipation of such odd exhibitions will keep your attention to the bloody end. Sometimes it's no fun being exploited.

When they finally ran the bulls into the chutes at Caliente that night, I drew a slender Black Angus that was raunchy in the chutes. Terrill helped me get my bull rope on the begger, almost at the expense of losing the fingers of his right hand. The bull kicked viciously at anything that moved inside the chute.

Once the rope was on and there were only two riders to go ahead of me, I started trying to settle down on the bull's back. Each time I slid my legs down his sides, the Black Angus began to quiver, then shake, then blow snot, and then erupt into a claustrophobic fury.

"I believe this bull intends to destroy the chute," Lance exclaimed.

"Get down on him!" the stock contractor hollered at me. Stock contractors were never noted for their tact.

"He won't cooperate," I mumbled.

"Nobody promised you a rose garden," the contractor said through a grin. We all knew he'd stolen the line from Lynn Anderson's new song. But you have to patronize the stock contractor. We all chuckled.

At that moment I was feeling sorry for myself. All the other bull riders had Herefords, Charlois, or crossbred bulls that stood politely in the chute—bulls that didn't outwardly impress you as the type that wanted to bruise your bones. In the end, the only way to get on my bull was to stand above him with my feet in the slats of the chute, and have my friends pull the rope and secure my hand without my sitting down on him. Even this was no piece of cake as the bull ranted and kicked and caused my two mild-mannered friends to curse openly.

At the age of 18, Gordon gave up his pursuit of amateur hockey in Las Vegas and took up rodeo. Les and I taught him what we knew about the sport, and he taught us a few things about girls.

Terrill pulled the rope and Lance pinched it off. I took a wrap, nodded, and dropped onto the bull's back. Before the gate had opened all the way, the Black Angus blew apart. He turned the wrong way in the chute and rammed my left shin against an iron corner pole, squeezing the bone like a sponge. I deferred the pain for eight seconds and rode the bull to the whistle. Then I hopped off and started rubbing my left shin. I sat there alone in the middle of a big sandy ocean, under the dim arena lights, rocking with pain. I had on a pair of brown chaps that I'd bought from Terrill. The chaps were designed to protect the legs of young bull riders such as myself. But in this case they hadn't performed, though they did, I admit, look awful sharp.

As Terrill ran up to me, I told him his chaps were worthless and that I wanted a price adjustment. Lance was right behind him, and the two of them were the best medical attention available on the rodeo grounds. Lance rolled up my pant leg and diagnosed a gross indentation of the shin bone shaped roughly in the form of a bucking chute corner post, characterized by a one-inch abrasion of the skin.

"I'd say that hurts," Terrill said, wincing.

"Matter of fact, it does," I answered through clenched teeth.

With graveness in his eyes, Lance said, "This will require the attention of those more highly trained."

There was no ambulance at the arena, so Lance drove me down the dark streets of Caliente to the medical clinic. With one arm over Lance's shoulder and the other over Terrill's, I hobbled into the dimly-lit lobby of the clinic. For a moment no one was there. Then a nurse walked in and inquired about the problem.

"A bull raised hell with his shin," Lance said. "The boy's in pain."

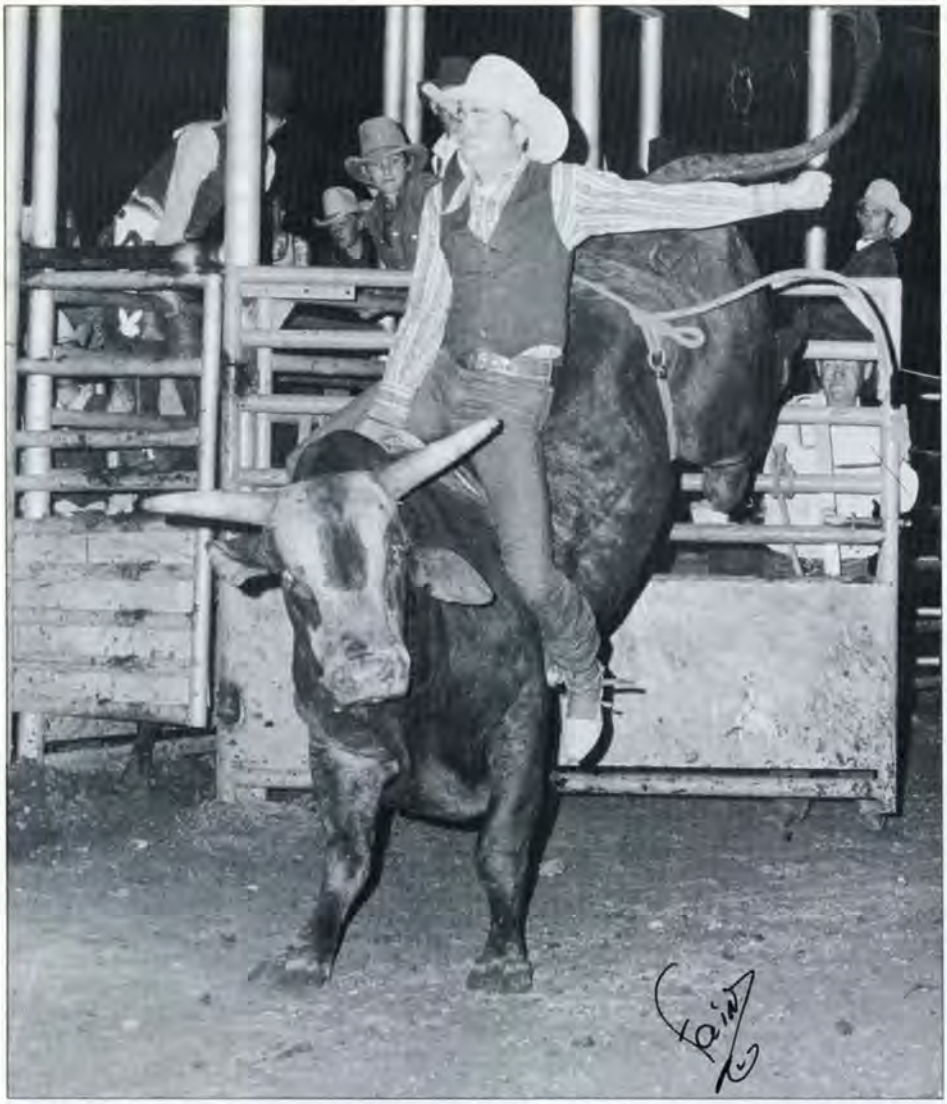
The nurse pressed on my leg with her thumbs and fingers for several seconds. She told me nothing was broken. "Should he see a doctor?" Lance asked.

"I don't see that it would be necessary," the nurse said, "as long as you wash it well, clean out the wound, and keep some ice on it for a while. It's going to hurt, and there's really nothing we can do about that."

I limped all the next week. The shin stayed swollen, and the cut didn't want to heal. We had a rodeo in Overton the next weekend. Lance and Terrill would be there, too, but this time I rode with Gordon Ray in his sleek 427 Chevelle with four on the floor and mag wheels. Les Bracken, another rodeo buddy of mine, was Gordon's cousin. Les and I hung around Gordon all we could, him being in college and being the woman killer that he was. We lived out a lot of our adolescent fantasies through Gordon. At the age of 18, Gordon had given up his pursuit of amateur hockey in Las Vegas and taken up the sport of rodeo. He was in the serious process of becoming a hand. Les and I taught him what we knew about rodeo, and he taught us a few things about girls.

Gordon's metallic green Chevelle cruised at 90 miles per hour down the highway to Overton. The car's interior was thick with the scent of air fresheners cut in the shape of pine trees, which dangled from the tape deck knobs. I was nervous, and my leg throbbed.

We took a motel in Overton where



Hafen failed to place in bull riding during Utah's high school rodeo finals. He did, however score enough points in other events to become all-around champion.

we would rest until the rodeo started at nine the next morning, a Saturday. I fell asleep easily but awoke an hour later with pain flaring in my leg. I took some aspirin and tried hard to sleep, but the pain got worse. It centered around the small abrasion on my shin and radiated out from that spot like fire. I bit my hand, chewed my fingernails, and winced with every heartbeat the rest of the night.

The rodeo was a disaster. My bareback horse set up and sent me over his head. I hardly got out of the chute on my saddle bronc, and I missed my calf—knowing that 900 million Chinese couldn't care less. My bull was scheduled for Sunday, which I considered a blessing. But I got no more sleep on Saturday night than I had the night before.

Come Sunday morning I was not only nervous but also depressed. I thought of turning my bull out. But I figured if I could just place, or maybe even win it, my leg would somehow feel better. Besides, if I bucked off, there was always the chance of winning the hard-luck trophy.

In the meantime, Terrill, who was spending most of his time now with one of the Nelson girls, had been racking up points for the all-around saddle. He led the bull riding with a flashy ride on a spinning Black Angus. And he put a fine ride on a huge bay bareback horse Sunday morning. My bull was in the last section of the day, and by that time I had become a worthy case for either the orthopedic wing or the mental ward.

He was a red, brockle-faced bull, no horns, slight hump. Lance pushed the bull's ribs away from the chute boards as my legs, one whole and one very abused, sank into the tight void. When I nodded, the bull popped out fast, breaking clean from the chute, and took me through several quick revolutions. I thought I had him covered, but when the whistle blew I was spitting dirt out of my teeth.

Terrill won the all-around saddle, and we were all very proud of him. They gave the hard-luck trophy to a kid from Vegas who got kicked in the face. His nose bled liberally for 20 minutes. The hard-luck trophy was as hard to win as the all-around saddle. And your chances were much greater if your pain was brightly illustrated by blood and not hidden like mine.

Sprawled across the back seat of Gordon's Chevelle, I rode home on Sunday night—high in pain, low in glory. Gordon treated us to a variety of music that night: Linda Ronstadt, the James Gang, Neil Young, a little Marty Robbins. Marty's "Big Iron on His Hip" reminded me of the junior rodeos we used to go to before we reached the age of accountability. That's how all this got started, riding those little Holstein calves that slammed you into the ground and bloodied your nose. Once you started, there was no turning back. Rodeo, like nothing else, gets in your blood.

Nearing home, Gordon popped a heavy rock 'n' roll tape into the eight-track player. It was hard stuff, way beyond our cowboy listening limits. The beat throbbed through the car and seemed to deaden the pain in my leg. For a moment I almost forgot my leg was on fire.

When the song was over, I told Gordon I much preferred the new lady artist Linda Ronstadt.

"Good choice, my boy," said Gordon. "The woman's going places. You'll be hearing more from this little lady."

I finally saw a doctor the week after Overton. It was a drastic move on my part, but my shin had become so grossly puffed, something had to be done.

The doctor shoved a thick needle into the tightly swollen shin and drew out a pint of blood, puss, and unidentifiable matter.

"What is it, Doc?" I asked.

"Infection."

"What do you do for infection?"

"You stay away from bulls, broncs, and other contaminated species."

I didn't take the doc's advice.

Lyman Hafen of Santa Clara, Utah, still competes as a roper but politely declines any bull riding offers. He is the editor of St. George Magazine.

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Range Finder

When Jeff Gnass saw this line of poles leading into the horizon, he saw more than a barbed-wire fence to keep cattle in or out. It was also an opportunity to draw the viewer to the distant Simpson Park Mountains northeast of Austin. Gnass, who lives in Oroville, California, says that the mountains were named after Captain James H. Simpson, who led a party of topographical engineers across the Great Basin in 1859.



Hide and Seek

The yellow-bellied marmot is usually found in large colonies, with several generations sharing the same quarters. "They're curious animals," says Reno photographer Philip DeManczuk, who shot this picture in southwest Reno from his truck using a window-mounted tripod and camera. "If you sit there long enough they'll start coming out. They were doing everything—poking their heads out of holes, cleaning themselves, play-fighting, and bringing stuff back to the colony. I like this view because it's almost a peekaboo effect. He's not just sitting there in full view."







Marine biologist Julie Onie (above) takes care of The Mirage's 20,000-gallon saltwater aquarium as well as some unusual requests regarding the hotel's soon-to-be-resident dolphins, such as one from a psychic who wanted to channel the playful mammals. At night the hotel's reflection (top) invites guests and passersby to see such marvels as an artificial volcano and an atrium (left) that has banana trees, orchids, pools, waterfalls, and drifting mists.

Photos: Kate Butler (top and left)

Is It a Mirage?

Las Vegas' giant new hotel may offer a glimpse of gaming's future.

By A.D. Hopkins

Men and women stood on the sidewalk of Las Vegas Boulevard, stamping their feet in the cold of a February evening and watching a large pile of wet, igneous rock. Water cascaded down the lava into a black lagoon at the rock pile's base. A man wearing a two-way radio on his belt and an attached headset stood next to the iron fence separating crowd from lagoon, quietly speaking into the microphone and gesturing impatiently at the famous artificial volcano of The Mirage, Las Vegas' new super-resort.

Finally one of the onlookers drew from his pocket a butane cigarette lighter and flicked a spark. Holding the lighter in front of him like a burning candle, he stepped up beside the frustrated Mirage employee and said, "You want me to run up there and torch that sucker?"

The balky volcano isn't the only thing that hasn't gone off on schedule at The Mirage, but Las Vegas' largest hotel-casino is nevertheless off to a roaring start. Within two months of its November 22 opening, it seemed clear The Mirage is setting the pace for Las Vegas resorts, present and future.

The Mirage follows a South Seas theme all the way from the volcano to the casino floor, which is covered by a rug resembling an overweight aunt's muu muu. Its very name implies unreality, a mere vision in the mind of Steve Wynn, the 47-year-old chairman of Golden Nugget Inc. During the past two decades Wynn had taken over the original Golden Nugget in downtown Las Vegas, turned it from a sleeper into an elegant world-class hotel, built up a lucrative operation in Atlantic City and sold it at a serious profit. Still, there were people who scoffed at Mirage management estimates that 100,000 people would visit the new Strip hotel during its first weekend.

> Las Vegas is a people-watcher's preserve, but The Mirage seems particularly blessed with exotic species.

The estimates *were* wrong. It was more like 750,000, and children were temporarily banned because they might have been crushed in the crowd.

That's standing room only even in Las Vegas' largest resort. In fact, the sheer volume of gamblers and the activity surrounding the Leonard-Duran prizefight helped set what is believed to be a record in December. That month gamblers dropped more than $40 million at the casino's tables, eclipsing the reported Nevada record of $31 million set by Caesars Palace in June 1987

On a 100-acre site, The Mirage has three 29-story towers with 3,049 rooms. At that, it will remain largest only until this summer's opening of the 4,032-room Excalibur, being built a couple of miles south on the Strip by the operators of the highly successful Circus Circus. Together, these two hotels will add more than 10 percent to the 62,000 hotel rooms that already existed in Las Vegas.

There are not enough high rollers in the Western World, Asia, and Hell combined to fill that many rooms, so the trick of marketing today's giant casinos is to appeal to big spenders and middle class alike. And this is what The Mirage does so well, the reason it is still packed, even on a Monday night in February

The volcano pours flames upon the waters every 15 minutes. (If the wind is blowing over seven knots, the volcano shuts down automatically for safety reasons.) The spectacle always draws a crowd of hundreds—passersby, Las Vegans, and visitors staying in other hotels. After every eruption, most onlookers rush for the moving sidewalks that roll into an area where one can see white tigers in their glass-fronted "Habitat." These quarters look cat-comfortable with a big swimming pool, waterfall, and marble floors, but as one Las Vegas columnist quipped, the name "Habitat" implies the tigers normally reside in the front yard of the Taj Mahal.

The tigers belong to magicians Siegfried and Roy, who have a long-term contract to perform in the hotel's showroom. Originally expected for opening night, the masters of illusion remained illusive for so long that Roy had to publicly deny swelling rumors of his own death. (They finally did open—"live"—on February 1.)

From the tiger habitat it's only a few steps to the closest slot machine. Some of the slots are a new console style of poker machine, played sitting down. There are tropical plants in a sort of window box atop the machine. On its face, an electronic message window flashes a greeting: "We welcome you to Paradise. PLAY 5 COINS."

Guests arriving by auto come down a long, gracefully curving, palm-lined drive. Disembarking at the main entrance, they encounter a trio of gleaming metal statues of tail-walking dolphins, at least one of which usually has somebody's arm draped over his blowhole while somebody else snaps a picture.

Entering the lobby, the visitor espies a pair of bronze mermaids, leaping prettily from metal waves. By unscientific observation, about one of every 14 males who passes within arm's length will caress a mermaid's shapely bottom. The dark patina on the sirens' sitters is already wearing thin.

With a farewell glance at the bright-cheeked beauties, one walks through an atrium so big that 60-foot palm trees do not scrape its glass roof. There is room for banana trees, orchids, pools, waterfalls, and drifting mists. Jungle legends even tell of a cocktail lounge in there.

Henry Conversano, the interior designer responsible for this part of the hotel, said, "What you've done by presenting people with that unexpected atrium is keep the promise of your theme You didn't say we're a tropical theme, there's a potted palm tree, now go gamble. You promised them an experience and you kept your promise, and when you do that, people immediately like you."

Leaving the jungle, the explorer breaks out into the clearing of a 70,000-square-foot casino, one of the largest in Las Vegas. "That's an immense space, and most people wouldn't feel comfortable in it, so we break it up visually into smaller areas," explained Conversano. One way he did that was by grouping the gaming tables in small numbers under roofs that are suspended from the ceiling and resemble those of tropical huts. "We used the hut idea because it's what you might expect to see coming into a clearing in the jungle, and it's a very friendly image," he explained.

I stepped forward to see if the natives were indeed friendly, and the first gambler I saw actually was one—an American Indian man, with hair drawn into a knot at the back and wearing a buckskin vest, designer jeans, and fancy cowboy boots, playing "21" alone at a $100-minimum table.

Las Vegas is a people-watcher's preserve, but The Mirage seems particularly blessed with exotic species. There were more ponytails—on well-dressed men—than I bothered to count. One young man, who had the build and shoulder-length hair of a Texas wrestler, wore a three-piece suit and a diamond earring; the red of his vest-pocket handkerchief exactly matched the heart-shaped tattoo on his left cheekbone. I saw another youth wearing jeans tucked into white snakeskin boots and a jean jacket whose back bore a photo-realistic painting of a city block of topless dance joints. One couple was dressed conservatively, like churchgoers in a small town, but distinguished by the woman's hair—lustrous, black, draping the back of her white wool coat like a cape reaching to her knees.



Siegfried and Roy's tigers are right at home in The Mirage.

Despite The Mirage's high-roller image, some of its restaurants offer middle-class prices. The Bermuda Buffet charges $9.95 for dinner, and those exiting were enthusiastic about the ratio of quality to price. A medium-priced entree was $12.99 on the menu posted at the door of another restaurant. But there are also gourmet rooms where a tab for two may hit three figures before bumping into a decimal point. Most popular of all seems to be the California Pizza place, which offers modest prices for pizzas with exotic toppings such as duck sausage.

There are even a few concessions to children. Siegfried and Roy present one of the few production shows on the Strip without nudity But it remains to be seen how many poppas will pop for junior's ticket; at $60.80 including tax, it's the most expensive show in Vegas. However, The Mirage has introduced a hard-ticket policy, meaning one doesn't have to tip anybody to find a seat.

By autumn The Mirage should have completed an exhibit of six bottlenosed dolphins in a specially designed habitat. "This is not a swim-along program, which was never even considered, and they won't do tricks," said Alan Elias, a publicist for the hotel. "It's an educational exhibit, something we're doing just because Steve Wynn has a love affair with these animals and wanted to stress that they're having problems in the wild."

There's also a 20,000-gallon saltwater aquarium that occupies the entire wall behind the hotel registration desk and is stocked with rays, anglefish, and even small sharks. To look after it all, The Mirage hired Julie Onie, a marine biologist who once worked at the National Aquarium in Washington, D.C. Her title at this desert resort is director of marine operations.

Ordinary rooms at The Mirage rent from $89 to $159 per night and have been running about 80 percent full.

"But Steve also had the concept of an all-suite hotel perched atop a destination resort," explained Roger Thomas, an interior designer who works full-time for the Golden Nugget properties. "So the top five floors are lavish suites—we thought of every one as a penthouse when we designed them. They range from 1,200 to 1,500 square feet, as big as many single-family homes. All have floor-to-ceiling, wall-to-wall panoramic views. They all have such things as bars, living area, dining area, oversize showers, two-person jacuzzis, state-of-the-art stereos, and pop-up televisions at the foot of the master bed. But they excel in style and

Photo: Patrick Kennedy

lavish fabrics and finishes."

On four floors, said Thomas, the resort's Polynesian theme was continued. "We chose colors from a bouquet of tropical flowers, but applied them in four different ways, ranging from a bright scheme to rather subdued. We used a lot of natural elements—hand-woven straw, marble we imported from Italy ourselves. In many cases we custom designed furniture ourselves, even fabrics, just so you wouldn't have seen them anywhere else. We wanted a certain exclusivity."

The top floor suites are European-influenced, in three flavors—traditional French, a highly masculine English theme of leather and dark wood, and a look suggested by modern upper-class European homes, filled with a mix of functional period and contemporary pieces.

The hotel's very best accommodations are at ground level—six bungalows with kitchens, private gardens, and swimming pools. Thomas described them as "a very relaxed California style. You'd be comfortable relaxing in the living room in a bathing suit, but you'd be doing it on custom-woven fabrics."

In practice, many of those in suites and bungalows won't ever see a bill—they'll be superstars relieving Siegfried and Roy in the showroom, celebrity guests, and the very highest-betting casino customers. But if you want to simply buy a night in one, the suites run $225 to $450, and the bungalows up to $1,250.

That may not be within your budget. But Thomas points out, "I think the success of this place will be in the fact it was designed and intended from the ground up to treat *everybody* well—not only our wealthiest customers. There's a private casino where a customer with a very high limit can play alone if he desires. But I doubt that another person, playing a poker machine in a public area, is a bit less comfortable."

How far The Mirage will go to assure the welfare of its public was even more evident in a sign posted outside. It was positioned on the Strip, right where a driver would see it after doing a double-take at the flaming volcano. On one side the sign said, "Please drive carefully. And for your own safety, try not to be distracted by the hotel on the left." ◁

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

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Pumping Border to Border

Our 600-mile mountain-bike ride across the state tested our pedals and mettles.

By Jack Oakes

It was near the end of a leisurely Saturday ride through the foothills near our Smith Valley home when I suddenly blurted out, "We should ride our bikes across the state someday."

My wife Arlene and our close friend Bart Lyman looked at me curiously, but as the idea sunk in, they grew enthusiastic. The thought of riding 600 miles across Nevada on dirt roads, possibly on a route no one had ever tried before on a mountain bike, ignited their sense of adventure. I was about to repeat "someday" when I saw it was too late—they were ready to go.

That evening we crowded around the dining room table. Using our trusty *Nevada Road Atlas*, we charted a route through some of the state's most remote and scenic terrain.

Only a few years ago such a bike trip would have been virtually impossible. That was before the advent of the mountain bike.

This unique machine is perfect for cyclists like us who want to go where there are no paved roads. Its original developer took an old fat-tired bike—the kind all of us over 35 rode as kids—and stuck on a multi-gear system to climb hills and negotiate soft sand and then added grabber brakes for steep descents.

Our bikes were modern versions of that first contraption. They had 18 to 21 gears, frames and wheels made of lightweight metals, self-adjustable seats, and custom contours.

Busy schedules forced us to break our adventure into five sections. The first four would be weekend rides that we hoped would land us in the old mining town of Belmont near the center of the state. From there we would cycle straight on to Utah in one demanding five-day jaunt. We estimated it would take 15 riding days, traveling about 40 miles per day, to reach our destination, the state line east of Pioche near the town of Modena, Utah.

> Bart struggled to keep his balance through patches of soft dirt and fist-sized boulders that could send a cyclist airborne.

My four-wheel-drive compact pickup would be our support vehicle, carrying extra water, food, bike tires and tubes, tools, camping gear, and my Rhodesian Ridgeback dog, Reginald. We agreed to take turns driving, changing at five-mile intervals, so we would each bike 10 miles at a time.

LEG ONE

On a blustery mid-May morning we unloaded our bikes to begin the trip's first leg. We were parked on the western fringe of the Sweetwater Mountains at the California state line, about 10 miles south of Topaz Lake. Reg let out a bark from his perch in the camper-shell window as to announce the journey's start. Arlene drove ahead in the truck, leaving Bart and me to our thoughts as we started pumping up the windy dirt road into Risue Canyon.

Like all bike trips, ours was to be filled with extended periods of tedious, monotonous pumping. It was the hair-raising descents down narrow rock-strewn roads, the panoramic vistas, and the occasional visits to civilization that provided lasting memories.

For Bart, our daredevil, a memorable moment took place the second day at the summit of Lucky Boy Pass, from where we could see the road spiraling down 4,000 feet to Hawthorne Valley

Like a racer out to beat the clock, down he went, streaking past Garfield Creek, through Squaw Creek Canyon, and by the Lucky Boy Mine, at times hitting 35 mph, fast for even a car on that road.

The gravel and switchbacks made it impossible to spare a sideways glance, he later recalled, while careening nearly out of control and being unable to stop if he wanted to. He struggled to keep his balance through patches of soft dirt and around fist-sized boulders

that could send a cyclist airborne.

Suddenly it was all over; he had reached the bottom and reality returned. We caught up and laughed together at the feat, feeling invigorated, anxious for the next challenge.

LEG TWO

The following weekend we rode into Gabbs Valley and toured the remains of the ghost town of Rawhide. That evening we camped in the sand dunes next to a dry lake. Bart built a fire, and Arlene presented a spaghetti dinner complete with red wine, French rolls, and homemade banana bread. It was a shameful meal; we should have been eating Spam or baked beans like normal outdoors people. But we shoved down every crumb and mopped the pot dry.

In the morning light we laughed upon seeing the previously unblemished sandy surface of our campsite. The combination of firewood gathering during the night and my dog running about had left the ground covered with tracks.

LEG THREE

The next weekend we pumped over the Paradise Range and then through lonely Ione Valley. It was a hot June day, and, as all cyclists do at times, I began to fantasize. In particular, I imagined myself splashing in the clear, cool waters of the Reese River.

Riding into the Reese River Valley, my body covered with sweat and dust, I was ready to dive head-long into the torrent that I pictured the Reese to be.

But Nevada is full of surprises—like the Reese River. The raging torrent was, in reality, a muddy trickle in a sandy wash. There would be no swim—just 40 more dusty miles to Austin.

At Austin our bikes seemed to steer themselves to the first establishment advertising thick, creamy milkshakes. Inside, a young couple dressed in fancy cycling togs and traveling the highway on touring bikes gave us a curious glance when we entered in our dusty bike shorts and grimy running shoes. I overheard the two comment on how desolate and unattractive the area was, and I was about to strike up a conversation when Arlene handed me a tall strawberry shake that required my full and immediate attention.

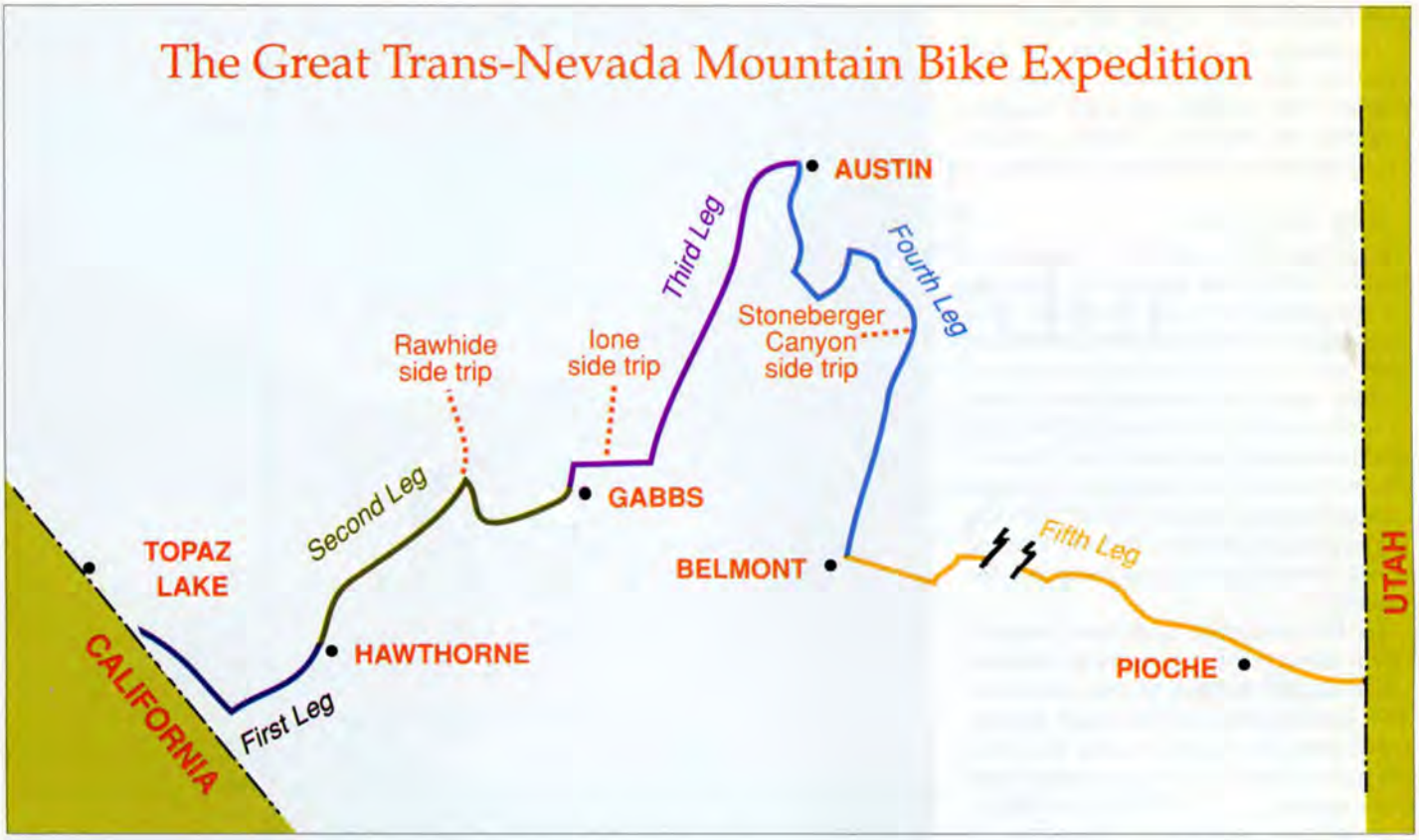
The couple pedaled east out of town before I could enlighten them on the beauty of the Toiyabes, Ione Valley, and, of course, the Reese River.





Bart Lyman (front) and Arlene Oakes splash across Big Creek (top) during their assault on the Toiyabes south of Austin. Bart takes a break at Conway Ranch near the East Walker River (bottom).

Photos: Jack Oakes



LEG FOUR

The beauty of the Toiyabes was our treat the next weekend. Each of us had cycled many passes in the Sierra and elsewhere, but after our trek over the Toiyabes the three of us agreed it had been the most difficult yet exhilarating ride we had ever experienced.

We forded Big Creek at least a dozen times as the road wound deep into the mountains south of Austin. As the trail steepened, our leg muscles burned, our lungs ached, and we could pedal only a few yards before needing to rest.

The slow pace, however, gave us a chance to enjoy the scenery. We saw waterfalls plummet over nearly vertical canyon walls covered with foliage. Below, Big Creek, lined with willows and green meadows, contrasted with the brown desert floor.

The snowcapped dome of Bunker Hill suddenly popped up before us, and a road sign appeared informing us to slow down. The sign maker had had a sense of humor; if I'd gone any slower, I'd have fallen off the bike. We pumped over one last rise, and the road immediately pitched downward. We had finally reached the 10,000-foot summit.

Looking back down was a dizzying experience. Big Creek was a small ribbon of water in a field of green far below, rushing across the desert toward the Reese River.

One of Arlene's most memorable moments came during the descent through Kingston Canyon. While negotiating a rocky incline, the bolt holding her seat to the post sheared, nearly sending her crashing. She was forced to ride several uncomfortable miles standing on the pedals—not an easy task on a steep, downhill grade. Luckily we found help in the little community of Kingston, where the proprietor of the local store was kind enough to rummage through his workshop until he found a substitute bolt, and soon we were on the road again.

The ride along Monitor Valley south to Belmont was long, straight, and for the most part boring. But there were pluses. Under towering Mount Jefferson there was peace and quiet, time to meditate on such subjects as, say, the wind. Was it an unwritten rule of cycling—if the wind blew, you had to ride into it? Or that flat tires always happened on a pleasant downhill ride?

Sipping water from a spring in the shade of the old Belmont Courthouse, we made plans for the final assault. With the temperatures soaring, we agreed to pick up the trail in the fall.

LEG FIVE

It was mid-September when we returned to Belmont and felt the familiar hardness of our bike seats while pumping up Hunt Canyon into the Monitor Range.

An icy breeze chilled us as we made camp a few hours later in the dark. Had we started the trip too late?

The question was answered the following morning. Coasting down colorful McCann Canyon, Bart and I had already taken off our shirts due to the heat.

Later in Hot Creek Canyon, the jeep trail crossed a creek at a deep mire. It was a simple crossing for the bikes, but not for the truck, and the closest AAA towing service was 75 miles away in Tonopah.

Bart found a spot where the truck just might make it across the creek and up the steep embankment. We scouted the road ahead. It looked passable, so we decided to try to roar through the mire.

I dropped the truck in four-wheel drive, gunned the engine, and with tires spinning drove into the mud. The truck sank to its axles. Desperately, I pressed the accelerator to the floor. Just as it seemed we might be cycling to Tonopah for a tow truck, the front tires dug into enough dry land to pull the vehicle up the embankment. Arlene, Bart, and I cheered.

A mile later the near-disaster was washed from our minds when a herd of

wild horses galloped beside us for a while before darting into a meadow.

At the mouth of the canyon we pulled up next to a parked Nye County grader. The operator stuck his head from his travel trailer and gave us a friendly but surprised look when he noticed the bikes.

Burly, with a face weathered by sun and wind, he seemed anxious just to talk to other human beings. After listening to our adventures and offering directions he graciously filled our bottles from his water supply. We then listened, not too enviously, while he described his lonely, nomadic vigil of grading hundreds of miles of dirt roads in the nation's second largest county.

Waving from the trailer door, he warned us, "It's snake season, so keep your eyes and ears open for rattlers." That night on U.S. 6 we made camp—sure enough—at Rattlesnake Springs. But, as usual, there was nary a snake to be seen.

At dawn we headed along the rim of Lunar Crater toward a sheer rock formation appropriately named The Wall. The map showed a jeep trail branching west around The Wall and into the Pancake Range, so Arlene, taking her turn at the wheel, drove the truck ahead to investigate.

Bart and I were soon pedaling through the Pancakes, whose mountains resemble a huge serving of flapjacks all tilting in one direction. We were enjoying the ride and the view, unaware that Arlene had missed the turnoff and was miles to the east.

Our first clue came at a wash when Bart noticed the lack of fresh tire tracks. After finding a view of the road twisting down into the valley and the truck nowhere in sight, we quickly made a U-turn. Our water, food, and Arlene had somehow disappeared.

Back at the fork we scanned the desert. Across the valley a dust cloud was headed in our direction at top speed. Minutes later Arlene pulled up wearing a frantic expression. After laughing off what could have been a tragedy, we made a pact: The truck driver was never to lose sight of the cyclists.

Thunderheads curled around 11,298-foot Troy Peak in the Grant Range, and flashes of lightning bounced off the ridges as we struggled up the narrow, rocky road from Railroad Valley to Cherry Creek Summit, a climb of 3,500 feet. The dark sky threatened, but we coasted into the sanctuary of Cherry Creek Canyon ahead of the storm.





Arlene explores an old homestead in Monitor Valley (top). At the Utah border Arlene (left), Jack (center), and Bart pause to enjoy their accomplishment.

After dinner and our nightly cribbage match, we took turns under Bart's portable shower. The water had heated all day in a plastic container on top of the truck cab, and it soothed our aching bodies.

Midway between Lund and Hiko the following day we crossed paved State Route 318 and rode east to Bristol Wells. The day's ride had covered nearly 70 miles, and the sun was well below the hills when we quietly made our final camp beside a row of charcoal ovens.

Staring up into the star-speckled sky, we marveled that since leaving Belmont we had not encountered a single vehicle and had seen only one other soul, the friendly road-grader operator.

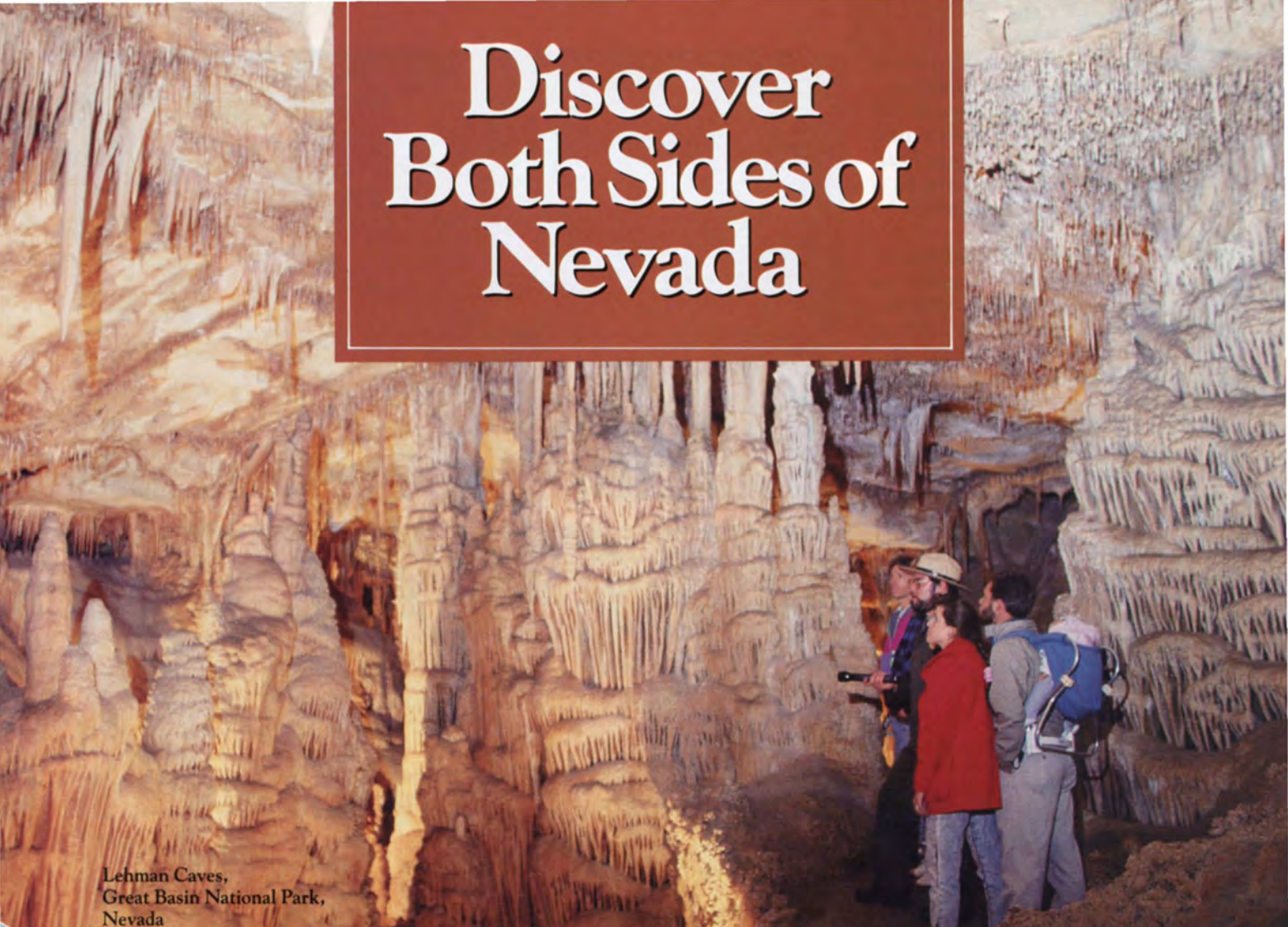
We began our last day on the road pedaling toward the old mine dumps of Pioche. We had lunch in a real restaurant there and continued east to Echo Canyon State Recreation Area, skirted the edge of Immigration Wash, rode over Little Summit and Big Summit, and then raced downhill toward Utah.

At the state line we shook hands all around and paused to enjoy the sense of accomplishment. Then we wearily loaded our bikes into the truck for the last time. Reg let out his familiar bark, and we set course for Smith Valley. We were heading home, but we were already discussing plans for our next mountain-bike trip—down the length of Nevada from Idaho to Arizona.

Jack Oakes lives in Smith Valley. Fellow cyclists Arlene Oakes and Bart Lyman, an Incline Village resident, also contributed to the story.

Photos: Jack Oakes (top), Bart Lyman (bottom)

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In Its Own Image

Long caught in the shadow of Las Vegas and its own World War II defense plants, Henderson looks for a brave new future.

By Ben Baker

Henderson was once known mainly as a factory town. Lately though, it has been exploring other avenues around which cities are built.

Created during World War II as a federal company town for the Basic Magnesium defense plants, Henderson has found new prominence as the site of several of southern Nevada's booming planned communities. The influx of new residents has helped Henderson reach a population of about 70,000, making it the third largest city in the state. Its status as the home of chocolate, marshmallow, and ice cream makers has even led one official to muse that Henderson might be the Sweet Tooth Capital of Nevada.

Home of chocolate, marshmallow, and ice cream makers, Henderson might be the Sweet Tooth Capital of Nevada.

Still, Henderson is often overshadowed by its more glamorous neighbor, Las Vegas.

Not long ago a Henderson housing tract, Whitney Ranch, was advertised



The view from Water Street looks upon the industrial plants and Las Vegas, symbols of Henderson's past and future.

Photo: Ben Baker

as being "a great new address for Las Vegas." The local TV station promotes itself as being a station for "Henderson and Las Vegas," with a heavy inflection on "Las Vegas." Local developers have advertised developments in Henderson as having a Las Vegas address.

"It's because they're not sure whether the name Henderson sells," says Gary Johnson, an enthusiastic city supporter and executive director of the Henderson Chamber of Commerce. "Henderson definitely is selling, and as time goes on, we are showing that. There was a developer who was developing up in Highland Hills. He used to say in some of the ads, 'Drive past Henderson to Horizon Drive.' Horizon Drive is in Henderson!" Now it's phrased more accurately, he says.

> In the town's older neighborhoods many streets are named after states, trees, and metals, like Zinc Street and Platinum Street.

Attempts to make the town better known have succeeded to a degree. Local car dealer Ben Stepman used the phrase "Henderson, of course" in TV ads for his showroom. The expression caught on, and soon it began to appear in most Henderson-connected references. Stepman wrote a letter to the local newspaper saying that even though he coined the phrase and held legal rights to it, the phrase properly belonged to the city. An auto-parts junkyard in Las Vegas, obviously competing with a similar operation in Henderson, once ended its TV ads with "We're not in Henderson, of course."

Being in Henderson puts you midway between downtown Las Vegas and Boulder City, although the gaps separating the two larger towns are closing fast. When taking the U.S. 95 freeway south from Las Vegas, the border between Henderson and Las Vegas is hard to see as housing and business tracts cross city and county boundaries.

The difference is clearer when driving into town on the Boulder Highway, where you encounter a stretch of sparsely developed land before reaching the shopping centers that signal you've found Henderson. The BMI plants stand tall on the right. A couple of miles west of the plants is the now-leveled site of the PEPCON plant that exploded two years ago. A drive around town will take you to the ever-expanding Boy's and Girl's Club, Black Mountain Country Club, the Clark County Heritage Museum, and developments such as Highland Hills to the south and Whitney Ranch to the north.

In Henderson's older neighborhoods, you'll notice that many streets are named after metals, like Zinc Street, Platinum Street, and Gold Street. Others are named for states such as Texas, Arizona, Nebraska, and Wyoming. Some streets are named for trees—Hickory, Cedar, Dogwood—and yet others for famous cities—Athens, Berlin, London. Downtown's main avenue is called Water Street, after the water plant at its south end.

The pace is a bit slower in Henderson. Rush-hour traffic means waiting an extra minute or so to make a turn. Local casinos are fairly calm, relying mostly on local customers.

The chief of police, Jim Goff, doubles

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Gary Johnson is one of the city's biggest boosters (top). Green Valley (above) has helped Henderson become Nevada's third largest city.

as a fishing guide on Lake Mead, which is 10 miles east, and writes a weekly fishing column for the *Henderson Home News*. He says he hasn't had any problems with his dual identity.

"My clients understand my first responsibility is to the police department," Goff says, adding that there have been "major incidents where I have had to leave the lake." When he's called to go casting for crooks instead of fish, he usually offers another guided trip, free.

The small-town atmosphere is appealing to most residents.

"I like this town," says bar owner Ron Olivarra. "People in this town aren't what you'd call 'hot plastic people.' They are real, down-home, honest, live people. To me, the real Nevada people are here."

"I'll never try to stop Las Vegas, but I want it to stay there," says Sunny Dent, a mother of seven. "I want to see all of Henderson grow into a people-oriented community I would love to see it covered with baseball diamonds and the kinds of things families want."

Henderson began as a company town—the company being the federal government—and older residents in particular share a sense of community and fellowship. It was first known as Basic when the government formed a wartime partnership with Ohio magnesium magnate Howard Eells. The site that was to become Henderson was designated on July 5, 1941.

Fed by ore brought down from Gabbs, the plants of Basic Magnesium Inc. soon began production and were fully operational about a year later, manufacturing magnesium that the Allies would use for bombs and aircraft parts. At one time BMI employed 13,000 workers, 10 percent of Nevada's total work force. Henderson was officially named in 1944 for Charles B. Henderson, who served as U.S. senator from Nevada in 1918-21.

The workers' homes were expected to be temporary structures. Henderson was not built to last. It was a means to an end, that end being the winning of World War II.

But once the war was over, townspeople and state officials fought to keep the government from dismantling the town. In 1947 the Nevada Legislature passed laws allowing the state to acquire the plants and then turn them over to private control.

Paul Coroneos, a Henderson resident who played on Basic High School's first football team in 1947, remembers when the area was called Henderson-Basic. Back then, the place was little more than a pit stop between Las Vegas and Boulder City; today Sunset Road runs past part of Henderson's original Pittman neighborhood.

Henderson then was flush with watering holes as 15 bars competed in a neighborhood filled with construction workers. Coroneos says he remembers when as many as 100 people would spill out into the road in massive brawls.

"Across the street from the Midway was a very interesting bar," he says. A small place, it was made out of framing and plywood, with one plywood window that could be propped open if customers wanted some air. "They drank and fought. That was where they actually went when they wanted to get in a fight. Pittman never settled down until after the war."

One day, tragedy struck: Four bars standing in a row burned to the ground. Lacking enough fire hoses, residents took the next best option. They evacuated the contents of the bars.

"I do recall a bunch of my brothers' older friends and one guy, his name was Jimmy Harden, gathered up all the liquor they could carry out," Coroneos says.

"They stacked it on this truck and they gave Jimmy Harden a gun. He was a guard over that booze. By sun-

Photos: Jeff Cowen (top), Ben Baker (bottom)



Sunny Dent, one of many affected by the 1988 blast, sees ball fields in the future.

down, he and his pals had loaded up on the truck, and they were going all around Pittman having a party with that liquor."

In the 1950s Jim Thorpe, the legendary athlete, moved to Henderson and opened a bar in a quonset hut that still stands, according to Coroneos, but the bar failed because Thorpe would not socialize with his customers.

The plants still color the way many non-Hendersonites view the city, and some residents don't appreciate that image. Such a shift was clear last year when a Las Vegas firm offered an architectural preview of a casino project. The theme was a factory complex, circa 1904. Its brownstone look turned off many locals, as did the addition of two smokestacks. "This is not the city of Henderson. This is the BMI complex," protested City Councilman Mike Harris. The developers went back to the drawing board.

Locals have been working to change Henderson's image, says Gary Johnson.

"It was about 1975 when we really got our act together. The city and the business community kind of unofficially said, 'Look, we really want to do something creative to make this community of Henderson, Nevada, as exciting as we think it should be.

"Everything works on the cause-and-effect principle. We're going to have to go out there and start making the causes, which isn't an easy thing to do. With the stigma Henderson had, we were actually starting from behind zero."

The first step was getting residents to approve a bond program for sewer improvements. Johnson recalls, "We took out full page ads in the paper, put flyer inserts in the paper, and went out to each household. We sold our first real, major program. It's not a real sexy thing to sell."

Sexier projects, like Boulder Highway improvements, are on the way, as are several multi-million-dollar devel-

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Photo: Ben Baker

opments. Car Country is planned to be a giant open-air automobile distributorship with an amusement park and casinos located east of Boulder Highway South. Lake Las Vegas is a resort-residential area (in eastern Henderson, not Las Vegas) where developers are installing a man-made lake at the site between Henderson and Lake Mead (the city's agreement to supply the water created a recent controversy). A third project, Cosmo, is an enormous golf resort planned for the city's southwestern corner.

Green Valley, considered the yuppie section of Henderson, is one of Las Vegas' new suburbs. Green Valley lies to the northwest and is separated geographically mentally, and sometimes politically from the other sections of Henderson—"Henderson proper," as some separatists call it.

Sunny Dent, an active Green Valley resident of four years, sees the separation between Henderson and Green Valley as a matter of age and tradition.

"There are two very, very different personalities. What little I know of Henderson is that it is a long-standing community, very home-based. Green Valley is fairly new We don't have that rooted base here, yet," she says. "We're trailblazing."

The idea for Green Valley came about in the 1970s. The town sold large parcels of land, a move hotly disputed by some locals, to developers, principally the late *Las Vegas Sun* publisher Hank Greenspun. The project has become a model for other master-planned communities in southern Nevada, according to Gary Johnson.

"People thought he got the land too cheap," Johnson says. "He got something, but the city of Henderson got a hell of a lot, too. As time goes on, Henderson winds up getting more out of that than I think Mr. Greenspun got to begin with."

Green Valley is part of another Henderson phenomenon: its population explosion. In the past decade, the city's population has doubled. Many think when the 1990 U.S. census is released, Henderson will have close to 80,000 people, if not more.

For all its concern about image, Henderson is nationally known in some circles.

Boblin's, a local bakery, makes delicious pastries from scratch. Co-owner Linda Owens recalls Henry, a Florida snowbird who decided Boblin's pies are among the best he's ever had. He enjoys them so much that he has pies shipped from Henderson to his home in Florida. She also confides that a local man who buys Boblin's pies takes them home and tells his girlfriend he bakes them himself.

> Linda Owens of Boblin's bakery confides that a man who buys Boblin's pies takes them home and tells his girlfriend he bakes them himself.

On a somewhat bigger scale is Ethel M Chocolates, the major candymaker founded by candy magnate Forrest Mars and named after his mother. Ethel M makes liqueur-filled chocolates, among other treats, and offers tours of its plant and cactus garden.

Kidd and Company makes marshmallows and has tours available (see sidebar). There's also a Gold Bond ice

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cream plant, and plans are underway for an Ocean Spray juice facility. Thus Henderson may indeed be the Sweet Tooth Capital of Nevada, as Mayor Lorna Kesterson remarked during the reopening of the Kidd plant last year.

Other well known firms with warehousing or plants in Henderson include Levi's, Service Merchandise, Timet, and Kerr McGee.

In boom and bust, looking out for themselves and neighbors "has always been the attitude of the people of Henderson," says Mike O'Callaghan, former governor and the publisher of the *Henderson Home News* and *Green Valley News*. O'Callaghan lived and taught school in Henderson in the 1950s. "When I first moved there, they had a distinct difference from Boulder City and Las Vegas," he says. "They've always had an independence."

That sense of community was evident on and after May 4, 1988, when a tremendous explosion blew apart the PEPCON plant.

That sense of community was evident on and after May 4, 1988, when a tremendous explosion blew apart the Pacific Engineering Company (PEPCON) plant, maker of a rocket fuel additive. Two employees were killed. The blast wrecked the Kidd marshmallow factory next door, and it shook homes, broke windows, and wreaked havoc all over town.

The explosion caused an estimated $75 to $100 million in damage. During the cleanup, the city issued 856 blast-related building permits.

Frances Goodhue, a Kidd employee for three years, recalls being in the marshmallow plant when the first explosion occurred. The factory was vacated in minutes.

As she ran, Goodhue couldn't see anything for all the dust in the air, but she thought she was running from the blast. Then a young man took her arm and began pulling her away—and she realized she was running toward the inferno that was the PEPCON plant.

For Sunny Dent, the blast hit home in another way "My husband was an employee at PEPCON. It is a major part of my family's lives." Her husband, Douglas, was uninjured, but the explosion turned everything upside down.

"When it happened, my neighbors were here immediately. Their homes were also damaged, but they knew my husband worked at PEPCON. There was a lot of attention to help mothers with small children. They literally took my children for several days during the cleanup. There was a checking up on each other to see if everything was all right."

All around town, residents leaped to action. They set up emergency shelters to provide food to the firefighters and other emergency personnel combating the fire. The local steelworkers' union hall was converted into the Henderson Emergency Relief Center. People who found their lives thrown into confusion needed only to turn around to find a neighbor ready to lend a shoulder, hand, blanket, or whatever was needed.

According to O'Callaghan, that response was not unusual for Henderson



What to Do in Town

Thirteen miles southeast of downtown Las Vegas, Henderson offers plenty to the enterprising tourist.

Dining: Henderson has a surprising array of eateries. They range from Pizza Hut, Sizzler, and other familiar franchises on Boulder Highway to several local institutions, like Nick's Supper Club, the Eldorado Casino's restaurants, the Sam Pan, the Rainbow Casino, and the Goldmine. Renata's, a Green Valley supper club, has quickly built a good reputation.

Tours: Ethel M Chocolates on Sunset Road in Green Valley offers daily tours of its plant and cactus garden. At the end of the tour, you can sample the candies. For groups larger than 10, call ahead at 702-458-8864. Ethel M is open seven days a week.

The Kidd marshmallow plant offers a self-guided tour of its marshmallow-making machines. At the end of the tour, the plant offers free samples and a visit to its gift shop. Call 702-564-3878.



Water Sports: Just over the mountains to the east, Lake Mead is about 10 miles from Henderson. Boat and ski rentals are available in town and at the lake's marinas.

Golf: In the south part of town, the Black Mountain Country Club has an 18-hole course that's open to the public. Call 702-565-7933. Green Valley has two good courses, the Showboat, which is being renamed (451-2106), and the Legacy (897-2200).

History: Clark County Heritage Museum, off Boulder Highway south of the business district, offers a glimpse into southern Nevada's past. Attractions include several old homes that have been moved to the site and restored. Call 702-455-7955.

Boulder City, the planned community created for dam workers in the 1930s, is 10 miles from Henderson. Eight miles further east is the result of their labors: Hoover Dam.

Lodging: Henderson has half-a-dozen motels and an RV park.

Conventions: Henderson has a handsome new convention center downtown on Water Street. For information call 702-565-2171.

Information: For more information write the Henderson Chamber of Commerce, 100 East Lake Mead Drive, Henderson, NV 89015, or call 702-565-8951. —*BB*

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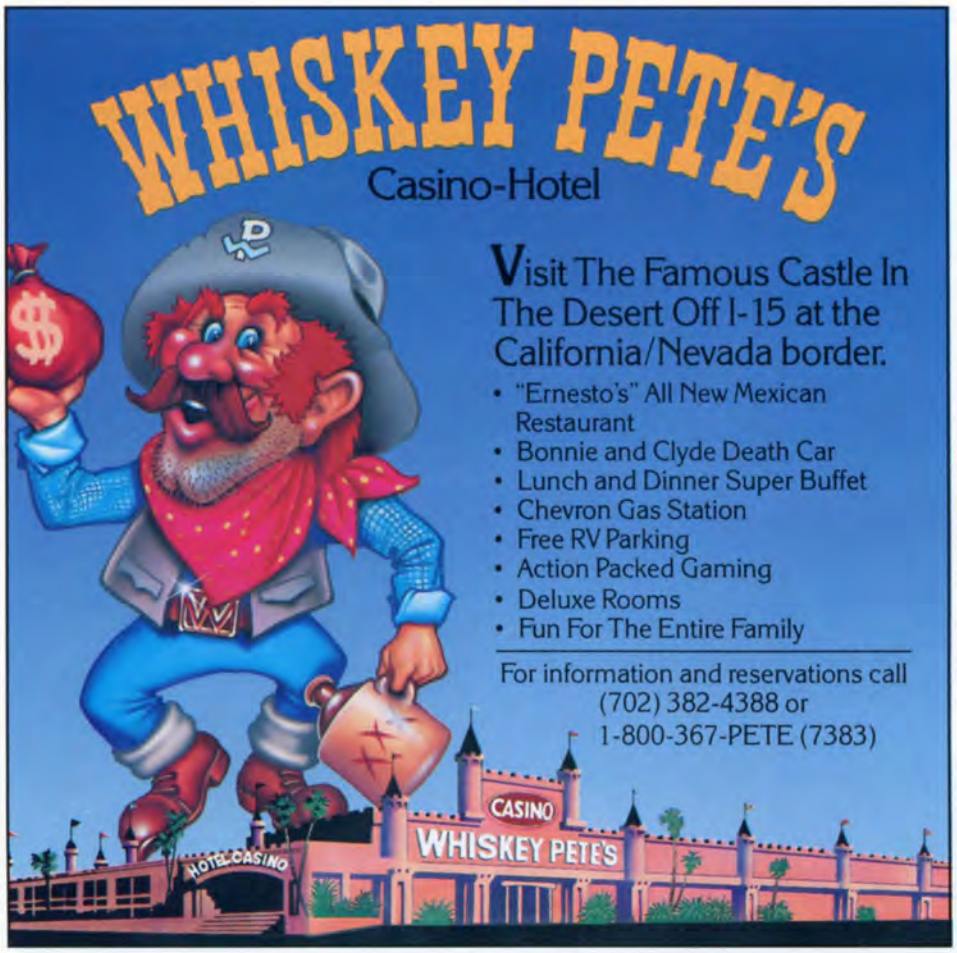
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Former Governor Mike O'Callaghan taught school in Henderson in the '50s.

citizens. "They have always been tight. There has always been a danger in the plants," O'Callaghan says. He adds that since Henderson has a bedrock population of construction, plant, and Test Site workers, such a response to a disaster was natural.

The PEPCON tragedy also showed that Henderson has the ability to bounce back. On the first anniversary of the disaster, hundreds of residents appeared in town wearing light blue T shirts depicting an explosion and reading, "I Survived the Blast."

Some residents quipped about the national news coverage of the blast. *The Quill*, a journalism magazine, reported that Henderson "was then located between Las Vegas and Boulder City." Thus the blast put Henderson on and off the map at the same time.

Media attention was so strongly focused on Henderson that it raised questions about the town's overall environment, recalls Gary Johnson.

"We got a lot of bad press over the blast. We got a lot of good press," he says. "It was good press because we're now known, and before no one ever heard of us. It sparked an interest of 'How are things going? What has occurred? Are the companies still there?' That's what's positive, because it gives us an opportunity to talk about ourselves."

Talk they will. Henderson is growing, trying to shed its factory town image without alienating its past. A difficult chore, but Henderson has faced harder tasks. ◻

Ben Baker, former reporter for the Henderson Home News, *now writes for a Georgia paper the* Tifton Gazette.



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Photo: Jeff Cowen

(Continued from page 35)

laughed at Garaventa and he said, "Son, let me tell you something. Whatever you did, be sure to leave them just like they are, because we're going to the bank with tubs full of silver dollars."

Well, I knew that story from Bud Garaventa, so I started looking around. I'd go down to Harolds at night and watch them playing those dollar machines.

Those wealthy women from San Francisco would play fast. They wore white kid gloves to protect their hands from handling so much silver, and the gloves turned black from the dollars. They were playing two or three machines at a time, and they couldn't pull the handles fast enough.

So, I went back to Chicago and said, "We've got to fix our hopper to where it works faster. It's too slow. We've got to make the hopper bigger and make it handle the big dollars. They want their money and they want it quick."

Norm Little came up from Mr. Sy's Casino at Las Vegas and figured out how to make the hopper bigger and speed up the machines. And you also had to make it level.

Then I happened to go up to Cactus Pete's, Pete Piersanti's place in Jackpot, Nevada. They had three machines up there that were quarter play, and they called them Old Blue. They were old jackpot machines that were set to pay out 90 percent, and again that was damned liberal at that time, although today 90 percent would be pretty tight. So when we came back from Jackpot, we said why don't we make our machines liberal, too, make them 90 or 92 percent. So we fixed up three of them in our shop and sold them to Karl Berge on a percentage basis. Karl got 60 percent. We got 40 percent. (For years I would tell a casino, "You get 50 percent more than poor old Si." Fifty percent more sounded a lot better than just 60-40.)

Karl and some of my boys named the machines Old Redd after me instead of Old Blue. They'd hang up sometimes and pay more than they should. That old cheap hopper wouldn't hold enough money, so they'd have to pour in more dollars while the customers watched, and that was good psychology

We put in a carrousel with all those lights. That first one (it went in at

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We'd say to a casino operator, 'You take out your 20 worst machines and let us put in our dollar machines.'

Karl's) had all old worn-out Ballys that we'd made over. The hopper didn't work, and the machines didn't work very well. We shared the operation, but right away I saw that we were getting too much. We weren't entitled to make that kind of money, so we changed our part of the take to 25 percent.

At about the same time Karl got his first dollar machines, John Ascuaga got them, too, and developed his dollar play. So did the other places in Reno, and we started putting them into Las Vegas. Why, we were even bringing silver dollars into Reno by train—boxcar loads of silver dollars.

We'd say to a casino operator, "You take out your 20 worst machines, your very worst machines, and let us put in our dollar machines in their place. Then you take off the top what you were making off those old machines, and we split the balance, 60 to you, 40 to us. You don't have to spend any money. You don't have to buy anything. So what can you lose? You make more money, and we make some money, too."

Well, the old machines would be making $30 or $40 a day, where these dollar machines would do $300 and $400 a day. It was just like shooting fish in a barrel. I've never seen anything like it in all my life. It was the greatest!

About this time people started calling me the Slot Machine King. The magazine *Loose Change* used the nickname in an article, and after that the newspapers and magazines always called me King of the Slots, and I was introduced that way at banquets and receptions. I will take the credit with thanks to Jack Gaughn for insisting that machines become more and more liberal for the players.

All this made Bally wealthy. It made it possible for them to show increasing quarterly profits, and the money we made for Bally in Nevada made it possible for the company to go public with good success.

It was always rather understood that when Bally went public they would buy me out of my Nevada distributorship. But they weren't ready until 1975, and by that time my Nevada Bally company had become quite valuable.

We had a big argument over what they were to pay me. I was supposed to get $9 million, but Bally would only go up to $7.5 million. I said the video part alone was worth a million and a half. Then Bill O'Donnell said, "If it's worth a million and a half, you son of a bitch, you can just keep it." And so I said, "Well, you son of a bitch, I will just keep it." That was our way of showing our love for each other—calling each other a son of a bitch.

Today everybody says how shrewd I was to get those video game rights. I didn't know that then. I just wanted to close the deal.

I had already established my A-1 Supply Company. Then it was SIRCOMA (for Si Redd Coin Machines) and finally International Game Technology. Now we had the video rights in my new company. At first we were going to use them for amusement games. In fact, we copied the basic poker machines from a ping pong game. We made a bingo and then a video keno and then 21 and finally we made the poker games. We put "Jacks or better" in the poker machine, and it just took off.

All of a sudden there was a whole new market of people who loved to play video poker. It was millions and millions of dollars of new business for the casinos and for IGT

About this time everybody in the business was sure that the lottery in California would hurt us (more than it really did, as it turned out). Warren Nelson, who is on our board of directors at IGT, had an idea that all the casinos could hook in together and offer something combined where people could win a million dollars. That was the beginning of Megabucks.

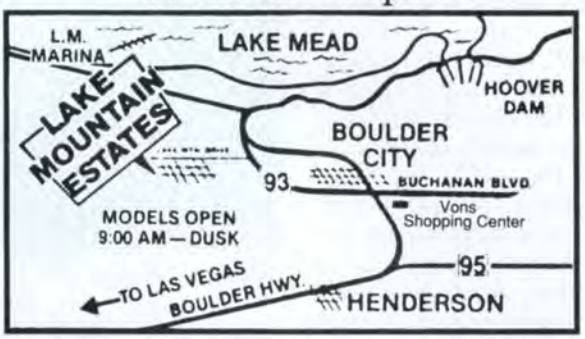
Warren's first idea was to do it with keno, but that didn't go over. We made a hell of a lot of mistakes. We tried putting it into a poker machine, but that didn't reach the regular slot machine players. They don't like the automatics—they like to pull the handle. We had to take out the video and put in the regular old mechanical slot machines. Another thing—we had to increase the frequency of winning, letting someone hit about every day for $6,000 to $25,000.

Much of the credit for Megabucks

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goes to our engineers at IGT They were primarily responsible for making it work. So, that's the story of how IGT got Megabucks into Nevada gaming, and, of course, it has been just fabulous.

My main contribution as head of IGT was to insist on keeping on until we found out how to do it. My mother always said, quoting the Bible, that everything works for the good for those who love the Lord if you just "keep on keeping on." Well, I can't put myself with the Lord, because I'm too much of a hypocrite. But I do know that this kind of belief works. If you just "keep on keeping on," it will work in business.

Finally, in 1987, I sold my stock in IGT back to the company and a group of its employees, but I'm still with IGT as chairman of the board emeritus.

I've gone into the cruise ship business, Nevada style, at Galveston, Texas. All the cruise ships have a casino on board, but they don't do it Nevada style. They don't pay back enough. We're using machines that came out of the Peppermill Casino in Reno, and they pay back 97 percent. Our players can't believe how much they win. They say, "These machines are out of order."



From left: Warren Nelson, the Big Redd machine, and Si and Marilyn Redd.

I have serious headaches when I work too hard, and my wife Marilyn is now in complete charge of the day-to-day operation of our cruise business, managing it better than I did. However, we want to concentrate our ef-

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forts on my resort property in Mesquite.

My experience in gaming in Nevada is really paying off at Mesquite. Years ago I could see the potential for Mesquite. On Interstate 15, 80 miles northeast of Las Vegas, the town is located near the three corners where Nevada comes together with Arizona and Utah. From Mesquite it is a short drive to four national parks, five state parks, and dozens of historical sites.

I bought the truck stop at Mesquite with a restaurant and 22 rooms in 1978 and leased it to the Peppermill. I've developed the property, buying and trading parcels of land to get the right facilities for a resort hotel. A year ago, I bought a 250-acre ranch to provide Western resort recreation.

Now the new 728-room Peppermill Resort is doing a thriving hotel business. It has great recreational facilities, a 24-hour casino, fine restaurants, an 18-hole golf course, and the ranch for guests who love horses, hay rides, and barbecues.

The resort is sold out every weekend. We are making plans now to add more rooms and increase the golf course to 36 holes. I have always wanted to develop a casino property, but never wanted to compete with casinos that were buying our slot machines. Now my dream is coming true at Mesquite.

So at Mesquite, I've just kept on keeping on.

Sometimes I keep on a little too long. Once I got so worked up I couldn't stop, and it almost cost me a big sale.

I went to California to see a guy name Skip Friend, who was the president of the Hyatt Corporation, and his father-in-law, old Abe Pritzker of the Pritzker family in Chicago, who owned the Hyatt.

I had my speech all ready, just like a lawyer. I'm telling them the story, and my wife is sitting there, and I get about two thirds through and old Abe Pritzker, he just dismisses me.

"Hell, you don't have to sell me anymore," he says.

I'm still raring to go, but my wife tells me, "Can't you see he's sold?"

Skip says, "That's right, Si. He's sold. You don't have to talk anymore." He doesn't say it, but they've got to leave for a cocktail party Skip says, "Where do I sign?"

And I say "In a pig's eye. I prepared this presentation, and you've got to listen."

My wife says, "You old jackass, didn't you hear them say yes?"

I said, "I don't care. These guys got to hear the rest of the story " I'm doing all this to impress Pritzker, of course.

He died laughing as we all did, and they went on to their party.

What I did, every good salesman knows, is just the opposite of what you're supposed to do. When a guy says yes, you shut up and give him the pad to sign.

I always wanted to develop a casino but never wanted to compete with casinos that were buying our slots. Now my dream is coming true at Mesquite.

Si Redd lives in Las Vegas in active retirement. Don Lynch, a former newspaperman, lives and writes in Sparks.

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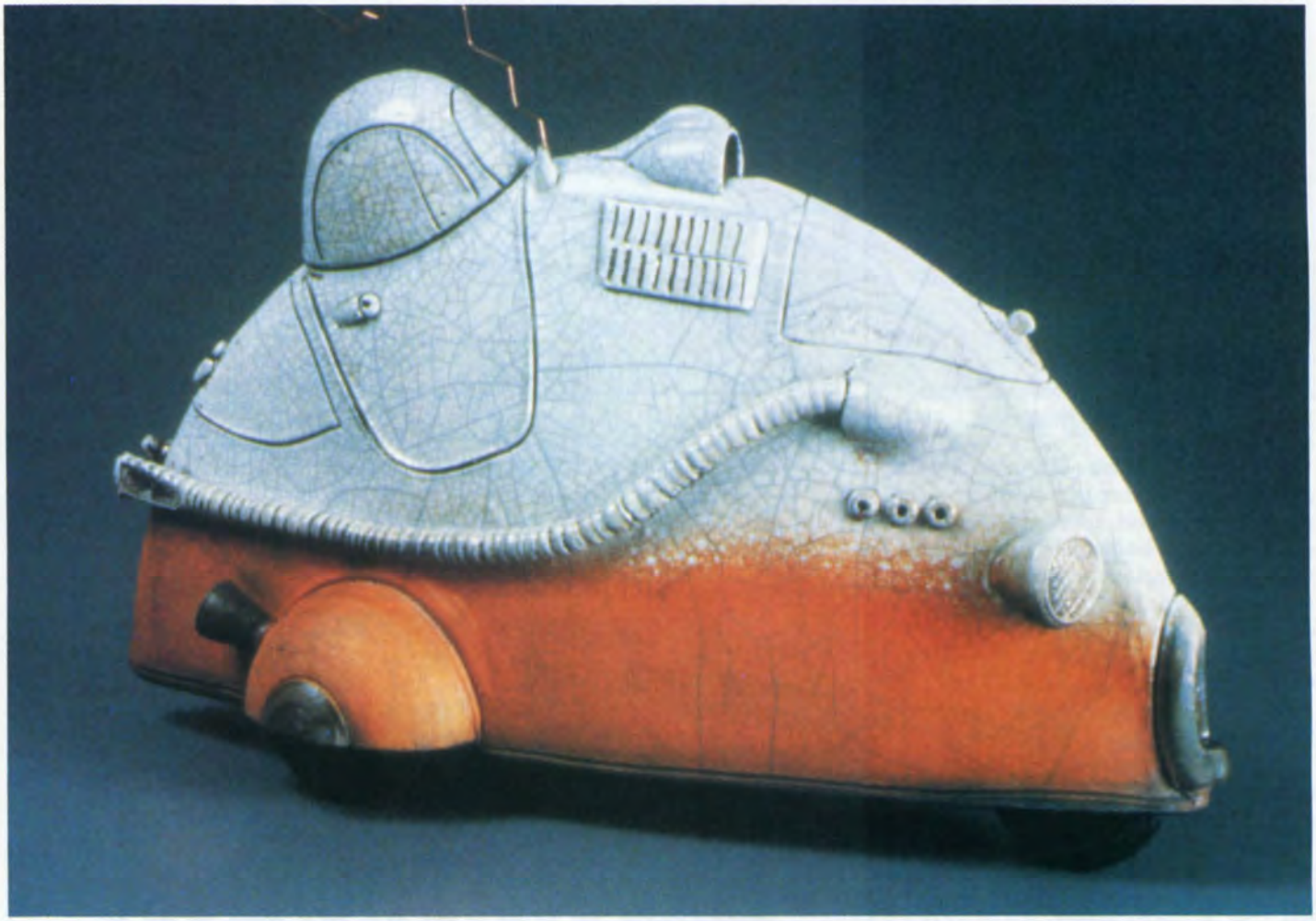
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TOM COLEMAN

Testing new horizons in pottery.



"One way or another I've always been involved with radioactivity," says Tom Coleman, a nationally known master potter. "Going to school in the '50s, there was always the atomic bomb and getting under the desk, and the glow, and the heat. I still have dreams about it."

When Coleman, 45, moved from Portland to Henderson three years ago, he started working on a series of Test Site pieces that reflected those dreams. More than just pots, the pieces evoke the bomb's ironic destructive beauty.

For example, his blue teapots seem to hold radioactive glob, not tea. Flattened vases look like contaminated fish with weird appendages. A child's car, glazed in day-glow orange, appears to be on an innocent voyage to a toxic dump.



Potter Tom Coleman of Henderson.

"Toxic Transport"

RAKU, 19"x22"

"This was a little thing to take my mind off the show. I had these pieces left over from other works, and the kids said that a lot of them looked like cars, so I made a car "

The shapes are strange for Coleman, who spent most of his life throwing porcelain in Oregon. Living in that atmosphere with his wife, Elaine, who is also a ceramist, and two children, he often blended his surroundings into traditional Japanese forms.

"Atomic Tickler"

LOW-FIRED, MULTI-GLAZED, 25"x12"

"There was a fishing lure at one time called the Atomic Tickler It was this glowing, wiggling worm. When you set this piece on its side, it looks like a fish on the wall, with a hook and eye and the whole bit. The name was just off the top of my head."



"Your environment has to make a change in your work or you're not looking at where you're living," he says. "I still demonstrate porcelain, because it's almost a lost art. I think that I'll never get away from that."

The Test Site pieces began when Coleman stumbled onto a new, glow-in-the-dark glaze while teaching at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. He had left out an ingredient by accident, and when the sample emerged from the kiln, its color suggested radioactivity

An admitted perfectionist, Coleman fired some of the pieces seven times, blending each glaze for a smooth, air-brushed look.

"I had a lot of fun making them," says Coleman, who pumps iron to burn off extra energy "I had to relax."

Tom Coleman's pottery has been chronicled in the book *The Mud-Pie Dilemma* and displayed at such prestigious places as the Smithsonian's Renwick Gallery. In Nevada his work can be seen at the Moira James Gallery in Green Valley.—*Cliff Glover*

Poetry and Politics

Selections in time for summer
By Barbara Land

Western verses and recipes are recent additions to the Nevada bookshelf. We also received a Nevada rancher's view of the controversy over federal rangeland.

•

Storm Over Rangelands by Wayne Hage. Published by the National Federal Lands Conference, Salt Lake City; distributed by Merril Press, Bellevue, WA. Paperback $9.95: hardcover $14.95.

Arguing that private rights do exist within federal lands, Nye County rancher Wayne Hage travels around the country as an outspoken defender of the livestock industry against the "bureaucrats" of the Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management.

A native of Elko, and past *Nevada* contributor, Hage fervently believes that the people who use federal lands should share in the control of those lands. In this book he describes the conflict over land and resources as a "range war" and tells what he thinks ranchers should do about it.

•

New Cowboy Poetry: A Contemporary Gathering, edited by Hal Cannon, Peregrine Smith Books, Salt Lake City, paperback, $9.95.

Cannon's earlier anthology, *Cowboy Poetry: A Gathering*, collected old favorites by the likes of Curley Fletcher, Gail Gardner, and Bruce Kiskaddon along with verse written in the 1980s. Cannon is one of the organizers of Elko's annual Cowboy Poetry Gathering, and his new collection is—as the title suggests—exclusively contemporary

Three Nevada poets are among the 29 verse-makers representing 11 western states in the new volume. Waddie Mitchell, Rod McQueary, and Randall J. Rieman have contributed lilting stories in rhyme, following a tradition handed down from medieval troubadours.

•

A Taste of Reno, The Original Foodbank Cookbook, published by the Food Bank of Northern Nevada, $12.95.

Recipes from the kitchens of Nevada celebrities—and just plain good cooks—fill more than 250 pages of this book. U.S. Senator Harry Reid shares the secret of his special chicken breasts in paprika sauce. Suzanne Laxalt of Catholic Community Services offers a Basque recipe, *pollo vascongado*. Washoe County District Attorney Mills Lane tells how he combines spinach and strawberries and makes "bacon and eggs" from pretzel sticks and candy

Cookbook sales help the Food Bank distribute food to hungry people through 40 social agencies in northern Nevada.

Barbara Land is a Reno writer

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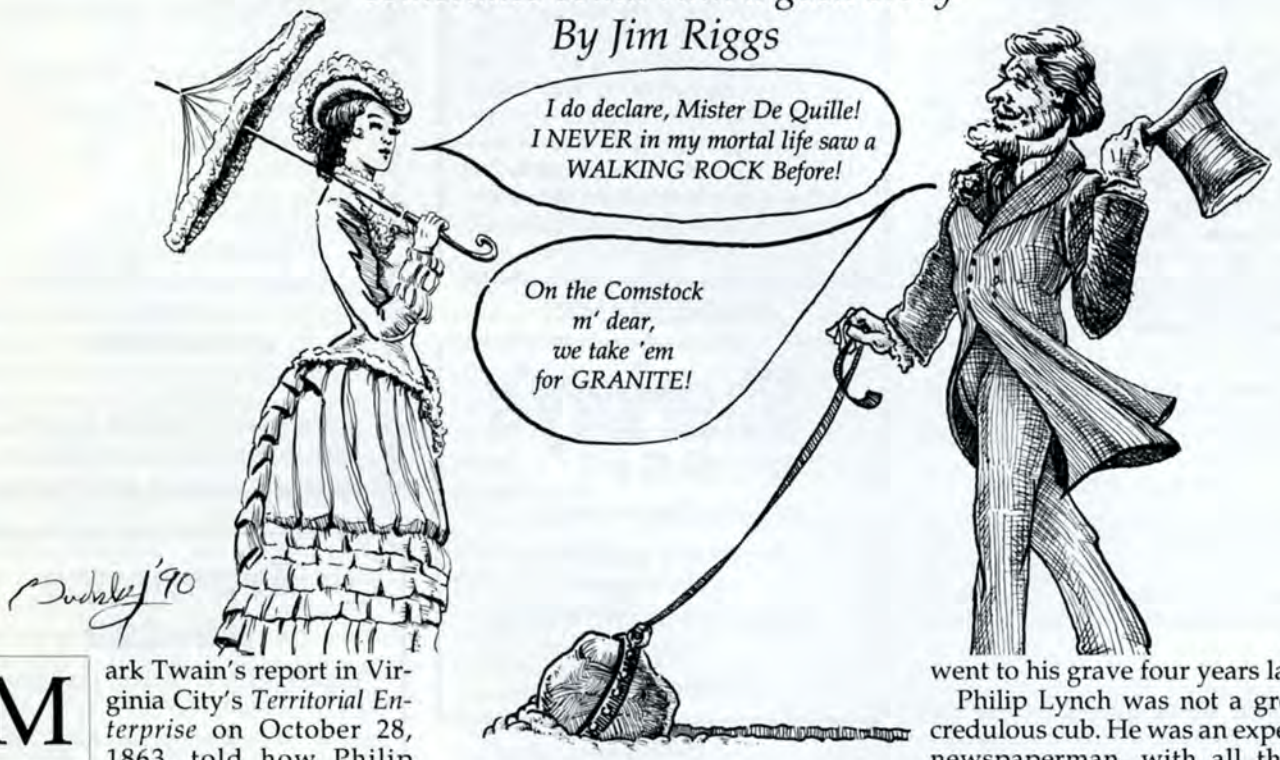
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COMSTOCK YARN SPINNERS

Dan De Quille, Mark Twain, and 'Lying Jim' Townsend knew that facts sometimes could ruin a good story

By Jim Riggs



Mark Twain's report in Virginia City's *Territorial Enterprise* on October 28, 1863, told how Philip Hopkins had chopped up his wife with an axe, bludgeoned to death eight of his nine children, and fatally stabbed the other Then, in a gory finale, slashed his own throat.

The grisly episode took place, according to Twain, at the Hopkins homestead deep in the "giant forest" that lay between Empire City and Dutch Nick's saloon on the Carson River. To local readers, the alleged location branded the story a flat-out lie. All hands knew that no forest, giant or otherwise, grew anywhere near Empire City and Dutch Nick's. Indeed, the only vegetation in that arid habitat was sagebrush, so scrubby and sparse that even the jackrabbits were hard put to find cover.

Still, greenhorns arrived on the Comstock Lode every day Among them was Philip Lynch, editor of the newly founded *Gold Hill Evening News*. Crediting Twain's report, Lynch recapped the bloody tale in his own paper the same day it appeared in the *Enterprise*, declaring the account "so soul-sickening, were it not for the responsible source we would deny it credence." Within hours after the *News* had hit the street, dozens of knowing readers merrily assured Lynch he should have gone with his hunch. Wags on the Lode later maintained the appalled editor's face was still flushed with rage and mortification when he went to his grave four years later.

'Lying Jim' Townsend worked on papers all over Nevada in the 1870s and '80s, spraying out preposterous tales like a lawn sprinkler.

Philip Lynch was not a green and credulous cub. He was an experienced newspaperman, with all the hard-learned skepticism of an old pro. He just had never seen his craft practiced as it was on the Comstock, where writers and readers alike deemed a good yarn always worth the spinning. Truth was not a prerequisite.

Mark Twain was an inveterate teller of tall tales. That's well known. But he was not alone in the Comstock's free-wheeling press corps. Dan De Quille, one of early Nevada's most widely read and respected journalists, routinely lied in print. So did distinguished editor Sam Davis. And glib James W.E. Townsend—well, it was not without reason he was universally known as "Lying Jim."

Townsend, whose prevaricating prowess was recalled by De Quille, Wells Drury, Charles Shinn, and others who knew and worked with him, was a liar's liar and the archetypical itinerant newspaperman. He worked on papers all over Nevada in the 1870s and '80s, spraying out preposterous tales like a lawn sprinkler as he wandered up and down the state. He was said to have loved the appellation

Illustration: Brian Buckley

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Another time, Jim announced the arrival at Ragtown of a drover who had 'herded a swarm of bees across the Forty Mile Desert, without losing a single bee.'

"Lying Jim" and would have had himself so identified on his gravestone but was posthumously overruled by unappreciative survivors.

Townsend once informed readers of the *Virginia City Chronicle* he had witnessed the demonstration of a grindstone that turned both directions at the same time. He said a pair of grinders, facing each other across the wheel, had put an edge on two cutting tools simultaneously. Jim calculated a battery of, say, half-a-dozen of the remarkable machines might "easily hone all the Bowie knives in town before lunch."

Another time, Jim announced the arrival at Ragtown of a drover who had "herded a swarm of bees across the Forty Mile Desert, without losing a single bee."

Twain's and Townsend's lies were usually so transparent that few readers were taken in. Dan De Quille's whoppers were of a different stripe. He called them "quaints" and freely admitted—even boasted—in his letters to friends in the East that he dreamed them up on slow news days throughout his 30-year career on the *Territorial Enterprise*. Dan had a good working knowledge of the physical sciences and a knack for faking erudition, and he made adroit use of both when the lying mood came over him. His account of the "Traveling Stones of Pahranagat," about rocks that seemed to roll across the flats of Lincoln County under their own power, suckered even the savants of Stuttgart University.

One time Dan told his readers he had invented a "continuous windmill." In the precise language of engineers he explained that while the machine was being powered by the wind to pump water, it simultaneously lifted quantities of sand to a reservoir atop the tower. When the wind died, Dan said, the sand would be released in a steady stream onto a paddlewheel, which continued to drive the pump.

Despite the distinct odor of a perpetual motion scheme, Dan reportedly received several inquiries from eastern firms expressing interest in manufacturing and marketing the "revolutionary system."

Mark Twain and Lying Jim Townsend were probably the most atrocious liars in the Comstock's fourth estate. Dan De Quille was among the most convincing. For sheer staying power, however, honors had to go to Sam Davis, editor of Carson City's *Appeal* in the 1880s and '90s. Sam kept a single monumental lie going for the better part of a decade.

During Davis' time, the town of Wabuska was a tiny burg on the Carson & Colorado Railroad, 10 miles or so south of Fort Churchill. There is no record of a newspaper ever being published there. Nevertheless, Davis' *Appeal* frequently quoted, or printed in toto, rabid editorials attributed to the *Wabuska Mangler*, a publication that never existed outside Sam Davis' imagination.

As editor of his make-believe paper Davis created a fire-breather whose pen dripped undiluted vitriol and whose poisonous prose might be directed at any public personage or institution, including the *Appeal* itself. Sam would rebut the old firebrand in terms as caustic as the *Mangler's* own, and the exchanges for years provided some of the liveliest reading in western Nevada. How many, if any, readers ever got wise to the hoax isn't known.

No complete collection of *Appeal* issues from Davis' time is known to exist, making it impossible to determine exactly when Sam gave birth to his ornery brainchild. Wells Drury, a Davis contemporary, indicates in his memoirs, *An Editor on the Comstock Lode*, that the *Mangler* was alive and spewing brimstone in mid-1885. It could have started before then, for Sam took over the *Appeal* in November 1879.

Drury and others suggest Davis finally grew tired of his game late in 1892 or early in '93 and "reprinted" from the *Mangler* a terse announcement that the paper's editor had gone east because of poor health. Sam couldn't resist taking one last jab. He added a footnote asserting that the scoundrel had really sneaked out of town only hours ahead of a grand jury indictment.

Jim Riggs has never written a lie and lives in San Jose, California.

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GARDENERS OF THE PURPLE SAGE

As drought consciousness grows, landscapers and gardeners are adjusting to Nevada's climate instead of fighting it

By Terri Sprenger-Farley

'Cacti are pretty when they're in bloom,' Mills says, 'but when they're not, they leave a lot to be desired. We use them to keep the burglars away.'

Those who have greened their thumbs in friendlier climates balk at the idea of productive gardens and beautiful landscaping in the desert. If you can't grow vine maples and camellias, they ask, what's left besides setting off the scrub brush with wagon wheels and cow skulls?

Seasoned Nevada gardeners point to bumper crops of finicky basil and cream-colored roses that have survived for generations. To develop desert gardens your neighbors will regard with awe, all it takes are common sense, planning, and knowing where to turn for help.

In this state of extremes, temperatures in a single year may range from 24-below in the north to 117 degrees in the south. Planting seasons may begin in early February or late June. Fluctuations of 50 degrees in a day are common. Adjusting to such a variety of conditions—rather than fighting it—is the key, according to experts, and the first step to adjusting is learning about microclimates and xeriscape.

Microclimates can be found in areas a few miles apart or even, in a suburban yard, a few feet apart. Consider tomatoes. Early Girl tomatoes and their tardy Beefsteak counterparts often end their lives as victims of misdiagnosed microclimates. They may succumb while still tiny spheres, hard and green as limes, or as crystallized mush covered with loose black skins. These tomato tragedies occur throughout the state in all kinds of microclimates.

"The first killing frost in Washoe County *usually* comes at the end of summer, around September 10," says Bill Carlos, Washoe County Extension Office horticulturist in Reno. "But in Stead or Verdi, for instance, it could come as early as August. Or—like it did one year—July "

The warmer climate of southern Nevada also has its extremes.

"Ours is a big valley," says Linn Mills, educator for Clark County's Cooperative Extension Service and a gardening columnist for the *Las Vegas Review-Journal*. "There might be only a five- to six-degree difference from one side to the other, but we usually have 150 days above 90 degrees and 97 days over 100." Clark County has a long growing season that begins with a last frost date of March 11 and an average killing frost date of November 11.

Such microclimate information can be found at county extension offices as well as garden shops and nurseries. They'll also have information on xeriscape.

Xeriscape is a desert gardening concept whose name is drawn from the Greek word for "dry " Its frequent mispronunciation as "zero-scape" brings to mind barren stretches of cacti and sidewinders instead of rock walls, wildflowers, tall trees, and flowering bushes.

"Ninety percent of the people who say it mispronounce it," says Mills. "We don't even like to use the term because it comes out 'zero.' We talk in terms of 'water guzzlers' and 'water misers' instead."

"We try to encourage xeriscape," says Larry Renda of Reno's Earthscape, "but it's not really a hot item. People want that green, lush lawn."

"Xeriscape is the up-and-coming technique for drought areas," says Debby Harper of Verdi's Living Springs Plant Care. "At Reno Cannon International Airport, they just xeriscaped the whole thing, and it's wonderful."

The airport shows what's possible in commercial as well as home landscaping, she says. The airport uses a mixture of native wildflowers and drought-tolerant plants. There are grasses in hues from beige to dusty blue, and varied sizes and colors of rocks and woods. These elements give the site texture, which Harper says is the hallmark of attractive and efficient xeriscape.

"Xeriscape doesn't have to be bor-



ing," she emphasizes. "You can use wildflower mixtures and grasses like blue fescue and festuca glauca in rows to make designs and colors, so you'll have things blooming all through the spring and fall."

Southern Nevadans refer to the traditional desert arrangements of boulders and cacti as "moonscape," says Mills, and he claims there's no excuse for it.

"Cacti are pretty when they're in bloom," he says, "but when they're not, they leave a lot to be desired. We use them to keep the burglars away."

Desert landscaping can be lush and efficient, Mills insists. "It's all in plant selection." He points to the desert willow, a tree that grows wild in washes, as a beautiful example. "It's covered with orchid blooms from April through October, and they're really striking flowers."

Dry creek beds, created by the gardener, are another xeriscape trick. A sweep of rock framed by perennials gives a yard a focal point.

"Ponds aren't really a bad use of water, either," Harper says. "It's a controlled use of moisture, and they add a little oasis in your yard."



Xeriscape plants work their way into a Las Vegas yard (top). Young horticulturist Abby Aldrich explores her mother's bountiful Genoa garden (bottom).

Most experts agree that there are several steps to successful xeriscape. The first, *planning*, is probably the most important. Find out about your own microclimate. For example, southern Nevada gardeners receive an average of 4.2 inches of rain a year while those in northern Nevada may count on as many as 20 inches.

The second step is to *limit turf areas.* Rock arrangements, decks, and patios, known as "hardscape," are alternatives to acres of rolling grass. However, Carlos says those addicted to lawns don't have to give them up entirely

"Turf gets a bad rap as a water waster," he admits, and points to research being done on grass species that won't use as much water as the traditional Kentucky bluegrass. He recommends turf-type tall fescue as one of the best deep-root-system varieties available in both seed and sod in Nevada.

Efficient irrigation is critical. The best approach is drip irrigation, which puts water exactly where the plant needs it—on the root and not on the driveway or sidewalk.

Working compost into the soil im-

Photos: Linn Mills (top), Jay Aldrich (bottom)

proves its ability to absorb water and nourishes growing plants.

"Our soils are virtually dead," Mills reminds southern gardeners. "We have very little organic material, and we have to contend with alkali and salts."

Compost not only improves the soil; it also can be used as mulch to hold water in. Organic materials like peat moss, bark chips, or grass clippings can be used as mulch.

Small-scale *microclimates* also come into play The north side of a yard, for instance, usually can support more water-loving plants while the south side will be better for species that can tolerate drought, heat, and wind.

The last step to efficient xeriscape is *regular maintenance.*

"Desert gardening can be low maintenance, but not no maintenance," Carlos says. Even the hardiest trees require consistent care for one or two years. "Then you can back off."

Two especially tough trees he recommends are the Austrian pine, an evergreen that tolerates Nevada's many different soil conditions, and the Russian olive, which is useful as a windscreen in Washoe's north valleys.

Certain people among us—you know, the kind who can't go jogging without self-inflating running shoes—will be glad to know that low-moisture gardening also has its toys.

Polymer is a gel you can mix into the soil. According to Reno's Steve Packer, Moana Nursery's assistant manager, it absorbs 200 to 300 times its weight in water.

Weed fabric can be used in conjunction with mulching. The porous cloth lies on the ground. Water goes through it, but weeds can't.

Wind cloth is another innovation that helps preserve moisture. If your vegetable garden is in a windy area, you can hang this material on the windward side to cut a strong gust to a gentle breeze. Manufacturers claim it can reduce the wind's strength by 60 percent, greatly reducing evaporation.

In the final analysis, desert gardening has appeal for Nevadans on many levels: toys that seem absolutely necessary, research to stir your stuporous indoor mind, and sun to stimulate your winter paleness—not to mention a good-looking yard and good-tasting tomatoes.

Terri Sprenger-Farley is a Verdi freelancer who is experienced at moving large weeds and small boulders.

Designed in Denver

Staying cool in Boulder City

By Gene Segerblom



The Blues' dam-era home has extremely thick walls that help beat the heat.

When the Bureau of Reclamation's Denver office designed homes for Boulder City back in 1931, nobody worried about energy costs. Power would come straight from Hoover Dam and water from Lake Mead.

But through good fortune and sturdy construction, it turns out that the homes built on Denver Street for Bureau administrators are among the area's most energy-efficient. Ironically, those thick-walled houses were said to be designed for Denver's climate, not Boulder City's, but it was a fortuitous mistake.

Today Del and Eloise Blue live in one of the homes west of the Bureau of Reclamation Building. Del says, "The walls are double bricks, 12 inches thick, with spaces between them for insulation. The tile roof and 12 inches of insulation in the attic make it energy conservative."

The thick walls and nine-foot, three-inch ceilings help keep the house cooler in the summer, when temperatures often reach 110 degrees. In winter the fireplace, with a Heatilator, puts out enough heat to warm the living and dining rooms.

Originally the house had a basement for a coal pipeless furnace, unheard of today in the southern Nevada desert. The warm air circulated up into the house through a central grate located in the hall, leading to every room.

When the Blues moved into the house, the furnace was gone. There was a swamp cooler to fight the summer heat and four space heaters to fend off winter's chill.

Del, who is the former head of the U.S. Bureau of Mines' Boulder City branch, replaced them with an air-conditioning unit using the old swamp cooler ducts.

To keep outdoor-water bills from soaring, the Blues have planted oleanders along their back wall and have a minimum of grass and plantings in the front yard.

Tom Standish, an area energy-conservation specialist, shares the Blues' appreciation for their house's "massive" walls and window overhangs.

"This home displays design elements appropriate for southern Nevada's climate and life style," Standish says. He adds that many new houses aren't as energy efficient as the

Photo: Cliff Segerblom

Denver-designed homes on Denver Street.

The designs have lasted in one other respect. Today the original plans for the homes, the school, and the Bureau of Reclamation Building can be found in City Hall.

Gene Segerblom and her husband Cliff live near the Blues in Boulder City.





Ric Licata designed his solar house to stay warm in winter and cool in summer

SOLAR SENSE

Catching rays in Reno

By Cliff Glover

Ric Licata figured he had to shut up or put up—a solar house, that is. The Reno architect had long been preaching the gospel of solar design, but until recently he lived in a conventional, energy-wasting dwelling. So he proceeded to put up a solar home that stays cool in summer and maintains a comfortable 75 degrees in winter, even on cloudy days.

Licata took two years to plan the house; its construction took about seven months. Like all home builders, he faced special problems. For instance, the mountains to the west blocked the late-afternoon sun. He solved that by shifting the house so it faced the morning sun for an earlier warm-up.

Then there was the question of how much heat to retain. Licata, who teaches solar design at Truckee Meadows Community College, says, "What I teach my class is to calculate the amount of heat loss, which is a factor of the square footage—the wall area, the roof area, and the window area." He explains, "From that you'll know how much heat—or BTUs—you'll need to supply using solar design."

In his 3,200-square-foot house, the heat is collected passively by a many-windowed sun room. To let warm air move freely from room to room, he designed the home to open up like a cathedral.

To prevent overheating in the summer, some windows have overhangs. The house is also bermed, with dirt piled on the exterior walls, and the added insulation helps cool the house during mid-summer heat waves.

"I believe if you have good ventilation and good insulation, you don't need air conditioning in this region," says the architect.

Licata says he is monitoring the house now, fine-tuning such elements as heat retention and air flow He plans to install low-voltage fans to help return warm air from the second floor to the ground-floor family area. But overall he says he is pleased with the house's performance.

"To heat an average home of this size during a nine-month season could cost about $250 a month at today's gas prices," he says. "In extreme weather that would be much greater. We're probably putting a good $200 a month into equity instead of the power company's pocket, even without any fine tuning." ◻

Cliff Glover is Nevada's *associate editor*

Photos: Don Dondero





Great Nevada Collections

(Continued from page 21)

William F. Harrah Foundation National Automobile Museum: Nevada cars include Bill Harrah's own Jerrari (combining a Jeep Wagoneer with a Ferrari) and a 1936 Cord Westchester Sedan (manufacturer E.L. Cord was a prominent Reno resident in the years prior to his death).

Liberty Belle Restaurant and Saloon: Owners Marshall and Frank Fey present more than 50 vintage slot machines, including several art-deco beauties from the 1930s, a Frank Polk-carved cowboy, and several antique machines. Star of the show is the Liberty Bell, the first slot machine, which was invented by the Feys' grandfather.

Wilbur D. May Museum: Late world-traveler's personal collections are presented in a recreation of his Double Diamond Ranch home.

Mackay School of Mines Minerals Museum: This museum on the UNR campus has a vast collection of mineral specimens from mining areas around the state.

Nevada Masonic Grand Lodge Library and Museum: The DeWitt Clinton Commandery No. 1 uniform decorated with Comstock silver thread, and contents of cornerstones from the old lodge buildings at Virginia City and Gold Hill. Museum is on third floor at 40 West First Street.

Nevada Historical Society Museum: Don't miss the collections of Indian artifacts and Victoriana.

SPARKS

John Ascuaga's Nugget: The Fred M. Anderson, M.D., Collection of Banding Irons is on the second floor.

Sparks Heritage Foundation Museum: Railroad memorabilia includes one of the most extensive collections of railroad lanterns in the West.

Sierra Sid's: Gun collection includes a Nevada "Battle Born" combo .22/.45 and a handgun commemorating the Nevada Centennial.

VIRGINIA CITY

Bucket of Blood Saloon: Displayed are 23 antique pickle casters that once sat on the tables of Virginia City's finer residences. Don't miss the intricately worked silver forks attached to each.

Comstock Firemen's Museum: Firefighters' memorabilia including hose carts and old-time helmets.

Nevada cars at the National Automobile Museum include Bill Harrah's own Jerrari, a Jeep Wagoneer with a Ferrari engine.

Fourth Ward School Museum: Desks, books, and atmosphere from Victorian school used from 1876 to 1936.

Nevada Gambling Museum: Extensive collection of cards, dice, gambling tables, unique games, all well presented.

Others include the **Mark Twain Museum, Julia C. Bulette Red Light Museum, Mackay Mansion, Museum of Memories, The Castle, The Way It Was Museum,** and **Wild West Museum.**

LOVELOCK

Marzen House Museum: Old ranching equipment and other area relics.

WINNEMUCCA

Humboldt Museum: Memorabilia that belonged to local girl Edna Purviance, leading lady in numerous Charlie Chaplin films.

ELKO

Northeastern Nevada Museum: Collections include Basque clothing and ceremonial artifacts, and Elko saddlemaker G.S. Garcia's beautiful silver work and saddles.

EUREKA

Eureka Sentinel Museum: Old newspaper offices with equipment.

ELY

Nevada Northern Railway Museum: Eighty pieces of museum-quality rolling stock are part of this facility, which operates as a tourist railroad.

White Pine Public Museum: A high point is the Eugene Stoddard Geology Display with its extensive collection of Nevada minerals. Another is the huge doll collection left by the late Mary Frances Hesselgesser.

This sampling of public collections was compiled by Connie Emerson, Jackie Brett, Melissa Loomis, and David Moore.



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10 GREAT NEVADA PEAKS

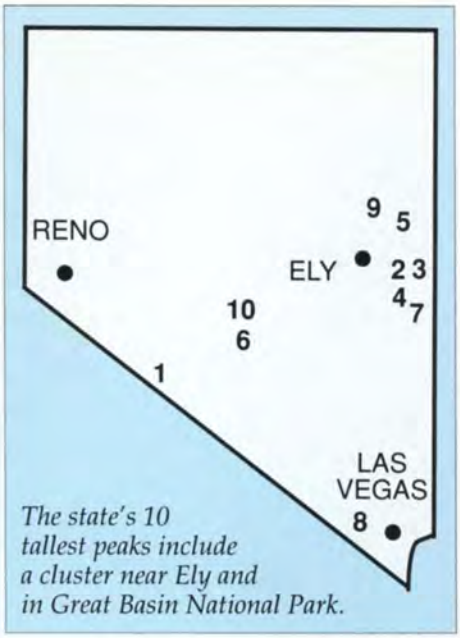
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spectacular views into the 1,700-foot-high cirque between the two peaks.

4 **Baker Peak, 12,298 feet, Snake Range.** As the crow flies, Baker Peak is about a mile south of Wheeler Peak in Great Basin National Park. A popular route starts at the Baker Creek trailhead east of Baker Peak and leads to Baker Lake. Under certain lighting conditions, the view of the lake and the cirque headwall behind it looks like Oregon's Crater Lake. A higher, unnamed point at 12,305 feet is half a mile east of Baker Peak.

5 **Mount Moriah, 12,067 feet, Snake Range.** This summit dominates the northern view from Wheeler. The easiest ascent is by the long and winding truck road from the west to its end at 9,900 feet. A trail will take you up on The Table, an 11,000-foot-high plateau, and an ascent of the northeast ridge leads to the summit.

There is peace and isolation in this part of the Snake Range. Along the route to the summit is a huge limber-pine specimen, photogenic bristlecones, and a wide variety of springtime wildflowers, including the beautiful Parry primrose. A multi-day backpack trip up any of the deep and profound canyons surrounding the summit is highly rewarding.



The state's 10 tallest peaks include a cluster near Ely and in Great Basin National Park.

6 **Mount Jefferson, South Summit, 11,941 feet, Toquima Range.** The three summits of Mount Jefferson extend more than three miles and comprise the highest mountain mass in central Nevada. Because of its loftiness Jefferson, which took its name from a nearby mining district, was used by surveyors as early as 1879.

The best route to the summit is by the sometimes distinct trail north from Jefferson Summit between Jefferson Canyon and Meadow Canyon. One winter my son Aaron and I made a ski ascent to the summit, which was icy and windy. Our descent began as one of those survival runs on inconsistent snowdrifts in a howling wind. Eventually, conditions turned right, and we skied down to the ghost town of Jefferson at 7,400 feet.

7 **Pyramid Peak, 11,926 feet, Snake Range.** This glacier-carved peak stands like a pyramid between Baker and Johnson lakes. The fifth highest in the Snake Range, Pyramid is fun to climb while hiking the loop trail from Baker Creek to Snake Creek. There are cabins and mines near Johnson Lake to photograph.

8 **Charleston Peak, 11,915 feet, Spring Mountains.** Known by most Las Vegans as Mount Charleston,



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this is the tallest mountain in southern Nevada. Indeed, Charleston stands 10,000 feet above the Las Vegas Valley, with the greatest relief of any range in Nevada and one of the greatest in the United States.

The popular 17-mile Charleston Peak Trail begins at 8,400 feet near Deer Creek Picnic Area, ascends Charleston Peak, and drops into Kyle Canyon at 7,600-foot Cathedral Rock Picnic Area. The mountain abounds in bristlecone pines, and the range has nearly 40 endemic flowers.

A blazing sunset seen from the ridge between Charleston and Mummy Mountain is unforgettable. From a camp there at night, you can see the lights of Las Vegas twinkling in the shadow of the mountain.

9 **North Schell Peak, 11,883 feet, Schell Creek Range.** The Shoshone Indians called the Schell Creek Range "Panandoya." The name translates to "Yellowjacket," probably in reference to the range's yellow blaze of aspens in the fall. At that time of year the Success Summit Loop is one of the best drives anywhere.

You want to find glorious wildflowers in the spring? Go up to the head of Timber Creek and sample the vibrant purple onion, the red-orange columbine with nectar-taking butterfly, and countless other delights. The route to the summit is enjoyable, partially along an early U.S. Forest Service trail and then up barren rocky slopes above timberline.

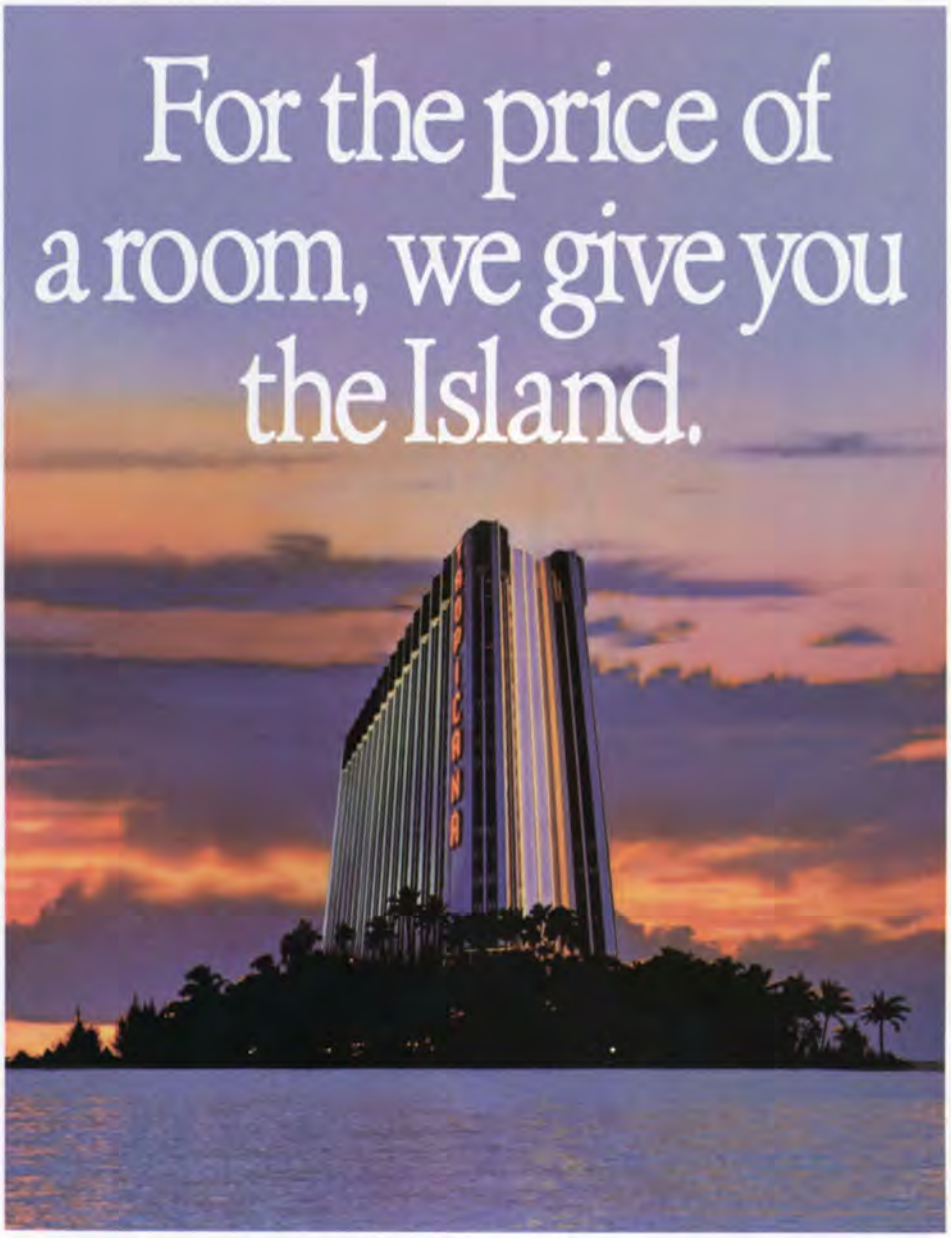
From North Schell Peak is a great view of mighty Wheeler to the southeast.

10 **Mount Jefferson, North Summit, 11,814 feet, Toquima Range.** The north block of Mount Jefferson has a delightful route up from Pine Creek Campground.

In the spring, high run-off can make this an unpleasant task, but the flowers, an old sawmill site, and seldom-visited Pine Lake are great rewards for persistence.

The summit of North Jefferson is a huge rounded dome. It is nearly level, and if the highest point were not marked by a huge rock cairn, it could easily be missed.

Alvin McLane of Reno is a writer photographer, and mountain climber He is the author of Silent Cordilleras *(Camp Nevada, Reno, 1978), a book on Nevada's mountain ranges.*



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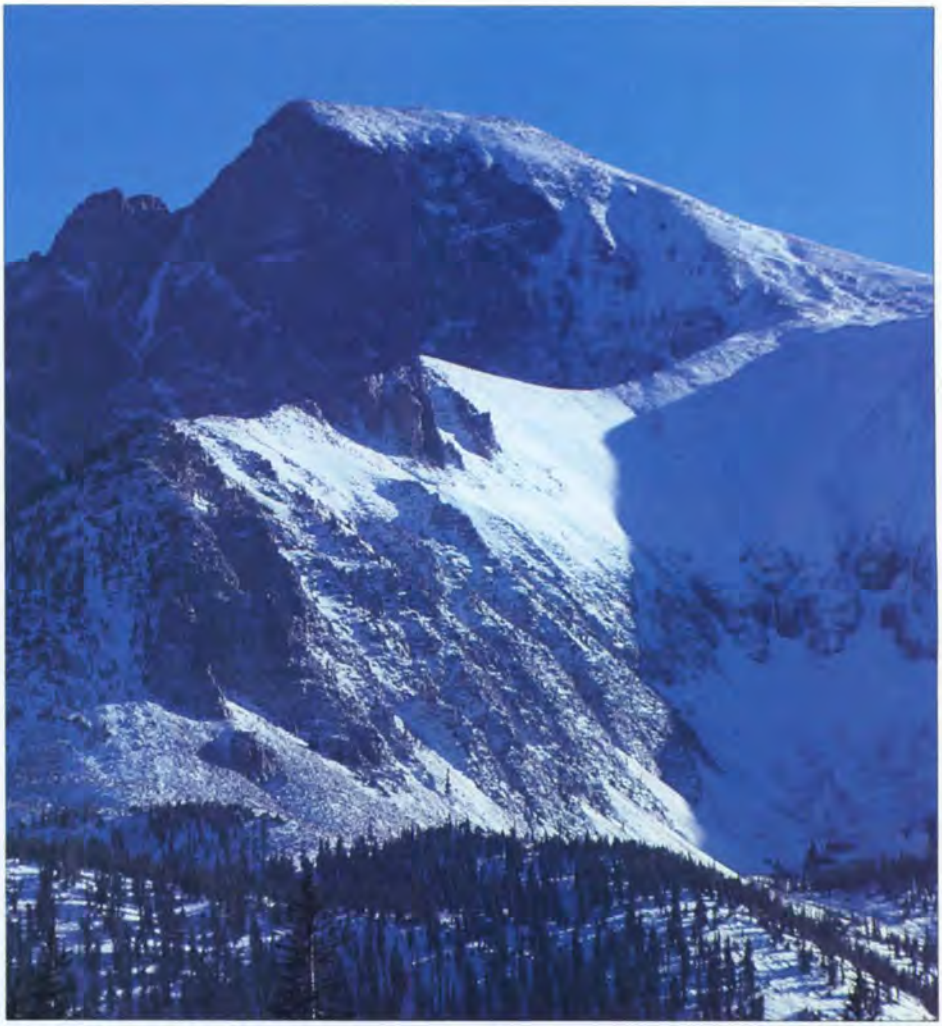
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10 GREAT

NEVADA PEAKS

From the top—
here are the 10 tallest
peaks in the state.
By Alvin McLane



Wheeler Peak, second in height to Boundary, has stunning views from the top.

Climbers, photographers, and cross-state motorists know that high mountains abound in Nevada. In fact, the Silver State has about 50 peaks that are more than 11,000 feet high. Some of them can be climbed with hands in the pockets. Others have routes that require a high degree of skill. The wind nearly blew me off Wheeler Peak on my first try. In the 1960s, two people slid to their death on Boundary Peak's icy slopes. So these summits must be climbed with caution. When it comes to admiring them, however, there's no reason to hold back.

These are the 10 highest peaks in the state.

1 **Boundary Peak, 13,140 feet, White Mountains.** Nevada's highest point belonged to California after Alexey von Schmidt's 1873 survey put the state line east of Boundary, but later the line was moved a mile west, on the other side of the peak.

This summit has been ascended from various sides, but the popular routes are up Trail Canyon from the east and along the ridge crest from the north. On the way you might see wild horses on the lower slopes. Higher up are bristlecone pines, a rare instance of the trees growing on granite. Around the summit are spectacular spires.

2 **Wheeler Peak, 13,063 feet, Snake Range.** Wheeler commands one of the best 360-degree panoramas in the state, and since Great Basin National Park was established in 1986, the peak has become a favorite landmark to climb. There is evidence of prehistoric people climbing the summit, and an early Anglo ascent may have been made by Mormon explorers in 1855.

The peak received its present name in 1869 when Army surveyor George M. Wheeler climbed to the summit. Wheeler, who was later in charge of surveys west of the 100th meridian, also gave his name to the highest point in New Mexico.

John Muir climbed Wheeler Peak and several other Nevada peaks while working as a guide for the U.S. Geological Survey in the 1870s and '80s.

In good weather Wheeler is an enjoyable four-mile hike with a 3,000-feet altitude gain. However, you don't want to get caught in bad weather like the U.S. Coast and Geodetic crews who built the rock ruins on the summit in the late 1870s and early 1880s. One morning, after sleeping in tents near the summit, they had to dig through 12-foot snowdrifts to make their sightings. Another time their theodolite, a surveyor's instrument used to measure angles, started zinging and vibrating with electrical currents. Reacting quickly, the men jumped behind a ledge of rocks only seconds before lightning struck the station where they had stood.

3 **Jeff Davis Peak, 12,771 feet, Snake Range.** This is the next summit east of Wheeler Peak. Like Wheeler, its summit is barren and rocky. Gradual slopes rise from the east and south. From the north, several steep gullies can be ascended, and when filled with frozen snow they make interesting ascents with an ice axe and crampons. Jeff Davis can also be reached from Wheeler. There are

(Continued on page 76)

Photo: Alvin McLane

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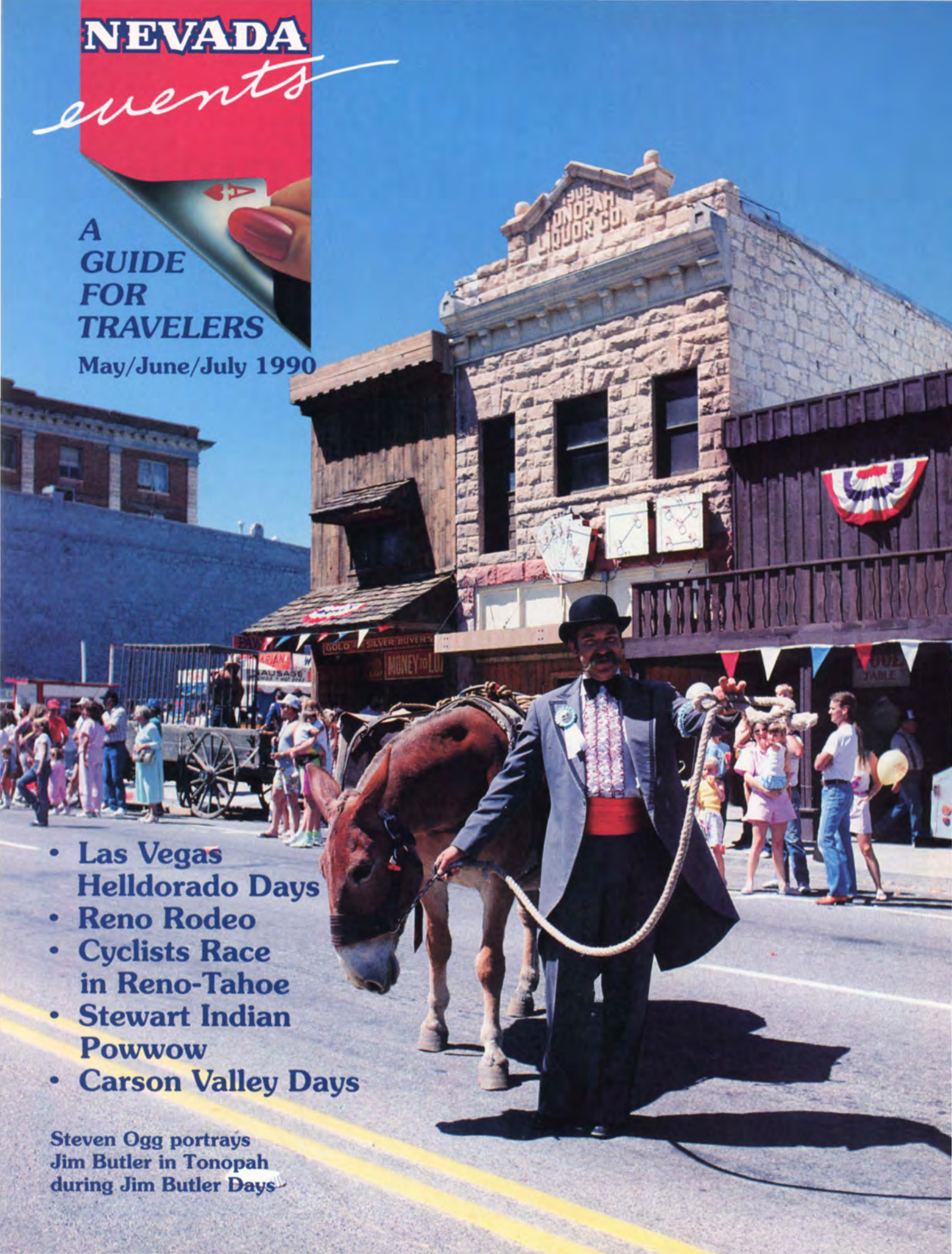
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NEVADA *events*

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May/June/July 1990



- **Las Vegas Helldorado Days**
- **Reno Rodeo**
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- **Stewart Indian Powwow**
- **Carson Valley Days**

Steven Ogg portrays Jim Butler in Tonopah during Jim Butler Days

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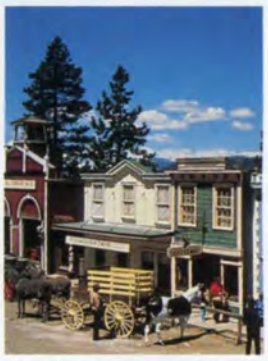
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On the Cover: Steven Ogg of Tonopah portrays the town's founder in last year's Jim Butler Days parade. Photo by William Carr/ Stock-Ex

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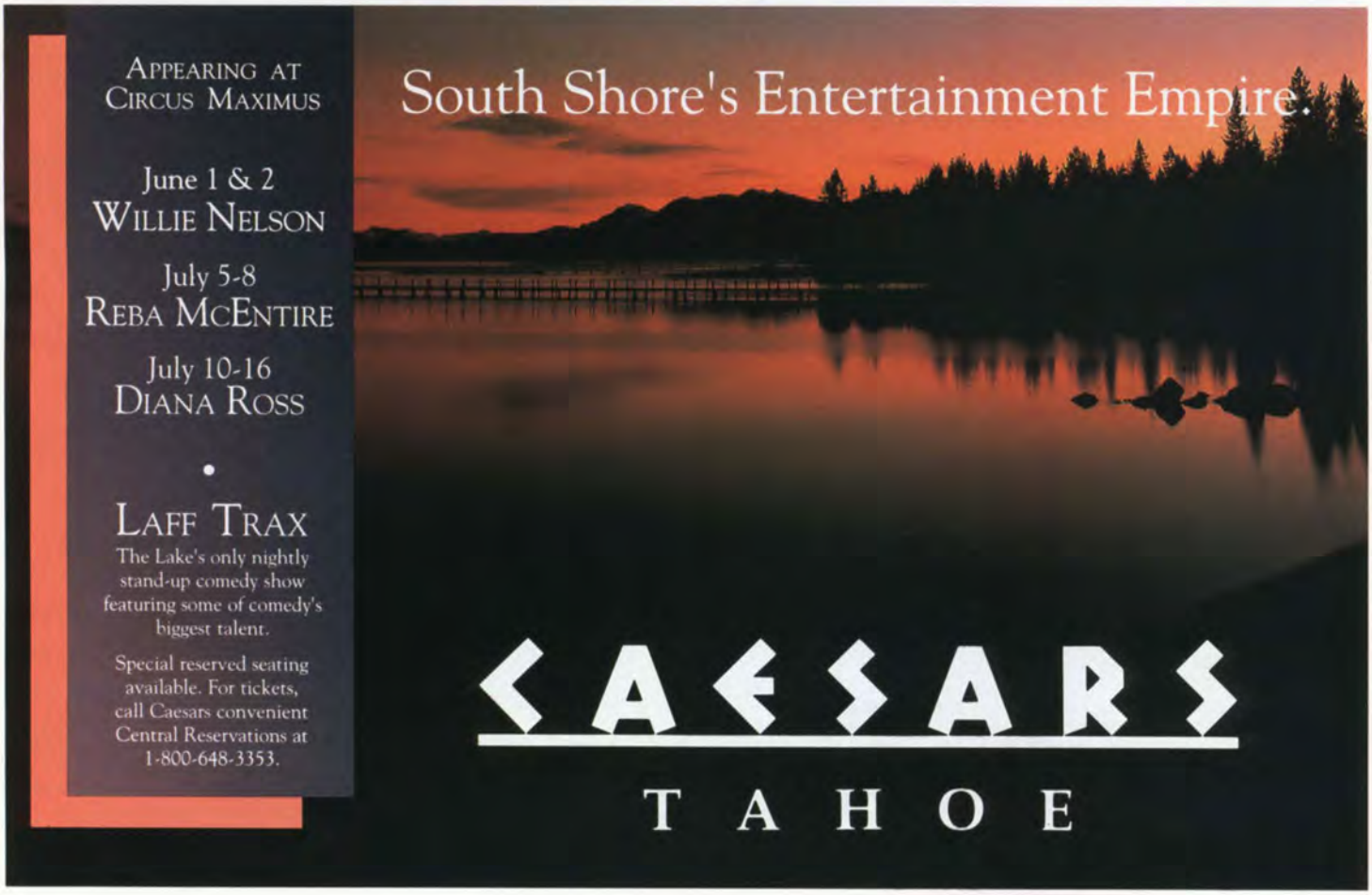
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TRAVEL PLANNER

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.

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TOLL-FREE HOT LINES

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

Incline Village/Crystal Bay Visitor and Convention Bureau: 800-GO-TAHOE outside Nevada

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

Lake Tahoe Visitors Authority: 800-AT-TAHOE anywhere in U.S.

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

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

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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

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

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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: 969 Tahoe Blvd., Incline Village, NV 89451; 831-4440

Incline Village/Crystal Bay Visitor and Convention Bureau: 969 Tahoe Blvd., Incline Village, NV 89451; 832-1606 or 800-GO-TAHOE outside Nevada

Lake Tahoe Visitors Authority: Box 16299, South Lake Tahoe, CA 95706; 916-544-5057 or 800-AT-TAHOE 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; 553-2424

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
Mesquite C of C: Box 8, Mesquite, NV 89024; 346-5123 weekday afternoons
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
Pyramid Lake: Pyramid Lake Fisheries: Star Route, Sutcliffe, NV 89510, 673-6335

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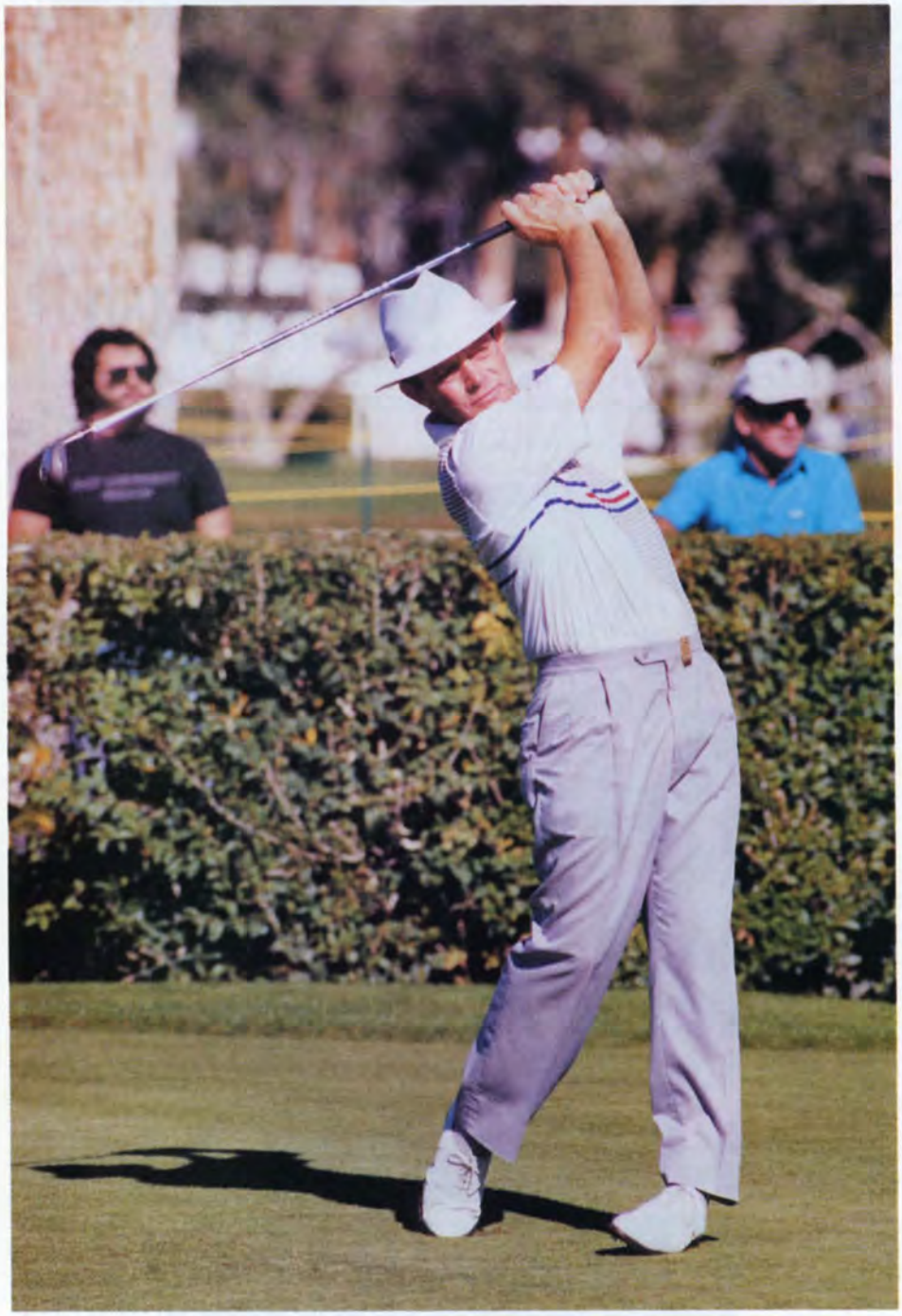


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THE NEVADA CALENDAR

Las Vegas



The Las Vegas Senior Classic features hot shots such as past champion Bruce Crampton.

HOT LINES

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

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

Las Vegas Stars: triple-A baseball, San Diego Padres farm club playing in Pacific Coast League, 5/1-3 v. Calgary Cannons; 5/16-19 v. Phoenix Firebirds; 5/20-23 v. Colorado Springs Sky Sox; 6/6-9 v. Tucson Toros; 6/10-13 v. Tacoma Tigers; 6/14-17 v. Portland Beavers; 6/26-29 v. Calgary Cannons; 6/30-7/3 v. Phoenix Firebirds; on 7/11 Triple-A All-Star Game; 7/13-15 v. Albuquerque Dukes; 7/16-19 v. Vancouver Canadians, Cashman Field, 386-7200

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

Silver Streaks: World Basketball League, season runs May thru fall, Thomas and Mack Center, UNLV 798-6464

UNLV Baseball: 5/11-13 v. UC Irvine; 5/18-20 v. UCLA, Barnson Field, 739-FANS

UNLV Concerts: music and dance, 739-3101

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

EVENTS

May

"A Little Night Music," thru 5/6, 8pm Wed.-Sat., 2pm Sun., Judy Bayley Theatre, 739-3353 or 739-3801

"Vanities," thru 5/13, comedy, Actors Repertory Theatre, Clark County Library, 647-SHOW

Art Exhibit, thru 5/25, juried student exhibition, free, Donna Beam Fine Art Gallery, UNLV 739-3893

Jean Giguet and Bill Leaf Paintings, thru 6/2, free, Barrick Museum of Natural History, UNLV 739-3381

Las Vegas Senior Golf Classic, 5/1-6, top Senior PGA Tour professionals compete, Desert Inn Country Club, 733-GOLF

World Series of Poker, 5/1-18, 13-event poker tournament, top prize will top $1,000,000, Binion's Horseshoe, 382-1600

Art Exhibit, 5/1-31, paintings by legally blind artist Jerry Mitchler, Lost City Museum, Overton, 397-2193

AMOA National Dart Tournament, 5/2-7 Sahara, 737-2111

Cinco de Mayo, 5/4-5, dance exhibitions, arts and crafts fair, food specials, Harrah's Del Rio, Laughlin, 298-4600

Children's Creative Dance Lab Spring Concert, 5/5, 7pm, Ham Hall, UNLV 739-3801

Boulder City Spring Jamboree and Artisans Fair, 5/5-6, arts and crafts, food booths, bluegrass concert on 5/5, Nevada Symphonic Wind Ensemble concert at noon on 5/6, Wilbur Square, Boulder City, 293-2034

Horizons '90: A Celebration of Space and the Future, 5/5-6, presented by The Young Astronauts of Nevada and The Planetarium, focuses on the space program and speculation of life in the future, includes models of the Space Shuttle, Stealth fighter and futuristic car, exhibits, booths, and hands-on activites such as building model rockets, 11am-6pm, Haci-

enda, 739-8911

Turtle Island String Quartet, 5/6, jazz concert, 3pm, Reed Whipple Cultural Center, 386-6211

Radio Symphony Orchestra of Berlin, 5/7 8pm, Ham Hall, UNLV 739-3801

Juvenile Diabetes Monopoly Tournament, 5/9, Sahara, 737-2111

Laughlin River Days, 5/10-13, beauty contest, rib burn-off, soap box derby, 10-K run, Special Olympics, pancake breakfast, carnival, talent contest, street dance, Laughlin, 298-2214

"The Las Vegas Suite," 5/10-13, 5/16-18, and 5/19-20, contemporary ballet tells the story of the history of Las Vegas through dance, conceived by Steve Wynn, choreographed by world-renowned choreographer Robert North, Nevada Dance Theatre, Judy Bayley Theatre, UNLV 739-3838

Las Vegas Helldorado Days, 5/11-27 parade, trail ride, bull fights, carnival, midway, Whiskerino beard-growing contest, golf tournament, horse auction, art auction, College Regional Finals Rodeo; PRCA rodeo is 5/22-27, Thomas and Mack Center, UNLV 739-3900 or 870-1221

"Angry Housewives," 5/11-13, 5/17-20, and 5/24-27 musical comedy, Las Vegas Little Theatre, Spring Valley Library Theatre, 383-0021

A Separate Vision Exhibit and Demonstrations, 5/11-6/24, modern interpretations of Native American art as seen through the eyes of four Indian artists, featuring a Hopi kachina carver, a Navajo weaver, a Santa Clara sculptor, and a Navajo painter, Clark County Heritage Museum, Henderson, 455-7955

Mother's Day Concert, 5/12, the Janet Anthony Jazz Harp Trio, 2pm, $2, Winchester Community Center, 455-7340

Old Las Vegas and Tule Springs History Program, 5/12, slide show followed by walking tour through the buildings and grounds of the Tule Springs Ranch Historic Area, 10am, Floyd Lamb State Park, 10 miles north of Las Vegas, 486-5413

Clark County Art Show, 5/12-13, art show and sale, concession stands, Bicentennial Park, Boulder City, 293-2138

Mother's Day Big Band Dance, 5/13, Lady Luck, 477-3000

James Cotton Blues Band Concert, 5/18, legendary blues artist James Cotton headlines the County's Ribs and Blues Concert, a kick-off to the Clark County Craft Fair (5/19-20), 7:30pm, $8, Sunset Park, 455-7340

Tribute to Louis Armstrong Jazz Concert, 5/19, with Arvell Shaw and Armstrong alumni, 2 and 8pm, Charleston Heights Arts Center, 386-6383

Community Recital, 5/19, dance, music, drama, martial arts, and sports, Brinley Community School, 646-9046

Clark County Craft Fair and Rib Burn-Off, 5/19-20, old-fashioned barbecue competition and handmade crafts show and sale, live music, children's activities, Sunset Park, 455-7340 or 455-8200

American Folk and Spirituals Concert, 5/22, with the Musical Arts Singers, 8pm, Judy Bayley Theatre, UNLV 739-3801

"Secret Garden," 5/23, musical, performed by Theatreworks/USA, 7pm, Reed Whipple Cultural Center, 386-6211

U.S. Team Open Pool Tournament, 5/28-6/3, National Pocket Billiards Assn.'s $100,000 tourney brings together the top men's and women's amateur players, Imperial Palace, 794-3160

PREVIEW



Putting 'Las Vegas' Back in Helldorado



Celebrity "arrests" and creative parade floats are part of the Helldorado tradition.

With its 56th edition, the Las Vegas Helldorado Days returns to its roots this May 11-27

The change isn't in focus. Helldorado is still a celebration of southern Nevada's Western heritage with a major pro rodeo.

Rather, the change is in the name itself. In recent years the event had become known as Elks Helldorado Days because of the sponsorship of Las Vegas Elks Lodge No. 1468. But now its old name is back.

"Originally it was known as Las Vegas Helldorado Days," says Wayne Robillard, general chairman of the 1990 Helldorado board and an Elks officer. "Now we're just officially changing the name back to what it was intended to be." He adds, "This is a community event, and it's larger and more important than just one service organization."

It is large, it is important, and it is special. Las Vegas may host world championship fights and professional golf tournaments, but Helldorado is an event staged by southern Nevadans just to celebrate their special region of the state.

The festivities begin May 11 with a two-day trail ride starting in Jean. Other festivities include the Helldorado Shoot-Out Golf Tournament, the Helldorado parade, a street dance, chili cook-off, horse auction, Whiskerino beard-growing contest, crowning of the Helldorado queen, art auction, College Regional Finals Rodeo, "Bulls-A-Poppin," wild horse races, Wrangler bull fights, carnival, midway, entertainment, and exhibits.

The Helldorado PRCA Championship Rodeo is May 22-27

Almost all competitions and shows will be held at the Thomas and Mack Center, home of UNLV's Runnin' Rebels basketball team.

For ticket information contact the Thomas and Mack Center, 4504 S. Maryland Parkway, Las Vegas, NV 89154 or call 702-739-3900. For more event information contact the Helldorado office, 4100 W. Charleston, Las Vegas, NV 89102 or call 702-870-1221.

Photos: Las Vegas News Bureau

Valli on a High Note



Rock and Roll Hall of Famer Frankie Valli.

By Jackie Brett

Think of a singer with a falsetto and three-octave range. Then imagine it's 1962. You lean back, close your eyes, and hear, "Sher-er-ry, Sherry baby."

But no—it's not on the radio, and you're not in the back seat of a '60 Chevy.

Instead, it's 1990. You wake up sipping a wine spritzer, surrounded by a thousand other showgoers at the Las Vegas Hilton.

Frankie Valli's incomparable falsetto is still the same, though.

For Valli and his group, the Four Seasons, their 1962 hit "Sherry" was just the beginning. In 1964 alone they scored six hits in the top 20. A brief roster of Four Seasons songs recalls the group's impact: "Big Girls Don't Cry," "Walk Like a Man," "Dawn," "Rag Doll," "Let's Hang On," "Working My Way Back to You," and "Can't Take My Eyes Off You."

Last January the Four Seasons were inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame. "You think about awards and recognition," Valli says, "but when it happens, it's a rush."

At the same time the Four Tops were honored by the rock hall, which was fitting since the pairing of the Four Tops and Four Seasons has turned out to be a big draw at the Hilton and other show places around the country.

"We're a complementary combination," says Valli. "We work about 20 venues together with the Four Tops each year." Referring to their work in Las Vegas, he adds, "If it weren't for the state of Nevada, there would be a lot of people out of work in the music business."

Valli chuckles when he's asked that common question, "How does it feel to be back?" He chuckles because he hasn't gone anywhere.

"We're always working. Most everyone from the '60s is working—Dion, Chubby Checker, Smokey Robinson, et cetera. They work when they want to work." (All of them work in Las Vegas, too.)

Valli is busy with jobs, records, acting, and his family. He has had acting roles in two upcoming movies: *Modern Love* with Robby Benson and *Eternity*, which stars Jon Voight.

There's a new album in the works. For this one, the Four Seasons go back to the basics, with emphasis on vocals and harmonies.

And their old standards from the '60s are forever preserved on oldies radio, says Valli, who also had some hits as a solo artist in the '70s ("My Eyes Adored You," "Our Day Will Come," "Grease"). He says the popularity of oldies stations bears watching.

"There's a whole segment of people out there with no music to listen to. That's why they relate back to what they grew up with.

"Everything comes around again," he says. "People who grew up listening to our music are now successful people."

Valli acknowledges that his group today is in the entertainment business. "We're interested in doing a good show for the people," he says, adding, "A responsible individual does his craft. Everyone in the business should go to see Wayne Newton. It's important that an entertainer communicates with his audience."

Valli does that so well that you might think it's 1962.

Frankie Valli and the Four Seasons appear with the Four Tops at the Las Vegas Hilton on May 22-June 3.

LAS VEGAS

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Home Improvement Show, 5/31-6/3, Convention Center, 732-1899

June

Battle of the Big Bands, 6/1-3, three days of dancing and entertainment to three Big Band orchestras, Lady Luck, 477-3000

Far West Wheelchair Games, 6/1-3, disabled athletes from the Western states gather for a three-day mini-Olympics, UNLV campus, 386-6297

Red Rock to Lake Mead, 6/1-30, a study in watercolors of southern Nevada landscapes, wildlife, Indian petroglyphs, and ceremonial Indian dancers by Las Vegas artist Douglas Lloyd, Lost City Museum, Overton, 397-2193

Southwest Indian Legends Program, 6/2, 8pm, meet at visitor center, Valley of Fire State Park, 397-2088

NFL Team Arm Wrestling Championship, 6/2-3, top pro football players vie for arm wrestling title won the past two years by Joe Caravello of the San Diego Chargers, Imperial Palace, 794-3114

Children's Miracle Network Telethon, 6/2-3, KVBC-TV 3, 383-2326

Biennial 90 Nevada Artist Competition Exhibit, 6/2-7/15, Nevada State Museum and Historical Society, 486-5205

"42nd Street," 6/6-9, 6/13-16, and 6/20-23, musical, Spring Mountain Ranch State Park, 594-PLAY

Music of Richard Rodgers, 6/9-10, choral music performed by the Musical Arts Chorus and soloists, 8pm Sat., 3pm Sun., Judy Bayley Theatre, UNLV 739-3801

Circle Waterski Races, 6/9-10, Lake Mead, 293-2592

Southwest Weapons Collectors Gun Show, 6/15-17 Henderson Convention Center, 855-8095



Tree-shaded fishing at Floyd Lamb State Park.

Nevada Ceramic Assn. Show, 6/16-17 Cashman Field, 733-2323

1990 Las Vegas International Amateur Handicap Championship, 6/17-20, the Legacy, Sun City Summerlin, Showboat, Painted Desert, and Tropicana golf courses, 293-7913

Hershey Track and Field Regional Qualifying Meet, 6/20, Las Vegas area youth compete in various track and field events to qualify for National Finals in Hershey, PA, Eldorado High School, 386-6297

Ashley Whippet Invitational, 6/22, Frisbee-catching canines show talents and perform tricks for spectators, Lions Park, 386-6297

Dixieland Weekend, 6/22-24, Big Tiny Little and the Honky Tonkers, Lady Luck, 477-3000

Geology of the Valley of Fire Program, 6/23, slide show, discussion, short hike, 9am, Valley of Fire State Park, 397-2088

July

Art Exhibit, 7/1-31, paintings by Barbara Fehr of Logandale, Lost City Museum, Overton, 397-2193

Boulder City Damboree and Parade, 7/4, pancake breakfast in park, parade, food booths, games, Boulder City, 293-2457

Family Pops Concert, 7/4, Las Vegas Symphony Orchestra, Cashman Field Theater, 739-3420

American Indian Art Show, 7/5-8, Hacienda, 739-8911

Country Western Weekend, 7/6-8, featuring T.G. Sheppard and a rib burn-off, Lady Luck, 477-3000

Children's Summer Concert Series East, 7/6-8/3, every Fri., 1pm, Reed Whipple Cultural Center, 386-6211

Triple-A All-Star Game, 7/11, the best triple-A baseball players in the country compete in a nationally televised competition, Cashman Field, 386-7200

First National All Collectible Sports Show, 7/11-15, Sahara, 737-2111

"Grease," 7/11-14, 7/18-21, and 7/25-28, musical, Spring Mountain Ranch State Park, 594-PLAY

Children's Summer Concert Series West, 7/11-8/8, every Wed., 10:30am and 2pm, Charleston Heights Arts Center, 386-6383



PREVIEW



The town by the river celebrates its roots May 10-13 with Laughlin River Days.

River Days in Laughlin

Laughlin River Days began in 1982 as a tribute to Don Laughlin, town founder and proprietor of the Riverside Resort. Originally called Founder Days, the event has become a tradition.

This year's theme is Carnival River Days and boasts three days and four nights of family entertainment on May 10-13. Events include a parade, Special Olympics, soap box derby, 10-K run, pancake breakfast, street dance, beauty pageant, and, of course, a carnival. The soap box derby is a nationally sanctioned race with the winning youth being sent to Akron, Ohio, to represent Laughlin in the national finals.

Desert Survival Program, 7/14, 9-11am, Spring Mountain Ranch, 875-4141

Live! Melodrama in the Parks, 7/14-29, Sat. and Sun., 8pm, call for park locations, 386-6383

Chili Cook-Off and the Battle of the Country Western Bands, 7/20-22, Lady Luck, 477-3000

Nevada Opera Theatre Concert, 7/21, excerpts from various operas and stage musicals, high school auditorium, Boulder City, 456-6695 or 294-5058

COMING EVENTS

National Tom Mix Festival, 9/6-8, Las Vegas, 794-3286

Budweiser Las Vegas Silver Cup Unlimited Hydroplane Race, 9/21-23, Lake Mead, 731-2115

Clark County Basque Festival, 9/29-30, Las Vegas, 361-6834

Art in the Park, 10/6-7 Boulder City, 293-2034

Las Vegas Invitational Golf Tournament, 10/10-14, 382-6616

Bud Light U.S. Triathlon Series National Championship, 10/18-20, 731-2115

North Las Vegas Fairshow and Hot Air Balloon Races, 10/26-28, 642-1944

NFR Christmas Gift Show, 11/30-12/8, Las Vegas, 731-2115

National Finals Rodeo, 11/30-12/9, Las Vegas, 739-3900

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.*



Photo: Richard Stockton/Stock Ex

SHOWGUIDE

Aladdin, 736-0240: "Abracadabra," magic, comedy, and dance, indf. (dark Tues.)

Bally's, 739-4567: *Celebrity Room:* Frank Sinatra, 5/3-6; The Oak Ridge Boys, 5/10-16; Rodney Dangerfield, 5/17-23; Randy Travis, 5/25-27; Tom Jones, 5/31-6/13; *Ziegfeld Theatre:* "Jubilee!" indf. (dark Wed.); *Catch a Rising Star,* comedy/variety club, indf.

Barbary Coast, 737-7111: The Shenandoan, 5/2-14; Jonas, 5/16-28

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

Caesars Palace, 731-7333: Diana Ross, 5/2-7 and 5/9-14; Jay Leno, 5/16-21 and 5/23-28; Pointer Sisters, 5/30-6/4; Willie Nelson, 6/6-11; Reba McEntire, 6/13-18; David Copperfield, 6/4-9 and 6/11-16; Ann-Margret, 7/18-23 and 7/25-30

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: Gatlin Brothers, 5/3-9 and 7/19-8/1; Lou Rawls/Louise Mandrell, 5/10-23; Smothers Brothers, 5/24-6/13

Dunes, 737-4741: "High Voltage," production show, indf. (dark Mon.)

El Rancho, 796-2222: Entertainment TBA

Excalibur: 597-7777: Opens mid-June with nightly medieval-themed show, nightly lounge entertainment

Fitzgeralds, 382-6111: Nightly entertainment

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

Four Queens, 385-4011: Doug Kershaw, 5/1-13; Johnny Tillotson, 5/15-20; Monday Night Jazz, indf.

Gold Coast, 367-7111: Sorta Dixie Jazz Band, indf.

Golden Nugget, 386-8100: Don Rickles/Clint Holmes, 5/3-7 5/31-6/4 and 6/28-7/2; Comedy Store, 5/8-16, 5/17-23, and 6/5-20; Yakov Smirnoff, 6/21-25

Gold Strike, Boulder City, 293-5000: Entertainment TBA

Gold Strike, Jean, 477-5000: Entertainment TBA

Hacienda, 739-8911: "Fire and Ice," indf. (dark Mon.); Redd Foxx, indf. (dark Mon.)

Holiday, 369-5222: Rocky Senne's "Keep Smilin' America," revue, starring Bob Anderson thru 5/26; Sue Kim and the Kim Brothers 5/28-6/23; Glenn Smith, 6/25-7/21; Dick Contino, 7/23-8/18

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

Lady Luck, 477-3000: Mexican Revue, 5/4-6

Landmark, 733-1110: "Spellbound," magic spectacular, indf. (dark Sun.)

Las Vegas Hilton, 732-5755: Wayne Newton, thru 5/13; Barry Manilow, 5/15-20; Frankie Valli and The Four Seasons/The Four Tops, 5/22-6/3; Engelbert Humperdinck, 6/5-18

MGM Marina, 739-1695: Melinda, the First Lady of Magic and Her Follies Revue, indf. (dark Sun.)

Maxim, 731-4300: Wacky World of Comedy, indf. (dark Sun.)

The Mirage, 792-7777: Siegfried and Roy, magic spectacular (dark one week each month); celebrity entertainment one week each month

Nevada Landing, Jean, 387-5000: Entertainment TBA

O'Sheas, 733-3111: Nightly entertainment except Mon.; Kelly Clinton, thru 5/13; Dusty Barron, 5/15-6/10



PREVIEW

Musical Theater at the Ranch



Spring Mountain Ranch State Park is the setting for outdoor musicals this summer

Super Summer '90 at Spring Mountain Ranch State Park brings music to the foot of Mount Wilson once more. The park, located 20 miles west of Las Vegas in the Red Rock Canyon Recreation Lands, hosts its 14th season of entertainment with "42nd Street" on June 6-23, "Grease" on July 11-28, and "Hello, Dolly!" on August 8-25.

Tickets must be purchased in advance. Admission ranges from $1.50 to $5.50. Call 594-PLAY for ticket locations.

Take a chair or blanket to sit on, and a picnic dinner if you like. There is a concession stand with drinks, snacks, and hot dogs available. Sweaters are often necessary even in July because temperatures range 10 to 30 degrees cooler than in Las Vegas.

The gates open at 6 p.m., allowing plenty of time for a picnic and a walk to the upper ranch area where the visitor center is open for touring. The park has a large meadow for ball playing and an area with picnic tables. The gates close at 8 p.m. sharp—latecomers are not admitted so that their cars' noise and lights don't distract the actors and audience. Performances are over by 10 p.m. The evening can be enjoyed further by driving into one of the scenic pullouts on the road back to Las Vegas and enjoying the view of the night sky filled with stars.

DISCOVER

PAHRUMP



WELCOME TO OUR VALLEY! *Only 60 miles west of Las Vegas*

Sponsored by:
Pahrump Valley Chamber of Commerce
Harvest Festival, Economic Development

For Information Call
(702) 727-5800
Or Write
P.O. Box 42 Pahrump, Nv. 89041

Photo: Judy Sylvain

Palace Station, 367-2411: Entertainment TBA
Peppermill Resort, Mesquite: 346-5833: Entertainment TBA
Rio Suite Hotel and Casino, 252-7777: Entertainment TBA
Riviera, 794-9301: Paul Anka, 5/17-20 and 6/14-17; "Splash," production show, indf.; "Crazy Girls: Fantasie de Paris," revue, indf.; "An Evening at La Cage," revue, indf. (dark Tues.); "An Evening at the Improv," comedians, indf.
Sahara, 737-2111: "Boy-Lesque," indf. (dark Wed.)
Sam Boyd's Fremont, 385-3232: Nightly entertainment
Sam's Town, 456-7777: Nightly entertainment
Sands, 733-5453: Entertainment TBA
Stardust, 732-6111: "Lido de Paris," starring Bobby Berosini and his orangutans, indf. (dark Tues.)
Tropicana, 739-2411: "Folies Bergere," indf. (dark Thurs.)
Union Plaza, 386-2444: "Nudes on Ice '90," ice spectacular, indf. (dark Mon.)
Vegas World, 382-2000: "Hallelujah Las Vegas!" magical, musical revue, indf. (dark Thurs.); "Memories of Elvis," 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

Laughlin

Colorado Belle, 298-4000: Rainbow, thru 5/26; Earl Turner, 5/5-31; Big Band Bash, with jitterbug contest every Sun.
Edgewater, 298-2453
Harrah's Del Rio, 298-4600: Entertainment TBA
Ramada Express, 298-4200: Entertainment TBA
Regency, 298-2439: Piano bar
Riverside Resort, 298-2535: Merle Haggard, 5/25-27
Sam's Town Gold River, 298-2242: Live entertainment nightly



Visitors can view historic rail relics at the Clark County Heritage Museum in Henderson.

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.,

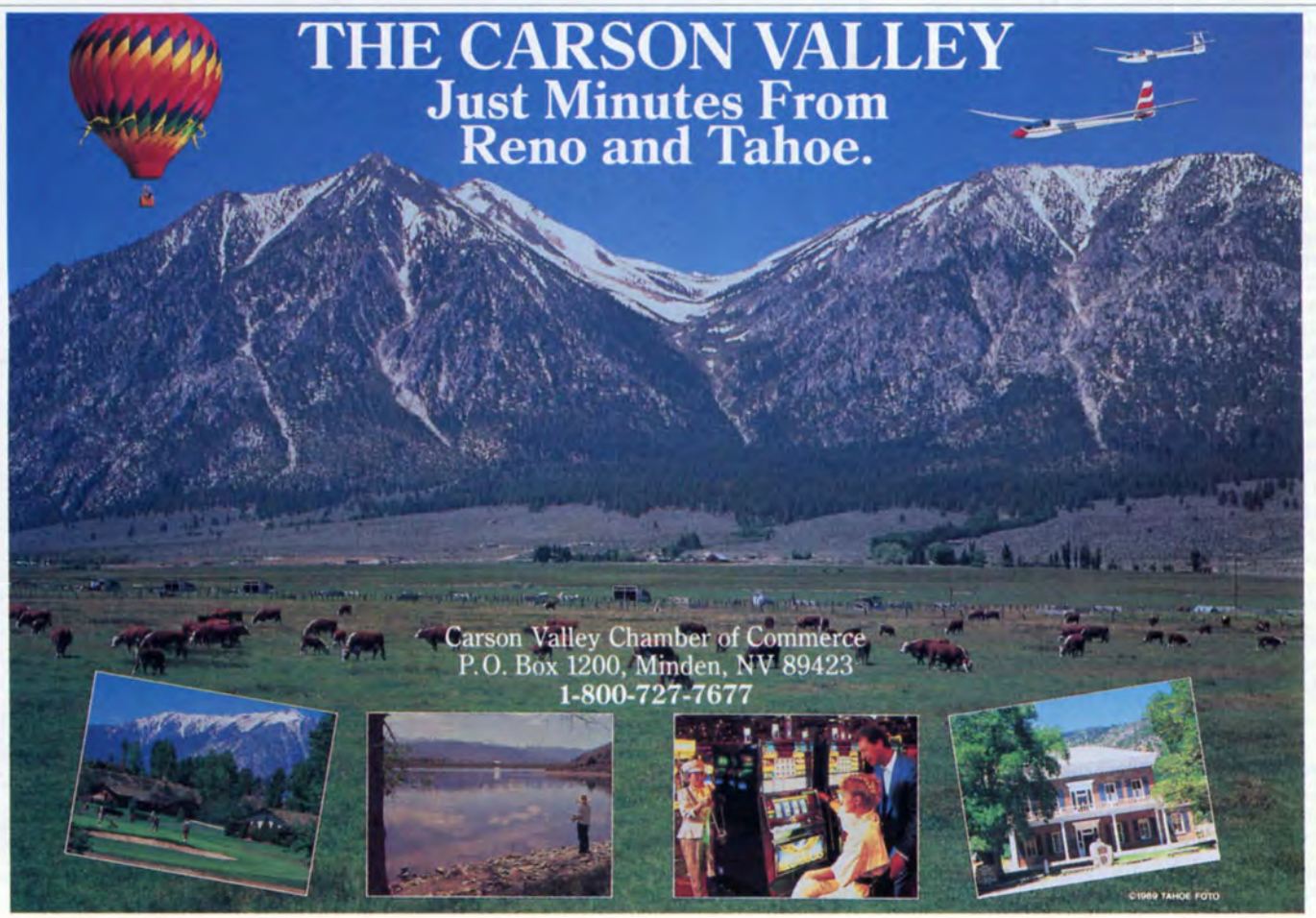


Photo: Kate Butler



Theatreworks performs "The Secret Garden" in Las Vegas, Yerington, and Fallon this May.

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: 9am-midnight daily, 2780 S. Las Vegas Blvd., 792-0640

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, reopens in November 1990, 384-3466

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

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

Mesquite

Mesquite Museum: 9-5 Mon.-Fri., occasionally open on Sat., call ahead, 31 W. Mesquite Blvd., 346-5705

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

•A funny thing happened on the way to the Forum—it moved from Rome to **Caesars Palace** in Las Vegas. The Forum Shops got off the ground in February with the newly constructed Temple of Caesar, which will serve as an elaborate entrance to a 360,000-square-foot retail facility. "This was conceived not as a shopping center, not as a mall, but as a street of dreams, recreating Rome of 2,000 years ago," said Sheldon Gordon, whose company is part of the development. When finished the complex will include about 90 specialty shops, restaurants, and a Roman streetscape with piazzas, fountains, sculptured gardens, classic statuary, and a computer-controlled ceiling that will simulate the sky.

•Although the **Excalibur** may sport a medieval image, its ideas on entertainment are anything but old. The hotel will be installing two 48-seat theaters that combine realistic motion pictures with hydraulically controlled seats that make the viewer part of the action. "Movies shot in this process are so realistic as to make everything else—every type of film, every kind of video you've every seen—look positively static and artificial," noted Timothy Onosko of *Los Angeles Style*. Move over Disneyland.



Blues artist James Cotton kicks off the Clark County Craft Fair with a concert May 18.

•The **Four Queens** is blowing its horn. Last February the casino's Monday Night Jazz show celebrated its eighth anniversary of high-powered entertainment. The show, which is carried on 130 public radio stations across the country, is produced by Alan Grant, who began the program with only a four-week contract—enough time, he thought, to see if the show would play.

•The clean air movement is probably making more headway in Nevada's casinos than in Congress. The **Tropicana's** nonsmoking blackjack pit offers tobacco-free air, plus low betting. Altogether there are seven pits with two-dollar minimum bets. "If it is successful, we will be implementing this into other areas of the casino," says Dick Brewer, president of casino operations.

•With family vacationers in mind, the **Riviera** looks forward to pleasing both parents and children. The hotel has plans for an indoor, air-conditioned amusement park that will offer about 20 children's rides and an 85-foot ceiling to accommodate, among other attractions, a Ferris wheel. The park, which will operate in the summer, will also have a movie theater showing classic children's films.

•They may not be as tall as their New York City counterparts, but the **Flamingo Hilton Laughlin's** Twin Towers, which open in July, do offer a few amenities that you won't find in the Big Apple. Besides a 50,000-square-foot casino and ample over-sized parking for RVs, the Laughlin hotel will have a view of the Colorado River from each room.

TOURNAMENTS

May

Slots, 4/29-5/2, Lady Luck, 477-3000

World Series of Poker, 5/1-18, Binion's Horseshoe, 382-1600

Slots, 5/13-16 and 5/29-6/1, Flamingo Hilton, 733-3117

Slots, 5/14-16, Caesars Palace, 731-7777

Slots, 5/17-20, 6/20-24, and 7/17-20, Las Vegas Hilton, 732-5111

Blackjack, 5/21-24, Stardust, 732-6111

Slots, 5/29-31, Sands, 733-5285

Slots, 5/30-6/2, Holiday Casino/Holiday Inn, 369-5000

June

Slot Marathon, 6/1-30, Stardust, 732-6111

Slots, 6/7-10, Sahara, 737-2111

Slots, 6/8-11, 6/15-18, and 6/17-20, Flamingo Hilton, 733-3117

Keno, 6/11-13, Stardust, 732-6111

Slots, 6/14-16, Hacienda, 739-8911

U.S. Open Poker Tournament, 6/14-23, Maxim, 731-4514

Slots, 6/17-19, Imperial Palace, 794-3160

Slots, 6/21-25, Riviera, 734-5110

Poker, 6/28-7/8, Las Vegas Hilton, 732-5111

July

Slots, 7/1-4, Stardust, 732-6111

Video Slots, 7/8-10, Imperial Palace, 794-3160

Slots, 7/8-11, Flamingo Hilton, 733-3117

Slots, 7/16-18 and 7/23-25, Binion's Horseshoe, 382-1600

Slots, 7/23-26, Holiday Casino/Holiday Inn, 369-5000

Photo: Paul Natkin (bottom)

THE NEVADA CALENDAR

Reno-Tahoe



The Nevada State Railroad Museum has scheduled steam-ups of historic railroad equipment.

Photo: William Carr/Stock Ex

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

Reno Silver Sox: class-A baseball, playing in the California League, 4/30-5/2 v. San Bernardino Spirit; 5/4-6 v. Modesto A's; 5/15-17 v. Bakersfield Dodgers; 5/18-20 v. Salinas Spurs; 5/28-30 v. Visalia Oaks; 5/31-6/1 v. Stockton Ports; 6/2-4 v. Modesto A's; 6/12-14 v. Riverside Red Wave; 6/15-17 v. Palm Springs Angels; 6/26-28 v. San Bernardino Spirit; 6/29-7/1 v. San Jose Giants; 7/2-4 v. Palm Springs Angels; 7/9-11 v. Modesto A's; 7/13-15 v. Stockton Ports; 7/24-26 v. San Jose Giants; 7/27-29 v. Salinas Spurs, Moana Stadium, 825-0678

UNR Baseball: 5/4-5 v. Univ. of San Diego; 5/11-12 v. St. Mary's, Peccole Field, UNR, 348-PACK

UNR Music Department: concerts, recitals, 784-6145

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

EVENTS

May

Western States Angus Cattle Show and Sale, thru 5/1, Reno Livestock Events Center, 323-3073

Art Exhibits, thru 5/6, West Coast contemporary paintings, lithographs depicting Thomas Hart Benton's unique view of America, decorative arts of West Africa, E.L. Wiegand Museum of Art, 329-3333

A Brush With Color, thru 5/6, display and sale of paintings by group of 23 Reno area artists, Lakeridge Tennis Club, part of proceeds will be donated to the Ronald McDonald House, 358-9108

American Bowling Congress, thru 6/5, five-man teams from around the world compete 7:30am-12:30am each day, public is invited to watch, Reno-Sparks Convention Center, 827-RENO

60+ Art Exhibit, thru 6/8, work by artists 60 years or older, Reno City Hall Galleries, 329-1324

Neon Nights, thru 6/30, an exhibition that interprets the history of neon in Nevada from its introduction to the state in 1928 to its present use as an art form, Nevada Historical Society, 789-0190

Gelvvieh Cattle Show and Sale, 5/2, Reno Livestock Events Center, 323-3073

"The Music Man," 5/2-3, musical, Carson Valley Middle School Choir and Drama Dept., Old Gym Playhouse, Gardnerville, 782-2265

"Another Part of the Forest," 5/4-5, drama, Reno Little Theater, 329-0661

Concerts in the Atrium, 5/4-25, noon-1pm on Fri., free, Airport Gardens office building, 329-1324

Art Exhibit, 5/4-6/8, featuring a selection of prints from the Magnolia Press, Sheppard Gallery, UNR, 784-6658

Chili Cook-Off/Cinco de Mayo, 5/5, sanctioned chili cook-off with more than 40 entrants, street festival with music and parade, South C St. in front of Wagon Wheel Restaurant, Vir-

ginia City, 847-0311 or 847-0500

Nevada Festival Ballet, 5/5, one-act version of "Sleeping Beauty" choreographed by Margaret Banks and pieces by Vassili Sulich of Nevada Dance Theater in Las Vegas; this is the first time the two major choreographers of Nevada have shown their work together, Pioneer Center for the Performing Arts, 329-2552

Cinco de Mayo Celebration, 5/5, High Sierra, South Lake Tahoe, 588-6211

Historic Bowers Mansion Opens, 5/5, guided tours on weekends in May, daily in June and July, 20 miles south of Reno in Washoe Valley, 849-0201

Carson Valley Home Show, 5/5, Old Gym Playhouse, Gardnerville, 782-8144

Silver Cats Household Pet Cat Show, 5/5, two ring fun match, scored for Happy Household Pet Cat Club, spectators admitted free, Shoppers Square Mall, 329-7451

Shakespeare Student Performance Festival, 5/5 and 5/12, fourth annual, students perform scenes, songs, and sonnets from Shakespeare, continuous performances from 9am-2pm, free, Procter Hug High School Little Theater, 851-5640

Golden Gate Air Force Band, 5/6, Victorian Square Amphitheater, Sparks, 353-2291

Horse Sense, 5/10, John Nielson and Justin Bishop perform traditional folk songs of the American cowboy and Hispanic vaquero, 8pm, Carson City Community Center, 883-1976

Nevada Junior Livestock Show, 5/10-13, Reno Livestock Events Center, 323-3073

Spring Art Show, 5/10-13, Shoppers Square, 324-0427

Mother's Day Craft Program, 5/12, for ages 8-12, 2pm, Ormsby Public Library, Carson City, 887-2244

Mother's Day Tea and Victorian Fashion Show, 5/12, 1-4pm, $3, reservations required, Red Garter Saloon banquet room, Virginia City, 358-2284 eve.

Killer B's in Concert, 5/12, last of the Nevada Opera's concert series features challenging music of Brahms, Beethoven, Bach, Nightingale Hall, UNR, 786-4046

Virginia City Mt. Bike Race, 5/12, fun, five-mile loop starts and finishes in town, 3pm, 677-2989 or 208-726-7454

Virginia City Grand Prix, 5/12-13, 20th annual, Western States Racing Assn. sponsored cross-country motorcycle racing on a 20-40 mile desert loop, races begin about 8:30am each morning and last four to five hours, Virginia City, 355-1600 or 847-0311

Motorcycle Art Show, 5/13, display of motorcycle models and sculptures, 2-4pm, free, Public Library Gallery in the Virginia City High School, 847-0311

Comstock Arabian Horse Show, 5/15-20, Reno Livestock Events Center, 323-3073

Third Annual Casino Series Team Roping, 5/18-20, Douglas County Fairgrounds and Carson Valley Inn, Gardnerville and Minden, 782-9711

Comstock Preservation Weekend, 5/18-20, walking tours of Virginia City's Victorian architecture and historic cemetery, historical play production by Comstock Arts Council, Fourth Ward School Museum opens the season with puppet shows, photo exhibit, and Silver Tea reception, in celebration of National Historic Preservation Week, Virginia City, 847-0311 or 847-0975

International Museum Day, 5/19, celebrated with free admission to Nevada State Museum, featuring antique cars, western dancers, gold panning, Nevada folk artisans, quilters; opening day of new Changing Gallery featuring hands-on exhibits for children, from 9am-4pm, Nevada State Museum, Carson City, 687-4810

Snowshoe Thompson Day, 5/19, Genoa Courthouse Museum, 782-4325

Flower Show, 5/19, 43rd annual, 1-7pm, Reno-Sparks Garden Clubs, Ranch House at Rancho San Rafael Park, 826-6967

Republican Women's Luncheon and Fashion Show, 5/19, Carson Valley Inn, Minden, 782-2034

Nevada State Handcar Championships, 5/19-20, 80 teams from the Western U.S. compete, time trials on Sat. at 8am, finals on Sun. at 11am, Nevada State Railroad Museum, Carson City, 687-4810

International Weavers Market, 5/19-20, exhibition and sale of works by weavers, textile artists, and quilters from Nevada and California, demonstrations and displays from Latin America, Indonesia and Africa, Tahoe Keys Village, South Lake Tahoe, 916-541-4804

Art Show, 5/19-30, Northern Nevada Art Educators' student show, Brewery Arts Center, Carson City, 882-6411

PREVIEW

Reno Rodeo: Move 'Em Out



There will be high kickin' action at the Reno Rodeo June 15-24.

Cattle drives and draft horses may be old hat to every big ranch in the West, but they're both new to the Reno Rodeo this year.

Open to horseback riders of all ages and abilities, the Reno Rodeo Cattle Drive will be a real Western adventure for the first 100 riders who sign up. Starting June 9 from Doyle, California, drovers will be pushing 350 head of roping stock for the Reno Rodeo, which is scheduled for June 18-24.

The five-day 60-mile trip will cross the hills and canyons of Northern California and Nevada.

Arrangements can be made for a few buckaroos who don't have their own horses. Rides with the wagonmaster are available.

Draft horses will be testing their skills June 15 and 16. About 20 teams will compete in several driving classes. Alternating performances each evening will be top precision riding teams and sheriff's posses in the third annual drill team competition. The draft horse extravaganza and drill teams will start at 7 p.m. each evening, and admission is free.

These big, powerful animals will also grace the Reno Rodeo parade on June 16 at 10 a.m. in downtown Reno. The teams will be joining the country's best known draft horses, the Budweiser Clydesdales, who will also entertain the crowds during each rodeo performance.

Eight rodeo performances on June 18-24 will feature the country's top PRCA cowboys in riding, roping, and wrestling action. The celebration will have a carnival, the Buckaroo Breakfast, Reno Rodeo Team Penning, drill team competition, Western Merchandise Mart, Bob Feist Invitational Roping, Exceptional Rodeo for handicapped children, and Reno Rodeo Championship Cutting.

For a schedule of events, and more information on the cattle drive, write the Reno Rodeo Association, Box 12335, Reno NV 89510 or call 702-329-3877

Photo: William Carr/Stock Ex

Wilbur D. May Museum Fifth Anniversary, 5/20, free admission, guided tours at 11am, 2pm, and 4pm, special children's hour from 3-4pm includes tour and activities, Wilbur D. May Museum at Rancho San Rafael Park, 785-5961

AKC Retriever Field Trials, 5/25-27, Little Mondeaux Gun Club, Genoa, 782-5512

Arts and Crafts Fair, 5/25-27 Kings Beach, 916-546-2768

Memorial Day Rendezvous and Shoot, 5/25-28, black powder rendezvous and shoot, Lakes Crossing Muzzle Loaders, U.S. 395 to Red Rock Rd., 17 miles east on Red Rock Rd., 331-3952

Corvette Car Show, 5/25-29, Peppermill, 689-7125

Art Show, 5/25-6/8, oil paintings by Barbara Murdoch, public reception from 2-4pm on 6/4, free, Public Library Gallery, Virginia City High School, 847-0311

Steam-Up, 5/26-28, 6/16-17 and 7/4, steam-up and operation of historic railroad equipment, for a small fee rides are given on short circle of track from 10am-4pm, Nevada State Railroad Museum, Carson City, 687-5168

Chocolate Lovers' Fantasy Faire, 5/27 sampling of chocolates, Valhalla Estate at the Tallac Historic Site, South Lake Tahoe, 916-544-2118

Bluegrass Concert, 5/31, the Bargan Buckaroos, Brewery Arts Center, Carson City, 883-1976

Suffolk Sheep Show and Sale, 5/31-6/2, Reno Livestock Events Center, 323-3073

Reno's Auto Classic, 5/31-6/3, automobiles built in 1948 and earlier, includes tours and rallies, poker run, scavenger hunt, Great Gatsby-style street dance, car show, parade, contact the William F. Harrah Foundation National Automobile Museum, 333-9300

1990 U.S.A. West Coast International Golden Oldies Rugby Festival, 5/31-6/7 48 teams from around the world with players more than 35 years old play rugby in a non-competitive fashion providing fun, friendship, and fraternity, Shadow Mountain Complex and Don Mello Sports Complex, Sparks, 827-5960

June

Reno West Coast Wine Competition, 6/1, eighth annual, rated as one of the top wine competitions in the country, culminates with tasting of wines of the West's top vineyards and hors d'oeuvres served by northern Nevada's finest restaurants, Reno-Sparks Convention Center, 827-7636

"Run For Your Wife," 6/1-2, 6/8-10, and 6/15-16, English farce, Reno Little Theater, 329-0661

ABC Equipment Rodeo, 6/2, second annual, timed, scored competitions held to see who is best at knocking over bowling pins with a backhoe, pouring water with an excavator, pitching barrels with a loader and carrying eggs with a skid steer, free, Associated Builders and Contractors, Greg St. and Larkin Circle, Sparks, 358-7888

Carson Valley 10-K Run, 6/2, meet behind the Carson Valley Inn, Minden, 782-9711

Grand National Motorsport Event, 6/2, Reno Livestock Events Center, 323-3073

Sorensen's National Off-Road Bicycle Race, 6/2-3, 12-mile course, Sorensen's, Hope Valley, 916-694-2203

Sierra Watercolor Society Art Show, 6/4-29, Brewery Arts Center, Carson City, 882-6411

Duffer's Derby, 6/5, golf tournament, Incline Village Championship Golf Course, 831-4440

Nevada State Button Show, 6/6, this year's theme is "The Year of the Horse," open to the public, 2-4pm, Comstock Hotel, 323-4675



The Reno Philharmonic gives a free concert on July 4th at Mormon Station in Genoa.

Fiona's/China Springs Sandbaggers Golf Tournament, 6/6, contact Carson Valley Inn, Minden, 782-9711

The Gambler's Choice, 6/6-10, a rated English hunter and jumper equestrian competition and horse show, Reno Livestock Events Center, 849-1849

Kit Carson Rendezvous Wagon Train Ride, 6/7-9, wagon ride from Stage Stop Cantina in Reno to Mills Park in Carson City, public welcome to join the wagon train for nominal fee, 687-4507 or 742-1327

"The Sneeze," 6/8-9 and 6/14-16, 8pm, Nevada Repertory Company, Redfield Theatre, UNR, 784-6505

Kit Carson Rendezvous, 6/8-10, three days of western fun with food booths, western entertainment, Northern Nevada Amateur Boxing, farriers contest, authentic crafts fair, Indian dancing, scene from the "Mountain Man Ballet," Mills Park, Carson City, 885-7491 or 883-7442

Reno-Tahoe Cycling Classic, 6/8-10, on Fri. Tour of the Comstock Time Trial in Virginia City, on Sat. Tahoe to Carson to Genoa to Tahoe Road Race, on Sat. evening Victorian Square Criterium in Sparks, on Sun. Downtown Reno Criterium, sponsored by the Reno Wheelmen, 323-1611, 322-6806, or 323-1809

Carson Valley Days, 6/8-10, parade on Sat., Gardnerville/Minden, 782-3104

Pony Express Re-Ride, 6/9, riders go through Genoa and Carson City following Pony Express route from Sacramento, CA, through Nevada, on way to St. Joseph, MO, 885-7825 or 882-1283

Incline Follies '90, 6/9, talent show featuring local groups, North Tahoe Community Center, Kings Beach, 831-4622

Seventh Annual Nevada Photography Workshop, 6/9-17 travel through rural Nevada while working with other photographers learning new photography skills and techniques, workshop director is John Tylczak with Western Nevada Community College, Carson City, 887-3072

Sands XI Open Pool Tournament, 6/13-17 Sands, 348-2200

Silver State Square and Round Festival, 6/15-17, 43rd annual, all levels of square dancing as well as full program of round dancing plus clogging clinic, Reno-Sparks Convention Center, 322-0027

Reno Rodeo, 6/15-24, rodeo, carnival, buckaroo breakfast, Reno Rodeo Team Penning, Drill Team Competition, Western Merchandise Mart, Bob Feist Invitational Roping, Exceptional Rodeo, and Reno Rodeo Championship Cutting; some highlights include: Nevada Draft Horse Extravaganza on 6/15-16, parade in downtown Reno on 6/16, Western Art Exhibit and Sale on 6/15-18, Pacific Coast Cutting Horse Assn. $180,000 Cutting Stakes and Sale on 6/21-23, PRCA rodeo on 6/18-24, Reno Livestock Events Center, 329-3877

United States National Soaring Championships, 6/15-7/15, pilots compete in demanding soaring competition, 100 to 150 gliders participate, preparation for the International Soaring Championship Meet in Minden in 1991, Douglas County Airport, Minden, 782-7627

To Wear or Not to Wear Art Exhibit, 6/15-7/20, Reno City Hall Galleries, 329-1324

Carson Valley Art Show, 6/15-7/15, and 7/20-8/25, Genoa Courthouse Museum, 782-4325

Reno Rodeo Chili Cook-Off, 6/16, sanctioned by International Chili Society; musical entertainment and craft booths, Victorian Square, Sparks, 353-2291 or 356-3367

North Tahoe Classic Off-Road Bike Race and Trials, 6/16, event open to all, from first-time racers to pros, North Lake Tahoe area, 916-546-7248

Opening Day on Lake Tahoe, 6/16, opening of boating season is celebrated with a decoration contest, parade, barbecue, and Blessing of the Boats Ceremony, Tahoe Keys Marina, South Shore, Lake Tahoe, 916-541-2155

Stewart Indian Museum Powwow and Arts and Crafts Fair, 6/16-17 American Indian dancing, food, arts and crafts sales, general public welcome, no admission charge, Stewart Indian Museum, Carson City, 882-1808

American Indian Photography Exhibit and Sale, 6/16-8/20, Stewart Indian Museum, Carson City, 882-1808

Second Annual Great Bookworm Classic, 6/17 Ormsby Library, Carson City, 887-2244

Bob Feist Invitational Team Roping, 6/18, $165,000 in cash and awards, 8pm, held in conjunction with Reno Rodeo, Reno Livestock Events Center, headquarters is at Peppermill, 689-7125

Photo: Inga Spence

PREVIEW

Wildflower Walks

By Connie Emerson



Ann Pinzl gives a crash course in botany to wildflower walkers.

After the winter snows melt, the wildflowers come quietly to the eastern Sierra around Spooner Lake. They don't make flamboyant orange splashes like California poppies or brilliant blazes as bluebonnets do in Texas. Instead—because some of them are very small and many are painted the most delicate of colors—they often bloom unseen except by the people who go out of their way in search of them.

Which is perhaps what makes finding Nevada wildflowers a special joy for me. Now, mind you, I'm not a hard-core botanist. Wouldn't know the Latin names—let alone the common ones—of many of the flowers I see. But there is such a delight in coming upon a clump of tiny purple blossoms hidden near the base of a white fir tree that it really doesn't matter if they're called Johnny jump-ups or violets or humble Phacelia.

A couple of years back, though, I decided that it would be a good idea to learn the names of at least some of these flowers, so I went on one of the Spooner Lake wildflower walks conducted each summer by Nevada State Parks. Only a handful of hikers took part when the first walk was offered about 10 years ago. Now as many as 65 people participate in each of the two or three treks scheduled every season.

This year the walks are being held on June 27 and 28 at 9 a.m.

The people on our walk ranged from a six-year-old with a backpack full of snacks to a septuagenarian who made the rest of us look like Sunday strollers. We came in all shapes, sizes, and packaging—everything from a safari suit and pith helmet to a bikini and thongs (definitely not recommended). The more sensible arrived with hiking boots or good walking shoes and sunscreen. The really well-prepared even had their own magnifying glasses.

But most of us were rank beginners. Which didn't matter a lot because the walk leader, Ann Pinzl, gave us a crash course in botany, with glimpses through her hand lens whenever we needed them. We learned that leaves—important in identifying wildflowers—have two parts, the stalk (petiole) and the blade. We found out about the various ways in which leaves are arranged on their stalks, about types of flower clusters, and we learned terms like palmate (spread out like the fingers on a hand) and lanceolate (shaped like the tip of a lance) that we had never heard before.

Pinzl, who is curator of natural history at the Nevada State Museum, has been known to identify 85 varieties of wildflowers during the four hours necessary to do an in-depth examination of the Spooner Lake flora.

The 1.6-mile path around the lake is a relatively easy one, although a few rocks and exposed tree roots could trip you if you decide to bird watch rather than hunt for wildflowers. The pace is leisurely, with frequent stops to examine the various specimens.

My favorite? Perhaps the cinquefoil, a five-petaled beauty of pale yellow with blossoms that measure about 5/8-inch across. But it's hard to choose when the ground beside your path is literally strewn with showy penstemon, larkspur, and lupine in various shades of blue, the purple blossoms of the checker mallow, the little yellow flowers of the stick leaf.

Some of the blossoms, like those of the Galium and Nemophilia plants, are so tiny that you need a hand lens to even see them. You might not think of others, such as the sedges and willow flowers, as being flowers at all.

Since that walk, I've gone on several wildflower expeditions and compared notes with friends, whose favorite hikes follow the Mount Rose trail and portions of the Tahoe Rim Trail. We agree that the *Audubon Society Field Guide to North American Wildflowers* is a wonderful book to carry on these hikes. And for a decorative guide to study back home, you can buy a Wildflowers of the Sierra Nevada poster for about $8 at the Sand Harbor Visitors Center on Lake Tahoe's east shore.

While it's not legal to pick wildflowers, no law says you can't take pictures. So I bring along my camera. And like the six-year-old, my favorite snacks.

As they say, nothing beats candy and flowers.

Connie Emerson is a Reno-based travel writer who during the past year has searched for wildflowers in Finland, Yugoslavia, and Curacao as well as the Sierra Nevada. For more information on the hikes write Lake Tahoe Nevada State Park, 2005 Highway 28, Incline Village, NV 89450 or call 702-831-0494.

Monday Evening Lecture Series at the Gatekeeper's Museum, 6/18-7/23, wildflower lecture and slides plus series of vintage movies made at Lake Tahoe including Buster Keaton's "Our Hospitality," "The Navigator," "Rose Marie" and "Call of the Wild," Gatekeeper's Museum, 130 W. Lake Blvd., Tahoe City, 916-583-1762 or 916-583-4976

Run What You Brung, 6/22-24, classic, vintage, and custom auto show, public viewing, judging, games, barbecue, dance, vendors, raffle, poker run, music, sixth annual, Fuji Park, Carson City, 882-3004

Gerlach Fire Dept. Horseshoe Tourney and Barbecue, 6/23, Community Center, Gerlach, 557-2220

Comstock Firemen's Muster, 6/23-24, 10th anniversary, on Sat. 6am breakfast at the depot, 9am parade of authentic antique fire equipment, 11am competition between fire departments with antique equipment begins at depot, 6pm steak barbecue, 8pm dance; on Sun. 6am breakfast at Depot, 10am competition begins, Virginia City, 847-0311

Railroad Show and Swap Meet, 6/23-24, running model railroad layouts, videos, and vendors selling model railroad items, Carson City Railroad Assn., Carson Mall, Carson City, 883-6145

Truckee-Tahoe Air Show, 6/23-24, Truckee-Tahoe Airport, 916-587-4119

Donner Pass Mountain Bike Race, 6/24, Donner Ski Ranch, 832-7417

Oliver Gagliani Zone System Photography Workshop, 6/25-7/6, black-and-white photography instruction by master photographer

Photo: Suzanne Sturtevant/Nevada State Parks

and former student of Ansel Adams and Minor White, St. Mary's Art Center, Virginia City, 415-949-5922

Eldorado Pro-Am Golf Tournament, 6/25-27 Eldorado, 827-7636

"Mountain Man Ballet," 6/26-27 humorous skit in which miners bring culture to Nevada by performing "Swan Lake," Carson City Community Center, 883-1976

Wildflower Walks, 6/27-28, Ann Pinzl, a botanist from the Nevada State Museum, will identify plants, 1.6-mile easy hike, not recommended for young children, bring water, snack, comfortable shoes, and camera, 9am, meet at the upper parking lot of Spooner Lake, Lake Tahoe Nevada State Park, 831-0494

Washoe County High School Rodeo, 6/28-7/1, Reno Livestock Events Center, 323-3073

Century 21/Clark Properties Easter Seals Golf Tournament, 6/29-30, at the Carson Valley Inn and the Carson Valley Golf Course, Minden and Gardnerville, 782-7111

Festival of Flags, 6/30, ethnic celebration includes an authentic Basque meal, top name entertainers, ethnic music and dancing, and dessert booths from many nationalities, this year's featured culture is Hispanic, benefit for St. Vincent's Emergency Services, California Building, Idlewild Park, 322-7073

Brangus Cattle Show, 6/30, Reno Livestock Events Center, 323-3073

Fernley Junior Rodeo, 6/30-7/1, for children ages up to 19, Little Miss Junior Rodeo Queen Contest, Pee-Wee events for ages 5 and under, Out-of-Town Park, Fernley, 575-4484

Lake Tahoe Sailweek, 6/30-7/8, a week-long series of races, 916-544-6687

AmeriGlide Pre-World Soaring Competition, 6/30-7/9, Douglas County Airport, Minden, 786-8505

July

Music Festival on the Village Green, 7/1, bands playing marches, show tunes, jazz, and country music, Village Green (behind Hyatt), Incline Village, 831-4622

International Food Festival, 7/1-2, Victorian Square, Sparks, 356-2291

West Coast Scrabble Championships, 7/1-3, Sands, 348-2200

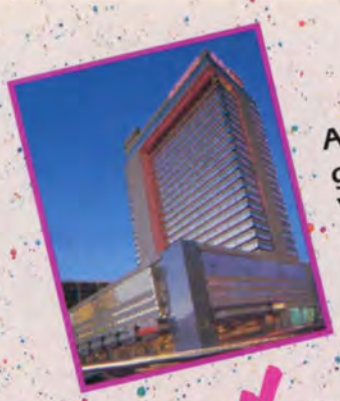
Nugget Jazz Festival, 7/1-4, 10 jazz bands from throughout the U.S. perform on a rotation basis for three days, eighth annual, John Ascuaga's Nugget, Sparks, 356-3367

Arts, Crafts, and Antiques Fair, 7/1-4, Carson



Actors from the "Mountain Man Ballet."

Photo: Patrick Kennedy



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PREVIEW

Cycling Classic

By Christopher Ross

The intermittent hostility of the terrain, climate, and even motorists make northern Nevada seem unlikely as a rising center for competitive cycling. Yet Greg Lemond, who last year became the first American to ever win the Tour de France, is only one of the Reno-Tahoe area's many champions. Others include Matt Newberry of the U.S. National Cycling Team; two-time Olympic competitor Inga Thompson; Jack Hartman, who has held nearly every championship over the years since his first in 1953; Marian Clignet, whose team won the 50-K National Team Trial Championship last summer at Park City, Utah; and Chris Mahannah, who routinely dominates the West's toughest mountain bike events, often back to back on the same weekend. All are Reno cyclists.

The Reno area is an ideal training ground, according to Mahannah. "It's not too big, but there are riders here already so it's easy for new people to come in and get motivated," he says. "We have up to 15 people on our little Sunday rides."



World class competitive cyclists.

That will change on June 8-10, when an estimated 500 competitors arrive for three days of racing and exhibitions in the Reno-Tahoe Cycling Classic, part of the California Classics Series. With an overall purse of $25,000, the event, formerly known as the Tour of the Comstock, will attract national competitors for what is described as "a massive beach party—a magical and very exciting event."

The racing will begin with the Tour of the Comstock Time Trial on Friday—a very steep race beginning at Virginia City, and including Gold Hill and Silver City. Saturday will open with the Tahoe to Carson to Genoa to Tahoe Road Race.

On Saturday evening, the Victorian Square Criterium will fill downtown Sparks with excitement, as riders on the closed-circuit course compete not only for the overall race finish but also for "primes" (pronounced "preems") on each lap. The competition will conclude on Sunday with the Downtown Reno Criterium, which will also include an exhibition criterium of HPVs—Human Powered Vehicles.

All of the races include classes for pros, amateurs, women, and veterans except the Tour of the Comstock, which is for the top male professionals only, and all will be well supplied with food, drink, and lots to see and do. The Reno-Tahoe Cycling Classic is sponsored by the Reno Wheelmen, which has been active since the turn of the century and is one of the nation's oldest bicycle organizations. Further information is available from the Reno Wheelmen at 702-323-1611 or 322-6806 as well as from area bicycle shops.

Christopher Ross is a Reno-area writer



Valley Inn, Minden, 916-273-3725

Photography Exhibit, 7/2-28, photos by Carol Park, Brewery Arts Center, Carson City, 882-6411

Pops in the Park, 7/4, Reno Philharmonic concert, includes a silent auction and chances to conduct the orchestra will be sold, bring a blanket and picnic dinner, food and drinks available, festivities begin at 3pm, concert begins at 5pm, free, Mormon Station State Park, Genoa, 265-2601 or 782-8144

Fernley Fourth of July, 7/4, games, arts and crafts, barbecue, dancing, entertainment, fireworks, Out-of-Town Park, 575-4384

Virginia City Fourth of July, 7/4, parade down C St., 847-0311

Carson City Fourth of July, 7/4, fireworks at Mills Park, 882-1565

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

Star Spangled Fourth, 7/4, huge fireworks display provided by Harrah's, acrobatic air show, and more, South Lake Tahoe, 916-544-5050

Sharkey's Cow Pasture Boxing, 7/5, Gardnerville Park, Gardnerville, 782-3133

"Love's Labors Lost," 7/6-7 and 7/12-14, 8pm, Nevada Repertory Company, Redfield Studio Theatre, UNR, 784-6505

Arts and Crafts Fair, 7/6-8, Kings Beach, 916-546-2768

Lunar Lunacy 5- and 10-K Run, 7/7 Lampe Park, Gardnerville, 782-9828

Volksmarch, 7/7 benefit walk sponsored by the American Assn. of University Women, Tahoe Cedars through Sugar Pine Point State Park, 916-525-7542

Snake Awareness Program, 7/7 Dave Doty,

Photo: Christopher Ross

PREVIEW





Traditional and fancy dancing, games, buying, and trading take place at the powwow.

Stewart Powwow

By Ed Johnson

The Ninth Annual Stewart Indian Museum Arts and Crafts Fair and Powwow will be held June 16-17 on the old Stewart Indian Boarding School campus at 5366 Snyder Avenue in Carson City.

It's the 100th anniversary celebration of the opening of Stewart Indian Boarding School by the U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs in 1890.

The powwow celebration is a social gathering of North American Indian people. Gaming, dancing, eating, buying, and trading all are part of a powwow. Traditional team gambling and five card can take place.

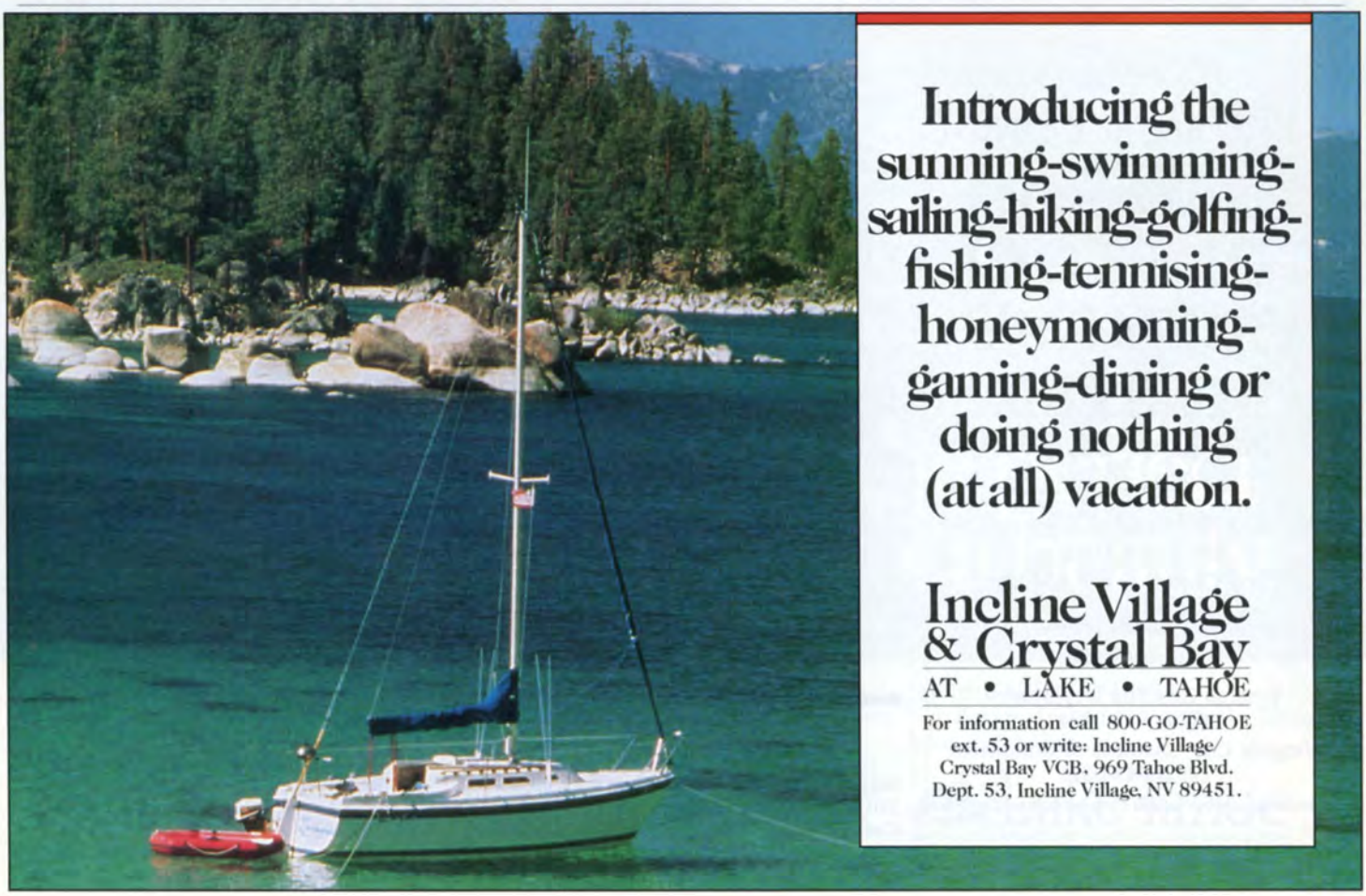
Traditional and fancy dancers will be competing for awards.

To raise funds for the museum, Stewart Indian Museum Association members serve a traditional beef barbecue lunch at noon on Saturday.

Indian arts and crafts people from throughout North America come to sell and trade their arts and crafts, including baskets, buckskin moccasins, silver and turquoise jewelry pottery, and weavings from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday.

The event is open to the general public without charge. For further information, call 702-882-1808 between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. daily.

Ed Johnson is director of the Stewart Indian Museum.



Photos: Ed Johnson

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local herpetologist, presents two-hour program, 10am, meet in Group Use Area, Washoe Lake State Recreation Area, 687-4319

Craft and Music Festival, 7/7-8, family-style entertainment, contests, Victorian Square, Sparks, 353-2291

Nevada State Dairy Goat Show, 7/7-8, Reno Livestock Events Center, 323-3073

Region III Arabian Horse Show, 7/8-14, Reno Livestock Events Center, 323-3073

Carson City Senior Citizens Center Grand Opening Celebration, 7/9-14, highlights include 10am ribbon cutting on 7/9, 4pm raffle drawing for trip for two to Disney World on 7/14, and 8pm dance on 7/14, 901 Beverly Dr., Carson City, call for schedule of activities 883-0703

Valhalla Festival of Art and Music, 7/9-9/9, set in and around several historic mansions; jazz, bluegrass, and chamber music, Tallac Historic Site, South Lake Tahoe, 916-544-5050

Music at Sand Harbor, 7/11-15, five evenings of live music performed in a natural outdoor lakeside amphitheater, bring picnic dinner and blankets, for information on tickets and schedule of performers call the North Tahoe Fine Arts Council office, Sand Harbor, Lake Tahoe Nevada State Park, south of Incline Village on Highway 28, 916-583-9048

Tour of the California Alps ("The Deathride"), 7/14, bicycle endurance ride, course crosses several Sierra passes with substantial elevation gains and a distance of more than 100 miles, Markleeville and Alpine County, 916-694-2475

Trans-Tahoe Swim, 7/15, relay race across Lake Tahoe from Sand Harbor to Chambers Landing, 916-583-3494 or 415-775-4400

Carson Valley Melodramas, 7/20-21, 7/27-28, and 8/3-4, Carson Valley Theatre Company, CVIC Hall, Minden, 782-3054

Carson Valley Heritage Day Chili Cook-Off and Arts and Crafts Fair, 7/21, Minden Park, Minden, 782-2211

Capital City Fair, 7/26-29, carnival, apple pie and greased pole contests, wagon rides, hot air balloons, children's contests, Carson City, 887-2262 or 887-2047

Hot August Nights Kick-Off Party, 7/28, kick-off party held at Victorian Square in Sparks, 358-4771 ext. 3325, event held 8/2-5 at Lawlor Events Center and downtown Reno, 829-1955

COMING EVENTS

Hot August Nights, 8/2-5, Reno, 829-1955

Carson Valley Fair and Junior Rodeo, 8/3-5, Gardnerville, 782-7750

Shakespeare at Sand Harbor, 8/10-26, 832-1606

Lake Tahoe Senior Golf Invitational, 8/12-14, 916-544-5050

Nevada State Fair, 8/14-19, Reno, 322-4424

Reno Basque Festival, 8/25, 331-2010

Great Reno Balloon Race, 9/7-9, 786-1181

Reno National Championship Air Races, 9/20-23, 972-6663

Ben Hogan Reno Golf Open, 9/24-30, 904-285-3700

SHOWGUIDE

Bally's Reno, 789-2285: Entertainment TBA

Bill's Lake Tahoe: 588-2455: Entertainment TBA

Caesars Tahoe, 588-3515: *Circus Maximus:* Willie Nelson, 6/1-2; Reba McEntire, 7/5-8; Diana Ross, 7/10-16; David Copperfield, 7/18-24; *Caesars Cabaret:* Laff Trax, indf.; Playboy's Girls of Rock 'n Roll, indf.



Virginia City Firemen's Muster parade.

Carson City Nugget, 883-3854: Entertainment TBA

Carson Valley Inn, Minden, 782-9711: Tommy Bell, 4/23-5/5; Motifs, 5/7-19; Clique, 5/21-6/2; Network, 6/4-16; Passion, 6/25-7/7; *Cabaret Lounge:* live entertainment Mon.-Sat., oldies records by request Sun.

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

Crystal Bay Club, North Tahoe, 831-0512

Eldorado, Reno, 786-5700: Sonny Turner, 5/1-6; Honolulu, 5/1-27; Diamonds, 5/8-27; Danny Marona, 5/29-6/17; Sons of the Pioneers, 6/19-7/1; Sonny Turner, 7/3-22; Tony Tillman, 7/23-8/12

Fitzgerald's, Reno, 785-3300: Entertainment TBA

Flamingo Hilton Reno, 322-1111: Just For Laughs, Comedy Festival, indf.; *Sunspot Lounge:* Jonathon and Music Magic, thru 5/14; Dae Han Sisters, 5/1-6/11; Susan MacDonald, 5/15-28; Far East, 5/29-6/18; Ricky and the Redstreaks, 6/12-25; Kristine and the Sting, 7/17-30; Dae Han Sisters, 7/31-9/10

Harolds Club, Reno, 329-0881: Entertainment TBA

Harrah's Reno, 329-4422: *Headliner Room:* Charlie Daniels Band, 5/9-13; Tony Orlando and Dawn, 5/23-27; Rich Little, 5/30-6/3; Waylon Jennings/Jessi Colter, 6/13-17 and 6/20-24; Spellbound: A Concert of Illusion, 7/3-9/23 (dark Mon.); *Casino Cabaret:* Williams and Ree, thru 5/7; Frederic Apcar's "Zing!" revue, indf.

Harrah's Tahoe, 588-6606: *South Shore Room:* Johnny Mathis/Jeannine Burnier, 5/2-6; Yakov Smirnoff/Lucie Arnez, 5/9-13; The Smothers Brothers/Jim Stafford, 5/16-20; The Oak Ridge Boys/Ross Shafer, 5/23-28; Larry Gatlin and the Gatlin Brothers/Dennis Wolberg, 6/6-10; Sweet Charity, 6/15-9/9; *Stateline Cabaret:* The Dynatones, 5/2; The Buck Ram Platters, 5/4-16; The Outlaws, 5/18-23; Zasu Pitts Memorial Orchestra, 5/25-30; Elvin Bishop, 6/1-6; Roomful of Blues, 6/15-20; Rain: A Tribute to the Beatles, 6/22-7/1; Greg Kihn Band, 7/13-18; Southern Pacific, 7/20-25; "Shocked!" revue, indf.

Harvey's, Stateline, 588-2411: "Champagne," revue, indf.; Bobby Vee and the Ricochettes, 5/3-6; Buffalo Springfield, 5/10-13; Kingston Trio, 5/31-6/3; Four Aces, 6/7-10; The Grass Roots, 6/14-17; Herman's Hermits, 6/21-24; Fifth Dimension, 6/28-7/4; *Top of the Wheel:* Ron Rose Sound, indf.; Liaizon, thru 5/6; Clique, 5/7-20; Perfect Circle, 5/21-6/10; The Act, 6/11-24; Ohana, 6/25-7/8; Blind Date, 7/9-29

Hyatt Lake Tahoe, Incline, 831-1111: Entertainment TBA

John Ascuaga's Nugget, Sparks, 356-3304: *Celebrity Showroom:* Juice Newton/The Walk-

Photo: Liz Fleher

ers, thru 5/2; Legends in Concert, 5/3-6/13; Moe Bandy, 6/14-27; Forester Sisters, 6/28-7/11; *Casino Cabaret:* Sneak Preview/Southern Reign/Ricky and Bobby, thru 5/6

Ormsby House, Carson City, 882-1890: Entertainment TBA

Peppermill, Reno, 826-2121: Wrays/Brian and the Hiwatts, 5/1-13; Tommy Bell, 5/14-20; Sneak Preview/Star Front, 5/21-6/3; What U Need/Lelands, 6/4-17; Kelly Clinton, 6/25-30

Ponderosa, 786-6820: Nightly entertainment

Reno Ramada, 788-2000: Entertainment TBA

Sharkey's Nugget, Gardnerville, 782-3133

Tahoe Biltmore, North Tahoe, 831-0660: Rock 'n' roll bands

Topaz Lodge, Topaz Lake, 266-3339

Western Village, Sparks, 331-1069: Gary Wade and the Bump, thru 5/6 and 5/7-13; Network, thru 5/13; The Fabulous Drifters, 5/4-5; The Wrays/Surprise Package, 5/14-20; Whiskey Ridge/John Ritter Band, 5/21-27; David Proud, 5/27-6/10



Wilbur D. May Museum's fifth anniversary celebration on May 20 includes free admission.

MUSEUMS

Carson City

Nevada State Archives: 8-5 Mon.-Fri., 3579 Hwy. 50 East, 687-5210

Nevada State Museum: 8:30-4:30 daily, 600 N. Carson St., 687-4810

Nevada State Railroad Museum: 8:30-4:30 Wed.-Sun., S. Carson St. at Fairview Dr., 687-5168

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



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Thousands of pounds of food are served during Carson Valley Days June 8-10 in Minden.

80 YEARS OF CARSON VALLEY DAYS

By Mary Settelmeyer

In the spring of 1910 about 20 families of German and Danish settlers decided to stage a big Carson Valley party. They called it Carson Valley Day and planned to make it an annual celebration in the park in Minden.

The *Record-Courier's* headline for June 10, 1910, declared: "Carson Valley Day Will Be A Hummer—Three Thousand People Will Be Here Tomorrow."

William Dangberg, an enthusiastic go-getter, was named chief chairman. Printed invitations were mailed to surrounding communities such as Reno, Carson City, Virginia City, Dayton, Markleeville, Coleville, Genoa, Sheridan, and Centerville.

A sumptuous outdoor banquet was planned and on the morning of June 11 the Virginia and Truckee train was met by ladies of the reception committee. Visitors were escorted to the Minden park for a program that included two brass bands and speeches by J. E. Stubbs, president of the University of Nevada, and Judge F. H. Norcross.

The main platform, covered by a mammoth tent, was readied. It would be able to hold 185 dancing couples at one time.

In the afternoon, rigs were provided to take visitors on a tour of the community, to show off the area's agricultural achievements.

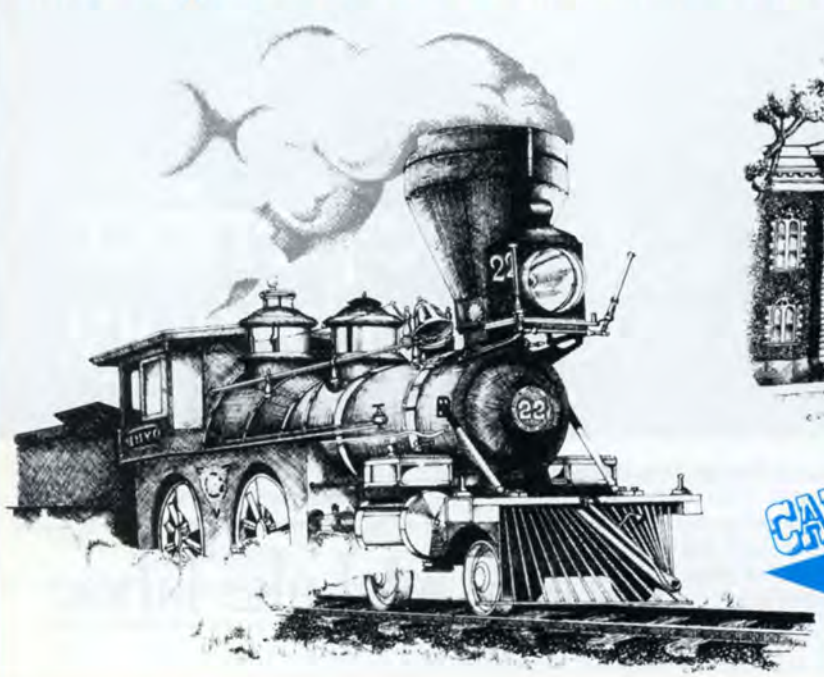
Everyone had a fine time eating, dancing, and socializing. Then at midnight the train whistled. Visitors were whisked away, the local crowd dispersed, and the first Carson Valley Day was over.

Chairman Dangberg was anxious that the event succeed as an annual celebration. He pointed out that California towns had their holidays—Placerville its Pear Show, Watsonville its Apple Show, Fresno its Raisin Day. "And, by George, we are going to have our Carson Valley Day!" he declared.

But the June celebrations limped along into the 1920s with not much more than a program of speeches, a few sports events,

CARSON CITY

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Photo: Jay Aldrich

lunches in the park, and a dance.

Then Carson Valley Day was revived in the early 1930s, and by 1938, when a bunch of 20-30 Club live boys took over the leadership, the celebration began to hum. The event, held the second weekend in June, was expanded to three days. A real barbecue and a parade with floats, ranching equipment, and marching bands boosted the spirit of the day.

Today, these fellows exert a lot of energy to stage the Big Day. The barbecue crews start cooking the night before. At noon the pit is opened.

Dispensed are 2,500 pounds of beef, 325 pounds of beans, 250 dozen rolls, 60 pounds of butter, 550 pounds of cottage cheese, 1,000 half-pints of milk, and 210 dozen ice cream cups.

The speed with which several thousand people are served is amazing. The efficiency is due to the innovation of Herb Witt, who devised a unique assembly line for the barbecue—by converting a grain loader into a belt that moves the plates along.

The Lions are in charge of the parade. Chairman Mike Hoffman advises that the 1990 parade theme will be "Our Western Heritage"—for the fourth year in a row. Like Carson Valley Days, it's a proven success.

Mary Settelmeyer is a Carson Valley writer.

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
William F. Harrah Foundation National Automobile Museum: 9:30-5:30 daily, 10 Lake St. So., 333-9300

Sparks

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

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Reno's Year-Round Casino Resort



Bob Shane and the Kingston Trio—still having fun after all these years.

Bob Shane and the Kingston Trio

By Guy Richardson

Bob Shane is pushing 60, for God's sake, and the Kingston Trio founder still reminds me of a college boy whose biggest goal in life is to party, party, party.

Shane himself feels pretty much the same. You talk to him, and he's rowdy and funny, with a ribald sense of humor that would be right at home in a frat house.

"Party now," he said. "I'll sleep when I'm dead."

For Shane, it's worked for a way of life and work. Back in 1958, he, Nick Reynolds, and Dave Guard "were going to Menlo and Stanford, majoring in business and chasing women." He shook his shaggy white head. "You try and explain that to somebody who wants a real honest-to-God answer about how much we studied to get where we are." He snorted a laugh. "We were just fool-arounds."

Striped shirts and stripped harmonies, the three were hailed as clean-cut college kids, a more acceptable alternative to the pinko if not outright commie folksingers like the Weavers and Woody Guthrie who terrified America's establishment music industry.

Pete Seeger talked and sang of justice, integration, and political responsibility. And here were these other three guys and their Tom Dooley, and they were clean, clean, clean.

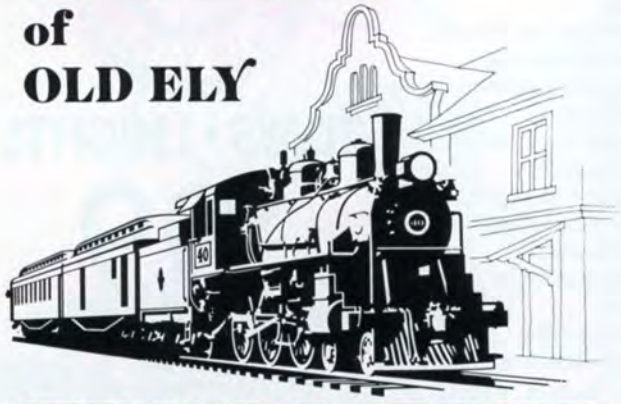
Shane says living up to that image was almost impossible.

"I didn't even know any clean-cut guys when I was in college," he said. "I went to Menlo with the Shah of Iran's and Prince Faisal's kids." He lowered his voice in awe: "Now *they* knew how to party."

The Kingston Trio's music wasn't even folk, says Shane. They took the money anyway.

To confuse matters more, the trio got a

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Grammy for best country and western record—there wasn't a folk category. Now, says Shane, "I have to sit around in musical purgatory for the rest of my life because [our success] wasn't worth anything. Thirty years ago, the going rate was five cents per single, 29 cents per album."

Guard and Reynolds long ago settled down. Shane's musical purgatory consists of 35 weeks a year on the road, every year, with younger singers. Booked by a manager who "thinks Connecticut and California are next to each other because they both start with a 'C,'" much of the trio's time is spent bouncing back and forth across the country for one-nighters. Longer engagements like Harvey's allow the group to pay off the travel agency, he says.

Still, retirement isn't in the Shane vocabulary. He loves live entertaining, he says. He calls it modern vaudeville, and figures he'll be working 10 years from now, when he's pushing 70. "There's very few things you can count on, but you can count on that you'll still see the Kingston Trio," he said.

One more thing you can count on. Bob Shane will still have that raspy Scotch and Soda voice and laugh, and he'll still be up for a party.

The Kingston Trio performs at Harvey's at Lake Tahoe May 31-June 3.

CASINO NOTES

•Guests at **John Ascuaga's Nugget** will feel sun-kissed year-round enjoying the Nugget's new indoor swimming pool, which has a large, canted roof comprised of sliding glass panes. From the pool, swimmers can take in a panoramic view of the Sierra Nevada. The third-floor facility also features a health club where guests can keep their arms pumped up for those long stretches at the crap table.

•The Hyatt Lake Tahoe has completed a $21 million renovation. The new look of its casino, hotel tower, lakeside cottages, and a restaurant has earned the resort a name change: **Hyatt Regency Lake Tahoe**. The new "fantasy forest" casino sports several life-size trees made of cedar bark, etched mirrors, a cabaret stage, and fiber-optic lighting.

•The **Flamingo Hilton Reno** now offers a shuttle that serves all major airport arrivals and departures. How do you recognize it? Just look for a black shuttle emblazoned with a long-legged pink bird.

•Zap! Boom! Splat! Is that Batman fending off the Joker in Gotham City? No. It's the familiar sound of arcade games at the **Carson Valley Inn's** new recreation center. The 2,000-square-foot facility is located at the Minden hotel's convention center level, just a few steps from the registration desk. It is also supervised. Zap!

•With the cholesterol game being as popular as lotteries these days, **John Ascuaga's Nugget** in Sparks is now providing heart-healthy meals for its patrons. In fact, the menus at Trader Dick's, the Rotisserie, and the General Store have each been endorsed by the American Heart Association for their good taste.

TOURNAMENTS

May

Slots, thru 5/2, Circus Circus, 329-0711
Video Poker, 5/7 Harrah's Reno, 788-2767
Blackjack, 5/11-13, Peppermill, 689-7100
Video Poker, 5/13-15, Flamingo Hilton Reno, 322-1111
Video Poker, 5/15 and 6/19, Carson Valley Inn, Minden, 782-9711
Blackjack, 5/17-19, Fitzgeralds, 786-3663
Slots, 5/18, Club Cal-Neva, 323-1046
Slots, 5/27-28, Peppermill, 689-7282
Keno, 5/28-30, Harolds Club, 329-0881
Blackjack, 5/29 and 6/26, Carson Valley Inn, Minden, 782-9711

June

Slots, 6/3-5, Harrah's Reno, 788-2767
Keno, 6/8-9, Peppermill, 689-7290
Pai Gow, 6/8-10, Flamingo Hilton Reno, 322-1111
Slots, 6/8-10, Silver Club, Sparks, 358-4771
Keno, 6/9, Harrah's Reno, 788-2767
Slots, 6/9-11, Fitzgeralds, 786-3663
Slots, 6/10-11, 7/1-2, and 7/22-23, Eldorado, 786-5700
Dice, 6/15-17, Peppermill, 689-7100
Blackjack, 6/16-17 Riverboat, 323-8877
Keno, 6/23, Bally's, 789-2333
Slots, 6/23-24 and 7/7-8, Riverboat, 323-8877
Blackjack, 6/24, Harrah's Reno, 788-2767
Keno, 6/25-27, Fitzgeralds, 786-3663
Slots, 6/29, Club Cal-Neva, 323-1046

31ST ANNUAL

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THE NEVADA CALENDAR

Rural Areas



Colorful dances will be featured at Indian powwows throughout Nevada this summer.

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

May

Spring Festival of Art, thru 5/22, juried art show, Elko County Art Club, Northeastern Nevada Museum, Elko, 738-3418

Art Exhibit, thru 5/29, Nevada wildlife watercolors by Esteban Valle of Reno, Northeastern Nevada Museum, Elko, 738-3418

Winnemucca High School Rodeo, 5/5-6, fairgrounds, Winnemucca, 623-2047

Air Force Band of the Golden Gate Concert, 5/10, convention center, Elko, 738-1240

Gun Show, 5/11-13, convention center, Elko, 738-4091 or 303-835-8205

North American Pony Express Championship Race, 5/12, comprised of several 5-man Pony Express teams, each running a course of 4 miles for a total of 20 miles per team, rodeo arena, Wells, 752-3540 or 752-3328

Walleye Clinic, 5/12, Department of Wildlife fisheries biologist will discuss techniques and equipment used to catch walleye, 10am, meet in the picnic area on the east side of the Humboldt River below the dam, Rye Patch State Recreation Area, north of Lovelock, 538-7321

Winnemucca Barrel Futurity, 5/12-13, futurity, derby, and calcutta, fairgrounds, Winnemucca, 623-3282

Loise Arnold Art Exhibit, 5/24-6/19, Indian and Western paintings, Northeastern Nevada Museum, Elko, 738-3418

Old Timer's Team Roping, 5/25-28, open to men and women, rodeo grounds, Winnemucca, 623-3086

Pigeon Race, 5/26, from Jackpot to Bay Area, 755-2321

Rye Patch Bird Walk, 5/26, park ranger leads a leisurely walk in the park, an important stop for many birds on their spring migration; meet at the west end of the dam, Rye Patch State Recreation Area, north of Lovelock, 537-7321

Richard Menzies Photography Exhibit, 5/31-7/26, Great Basin photographs by Salt Lake City photographer, Northeastern Nevada Museum, Elko, 738-3418

June

Winnemucca Mule Show and Races, 6/1-3, show on Fri., endurance race and calcutta beginning at 12:30pm on Sat. and Sun., fairgrounds, Winnemucca, 623-5071

Denio Barbecue and Old-Fashioned Get-Together, 6/2, barbecue, dance, team roping, and kids rodeo, Denio, on Route 140 just south of the Oregon border, 941-0373

Expo Open Golf Tournament, 6/5-6, Elko, 738-4091

Fifth Annual Mining Expo, 6/7-9, mine equipment exhibits and demonstrations, convention center, Elko, 738-4091

Rye Patch Dam Tour, 6/9 and 7/7 wear sturdy shoes, Rye Patch State Recreation Area, north of Lovelock, 537-7321

Winnemucca Basque Festival, 6/9-10, Basque sporting events, picnic, outdoor Mass, traditional dances performed by Basque children, fairgrounds, Winnemucca, 623-3706

Old Emigrant Trail Car Caravan, 6/16, join ranger for a 10-20 mile car caravan along portions of the old Emigrant Trail, the forerunner of Interstate 80 in the Rye Patch area, reservations required, high clearance vehicle is needed, Rye Patch State Recreation Area, north of Lovelock, 538-7321

Red Mountain Indian Powwow and Rodeo, 6/16-17 ceremonial, traditional, and fancy war dances, Indian princess contest, barbecue, Indian rodeo, Fort McDermit, 532-8570 or 532-8333

Paradise Valley Volunteer Fire Dept. Father's Day Barbecue, 6/17 public invited to an old-fashioned barbecue, all you can eat from 2-5pm, Paradise Valley, 578-3533

Ansel Adams and Edward Weston Photography Exhibit, 6/21-7/31, exhibit of one of their rare portfolios from the Frantzen collection and Northeastern Nevada Museum collection, Northeastern Nevada Museum, Elko, 738-3418

Wells Bustin' and Dustin' PRCA Rodeo, 6/22-24, on Fri. 6pm barbecue, on Sat. 11am parade followed by 1pm and 5pm rodeo performances, on Sun. 1pm rodeo, rodeo arena, Wells, 752-3486

Lamoille Country Fair, 6/24, arts, crafts, food, entertainment, 10am-5pm, Lamoille Grove, Lamoille, 753-6603

Art Exhibit, 6/28-8/7, contemporary floral and landscape watercolors of Carolyn Lord from Livermore, CA, Northeastern Nevada Museum, Elko, 738-3418

Sculpture Exhibit, 6/28-9/11, Western bronzes by John Gilliam of Lenore, ID, Northeastern Nevada Museum, Elko, 738-3418

Art Exhibit, 6/28-9/11, humorous Western wood carvings by Ellis A. Olson of Bountiful,

Photos: William Carr/Stock Ex

UT, Northeastern Nevada Museum, Elko, 738-3418

Winnemucca Junior Rodeo, 6/30-7/1, fairgrounds, Winnemucca, 623-5071

Overnight Ruby Mountain Trail Ride, 6/30-7/1, travel by horseback through wilderness area identifying the flora and fauna, photographing, fly-fishing, and enjoying grilled steaks or fresh trout prepared over an open fire by a professional guide, offered through Northern Nevada Community College in Elko, 738-8493

July

Run for the Angels, 7/2, 13.5-mile run from town to Angel Lake, Wells, 752-3416

Twin States Stampede, 7/3-4, amateur rodeo with local buckaroos and wild horses, rodeo grounds, McDermitt, 532-8269

Hollerin' Contest, 7/4, Jackpot, 755-2321

Ruby Mountain Trail Ride, 7/5-8, travel by horseback through wilderness area identifying the flora and fauna, photographing, fly-fishing, and enjoying grilled steaks or fresh trout prepared over an open fire by a professional guide, offered through Northern Nevada Community College in Elko, 738-8493

National Basque Festival, 7/6-8, Basque music, games of strength, talent show, parade, public dance, Mass, sheepherder's bread baking, dance exhibitions, yell contest, convention center, fairgrounds, and City Park in Elko, 738-3295

B.P.W. Golf Tournament, 7/14, Wells, 752-3416

Fourth Annual Safety Olympiad, 7/16-21, mine rescue and safety competition, Elko, 738-4091

Art in the Park, 7/21-22, handcrafted items, paintings, food, and entertainment, Elko, 738-1553 or 738-7743

PONY EXPRESS TERRITORY

May

History of Fort Churchill, ranger-led talks or tours can be given year-round to groups of eight or more with advance reservations, contact park office, Fort Churchill State Historic Park, 577-2345

Fossil Shelter Tours, year-round, ranger leads guided tours and discussions of the fossils of ichthyosaurs of 225 million years ago, call for times and days, Berlin-Ichthyosaur State Park, 867-3001

Desert Images, thru 5/30, paintings and drawings by Carlos Warner, Desert Light Studio, Wadsworth, 575-5516

B.M.B.R.A. Open Horse Show and Gymkhana, 5/5, rodeo grounds, Battle Mountain, 635-2200

Lyon County Llama Days, 5/5-6, packing, poker run, cross-country race, demonstrations, fairgrounds, Yerington, 463-4549

Fort Churchill Celebration, 5/5-6, celebrates the fort's active years with living history demonstrations, displays, and Civil War battle reenactments, 1860s fashion show; presented by park rangers, local historians, Nevada Civil War Volunteers, and the Pony Express Assn., Fort Churchill State Historic Park, 8 miles south of Silver Springs, 577-2345 or 358-2284

Bird Walk, 5/12, along the Carson River, Fort Churchill State Historic Park, south of Silver Springs, 577-2345

Fort Churchill to Lake Lahontan Canoe Trip, 5/12, annual 12-mile, 6-hour excursion; bring

PREVIEW



Wild West Is Alive in Tonopah

By Joanie Phillips

Ninety years ago Jim Butler left his Monitor Valley ranch to prospect in the mountains south of his home. Times were hard. The mining camps were quiet, and Butler had turned to ranching to keep body and soul together.

But Jim got lucky that spring when he found the rich silver ore that would give new life to a faltering young state and birth to the boom town known as Tonopah.

The people of Tonopah have not forgotten Jim Butler or the role that their town played in shaping Nevada's future. Every Memorial Day weekend they host Jim Butler Days. This year marks the event's 20th anniversary.

Tonopah's early mining history comes alive in the Jim Butler Days contests, as modern miners test their strength against solid rock with the primitive tools of their predecessors. Arm wrestling and beer guzzling and a lively street dance recall the Wild West flavor of the frontier, while contemporary athletes run cross-country in the thin mountain air. There is a charming parade for the whole family, and hot dogs at the fire station. Tonopah merchants put on their Sunday best, and townspeople open their arms in an expression of self-confident hospitality.



Tonopah bike racers and parade-goers.

Tonopah itself is a diorama of Nevada history. The Central Nevada Museum is home to an extensive collection of early mining equipment, and the landscape is sculpted by landmarks of Tonopah's glory days. The aging elegance of the past provides a picturesque backdrop for the community.

Ninety years have passed since Jim Butler followed a wayward burro to find his fortune. Since then, thousands have followed their dreams to find prosperity in Nevada's high desert. Headframes still stand as a monument to the miners who founded Tonopah, and Jim Butler Days returns every year as a monument to the spirit that built Nevada.

Joanie Phillips lives in Tonopah.

canoe, life jackets, and provisions for a full day's outing down the Carson River, meet at Fort Churchill's picnic area, trip is conditional due to river level, Lahontan State Recreation Area, Silver Springs, call 577-2226

Hidden Cave Tours, 5/12 and 5/26, meet at 9:30am, Churchill County Museum, Fallon, 882-1631 or 423-3677

"Secret Garden," 5/18, musical, performed by Theatreworks/USA, 7:30pm, Holy Family Catholic Center, Yerington, 463-3066

Best in the Desert Motorcycle Races, 5/18-19, registration on 5/18, race on 5/19 through the streets of Ely, awards ceremony and breakfast on 5/20, Ely, 289-8877

"Secret Garden," 5/19, musical, performed by Theatreworks/USA, community center, Fallon, 423-1440

Winetasting and New-Comer's Dance, 5/19, 7pm, Odeon Hall, Dayton, 246-0329

Bird Walk, 5/19, Dayton State Park, 687-5678

Ely Amateur Golf Tournament, 5/19-20, Ely, 289-8877

Eureka High School Rodeo, 5/26-27 fairgrounds, Eureka, 237-5519

Men's Fast Pitch Softball Tournament, 5/26-27 Marich Softball Complex, Ely, 289-8877

VORRA Race, 5/27, Baja-style off-road racing, 250-mile track in the Mason and Smith Valley area, Yerington, 463-3721

Memorial Day Services, 5/28, traditional services start at 10:30am, north side of courthouse, Eureka, 237-5282

June

White Pine Rodeo, 6/8-10, three rodeo performances, fairgrounds, Ely, 289-8877

Pony Express Re-Ride, 6/9, riders go by Fort Churchill about 7:30am following Pony Express route from Sacramento, CA, through Nevada, on way to St. Joseph, MO; later in the day the riders will go through Schurz, Sand Springs, Cold Springs, Dry Creek Ranch, and West Diamond Valley, 885-7825 or 882-1283

Hidden Cave Tours, 6/9 and 6/23, meet at 9:30am, Churchill County Museum, Fallon, 882-1631 or 423-3677

Gridley Days, 6/15-17 Old-Time Fiddlers and Nevada State Champion Fiddler contests, sack of flour race, trapshoot, poker run, miners contests, ball park and rodeo grounds, Austin, 964-2200

American Bashkir Curly Horse Convention and Show, 6/15-17 convention held on Fri., horse show Sat. Sun., fairgrounds, Ely, 289-4228

Eureka Horse Shows, 6/16-27, 7/21-22, and 8/17-18, the August show will have a calcutta of the branding and penning teams, county rodeo and fairgrounds, 237-5314

Great Country Picnic and Coyote Chase, 6/23, 5- and 10-k runs, 2-mile walk, pancake breakfast, and arts and crafts fair at Smith Valley School in Smith; picnic at Hey Day Inn in Wellington includes Turtle Island String Quartet jazz concert outside on lawn, bring picnic and blanket, gates open at noon and concert begins at 2pm, 463-3066 (Great Country Picnic) or 465-2422 (Coyote Chase)

Snake Awareness Program, 6/23, Silver Springs Beach No. 7 Campground Amphitheater, Lahontan State Recreation Area, 18 miles west of Fallon, 577-2226

Battle Mountain Junior Rodeo, 6/23-24, for children 15 and under, rodeo grounds, Battle Mountain, 635-2235

Survival For Kids, 6/24, program on outdoor survival skills, 10am, meet in the group use area, Dayton State Park, 687-5678

Eureka Lions Club Ride For Eyes, 6/30, trail ride for beginning, intermediate, and advanced horses and riders, starting time 9:30am, money will go to Eureka Lions Club for the purpose of eye examinations and glasses for the needy, Eureka, 237-5639 or 237-5276

Founder's Days, 6/30-7/1, on Sat. pancake breakfast, parade, booths, food, crafts, displays, barbecue, and dance; on Sun. more events planned at two local parks and the Silver Springs Airport, Silver Springs, 577-2008, 577-2069, or 577-2533

July

Eureka July Fourth Celebration, 7/4, 10:30am parade followed by street games, Lions Club barbecue in City Park, fireworks, 237-5484

Ely Kiwanis July Fourth Celebration, 7/4, parade, games, fireworks, 289-8877

Yerington Kid's Day, 7/4, old-fashioned 4th of July celebration with races and contests, sponsored by Lions Club, Booth-Parr Stadium (corner of Oregon and Goldfield), 463-3341

Yerington July Fourth Picnic, 7/4, picnic for the whole family, followed by fireworks, Mountain View Park, 463-5195

The Fireworks Special Train Rides, 7/4, nostalgic diesel train excursion, Nevada Northern Railway Museum, East Ely, 289-2085

Nevada International Invitational Rodeo, 7/5-8, championship rodeo with the reserve champion high school rodeo contestants from 37 states and Canada, compete for thousands of dollars worth of prizes and scholarships; added events include nightly teen

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PREVIEW

Turtle Islanders Play in Smith Valley



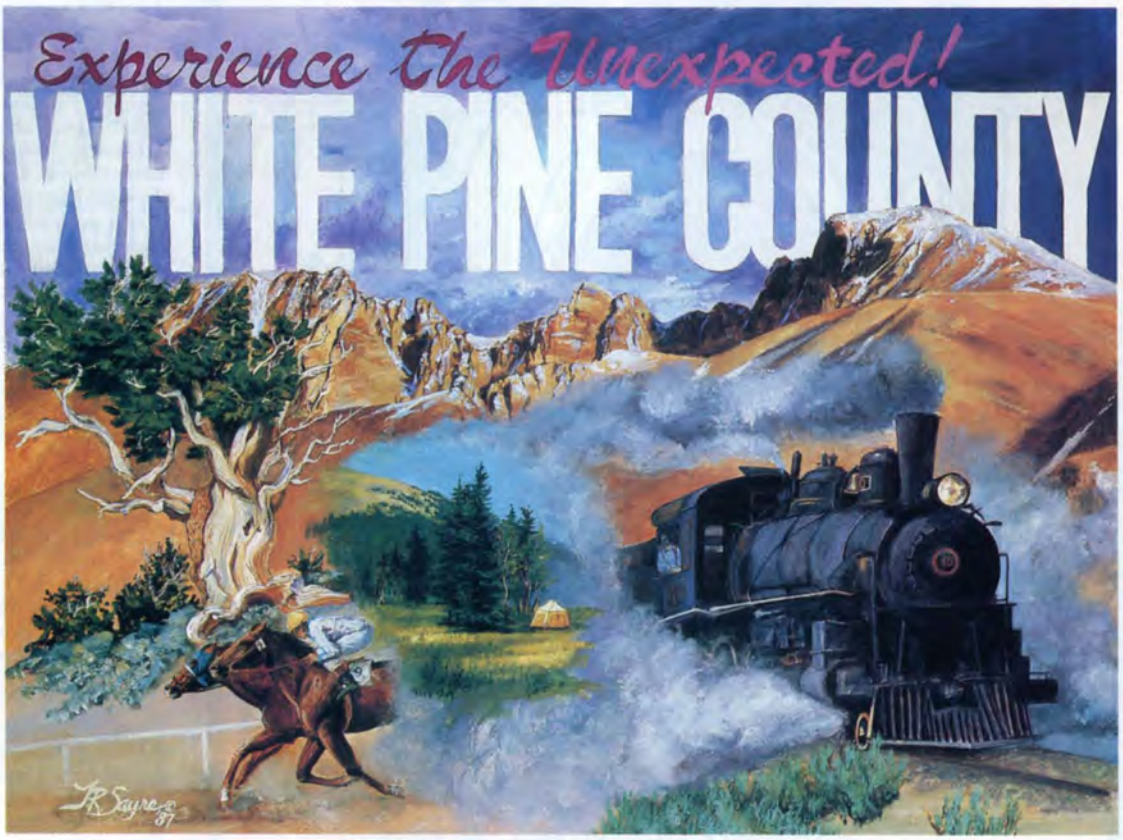
Turtle Island String Quartet plays jazz at the Great Country Picnic in Smith Valley.

Picture a warm sunny valley, summer breezes in the air, families and neighbors gathered on the cool green grass in the shade of old trees. Laughter and music fill the air. The aroma of a Basque barbecue tempts the taste buds.

The annual Great Country Picnic, which is presented by the Yerington Theatre for the Arts, offers food, fun, and music on Saturday, June 23. The picnic is held at Wellington's historic Hey Day Inn in Smith Valley. Also on the agenda are the Country Affair and Craft Fair and the Coyote Chase, a five- and 10-kilometer race that loops through the valley's back roads.

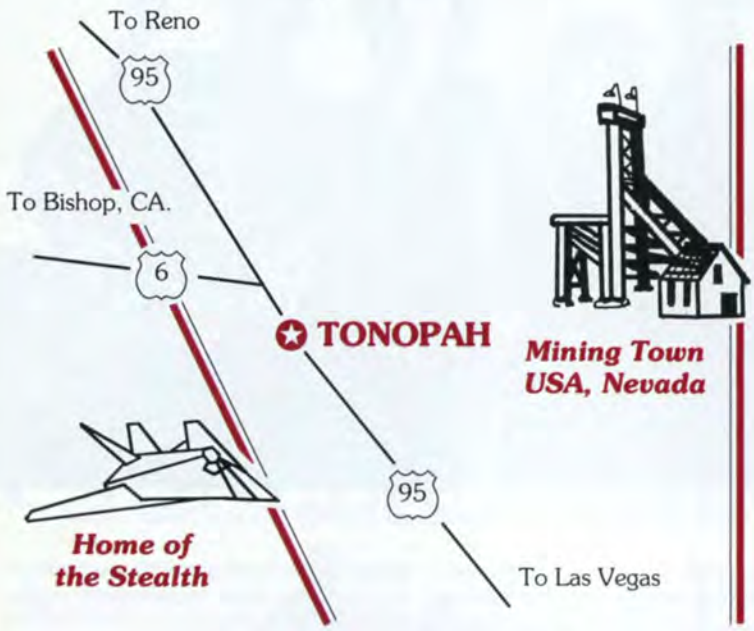
The Great Country Picnic has a treat for all music lovers—the nationally known Turtle Island String Quartet, a classically formatted string quartet playing jazz. This Grammy-nominated group of swinging strings combine Native American music with bluegrass and modern jazz, all interlaced with southland-style blues. Gates open at noon; music begins at 2 p.m. For more information, contact the Yerington Theatre for the Arts, 702-463-3066.—*Judith Biddleman*

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT THE BRISTLECONE CONVENTION CENTER:
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dances, scholarship auction, and adult get-together, concessions and midway shops, fairgrounds, Fallon, 423-4674

Ghost Towns Slide Show, 7/7 8pm, Dayton State Park, 687-5678

Sutro Tunnel Townsite Tours, 7/8, Dayton State Park rangers give tours at 10am, noon, and 2pm, meet at the historical marker on U.S. 50 that's 3 miles east of Dayton, 687-5678

Hidden Cave Tours, 7/14 and 7/28, meet at 9:30am, Churchill County Museum, Fallon, 882-1631 or 423-3677

Lower Carson Canoe Expedition, 7/14 and 7/28, canoe trip with park rangers along the lower Carson River from Lahontan Dam to the Diversion Dam, journey covers five miles and lasts about 2-1/2 hours; bring canoe, kayak, or rubber raft, and life jacket, meet at the Lahontan Dam River Camp for departure, Lahontan State Recreation Area, Silver Springs, 867-3500

All-Indian Stampede and Parade, 7/19-21, Indian rodeo, stick games, powwow, arts and crafts, parade, fairgrounds, Fallon, 423-2544

White Pine Basque Festival, 7/21-22, parade, dance, Mass, barbecue, Broadbent Park and National Guard Armory, Ely, 289-3271

Dayton History Tour, 7/22, walking tour, 10am, meet at Dayton State Park, 687-5678

Duckwater/Eureka Open Rodeo, 7/27-29, rodeo, barbecue, and dance, county rodeo and fairgrounds, Eureka, 237-5280

PIONEER TERRITORY

May

Edible Plants of Eastern Nevada, 5/5, slide program, 7:30pm, part of series of programs offered every Sat. night until 7/28 at Cathedral Gorge State Park, 2 miles north of Panaca, 728-4467

Wildflowers of Eastern Nevada, 5/12, slide show, 7:30pm, campground amphitheater, Cathedral Gorge State Park, 2 miles north of Panaca, 728-4467

Armed Forces Day Celebration, 5/12-20, main events take place Sat. 5/19 and include a parade at noon, followed by open house at Army ammunition plant, Hawthorne, 945-5896

Lincoln County Rodeo Series Rodeo, 5/18-19, Alamo, 726-3333

Nevada 1100 Motorcycle Rally, 5/18-20, open house outside the Burro Inn with autographs, pictures with riders, and people's choice for best bike take place on Fri., motorcycle endurance rally on Sat., awards banquet on Sun., community center, Beatty, 553-2424 or 553-2339

Caliente 250, 5/19, 250-mile, four-lap, off-road race; start and finish in downtown Caliente, sign-up and tech inspection Fri., race at 9am Sat., awards on Sun., Caliente, 459-0317

Stargazing, 5/19, 8pm, campground amphitheater, Cathedral Gorge State Park, 2 miles north of Panaca, 728-4467

Tonopah Army Air Field Reunion, 5/25-27, reunion for the people who were stationed and trained at Tonopah Army Air Field during WW II; plans include a barbecue in one of the old hangers, exhibits, history of TAAF slide program, trips to some nearby crash sites where the Central Nevada Historical Society has placed markers, reunion coincides with Jim Butler Days, 482-3558

Lincoln County Homecoming, 5/25-28, 40th

celebration, Caliente, 726-3385 or 726-3734

Jim Butler Days, 5/25-28, 20th annual celebration of founder of town, state championship mining events, parade, art contest, dances, barbecue, ethnic food, summit run, arm wrestling, Central Nevada Museum open house with slide shows and displays dealing with the history of Tonopah and central Nevada, Tonopah, 482-3859

Folk Sing-Along, 5/26, 7pm, campground amphitheater, Spring Valley State Park, 18 miles east of Pioche, 962-5102

Park Slide Program, 5/26, on exploring the side roads in eastern Nevada, 8pm, campground amphitheater, Cathedral Gorge State Park, 2 miles north of Panaca, 728-4467

Pahrump Round-Up Rodeo, 5/26-27 town arena, 727-5107

Photo Exhibit, 5/27-8/30, relating to the life of Central Nevada pioneer cattleman and gunslinger Jack Longstreet, exhibit prepared by the Central Nevada Historical Society and Reno historian Sally Zanjani, Central Nevada Museum, Tonopah, 482-9676

June

Park Slide Program, 6/2, identifies harmful plants in eastern Nevada, 8:30pm, Cathedral Gorge State Park, 2 miles north of Panaca, 728-4467

Children's Fishing Derby, 6/9, competition for prizes from 8am-3pm with an award ceremony at 4pm, day use parking lot, Eagle Valley Reservoir at Spring Valley State Park, 18 miles east of Pioche, 962-5102

Moonlight Hike, 6/9, join ranger on a short hike from the campground to Cathedral Gorge's caves, 8:30pm, Cathedral Gorge State Park, 2 miles north of Panaca, 728-4467



Women at the Fort Churchill Celebration.

Mining History of Eastern Nevada, 6/16, slide program highlights the mining in Lincoln County from 1865 to the 1960s, 8:30pm, campground amphitheater, Cathedral Gorge State Park, 2 miles north of Panaca, 728-4467

Belmont Courthouse Open House, 6/16, 7/21, and 8/18, members of the Belmont Town Board will open the 114-year-old courthouse for visitors' casual inspection, board members will be stationed throughout the building to discuss its history, Belmont Courthouse State Historic Site, Belmont, 45 miles north of Tonopah, 867-3001

July

Pahrump July Fourth Celebration, 7/4, barbecue, booths, ball game, community grounds, 727-5107

Firemen's Old Fashioned Fourth of July, 7/4, games, races, raffle, food, fireworks, Honorary Mayor and Jackass election results announced on 7/4, Beatty Park, Beatty, 553-2424

Tonopah Fourth of July, 7/4, children's parade, swim contest, sack races, barbecue, fireworks, Barsanti and Jim Butler parks, Logan Field, 482-3859

Kid's Casting Contest, 7/7, for ages 5-16, winner wins new fishing rod and reel, 10am, Eagle Valley Reservoir at Spring Valley State Park, 18 miles east of Pioche, 962-5102

Pioche Heritage Days, 7/25-28, performances by area residents depict events and stories from Pioche's history, includes two true Pioche historical vignettes and one melodrama; art show, craft fair, on Sat. community dinner at 5:30pm, Town Hall, Pioche, 962-5544

RURAL COMING EVENTS

Bristlecone Arts in the Park, 8/4-5, Ely, 289-4038 or 289-2671

Wendover Air Races, 8/10-12, 664-2231

Goldfield Treasure Days, 8/11-12, 485-9957

Lincoln County Fair, 8/16-19, Panaca, 726-3333

Santa Maria Day, 8/18, Dayton, 246-3372

Nevada Open Horse Show and Futurity, 8/18-19, Winnemucca, 623-5071

Western Art Roundup Show and Sale, 8/30-9/2, Winnemucca, 529-0452 or 623-5071

Hearts of Gold Cantaloupe Festival, 8/31-9/3, Fallon, 423-2544

Winnemucca Rodeo and Tri-County Fair, 9/1-2, 623-5071

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Winnemucca Horse and Mule Pari-Mutuel Racing, 9/8-9 and 9/15-16, 623-5071
Pahrump Harvest Festival Fair and PRCA Rodeo, 9/14-16, 727-5791

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

Covered Wagon Territory

Elko: Commercial Hotel, 738-3181; Red Lion, 738-2111; Stockmen's Hotel, 738-5141
Jackpot: Cactus Pete's, 755-2321: William Lee Golden and the Goldens, 5/7-20; Freddy Weller, 5/21-24 and 5/27-6/3; Roy Clark, 5/25-26; Robin Lee, 6/11-14 and 6/18-24, The Amazing Kreskin, 6/15-17; Sneak Preview, 6/25-28 and 7/2-8; Williams and Ree, 6/29-7/1; Horseshu Casino, 755-2331
Wendover: Nevada Crossing, 664-4000; Peppermill, 664-2255; Red Garter, 664-2111; Silver Smith, 664-2231 ext. 709: Whiskey Ridge, thru 5/6; Jim Owens, 5/7-6/5; Greg Thompson, 6/6-8/14; 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, hours vary, call 237-5484, Eureka
Churchill County Museum and Hidden Cave, 10-4 Mon.-Wed. and Fri.-Sat., noon-4 Sun., 1050 S. Maine St., Fallon, 423-3677. For Hidden Cave tours call Carson City BLM, 882-1631
Lyon County Museum, 10-4 Sat., 1-4 Sun., Yerington

Pioneer Territory

Mineral County Museum, 2-4:30 Mon.-Fri., Hawthorne, 945-3185
Lincoln County Museum, 9-5 Mon.-Sat., 10-5 Sun. (closes from 12:30-1:30 for lunch), closed during winter, 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 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.

LAS VEGAS

AMERICAN

Circus Circus/Skyrise—734-0410. Prime rib, steak and shrimp. 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 Reuben, New York steak, marble cheesecake. B, L, 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.

Tropicana/Tropics—739-2800. Chicken, steak, fresh seafood. 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.

Lady Luck/Burgundy Room—477-3000. Rack of lamb, beef Wellington, lobster thermidore, veal of the day. D, $$, major.

Las Vegas Hilton/Le Montrachet—732-5111. Dover sole, medallions of veal, extensive wine list. D. $$$$, major.

Tropicana/Rhapsody—739-2440. Chateaubriand bouquetiere, veal sorrentino, duckling chambord. D. $$$, major.

INTERNATIONAL

Caesars Palace/La Piazza Food Court and Lounge—731-7324. Multi-cuisine international food; Japanese ramen soups, Chinese stir-fry, Italian pastas and pizzas, New York-style deli sandwiches and salads, B, L, 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, 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.

Imperial Palace/Pizza Palace—794-3261. Pizza, pasta, and salads. L, D. $, major.

Lady Luck/Marco Polo's—477-3000. Northern Italian specialities, pasta, veal. D. $$, major.

Las Vegas Hilton/Andiamo—732-5111. Northern Italian specialties, 25 pastas, veal, lamb, and fish entrees. L, D. $-$$, major.

MEXICAN

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.

Flamingo Hilton/Peking Market—733-3111. Nine-course family dinner, lemon chicken and lobster Cantonese. D. $, major.

Imperial Palace/Ming Terrace—794-3261. Cantonese and Mandarin cuisine, abalone, Kung Pao shrimp, roast duck. L, D. $$, major.

Lady Luck/Emperor's Room—477-3000. Cantonese, Szechuan, and Mandarin specialties. L, D. $-$$, major.

Las Vegas Hilton/Benihana Village—732-5111. Four restaurants: tempura, robata, sukiyaki, hibachi; animated show. D. $$$, major.

Tokyo—953 E. Sahara Ave., 735-7070. Sushi, teppan, tempura, sukiyaki. L, D. $$, major.

Mizuno's At Tropicana—739-2770. Teppan steaks, chicken, fresh seafood, sashimi. D. $$$, major.

SURF AND TURF

Bally's/Barrymore's—739-4661. Blackened redfish, 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.

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.

Fremont/The Hualapai—200 E. Fremont St., 385-3232. Prawns amaretto, lamb chops, and filet mignon. D. $$, major.

Golden Steer Steak House—308 W. Sahara, 384-4470. Steaks, seafood, and Italian specialties. D. $$$, major.

Holiday Casino/Claudine's—369-5000. Steaks and seafood, open kitchen, piano bar nearby, excellent wine list. D. $$-$$$, major.

Imperial Palace/The Seahouse—794-3261. Alaskan King crab legs, hot and cold appetizers, seafood salads. D. $$, major.

Old Ranch House—3369 Thom Blvd., 645-1899. Prime rib, lobster, seafood, steaks, chicken. 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.

Tropicana/El Gaucho—739-2376. Steaks, lamb chops, fresh seafood. D. $$$, major.



In Laughlin, the Riverside's Gourmet Room features a view of the Colorado River

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, AE.

Carson Nugget/Buffet—882-1626. Sun. champagne brunch, Sat. breakfast buffet, Fri. seafood buffet. B, L, D. $, major.

Carson Nugget/Coffee Shop—882-1626. Open 24 hours. B, L, D. $, major.

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 and sandwiches, daily features. 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, Sun. brunch. B, L, D. $$, major.

Holiday Inn/Greenhouse—5851 S. Virginia St., 825-

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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, barbecued ribs, spinach salad. 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.

Popeye's Famous Fried Chicken and Biscuits—3270 Kietzke Ln., 829-7227. Chicken and biscuits, Cajun red beans and rice. L, D. $-$$.

Pub 'n Sub—1000 Ralston, 322-8540. Deli. L, D. $.

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

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.

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.

INTERNATIONAL

Eldorado/Choices—786-5700. An express cafe with hof brau, deli, bakery, ice cream. B, L, D. $, major.

ITALIAN

Bally's/Caruso's—789-2267. Fresh oysters, canneloni, calamari. D. $$$, major.

Eldorado/La Strada—786-5700. Saltimbocca, gnocchi al pesto, ravioli verdi con spinaci. D. $$, major.

Rivoli—221 W. Second St., 784-9792. Veal, chicken, pasta, and Italian specialties. D. $$, MC, V.

MEXICAN

Hacienda Del Sol—2935 So. Virginia St., 825-7144. Sizzling fajitas (beef or turkey), changas del sol (beef, turkey, or seafood blend). L, D. $, MC, V.

Juanita's Cantina—1469 Hwy. 395 So. at Holbrook Junction, Gardnerville, 266-3697. Traditional Mexican and Southwestern meals prepared without lard or additives; vegetarian dishes, also. D. $, MC, V.

Las Panchitas—4385 Neil Rd., 825-3200. Sizzling fajitas, machaca, fiesta tostada, authentic chile rellenos, chingalingas. L, D. $, MC, V.

MiCasa Too—2205 W. Fourth St., 323-6466. Carnitas, carne asada tacos, shrimp, beef, or chicken fajitas. L, D. $, major.

Western Village/Pancho and Willie's—Off I-80, Sparks, 331-1069. Fajitas, chili verde. L (res.), D. $$, major.

ORIENTAL

Asian Garden—1945 S. Virginia St., 825-5510. Asian crispy beef, orange chicken, Asian pork chop, kung pao three delight, Szechwan chicken, lake tung ting shrimp. L, D. $$, MC, V.

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.

Ichiban Japanese Steak House—635 N. Sierra Ave., 323-5550. Teppanyaki cooking where chef prepares meal on grill at your table, sushi bar, and tatami-style seating. L, D. $$, major.

Miramar House—202 Fairview Dr., Carson City, 882-0262. All you can eat 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/Oyster Bar—882-1626. L, D. $, 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 lobster, prime rib dinner. B, L, D. $.

Comstock Hotel/Dinner House—329-1880. Steak and lobster, veal picata, stuffed shrimp. D. $$, major.

Harrah's/Seafare—786-3232. Fresh fish specials, calamari, lobster tail, veal parmigiana, eggplant Romano. L, D. $$$, major.

John Ascuaga's Nugget/John's Oyster Bar—Sparks, 356-3300. Lazyman's cioppino, seafood stews. L, D. $$, major.

John Ascuaga's Nugget/Steak House—Sparks, 356-3300. Prime rib, steak and lobster, snapper, shrimp Louis. L, D. $$, major.

Western Village/Steakhouse—Off I-80, Sparks, 331-



Marshall and Frank Fey, grandsons of slot machine inventor Charlie Fey, have decorated their Liberty Belle Saloon and Restaurant in Reno with antique slot machines.

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.

FRENCH/CONTINENTAL

Caesars Tahoe/Le Posh—Stateline, 588-3515. Award-winning California cuisine. D. $$$, major.

Cuckoo's Nest Cafe—2502 Hwy. 50, So. Lake Tahoe, 916-541-0873. An experience in fine leisurely dining. Only the finest ingredients used. All sauces are made from our stock pot. No MSG or salt used. 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.

Harrah's Tahoe/Friday's Station—Stateline, 588-6611. Fresh fish, steaks. L, D. $$$, major.

Harvey's/Seafood Grotto—Stateline, 588-2411. Wide seafood selection plus Chinese dishes. L, D. $$-$$$, major.

ELKO

Red Lion Inn—738-2111. Coffee shop and gourmet restaurant. B, L, D. $-$$, major.

Stockmen's Motor Hotel—738-5141. Casino coffee shop, evening dinner house. B, L, D. $-$$, major.

AROUND THE STATE

Evah's Copper Queen—Ely, 289-4271. Prime rib, prawns, Mexican dishes. B, L, D. $-$$, major.

Jailhouse Motel/Cell Block Dining—5th and High St., Ely, 289-3033. Specializes in prime rib. D. $$, major.

Mike's Ristorante and Cantina—47 E. Winnemucca Blvd., Winnemucca, 623-3021. Homemade ravioli, chimichangas, fajitas, fried ice cream, marvelous margaritas, delicious daquiris, seafood specials every Fri. and Sat. L, D. $, MC, V.

Parker's Model T—1130 W. Winnemucca Blvd., Winnemucca, 623-2588. Homemade Mexican specials on Wed., prime rib special on Mon., daily dinner specials. B, L, D. $, major.

Red Lion Inn and Casino—741 W. Winnemucca Blvd., Winnemucca, 623-2565. American. B, L, D. $, major.

Station House/Whistle Stop—Tonopah, 482-9777. Hamburgers, steak, seafood. B, L, D. $, AE, MC, V.

Whiskey Pete's/Bushwacker Steakhouse—I-15 near Nev.-Calif. border, 382-4388. Porterhouse, prime rib, trout almondine. D. $-$$, major.

Winners/Grandma's Dinner House—West Winnemucca Blvd. and Lay St., Winnemucca, 623-2511. American. L, D. $$, major.

Winners/Pete's Coffee Shop—West Winnemucca Blvd. and Lay St., Winnemucca, 623-2511. Daily luncheon and dinner buffets. B, L, D. $, major.

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REVIEW

GRAND ILLUSIONS

Siegfried and Roy and their amazing disappearing animals have opened The Mirage showroom with a bang

By Jackie Brett



Siegfried and Roy amaze and astound audiences in The Mirage's $25-million theater

Siegfried and Roy's new show at The Mirage has no name. Its producer, Kenneth Feld, calls it "the ultimate spectacle." At the least, it's a dazzling show a technical marvel that also stars the hotel's $25-million theater, which was specially designed to house the show.

The production's first half is codirector-designer John Napier's showcase. He eliminates traditional Vegas production elements like visible staircases, topless showgirls in lavish headpieces, and what Napier calls "geriatric sets." His shattering of these clichés makes way for a futuristic approach as in his other masterpieces: "Cats," "Les Miserables," and "Starlight Express."

In the show's second half Siegfried and Roy present magic elements from their popular "Beyond Belief" show that headlined the Frontier for about seven years until 1988; then Steve Wynn signed the pair to a five-year, $57.5-million contract to bring their act to The Mirage.

From the show's start; you notice that the hotel's theater is itself star-caliber.

The room is dark. Everything—tablecloths, curtains, the spherical theater, its massive dome-covered stage—are black. The only illumination comes from thousands of tiny lights in the stage's ceiling. It's a bit like being in a planetarium.

As you order drinks before the show, so-called "miracle workers" dressed like Darth Vader wander the aisles, sprinkling glitter and randomly placing red hearts or stars on people's hands and faces.

The atmosphere is mystical, and ethereal.

Gradually you hear the soft sound of wind chimes, and smoke begins flowing from the stage and filling the room. The miracle workers slowly make their way to the stage.

Amid thunder claps, a light ring descends onto the stage to dramatic space-age music and begins to spin. As laser beams shoot around the room, miracle workers step into the lights, with stunning effect.

Soon Siegfried and Roy appear, summoned to this imaginary planet to fight the classic battle of good versus evil. Armored soldiers come out marching to drums, and the struggle begins.

Siegfried and Roy win the final battle when they slay a three-story, computerized dragon. The giant red-eyed creature acts as a catalyst for some awesome illusions. Roy is impaled on the dragon's sword-like nose. Siegfried gets put into a straight jacket and placed inside the dragon's mouth so he can be devoured. Later the dragon breathes fire on the two illusionists, who, amazingly, escape this terrible mechanical beast.

The plot isn't heavy, but visually it's breathtaking.

The second half of the show is less spectacular but still highly entertaining. You get to enjoy a montage of illusions that have made Siegfried Fischbacher and Roy Horn famous over the 22 years that they've been partners.

While the elephant disappearing and then reappearing boggles the imagination, the biggest oohs and aahs are for Siegfried and Roy's royal white tigers. They own 18 of these rare white animals. Three were born last July 3 and are called Red, White, and Blue. The newest baby is Mirage. The tigers, which can also be seen in the elaborate habitat built for them in the hotel, are introduced by film and an appearance or two on stage.

This lavish production also has a hefty ticket price. It's $56 plus tax, which brings it to $60.80, per person.

Siegfried and Roy's new show might not leave you with the emotional impact of, say, "The Phantom of the Opera," but it will astound and amaze you. That in itself is an accomplishment and, if you can handle it, worth the price of admission.

Jackie Brett is a longtime Las Vegas showgoer and Nevada's *Las Vegas representative.*

Siegfried and Roy

Siegfried and Roy present their show at The Mirage three weeks a month; the other week usually has star entertainment. Showtimes are 7:30 and 11 p.m. (dark Wednesday). Price is $60.80 per person, which includes tax, two drinks, and a souvenir program book. Tickets are available only on the day of the performance at the Theatre Mirage box office; its hours are 9 a.m. to midnight (closed Wednesday). For more information call 702-792-7777

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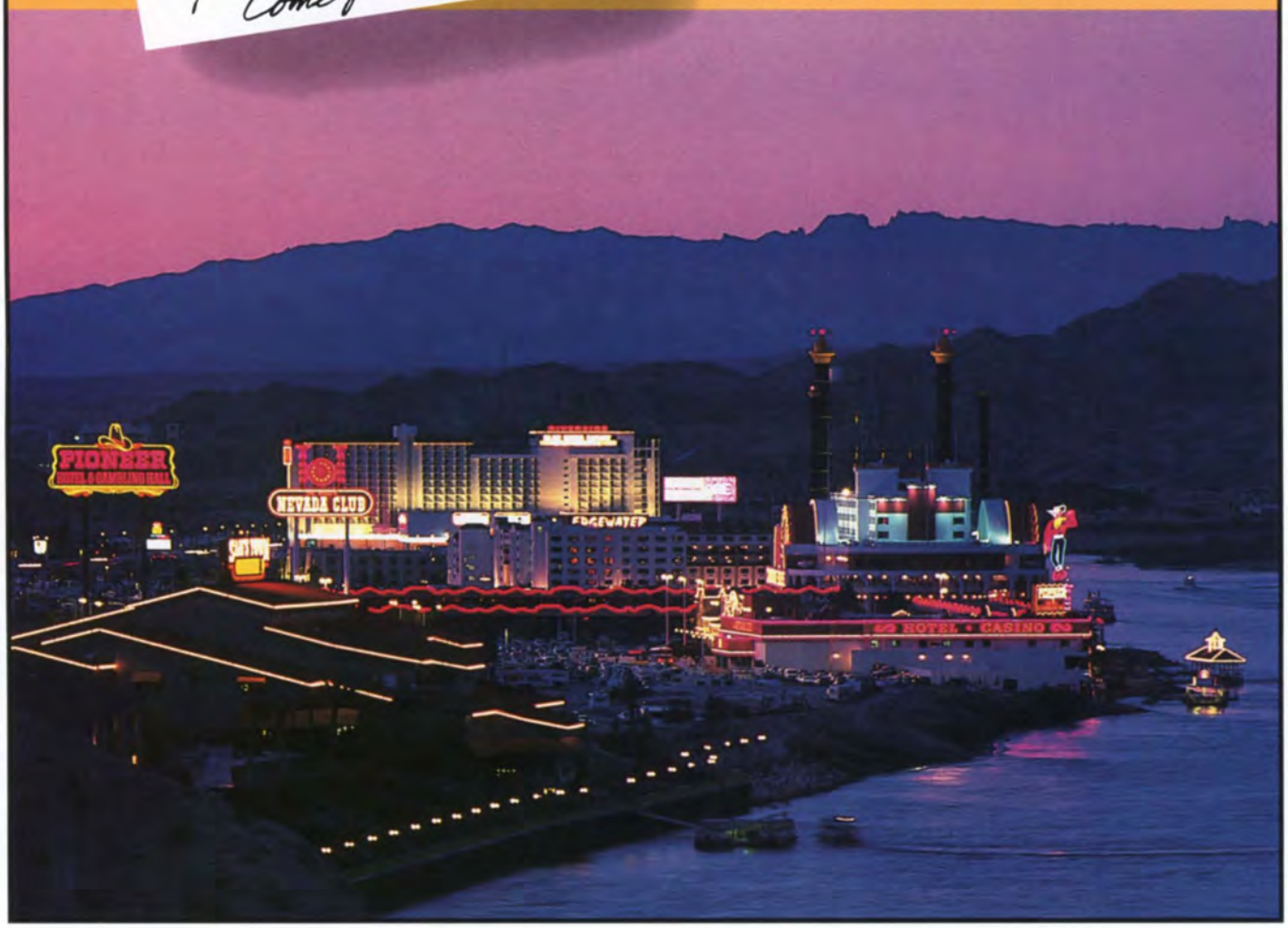
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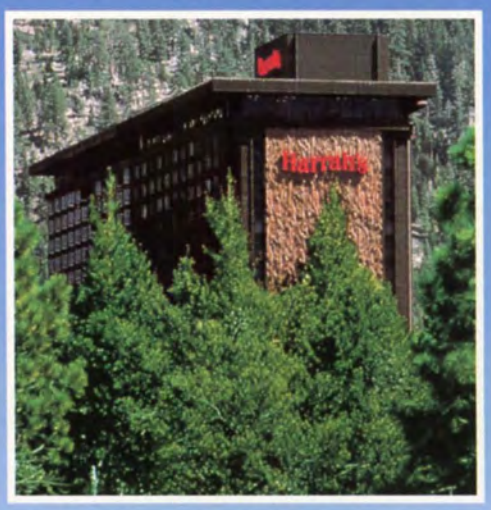
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